

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol
Minister for Natural Resources



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref CS/00816/15

Alun Ffred Jones AM
Chair - Environment and Sustainability Committee
National Assembly for Wales
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Dear Alun,

I received your letter of 22 May regarding the appointment process for a new Chair of Natural Resources Wales, on 27 May, some five days after a press query received by my office on 22 May.

Your reported comments in the media went beyond those expressed in your letter, with a suggestion the independence of NRW and its Chair have been, or are being, called into question. If you have any evidence to support that accusation, I should be pleased to receive it.

On the substantive point regarding the pre-appointment scrutiny by the E&S Committee, the Welsh Government does not take the view such a process is appropriate as a general rule. The examples you give are, of course, very different in nature and the current process to appoint a new Chair for NRW is properly regulated by the Public Appointments Commission. Therefore, given the Welsh Government position, I cannot agree to your suggestion.

Yours sincerely

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
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Minister for Natural Resources