

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion  
Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref HIDCC/05039/24  
Cab net Secretary for Climate

Councillor R. Medwyn Hughes  
Chair of the Council  
Cyngor Gwynedd

eirianroberts3@gwynedd.gov.wales

22 April 2024

Dear Councillor Hughes,

Thank you for your letter of 26 March regarding the proposals adopted by Cyngor Gwynedd.

**Farming is very important to Wales, our economy, landscape and culture and we want a successful future for Welsh farming.**

**The proposed Sustainable Farming Scheme is designed to support all Welsh farmers through a Universal Baseline Payment, based on the completion of a set of Universal Actions. The General Scheme provides farmers with a level of certainty and stability as they will know their predicted level of income each year.**

The Scheme is designed to support farmers to produce food in a way that also helps tackle the climate and nature crisis. Food production is **essential, however, the climate crisis is the main risk to long-term food production, and our natural ecosystems such as planting additional trees are one of the best protections** we have for adapting and mitigation climate change.

We want to see trees incorporated into the farming system and continue to **explore where planting additional trees can be an asset to the farm as shelter belts against increasingly inconsistent weather conditions, so that it is not a choice between trees or food production.** We will provide financial support to those who may need it to plant additional trees.

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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.

This is a genuine consultation, and no decisions will be made on any element of the proposal, including how we fulfil the habitat and tree requirement, until we have undertaken a full analysis of the responses to the consultation. I fully expect some changes to be made to the proposals as a result of the consultation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'Huw Irranca-Davies'.

**Huw Irranca-Davies MP/MS**

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