

Sixth Senedd Legacy Report

March 2026



The Welsh Parliament is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people. Commonly known as the Senedd, it makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

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March 2026



About the Committee

The Committee was established on 23 June 2021. Its remit can be found at:
www.senedd.wales/SeneddEconomy

Current Committee membership:



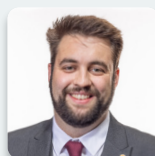
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Welsh Conservatives



Hannah Blythyn MS
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Luke Fletcher MS
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Contents

Chair's foreword	5
1. Scrutiny in the Sixth Senedd	7
Approach to scrutiny	7
Engaging with the people of Wales.....	7
2. Priorities for the Seventh Senedd Cymru - Welsh Parliament..	8
Economy	9
Skills	17
Trade.....	18
Rural Affairs	19
3. Advice to Future Members	27
4. Inquiries	30
Economy	30
Skills	33
Trade.....	33
Rural Affairs	34
5. Legislation.....	37
Agriculture (Wales) Bill.....	37
Food (Wales) Bill	37
Development of Tourism and Regulation of Visitor Accommodation (Wales) Bill	37
Legislative Consent Memoranda	38

Chair's foreword

This Committee has such a wide and varied remit. We have covered everything from HGV driver shortages to soil health, from trade negotiations to apprenticeships.

All of these are issues of vital importance to Welsh citizens, Welsh businesses and our rural communities.

When I took on the responsibility for chairing the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee in January 2025, I wanted to carry on the good work my colleague Paul Davies MS had started and to ensure the Committee had impact, held the Government to account and represented the people of Wales. I am pleased to say I believe we have achieved those aims.

This Committee has worked through an incredibly turbulent time. When it was formed we were just coming out of the Pandemic, and now we have been warned the energy shocks we face as a result of the conflict in Iran may even eclipse the oil shocks from the 70s.

All of these challenges have created real issues for businesses, workers and rural communities. Whilst our vast remit has meant we have had to focus our attention, I hope they feel we have done it justice over the last five years and brought the issues they are facing to the floor.

The issues we currently face will not stand still over dissolution, and I believe our successor Committee, or Committees, will need to hit the ground running given the potential economic shocks and ballooning cost of farming. I hope this report helps them do that and also provides a useful overview of the important work this Committee has undertaken over the last five years.

I have very much enjoyed the honour and responsibility of chairing the Sixth Senedd's Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee. I would like to thank Paul for his work chairing the Committee before I took over, and all the Members past and present. I would also like to thank everyone who has engaged with the Committee over the past five years. The evidence you have provided has been vital in helping us make recommendations and hold the Government to account.

Finally, I would like to thank all the staff at the Senedd who have supported us to carry out our work.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew RT Davies". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Andrew RT Davies

Chair

1. Scrutiny in the Sixth Senedd

Approach to scrutiny

- 1.** The Committee has an extremely wide remit encompassing economic development, regeneration, skills, trade, research and development (including technology and science), and rural affairs. The Committee agreed it was important to try and balance scrutiny across the range of subjects. To help achieve this aim we decided to hold short, focused but forensic inquiries.
- 2.** Meeting weekly helped us cover as much of the remit as possible. We also found that shorter, more regular meetings were preferable to longer fortnightly meetings as they meant we could be more focused on the issues at hand and more reactive. They allowed us to work with pace but also consider issues between sessions.
- 3.** Whilst the remit is wide and varied there is a lot of overlap between our different policy areas. We took a holistic approach to our inquiries where ever possible, for instance we ensured the rural economy was included in our economic work and included an economic focus in our food production work. This allowed us to scrutinise issues in the round and helped us keep that balance between the different policy areas we covered.

Engaging with the people of Wales

- 4.** Whilst the majority of our work was carried out in formal meetings at the Senedd, nothing compares to the understanding you can gain from visiting a site and speaking directly to people involved. To this end we carried out a number of visits including to the Agricultural Research Centre at Gelli Aur, Holyhead Port, Lake Vyrnwy, and the Community Support Centre established to help people affected by the closure of Port Talbot's blast furnaces.
- 5.** We also held stakeholder events at the Royal Welsh Show each year which gave us invaluable insight we could bring to our scrutiny work. We would like to thank everyone who hosted the Committee for a visit or attended one of our stakeholder events.
- 6.** We also commissioned the Senedd's engagement team to undertake specific work as part of some of our inquiries. This included interviewing HGV drivers, hosting focus groups of apprentices and speaking to people affected by the closure of the blast furnaces. The engagement work produced some of the

most powerful evidence we heard and really helped us both understand and illustrate issues in our reports. Again we would like to thank everyone who took the time to engage with the Committee as part of these pieces of work.



2. Priorities for the Seventh Senedd Cymru - Welsh Parliament

7. Whilst we are aware our successor Committee or Committees will have their own priorities we have put together this list of current and ongoing issues including a brief overview of each. It is of course up to our successors what they decide to focus on but we hope they find this useful when setting out their work programme(s).

Economy

Transition and the Future of Welsh Steel

8. Steel has dominated the Committee's business. On 30 September 2024, blast furnace 4 at the Port Talbot Steelworks closed, ending over 100 years of primary steelmaking in the town. Tata are currently building an Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) at the Steelworks. The decision to move from blast furnace to EAF production has led to thousands of job losses among people directly employed by Tata, in the supply chain and in auxiliary businesses who relied on trade from the Steelworks workforce.

9. The UK Government established a Transition Board, initially allocating it £80m of funding and subsequently topping this up with an additional £22m in December 2025, with a further £20m contributed by Tata. The Board is chaired by the Secretary of State for Wales and its membership includes the Welsh Government, Neath Port Talbot Council, local MS and MPs, Tata, and trade unions.

10. The Welsh Government has also provided support, including through employability and redundancy support programmes, targeted Personal Learning Accounts for Tata workers, and business support. It has also funded the Community Support Centre, which provides support, guidance and retraining advice.

11. Last February the UK Government launched a consultation on the development of a Steel Strategy.¹ This was initially promised to be launched by the end of 2025 but has subsequently been delayed.²

¹ [Gov.uk Steel Strategy Consultation](#)

² [Gov.uk Pathway to the launch of the steel strategy](#)

12. On 28 September 2023 and 14 March 2024 the then Secretary of State for Wales, David TC Davies, gave evidence to the Committee. Following the change of government in Westminster, Jo Stevens MP, the current Secretary of State for Wales, attended on 20 November 2024.

13. We heard from the local union officers who work at Port Talbot Steelworks that while national representatives of their unions had been invited to the Transition Board, despite requests being made, no local union representatives had been invited to attend meetings. We believe this oversight by the Board will have meant they lost valuable insight into what was happening and how people were feeling on the ground in Port Talbot.³

14. We are extremely concerned about the human impact of the closure of the blast furnaces. Whilst transition support is welcome, we have seen time and again the devastating effects deindustrialisation has had on communities across Wales. We are concerned lessons have not been learnt from closures like Ebbw Vale Steelworks and that the support offered so far by the Welsh Government and UK Government is enough to fully protect Port Talbot and its community from the impact of deindustrialisation.

15. Steel unions raised concerns about the effect of steel dumping on the future of Port Talbot and the UK steel industry more widely with the chair. Following this meeting, Members decided to hold an urgent final session on steel.⁴

16. We invited the Secretary of State for Wales to give evidence on steel on multiple occasions. However whilst she stated she was happy to give further evidence to the Committee she wished to wait for the Steel Strategy to be published before she did so. The Strategy was published on 19 March⁵, and the Secretary of State subsequently submitted written evidence to the Committee ahead of its final session.⁶

17. Following our final session, the Chair issued a statement:

“Today’s evidence session has again highlighted the importance of a sustainable steel industry, fit for the future.

We were pleased to hear the industry welcome the UK Government’s steel strategy but it was clear that this is a first step. After a long wait,

³ [Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee, 9/10/2025, Paragraph 323](#)

⁴ [Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee, 25 March 2026](#)

⁵ [The UK Steel Strategy, March 2026](#)

⁶ [Letter from the Secretary of State for Wales, 24 March 2026](#)

we want to see a clear plan that outlines a brighter future for the industry.

The next Welsh Government should consider establishing a steel skills school to ensure future generations are equipped to continue steelmaking in Wales.

The Welsh Government must work closely with the UK Government to create trading and economic conditions to help our industry to thrive.

We'd like to thank the unions, 7 Steel, Tata Steel and the Welsh Government for giving evidence to our inquiry – it is deeply disappointing that the UK Government did not attend.

That lack of engagement is stark given the seriousness of the issues and the opportunity to explain the steel strategy to the people of Wales. In places like Port Talbot, steel is not just a job but part of the social fabric and a whole way of life.

Wales must learn the lessons from past de-industrialisation. As the next Welsh Government prepares to take office, affected communities must be prioritised, treated with dignity and be meaningfully involved.

I will be writing to the First Minister and Secretary of State for Wales setting out what we believe are the next steps needed to create a sustainable steel industry fit for the future."

18. We need to be able to rely on Welsh steel to meet our ambitions to be a leading player in renewable energy, shipping, transport and to both build tall buildings and improve our national defence. For these reasons, and to ensure both those laid off and the community are properly supported through transition, we recommend our successor Committee continues to prioritise transition and the future of Welsh steel. This work should include focusing on the support provided to those affected by the blast furnace closure, progress towards developing the new EAF, and the potential impact of trade measures on the steel industry.

19. We also specifically recommend our successor Committee holds an inquiry into transition and the Transition Board including how it operated and how it preformed. The human impact of the blast furnace closure and transition must be at the front and centre of any work in this area.

Potential impact of the conflict in Iran

20. Above target inflation has been an issue Wales has faced throughout this Senedd. More recently, inflation had stabilised and interest rates were reducing. However, this progress has been put in jeopardy by the conflict in Iran and the subsequent closure of the Strait of Hormuz. We are concerned that serious economic shocks may be on the horizon and the looming energy crisis may have a severe impact on the cost of living. We are also concerned about the increased costs we are seeing filter through to farming and the impact of those costs and reduced international shipping will have on the cost of food. We recommend this is something our successor Committee examines immediately when it is formed.

Industrial strategy and defence

21. The UK Government's Modern Industrial Strategy was published in June 2025.⁷ It focuses on 8 high-growth sectors⁸, a number of which play a key role in the Welsh economy, with large employers and supply chain firms in these sectors important to many of our communities.⁹ Considering how to make the most of potential opportunities in these sectors will be an important issue for our successor Committee to explore.

22. One of these sectors is defence, and the UK Government has committed to increase defence spending from the current level of 2.3% of UK GDP to 2.5% by 2027 and 3.5% by 2035.¹⁰ We note that defence companies have called for increased spending to be targeted at the industry in Wales, including General Dynamics based in Merthyr, Aberdare and Caerphilly, Llanellec in Neath and BAE Systems in Usk. In February 2026, the Welsh and UK governments signed the £50 million Wales Defence Growth Deal, which aims to “maximise Wales as a UK launchpad for autonomous technology and uncrewed systems”, seeks to improve access to defence contracts for Welsh SMEs, and commits to both governments working together to establish a Defence Technical College by September 2027.¹¹ Negotiations on UK participation in the EU's €150 billion SAFE defence loan instrument are ongoing, which would build on the UK-EU security and defence partnership.

23. We recommend our successor Committee looks into the extent to which Wales is benefitting from the delivery of the industrial strategy, how effectively the

⁷ [Gov.uk. Industrial Strategy](#)

⁸ [Gov.uk. Sector Plans](#)

⁹ [Gov.wales. The UK's industrial strategy discussion paper](#)

¹⁰ [House of Commons Library. UK defence spending](#)

¹¹ [Gov.uk. 'Wales becomes UK launchpad for next generation autonomous technology'](#)

Welsh and UK governments are working together to ensure this, and whether there are any gaps that need to be addressed. We also recommend our successor Committee considers how the next Welsh Government is making the most of potential opportunities resulting from increased UK Government spending on defence, and from the Wales Defence Growth Deal.

City and Regional Growth Deals

24. The four City and Regional Growth Deals aspire to be long term drivers of economic development and are jointly funded and supported by the UK and Welsh Governments. The UK Government committed to invest £791 million in the deals over 10 to 15 years. The Welsh Government committed to invest over £795 million over 15 to 20 years.¹²

25. The Committee scrutinised the deals in 2023 and revisited this work in 2025. Following our 2025 work we had serious concerns around the delivery of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and the Ambition North Wales Growth Deal.

26. Creating and safeguarding jobs is one of the key aims of these deals. However we were disappointed in the progress of both deals. We were also concerned about Aberthaw procurement issues that had beset the Cardiff Capital Region; and the ability of Ambition North Wales to replace the proposed Trawsfynydd project with high-impact alternatives.

27. We recommend our successor Committee continues to hold regular scrutiny of the City and Regional Growth Deals. This could include monitoring the ongoing issues with Aberthaw, replacement of Trawsfynydd projects, ensuring job targets are being met and looking at how investment is benefiting the most deprived areas covered by each deal.

The Local Growth Fund

28. The Local Growth Fund (LGF) is a new economic development fund created by the UK Government. It is the latest iteration of the replacement for EU Regional Development Funding and will run for three years.

29. The Committee published a report into the LGF in February 2026. We were unhappy the fund was significantly smaller than the Shared Prosperity Fund that it replaced and we had serious concerns about the Fund's structures and the plan for delivering a capital heavy fund in a mere three years.

¹² [Gov.wales memorandum of understanding funding city and regional growth deals](https://gov.wales/memorandum-of-understanding-funding-city-and-regional-growth-deals)

30. One of our key areas of concern was the role of Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) in the delivery of the regional elements of the fund. Our previous work on City and Growth Deals had highlighted serious inadequacies in delivery by CJCs. As most Welsh citizens are not engaged with their CJC. It will be vital our successor Committee monitors the implementation of the Fund and ensures CJCs are held to account for delivery.

Freeports and Investment Zones

31. Wales has two Freeports: the Celtic Freeport, which encompasses the ports of Milford Haven and Port Talbot, and the Ynys Mon Freeport. The UK Government announced funding for two Welsh Investment Zones in its 2024 Autumn Statement; Newport and Cardiff; and Wrexham and Flintshire. They were allocated £160 million each. We recommend the next Committee should monitor developments in relation to the Freeports and Investment Zones, and assess how they integrate broader economic policies and other economic development initiatives such as the City and Growth Deals.

Northern Valleys regeneration

32. We are concerned about economic development in the Northern Valleys, one of the most economically deprived areas in Wales and the UK. The Welsh Government committed to spend £100m through the Tech Valleys project by 2028, but has only spent around £40m so far. In our last general scrutiny session the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning told us Tech Valleys was a “particular focus for me between now and the end of this Senedd term”¹³ and suggested more funding may be made available for the project during that period.

33. We are also concerned that the CJC has not been delivering for the Northern Valleys as part of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal. We recommend our successor Committee closely monitors the delivery of economic development for people in the Northern Valleys. This should include a focus on Tech Valleys, how the next Welsh Government seeks to maximise the benefits of the dualling of the A465, and how it works with the Cardiff Capital Region and others to jointly develop initiatives for the benefit of people in the Northern Valleys.

¹³ Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee, 25/02/2026, Paragraph 88

The Development Bank of Wales

34. The Fifth Senedd's Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee held annual scrutiny sessions with the Development Bank of Wales. This Committee followed their lead and then decided it was appropriate to hold a formal inquiry into the Bank. We reported in July 2024. Much of the evidence received was highly positive about the Bank's activities and approach as a lender, with some constructive suggestions for improvements, but also some concerning negative evidence and criticisms relating in particular to the Bank's equity investments.

35. The Bank has undertaken reviews to address some of the concerns raised in the report. The Welsh Government has also committed to holding a larger review into the Bank in 2026. We recommend our successor Committee should continue to hold annual security sessions with the Development Bank of Wales, continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations from our 2024 report and any outcomes of the 2026 review.

The Global Centre of Rail Excellence

36. The Global Centre of Rail Excellence (GCRE) is looking to become "a 'one stop shop' for testing new rolling stock and supporting world class research, development and certification of new rail infrastructure, technologies, processes and skills".¹⁴ There are also plans for renewable energy and a data centre at the site. When the Committee visited the Centre in 2025 we heard about the opportunity this would provide for the local community, attracting inward investment and creating good quality high skilled jobs.

37. The GCRE has attracted considerable public funding from both the UK and Welsh Governments. However it has struggled to attract the £330 million in private investment it requires, and is working to de-risk the project to secure that investment. In general scrutiny the Welsh Government confirmed the GCRE will likely have spent nearly all of the Welsh Government funding by the end of 2026, and it has said that the next Welsh Government will need to consider a final investment decision on the GCRE in 2027.

38. We recommend our successor Committee continues to monitor progress with the development of the GCRE. Due to the timeframe of funding for the GCRE we recommend our successor considers including the GCRE in their very early work.

¹⁴ GCRE.Wales Missions

Tourism, Hospitality and Retail

39. The tourism, hospitality and retail sectors employ a high proportion of the Welsh workforce. They are also relatively exposed to external risks such as cost of living pressures. One of the first inquiries this Committee held was into the recovery of the tourism, hospitality and retail sectors, from COVID-19 and the support they would need going forward.

40. More recently the Senedd has passed two pieces of primary legislation regarding tourism – the Visitor Accommodation (Register and Levy) Etc. (Wales) Act 2025 and the Development of Tourism and Regulation of Visitor Accommodation (Wales) Bill (currently awaiting Royal Assent). The latter Bill was scrutinised at Stage 1 and 2 by this Committee. As part of that work we heard of “legislative and policy fatigue”¹⁵ from the industry and that the regulatory burden was becoming increasingly challenging for accommodation providers.

41. We recommend our successor Committee continues to monitor the challenges facing the tourism, hospitality and retail sectors and carries out post legislative scrutiny on the two Acts.

The Impact of AI on the economy and workforce

42. In 2025 the Committee published a report into AI and the Welsh Economy. This was a short and sharp inquiry, however we heard a lot of interesting evidence. We heard visions of increased productivity built on sustainable AI infrastructure powered by Welsh wind and cooled with our seawater. However we also heard about the impact AI might have on certain parts of the labour force, and the need to proactively support those who lose their jobs as a result of automation. We were told that AI can be a tool for business growth but there is a lack of confidence from businesses on how they could make use of it.

43. AI is an incredibly fast moving technology. There are also serious questions currently being asked about the outcomes of public sector investments in AI.¹⁶ Considering the potential implications, it is vital policy makers keep up. We recommend our successor Committee holds a follow up inquiry into AI and its effect on the Welsh economy and our workforce.

¹⁵ Development of Tourism and Regulation of Visitor Accommodation (Wales) Bill, Stage 1 Report

¹⁶ The Guardian [Revealed: UK's multibillion AI drive is built on 'phantom investments'](#)

Skills

Apprenticeships

44. Apprenticeships are the backbone of our vocational skills offer. Apprenticeships have featured in the Committee's work throughout this Senedd including undertaking an inquiry and issuing a report on Apprenticeship Pathways in July 2025. Apprenticeships also formed a key part of our other inquiries such as the Green Economy and Inward Investment.

45. However, there are many areas of apprenticeships that would warrant specific investigation by our successor Committee. We recommend the next committee considers holding inquiries into degree apprenticeships and apprenticeship funding.

46. Medr are working on the new Apprenticeship Programme which will start on 1 August 2027 when the current contracts come to an end. This is a key moment in apprenticeship delivery and we encourage our successor Committee to engage with Medr and stakeholders on the new Programme.

The Apprenticeship Levy

47. All Welsh employers with wage bills of over £3 million a year have to contribute 0.5 per cent of their wage bill to the Apprenticeship Levy. However, employers in Wales do not have direct access to the Levy funding unlike employers in England. Since 2020 funding is instead returned to Wales via the Barnett Formula in the block grant to the Welsh Government.

48. The then Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language, Jeremy Miles, told the Committee that as a result of this switch the Welsh Government “are not able to identify how much funding is generated by it, we are not able to identify how much funding we receive as a consequence of it”.¹⁷

49. The UK Government is replacing the Apprenticeship Levy in England with a Growth and Skills Levy from April 2026. The Apprenticeship Levy will continue to operate in Wales as it does now.

50. We are concerned about transparency around the Levy and are aware of the changes coming to England. We recommend our successor Committee looks into the Apprenticeship Levy and how it can work for Welsh employers.

¹⁷ Economy Trade and Rural Affairs Committee, 26/06/2024, Paragraph 46

Flexible skills for a changing economy

51. A key finding from our Green Economy report was that one of the main objectives the Welsh Government must meet is ensuring the workforce has the right skills to take full advantage of the transition to a green economy. It is vital to have an understanding of the skills of our current workforce and the future skills needs, as well as how we can align skills provision with both elements.

52. We recommend that our successor Committee looks at how Wales can have flexible skills provision to meet the needs of our changing economy.

Trade

Wales, the UK and the EU

53. The most recent round of EU-UK negotiations is expected to conclude before the next UK-EU summit, anticipated in the first half of 2026. The negotiations are likely to result in agreements on Sanitary and Phytosanitary, emissions trading and UK access to the EU's single electricity market. These issues fall within devolved competence and will have significant implications for Wales, given its reliance on trading with the EU. The Welsh Government highlighted to the UK Government that the timing of dissolution will pose a challenge for Wales to be represented in the negotiations, and implementation, of the EU reset agreements. We agree.

54. We are also anticipating a UK Government EU Partnership Bill. This legislation would look to align the UK to the EU in the areas agreed in 'Common Understanding' agreement. Whilst no timetable for this Bill has been confirmed, the Welsh Government believes the UK Government intends its passage to be completed by the end of 2026.

55. We are concerned about the timeline of these negotiations and the planned introduction of the EU Partnership Bill during devolved elections. It is vital that the next Senedd is as fully involved as possible. We recommend our successor Committee prioritises scrutiny of UK-EU negotiations, agreements and any accompanying legislation as soon as possible after its establishment.

Border Control Posts (BCPs)

56. Britain's new import regime, the Border Target Operating Model (BTOM), was agreed by the UK's governments in August 2023. It set out the post-Brexit requirements for trade controls at BCPs, three of which were planned for Holyhead, Pembroke Dock and Fishguard. We visited the proposed site of the

Holyhead BCP in July 2023. We took evidence on these matters and published a report in October 2024 following evidence sessions with the UK Government and experts.

57. In June 2025 the Deputy First Minister issued a statement saying he had “decided not to proceed with the final commissioning and staffing of the Holyhead BCP, and not to take forward construction of BCPs at Fishguard and Pembroke Dock” as a result of Common Understanding and the expected UK-EU SPS agreement.¹⁸

58. We recommend our successor Committee monitors these matters as UK-EU negotiations progress.

Rest of world trade

59. The Committee has scrutinised post-Brexit trade agreements in this Senedd, including specific work on the UK-Australia¹⁹, UK-New Zealand²⁰ and CPTPP agreements. It has also been monitoring the UK-India deal and received an offer of a technical briefing from the Welsh Government at a late stage in the Sixth Senedd. The Committee has also utilised general scrutiny sessions to scrutinise wider trade developments, including with key trading partners, such as the USA, and on topical matters, such as the Welsh steel trade.

60. We recommend our successor Committee continues this work.

Rural Affairs

The Agriculture (Wales) Act and the Sustainable Farming Scheme

61. This Committee scrutinised the Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023. This Act created the legislative basis for the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) and we have been closely following its development.

62. We issued a report into the SFS in July 2024. The report covers access to the scheme for new entrants and tenant farmers, how common land farming would fit into the scheme, how organic farming would be rewarded, carbon sequestration methods, and how the social value payment would work.

¹⁸ Gov.wales [written statement on Wales Ireland border controls](#)

¹⁹ [UK-Australia Inquiry](#)

²⁰ [UK-New Zealand Inquiry](#)

63. The SFS launched in January with an application window from 2 March until 15 May. All those joining the scheme are required to undertake the ‘Universal’ actions to receive the Universal Baseline Payment. Non-compulsory ‘Optional’ and ‘Collaborative’ actions, which are expected to deliver more ambitious outcomes, will be available for additional payment but are still in development.

64. The Deputy First Minister told us that the Welsh Government is in an “area of uncertainty and expectancy”²¹ waiting to see what take up would be like. He told us that they had been trailing some of the optional and collaborative actions but there would need to be a phased approach to their introduction in collaboration with farmers.

65. The Committee has scrutinised the level of funding available for the SFS following calls from the sector for an uplift given the ambition of the scheme to achieve Sustainable Land Management objectives.

66. We recommend our successor Committee continues to monitor the implementation of the SFS and in particular the development of the optional and collaborative approach, and the level of funding available.

67. Whilst the headline outcome of the Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023 was the SFS it also includes provisions around animal welfare (banning snares and glue traps), Agricultural Tenancies (dispute resolution) and tree felling licencing. We recommend our successor Committee considers undertaking post-legislative scrutiny on both SFS and non-SFS related provisions in the Act.

Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations

68. Whilst the SFS has been the biggest development for Welsh agriculture in this Senedd term, we have also been following many other issues. One of the first pieces of work this Committee undertook was a review of Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021.

69. In June 2022 we issued a report on the Regulations. Amongst other things we recommended that the derogation for qualifying grass farms to spread 250 kg/ha of nitrogen be reintroduced and that the Welsh Government should prioritise any suitable alternative proposals that utilise technology rather than closed periods for spreading.

²¹ Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee, 05/03/2026, Paragraph 139

70. On 31 March 2024 the Welsh Government published its own review of the Regulations. Whilst the review supported the general approach, the report made 23 recommendations including to consider minimising the regulatory burden on lower-risk activities, to consider including an alternative to the 170kg nitrogen per hectare limit in certain circumstances and raised the possibility of an alternative to, or flexibility of dates for, the closed period.

71. The Deputy First Minister told us he had established a task and finish group to take forward the recommendations from the review. We recommend our successor Committee monitors progress in implementing the review's recommendations.

Livestock Numbers

72. We have heard concerns about the decline in livestock numbers across Wales. Two key issues have been raised around this. Stakeholders were concerned that the falling numbers threatens the viability of Welsh abattoirs. The closure of abattoirs would then lead to animals having to travel further for slaughter, weaken local supply chains and remove some of the value added from a farm's output from the local community. Another concern we have is that whilst Welsh livestock numbers are decreasing our red meat consumption remains more or less the same. This means that we are in danger of replacing domestically produced meat with higher carbon, lower welfare imports.

73. We recommend our successor Committee monitors livestock numbers and abattoir viability.

Horticulture

74. Horticulture is an issue that has come up in many of our inquiries and we believe there is room for flourishing livestock and horticulture industries in our vision for a vibrant and productive food sector.

75. Horticulture is a potential growth area for Welsh farmers and increasing the amount of Welsh vegetables grown and eaten in Wales has been a key recommendation we have pursued. The vast majority of our agricultural land is given over to pasture, so horticulture is an area farmers will need support and training to move into.

76. We recommend our successor Committee considers holding a specific inquiry into supporting the growth of horticulture in Wales.

Common Land

77. About ten percent of Wales is common land. However, we heard that some of that land is in a “desperate state now”. We also heard there were issues with access to the common land.²² Support for people who farm common land was raised as part of our work on the Sustainable Farming Scheme and has been raised in other inquiries too.

78. We recommend that our successor Committee considers holding an inquiry into common land.

Fisheries

79. The 2022 UK Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) sets the high-level, strategic direction for fisheries management. A three-year progress report is due to be published in spring 2026. The JFS lists 43 proposed Fisheries Management Plans (FMP), which will assess the status of stocks and set out policies and actions to restore, or maintain them at sustainable levels. So far, joint Bass and King Scallop FMPs have been published.

80. In his 29 January update, the Deputy First Minister said the Wales-only Crabs and Lobsters FMP is “on track for public consultation in early 2026”²³, and gives an update on further plans in development. A further two Wales-only FMPs, for cockles and whelks, are to be delivered by 2028.

81. The Committee has undertaken work on the JFS, kept a watching brief through Ministerial scrutiny sessions, and monitored support for Fisheries through our work on Welsh Government draft budgets. We also examined seafood as part of our food processing inquiry.

82. Due to the size of the Committee’s remit we have not been able to give fisheries the amount of time we would have liked. Our successor Committee should continue monitoring the development of the Fisheries Management Plans. Welsh seafood is largely exported, and we import the majority that Wales eats. This is a conundrum we have considered a number of times and believe increasing the amount of Welsh seafood on Welsh plates could be an interesting inquiry for our successor Committee to undertake.

²² [Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee](#) 20/10/2022 Paragraph 311

²³ Welsh Government Written Statement: [Strategic Approach to Welsh Fisheries and Aquaculture Update](#)

Bovine TB

83. The Committee issued a short report into bovine TB in May 2022. This included examining issues such as mandatory informed purchasing, testing and compensation. The Committee has been keeping a watching brief on bovine TB via general ministerial scrutiny since publishing that report.

84. Whilst the Programme for Government maintains a ban on badger culling the Deputy First Minister has told us that the bovine TB Technical Advisory Group (TAG) had begun work to consider the role of wildlife in respect of bovine TB. On 5 March he told us he was expecting that paper imminently and said it would give the next Welsh Government some real food for thought.

85. We recommend our successor Committee keeps a watching brief on bovine TB and in particular the outcomes of the TB TAG.

The food system

86. The food system has been an important topic for this Committee. We scrutinised Peter Fox's Food (Wales) Bill and whilst we could not come to a position on the need for legislation, we fully supported the policy intent of the Bill.

87. We built on our Food Bill work in our food processing report. We recommended the Welsh Government “must coordinate its approach to the food system by ensuring policies are joined-up and complementary. This must include ensuring the food processing sector is supported to both help businesses grow and ensure Welsh providers can service the Welsh market. To do this, they must create an overarching and holistic strategy for the whole food system designed to support the aims of the Vision and align Government food policy, promote the food processing sector, and prioritise sustainability and food security”.²⁴

88. We were disappointed this recommendation was rejected by the current Welsh Government but hope the next Welsh Government will implement it. A coherent food system would benefit the nation's health and wellbeing as well as our food and farming industry. We recommend our successor Committee follows up on this recommendation and continues to scrutinise the next Welsh Government with the aim of joining up food policy.

²⁴ Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee: [Food Wales Bill: Stage 1 Report](#)

The Veterinary sector

89. At the end of last year, the Petitions Committee wrote to us requesting consideration of issues raised in petition P-06-1291, “Hold an enquiry into corporate takeover of veterinary profession in Wales”. Previously, veterinary surgeries were required to be owned by vets. However, this provision was repealed in 1999, resulting in many surgeries being acquired by corporates. The petition contends that the “corporate takeover” of veterinary practices is undermining the quality of care and increasing costs for pet owners.²⁵

90. The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has been investigating veterinary services for household pets. Provisional findings were published on 15 October; however, this review is still ongoing. In addition, DEFRA has recently consulted on UK-wide reform to the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966.

91. Due to the ongoing review, the Committee has kept a watching brief on this issue and has not undertaken detailed work. However, we did raise the issue during general scrutiny, and the Deputy First Minister told us that he supported the conclusions of the CMA and that animal welfare is “first and foremost in considerations”.²⁶

92. This is an issue that will require continued monitoring, and when appropriate, we recommend that our successor Committee considers following up the CMA review and DEFRA consultation outcomes with the next Welsh Government and undertaking an inquiry on the issue if necessary.

Animal Welfare

93. The Animal Welfare Plan for Wales 2021 to 2026 is the Welsh Government’s roadmap for implementing animal welfare commitments set out in the Programme for Government. It includes many commitments, including developing a national model for regulation of animal welfare, improving qualifications for welfare inspectors, requiring CCTV in all slaughterhouses, and restricting the use of cages for farmed animals.

94. This is another area we have not been able to explore as thoroughly as we would have wished due to time constraints. However, we have been monitoring animal welfare through general ministerial sessions. As the Plan concludes, we believe it is an appropriate time to consider a more detailed inquiry into the

²⁵ [Petition P-06-1291](#)

²⁶ [Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee](#) 5/3/2026 Paragraph 125

future of animal welfare in Wales and recommend that our successor Committee takes this forward.

Hybu Cig Cymru (Meat Promotion Wales)

95. Hybu Cig Cymru (HCC) is a Company Limited by Guarantee, wholly owned by the Welsh Ministers, funded by the Welsh Red Meat Levy, and responsible for developing, promoting and marketing Welsh red meat.

96. In September 2025 the we published our report, following our inquiry launched in response to allegations of bullying and poor corporate culture within HCC.

97. Our inquiry did not examine the allegations. We decided instead to produce a forward-looking report to ensure steps are taken to get HCC back on track and stop similar issues happening in the future.

98. We recommended “HCC should regularly report to the Welsh Government outlining progress on producing and maintaining a healthy corporate culture for the next three years. The Welsh Government should continue to monitor the culture at HCC and keep this Committee and its successor in the next Senedd informed on HCC’s progress in this area”.²⁷

99. We recommend our successor Committee continues to monitor Welsh Government and HCC’s implementation of our report recommendations and in particular the culture and performance of HCC.

Soil Health

100. Soil health is absolutely critical for sustainability however it is often overlooked. In November 2025 we issued Digging the Dirt: Improving Wales Soil Health. The report found that if we wish to leave land of a suitable quality to produce enough food to feed our children and the generations to come, the Welsh Government must urgently act to ensure our soil is a priority and its health is not just protected but improved. The Committee made specific recommendations around how to protect and improve soil health through both improved testing but also the planning system.

101. We recommend our successor Committee continues to monitor soil health policy and follows up our report in due course.

²⁷ Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee: [Hybu Cig Cymru Report](#)

Banning peat in compost

102. There is wide spread support for banning peat in compost for environmental reasons. Ninety-two percent of Welsh respondents to a consultation on the matter supported a ban.

103. In December 2022, the Welsh Government announced it would ban the retail sale of peat compost following a joint UK and Welsh Government public consultation. However, the Welsh Government believes this is best achieved by all four nations working together on the issue.

104. The Cabinet Secretary told us the Scottish Government also supports taking this forward on a UK-wide basis and “we're all eagerly in anticipation of that moment where the UK Government can find a legislative opportunity to do it.”²⁸ There is a Private Members Bill currently making its way through Westminster which would ban peat in compost, however the Cabinet Secretary cautioned it would likely fall at the end of this Parliamentary Session in May.²⁹

105. The Cabinet Secretary confirmed this means there is no time scale for the ban at the moment.³⁰ He said if a legislative opportunity didn't arise at a UK level in the next Senedd, Wales should implement the ban on a domestic basis, while highlighting a UK-ban would be preferable. We recommend this is an issue our successor Committee should continue to follow and given the wide spread public support should push for a resolution on.

²⁸ ~~Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee~~ 5/3/2026 Paragraph 166

²⁹ ~~Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee~~ 5/3/2026 Paragraph 170

³⁰ ~~Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee~~ 5/3/2026 Paragraph 172

3. Advice to Future Members

106. Given all the current live, urgent issues present across our remit we believe the next Committee will need to hit the ground running and start work immediately. We hope this report will help them to do this. Below is some advice we also think they will find helpful.

107. Good working relationships within and between Committees has greatly enhanced our ability to carry out scrutiny. There were several areas where our and the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee's remits linked. We undertook a significant amount of joint work, including inviting Members of the Climate Committee to join our Stage 1 scrutiny of the Agriculture (Wales) Act. We also worked closely with the Climate Committee, the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee and the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee on the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement. This joint working enhanced our scrutiny, recommendations and reports.

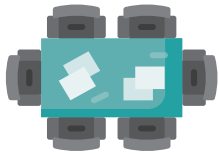
108. Whilst we engaged with our counterpart committees in Westminster, we did not manage to undertake any joint inquiries or evidence gathering. We believe that joint working with Westminster on common themes would be beneficial and could support broader scrutiny of issues. If we were starting again, building a stronger relationship and pursuing joint inquiries with Westminster committees would be something we would explore.

109. Actions of the UK Government greatly influence outcomes of policy areas within our remit. This is particularly true for the economy and trade but also true in rural affairs and skills. Where UK Ministers have engaged with the Committee this has been very beneficial to our work. However, we have also had some frustrating experience trying to get evidence from UK Ministers on key issues. Building relationships with UK Ministers will be important to help our successors to scrutinise issues in the round.

110. Finally we highly recommend getting out of Cardiff Bay and visiting people where they live, where they work and where the issues are. Whilst formal committee sessions are important and helpful, visits give you a much better understanding than you could ever get speaking to people in a Committee room, and truly allow you to grasp the issues at hand. We strongly recommend that all future Senedd committees prioritise regular visits to stakeholders both within

Wales and further afield and maybe even formally meeting and taking evidence in the community.

The Committee in the Sixth Senedd



HOW MANY FORMAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS WERE HELD?

100



HOW MANY WITNESSES GAVE EVIDENCE TO THE COMMITTEE?

392



HOW MANY STAKEHOLDER EVENTS/ VISITS WERE UNDERTAKEN?

8



HOW MANY REPORTS WERE PRODUCED?

36



HOW MANY INQUIRIES WERE UNDERTAKEN?

25

4. Inquiries

111. This section contains an overview of the inquiries we undertook this Senedd. Each overview includes foot note link to our website where you can find the terms of reference for the inquiry, evidence submitted, any correspondence received and published reports. The full list of work undertaken by the Committee can be found on the website.³¹

112. Legislation is covered in chapter 5.

Economy

The future of Welsh steel

113. Since Tata's announcement that it was going to close the two blast furnaces at Port Talbot Steelworks and replace them with an Electric Arc Furnace the fallout from this decision has been one of the dominating issues for the Committee this Senedd. We held a number of evidence and scrutiny sessions with Tata, trade unions and both the UK and Welsh Governments. This is still very much an ongoing issue so we have included feedback for our successor Committee under Priorities for the Seventh Senedd. You can find the full details of the sessions and correspondence on this issue on the Committees website.³²

HGV Driver Shortages and Supply Chain Issues

114. This Committee was formed at the tail end of the COVID Pandemic. One of the first issues we examined was the supply chain breakdown created by a culmination of HGV driver shortages, the Pandemic and the process of EU Exit. In January 2022 we published a report A new direction for HGV Drivers: Addressing HGV drivers shortages and related supply chain issues.³³

Cost of living

115. Wales has faced above target inflation throughout this Senedd, however, towards the end of 2021 we saw a 41 year peak. We released a report Cost of Living Pressures in July 2022.³⁴

³¹ [Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee website](#)

³² [Future of Welsh Steel Inquiry](#)

³³ [HGV Driver and Supply Chain Inquiry](#)

³⁴ [Cost of living Inquiry](#)

Hospitality, Retail and Tourism

116. These sectors were all significantly affected by the Pandemic. In July 2022 we issued a report *Raising the Bar Securing the future of Hospitality, Tourism and Retail*. We have continued to examine issues facing the sector since.³⁵

Manufacturing in Wales

117. In May 2023 the Welsh Government issued a refreshed Manufacturing Plan. In June that year we held a one day inquiry into Manufacturing in Wales.³⁶

Post EU Regional Development Funding

118. Post EU Funding was a contentious subject. The Welsh Government and the UK Government fiercely disagreed whether the pledge that Wales would receive the same amount of funding following EU exit had been kept. We undertook an inquiry looking at this issue and the make-up of the new funding arrangements.³⁷

Nuclear Energy

119. In February 2024 we published a report *Nuclear Energy and the Welsh Economy*. This was the culmination of an inquiry considering the potential economic impact of new nuclear developments in north Wales, how to maximise local employment and benefits to local or Wales-based supply chains.³⁸

Research and Development

120. In May 2024 we published a report following a one-day inquiry which gave us an insight into the latest position on funding for research and development, and identified barriers to Wales accessing a greater share of the UK-wide money available to drive future innovation and growth.³⁹

The Development Bank of Wales

121. We held regular scrutiny sessions with the Development Bank and in November 2024 published a report following a review. More detail on this work is covered in the Priorities for the Seventh Senedd above.⁴⁰

³⁵ [Hospitality, Retail and Tourism Inquiry](#)

³⁶ [Manufacturing in Wales Inquiry](#)

³⁷ [Post EU Regional Development Funding Inquiry](#)

³⁸ [Nuclear Energy Inquiry](#)

³⁹ [Research and Development Inquiry](#)

⁴⁰ [The Development Bank of Wales Inquiry](#)

Green Economy

122. In June 2025 we published a report on the Green Economy. This was following an inquiry where we looked at the opportunities of transition to a green economy.⁴¹

Holyhead Port Storm Damage and Closure

123. In December 2024 two ‘berthing incidents’ lead to the full closure of the port. The port was closed until mid-January with both terminals not being fully back up and running until July. This caused massive disruption to freight and passenger transport and had a large impact on the local economy. In July 2025 we issues a report looking at what went wrong and how a repetition could be avoided in the future.⁴²

The Foundational Economy

124. Whilst the foundational economy provides many vital jobs and the workers in it play essential roles most people don’t know what the foundational economy is. We held an inquiry to examine how we could strengthen Wales’ foundational economy and In April 2025 we issued a report on the matter.⁴³

City and Growth Deals

125. We have undertaken a great deal of scrutiny of the City and Growth Deals over this Senedd. More detail on this and our views on possible future work around them can be found in the Priorities for the Seventh Senedd section.⁴⁴

AI and the Welsh Economy

126. Automation has been an issue that causes both optimism and concern amount economists for a long time. However with the launch of ChatGPT in 2022 interest in AI and its effects on the economy and workforce became even more acute. In 2025 we held an inquiry and published a report looking the risks and opportunities from AI. This is another area we believe our successor Committee may want to revisit.⁴⁵

⁴¹ [Green Economy Inquiry](#)

⁴² [Holyhead Port Storm Damage and Closure Inquiry](#)

⁴³ [The Foundational Economy Inquiry](#)

⁴⁴ [City and Growth Deals work](#)

⁴⁵ [AI and the Welsh Economy Inquiry](#)

Local Growth Fund

127. This is the latest iteration of post-EU regional development funding. In February 2026 we published a report that raised a number of concerns regarding the Fund. This is another area covered in more detail under the Priorities for the Seventh Senedd section.⁴⁶

Inward Investment

128. The last report the Committee published was on Inward Investment. This was following an inquiry where we explored how Wales could increase the amount of foreign direct investment we attract.⁴⁷

Skills

129. Skills are integral to the delivery of so many aspects of the remit. For this reason instead of carrying out a number of specific skills workstreams we integrated scrutiny of skills in our other thematic inquiries. For example skills was a large part of our work on both the green economy and inward investment. We also made recommendations around agricultural skills in our rural affairs-focussed work, for example on farming connect and when recommending support for farmers to transition into horticulture.

Apprenticeship pathways

130. Apprenticeships were a large focus of the Committee's work and they are one of the areas we also cover in our Seventh Senedd Priorities section . We regularly covered them in general ministerial scrutiny and we also carried out one specific inquiry on the matter.

131. In 2025 we held an inquiry into apprenticeship pathways looking at access to and routes through the apprenticeship programme. We specifically focused on the route between levels, how information was provided and learners supported but also how this was supporting employers and the Welsh economy.⁴⁸

Trade

132. We carried out four specific trade inquiries. However, trade was another subject that we integrated into much of our work and covered extensively in

⁴⁶ [The Local Growth Fund Inquiry](#)

⁴⁷ [Inward Investment Inquiry](#)

⁴⁸ [Apprenticeship pathways Inquiry](#)

general ministerial sessions. Trade is also a constantly evolving area, particularly considering the development of the post EU-Exit EU-UK relationship and the current turbulence in global trade markets. As such trade is extensively covered in our Priorities for the Seventh Senedd section.

Windsor Framework and the Border Target Operating Model

133. We undertook an inquiry to examine implementation of the Border Target Operating Model, developed by UK, Welsh, and Scottish governments and officials from Northern Ireland. We issued a report in October 2024, however events around the BTOM have been very much in flux and are covered in our Priorities section above.⁴⁹

Australia and New Zealand Free Trade Agreements

134. We examined the two trade agreements and the risks and opportunities for Wales.⁵⁰

UK-EU implementation review of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement

135. In 2025 we worked with colleagues from three other Senedd committees⁵¹ to examine the implementation of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement ahead of a planned review, and issued a joint report on the matter. Again UK-EU trade is a topic covered in our Priorities section.⁵²

Rural Affairs

Bovine TB

136. We published our first report in May 2022 following a short inquiry on the matter, this was Refreshing Wales' Bovine TB Eradication Programme. Bovine TB is one of the subjects we have included in our Priorities for the Seventh Senedd.⁵³

Agricultural Pollution Regulations

137. In June 2021 the Senedd unanimously voted for a Senedd Committee to review the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations

⁴⁹ [Windsor Framework and the Border Target Operating Model Inquiry](#)

⁵⁰ [Australia Free Trade Agreement Inquiry; New Zealand Free Trade Agreement Inquiry](#)

⁵¹ The Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee; the Climate change Environment and Infrastructure Committee; and the Legislation, Justice and Constitution committees.

⁵² [UK-EU implementation review of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement Inquiry](#)

⁵³ [Bovine TB Inquiry](#)

2021. However, shortly after this a judicial review of the Regulations was launched. We paused work on our review and resumed once the High Court's one was complete. We published a report on the Regulations in June 2022. The debate on the Regulations is still ongoing and as such they are an issue we have included in our Priorities for the Seventh Senedd.⁵⁴

Common Frameworks

138. Following the UK's decision to leave the European Union, the UK Government and the devolved governments in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland agreed to create common UK-wide approaches - or 'frameworks' - in policy areas that were governed by EU law, but that are within the competence of the devolved governments or legislatures. We examined the frameworks related to rural affairs including fisheries, agricultural support, animal and plant health and issued two reports.⁵⁵

Farming Connect

139. In February 2024 we held a one day inquiry focusing on preparedness and capacity of Farming Connect to deliver future services required under the SFS, as well as to support farmers during the transition.⁵⁶

The Sustainable Farming Scheme

140. The SFS is still very much a live issue and is included in our Priorities for the Seventh Senedd. However during the run-up to the planned launch we held an inquiry into the SFS proposals, as well as the process of engagement and co-design.⁵⁷

Hybu Cig Cymru / Meat Promotion Wales

141. Following high profile issues within the organisation the Committee decided to hold an inquiry looking at the effectiveness of Hybu Cig Cymru (HCC) in delivering on its priorities and providing value for money to levy payers. We issued our report in September 2025. More detail can be found in the Priorities section.⁵⁸

⁵⁴ [Agricultural Pollution Regulations Inquiry](#)

⁵⁵ [Common Frameworks Inquiry](#)

⁵⁶ [Farming Connect Inquiry](#)

⁵⁷ [Sustainable Farming Scheme Inquiry](#)

⁵⁸ [Hybu Cig Cymru / Meat Promotion Wales Inquiry](#)

Soil Health in Agriculture

142. In summer 2025 we held an inquiry into soil health in agriculture. We looked at the role of soil, monitoring and testing, classification and wider public policy impact on soil. As healthy soil is vital to sustainability we have included soil health in our Priorities for the Seventh Senedd.⁵⁹

Food processing

143. Our penultimate inquiry was into Food Processing. We examined issues including what the Welsh Government can do to further support the processing sector to increase added-value for food products in Wales and whether it was delivering against its Vision for the Food and Drink Industry. We published our report in January 2026 and have included following this work up in our Priorities for the Seventh Senedd.⁶⁰

⁵⁹ [Soil Health Inquiry](#)

⁶⁰ [Food Processing Inquiry](#)

5. Legislation

144. We scrutinised three Bills over the course of the Sixth Senedd – two Welsh Government Bills and one Senedd Member Bill. We also considered a number of Legislative Consent Memoranda.

Agriculture (Wales) Bill

145. The Bill was introduced to the Senedd on 26 September 2022 by the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd. The policy aim of the Bill was to introduce a new framework for agricultural support based on ‘Sustainable Land Management’ and allow transition from the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy system of support.

146. The Bill successfully passed through the Senedd’s scrutiny stages, and received Royal Assent to become the Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023 on 17 August 2023.⁶¹

Food (Wales) Bill

147. The Food (Wales) Bill was a Senedd Member Bill introduced by Peter Fox MS to the Senedd on 12 December 2022. The Bill aimed to provide a new overarching framework for the food system, integrating economic, health and social, educational, environmental and food waste considerations.

148. At Stage 1, although the Committee unanimously supported the policy objectives of the Bill, it could not come to a unified position on the need for legislation to deliver those objectives. A debate on the general principles took place in the Senedd on 24 May 2023, in which the motion to agree the general principles was not agreed and the Bill was rejected at Stage 1.⁶²

Development of Tourism and Regulation of Visitor Accommodation (Wales) Bill

149. The Bill was introduced to the Senedd on 3 November 2025 by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language. The stated aim for the Bill is to promote the development of tourism in Wales and provide the legislative basis for a licensing scheme for visitor accommodation.

⁶¹ Senedd.Wales [Agriculture \(Wales\) Act 2023](#)

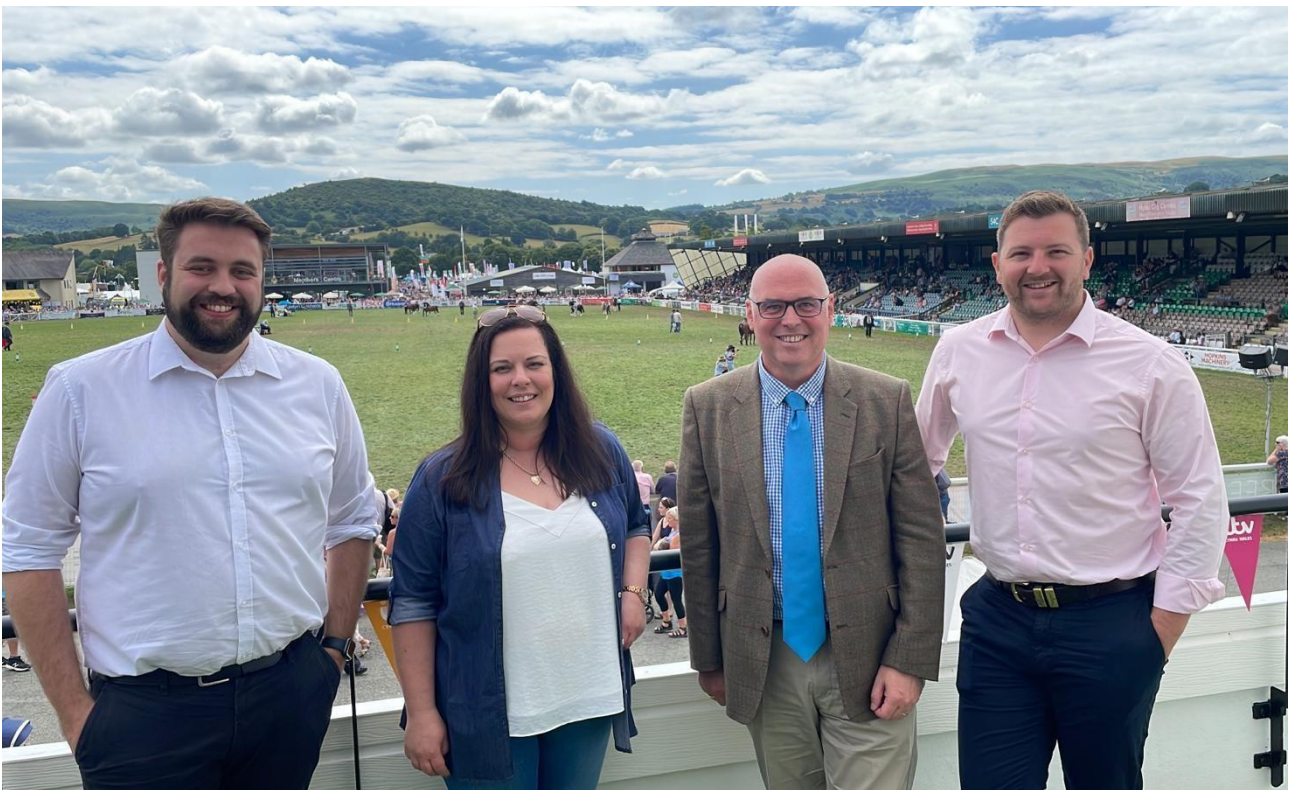
⁶² Senedd.Wales [Food \(Wales\) Bill](#)

150. The Bill successfully passed through the scrutiny stages, completing Stage 4 on 17 March 2026 ,and is currently awaiting Royal Assent.⁶³

Legislative Consent Memoranda

151. The Committee reported on a total of 20 Legislative Consent Memoranda (LCMS during the Sixth Senedd term across a range of subjects within the Committee’s remit, ranging from animal welfare issues to employment rights and subsidy control. Whilst in the majority of cases the Committee saw no reason to object to the Senedd agreeing the Legislative Consent Motion associated with the LCM in question, on occasion the Committee felt it did not have the appropriate time and information available to reach a conclusion.

152. Full details on the range of Legislative Consent Memoranda considered by the Committee can be found the Committee’s webpage.



⁶³ Senedd.Wales [Development of Tourism and Regulation of Visitor Accommodation \(Wales\) Bill](#)





