
Lesley Griffiths AM
Cabinet Secretary for Environment Energy and Rural Affairs
Welsh Government

By email

2nd February 2019

Dear Lesley

CHAP(2018)00832 agricultural pollution in Wales

I write to let you have details of correspondence between Afonydd Cymru and The EC. The relevant letters are attached along with this. I reiterate again how delighted we are with your proposals for managing farm pollution. However, we have some residual concerns:

- Enforcement of these regulations.
- Farm advisory schemes
- Monitoring of water and air quality pre and post regulation
- Air pollution from farming

Only NRW have powers to enforce. This aspect is crucial to the success of cleaning up our environment. Our experience shows that maximum improvement for any given cost is achieved with independent farm advisors working alongside those responsible for regulation. When regulators also act as farm advisors, their relationship with farmers is constrained by their legal obligations, while farmers find it easier to discuss problems with advisors, separately from regulators.

There is just a year before the benefits of your regulations take effect. May we advise that the scope of existing monitoring should be expanded during what amounts to a unique opportunity to capture the benefits of changes in farming practice with a comprehensive data set this year?

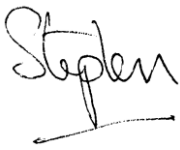
Finally, with rumours of impending requirements to improve our air quality, especially in relation to ammonia from farming, should the regulations be modified to ensure that future restrictions on air quality are managed simultaneously and with no additional pain?

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I am now included in NRW's Land Use Forum, Pollution subgroup which I hope will report back on these issues before too long.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr Stephen Marsh-Smith OBE CEO Afonydd Cymru, *Fighting for Wales' rivers*