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Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/01680/23

Dr David Clubb (Chair)
Dr Eurgain Powell (Lead Commissioner)
Eluned Parrott (Lead Commissioner)
National Infrastructure Commission for Wales

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06 July 2023

Dear David, Eurgain and Eluned,

Thank you for your letter of 9th June providing an update on the 'National Infrastructure Commission for Wales work on flood and, in particular, the Co-operation Agreement commitment and assessment on how the nationwide likelihood of flooding of homes, businesses and infrastructure can be minimised by 2050.'

I very much agree flooding and climate change resilience has long been recognised as a complex long-term issue, that requires considerable collaboration and multi-disciplinary thinking to establish solutions fit for our future generations. I therefore very much value the work being undertaken.

In relation to the PAG, I am pleased that you are reviewing the current membership. I have recently recruited members to our Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee (FCEC) and have raised my concerns around the lack of diversity in the pool of applicants. I must stress the paramount importance of ensuring there is a diverse range of representatives who can contribute to the successful outcome of this work. I would be happy for you to contact my officials who will be able to support and discuss this further.

Thank you for sharing the Arup report and highlighting their perceived gaps in relation to potential work areas. I would very much like to see more opportunities for joined up working as part of this next phase, including across Welsh Government departments. Climate change affects multiple areas and I believe greater collaboration, specifically when it comes to our programme and budgets, needs to encourage greater partnership thinking at the catchment scale to obtain wider outcomes for communities and the environment.

You will be aware that Welsh Government commissioned JBA to carry out a review of Natural Flood Management in Wales. This report will support the wider catchment approach to flood risk management, and I would suggest the outcomes of this report be discussed with my officials as you scope your work, to ensure the spatial and strategic work area considers the work already completed in this area.

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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.

There is much work being done in the areas of resources, skills and capacity and I am pleased the Commissioners recognise the need to work closely with others, avoiding duplication and building on existing work. Our ability to deliver against the climate and nature emergency in Wales relies on having the right skills, resources and development programmes in place. I believe my officials have stressed the importance of working closely with FCEC and others who have already started work in this area.

I would value your insight into future cost associated with long term funding requirements, specifically in dealing with the impacts of adaptation relating to flooding and sea level rise. I recognise the need to consider alternative funding sources and this work can only support wider understanding in Wales. We all need to consider more innovative ways of achieving our ambition, specifically in being more adaptive in our approach particularly in the areas of policy and funding.

I welcome the work to better understand the future challenges and potential cost associated with development in floodplain areas. The quantitative element of this research will support policy officials in implementing more adaptive measures and provide useful information on future flood risk in our communities and for planning investment in response to the impacts of climate change.

I would be more than happy to share my response and your letter with a Siân Gwenllïan MS. This links with the work being carried out in collaboration with, the Plaid Cymru designated lead member, as part of the Co-operation Agreement between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru.'

Yours sincerely,



Julie James AS/MS

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