

Agenda – Y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig

Lleoliad: I gael rhagor o wybodaeth cysylltwch a:
Ystafell Bwyllgora 3 – y Senedd **Marc Wyn Jones**
Dyddiad: Dydd Mercher, 8 Ionawr 2020 Clerc y Pwyllgor
Amser: 09.00 0300 200 6363
SeneddNHAMG@cynulliad.cymru

RHAG–GYFARFOD PREIFAT (09.00 – 09.15)

1 Cyflwyniadau, ymddiheuriadau, dirprwyon a datgan buddiannau

2 Tlodi Tanwydd – sesiwn dystiolaeth 1

(09.15–10.30)

(Tudalennau 1 – 48)

Heléna Herklots CBE – Comisiynydd Pobl Hŷn Cymru

Yr Athro Sally Holland – Comisiynydd Plant Cymru

Adam Smiley, Rheolwr Strategaeth Wleidyddol – Scope

Dogfennau atodol:

Briff Ymchwil

Papur – Comisiynydd Pobl Hŷn Cymru

Papur – Comisiynydd Plant Cymru (Saesneg yn unig)

Papur – Scope (Saesneg yn unig)

Egwyl 10.30–10.45



3 Tlodi Tanwydd – sesiwn dystiolaeth 2

(10.45–12.00)

(Tudalennau 49 – 71)

Dr Steffan Evans, Swyddog Ymchwil a Pholisi – Sefydliad Bevan

Lindsay Murray, Rheolwr Prosiect – Cymru Gynnes

Adam Scorer, Prif Weithredwr – National Energy Action

Dogfennau atodol:

Papur – Sefydliad Bevan (Saesneg yn unig)

Papur – Cymru Gynnes (Saesneg yn unig)

Papur – National Energy Action (Saesneg yn unig)

4 Papur(au) i'w nodi

4.1 Ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru i adroddiad y Pwyllgor ar Gynllun ffermio cynaliadwy arfaethedig Llywodraeth Cymru: adfer bioamrywiaeth

(Tudalennau 72 – 79)

Dogfennau atodol:

Ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru

4.2 Llythyr at Weinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig – gwaith dilynol ar y sesiwn graffu ar 20 Tachwedd 2019

(Tudalennau 80 – 85)

Dogfennau atodol:

Llythyr

4.3 Llythyr at Weinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig – gwaith dilynol ar ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru i adroddiad y Pwyllgor ar Egwyddorion a Threfniadau Llywodraethu Amgylcheddol ar ôl Brexit

(Tudalennau 86 – 88)

Dogfennau atodol:

Llythyr

4.4 Llythyr at Gadeirydd Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru – gwahoddiad i fod yn bresennol mewn sesiwn craffu blynyddol

(Tudalennau 89 – 91)

Dogfennau atodol:

Llythyr

4.5 Gohebiaeth gan Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Materion Allanol a Deddfwriaeth Ychwanegol at Jeremy Miles AC, y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a'r Gweinidog Brexit – gwaith dilynol ar fod yn barod ar gyfer Brexit

(Tudalennau 92 – 97)

Dogfennau atodol:

Llythyr

5 Cynnig o dan Reol Sefydlog 17.42(vi) i benderfynu gwahardd y cyhoedd o weddill y cyfarfod

CYFARFOD PREIFAT: 12.00 – 12.20

6 Trafod y dystiolaeth a ddaeth i law o dan eitemau 2 a 3

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru | National Assembly for Wales

Y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig

Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

Ymchwiliad i Dlodi Tanwydd | Inquiry into Fuel Poverty

FP 07

Ymateb gan : Comisiynydd Pobl Hŷn Cymru

Evidence from : Older People's Commissioner for Wales

Mae tlodi tanwydd yn parhau'n broblem sylweddol i bobl hŷn ledled Cymru gyda'r ffigurau diweddaraf yn dangos fod oddeutu 88,000 o aelwydydd hŷn yn byw mewn tlodi tanwydd.¹ Mae hyn er gwaethaf dyletswydd statudol i ddileu tlodi tanwydd yn Neddf Cartrefi Cynnes ac Arbed Ynni 2000, ac ymrwymiad gan Lywodraeth Cymru, cyn belled ag y bo'n ymarferol bosibl, na ddylai neb yng Nghymru fod yn byw mewn tlodi tanwydd erbyn 2018.²

Er bod nifer yr aelwydydd yng Nghymru sy'n byw mewn tlodi tanwydd wedi haneru dros y degawd diwethaf,³ o ganlyniad i'r Rhaglen Cartrefi Cynnes a chyflwyno Safon Ansawdd Tai Cymru, mae'n achosi pryder fod cynifer o bobl hŷn yn parhau i fyw mewn tlodi tanwydd, gan, o bosibl, fod yn dewis rhwng gwresogi eu cartrefi a bwyta'n iawn.

Dylai strategaeth newydd Llywodraeth Cymru i fynd i'r afael â thlodi tanwydd barhau i adeiladu ar lwyddiannau'r gwasanaeth wedi'i deilwra a'r gwasanaeth cyfeirio yn 'canolbwyntio ar yr unigolyn' y bu'r rhaglen Nest yn ei ddatblygu ochr yn ochr â'i phartneriaid yn y sector gwirfoddol dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf a rhaid iddi gynnwys gwirio'r hawl i fudd-daliadau.

Mae'n bwysig peidio â 'dadfachu' tlodi tanwydd oddi wrth y broblem ehangach o dlodi ymysg pobl hŷn. Mae dros 20% o bobl hŷn yn byw mewn tlodi incwm cymharol yng Nghymru, ac i lawer o bobl hŷn, mae misoedd hir y gaeaf yn golygu'r benbleth anochel ynghylch 'gwresogi neu fwyta',⁴ gyda 25% o bobl hŷn yn prynu bwyd rhatach, neu lai ohono.

Mae cynyddu incwm aelwydydd yn ffactor sylweddol o ran atal tlodi tanwydd ac mae'n hanfodol i bobl hŷn fod yn gwbl ymwybodol o'r holl hawliadau ariannol y maent yn gymwys i'w derbyn, a'u bod yn cael eu hannog i hawlio'r rhain.

Amcangyfrifir bod hyd at £214m o Gredyd Pensiwn nad yw'n cael ei hawlio yng

Nghymru bob blwyddyn.⁵

Gallai pobl hŷn gydag incwm pensiwn o lai na £167.25 (£255.25 i gyplau) fod yn gymwys i daliad Credyd Pensiwn a fyddai'n ychwanegu at eu hincwm. Y cyfartaledd a dderbynnir gan y rhai sy'n ei hawlio yw £58 yr wythnos, a all wneud gwahaniaeth o oddeutu £3,000 y flwyddyn i'w hincwm. Gall hawlio Credyd Pensiwn hefyd ddatgloi ystod o hawliau eraill fel gostyngiad yn y dreth gyngor, triniaeth ddeintyddol am ddim a chymorth gyda chostau tai.

Pe byddai mwy o bobl yn hawlio'r budd-dal, byddai'n ffordd arwyddocaol o fynd i'r afael â thlodi tanwydd ymysg rhai o'r bobl hŷn dlotaf a rhaid i'r strategaeth newydd adeiladu ymhellach ar lwyddiant gwirio'r hawl i fudd-daliadau a chefnogi mesurau a gyflawnwyd hyd yma.

Rhaid i'r strategaeth newydd wella ymhellach y gwahanol lwybrau cyfeirio a chynnwys partneriaethau drwy awdurdodau lleol, gwasanaethau iechyd sylfaenol ac eilaidd, sefydliadau'r trydydd sector ac elusennau er mwyn canfod ac estyn allan at yr aelwydydd agored i niwed hynny sy'n parhau i fyw mewn tldodi tanwydd.

Er mwyn sicrhau bod cartrefi newydd yn hynod effeithlon o ran ynni, dylai Llywodraeth Cymru gynnal trosolwg fel bod pob datblygiad tai yn cydymffurfio â Pholisi Cynllunio Cymru, sy'n datgan bod yn rhaid i'r system gynllunio 'sicrhau bod modd darparu amrywiaeth o dai'r farchnad agored a thai fforddiadwy sydd wedi'u dylunio'n dda, yn effeithlon o ran ynni ac o ansawdd da a fydd yn helpu i greu lleoedd cynaliadwy'.⁶

Yn olaf, oherwydd y niferoedd o aelwydydd agored i niwed sy'n parhau i fyw mewn tldodi tanwydd, rhaid i'r strategaeth gynnwys rhaglen waith wedi'i diffinio'n glir ar gyfer y ddau gynllun. Dylai'r rhaglenni gwaith gynnwys cerrig milltir ystyrlon, yn disgrifio erbyn pa bryd y disgwylir gostwng lefelau tldodi tanwydd a faint fydd y gostyngiad, yn flynyddol. Dylai cynnydd/cyfraniad yn erbyn y cerrig milltir gael eu hadlewyrchu yn adroddiad blynyddol pob cynllun.

Rwy'n gobeithio bod y sylwadau hyn yn ddefnyddiol.

¹ Llywodraeth Cymru. (2019). *Amcangyfrifon tldodi tanwydd yng Nghymru: 2018*; <http://bit.ly/2mBiRXj>

² Llywodraeth Cymru. (2010). *Strategaeth Tldodi Tanwydd 2010*; t.7; Ar gael yn <http://bit.ly/2IstwDz>

- ³ Llywodraeth Cymru. (2019). *Amcangyfrifon tlodi tanwydd yng Nghymru: 2018*; <http://bit.ly/2mBiRXj>
- ⁴ Age Cymru. (2014). *AMs discuss fuel poverty among older people in Wales*; <http://bit.ly/2mEto3l>
- ⁵ Independent Age. (2019). *Pension Credit: A closer look*. <http://bit.ly/2mFWIXz>
- ⁶ Llywodraeth Cymru. (2018). *Polisi Cynllunio Cymru: Argraffiad 10*; <http://bit.ly/2l25HCd>

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Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee
Ymchwiliad i Dlodi Tanwydd | Inquiry into Fuel Poverty
FP 26

Ymateb gan : Comisiynydd Plant Cymru
Evidence from : Children's Commissioner for Wales

Since my time as Commissioner I have consistently highlighted that child poverty is one of the biggest challenges facing children in Wales.

In April 2019 I published my new three year plan for the final three years of my term as Commissioner. Within this one of my ambitions is to see Wales by 2022 as “a country whose government has taken new steps to reduce child poverty and its impact”.¹

Over the last two years I have also called for concrete steps from Welsh Government to make a positive difference to children living in poverty here in Wales including using levers and taking actions that are available to them as a devolved Government.

I am writing to the committee to; draw their attention that such opportunities exist within this agenda; emphasise that decision going forward will have an impact on children's rights and share relevant information from my report published earlier this year A Charter for Change: Protecting Welsh Children from the impact of poverty

Living in fuel poverty is likely to compromise a number of children's rights including; the right to an adequate standard of living (Article 27), the Right to life, survival and development (Article 6) and the Right to Health and health services (Article 24) and even the right to an education (Article 28). The full text of these and all articles contained in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child can be found [here](#).

Between 2018 and 2019 I undertook a significant piece of work around child poverty in Wales. This involved over 550 children and young people age 5 – 21, over 300, as well as over 40 professionals working with children and young

people in poverty, including teachers, play workers and representatives of third sector organisations.

The report I published as a result of this work, [A Charter for Change: Protecting Welsh Children from the impact of poverty](#), urged Welsh Government to produce a Child Poverty Delivery Plan focusing on concrete and measurable steps to address child poverty in the short and medium term, particularly in respect of the associated costs of school.

However, I'm sure it will not come as a surprise to the committee that a host of other issues were raised during discussions, many of which are interlinked.

The cost of energy bills was raised by children, parents/carers and professionals. Children and young people are very much aware of the high costs associated with fuel and energy bills. A large majority of the children who were spoken to in year 6 at a school in South Wales, for example, identified fuel and energy bills as 'very expensive' when asked what Ceri's family (fictional child/young person whose family lives in poverty), would have to pay for.

Parents raised the cost of gas and electricity along with rent and debt, one parent described this as "a never ending cycle of getting by."² A school parents club in South Wales also spoke about these costs having an impact on their ability to improve their children's quality of life, their own feelings of guilt about not being able to take their children on trips out where cost is involved, and the impact of this upon their own mental health, well-being and self-esteem.

Professionals raised how food banks offered fuel and energy vouchers or credit alongside their food provision service, for those families in need of it. "Most of the poverty we see is in working families...families have s**t jobs with s**t pay and get up at 5am for that – it means that parents are absent and knackered and barely making ends meet. Its soul destroying." (Youth Worker, North Wales).

¹ Children's Commissioner for Wales, [Annual Report and Accounts 2018–19](#), 2019.

² Children's Commissioner for Wales, [A Charter for Change: Protecting Welsh Children from the impact of poverty](#), 2019.

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I am aware that Welsh Government is currently considering future plans in respect of fuel poverty and have shared some initial views at the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs round table event including; ensuring that any household with children (up to 18), including households that consist of an older child (young person) living independently, have the opportunity to access targeted scheme/s or programmes which can help lift them out of fuel poverty. This relates not only to the rights listed above but also Article 1 which provides that all the rights included in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child apply to anyone under the age of 18. I would however expect a fuel poverty strategy for Wales to address the needs of other vulnerable groups for whom fuel poverty also has a number of significant impacts including in extreme cases loss of life.

Secondly, Children and young people are provided with adequate opportunities to sensitively share their experiences of housing conditions and fuel poverty, and contribute to developing policy and practice in this area. This should be part of a robust monitoring and evaluation framework for the action plan. This would afford children their right under Article 12; to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously

I am also conscious that work is being taken forward in respect of the First Minister’s commitment to re-engineer existing funding programmes to ensure

that they have the maximum impact on the lives of children living in poverty. I will continue to engage with Ministers and officials and emphasise the value and indeed in certain cases duty to consider the impact of children's rights when making decisions in these areas. Doing this effectively involves an awareness not only of what is being delivered but ensuring there is clear understanding of the outcomes to be achieved, current and future reach in terms of working towards equality for all children and young people. Like last year I am continuing to call upon Government to analyse the budget in the context of its impact on children and young people.

Lastly, children and young people in Wales and across the world are speaking out about climate change. Indeed earlier this year I facilitated a discussion between the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs and pupils from Atlantic College and Radnor Primary school about this issue. How fuel poverty is addressed going forward sits within this wider context, which children and young people feel so passionately about. Two young people eloquently raised with the Minister that new plans should ensure a balance between climate change and social justice is achieved. I hope that Welsh Government will work with such insight and also afford children and young people their right to exercise their voice and consider their views about issues that affect them in the here and now but also their future.

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru | National Assembly for Wales

Y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig

Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

Ymchwiliad i Dlodi Tanwydd | Inquiry into Fuel Poverty

FP 26

Ymateb gan : Scope

Evidence from : Scope

Summary

Scope welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Climate Change Environment and Rural Affairs Committee's inquiry into Fuel Poverty.

Life costs more for disabled people. Our research shows that disabled people face average extra costs of £583 a month. For one in five disabled people, these costs add up to over £1,000 each month.

As energy is one of these of these extra costs, disabled people are more likely to be affected by fuel poverty. While the Welsh Government does not publish specific statistics on the impact of fuel poverty on disabled people, almost two-fifths (38.6 per cent) of households in England living in fuel poverty include a disabled person.

Scope therefore believes that an effective fuel poverty strategy would need to address the particular challenges facing disabled people. While fuel poverty amongst vulnerable households in Wales has dropped significantly since the introduction of the 2010 Fuel Poverty Strategy, it is not clear whether the Welsh Government's fuel poverty measures are dealing with the specific issues that make disabled people more susceptible to the effects of fuel poverty. The revised strategy should place a greater emphasis on proactively identifying disabled people at risk of fuel poverty and addressing the specific challenges facing them.

Recommendations

While updating the Fuel Poverty Strategy for Wales, the Welsh Government should:

1. Commit to reporting the prevalence of fuel poverty amongst disabled people.
2. Introduce a specific target around the reduction of fuel poverty amongst disabled people.
3. Adapt its measure of fuel poverty so that it takes into account the impact of extra costs on disabled people's living standards.
4. Commit to ensuring that all schemes and programmes designed to alleviate fuel poverty are targeted at disabled people.
5. Commit to exploring the possibility of introducing an in-home advice service designed to help disabled people access the support they need to lift themselves out of fuel poverty.
6. Commit to working with NHS Wales to improve the identification of disabled people who are either in fuel poverty or are at risk of detriment due to poorly heated homes.
7. Introduce a 'disability principle'. This disability principle would recognise that disabled people tend to have higher energy requirements, meaning they are more likely to face unaffordable energy bills and to suffer detriment while living in poorly heated homes.

Background into disabled people's financial resilience

1. Many disabled people face additional costs related to their impairment or condition. For disabled people in the UK, these costs amount to an average of £583 a month.¹ This is on top of welfare payments designed to help meet these costs. One in five disabled people face extra costs of over £1,000 each month.²

¹ Scope (2019), The Disability Price Tag 2019, <https://www.scope.org.uk/campaigns/extra-costs>

² Scope (2019), The Disability Price Tag 2019, <https://www.scope.org.uk/campaigns/extra-costs>

2. Unsurprisingly, disabled people are disproportionately affected by poverty. In Wales, 39 per cent of disabled people are in poverty, compared to 22 per cent of non-disabled people. This poverty rate for disabled people is the highest in the UK.³
3. The National Survey for Wales has similarly found that 22 per cent of people with ‘a limiting long-standing illness, disability or infirmity’ in Wales were in material deprivation, compared to just 12 per cent of non-disabled people.⁴
4. Disabled people also tend to be less financially resilient. Research commissioned by Scope has found that disabled people in the UK have on average of £108,000 less in savings and assets than non-disabled people.⁵
5. In 2016–17, a third of people in Wales with ‘a limiting long-standing illness, disability or infirmity’ could not afford to save £10 a month for retirement or a rainy day, compared to just under a sixth of those without.⁶
6. Disabled people are also more likely to be trapped in debt. Sixteen per cent of households with a disabled person in the UK have unsecured debt totalling more than half their household income, compared to 8 per cent of households overall.⁷
7. The extra costs disabled people face fall broadly into three main categories:

³ Joseph Rowntree Foundation (2018), Poverty in Wales 2018,, <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/poverty-wales-2018>

⁴ Welsh Assembly (2018), National Survey for Wales, <https://gov.wales/national-survey-wales-results-viewer>

⁵ McKnight, A. (2014). Disabled people’s financial histories: uncovering the disability wealth penalty, CASE paper 181 <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/20543895.pdf>

⁶ Welsh Assembly (2018), National Survey for Wales, <https://gov.wales/national-survey-wales-results-viewer>

⁷ Scope (2013), Disabled people and financial well-being: Credit and debt, <http://www.scope.org.uk/Scope/media/Documents/Publication%20Directory/Credit-and-Debt.pdf?ext=.pdf>

- **Paying for specialised goods and services**, such as assistive technology, wheelchairs or adapted items of clothing.
- **Greater use of non-specialised goods and services**, such as energy and taxis or private hire vehicles.
- **Spending more on non-specialised goods and services**, including some financial products such as insurance.

Disabled people and fuel poverty

8. Disabled people face specific challenges in the energy industry. A third of disabled adults say their impairment or condition has a significant impact on their energy costs.⁸ Disabled people with limited mobility, for example, might have to use more heating to keep warm, whilst people using assistive technology or electrical equipment such as powered wheelchairs will need to use additional electricity to charge these items.

“Our house is a 24-hour running house, as Curtis has overnight care. Our washing machine seems to be constantly on. We have three sets of bedding per day to wash and dry. Including our own bedding, that’s 23 sets of bedding per week.”
Garry, Scope Storyteller

9. Given these higher energy costs, it is possible that disabled people in Wales are disproportionately affected by fuel poverty. This is certainly the case in England, where, under a different measure of fuel poverty, almost two-fifths (38.6 per cent) of households in England living in fuel poverty include a disabled person.⁹ These disabled people would need an average of £308 extra a year to lift them out of fuel poverty.¹⁰

10. The current availability of statistics around disabled people in Wales living in fuel poverty makes it difficult to establish whether disabled

⁸ Scope (2018), Out in the cold, <https://www.scope.org.uk/campaigns/extra-costs/out-in-the-cold/>

⁹ Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (2019). Annual fuel poverty statistics report 2019 (2017 data) England.

¹⁰ Ibid.

people in Wales are also disproportionately affected by fuel poverty, as is the case in England.

11. Rather than publishing statistics on fuel rates among disabled people, the Welsh Government uses the category of 'vulnerable households'. This broad category includes any household containing disabled people, elderly people or those under the age of 16.
12. In 2018, 11 per cent of 'vulnerable' households in Wales were in fuel poverty, compared to 12 per cent of all households. ¹¹
13. This represents a significant reduction in fuel poverty since 2008, when 29 per cent of 'vulnerable' households in Wales were in fuel poverty, compared to 26 per cent of all households in Wales.
14. While this reduction in fuel poverty is positive, the way the statistics are currently presented mean it is difficult to know whether disabled people have benefited equally from the Welsh Government's efforts to eradicate fuel poverty.

Digital exclusion and online inaccessibility

15. Disabled people are more likely to be digitally excluded. Twenty per cent of disabled people have never accessed the internet, compared to just five per cent of all adults in the UK.
16. Disabled people who do have access to the internet may still find that they are not able to access certain online products and services. In one survey conducted on behalf of Scope, 55 per cent of disabled people in

¹¹ Welsh Government (2019), Fuel poverty estimates for Wales: 2018, <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-09/fuel-poverty-estimates-wales-2018-020.pdf>

England and Wales had experienced issues with inaccessible websites within the previous 12 months.¹²

17. This may explain why only 36 per cent of disabled people in Great Britain use price comparison sites to compare energy deals, compared to 57 per cent of non-disabled people.¹³
18. This may be because some price comparison websites are inaccessible. Using the Wave web accessibility tool, Scope found 39 errors on a single page of one well-known price comparison website.
19. Digital exclusion and online inaccessibility may also explain why only 37 per cent of disabled people manage their electricity or gas accounts online, compared to 55 per cent of non-disabled people.¹⁴
20. The barriers disabled people face while using the internet may therefore be limiting disabled people's ability to find the best deals, particularly when it comes to firms with a predominantly online presence.
21. This may be a contributing factor to the higher energy costs faced by disabled people.

How the Welsh Government's successor to the fuel poverty strategy should differ from its 2010 strategy

Measuring the prevalence of fuel poverty amongst disabled people

22. Scope welcomes the significant reduction in fuel poverty amongst households classed as vulnerable since 2008.

¹² Scope (2018), Out in the cold, <https://www.scope.org.uk/campaigns/extra-costs/out-in-the-cold/>

¹³ Ofgem (2018) Consumer Engagement Survey 2018: Data Tables, Q165, <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/consumer-engagement-survey-2018>

¹⁴ Ofgem (2018) Consumer Engagement Survey 2018: Data Tables, Q10, <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/consumer-engagement-survey-2018>

23. Some evidence suggests that disabled people have benefited from some of the Welsh Government's fuel poverty measures. Research carried out jointly by the UK Energy Research Centre, the University of York and the Association for Decentralised Energy has, for example, found that Wales has made progress in targeting support at disabled people at risk of fuel poverty.¹⁵
24. However, as previously noted, the Welsh Government's use of the broad category of 'vulnerable household' means that there is no publicly available estimate of the prevalence of fuel poverty amongst disabled people in Wales.
25. As each of the groups within this category face different challenges, not every group will necessarily have benefitted equally from this reduction in fuel poverty.
26. As a result, it is difficult to evaluate the Welsh Government's progress at eradicating fuel poverty amongst disabled people in Wales.
27. To ensure that its fuel poverty measures are tackling the specific challenges faced by disabled people, it will be necessary for the Welsh Government to publish statistics on the prevalence of fuel poverty amongst disabled people in Wales

Recommendation: While updating the fuel poverty strategy for Wales, the Welsh Government should commit to reporting the prevalence of fuel poverty amongst disabled people.

Recommendation: While updating the fuel poverty strategy for Wales, the Welsh Government should introduce a specific target around the reduction of fuel poverty amongst disabled people.

¹⁵ UK Energy Research Centre (108), Justice in Energy Efficiency: a focus on fuel poor disabled people and families, <https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/sites/default/files/pdf/UKERCACEpolicyguide.pdf>

28. Scope believes that the methodology for the current measure of fuel poverty should recognise the impact of extra costs on the financial resilience of disabled people.
29. As previously mentioned, Scope's research shows that disabled people an average of £583 a month in extra costs. This is the additional amount of money a disabled person would need to earn to be able to afford an equivalent standard of living to a non-disabled person.¹⁶
30. Once extra costs are factored in, a disabled person with an income above the poverty threshold may in fact have the same standard of living as a non-disabled person in poverty.
31. Scope therefore believes that a higher poverty threshold should be used when the metric is used to assess whether disabled people are in fuel poverty.
32. A similar approach was recently adopted by the Social Metric Commission. Their measure of poverty deducts inescapable costs from a family's income. These inescapable costs include childcare, housing and extra costs.¹⁷
33. While the Social Metric Commission uses the monthly value of PIP as a proxy for extra costs, Scope believes that the true figure is much higher, as our extra costs figure of £583 per month is calculated after income including welfare payments like PIP.¹⁸

¹⁶ Scope (2019), The Disability Price Tag 2019, <https://www.scope.org.uk/campaigns/extra-costs>

¹⁷ Measuring Poverty 2019 (2019), Social Metrics Commission, https://socialmetricscommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/SMC_measuring-poverty-201908_full-report.pdf

¹⁸ Ibid.

34. Scope would be happy to work with the Welsh Government to develop a methodology that takes into account the impact of extra costs on disabled people.

Recommendation: While updating the fuel poverty strategy for Wales, the Welsh Government should adapt its measure of fuel poverty so that it recognises the impact of extra costs on disabled people's living standards.

Identifying and addressing the needs of disabled consumers

a) Identifying disabled people in need of additional support

35. As was recognised in the 2010 Fuel Poverty Strategy, many disabled people may be missing out on the benefits and grants to which they are entitled.
36. In 2015, research carried out by the Extra Costs Commission, a year-long inquiry at Scope into the extra costs faced by disabled people, found that familiarity amongst disabled people with grants to support people with their energy bills was low. Forty per cent were unfamiliar with the Warm Home Discount, 85 per cent were unfamiliar with the Energy Companies Obligation, and more than 80 per cent of disabled people had not heard of the Priority Services Register.
37. Although it is possible that awareness has increased since 2015, these figures suggest that more could be done to ensure that every disabled person who is eligible for support receives it.
38. While the Nest helpline and website may be a helpful source of information for some disabled people, uptake of the available support could be improved through the adoption of a more proactive approach to identifying disabled people at risk of fuel poverty.

39. The Scottish Government funds Energycarers, an in-house advice service delivered by the Energy Saving Trust. Energycarers are specialist energy advisors who can provide intensive support to households with issues that make them more susceptible to fuel poverty, including people who are disabled.
40. During home visits, Energycarers support consumers in a range of ways, such as:
- Helping them to find the best energy tariff,
 - Helping them to find funding for energy efficiency improvements or home repairs,
 - Approaching their private landlord about energy issues.
41. As the scheme was only introduced in 2019, it is too early to say whether it has led to an impact on fuel poverty in Scotland. However, an evaluation of an earlier pilot of the scheme reported that ‘the pilot demonstrated that a higher level of support is valuable in encouraging reluctant groups to take up energy efficiency measures in the home’.
42. The evaluation also found that ‘one wider benefit of the HES Homecare scheme was its ability to identify people who are not supported through other means’.¹⁹
43. It is therefore possible that introducing a similar scheme in Wales could help ensure that disabled people can access the support for which they are eligible.²⁰

¹⁹ Housing and Social Justice Directorate (2019), <https://www.gov.scot/publications/evaluation-hes-homecare-pilot/pages/10/>

²⁰ <https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/blog/energy-carer-support-scotland>

44. While this service would be based on Energycarers, the Welsh Government should ensure that they build and develop on this by addressing any issues identified during the pilot in Scotland.

Recommendation: While updating the fuel poverty strategy for Wales, the Welsh Government should commit to ensuring that all schemes and programmes designed to alleviate fuel poverty are targeted at disabled people.

Recommendation: While updating the fuel poverty strategy for Wales, the Welsh Government should commit to exploring the possibility of introducing an in-home advice service designed to help disabled people access the support they need to lift themselves out of fuel poverty.

Home visits from primary care practitioners

45. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidelines on 'excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes' recommend that primary care, social care and non-health practitioners carry out annual assessments of the heating needs of those who use their services.²¹

46. Scope believes that this approach could complement the introduction of an in-house advice service for disabled people in fuel poverty. If an assessment finds that a disabled person has high energy needs, they would be referred to the new in-house advice service.

Recommendation: While updating the fuel poverty strategy for Wales, the Welsh Government should commit to working with NHS Wales to improve the identification of disabled people who are either in fuel poverty or are at risk of detriment due to poorly heated homes.

²¹ NICE (2015), Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes, <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6>

b) Addressing the individual needs of disabled people

47. In recognising the negative health effects of living in a cold home, the 2010 Fuel Poverty highlights an issue that is disproportionately likely to affect disabled people.
48. Energy efficiency programmes, however, tend to focus on technical solutions to fuel poverty. The new strategy should instead place more of an emphasis on measures that meet the individual needs of disabled people in fuel poverty.
49. The new fuel poverty strategy for Wales could do this through the inclusion of a specific ‘disability principle’.
50. This would be based on the ‘vulnerability principle’ in the Fuel Poverty Strategy for England. The UK Government is currently considering amending this principle so that it is clear that the Government will consider ‘the impact of our policies on the health and wellbeing of people on very low incomes, even when they live in a reasonably energy efficient home’. This would mean that they would consider the needs of low-income vulnerable households that are living in A–C rated homes ‘where they may be at risk of serious health impacts, such as if their boiler breaks and they are unable to repair it.’²²
51. The Welsh Government could use this as a basis for a ‘disability principle’. This disability principle would acknowledge the fact that disabled people tend to have higher energy requirements than non-disabled people, making them more likely to fall into fuel poverty.

²² Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2019), Consultation on the fuel poverty for England, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/819606/fuel-poverty-strategy-england-consultation.pdf

52. In practice, this disability principle could mean disabled people at risk of fuel poverty would still benefit from energy efficiency measures even if they live in B or C rated homes. This would, of course, depend on an assessment of a disabled person's individual circumstances, including the impact of a person's condition or impairment on their heating needs.

Recommendation: While updating the fuel poverty strategy for Wales, the Welsh Government should introduce a 'disability principle'. This disability principle would recognise that disabled people tend to have higher energy requirements, meaning they are more likely to face unaffordable energy bills and to suffer detriment while living in poorly heated homes.

We're Scope

We're Scope, the disability equality charity. We won't stop until we achieve a society where all disabled people enjoy equality and fairness.

We provide practical advice and emotional support to disabled people and their families whenever they need it most.

We use our collective power to change attitudes and end injustice. And we campaign relentlessly to create a fairer society.

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru | National Assembly for Wales

Y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig

Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

Ymchwiliad i Dlodi Tanwydd | Inquiry into Fuel Poverty

FP 17

Ymateb gan : Sefydliad Bevan

Evidence from : Bevan Foundation

Introduction

The Bevan Foundation is Wales' most influential think-tank. We aim to end poverty and inequality by working with people to find effective solutions and by inspiring governments, organisations and communities to take action. We are grateful for the opportunity to respond to the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee's call for evidence to support its inquiry into fuel poverty. Our extensive work on poverty and inequality provides us with some insights into the difficulties faced by those living in low income households, including fuel poverty. Our response draws on this experience, and is divided into five sections reflective of the committee's main areas of interest:

- the scale and impacts of fuel poverty in Wales;
- why the Welsh Government failed to meet its statutory target of eradicating fuel poverty in Wales by 2018;
- how Welsh Government action to date has helped to combat fuel poverty, in particular, the impact of the Warm Homes Programme (including Nest and Arbed) and the Welsh Housing Quality Standard
- how the Welsh Government's successor to the fuel poverty strategy (due for consultation in Autumn 2019) should differ from its 2010 strategy;
- what steps the Welsh Government should take to ensure that new-build homes, as well as existing homes, are highly energy efficient to prevent them causing fuel poverty in the future.

The scale and impact of fuel poverty in Wales

The Bevan Foundation believes that the Welsh Government's current approach to measuring fuel poverty means that we are unable to accurately examine the scale and impact of the problem. Under the Welsh Government's

Fuel Poverty Strategy 2010 a household is said to be living in fuel poverty if 10 per cent or more of household income is spent on household fuels to maintain a satisfactory heating regime.¹ If 20 per cent or more of household income is spent on household fuels a household is said to live in severe fuel poverty.²

The weaknesses of this approach were set out by John Hills in his review of Fuel Poverty in England in 2012.³ One of the weakness identified by Hills is that measuring fuel poverty purely as a percentage of a household's income could lead to some middle to high income households being classified as living in fuel poverty.⁴ A higher income household which lives in a large dwelling could have significant household fuel bills that amount to over 10 per cent of their income. If these households' incomes were high enough to afford a good standard of living after covering fuel costs, however, it seems inaccurate to describe these households as living in a form of poverty. Of the 155,000 households living in fuel poverty in Wales, 21,000 live in the richest 70 percent of households, over 10 percent of the total number of households said to live in fuel poverty.⁵

In response to this and other weaknesses the UK Government has adopted a different model when measuring fuel poverty in England,⁶ with the Scottish Government also adopting a new measure through the enactment of the Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019.⁷ Whilst both measures are slightly different both are based on the idea of 'residual income'.

¹ Welsh Government, *Fuel Poverty Strategy 2010* (July 2010) – available at - <https://gwedhill.gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/100723fuelpovertystrategyen.pdf>

² *ibid*

³ John Hills, *Getting the measure of fuel poverty, Final Report of the Fuel Poverty Review*, (Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), CASE report 72, March 2012) available at - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/48297/4662-getting-measure-fuel-pov-final-hills-rpt.pdf

⁴ *ibid*

⁵ Statistics for Wales, *Fuel Poverty Estimates for Wales: 2018*, (29 August 2019, SB 34/2019) available at - <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-09/fuel-poverty-estimates-wales-2018-020.pdf>

⁶ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, *Annual Fuel Poverty Statistics in England, 2019 (2017 data)*, (June 2019) available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/829006/Annual_Fuel_Poverty_Statistics_Report_2019_2017_data.pdf

⁷ Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019 s3 and s4

The ‘residual income’ method of measuring fuel poverty treats fuel costs as an essential outgoing that is deducted from a household’s net income, just like housing costs are currently deducted when measuring poverty. The measure then calculates the household’s residual income to compare it with the rest of the population. If this income is not sufficient to provide the household with a decent standard of living, they are said to live in fuel poverty. We believe that such a model is superior to the approach currently used in Wales as it focuses with greater clarity on poverty itself rather than on homes that are expensive to heat. This distinction has practical consequences.

The Scottish Government, for example, has found that when measuring fuel poverty using the ‘residual income’ approach compared to their old approach (the one currently used in Wales), extreme fuel poverty is higher, despite the fact that the overall number of households which are said to live in fuel poverty is not greatly different.⁸ Furthermore it found that the old measure overestimates the prevalence of fuel poverty in rural areas, older households and in both detached and semi-detached dwellings.⁹ On the other hand it found that the old measure underestimates the extent of fuel poverty for those living in ‘other households’ (households where all adults are under 65 with no children), the social and private rented sector, urban areas and the dwellings with the most efficient EPC bands.¹⁰ Having this information allows the Scottish Government to better target its resources when seeking to solve fuel poverty at those households most in need.

We are therefore concerned that the Welsh Government’s current approach to measuring fuel poverty means that it does not have an accurate understanding of its prevalence in Wales and that it may be spending its resources assisting households living in expensive to heat homes as opposed to assisting those in poverty. This concern is further deepened

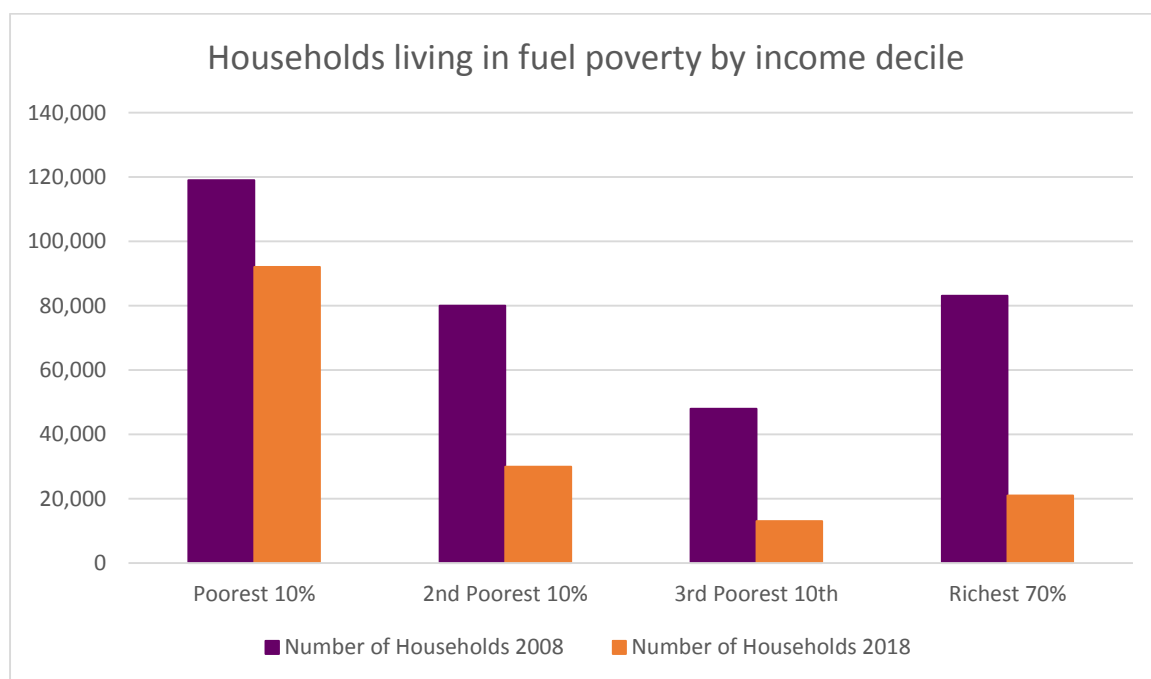
⁸ Scottish Government, *Latest estimates of Fuel Poverty and Extreme Fuel Poverty under the proposed new definition – following Stage 2 of the Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Bill* (May 2019) available at - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/latest-estimates-fuel-poverty-extreme-fuel-poverty-under-proposed-new-definition-following-stage-2-fuel-poverty-targets-definition-strategy-scotland-bill/pages/2/>

⁹ *ibid*

¹⁰ *ibid*

when exploring the most recently available data on the progress that the Welsh Government has made in reducing fuel poverty.

The number of households living in fuel poverty has more than halved, since 2008, with 12 percent of households estimated to be living in fuel poverty in 2018.¹¹ This reduction has not affected everyone in Wales uniformly, however. When breaking down the number of people living in fuel poverty by income deciles an interesting picture emerges with regards to where the reduction in fuel poverty has come from. In 2008, of the 70 percent richest households, 83,048 were estimated to live in fuel poverty.¹² By 2018 that number was 75 percent lower, with 21,000 households living in fuel poverty.¹³ For the bottom tenth however, the number of people living in fuel poverty had only dropped by 25%, from 119,000 to 92,000 households.¹⁴



Source: Statistics for Wales, Fuel Poverty Estimates for Wales: 2018, (29 August 2019, SB 34/2019) and Local Government Data Unit Wales, Living in Wales 2008 – Fuel Poverty Statistics, (2008)

¹¹ Auditor General for Wales, *Fuel Poverty*, (Wales Audit Office, October 2019) available at - <https://www.audit.wales/publication/fuel-poverty>

¹² Local Government Data Unit Wales, *Living in Wales 2008 – Fuel Poverty Statistics*, (2008) available at - <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-05/living-in-wales-survey-2008-fuel-poverty-statistics.pdf>

¹³ Statistics for Wales n(5)

¹⁴ *ibid*

In its latest statistical release on fuel poverty the Welsh Government also does look at the number of households that live in fuel poverty using the Low Income High Costs model as is used in England. Using this model, they found that the number of households living in fuel poverty was actually lower at 132,000, equivalent to 10 per cent of all households.¹⁵ No further analysis was undertaken as to which households were living in fuel poverty under this approach.

We believe that the Welsh Government should adopt a ‘residual income’ measure of fuel poverty to ensure that the focus of its new fuel poverty strategy is more clearly on poverty.

Why the Welsh Government failed to meet its statutory target of eradicating fuel poverty in Wales by 2018

As noted, the Welsh Government has made some progress in reducing fuel poverty over the past decade. In 2008, 332,000 households in Wales were estimated to be fuel poor equivalent to 26 per cent of all households,¹⁶ compared with 155,000 households in 2018, 12 per cent of all households.¹⁷ Despite this progress the Welsh Government is not close to achieving its objective of eradicating fuel poverty. There are multiple reasons for this.

First, we believe that the Welsh Government’s target to eradicate fuel poverty by 2018 was set without sufficient consideration as to how achievable it was and without clear enough consideration of what would need to happen for this to be achieved. To achieve its target, we believe that the Welsh Government needed to have a clearer focus in its activities, and that it needed to invest in solutions at a greater scale. For example, to eradicate fuel poverty in a decade the Welsh Government needed to assist approximately 33,000 households a year out of fuel poverty. Between 2010 and 2019 a total of 55,056 households – i.e. equivalent to 6,000 households a year – received home energy efficiency improvements through NEST and

¹⁵ *ibid*

¹⁶ Auditor General n(11)

¹⁷ *ibid*

ARBED as part of the Welsh Government's Warm Homes Programme.¹⁸ This was just 20 percent of the number needed.

Second, the Welsh Government's approach did not focus sufficiently on all the drivers of fuel poverty. There are three primary drivers of fuel poverty:

- Low income
- High energy costs
- Energy inefficient homes.

We believe that the Welsh Government's strategy focused too heavily on the third driver. Whilst the Welsh Government's 2010 Fuel Poverty Strategy did include steps such as the promotion of better coordination of advice services to boost household income with 129,506 receiving some form of advice through Nest,¹⁹ much of the Welsh Government's investment has been targeted at boosting energy efficiency,²⁰ through the Warm Homes Programme. Whilst improving energy efficiency can have a positive impact on the costs faced by households and has clear environmental benefits, it does not, as of itself, remove the risk of fuel poverty. In Scotland for example, 13 per cent of household living in the most energy efficient dwellings under the old measure, and 20 per cent under the new measure live in fuel poverty.²¹ The fact that one in five of the most energy efficient households in Scotland live in fuel poverty highlights the crucial roles that low income and high energy cost have in driving fuel poverty.

In most energy efficient dwellings, households are still faced with energy bills. If fuel prices are high, using relatively small amounts of fuel can still push families on very low incomes into fuel poverty. A person aged over 25, for example receives £73.10 a week through JSA. To avoid living in fuel poverty their fuel bills will need to be less than £7.50 a week, a cost offered by only ultra-energy efficient homes. With limited powers to address the two other drivers of fuel poverty the Welsh Government's ambition of ending fuel poverty was therefore always likely to be challenging.

¹⁸ ibid

¹⁹ ibid

²⁰ Welsh Government n(1)

²¹ Scottish Government n(8)

Thirdly, data was not gathered regularly enough. The most recent publicly available data was published in May 2019 setting out the data for 2018.²² Prior to the publication of that data, no estimates on fuel poverty had been published since 2016, which were the first estimates published since 2012.²³ This meant that the Welsh Government had very limited data on how successful or otherwise its policies were in ending fuel poverty. Furthermore, the Wales Audit Office found that whilst the Welsh Government did gather data on how effective the Warm Homes Programme had been in improving energy efficiency, there were no routine checks on whether people were in fuel poverty before the intervention and how many were in poverty after.²⁴ On top of this, as was outlined in the previous section, we have concerns that the measure of fuel poverty used in Wales means that the data gathered by the Welsh Government does not paint an accurate picture of fuel poverty, limiting the effectiveness of its work.

How Welsh Government action to date has helped to combat fuel poverty, in particular, the impact of the Warm Homes Programme (including Nest and Arbed) and the Welsh Housing Quality Standard

As stated above we believe that the Welsh Government's actions to date have focused too heavily on increasing energy efficiency as the solution to poverty. There is a need for the Welsh Government to consider how it can also boost incomes and reduce fuel costs if it is to eradicate fuel poverty. We acknowledge that the Warm Homes Programme has had a positive impact in boosting energy efficiency in households across Wales, as is clearly demonstrated in the most recent annual data,²⁵ as discussed above however, the Wales Audit Office has highlighted that there is a lack of data to demonstrate what impact this investment has had in reducing poverty. Furthermore, as we demonstrated on page 3 of this response, the Welsh Government seems to have had more success in reducing fuel poverty in

²² Statistics for Wales n(5)

²³ Welsh Government, *The Production of Estimated Levels of Fuel Poverty in Wales: 2012-2016*, (Social Research Number: 40/2016, July 2019) – available at – <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2018-12/160711-production-estimated-levels-fuel-poverty-wales-2012-2016-en.pdf>

²⁴ Auditor General n(11)

²⁵ Arbed am Byth, *Annual Report 2018/19*, (2019) – available at – http://www.arbedambyth.wales/annual-reports/Arbed_Annual_Report_2018-19.pdf; and Nest, *Nest Annual Report 2018/19*, (2019) – available at – <https://nest.gov.wales/workspace/uploads/files/nest-annual-report-2019-engli-5d3ac3dfd5d07.pdf>

higher income households than in lower income households, there is therefore clear scope for the Welsh Government to improve how the programme assists families trapped in poverty.

Arbed has had success in improving energy efficiency. We believe, however, that there is a need to examine whether the households in greatest need of assistance are receiving support through the programme. Given that Arbed is targeted in geographical areas where there is a high prevalence of fuel poverty it is likely that many households living in fuel poverty have received support, but there is a lack of data to ensure that this is the case.

Furthermore, the Wales Audit Office found that Arbed's budget has been underspent in recent years²⁶ raising further questions about how effective the scheme is in reaching those that would benefit most from support. As stated above, we believe that there is a need for the Welsh Government to amend its measure of fuel poverty to provide greater weight to household income. If the Welsh Government adopted this approach, we believe it should then re-evaluate Arbed to ensure that sufficient support is being provided to those households at greatest risk of fuel poverty, as opposed to simply improving energy efficiency in households in a way that is having a limited impact on fuel poverty.

Nest provides more targeted support to low income households facing fuel poverty. We believe that there is a need to monitor the performance of Nest for two reasons. First, we believe that there is a need to ensure that no family living in poverty is locked out from receiving support under Nest due to failing to meet its eligibility criteria. To receive support through Nest a household must own or privately rent their dwelling and be in receipt of one of a series of means tested benefits, Universal Credit, or be in ill health and on low income. In the case of a private rental sector tenant, a tenant must get the consent of their landlord and their landlord must satisfy further criteria. With over half of families living poverty in Wales living in households where at least one adult is in work,²⁷ there is a risk that there are some low-income families missing out on support as they are arbitrarily excluded.

²⁶ Auditor General n(11)

²⁷ Stats Wales, *Children in relative income poverty by economic status of household*, available at - <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social->

Second, enquiries for support through Nest remains low in many local authorities. Whilst 10 per cent of households in Carmarthenshire and Rhondda Cynon Taf have enquired about their eligibility for support under Nest, only 1 per cent of households in Monmouthshire have made such an enquiry, whilst the percentage increase to 2 per cent in Merthyr Tydfil, Torfaen, Vale of Glamorgan and Wrexham.²⁸ Given the Welsh Government's own data suggests that 12 per cent of households in Wales are in fuel poverty there is a need to substantially increase the percentage of households engaging with the programme if we are to reduce fuel poverty.

How the Welsh Government's successor to the fuel poverty strategy (due for consultation in Autumn 2019) should differ from its 2010 strategy

As we have stated we believe that the Welsh Government's successor to the fuel poverty strategy should have a definition of fuel poverty that has a clearer focus on poverty itself by adopting a 'residual income' measure of fuel poverty.

We also believe that the Welsh Government should examine whether they have all the relevant tools to eradicate fuel poverty. As noted, one of the issues with the Welsh Government's 2010 strategy was that it did not sufficiently seek solutions to all three causes of fuel poverty, focusing primarily on boosting energy efficiency. The focus on energy efficiency in the previous strategy was natural given the very limited powers that the Welsh Government have in relation to boosting low incomes and reducing energy prices. We therefore believe that the Welsh Government should explore whether powers over the Winter Fuel Allowance should be devolved to Wales, to provide it with more levers to solve fuel poverty.

[Inclusion/Poverty/childreninrelativeincomepoverty-by-economicstatusofhousehold](https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Poverty/childreninrelativeincomepoverty-by-economicstatusofhousehold); and Stats Wales, *Working age adults in relative income poverty by economic status of household*, available at - <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Poverty/workingageadultsinrelativeincomepoverty-by-economicstatusofhousehold>; and Stats Wales, *Pensioners in relative income poverty by tenure type*, available at - <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Poverty/pensionersinrelativeincomepoverty-by-tenuretype>

²⁸ Nest n(25)

What steps the Welsh Government should take to ensure that new-build homes, as well as existing homes, are highly energy efficient to prevent them causing fuel poverty in the future.

The Bevan Foundation has limited experience in terms of the technical requirements homes should be built to, to ensure energy efficiency to prevent causing fuel poverty. We believe it is important that in deciding on these steps that the Welsh Government should be aware that ensuring better efficiency is only part of the answer. It therefore needs to ensure that it also takes steps to tackle the other causes of fuel poverty when building new homes.

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Y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig

Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

Ymchwiliad i Dlodi Tanwydd | Inquiry into Fuel Poverty

FP 11

Ymateb gan : Cymru Gynnes

Evidence from : Warm Wales

- How Welsh Government action to date has helped to combat fuel poverty, in particular, the impact of the Warm Homes Programme (**including Nest and Arbed**) and the Welsh Housing Quality Standard;

The Nest programme is very beneficial and has had a massive positive impact for many individuals in Wales. As an organisation that assists people to refer themselves into the programme we have the following concerns on process:

Qualifying criteria:

You (OR SOMEONE YOU LIVE WITH) receive a means tested benefit (MTB)

The application is made in the name of the person on the MTB living at the property. It does not consider the household income. A homeowner could have £100k+ in the bank but have their niece living with them who is on a MTB and qualify for full support. This is a waste of resources.

1. Suggested action: The criteria should include a household income cap.

Whilst it is understandable that those qualifying for a MTB are likely more vulnerable and in more need than those that don't; by having MTB as a qualifying criteria an important demographic are being missed. We frequently come across pensioners that don't qualify. They may be a couple earning just over the threshold to qualify for Pension Credit, a joint income of just £14,000. They have worked all their lives and are not claiming any benefits. Their house is in disrepair and their heating system over 20 years old or not working. Under these criteria, unless they meet the new Health criteria they would not qualify for any support. (This is an ongoing issue as this is very much a demographic that is being missed as many funding pots use MTB as qualifying criteria.)

2. Suggested action: There should be an amendment to the criteria – either based on total household income or to provide a separate funding pot which preferred partners can refer individual cases to based on circumstance to be decided by a committee.

The third qualifying criteria: **Your home is energy inefficient and expensive to heat (equivalent to an E, F or G energy efficiency rating)** is currently decided via a list of questions asked over the phone and then a system allocates a SAP score which determines whether the property qualifies. Nest have been asked but have refused to share the weighting of the scoring system for these questions. Even if a property has a current EPC that states it is E, F or G, Nest state this is irrelevant – the criteria is decided by the Nest system and is non-negotiable.

3. Suggested action: Accept a current EPC at E/F/G as sufficient evidence to qualify for support.

4. Suggested action: Share the weighting of the questions with preferred partners to ensure wider understanding of how the decision is made

One question is ‘How much is spent on gas/electric/water?’ Whilst we understand this is to help gauge whether the household is fuel poor, for many of our clients their spend on energy is low – not because their home is heat efficient but because they choose to minimise their fuel use in order to have money to eat. The amount spent on bills is not always a clear indication.

5. Suggested action: Consider each question/weighting and re-word to ensure fair to those that are self-limiting or disconnecting their current supply.

Measures available: Nest state that the funding includes insulation – it states ‘or’ insulation which implies that if that’s the only measure equired then it is available.

We offer a range of free, impartial advice and, if you are eligible, a package of free home energy efficiency improvements such as a new boiler, central heating or insulation.

In our experience, following the energy efficient questions, if a client’s boiler is not broken or over 15 years old they will not qualify as their property will be deemed ‘too energy efficient’.

At Cardiff's Affordable Warmth meeting Peter Hughes confirmed that: *CWI is one of the measures which can be fitted under Nest anywhere in Wales. With insulation, as with other measures it is evaluated on a case by case basis at the survey stage conducted by British Gas and/or subcontractors. So this would depend on the property construction and suitability etc. E.g. If a Mid-terrace home was of a cavity wall construction and the cavity was suitable, CWI may be offered.*

However, as above, in our direct experience if the household had a working boiler then it wouldn't get past the initial phone assessment to get to the survey stage and have a home visit.

6. Suggested action: Either split the questions asked into two- current set for those requesting a new central heating system, a different set for those requesting only insulation. Or amend the marketing materials to be a fair representation of what is available.

Health criteria - only qualify if taking medication for circulatory/respiratory/mental health issues. Someone with terminal bowel cancer, a condition that is exacerbated by the cold does not qualify.

7. Suggested action: Widen the health criteria to include any health condition that is exacerbated by the cold.

- The scale and impacts of fuel poverty in Wales;

Self-limitation/self-disconnection of Energy.

Whilst the figures for enforced disconnection are very low, it is clear to all working in the fuel poverty arena that many households are facing an ongoing 'heat or eat' dilemma and self-disconnecting their fuel in order to be able to buy food.

8. Suggested Action: Enforce all energy suppliers to report on annual figures for self-disconnection to hold them to account. Ensure that there is action included in their vulnerable customer policies for contacting these customers/putting support in place for them.

Pre-Paid payment meters

These are significantly more expensive per unit than standard credit meters. The majority of householders who have these meters are low income, fuel

poor ones. The historic reasoning for this discrepancy is that the pre-payment meters cost more to run. With the introduction of smart meters, some companies are already utilising these to provide smart payment options for consumers.

9. Suggested action: Put a cap on cost per unit allowed for pre-payment meters, also for replacement cards etc.

Switching tariffs

Energy suppliers currently inform customers that they are not on the lowest available tariff with their company by printing the information in extremely small font at the bottom of their bills. Most clients we meet have never noticed this information and are unaware of it.

10. Suggested Action: Suppliers should be forced to put this information at the top of the page in bold at least font 16.

- What steps the Welsh Government should take to ensure that new-build homes, as well as existing homes, are highly energy efficient to prevent them causing fuel poverty in the future.

Put in place legislation to ensure all new builds:

- **Have smart meters & smart thermostats installed as standard**
- **Use zero carbon heating systems, such as heat pumps and solar thermal systems where appropriate.**
- **Have sufficient insulation as standard**
- **Consider ‘cooling techniques’ alongside heating systems, preventing against extreme weather**
- **Put an onus onto the developer to include training for new householders on the technology – ensuring an understanding of controlling the systems.**
- **Provide funding for organisations to develop energy training packages for schools – to include energy efficiency behaviour alongside understanding new technologies to benefit from them.**
- **Encourage developers to exceed planning standards, not just meet them. Offer tax breaks/low interest loans etc.**
- **Enforce building regulations – hold developers to account.**

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru | National Assembly for Wales
Y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee
Ymchwiliad i Dlodi Tanwydd | Inquiry into Fuel Poverty
FP 27

Ymateb gan : Gweithredu Ynni Cenedlaethol (NEA) Cymru
Evidence from : National Energy Action (NEA) Cymru

Introduction

NEA Cymru welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Committee's inquiry into fuel poverty and would like to thank the Committee for focusing on this important issue.

NEA is the dedicated fuel poverty charity championing the cause of the most vulnerable members of society and seeking to end the misery and suffering caused by cold homes. We operate throughout the whole of Wales, England, and Northern Ireland and work closely with Energy Action Scotland (EAS).

Our work focuses on running practical projects which directly benefit those living in fuel poverty. Through our Empowering Communities Cymru project we are improving the resilience of deprived communities in Wales by upskilling over 800 frontline staff and advisors over the past six years who have gone on to assist thousands of vulnerable households with their energy needs and we've directly supported over 500 individuals and families to manage their energy bills. We also provide secretariat to the Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency Cross Party Group to campaign for improvements to policies and programmes to help households in Wales struggling to keep warm.

UK Fuel Poverty Monitor 2019

As part of our policy work to improve the lives of the fuel poor NEA and EAS recently published our annual UK Fuel Poverty Monitor¹, which gathered evidence from stakeholders to examine the progress in tackling fuel poverty

¹ UK Fuel Poverty Monitor 2018-19. Available from <https://www.nea.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Fuel-poverty-monitor-high-res.pdf>

under existing fuel poverty strategies across the four UK nations. The Monitor provides recommendations for how the Welsh Government can improve its efforts to address fuel poverty going forward and we are submitting a copy of the report as part of NEA's response to the Committee. These recommendations have informed much of this response.

The scale and impact of fuel poverty in Wales

New figures released by the Welsh Government in the summer of 2019 suggested that in 2018, 155,000 households² (12%) were living in fuel poverty which equates to approximately 350,000 people in Wales. It should be noted that the vast majority of these households (130,000) are extremely vulnerable, either disabled, elderly, or have young children in the household and 19,000 households are still living in extreme fuel poverty.

Whilst the new figures suggested fuel poverty has more than halved since the last household condition survey was undertaken in 2008, the evidence from frontline workers assisting low income and vulnerable households tells a much different story of households experiencing a range of daily struggles to make ends meet. For example, many households experiencing fuel poverty will also be experiencing food poverty and the Trussell Trust reported a 15% increase in foodbank use in Wales in 2018–19.³

Ofgem's recent report on vulnerable energy consumers⁴ highlighted that Wales has the highest proportion of energy consumers on the Priority Services Register compared to England and Scotland (28% for gas and 26% for electricity). Ofgem also reported that there were an increasing number of customers in arrears in 2018 compared to 2018 across Great Britain who do not have a repayment plan set up with their energy supplier.

In addition, the proportion of consumers using prepayment meters in Wales for both gas and electricity is nearly 1 in 5, at 18%. A high proportion of prepayment meters (PPM) have been installed as a result of a customer falling into debt with their fuel bills and there is a risk that customers will self

² Fuel poverty estimates for Wales (Headline results) 2018. Available at: <https://gov.wales/fuel-poverty-estimates-wales-headline-results-2018>

³See <https://www.trusselltrust.org/2019/07/16/welsh-food-banks-fear-busiest-summer-ever-ahead/>

⁴ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/vulnerable-consumers-energy-market-2019>

disconnect when they are struggling to pay to top up. Ofgem's research shows that PPM customers tend to have high vulnerability representation and face additional challenges in accessing cheaper energy deals.⁵

The impact of fuel poverty on individuals households but also on our communities is truly devastating. At an individual level it can mean people being regularly unable to heat their homes (self disconnecting) during the winter because they can't afford to pay the bills leaving them in the cold and without hot water; making desperate choices between 'eating or heating'; and using dangerous heating appliances because they can't afford to get them serviced regularly. On average over 500 people needlessly die in Wales each year due to living in a cold home and in the winter of 2017–18 this figure rose to over 1,000 deaths. It has also been well documented that a range of health conditions can be exacerbated by inadequate heating, damp and mould growth including increasing the risk of heart attacks, strokes, falls, as well as anxiety and depression caused by the worry of crippling debt.

To society, it has been estimated that the total cost to the NHS in Wales of dealing with category one hazards (damp, mould growth and excessive cold) was around £67 million per year⁶ with the overall cost to society estimated at around £168 million per year.

Fuel poverty is also a significant problem for disabled people. One report by Scope suggests that over £500 a year extra in energy costs are incurred by disabled people as a direct result of their condition, when compared to the average household.⁷

Cold homes can also have particularly harmful effects on the development of babies and young infants which can persist into later life.⁸ Evidence⁹ suggests that infants living in cold conditions have a 30% greater risk of being admitted to hospital or primary care facilities in the first 3 years of life.

⁵ See 4.

⁶ Thomson H et al (2009) The Health Impacts of Housing Improvement: A Systematic Review of Intervention Studies from 1887 to 2007. American Journal of Public Health, 99, 681-691.

⁷ Out in the cold, March 2018, Scope. Available from <https://www.scope.org.uk/Scope/media/Images/Out-in-the-cold.pdf>

⁸ (Marmot Review Team, 2011) (Climate Just, 2014).

⁹ See 8.

Conversely, tackling fuel poverty can result in widespread benefits through positive physical and mental health improvements, less GP visits and demands on the NHS and social care, improved air quality and quality of life; the creation of local jobs, regeneration of local communities and more money in people's pockets to spend in their local communities.

How Welsh Government action to date has helped to combat fuel poverty, in particular, the impact of the Warm Homes Programme (including Nest and Arbed) and the Welsh Housing Quality Standard

As noted in the recent report by the Wales Audit Office into fuel poverty¹⁰, £321.6m has been spent since 2009 on energy efficiency improvements via the Nest and Arbed schemes, resulting in over 54,659 homes in Wales being assisted, roughly a third of current levels of fuel poor households. This is a significant amount of investment, but as the report notes, it is currently unclear what impact these schemes have had in terms of lifting households out of fuel poverty. We simply do not know because no assessment has been done on whether the households are in fuel poverty before receiving the measures and whether they have been lifted out of fuel poverty after receiving the improvements. This also raises concerns about the effective targeting of the schemes.

Indeed, during our call for evidence with our stakeholders they raised concerns around the eligibility of the Nest scheme and that it should be widened so that more households on low incomes who do not receive means-tested benefits could receive energy efficiency improvements. NEA's Fuel Poverty Monitor highlighted two case studies of extremely vulnerable households who were experiencing difficulties with inefficient heating systems, one of which obtained help from the Nest scheme whilst the other household was not eligible for support (see Appendix 1).

The Welsh Government should work collaboratively with stakeholders to help overcome the challenges it faces in targeting and evaluating the impact of its significant investment in its energy efficiency programmes as outlined by the Wales Audit Office's report. Anecdotal evidence from stakeholders in the

¹⁰ <https://www.audit.wales/news/fewer-households-fuel-poverty-welsh-government-misses-targets>

past has raised several issues including the transparency of the schemes, as well as the type of advice and support provided to households.

Health Pilot

A positive example of such collaboration is the improvements made to the Welsh Government health conditions pilot programme¹¹. Introduced in 2017 the pilot was intended to help households who suffer from certain health conditions made worse by the cold to access home improvements available through the Nest scheme such as a free boiler, insulation or central heating.

There was poor uptake initially but with input from NEA as well as other stakeholders changes have been made to improve the pilot including changes to the eligibility criteria, referral routes and incomes thresholds which has significantly increased the referral rate and as a result the scheme will be able to assist more households going forward. The Wales Audit Office has indicated that it intends to investigate these schemes further and NEA welcome this.

Social Housing

As noted in the Welsh Housing Condition Survey¹² homes in Wales have become more energy efficient over the last 10 years, and housing in the social sector have improved the most with the highest percentage of dwellings in EPC bands C or above. The new fuel poverty figures indicate that an estimated 9% of social housing tenants were living in fuel poverty in 2018.

The Welsh Government provides £108m each year to improve over 200,000 social housing homes and as stated in the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) latest report¹³, the number of social housing dwellings that are compliant with WHQS (including acceptable fails) has increased to 93% in 2019. Central heating systems showed the highest compliance at 99%.

¹¹ <https://nest.gov.wales/en/eligibility/>

¹² <https://gweddill.gov.wales/statistics-and-research/welsh-housing-conditions-survey/?lang=en>

¹³ <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-10/welsh-housing-quality-standard-31-march-2019-256.pdf>

Despite the improvements in the social housing stock there are still 21,000 households in fuel poverty. This suggests that households would benefit from more holistic advice including income maximisation advice such as benefit entitlement checks and Warm Home Discount Scheme, energy switching, and behaviour change advice.

How the Welsh Government's successor to the fuel poverty strategy (due for consultation in Autumn 2019) should differ from its 2010 strategy.

The overwhelming majority (93%) of stakeholders who responded to our call for evidence wanted the Welsh Government to set new fuel poverty targets in a new fuel poverty plan, and more than half (60%) felt that the 10% indicator was generally effective in both identifying households in, or vulnerable to, fuel poverty and enabling them to support clients in applying for fuel poverty schemes.

The Welsh Government has recently accepted in principle the recommendations from the Decarbonisation of Homes Advisory Group to prioritise the homes of the fuel poor over the next 10 years to reach EPC Band A as part of its plans to tackle climate change. We want the Welsh Government to progress this recommendation as soon as possible.

At present rates Wales is spending less than Scotland and Northern Ireland on energy efficiency programmes for fuel poor households. According to E3G, an independent climate change think tank, in 2017 Wales spent £17 on energy efficiency, Scotland £35, Northern Ireland £23, and in England £8 per capita on average via a combination of UK wide government and supplier obligation investment funded regressively through consumers' bills.¹⁴

We are also calling on the Welsh Government to back NEA's call, and those of many other organisations, for energy efficiency to be made a national infrastructure priority. This will help to unlock the necessary UK funding to achieve the EPC Band A target and the Welsh Government's net zero ambitions to ensure that decarbonising domestic homes is done in a fair and equitable way.

¹⁴ <https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/blog/fuel-poverty-policy-wales-taking-inspiration-scotland>.

Additionally, the UK Fuel Poverty Monitor highlights a number of recommendations for how the Welsh Government can improve its efforts to address fuel poverty:

Recommendations

- The Welsh Government should accept the recommendations outlined in The Decarbonisation of Homes in Wales Advisory Group to prioritise fuel poor households to an energy performance standard of EPC Band A (SAP 90+) over the next 10 years.
- The Welsh Government should review the eligibility criteria for its Nest scheme to consider how low-income households, not on means-tested benefits, and living in energy-inefficient homes can be assisted.
- The Welsh Government should consider how it can support local authorities to help maximise funding for energy efficiency improvements via the ECO flexible eligibility scheme.
- Funding for more holistic advice should be included within the new fuel poverty plan to include the provision of in-home visits offered to all households who call the Nest advice line for assistance.
- Local authority-led Affordable Warmth Groups should be established to bring together multiagency partnerships to co-ordinate action at a local level and share best practice.
- The Welsh Government should develop a Cold Weather Plan for Wales to address the burden of excess winter deaths and cold-related ill-health in the country.
- A Strategic Monitoring Board should be implemented to monitor and oversee the delivery of the new fuel poverty plan and to bring together multi-sector partnerships to implement an accompanying Action Plan, as well as to review and report on progress.
- The Welsh Government should work collaboratively with stakeholders to help refine its fuel poverty schemes and advice services to ensure they are targeted and evaluated effectively.
- The Welsh Government should continue the health prevention based affordable warmth pilot and it should become an integral part of the Nest scheme to ensure households who have health conditions exacerbated by the cold can receive help.

We are also calling on the Welsh Government to back NEA's call, and those of many other organisations, for energy efficiency to be made a national infrastructure priority. This will help to unlock the necessary UK funding to achieve the EPC Band A target and the Welsh Government's net zero ambitions to ensure that decarbonising domestic homes is done in a fair and equitable way.

What steps the Welsh Government should take to ensure that new-build homes, as well as existing homes, are highly energy efficient to prevent them causing fuel poverty in the future.

As noted in our 2019 UK Fuel Poverty Monitor and in the recommendations for the Welsh Government's new fuel poverty plan we want to see fuel poor households prioritised for assistance under a new retrofitting scheme. Households in fuel poverty are more likely to be living in older properties than in more modern properties, with 70,000 households experiencing fuel poverty in pre 1919 homes.

Additionally, the Welsh Government should ensure there is adequate enforcement of the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) to improve the conditions in the private rented sector and support NEA's calls for the UK Government to increase the current MEES cost cap for landlords to £5k, in line with recommendations made by the Committee on Fuel Poverty.

<p><i>Case Study: Using existing mechanisms to deliver support to households</i></p> <p><i>Mr Peters is in his 70s and lives with his wife in a semi-detached property in Chepstow. His property used to contain an aged heating system which was extremely inefficient, making it unaffordable for Mr Peters and his wife to keep warm.</i></p> <p><i>As Mr and Mrs Peters owned their property and were in receipt of a means tested benefit, they were able to apply to the Nest scheme for energy efficiency improvements. Melin Homes assisted the couple with the application where they were able to receive a new back boiler and full central heating system.</i></p> <p><i>Mr Peters suffers from arthritis which was exacerbated by the cold. Since the home improvements he has noticed an improvement in both his physical health and mental well-being. Mr Peters is now able to afford to keep the heating on when it is needed.</i></p>	<p><i>Case Study: Current barriers to delivering support to vulnerable households</i></p> <p><i>Mr and Mrs Jones, a couple in their 80s, live in a stone wall terraced property in Rhondda Cynon Taff. There is no working boiler in the property and therefore no heating or hot water.</i></p> <p><i>Mr and Mrs Jones live in a single room where they wear coats for most of the day and huddle around a gas fire. This inefficient form of heating has resulted in extremely high and unaffordable energy bills. Mrs Jones has multiple health conditions, including mobility issues and is prone to trips and falls.</i></p> <p><i>Mr and Mrs Jones do not qualify for Nest home improvements because they are not in receipt of a means tested benefit. They have savings, but they have stated that this is to pay for their funerals. Mr and Mrs Jones have very low earnings, with no disposable income, and are unable to afford a new boiler.</i></p>
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Eitem 4.1

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Mike Hedges AC
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
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Rhagfyr 2019

Annwyl Mike

Diolch am eich llythyr dyddiedig 22 Hydref ac adroddiad y pwyllgor 'Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy arfaethedig Llywodraeth Cymru: adfer bioamrywiaeth'.

Gwyrddo'i'r dirywiad mewn bioamrywiaeth yw un o'n heriau mwyaf, ond mae'n her sy'n rhaid ymateb iddi am amryw byd o resymau. Mae gwella bioamrywiaeth law yn llaw â pharhau i gynhyrchu bwyd o safon uchel a mynd i'r afael â'r argyfwng hinsawdd ymhlith fy mhrif flaenoriaethau ar gyfer llunio polisi rheoli tir Cymru at y dyfodol.

Roedd ymgynghoriad *Ffermio Cynaliadwy a'n Tir* yn esbonio bod Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015 a Deddf yr Amgylchedd (Cymru) 2016 yn sefydlu fframwaith deddfu a pholisi pwysig, yn canolbwyntio ar gynaliadwyedd, a ddefnyddir gennym i ddatblygu ein cynigion ar gyfer polisi rheoli tir yn y dyfodol yng Nghymru. Yn y cyd-destun deddfwriaethol hwn, bydd ein cynigion yn cyfrannu at gyflawni amcanion llesiant Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol ac, yn yr achos penodol hwn, yn gwneud cyfraniad pwysig at "Cymru gydnerth" trwy gefnogi canlyniadau sy'n cynnal a gwella amgylchedd naturiol bioamrywiol. Bydd y polisi arfaethedig yn bwysig hefyd wrth gyflawni ymrwymadau Gweinidogion Cymru dan Ddeddf yr Amgylchedd (Cymru) 2016 wrth geisio cynnal a gwella bioamrywiaeth ein gwlad.

Mae ymgynghoriad *Ffermio Cynaliadwy a'n Tir* newydd ddod i ben. Rydym wrthi'n ystyried yr ymatebion ac yn cynnal rhaglen gynllunio ar y cyd â ffermwyr a rhanddeiliaid er mwyn archwilio agweddau ymarferol y cynigion ymhellach. Hefyd, rydym yn wynebu ansicrwydd parhaus gan Lywodraeth y DU o ran faint o gyllid fydd yn dychwelyd i Gymru pe bai'r DU yn gadael yr UE. O'r herwydd, mae'n ddyddiau cynnar o hyd o ran cynllunio cynllun at y dyfodol a'r dull cyflwyno cysylltiedig, ac nid oes modd rhoi ymateb terfynol i lawer o'ch argymhellion ar hyn o bryd. Felly, rydym yn derbyn llawer o'r argymhellion mewn egwyddor (yn hytrach na'n bendant) wrth ddisgwyl i'r cynigion polisi gael eu datblygu a'u cwblhau'n llawn.

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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.

Tudalen y pecyn 72

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.

Hoffwn egluro un agwedd ar eich adroddiad. Er fy mod yn cytuno fod ein huchelgeisiau ar gyfer gwasanaeth cynghori ar gyfer y dyfodol yn uchelgeisiol, rwy'n credu y bydd darparu'r lefel gywir o gymorth a chynghor yn hanfodol er mwyn helpu ein ffermwyr i addasu i'r newidiadau a gynhigiwn. Rydych wedi cyfeirio at "ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cymru na fydd yn rhaid talu costau gwasanaethau cynghori o'r arian sydd ar gael ar gyfer cymorth ffermio" (tudalen 31). Fel y soniais eisoes, does dim eglurder o ran dyraniad cyllideb y dyfodol gan Lywodraeth y DU ac nid oes dull darparu manwl wedi'i gynllunio.

Hoffwn ddiolch i aelodau'r Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig am yr adroddiad. Mae fy ymatebion i'r argymhellion unigol i'w gweld isod.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

Argymhelliad 1

Mae'r Pwyllgor yn argymhell

Rhaid i Lywodraeth Cymru sicrhau bod adfer bioamrywiaeth yn flaenoriaeth allweddol yn ei Chynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy arfaethedig.

Ymateb: Derbyn

Rhaid i'r broses o gynnal a chadw ecosystemau trwy greu rhwydweithiau ecolegol cadarn a chydnerth fod yn ganolog i bolisi rheoli tir y dyfodol os ydym i gyflawni'r lefel o weithredu sydd ei hangen i gynnal ac adfer natur ledled Cymru. Mae'r Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy arfaethedig yn cael ei ddatblygu ar sail cysyniad Rheoli Tir Cynaliadwy ac yn unol â'r fframwaith deddfu a pholisi a sefydlwyd gan Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol a Deddf yr Amgylchedd (Cymru) 2016. Yn yr un modd, cynigir bod y cynllun yn cefnogi canlyniadau i gynnal a gwella bioamrywiaeth, a datblygu rhwydweithiau ecolegol cydnerth.

Dylai cam nesa'r gwaith ganolbwyntio ar fanylion sut rydym am gyflawni hyn, ac rydym yn bwriadu gwneud hyn trwy ddatblygu ein cynigion sydd yn *Ffermio Cynaliadwy a'n Tir*.

Goblygiadau ariannol – Ni allaf bennu'r goblygiadau ariannol nes bod y cynllun arfaethedig wedi'i gynllunio, model gweithredol wedi'i lunio a chyllideb ar gyfer y dyfodol wedi'i sicrhau gan Lywodraeth y DU.

Argymhelliad 2

Mae'r Pwyllgor yn argymhell

Dylai cynllun arfaethedig Llywodraeth Cymru gynnwys canlyniadau sy'n cael eu llywio gan y data a'r dystiolaeth ddiweddaraf ar fioamrywiaeth a dylai hefyd ganolbwyntio ar rywogaethau, cynefinoedd a thirwedd.

Ymateb: Derbyn mewn egwyddor

Fel y nodwyd yn adroddiad y Pwyllgor, bydd angen inni ystyried gweithredu ar y raddfa gywir er mwyn sicrhau'r canlyniadau amrywiol yr hoffem eu cyflawni.

Rydym yn cynnig defnyddio tystiolaeth gan gynnwys o Raglen Monitro a Modelu Materion Gwledig a'r Amgylchedd (ERAMMP), Adroddiad ar Sefyllfa Adnoddau Naturiol (SoNaRR), y Datganiadau Ardal a gynhyrchir gan Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (CNC) a ffynonellau eraill fel gwerthusiadau o gynlluniau blaenorol ac enghreifftiau o gynlluniau eraill o'r tu allan i Gymru.

Goblygiadau ariannol – Ni allaf bennu'r goblygiadau ariannol nes bod y cynllun arfaethedig wedi'i gynllunio, model gweithredol wedi'i lunio a chyllideb ar gyfer y dyfodol wedi'i sicrhau gan Lywodraeth y DU.

Argymhelliad 3

Mae'r Pwyllgor yn argymell

Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru egluro sut y bydd y Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy yn gweithio ochr yn ochr â pholisïau a mentrau eraill sydd â'r nod o adfer bioamrywiaeth.

Ymateb: Derbyn mewn egwyddor

Ni allwn roi'r eglurder hwn ar hyn o bryd gan ei bod hi'n rhy gynnar yn y broses gynllunio. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn sicrhau ei fod yn cyd-fynd â blaenoriaethau a chynigion polisi eraill fel y Goedwig Genedlaethol newydd, a chmau Cynllun Adfer Natur Cymru sy'n cael ei adnewyddu ar hyn o bryd.

Goblygiadau ariannol - Ni allaf bennu'r goblygiadau ariannol nes bod y cynllun arfaethedig wedi'i gynllunio, model gweithredol wedi'i lunio a chyllideb ar gyfer y dyfodol wedi'i sicrhau gan Lywodraeth y DU.

Argymhelliad 4

Mae'r Pwyllgor yn argymell

Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru egluro sut y mae'n bwriadu monitro ac asesu effaith y cynllun mewn perthynas â bioamrywiaeth.

Ymateb: Derbyn mewn egwyddor

Bydd proses fonitro ac asesu effaith y Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy arfaethedig ar fioamrywiaeth yn cael ei datblygu fel rhan o'r broses fanwl o gynllunio'r cynllun. Gan fod y broses yn dal i fynd rhagddi, ni allaf ddarparu esboniad manylach ar hyn o bryd.

Goblygiadau ariannol – Ni allaf bennu'r goblygiadau ariannol nes bod y cynllun arfaethedig wedi'i gynllunio, model gweithredol wedi'i lunio a chyllideb ar gyfer y dyfodol wedi'i sicrhau gan Lywodraeth y DU.

Argymhelliad 5

Mae'r Pwyllgor yn argymell

Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru gynnal asesiad o'r adnoddau, gan gynnwys staff, y bydd eu hangen i ddarparu ei dull arfaethedig o ran gwasanaethau cynghori. Dylai'r asesiad hwn gynnwys rhagamcanion ar gyfer pum mlynedd gyntaf y cynllun.

Ymateb: Derbyn

Bydd asesiad o'r adnoddau sydd eu hangen i ddarparu'r dull arfaethedig o ran gwasanaethau cynghori yn rhan o'r broses gynllunio fanwl. Hoffwn archwilio dulliau cyfathrebu a chyfleoedd digidol er mwyn darparu cyngor a chymorth yn y ffordd fwyaf effeithlon ond ystyrlon bosibl. Gan fod y broses yn dal i fynd rhagddi, ni allaf ddarparu asesiad manylach ar hyn o bryd.

Goblygiadau ariannol – Ni allaf bennu'r goblygiadau ariannol nes bod y cynllun arfaethedig wedi'i gynllunio, model gweithredol wedi'i lunio a chyllideb ar gyfer y dyfodol wedi'i sicrhau gan Lywodraeth y DU.

Argymhelliad 6

Mae'r Pwyllgor yn argymhell

Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru egluro sut y mae'n bwriadu sicrhau bod digon o gynghorwyr sydd wedi'u hyfforddi'n briodol ar gael erbyn i'r cynllun arfaethedig gael ei lansio. Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru egluro a yw'n disgwyl i unrhyw sefydliad presennol ddarparu'r gwasanaeth cynghori.

Ymateb: Derbyn mewn egwyddor

Newydd ddod i ben mae'r ymgynghoriad, ac mae angen inni bwysu a mesur yr ymatebion yn ofalus fel rhan o'r broses gynllunio arfaethedig ar gyfer y cynllun cyn dechrau cynnig dulliau darparu.

Goblygiadau ariannol – ni allaf bennu'r goblygiadau ariannol nes bod y cynllun arfaethedig wedi'i gynllunio, model gweithredol wedi'i lunio a chyllideb ar gyfer y dyfodol wedi'i sicrhau gan Lywodraeth y DU.

Argymhelliad 7

Mae'r Pwyllgor yn argymhell

Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru egluro sut y bydd yn sicrhau bod defnyddwyr ei chynllun arfaethedig yn cael mynediad priodol at gyfleoedd hyfforddiant a datblygu sgiliau. Dylai hefyd nodi ei amcangyfrifon o'r costau yn sgil hyfforddiant o'r fath ac egluro sut y byddant yn cael eu talu.

Ymateb: Derbyn mewn egwyddor

Elfen allweddol o ddull seiliedig ar ganlyniadau lle mae ffermwyr yn cael eu grymuso i wneud mwy o'u penderfyniadau rheoli eu hunain, yw'r sgiliau cywir i ddeall a chyflawni'r canlyniadau amrywiol rydyn ni'n ceisio'u sicrhau.

Rydym wedi cynnig y bydd mynediad i hyfforddiant a sgiliau'n elfen bwysig o'r cymorth hwn. Bydd angen i ni ystyried y ffyrdd gorau o ddarparu hyn – trwy ffermydd arddangos, rhwydweithiau trosglwyddo gwybodaeth rhwng cymheiriaid, neu trwy brosesau mwy ffurfiol. Fodd bynnag, gan fod y broses o gynllunio'r cynllun arfaethedig yn dal i fynd rhagddi, ni allaf ddarparu gwybodaeth fanwl nac amcangyfrifon o'r costau ar hyn o bryd.

Goblygiadau ariannol – Ni allaf bennu'r goblygiadau ariannol nes bod y cynllun arfaethedig wedi'i gynllunio, model gweithredol wedi'i lunio a chyllideb ar gyfer y dyfodol wedi'i sicrhau gan Lywodraeth y DU.

Argymhelliad 8

Mae'r Pwyllgor yn argymhell

Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru roi manylion am sut y bydd yn "cadw ac egluro'r trefniadau presennol", yn y tymor byr, mewn perthynas â fframwaith rheoleiddio. Dylai hyn gynnwys esboniad o sut y bydd ei dull arfaethedig yn adfer bioamrywiaeth.

Ymateb: Derbyn mewn egwyddor

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n bwriadu parhau â'r trefniadau presennol tan y daw'r fframwaith rheoleiddiol newydd i rym drwy'r Bil Amaethyddiaeth (Cymru) arfaethedig. Bydd hyn yn sicrhau nad yw'r safonau na'r broses orfodi gyfredol yn gwanhau wrth bontio o'r fframweithiau rheoleiddio presennol i rai'r dyfodol. Bydd llawer iawn o'r contractau Cynllun Datblygu Gwledig presennol, sydd â'r nod o fynd i'r afael ag amcanion bioamrywiaeth penodol, yn parhau hefyd.

Wrth i'r fframwaith rheoleiddio newydd gael ei ddatblygu, rydym yn bwriadu amlinellu'r gofynion rheoleiddio presennol yn ddigon clir mewn sawl maes, gan gynnwys bioamrywiaeth. Mae hyn yn golygu y bydd ffermwyr yn gwybod yn union pa gamau sydd angen iddynt eu cymryd er mwyn bodloni'r gyfraith ar faterion bioamrywiaeth.

Bydd unrhyw gynigion yn y dyfodol yn cael eu llywio gan ddyletswyddau ac egwyddorion Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) a Deddf yr Amgylchedd (Cymru). Rydym yn bwriadu ymgysylltu â Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru a rhanddeiliaid er mwyn sicrhau bod mesurau'n cael eu cynnwys mewn cynigion ar gyfer llinell sylfaen rheoleiddio yn y dyfodol, sydd â'r nod o gynnal a gwella'r amgylchedd.

Goblygiadau ariannol – Ni allaf bennu'r goblygiadau ariannol nes bod y cynllun arfaethedig wedi'i gynllunio, model gweithredol wedi'i lunio a chyllideb ar gyfer y dyfodol wedi'i sicrhau gan Lywodraeth y DU.

Argymhelliad 9

Mae'r Pwyllgor yn argymhell

Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru sicrhau bod y Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy arfaethedig yn gwobrwyo ffermwyr sydd eisoes yn dilyn arferion da.

Ymateb: Derbyn

Lle mae arferion da cyfredol yn sicrhau'r canlyniadau yr ydym yn chwilio amdanynt, mae'n bwysig ein bod ni'n cydnabod a gwobrwyo hyn.

Y tu hwnt i hyn, rydym yn bwriadu parhau i chwilio am gyfleoedd pellach y tu hwnt i arferion rheoli tir cyfredol er mwyn cyflawni'r canlyniadau llesol ychwanegol lle bo'n ymarferol,

Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig sicrhau bod safonau 'arferion da cyfredol' yn cael eu diffinio'n glir.

Goblygiadau ariannol – Ni allaf bennu'r goblygiadau ariannol nes bod y cynllun arfaethedig wedi'i gynllunio, model gweithredol wedi'i lunio a chyllideb ar gyfer y dyfodol wedi'i sicrhau gan Lywodraeth y DU.

Argymhelliad 10

Mae'r Pwyllgor yn argymhell

Rhaid i Lywodraeth Cymru daro cydbwysedd rhwng sicrhau bod y Cynllun yn hygyrch a hefyd yn ddigon uchelgeisiol i adfer bioamrywiaeth. Dylid penderfynu ble i bennu'r llinell sylfaen reoleiddio ar sail tystiolaeth.

Ymateb: Derbyn

Bydd penderfyniadau am linell sylfaen rheoleiddio ar gyfer y cynllun arfaethedig yn seiliedig ar werthusiad trylwyr o'r dystiolaeth. Byddwn yn parhau i ymgysylltu â rhanddeiliaid o bob math er mwyn llywio'n penderfyniadau gan gynnwys rhai sy'n arbenigo mewn cadwraeth natur a rheolwyr tir sydd â phrofiad a gwybodaeth am eu tir. Dim ond os yw'r dystiolaeth yn dangos eu bod yn cyfrannu at y canlyniadau yr hoffem eu gweld fel rhan o'r Cynllun arfaethedig yr ydym yn bwriadu ariannu gweithgareddau. Rydym yn cynnig bod yn rhaid i'r gweithgareddau hyn a gyllidir gyflawni uwchlaw'r llinell sylfaen reoliadol.

Nod datblygu'r cynllun arfaethedig fydd cydbwysu buddiannau ffermwyr a rheolwyr tir â buddiannau'r cyhoedd ehangach yng Nghymru wrth ddiogelu ein hadnoddau naturiol. Fel y nodir yn *Ffermio Cynaliadwy a'n Tir*, byddwn yn cael ein llywio gan egwyddorion a rhwymedigaethau Deddf yr Amgylchedd (Cymru) a Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol.

Goblygiadau Ariannol - Hyd nes y bydd y cynllun arfaethedig wedi'i gynllunio a hyd nes y bydd unrhyw newidiadau i linellau Sylfaen rheoliadol wedi'u cadarnhau ni allaf bennu'r goblygiadau ariannol.

Argymhelliad 11

Mae'r Pwyllgor yn argymhell

Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru gyhoeddi ei hymateb i adolygiad yr Arglwydd Bew o'r drefn o ran dyrannu cymorth ffermio yn y DU hyd at 2020.

Ymateb: Derbyn

Mae adolygiad Bew o drefn dyrannu cymorth ffermio o fewn y DU wedi dod i ben bellach, a chyhoeddwyd yr adroddiad terfynol ar 6 Medi. Roedd yn cynnwys cyfraniadau cyhoeddedig gan Lywodraeth Cymru a rhanddeiliaid eraill o Gymru. Gan mai adroddiad wedi'i gomisiynu gan ac ar gyfer Llywodraeth y DU oedd hwn (sydd hefyd wedi ymateb iddo), ni fydd Llywodraeth Cymru'n ymateb yn ffurfiol. Fodd bynnag, rwy'n croesawu'r argymhelliad a'r ymrwymadau dilynol i roi cyllid ychwanegol i amaethyddiaeth yng Nghymru.

Gan fod hwn yn bwnc hollbwysig i Gymru, roedd yn hanfodol i'r Arglwydd Bew ystyried safbwyntiau Cymru gydol yr adolygiad. Daeth y panel adolygu i Gymru droeon i gwrdd â rhanddeiliaid yma.

Goblygiadau ariannol – Prif argymhelliad yr Arglwydd Bew oedd dyrannu swm ychwanegol o €6.12m i Gymru a €60.42m i'r Alban dros y cyfnod 2020-2022. Cyflwynodd Llywodraeth y DU ei hymateb i Adroddiad Bew ar yr un diwrnod, yn cytuno i'r argymhellion gan gynnwys €6.12m ychwanegol i amaethyddiaeth yng Nghymru. Mae swyddogion wrthi'n gweithio gyda Llywodraeth y DU i egluro sut a phryd yn union fydd Cymru'n derbyn yr arian.

Argymhelliad 12

Mae'r Pwyllgor yn argymhell

Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru adrodd yn ôl i'r Pwyllgor ar y trafodaethau rhynglywodraethol diweddaraf ynghylch dod o hyd i fecanwaith cynaliadwy i ddyrannu cymorth ffermio ar ôl 2020.

Ymateb: Derbyn

Ar hyn o bryd, mae cryn bryder o hyd ynghylch cyfanswm y gyllideb fydd ar gael ar gyfer cymorth ffermio i Gymru yn y dyfodol. Tra bod Llywodraeth bresennol y DU wedi rhoi sicrwydd lefel uchel i ddiogelu'r arian cymorth ffermio tan 2022, does dim eglurder am naill ai'r swm wedi hynny neu sut y caiff ei ddyrannu rhwng pedair gweinyddiaeth y DU. Fodd bynnag, efallai y bydd canlyniadau'r etholiad cyffredinol arfaethedig yn effeithio ar yr addewidion a gafwyd hyd yma.

Byddwn yn adrodd yn ôl unwaith y cawn fwy o eglurder gan Lywodraeth y DU.

Goblygiadau ariannol – mae Gweinidogion Cymru'n glir na ddylai gadael yr UE olygu bod Cymru'n cael llai o gyllid, a bydd Llywodraeth Cymru'n parhau i bwysu ar Lywodraeth y DU am wybodaeth gliriach ar gyllid a'r mecanweithiau cyllido.

Lesley Griffiths AC
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig

16 Rhagfyr 2019

Diolch i chi am gytuno i ddod i'n cyfarfod ar 20 Tachwedd i gyflwyno tystiolaeth mewn perthynas â Rhaglen Llywodraeth Cymru i Ddileu TB Buchol a meysydd polisi allweddol eraill yn eich portffolio.

Yn dilyn y cyfarfod, cytunodd y Pwyllgor y dylwn ysgrifennu atoch chi i ofyn am eglurhad pellach a/neu gwybodaeth ychwanegol am y materion isod.

Twbercwlosis Buchol

Prynu Gwybodus

Yn ystod y sesiwn dystiolaeth, gwnaethom sôn am adroddiadau mai gwybodaeth gyfyngedig a geir am TB mewn arwerthiannau i helpu ffemwyr i wneud penderfyniadau gwybodus wrth brynu. Mae hyn yn digwydd er gwaethaf y cyllid grant sydd ar gael ar gyfer marchnadoedd da byw i wella'u hoffer a'u cyfleusterau, er mwyn arddangos gwybodaeth TB mewn lleoedd amlwg. **Hoffem gael rhagor o fanylion gennyh am y meini prawf sydd ynghlwm wrth y grant hwn. Hoffem hefyd ichi roi manylion unrhyw waith a wnaed i asesu a yw'r cyllid hwn wedi arwain at wella'r wybodaeth sy'n cael ei harddangos mewn marchnadoedd da byw mewn perthynas â TB.**

Yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ym mis Ebrill 2019, fe wnaethoch chi ddweud mai system Prynu Gwybodus wirfoddol fyddai orau yn eich barn chi, ond roeddech hefyd yn ystyried a oes angen cyflwyno cynllun gorfodol. Yn ôl eich tystiolaeth, roeddech chi wrthi'n datblygu cynigion ar gyfer system orfodol, ar y cyd â DEFRA, a bod hyn yn un o'ch prif flaenoriaethau.



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Byddem yn hoffi ichi adrodd yn ôl ar gasgliadau unrhyw asesiad o'r system Prynu Gwybodus wirfoddol, ac esbonio sut y mae'r rhain wedi dylanwadu at eich penderfyniad i gyflwyno system mandadol.

Hoffem gael y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf gennych, ymhen chwe mis, o hynt y gwaith o ddatblygu'r cynigion ar gyfer cynllun gorfodol, gan gynnwys yr amserlen ar gyfer cwblhau'r gwaith. Yn ogystal â hyn, hoffem ichi egluro a fyddai angen deddfwriaeth sylfaenol fel rhan o'r newidiadau deddfwriaethol y byddai eu hangen i gyflwyno system orfodol.

Mae'n amlwg mai newydd ddechrau mae'r gwaith o ddatblygu'r cynigion ar gyfer system orfodol. Mae'n hanfodol bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn parhau â'i hymdrechion i hybu cynllun Prynu Gwybodus nes bod system orfodol ar waith. O ystyried hyn, rydym yn croesawu'ch ymrwymiad i ailystyried y mesurau gwirfoddol presennol, i nodi meysydd i'w gwella, ac i ystyried datblygu cod ymarfer, ar y cyd â'r diwydiant. **Hoffem gael y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf gennych, ymhen chwe mis, am hynt y gwaith hwn.**

Iawndal i ffermwyr

Nodwn fod tua £14.5 miliwn wedi'i dalu fel iawndal i ffermwyr Cymru rhwng 2018 a 2019, sy'n gynydd sylweddol ers y blynyddoedd blaenorol. Rydych wedi nodi'n glir bod gwariant ar y lefel hon yn "anghynaliadwy". Fodd bynnag, fe wnaethoch ddweud wrthym fod y system iawndal bresennol yn "deg", yn enwedig o'i chymharu â systemau eraill.

Nodwn eich bod wedi dechrau ar y gwaith o ddewis y ffordd orau o newid y system bresennol. Rydym yn tanlinellu eto bod angen i unrhyw system newydd, neu fersiwn newydd o'r system bresennol, fod yn deg, a bod angen talu iawndal rhesymol am wartheg sy'n cael eu lladd.

Hoffem ichi ddarparu rhagor o fanylion am ddiben ac amcanion yr adolygiad o'r system iawndal TB bresennol. Hoffem hefyd ichi roi'r w ybodaeth ddiweddaraf inni am yr amserlen ar gyfer cwblhau'r adolygiad, pan ddaw hynny'n gliriach.

Rydym yn siomedig nad yw Llywodraeth y DU wedi ymrwymo eto i lenwi'r bwlch ariannu ar gyfer Rhaglen Dileu TB Buchol Cymru os bydd y DU yn gadael yr Undeb Ewropeaidd.

Rydym yn disgwyl ichi barhau i drafod y mater hwn â Llywodraeth newydd y DU ac adrodd yn ôl ar ganlyniadau'r trafodaethau hyn cyn gynted ag y cewch chi gyfle i wneud hynny.



Amaethyddiaeth

Cymorth i ffermydd

Yn ôl eich tystiolaeth, eich blaenoriaeth chi yw sicrhau bod cymorth i ffermydd yn parhau os bydd y DU yn gadael yr UE. Mae Bil Amaethyddiaeth y DU yn cynnwys pwerau i Weinidogion Cymru ddarparu ar gyfer parhad y Cynllun Taliad Sylfaenol y tu hwnt i 2020. Methodd y Bil â chwblhau ei hynt drwy'r Senedd cyn iddi gael ei diddymu. O ystyried hyn, a'ch penderfyniad i beidio â chyflwyno Bil Amaethyddiaeth Cymru tan y Cynulliad nesaf, nid yw'n eglur pa fecanwaith deddfwriaethol rydych chi'n bwriadu ei ddefnyddio i estyn y Cynllun Taliad Sylfaenol i 2021, fel y cyhoeddwyd yn ystod y Ffair Aeaf. **Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech egluro'r sefyllfa fel mater o frys.**

Defnyddio gwrthfotigau

Yn ystod y sesiwn dystiolaeth, cawsoch eich holi am y risiau posibl i iechyd cyhoeddus sy'n gysylltiedig â gordefnyddio gwrthfotigau yn y diwydiant amaeth. Roedd yn galonogol eich clywed yn dweud bod y diwydiant ffermio a'r proffesiwn milfeddygol yn arwain y ffordd o ran defnyddio gwrthfotigau mewn modd cyfrifol, a bod targedau 2020 i leihau'r defnydd o wrthfotigau eisoes wedi'u cyrraedd. **Er gwaethaf hyn, hoffem ichi esbonio polisi Llywodraeth Cymru ar ddefnyddio gwrthfotigau o'r math cryfaf, pan fydd popeth arall wedi methu o ran iechyd pobl. Dylai hyn gynnwys yr amgylchiadau pan ddefnyddir y math hwn o wrthfotigau a data ar y defnydd ohonynt.**

Mae'r defnydd o wrthfotigau mewn amaethyddiaeth yn ddarostyngedig i reoliadau'r UE. Rydym yn pryderu am ostyngiad posibl mewn safonau rheoleiddio os bydd y DU yn gadael yr UE, a'r ffaith y bydd iechyd pobl dan fygythiad cynyddol os bydd bacteria sy'n gallu gwrthsefyll gwrthfotigau yn datblygu.

Hoffem ichi adrodd yn ôl ar ganlyniad unrhyw drafodaethau rydych wedi'u cael gyda'r gweinidogion cyfatebol yng ngwledydd eraill y DU ynghylch cynnal y safonau presennol mewn perthynas â defnyddio gwrthfotigau mewn amaethyddiaeth os bydd y DU yn gadael yr UE.

Fframweithiau Cyffredin

Yn ôl eich tystiolaeth, mae 10 o fframweithiau cyffredin anneddfwriaethol yn eich portffolio, a bydd y rhain yn cael eu rhoi ar waith erbyn diwedd y cyfnod pontio yn 2020. **Hoffem gael rhagor o fanylion am y fframweithiau cyffredin anneddfwriaethol hyn, gan gynnwys gwybodaeth am hynt y gwaith o'u datblygu.**



Y Cynllun Datblygu Gwledig

Nodwn mai 41 y cant o'i holl ddyraniad ar gyfer y Cynllun Datblygu Gwledig roedd Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'i wario erbyn diwedd mis Awst 2019. Hoffem i chi egluro'r rheswm dros hyn, ac esbonio sut rydych yn bwriadu sicrhau bod y dyraniad cyfan wedi'i ymrwymo erbyn diwedd 2020.

Pysgodfeydd

Hoffem ichi egluro faint o stociau yn nyfroedd Cymru sy'n cael eu hecsbloetio ar lefelau sy'n gyson â chyflawni'r Uchafswm Cynnyrch Cynaliadwy.

Hoffem i chi nodi'r camau rydych chi'n eu cymryd, neu'n bwriadu eu cymryd, i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem yn ymwneud ag offer pysgota sy'n cael ei adael, ei golli neu ei daflu ymaith, gan gynnwys opsiynau ar gyfer rheoli pysgota â chewyll (ee trwyddedu) ac atal pysgota anfwriadol (ee tagio potiau a mecanweithiau i helpu pysgod i ddianc).

Bioamrywiaeth

Wrth ateb cwestiwn yn ymwneud â thargedau statudol ar gyfer bioamrywiaeth, a oedd wedi'u cynnwys ym Mil Amgylchedd y DU, fe wnaethoch ddweud wrthym nad oeddech chi o blaid targedau o'r fath oherwydd y "byddent yn tanseilio'r prif amcan o wella bioamrywiaeth yn gyffredinol". **O ystyried bod bioamrywiaeth yn un o feysydd blaenoriaeth Llywodraeth Cymru, a'i hymrwymiad i dargedau'r Confensiwn ar Amrywiaeth Fiolegol Aichi, hoffem ichi egluro eich safbwynt ar dargedau bioamrywiaeth.**

Bridio cŵn

Rydym yn croesawu eich ymateb cyflym i'r adroddiadau damniol diweddar yn y cyfryngau am safonau lles mewn rhai sefydliadau bridio cŵn, sy'n cynnwys adolygiad brys, i'w gynnal ar unwaith, o Reoliadau Lles Anifeiliaid (Bridio Cŵn) (Cymru) 2014 ('Rheoliadau 2014'). Yn ôl eich tystiolaeth, rydych yn disgwyl i'r grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen sy'n cynnal yr adolygiad adrodd yn ôl "erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn".

Hoffem ichi adrodd yn ôl ar gasgliadau'r adolygiad cyn gynted ag y bo'n ymarferol ichi wneud hynny. Wrth wneud hynny, hoffem ichi egluro a ydych chi'n bwradu diwygio Rheoliadau 2014 yn dilyn yr adolygiad, a darparu amserlen ar gyfer cyflwyno'r rheoliadau diwygiedig.



Wrth fwrw ymlaen â'r gwaith hwn, hoffem ichi ystyried cyflwyno cynllun sicrwydd a / neu system sgorio ar gyfer arolygu sefydliadau bridio cŵn, tebyg i'r system a ddefnyddir yn y diwydiant ffermio a bwyd.

Rydym yn ceisio ymrwymiad gennych chi i ystyried cynyddu'r isafswm staff gofynnol mewn perthynas â'r gymhareb rhwng staff a chŵn. Rhaid i'r isafswm staff gofynnol diwygiedig ystyried nifer y cŵn bach, yn ogystal â chŵn llawn dwf, sy'n cael eu cadw mewn sefydliadau bridio cŵn.

Gallai gofynion trwyddedu llymach helpu rhywfaint i wella lles anifeiliaid mewn sefydliadau bridio cŵn. Ond rhaid cyflwyno trefniadau archwilio a gorfodi effeithiol ar y cyd â'r rhain. Mae'n galonngol clywed bod trafodaethau eisoes wedi'u cynnal â chynrychiolwyr awdurdodau lleol ynglŷn â'r ffactorau sy'n eu hatal rhag defnyddio mesurau gorfodi. **Fel rhan o'r gwaith hwn, hoffem ichi ystyried cyflwyno cyfyngiad ar nifer y sefydliadau bridio cŵn trwyddedig er mwyn i'r nifer gyfateb i nifer yr arolygwyr yn ardal yr awdurdod lleol.**

Hoffem ichi adrodd yn ôl ar y cynnydd a wnaed wrth fynd i'r afael â'r ffactorau sy'n atal awdurdodau lleol rhag defnyddio mesurau gorfodi. Dylai hyn gynnwys manylion unrhyw gynigion i sicrhau bod gan awdurdodau lleol drefniadau arolygu a gorfodi effeithiol, ynghyd ag adnoddau digonol.

Hoffem ichi ddarparu manylion unrhyw gamau penodol rydych chi'n eu cymryd, neu'n bwriadu eu cymryd, i helpu i ymdrin â bridwyr cŵn didrwydded.

Tân gwyllt

Hoffem ichi amlinellu unrhyw gamau rydych chi'n eu cymryd, neu'n bwriadu eu cymryd, i leihau'r risgiau i les anifeiliaid sy'n gysylltiedig â defnyddio tân gwyllt.

Tlodi tanwydd

Fel y gwyddoch, mae'r Pwyllgor hwn yn cynnal ymchwiliad i dlodi tanwydd yng Nghymru. Er mwyn ein helpu i gynllunio ein gwaith, byddem yn croesawu diweddariad o ran pryd fydd cynllun tlodi tanwydd newydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn cael ei gyhoeddi. Mae ymgynghoriad Llywodraeth Cymru, *Cynllun Aer Glân i Gymru: Awyr Iach, Cymru Iach*, yn nodi ei bod eisoes wedi ymgynghori ar gynllun newydd i fynd i'r afael â thlodi tanwydd, a'i bod yn disgwyl i'r cynllun hwn gael ei gyhoeddi erbyn mis Ebrill 2020. Nid ydym yn ymwybodol bod y cynllun drafft wedi bod yn destun ymgynghoriad.



Hoffem ichi egluro pryd y cynhaliwyd ymgynghoriad ar gynllun tlodi tanwydd newydd Llywodraeth Cymru, a chadarnhau pryd fydd y cynllun yn cael ei gyhoeddi.

Edrychaf ymlaen at glywed gennych.

Yn gywir

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hedges". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned on a light grey rectangular background.

Mike Hedges AC

Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig.

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Lesley Griffiths AC
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig

13 Rhagfyr 2019

Annwyl Lesley,

Egwyddorion a threfniadau llywodraethu amgylcheddol ar ôl Brexit

Diolch am eich ymateb i'n hadroddiad, *Egwyddorion a threfniadau llywodraethu amgylcheddol ar ôl Brexit*, a drafodwyd gennym yn ein cyfarfod ar 4 Rhagfyr. Cytunodd y Pwyllgor y byddai'n ddefnyddiol ysgrifennu atoch i egluro nifer o faterion mewn perthynas â'n hargymhellion, a gofyn i chi ymhelaethu ar eich ymateb i eraill.

Argymhelliad 1

Rydych yn tynnu sylw at yr angen i sicrhau bod Cymru yn parhau i adeiladu ar ei safonau amgylcheddol yn hytrach na sefyll yn llonydd, sef yr hyn a awgrymir gan ddull gweithredu "peidio â chaniatáu dirywiad". Byddai cynnwys "peidio â chaniatáu dirywiad" fel egwyddor graidd ychwanegol yn golygu y byddai angen gosod *safon ofynnol*. Ni fyddai hyn yn atal Llywodraeth Cymru rhag mynd ymhellach, fel y nodwyd yn ein hadroddiad

Argymhelliad 6

Yn eich llythyr, dyddiedig 21 Awst 2019, gwnaethoch ddweud wrthym eich bod eisoes wedi cytuno â Llywodraeth y DU i gael set gyson o egwyddorion amgylcheddol. Ar sail hynny, gwnaethom ofyn am ragor o fanylion gennych am natur y cytundeb. Er i chi dderbyn ein hargymhelliad, rydych yn nodi eich bod yn ystyried dull cydweithredol o ymdrin ag egwyddorion amgylcheddol a fydd yn sicrhau set gyson o egwyddorion ledled y DU. Mae'n parhau i fod yn aneglur beth yr ydych wedi'i gytuno, a yw'n gyfystyr â set gyson o egwyddorion a beth fydd yr egwyddorion hynny.



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1. A allwch chi roi rhagor o fanylion am y cytundeb â Llywodraeth y DU i gael set gyson o egwyddorion amgylcheddol?

Argymhelliad 7

Er gwaethaf adroddiadau gan Lywodraeth y DU a Llywodraeth Cymru eu bod yn barod i gydweithio ar ddulliau llywodraethu posibl ar gyfer y DU gyfan, roedd y model llywodraethu a nodwyd ym Mil Amgylchedd y DU, a gyflwynwyd yn sesiwn flaenorol Senedd y DU, ar gyfer Lloegr yn unig. Er ein bod yn cydnabod y gallai fod cyfleoedd i weinyddiaethau'r DU gydweithio heb fod angen sefydlu corff ar gyfer y DU gyfan, byddai'n dda cael cadarnhad gennych a yw hynny wedi'i ddiystyru fel opsiwn.

2. A allwch egluro a ydych wedi diystyru sefydlu corff llywodraethu amgylcheddol ar gyfer y DU gyfan?

Argymhellion 14 a 15

Nodwn o'ch ymateb y bydd swyddogaethau adrodd Comisiwn yr UE yn cael eu trosglwyddo i gyfraith ddomestig os bydd y DU yn ymadael â'r UE. Mae'n parhau i fod yn aneglur i bwy y bydd yn ofynnol i weinyddiaethau'r DU adrodd ar weithredu deddfwriaeth amgylcheddol sy'n deillio o'r UE, er enghraifft, y Gyfarwyddeb Cynefinoedd.

3. A allwch egluro sut y mae gofynion adrodd yr UE wedi'u haddasu, yn benodol, pa newidiadau a wnaed i sicrhau trefniadau domestig priodol ar gyfer adrodd ar weithredu deddfwriaeth amgylcheddol sy'n deillio o'r UE?

Argymhellion 19 a 20

Credwn ei bod hi'n bwysig i ni egluro nad ydym yn dadlau dros fodel llywodraethu sy'n "dibynnu'n llwyr ar fesurau cosbol megis dirwyon", fel y gwnaethoch awgrymu yn eich ymateb. Yn wir, yn ein hadroddiad, "rydym yn croesawu cynigion Llywodraeth Cymru y bydd y corff llywodraethu newydd yn gallu ceisio datrys materion diffyg cydymffurfio trwy weithdrefnau anffurfiol cyn dilyn gweithdrefnau ffurfiol a chamau gorfodi".

At hynny, rydym yn pwysleisio pa mor bwysig ydyw i'r "corff llywodraethu newydd fod ag ystod o offer gorfodi credadwy ar gael iddo". Credwn na ddylai Llywodraeth Cymru ddiystyru dirwyon fel offeryn gorfodi ar hyn o bryd. Mae Argymhellion 19 a 20 yn adlewyrchu hyn. Rydym wedi nodi'n glir y dylid ymgynghori ar unrhyw gynigion ar gyfer system ddirwyon. Dylid defnyddio dirwyon fel dewis olaf, fel sy'n digwydd ar hyn o bryd o dan system yr UE.



Argymhelliad 25

Nodwn eich bod wedi cytuno ar ddull o reoli cwynion i'w fabwysiadu os bydd y DU yn gadael yr UE heb gytundeb ymadael. Rydym yn cydnabod efallai nad ydych mewn sefyllfa eto i rannu gyda ni fanylion y mesurau dros dro yr ydych yn bwriadu eu rhoi ar waith. Serch hynny, byddem yn croesawu rhagor o wybodaeth am y dull y cytunwyd arno.

4. A allwch chi roi rhagor o fanylion am y dull yr ydych wedi cytuno arno ar gyfer rheoli cwynion os bydd y DU yn gadael yr UE heb gytundeb ymadael?

Yn olaf, byddem yn croesawu diweddariad ar ganfyddiadau'r Grŵp Gorchwyl Rhanddeiliaid ar Lywodraethu Amgylcheddol cyn gynted ag y bo'n rhesymol ymarferol.

Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech ymateb i'r materion uchod erbyn **Dydd Gwener 24 Ionawr 2020**.

Yn gywir,



Mike Hedges AC

Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Syr David Henshaw
Cadeirydd
Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru

17 Rhagfyr 2019

Annywl Syr Henshaw,

Gwahoddiad i ddod i gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig

Hoffwn eich gwahodd i gyfarfod ddydd Mercher 26 Chwefror 2020 ar gyfer sesiwn graffu flynyddol.

Bydd y sesiwn yn cynnwys trafod cyflawniad Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru o ran ei gylch gwaith.

Cyn y sesiwn, byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech ddarparu papur briffio dwyieithog inni yn cynnwys y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am faterion allweddol a chynnydd ers inni gynnal sesiwn graffu y tro diwethaf ym mis Chwefror 2019.

Yn benodol, byddem yn croesawu'r wybodaeth a ganlyn:

Llythyr Cylch Gwaith

- Crynodeb o'r camau gweithredu a gymerwyd i gyflawni'r blaenoriaethau a nodwyd yn llythyr cylch gwaith Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru ar gyfer 2018-2019.
- Crynodeb o'r camau gweithredu yr ydych wedi'u nodi i gyflawni'r blaenoriaethau a nodwyd yn y llythyr cylch gwaith ar gyfer 2019-2020.

Gweithgarwch masnachol

- Y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am aildrefnu swyddogaeth Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru mewn perthynas â gwasanaethau masnachol a'r camau gweithredu a gymerwyd yn



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dilyn yr adolygiad annibynnol o feysydd busnes masnachol allweddol a'r trefniadau llywodraethu cysylltiedig.

Cynllun Corfforaethol a Chynllun Busnes

- Crynodeb o'r perfformiad yn erbyn y Cynllun Busnes a'r Cynllun Corfforaethol cyfredol, gan gynnwys yr adroddiad perfformiad diweddaraf ar y dangosfwrdd corfforaethol.

Hunan-blismona

- Crynodeb o unrhyw gamau gorfodaeth neu gamau hunan-blismona y mae'r corff wedi eu cymryd yn erbyn ei hun yn ystod y 12 mis diwethaf.

Rhaglen ddylunio'r sefydliad

- Manylion am y ffordd y mae'r strwythur newydd yn caniatáu i Gyfoeth Naturiol Cymru gyflawni ei rôl ac unrhyw bwysau a/neu heriau sy'n gysylltiedig â'r dyluniad newydd.
- Crynodeb o ganfyddiadau'r adolygiad o arferion gwaith y Bwrdd.

Rhaglenni Ariannu a Grantiau

- Y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am grantiau a rhaglenni ariannu partneriaethau.

Y Sefyllfa Ariannol ac arbedion

- Sefyllfa ariannol ddiweddaraf y corff.
- Manylion unrhyw achosion a wnaed i Lywodraeth Cymru am gyllid ychwanegol yn fwy na'r dyraniad ariannol a gawsoch i fynd i'r afael â phwysau a chyfrifoldebau newydd.
- Eglurhad am y bwlch rhwng incwm a gwariant (fel y nodwyd yn Adroddiad Blynyddol a Chyfrifon Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru ar gyfer 2018-19) a sut y bydd hyn yn cael ei reoli.

Gweithredu'r ddeddfwriaeth

- Y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y gost wrth i Gyfoeth Naturiol Cymru gyflawni ei swyddogaethau o dan Ddeddf yr Amgylchedd (Cymru) 2016 a Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015, gan gynnwys pwysau ariannol.
- Y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y cynnydd hyd yma wrth i Gyfoeth Naturiol Cymru gyflawni ei swyddogaethau o dan y deddfau hyn, gan gynnwys y meysydd penodol a ganlyn:
 - Sut y mae Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru yn gweithredu'r pum dull o weithio.
 - Y gwaith o ddatblygu'r Datganiadau Ardal.
 - Y gwaith o ddatblygu'r Adroddiad ar Sefyllfa Adnoddau Naturiol



Brexit

- Y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am oblygiadau ymadael â'r Undeb Ewropeaidd ar Gyfoeth Naturiol Cymru, a throsolwg o'r gwaith a wnaed gan y corff i baratoi ar gyfer ymadael â'r UE.

Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech ddarparu'r papur briffio inni erbyn dydd Llun 3 Chwefror 2020 fan bellaf.

Yn gywir,



Mike Hedges AC

Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig

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Eitem 4.5

Yn rhinwedd paragraff(au) vi o Reol Sefydlog 17.42

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon