Cangen Dŵr / Water Branch
Adran Dŵr a Llifogydd / Water & Flood Division
Grŵp Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Climate Change & Rural Affairs Group

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: TO/HIDCC/00320/26

[redacted]

March 2026

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your correspondence of 03 March regarding your concerns about Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) appointment of Sir James Bevan, addressed to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs. I have been asked to respond on the Deputy First Minister's behalf.

The Dirty Business series exposed serious failures in wastewater management and environmental protection, and we fully recognise the strength of public feeling generated by the programme. The Welsh Government takes these issues extremely seriously. Sewage pollution is unacceptable, and the documentary reinforces the importance of the work already under way in Wales to improve river and coastal water quality.

Water and sewerage services in Wales operate within a separate regulatory system from that shown in the programme, which focused primarily on events in England. In Wales, water companies are required to invest significantly in upgrading wastewater and storm overflow systems, and this work is closely scrutinised by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

We continue to work with NRW, Ofwat and the sector to target the most harmful overflows, backed by over £1.1 billion of investment by 2030. We have also provided NRW with an additional £5 million in 2025–26 to strengthen regulation and enforcement, and we are working with them on the 2026–27 programme to build long-term capability, modernise enforcement and support sustainable, catchment-based solutions that enhance water quality. Taken together, these measures reflect our commitment to strengthening environmental protections in Wales and delivering lasting improvements to river and coastal waters.
Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water appointed Sir James Bevan as a Non-Executive Director in February 2025 following its own rigorous search and appointment process, which included full referencing and consultation with relevant regulatory stakeholders. The company has said that he brings extensive experience in environmental regulation

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.

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and public policy, supporting the Board's commitment to strong governance as it delivers its largest ever investment programme through to 2030, focused on improving water quality, upgrading wastewater systems, and strengthening environmental performance.

As Welsh Water is a not-for-profit company with no shareholders, decisions about Board appointments are a matter for the company itself. Our focus as the Welsh Government remains on ensuring that Dŵr Cymru delivers for customers in Wales and continues to make the environmental improvements required across its network.

We are also moving forward with the next phase of work following the National Review of the Water Sector led by Sir Jon Cunliffe. This review set out a clear path for reform, and we are now consulting publicly on the proposed package of measures to strengthen accountability, improve environmental outcomes and ensure the sector is better equipped to meet future challenges. We encourage stakeholders and members of the public to engage with this consultation and help shape the future direction of water services in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

Water Branch
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Welsh Government