



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: TO/HIDCC/00471/26

[Redacted]

22 April 2026

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your correspondence of 6 April regarding role allocations at Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water to Huw Irranca-Davies, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs. The Welsh Government's Water Branch has been asked to respond.

We appreciate the concerns you have outlined. The Welsh Government expects water companies to provide the highest standards of service to customers and protect the environment. In 2022, the then Minister for Climate Change issued our Strategic Priorities and Objectives Statement to Ofwat. It makes it clear that water companies should anticipate disruption, maintain services for people and protect the natural environment, now and in the future.

The Welsh Government regularly engages with Ofwat to set out our strategic priorities and ensure that water companies operating in Wales are being held to account. Appointments to senior roles within Dŵr Cymru are solely a matter for the company's Board. As a not-for-profit provider of essential public services, Dŵr Cymru is responsible for ensuring that its recruitment processes meet all governance and probity standards, including the proper management of any actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

The Welsh Government does not have a role in approving or scrutinising individual appointments of this nature. Former civil servants and public office holders are subject to the rules of the UK Advisory Committee on Business Appointments (ACOPA). Where relevant, ACOPA provides independent advice on conditions that should apply to post employment roles, including cooling-off periods and restrictions on contact with former departments or regulated bodies. Any advice issued by ACOPA is published on its website, and it is for the appointing organisation to ensure that any conditions are fully complied with.

We recognise the importance of public trust. Confidence in the independence and effectiveness of environmental oversight is essential. In Wales, we continue to work closely with Natural Resources Wales, Ofwat, and other partners to strengthen regulatory assurance, improve transparency, and ensure that environmental standards are enforced

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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robustly. This includes work to expand the monitoring of discharges, support stronger enforcement action where necessary, and drive long-term improvements to wastewater infrastructure and river health.

Through the Water (Special Measures) Act 2025, regulators were given new powers to take tougher and faster action against water companies when they fail in their responsibilities to their customers and the environment. These measures include enhanced enforcement powers and the ability to block water company executive bonuses, and issue penalties more readily.

We are also moving forward with the next phase of work following the Independent Water Commission's review, which was led by Sir Jon Cunliffe. The review set out a clear path for reform, and we consulted 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 encouraged stakeholders and members of the public to engage with this consultation and help shape the future direction of water services in Wales. The consultation closed on 7 April and we will carefully consider the responses.

The Welsh Government remains committed to ensuring that the governance of the water sector in Wales is transparent, resilient, and capable of maintaining public confidence. We will continue to prioritise measures that support stronger oversight and ensure that environmental protection remains central to the sector's operations.

Thank you for your interest and we hope that you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Water Policy Branch
Climate Change and Rural Affairs Group
Welsh Government