

Carl Sargeant AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol  
Minister for Natural Resources



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref LF CS 0887 15

Alun Ffred Jones AM  
Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

29 September 2015

Dear Alun

## **ENVIRONMENT (WALES) BILL**

I am writing following my appearance before the Environment and Sustainability Committee on 16 September. During this session, I committed to provide further information in response to some of the queries raised by the Committee to inform your consideration of the Bill.

Annex 1 to this letter contains the additional information requested during the Committee session.

One of the topics discussed related to the three 'area trials' that have been led by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). The area trials were designed to help to take forward NRW's approach to integrated natural resource management in line with the Welsh Government's commitments to achieve the sustainable management of natural resources, in addition to helping to inform the associated practical processes looking ahead to implementation of the Environment (Wales) Bill – particularly in relation to area statements – as well as the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act requirements.

I have asked NRW to provide further information on the results of these trials to date, and more specifically, detail on what can be learned and developed in relation to the implementation of the area statements.

Annex 2 contains the letter issued by the Secretary of State to the First Minister on 11 September setting out his position in relation to the relevant consents for the Bill.

I hope that the attached information helps to inform further your forthcoming Committee report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your detailed consideration of the Bill during Stage 1.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carl Sargeant". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

**Carl Sargeant AC / AM**  
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Minister for Natural Resources