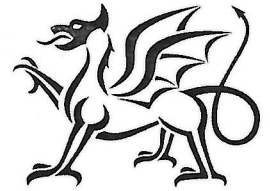


Lesley Griffiths AC/AM  
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Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LG/02037/18

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December 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 10 October, regarding Petition P-05-815 Control Rapidly Expanding Intensive Poultry Industry in Wales.

A full understanding of environmental impacts is required by Local Planning Authorities when determining planning applications if they are to make robust decisions about appropriate locations for intensive poultry units. The Chief Planner's letter to Local Planning Authorities of June 2018 reminded them of their responsibilities.

I am aware research by Natural Resources Wales has identified concerns about the extent of impacts from Ammonia around poultry units of less than 40,000 birds, which is why we are giving further consideration to how Local Planning Authorities consider the cumulative impact of new development on sensitive habitats, particularly during the preparation of Local Development Plans. The work will involve a range of stakeholders and will take place during 2019. In the meantime, Authorities are able to exercise their own judgement when determining applications, drawing on the guidance of Natural Resources Wales or buying in expert advice where this is not available in-house.

The recently published Edition 10 of Planning Policy Wales sets a strong framework for future planning decisions on poultry units, supporting strong rural economies while minimising resource use and respecting environmental limits.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

My officials continue to work with Natural Resources Wales to keep the issue of Environmental Permit thresholds under review. Until further evidence suggests lowering the Environmental Permit threshold is the most efficient way of improving environmental outcomes for poultry units I do not intend to propose any amendments.

The current thresholds are in line with European regulations. In light of the potential impact of Brexit on domestic agriculture and trade flows, there is a need to ensure opportunities are available to Welsh producers and processors to capitalise on the latent demand for eggs and poultry meat. Poultry farm businesses and their supply chains play an important role in us achieving the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 goal of a prosperous Wales through providing valuable jobs in rural communities. Restricting growth at this time may be counterproductive when the poultry sector can play an important role in helping the agriculture industry become more resilient and market focussed.

My proposal announced last month to introduce regulatory measures to tackle agricultural pollution, is an acknowledgment our agricultural sector must respect environmental limits. We will also continue to use levers such as the Sustainable Production Grant to promote industry best practice.

I am content, given the regulatory framework currently in place, for further development to take place while research furthers our understanding of these issues. I will give careful consideration to any recommendations which emerge which could improve current practice.



**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs