

NFU Cymru Consultation Response

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NFU Cymru submission to Public Accounts Committee Inquiry into Glastir

NFU Cymru welcomes the opportunity to provide further information to the Public Accounts Committee Inquiry into Glastir.

The source of our information is the Welsh Government Consultation Document – ‘A Water Strategy for Wales’ issued on 7th April 2014. We refer you to page 14 Figure 4 which shows the percentage of Water Framework Directive Failures attributable to agriculture is approximately 15%. Figure 4 also shows Failures attributable to Forestry at approximately 4.5% and acidification (which is an issue primarily associated with coniferous forestry) contributing a further 5%.

Some consideration of the land areas occupied by agriculture and forestry is also useful in understanding their respective impacts.

The Farming Facts and Figures, Wales 2014 identifies that the agricultural area is 1,740,000ha. The Welsh Government Woodland Strategy, page 15 Figure 4 shows that there is 287,400ha of woodland in Wales. Of this some 177,000ha is coniferous forestry with 111,500ha (63%) of this shown to be in public ownership.

As an industry we clearly recognise we have a role to play in improving water quality and delivering on the wider objectives of the Water Strategy and we would reiterate that NFU Cymru is a strong advocate of appropriate interventions for farmers where poor practices are responsible for water quality issues. We believe that any approach must be evidence-based and provide local solutions to local problems by working in partnership with industry to be effective.