



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref SF/JG/2161/12

Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM
Chair
Environment and Sustainability
Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

26 June 2012

Annwyl Dafydd,

Thank you for the useful and constructive questions from your Committee. I have attached responses to each of them.

As part of the process I thought it might be helpful to set out my intentions regarding the timetable and process.

The first order you are now considering is purely intended to establish the body to undertake preparatory work. It could not be used to enable the body to deliver functions without the second order. That order will contain all the functional transfers and most of the substantive powers. It will also be able to amend anything in the first order. I have made this clear in the explanatory memorandum.

I have asked my officials to take the following actions in order to ensure that the drafting process for the second order ensures a high quality product:

- sharing the drafting instructions and amendments with relevant UK Governments and the parent bodies at an early stage (July onward)
- Consulting further between July and the end of September on specific aspects of the second order including the overarching duties. This timescale will allow feedback to be incorporated in the order.
- Publishing the consultation responses to the Green Paper (and offering a debate early in the next session, and in advance of laying the second order).
- Laying the order in mid November. I am assuming that on this more substantive order the Committee will want the 60 day process, and I will support that.
- This timescale will allow me to re-lay the order in February, if that is required. In doing that I would be able to incorporate members amendments where appropriate and take the order to a final vote in March (after re-laying the process requires 20 days).

Finally, if your committee would like the opportunity I would be prepared to make a draft of the order available in September, to enable members to propose amendments in advance of the initial order being laid. For this timescale I cannot guarantee Welsh translation because of the likely length of the order, and I would welcome your view, and that of your Committee, as to whether this approach would be helpful. If we follow this approach it will provide, in effect, two opportunities for amendments to be included.

Yn gywir,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Griffiths".

John Griffiths AC / AM

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development