

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-869
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/07147/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

23 October 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 14 October, regarding Petition P-05-869 Declare a Climate Emergency and fit all policies with zero-carbon targets.

Recognising the seriousness of climate change and in response to declaring a Climate Emergency the Ministerial Task and Finish Group has now been put on a permanent footing. We are establishing the Decarbonisation Cabinet Sub-Committee following the completion of the first phase of the Decarbonisation Programme. During this second phase of the Programme the Sub-Committee's role is to coordinate action, raise ambition and make key decisions from a cross-Government perspective on the actions needed to meet our statutory decarbonisation commitments in Part 2 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. Its membership is expanding from the former Group recognising the cross-government responsibility (see Annex A). The Terms of Reference, which will include membership and schedule, will need to be confirmed at the next meeting. I will be happy to share them with you following the meeting.

There are many different ways we can engage with people across Wales. When the First Minister met representatives from Extinction Rebellion (XR) in August he was clear Citizens' Assemblies are most effective when established on a cross-party, parliamentary basis. Independence from government helps ensure the findings have legitimacy. We continue to engage regularly with XR, including inviting them to run workshops at our recent climate change conference, which were well attended and received.

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

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

We look forward with interest to the Assembly Commission's response to the Citizens' Assembly report from Gregynog earlier this year. We can see how Citizens' Assemblies could help support the involvement, collaboration and long-term thinking which is at the heart of our well-being legislation and so, if a climate change Citizens' Assembly were established, we would be willing to explore options for supporting its work.

Regards
Lesley

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