

Dear Mr Hedges

28 January 2021

Thank you for your letter of 27 January and for inviting me and my fellow Trade and Agriculture Commission members, John Davies and Glyn Roberts, to the Senedd Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee's session on 21 January.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to explain the role and remit of the Commission, the extensive stakeholder engagement we have undertaken and the main areas the Commission's final report will cover.

We will remain in touch with the Welsh Government in the weeks ahead, as our report is finalised, and ensure that there is an opportunity for discussion of the report at the time of publication.

You asked if I could give you further details on the criteria for invitations extended to Members of the Senedd and Members of the UK Parliament to attend the Wales virtual roadshow which we held on 22 October 2020.

On the advice of Welsh Government officials the Commission Secretariat invited members (sitting at the time) of the Senedd Committees responsible for international trade and agriculture issues - the External Affairs and Additional Legislation and the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committees.

Members of the UK Parliament were invited on the basis of the interest they had expressed in the UK Parliament on the agri-food issues that the Commission would be looking at. Thirteen Members were invited; three attended and two were represented by assistants.

We recognised that there was wider interest across the whole of the UK Parliament in the Commission's work. We decided, therefore, to hold a further discussion with MPs on 18 November. All Members of the UK Parliament were invited. 27 joined the meeting including five Members representing Welsh constituencies.

I look forward to continuing our dialogue with the Senedd and the Welsh Government in the lead-up to the publication of the Commission's report.

Best wishes

Tim J Smith

Chair, Trade and Agriculture Commission