



31 January 2020

UPDATE FROM RURAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, LESLEY GRIFFITHS: EU EXIT DAY AND FUTURE FARMING PAYMENTS

Today, we are leaving the European Union.

It is important we now move forward together, forging new, strong relationships with our European neighbours.

At this point in time, the way we do business with the EU is not changing, but we will need to be ready and prepared for change when it comes.

I have been meeting with colleagues in the UK Government and the devolved administrations to fight Wales' corner, and will continue to do so – especially on trade negotiations, and during talks about our future relationship with the EU.

I am also in regular contact with the organisations who represent you to discuss the way forward, and welcome their views. We are standing up for Wales, protecting the industries I represent, making sure their long-term success is secured.

I give you my assurance: the Welsh Government and I are working hard to ensure Wales' views are heard and our best interests are represented. The decisions we make today will impact on our future generations.

As you may know, I recently confirmed funding for Welsh farmers in 2020, following HM Treasury's announcement of £243 million for the Basic Payments Scheme (BPS).

Confirmation of funding for 2020 from the UK Government is welcome, and I hope this announcement can provide much needed stability to Welsh farmers immediately following on from Brexit.

Nonetheless, I believe it vitally important for the UK Government to guarantee Wales' replacement EU funding after this year, with full flexibility on spend.

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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.

This will allow the Welsh Government to invest in important future work to support agriculture, develop the economy, tackle climate change, and protect our environment.

This in turn, I hope, will provide certainty to the Welsh agriculture sector, giving you confidence and assurance for future years.

We will do all we can to ensure that you are kept up-to-date with developments. For more information on Brexit, including contact details for further advice and guidance, please:

- visit the [Preparing Wales website](#), or;
- register for the [Gwlad e-newsletter](#).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a loop at the end of the last name.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs