

1 December 2023

Dear

**ATISN 19173**

**Information requested**

Further to my letter dated 13 November 2023 and in response to your request under the Freedom of Information Act, which I received on 16 October 2023. You requested the following information to be provided relating to the King's consent of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill:

1. What dates did the Welsh Government send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Royal Household;
2. What dates did the Royal Household send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Welsh Government;
3. What dates did the Welsh Government send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Crown Estate;
4. What dates did the Crown Estate send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Welsh Government;
5. What dates did the Welsh Government send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Duchy of Lancaster;
6. What dates did the Duchy of Lancaster send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Welsh Government;
7. What dates did the Welsh Government send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Duchy of Cornwall;
8. What dates did the Duchy of Cornwall send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Welsh Government;
9. What dates did the Welsh Government send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to representatives of the Duke of Cornwall;
10. What dates did the representatives of the Duke of Cornwall send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Welsh Government;
11. What dates did the Welsh Government send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Farrer's firm of solicitors;
12. What dates did the Farrer's firm of solicitors send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Welsh Government.

Your request further includes complete copies of correspondence in relation to points 1 to 12 above, under the Act.

Your request also includes the provision of 'other documents that may be held by the Welsh Government'. I understand this to mean, other documents that may be held by the Welsh Government concerning the King's Consent of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill and for this to include:

a) an itemised list of all documents held by the department concerning King's Consent for the Agriculture (Wales) Bill. Together with the date each document was created and a short title or description, and

b) Copies of all documents falling under part a) of this request.

## **Our response**

A copy of the information you requested is enclosed. This includes correspondence to and from, the Private Secretary to the King in relation to King's Consent; email communications in relation to the requested information, with corresponding dates and times; relevant Ministerial Advice and corresponding email communications. As requested, I have for completeness provided a table of the responses in relation to questions 1 to 12 (as above), as well as the supplementary requests.

I have decided that some of the information is exempt from disclosure under regulation 12(4)(e) and 13 of the Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs) and, where the information is not environmental, under section 37(1)(a) of Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and is therefore withheld. The reasons for applying these exceptions are set out in full at Annex A to this letter.

## **Next steps**

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,  
Welsh Government,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ

or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

## **Annex A**

### **Application of exemptions/exceptions**

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) provide a right for anyone to ask a public authority to make requested information available to the wider public. As the release of requested information is to the world, not just the requester, public authorities need to consider the effects of making the information freely available to everybody. Any personal interest the requester has for accessing the information cannot override those wider considerations.

Where the information you requested is not environmental information, as set out in the EIRs, that information is exempt under section 37(1)(a) of the FOIA, as it constitutes correspondence with or on behalf of His Majesty The King. Section 37(1)(a) is an absolute exemption and therefore the public interest test does not apply.

Where the information is environmental information, I have decided that some of the information is excepted from the requirement to disclose by virtue of regulations 12(4)(e) and 13 of the EIRs.

### **Engagement of section 12(4)(e) (internal communications) of the Environmental Information Regulations**

This information constitutes the internal discussions that do not relate to the decision-making process itself, but to internal discussions of approach and procedure in relation to the assessment of whether King's Consent is required for the provisions of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill. The Welsh Government considers that internal emails in relation to procedure for seeking Kings Consent of a Bill, follows the Welsh Government protocol as determined under the "Legislation Handbook on Assembly Bills", which is a publicly available document on the Welsh Government website.

### **Public Interest Test**

In order to satisfy the public interest test in relation to this Regulation, it is necessary to conclude that the public interest arguments in favour of withholding the information are sufficient to *outweigh* the public interest arguments in favour of release.

### **Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure**

The Welsh Government considers there is a strong public interest in the openness and transparency of decision making processes and of understanding the context of the decision making process to ensure democratic accountability and due public scrutiny.

It is a constitutional requirement that the Consent of the Crown is sought under certain circumstances, as set out under section 12.18 of the Legislation Handbook on Assembly Bills, when the Welsh Government bring forward any Bill that contains

any provision that amend an Act of the UK Parliament. There is public interest in providing transparency around the passage of relevant Welsh Government Bills in order to show compliance with the requirement to seek Consent.

### **Public interest arguments in favour of withholding**

The internal communications represent free and frank discussions around the progress of the Bill and timings for requesting King's Consent. If the Information were released it is likely that officials would be more reticent to provide information in the future in such a free and frank way. This 'safe space' is vital when progressing Bills of this type.

### **Balance of public interest test**

A complete review of all relevant documentation and communication has been undertaken and where appropriate has been provided. The process followed Welsh Government protocol as determined under the "Legislation Handbook on Assembly Bills". This is a publicly available document on the Welsh Government website. We consider that this information satisfies the public interest in regard to openness and transparency and that the internal discussions do not add to this evidence. We therefore do not believe there is a sufficient countervailing public interest in disclosure that would outweigh the harms identified and so the information is being withheld.

### **Engagement of Regulation 13 (personal data) of the Environmental Information Regulations ("EIR")**

Regulation 13(1) together with the conditions in Regulation 13(2)(a)(i) and 13(2)(a)(ii) provides an absolute exemption if disclosure of the personal data would breach any of the data protection principles.

'Personal data' is defined in sections 3(2) and (3) of the Data Protection Act 2018 ('the DPA 2018') and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual. An identifiable living individual is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual.

We have concluded that, in this instance, the information requested contains third party personal data.

Under Regulation 13(1) of the EIRs, personal data is exempt from release if disclosure would breach one of the data protection principles set out in Article 5 of the GDPR. We consider the principle being most relevant in this instance as being the first. This states that personal data must be:

*"processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject"*

The lawful basis that is most relevant in relation to a request for information under the EIRs is Article 6(1)(f). This states:

*“processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data, in particular where the data subject is a child”.*

In considering the application of Article 6(1)(f) in the context of a request for information under EIRs it is necessary to consider the following three-part test:-

- **The Legitimate interest test:** Whether a legitimate interest is being pursued in the request for information;
- **The Necessity test:** Whether disclosure of the information/confirmation or denial that it is held is necessary to meet the legitimate interest in question;
- **The Balancing test:** Whether the above interests override the interests, fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject.

Our consideration of these tests is set out below:

### **1. Legitimate interests**

We recognise that there is a legitimate interest that is being pursued in that the passage of the Welsh Government Agriculture (Wales) Bill is proceeding in line with the constitutional requirements and that Kings Consent was sought and provided at the appropriate stage before being put before the Senedd.

### **2. Is disclosure necessary?**

We do not, however, believe it is necessary for the identities of individual public servants to be made public for the wider public to understand that due process was followed, particularly where those public servants were simply carrying out administrative roles.

### **3. The balance between legitimate interests and the data subject’s interests or fundamental rights and freedoms**

As we do not believe disclosure of the identities of individual public servants is necessary for anybody to understand the process of seeking the King’s Consent and that due process was followed in seeking that consent, we believe that disclosure would breach the fundamental rights and freedoms of those individuals. Thus we are of the view that disclosure would not be processing of personal data that was compliant with Article 6(1)(f).

As release of the information would not be legitimate under Article 6(1)(f), and as no other condition of Article 6 is deemed to apply, release of the information would not

be lawful within the meaning of the first data protection principle. It has therefore been withheld under Regulation 13 of the EIRs. Regulation 13 is an absolute exemption and not subject to the public interest test.

### **Omission of Stage 2 and Stage 3 drafts of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill**

We have considered whether there is a requirement to re-attach two documents from email trail, namely, "Agriculture (Wales) Bill, as amended at Stage 2" and "Agriculture (Wales) Bill, as amended at Stage 3" which refer to the draft provisions of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill following scrutiny in the Senedd at stages 2 and 3 respectively. We conclude there is no need to include these documents as they are publicly available on the Senedd's website.

**ATISN – 19173 – Information requested**

	Question	Response
1	What dates did the Welsh Government send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Royal Household?	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 and 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2023.
2	What dates did the Royal Household send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Welsh government?	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2023.
3	What dates did the Welsh government send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Crown Estate;	The Crown Estate were copied into correspondence sent on 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 and 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2023.
4	What dates did the Crown Estate send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Welsh government?	No correspondence was received from the Crown Estate.
5	What dates did the Welsh government send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Duchy of Lancaster?	There is no separate correspondence regarding Kings Consent for the Bill to the Duchy of Lancaster.
6	What dates did the Duchy of Lancaster send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Welsh government?	No correspondence was received from the Duchy of Lancaster.
7	What dates did the Welsh government send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Duchy of Cornwall?	There is no separate correspondence regarding Kings Consent for the Bill to the Duchy of Cornwall.
8	What dates did the Duchy of Cornwall send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Welsh government?	No correspondence was received from the Duchy of Cornwall.

9	What dates did the Welsh government send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to representatives of the Duke of Cornwall?	No correspondence was sent to the Duke of Cornwall.
10	What dates did the representatives of the Duke of Cornwall send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Welsh government?	No correspondence was received from the Duke of Cornwall.
11	What dates did the Welsh government send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Farrer's firm of solicitors;	Farrer's firm were copied into the letters sent on 10 <sup>th</sup> May and 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2023.
12	What dates did the Farrer's firm of solicitors send correspondence regarding King's Consent for this bill to the Welsh government.	No correspondence was received from Farrer's & Co.

13 - I would also like my request to include other documents that may be held by the Welsh government. I would therefore like to request:

- a) an itemised list of all documents held by the department concerning King's Consent for the Agriculture (Wales) Bill. For each document, please provide the date it was created and a short title or description.

Provided below:

1. 25 April 2023 - Ministerial Advice 1062 provided by Welsh Government officials to Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd, Minister for Climate Change, Counsel General and the First Minister.
2. 25 April 2023 - Email Correspondence and responses for Ministerial Advice 1062 from Welsh Government officials to Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd, Minister for Climate Change, Counsel General and the First Minister.
3. 10 May 2023 - Letter issued from Welsh Government to Buckingham Palace.
4. 28 April 2023 - Ministerial Advice 1215 provided by Welsh Government officials to Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd, Minister for Climate Change, Counsel General and the First Minister.



5. 01 June 2023 - Ministerial Advice 1559 provided by Welsh Government officials to Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd, Minister for Climate Change, Counsel General and the First Minister.
6. 01 June 2023 - Email Correspondence and responses for Ministerial Advice 1559 from Welsh Government officials to Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd, Minister for Climate Change, Counsel General and the First Minister.
7. 06 June 2023 - Letter issued from Welsh Government to Buckingham Palace.
8. 20 June 2023 - Letter received by Welsh Government from Buckingham Palace for Kings Consent.
9. 26 June 2023 - Email correspondence to Welsh Government officials confirming receipt of Kings Consent letter.

13 - b) Copies of all documents falling under part a) of this request.

## 1. 25 April - Ministerial Advice 1062 – Agriculture (Wales) Bill: His Majesty’s Consent



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**From:** *[information redacted]*

**Cleared by:** *[information redacted]*

**Date:** 25 April 2022

### MINISTERIAL ADVICE

- To:**
1. Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd
  2. Minister for Climate Change
  3. Counsel General
  4. First Minister

<b>Subject</b>	Agriculture (Wales) Bill: His Majesty’s Consent
<b>100 word summary</b>	The consent of His Majesty the King is required to the Agriculture (Wales) Bill (‘the Bill’), before the Bill may be passed by the Senedd.
<b>Timing</b>	Routine
<b>Recommendation</b>	That you note that the letter at Doc 1 will be sent to the Private Secretary to the King by the Director of the Office of the First Minister.
<b>Decision report</b>	This decision does not require a Decision Report.

### ADVICE

1. When Crown consent is required in respect of an Senedd Bill, the convention is that His Majesty’s offices are given at least 14 days to consider the matter.
2. Under Standing Order 26.67 if a Bill contains any provision that would, if contained in a Bill for an Act of the United Kingdom Parliament, require the consent of the Crown, the Senedd must not debate the question whether the Bill be passed unless such consent has been signified. A member of the Government signifies consent at a meeting of the Senedd.
3. The general principles of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill were agreed during the Stage 1 debate by the Senedd on 7 February 2023 and Stage 2 proceedings took place on 23 March 2023. Stage 3 is scheduled to take place on 16 May 2023 and Stage

4 is currently scheduled for 23 May 2023. Crown consents, if granted, will need to be signified to the Senedd in a Plenary meeting on or before the commencement of Stage 4 proceedings on 23 May 2023.

### **Purpose of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill**

4. The purpose of the Bill is to make provision about sustainable land management; to make provision for and in connection with support for agriculture; to make provision about matters relating to agriculture and agricultural products; to amend the Forestry Act 1967 in connection with tree felling licences; and to amend the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in connection with prohibitions relating to snares and glue traps.

### **How the Bill could affect the Crown**

#### Agricultural Holdings Act 1986

5. Section 23 of the Bill amends section 19A of the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 (“AHA 1986”).
6. Section 19A AHA 1986 provides the Welsh Ministers with the power to make regulations which allow a tenant of an agricultural holding, where the tenant has made a request for the landlord’s consent to a matter as required under the terms of the tenancy in order to access financial assistance, and no agreement has been reached, to refer that request to arbitration or third-party determination.
7. The Bill will expand the definition of “relevant financial assistance” in section 19A AHA 1986 so as to include financial assistance provided under the Bill. This expands the powers of the Welsh Ministers to make regulations which vary the terms of existing AHA agreements.
8. The AHA 1986 applies to the Crown and so it is possible that the Crown may be a landlord under an AHA 1986 agreement. Therefore, the Bill is capable of affecting the hereditary revenues of the Crown or the personal property of the Crown.

#### Forestry Act 1967

9. Part 4 of the Bill relates to Forestry provisions and amendments to the Forestry Act 1967 (“1967 Act”). These amendments include new powers to allow environmental conditions to be added to felling licences, and to amend, suspend or revoke felling licences already granted. The powers aim to prevent felling that would contradict other environmental legislation, aiming to better safeguard wildlife and provide protection from environmental damage during felling operations. It also enables such “environmental” conditions to be enforceable under the Forestry Act 1967.
10. Section 33 of the 1967 Act provides that the “provisions of this Part of this Act shall apply in relation to Crown land and trees growing thereon to the extent only of any estate or interest therein which is for the time being held otherwise than on behalf of the Crown.” All the amendments proposed fall under the relevant part of the Act.

11. The amendments could impact Crown Land if any of the changes to a licence or the conditions of the licence, along with the serving of notices, are to licences relating to crown land and trees growing on them in so far as they relate to Crown Land falling within the scope of the definition at section 33, ie to the extent only of any estate or interest therein which is for the time being held otherwise than on behalf of the crown.

#### Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 ("1981 Act")

12. Part 5 of the Bill amends section 11 of the 1981 Act to provide that snares and glue traps may not be used. Section 66A of the 1981 Act provides that Part 1 of that Act, and regulations made under it, bind the Crown. Section 11 falls within Part 1 of the 1981 Act.

13. This may impact on the management of Crown Land, in that alternative methods will need to be explored by the Crown Estate given the prohibition of glue traps and snares included in the Bill, which will apply to Crown Land in Wales by virtue of section 66A.

#### **Further amendments impacting on Crown Land**

#### Forestry Act 1967

14. As the Minister will be aware, the Welsh Government are considering tabling amendments at Stage 3 to the Bill to provide further clarification of the provisions already introduced in the Bill, to ensure they interact correctly with the existing provisions in the 1967 Act and to deal with complexities arising from the drafting of the 1967 Act. If the amendments are agreed at Stage 3, further King's consent will need to be sought and the Bill will not be able to move to Stage 4 until it has been received. The timetable will be amended to take account of this requirement and Stage 4 will be scheduled in early June 2023.

#### Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995 ("1995 Act")

15. A new provision is being explored to make amendment to, or insert new provision in the 1995 Act. This stems from the non-government amendment 54 tabled by Sam Kurtz on this matter. Although the amendment was rejected, the Minister gave a commitment to consider the issues the amendment was trying to address, with a view to addressing this at stage 3 if considered appropriate. Although this amendment is not yet finalised it will make insertion into, or amend, the 1995 Act.

16. Section 37(1) of the 1995 Act provides "*(t)his Act shall apply in relation to land in which there subsists, or has at any material time subsisted, a Crown interest as it applies in relation to land in which no such interest subsists or has ever subsisted.*" There is a further qualification of this provision in section 37(2) of the 1995 Act.

17. The amendments could impact on the Crown as landlord under farm business tenancies. Therefore, Kings Consent will need to be sought if this amendment be passed at Stage 3 and the requirements of paragraph 14 will also apply to this amendment.

## Draft letter

18. A draft letter to His Majesty's Private Secretary, in relation to the stage 2 Bill as amended, is provided at **Doc 1**.

## Legal or policy obligations

19. Section 111(4) of the Government of Wales Act 2006 sets out the Senedd's Standing Orders must include a requirement that no Bill containing provisions that would, if contained in an Act of Parliament, require Crown consent, may be passed unless such consent is signified.

20. Standing Order 26.67 makes this provision in relation to Senedd procedure and requires that a member of Government signifies the consent at a meeting of the Senedd.

21. This submission does not ask for a substantive policy decision to be made and does not raise any new legal or policy implications.

## Financial implications

22. *[information redacted]*.

## Communication, engagement or media activity

23. *[information redacted]*.

## Annex 1: ASSURANCE AND COPY RECIPIENTS

### CLEARANCE TRACKING

[Information Redacted]

#### DEPUTY DIRECTOR, STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

In clearing this MA, I confirm that I, *[information redacted]*, have quality assured this advice, ensuring it is provided on the basis of evidence, accurately presents the options and facts and I am accountable for the recommendations made.

I am satisfied that the recommended decision or action, if agreed, would be lawful, affordable and comply with all relevant statutory obligations. Welsh Government policy priorities and cross portfolio implications have been fully considered in line with delivery of the government objectives.

I have fully considered the statement of assurance contained in the MA guidance to ensure all relevant considerations have been taken into account and that the actions and decisions take account of regularity, propriety and value for money.

## **COPY LIST**

24. All mandatory copy recipients (as indicated in the guidance). Additional copy recipients specifically interested in this advice:

**Mandatory recipients:** All mandatory copy recipients (as indicated in the guidance). Additional copy recipients specifically interested in this advice:  
***[information redacted]***

## **2. 25 April - Email Correspondence for Ministerial Advice 1062**

**From:** [Information redacted] - Welsh Government Officials

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:30 PM

**To:** [Information redacted] – First Ministers Office

**Subject:** RE: MA.LG.1062.23 - Agriculture (Wales) Bill - Crown Consent

Hi [Information redacted]

As discussed, grateful if you / the team could share this letter and a copy of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill with the Palace:

Agriculture (Wales) Bill – King's Consent Letter	Agriculture (Wales) Bill
[Letter enclosed]	[Bill publicly available on the Senedd website]

We've provided some draft text you may wish to use in the cover email:

*Please find attached a letter from the Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister of Wales for the attention of the Private Secretary to HM The King. Please note that no hard copy of the letter will issue.*

The letter should be sent to [Information redacted] and copied to [Information redacted] and [Information redacted]

Could you send me a copy of the email once it's been issued?

Thanks,

[Information redacted]

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**From:** [Information redacted] – First Minister

**Sent:** 09 May 2023 10:16

**To:** [Information redacted] - Welsh Government Officials

**Cc:** [Information redacted]

**Subject:** RE: MA.LG.1062.23 - Agriculture (Wales) Bill - Crown Consent

Thanks [Information redacted],

Sorry for the delay but the First Minister has noted the letter.

Regards,

[Information redacted]

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**From:** [Information redacted] – Minister for Climate Change

**Sent:** 04 May 2023 10:57

**To:** [Information redacted] - Welsh Government Officials

**Cc:** [Information redacted]

**Subject:** RE: MA.LG.1062.23 - Agriculture (Wales) Bill - Crown Consent

Hi [Information redacted],

I'm sorry for the delay. The Minister for Climate Change has noted the letter.

Kind regards,

[Information redacted]

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**From:** [Information redacted] - Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd

**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2023 2:58 PM

**To:** [Information redacted] - Welsh Government Officials

**Cc:** [Information redacted]

**Subject:** RE: MA.LG.1062.23 - Agriculture (Wales) Bill - Crown Consent

Thank you [Information redacted], MfRANWT has noted.  
[Information redacted]  
*MfRANWT's private office*

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**From:** [Information redacted] – Counsel General  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2023 10:13 AM  
**To:** [Information redacted] – Welsh Government Officials  
**Cc:** [Information redacted]  
**Subject:** MA.LG.1062.23 - Agriculture (Wales) Bill - Crown Consent  
Hi [Information redacted]  
The Counsel General has noted.  
Thanks,  
[Information redacted]  
Hapus i gyfathrebu yn gymraeg neu saesneg

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**From:** [Information redacted] – Welsh Government Officials  
**Sent:** 25 April 2023 11:54  
**To:** [Information redacted] - Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd,  
Minister for Climate Change, Counsel General, First Minister  
**Cc:** [Information redacted]  
**Subject:** MA.LG.1062.23 - Agriculture (Wales) Bill - Crown Consent  
All,  
The consent of His Majesty the King is required to the Agriculture (Wales) Bill before the Bill can be considered by the Senedd at Stage 4. Ministers are asked to note that the letter at Doc 1 will be sent to the Private Secretary to the King by the Director of the Office of the First Minister.

Agriculture (Wales) Bill – Crown Consent MA	Doc 1 - Letter
[MA enclosed]	[Letter enclosed]

Thanks,  
[Information redacted]



### **3. 10 May 2023 - Letter issued to Buckingham Palace**

Doc 1

#### **LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER, REQUESTING CONSENT OF HIS MAJESTY**

To:

The Private Secretary to The King  
Buckingham Palace,  
London  
SW1A 1AA

Dear Sir,

#### **AGRICULTURE (WALES) BILL**

Please find enclosed two copies of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill, passed at Stage 2, for which the Consent of His Majesty is sought.

#### **Statutory background**

Section 111(4) of the Government of Wales Act 2006 states:

*“The standing orders must include provision for securing that the Assembly may only pass a Bill containing provisions which would, if contained in a Bill for an Act of Parliament, require the consent of His Majesty or the Duke of Cornwall if such consent has been signified in standing orders.”*

Standing Order 26.67 of the National Assembly for Wales further states:

*“If a Bill contains any provision, or is amended so as to include any provision, that would, if contained in a Bill for an Act of the United Kingdom Parliament, require the consent of His Majesty, or the Duke of Cornwall, the Assembly must not debate the question whether the Bill be passed (or approved following Reconsideration) unless such consent to such a provision has been signified by a member of the government during proceedings on the Bill at a meeting of the Assembly.”*

#### **Purpose of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill**

The purpose of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill (“the Bill”) is to make provision about sustainable land management; to make provision for and in connection with support for agriculture; to make provision about matters relating to agriculture and agricultural products; to amend the Forestry Act 1967 in connection with tree felling licences; and to amend the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in connection with prohibitions relating to snares and traps.

## **How the Bill could affect the Crown**

Section 23 of the Bill amends section 19A of the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 (“AHA 1986”).

Section 19A AHA 1986 provides the Welsh Ministers with the power to make regulations which allow a tenant of an agricultural holding, where the tenant has made a request for the landlord’s consent to a matter as required under the terms of the tenancy in order to access financial assistance, and no agreement has been reached, to refer that request to arbitration or third-party determination.

The Bill will expand the definition of “relevant financial assistance” in section 19A AHA 1986 so as to include financial assistance provided under the Bill. This expands the powers of the Welsh Ministers to make regulations which vary the terms of existing AHA agreements.

The AHA 1986 applies to the Crown and so it is possible that the Crown may be a landlord under an AHA 1986 agreement. Therefore, the Bill is capable of affecting the hereditary revenues of the Crown or the personal property of the Crown.

### Forestry Act 1967

Part 4 of the Bill relates to Forestry provisions and amendments to the Forestry Act 1967 (“1967 Act”). These amendments include new powers to allow environmental conditions to be added to felling licences, and to amend, suspend or revoke felling licences already granted. The powers aim to prevent felling that would contradict other environmental legislation, aiming to better safeguard wildlife and provide protection from environmental damage during felling operations. It also enables such “environmental” conditions to be enforceable under the Forestry Act 1967.

Section 33 of the 1967 Act provides that the *“provisions of this Part of this Act shall apply in relation to Crown land and trees growing thereon to the extent only of any estate or interest therein which is for the time being held otherwise than on behalf of the Crown.”* All the amendments fall under the relevant Part of the 1967 Act.

The amendments could impact Crown Land if any of the changes to a licence or the conditions of the licence, along with the serving of notices, are to licences relating to crown land and trees growing on them in so far as they relate to Crown Land falling within the scope of the definition at section 33, ie to the extent only of any estate or interest therein which is for the time being held otherwise than on behalf of the crown.

### Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (“1981 Act”)

Part 5 of the Bill amends section 11 of the 1981 Act to provide that snares and glue traps may not be used. Section 66A of the 1981 Act provides that Part 1 of that Act, and regulations made under it, bind the Crown.

This may impact on the management of Crown Land, in that alternative methods will need to be explored given the prohibition of glue traps and snares included in the Bill, which will apply to Crown Land in Wales by virtue of section 66A.

## **Consent**

We respectfully ask His Majesty for consent, in so far as he may be affected by the Bill.

Thank you for considering this request and please let us know if we can be of any further assistance to you. The Lead Solicitor on this matter is [Information Redacted] and he can be contacted on [Information Redacted]

Yours sincerely,

[Information Redacted]  
Director of the Office of the First Minister

Enc: One copy of the Bill

cc:  
[Information Redacted], Messrs Farrer and Co., 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3LH  
The Secretary to the Crown Estate Commissioners, 16 New Burlington Place, London, W1S 2HX

**4. 28 April 2023 - Ministerial Advice 1215 – Relevant paragraph, all other non-topic information has been redacted**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**From:** [Information Redacted]

**Cleared by:** [Information Redacted]

**Date:** 28 April 2023

**MINISTERIAL ADVICE**

**For decision by:**

1. Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS, The First Minister of Wales
2. Mick Antoniw MS, Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution
3. Lesley Griffiths MS, Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd
4. Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change

[Information Redacted]

7. To note that the consent of His Majesty the King is required to the Agriculture (Wales) Bill ('the Bill'), before the Bill may be passed by the Senedd. A formal letter will be sent to the Private Secretary to the King by the Director of the Office of the First Minister seeking consent for the Bill as amended at Stage 2 and once Stage 3 has concluded a further request will be made requesting consent to the Bill as amended at Stage 3.

## **5. 01 June 2023 - Ministerial Advice 1559 – Agriculture (Wales) Bill: His Majesty's Consent**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**From:** [information redacted]

**Cleared by:** [information redacted]

**Date:** 1 June 2023

### **MINISTERIAL ADVICE**

**To:** 1. Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd  
2. Minister for Climate Change  
3. Counsel General  
4. First Minister

<b>Subject</b>	Agriculture (Wales) Bill: His Majesty's Consent
<b>100 word summary</b>	The consent of His Majesty the King is required to the Agriculture (Wales) Bill ('the Bill'), before the Bill may be passed by the Senedd.
<b>Timing</b>	Routine
<b>Recommendation</b>	That you note that the letter at Doc 1 will be sent to the Private Secretary to the King by the Director of the Office of the First Minister.
<b>Decision report</b>	This decision does not require a Decision Report.

### **ADVICE**

1. When Crown consent is required in respect of an Senedd Bill, the convention is that His Majesty's offices are given at least 14 days to consider the matter.
2. Under Standing Order 26.67 if a Bill contains any provision that would, if contained in a Bill for an Act of the United Kingdom Parliament, require the consent of the Crown, the Senedd must not debate the question whether the Bill be passed unless such consent has been signified. A member of the Government signifies consent at a meeting of the Senedd.
3. The general principles of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill were agreed during the Stage 1 debate by the Senedd on 7 February 2023 and Stage 2 proceedings took place on 23 March 2023. Stage 3 took place on 16 May 2023. Stage 4 was postponed

on 23 May 2023 and is currently expected to take place towards the end of June. Crown consents, if granted, will need to be signified to the Senedd in a Plenary meeting on or before the commencement of Stage 4 proceedings.

4. A new amendment was tabled at Stage 3 in relation to the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995 which was passed by the Senedd in plenary on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023. A further consent request letter will be issued at the earliest opportunity. Legal Services (LS) have been in correspondence with the Buckingham Palace officials in respect of this second request for His Majesty's Consent.

### **Purpose of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill**

5. The purpose of the Bill is to make provision about sustainable land management; to make provision for and in connection with support for agriculture; to make provision about matters relating to agriculture and agricultural products; to amend the Forestry Act 1967 in connection with tree felling licences; and to amend the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 and the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995 in connection with resolution of disputes in respect of agricultural tenancies.

### **How the Bill could affect the Crown**

#### Forestry Act 1967

6. Part 4 of the Bill relates to Forestry provisions and amendments to the Forestry Act 1967("1967 Act"). These amendments include new powers to allow environmental conditions to be added to felling licences, and to amend, suspend or revoke felling licences already granted. The powers also aim to prevent felling that would contradict other environmental legislation, aiming to better safeguard wildlife and provide protection from environmental damage during felling operations. It also enables such "environmental" conditions to be enforceable under the 1967 Act.
7. As highlighted in MA/LG/1062/23, the Minister tabled a number of amendments at Stage 3 to the Bill to provide further clarification of the provisions already introduced in the Bill. These ensure they interact correctly with the existing provisions in the 1967 Act and to deal with complexities arising from the drafting of the 1967 Act.
8. As set out in MA/LG/1062/23, the amendments could impact Crown Land if any of the changes to a licence or the conditions of the licence, along with the serving of notices, are to licences relating to crown land and trees growing on them in so far as they relate to Crown Land falling within the scope of the definition at section 33, ie to the extent only of any estate or interest therein which is for the time being held otherwise than on behalf of the Crown. The further correspondence highlights the extent of the changes made at Stage 3, but sets out that the policy intention and scope of the amendments as introduced remains the same, as stated by the Minister during the Stage 3 debate. As a result, it is our view that further consent

is not necessary. LS Rural Affairs have liaised with LS Constitutional Team on this matter.

#### Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995 (“1995 Act”)

9. Section 24 of the Bill inserts new sections 8A and 36A into the Agricultural Tenancy Act 1995 (“1995 Act”). It also inserts a new provision into section 28(5) of the 1995 Act.
10. Section 8A of the 1995 Act provides a route for Farm Business Tenancy (“FBT”) tenants to refer to arbitration disputes for consent or over proposed changes to their FBT (rejected by their landlord) which would enable the FBT tenant to access financial support under schemes made under the Bill as well as financial support under specified agricultural legislation. A new section 36A sets out the procedure under which any regulations must be made.
11. This stems from the non-government amendment 54 tabled by Sam Kurtz at Stage 2 on this matter. Although the amendment was rejected at Stage 2, the Minister gave a commitment to consider the issues the amendment was trying to address, and a Government amendment was successful at stage 3.
12. Section 37(1) of the 1995 Act provides “*(t)his Act shall apply in relation to land in which there subsists, or has at any material time subsisted, a Crown interest as it applies in relation to land in which no such interest subsists or has ever subsisted.*” There is a further qualification of this provision in section 37(2) of the 1995 Act.
13. Therefore these amendments could impact on the Crown as landlord of farm business tenancies.
14. The Tenancy amendments were agreed at Stage 3 on 16 May and, therefore, further King’s consent will need to be sought. The Bill will not be able to move to Stage 4 until it has been received. Palace officials are aware of the proposed dates for Stage 4, and have advised they will endeavour to work towards providing King’s Consent as soon as possible after the letter has been received.
15. It has been proposed by the Palace that only one consent will be issued, in relation to both letters, to remove some of the administrative burdens attached to the same. Policy and LS agree this seems a sensible course of action.

#### Amendment 55

16. Consideration has been given to whether amendment 55, or any other iteration of the same amendment, or other amendments relating to the power of support would engage the need for Kings Consent, and potentially a further request for the same.

King’s Consent was not sought for the power of support provisions in the original consent letter. LS view remains, in accordance with the relevant guidance, that the effect of those provisions is too remote to require King’s Consent. The guidance

provides that provisions which benefit, or adversely affect Crown Land should be subject to a request for King's Consent. The power of support provisions could benefit the Crown (should they apply for financial or other support). As the details of the scheme of support are not set out in the Bill, the impact on the Crown appears to meet the de minimus test of not having sufficient enough interest.

17. Whilst both policy and LS are aware that there may be further amendments to the Bill at report stage because of the issues raised by amendment 55, these all appear to fall within the power of support provisions and, therefore, further King's Consent will not be required whatever the outcome of the report stage.

#### Assurance statement regarding prosecutions of the Crown

18. Legal Services have been contacted by Buckingham Palace officials who have sought an assurance that Welsh Ministers will take into account conventions regarding prosecuting the Crown when making regulations under the Bill. We have included a sentence in the Consent letter to this effect. LS Rural Affairs have also sought the advice of LS Constitutional Team on this matter.

#### **Draft letter**

19. A draft letter to His Majesty's Private Secretary, in relation to the stage 2 Bill as amended, is provided at **Doc 1**. The letter will not be issued until such time as a checked version of the Stage 3 Bill as amended is available.

#### **Legal or policy obligations**

20. Section 111(4) of the Government of Wales Act 2006 sets out the Senedd's Standing Orders must include a requirement that no Bill containing provisions that would, if contained in an Act of Parliament, require Crown consent, may be passed unless such consent is signified.

21. Standing Order 26.67 makes this provision in relation to Senedd procedure and requires that a member of Government signifies the consent at a meeting of the Senedd.

22. This submission does not ask for a substantive policy decision to be made and does not raise any new legal or policy implications.

#### **Financial implications**

23. *[information redacted]*.

#### **Communication, engagement or media activity**

24. *[information redacted]*



## Annex 1: ASSURANCE AND COPY RECIPIENTS

### CLEARANCE TRACKING

#### DEPUTY DIRECTOR, STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

In clearing this MA, I confirm that I, *[information redacted]*, have quality assured this advice, ensuring it is provided on the basis of evidence, accurately presents the options and facts and I am accountable for the recommendations made.

I am satisfied that the recommended decision or action, if agreed, would be lawful, affordable and comply with all relevant statutory obligations. Welsh Government policy priorities and cross portfolio implications have been fully considered in line with delivery of the government objectives.

I have fully considered the statement of assurance contained in the MA guidance to ensure all relevant considerations have been taken into account and that the actions and decisions take account of regularity, propriety and value for money.

#### COPY LIST

All mandatory copy recipients (as indicated in the guidance). Additional copy recipients specifically interested in this advice:

**Mandatory recipients:** All mandatory copy recipients (as indicated in the guidance). Additional copy recipients specifically interested in this advice:

*[information redacted]*

## **6. 01 June 2023 - Ministerial Advice 1559 – email correspondence**

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**From:** [Information Redacted] – Welsh Government Officials  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 7, 2023 7:51 AM  
**To:** [Information Redacted] – Welsh Government Officials  
**Cc:** [Information Redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: MA/LG/1559/23 - Agriculture (Wales) Bill: His Majesty's Consent For info – this letter has now issued.  
Kind regards,  
[Information Redacted]

---

**From:** [Information Redacted] – First Ministers office  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 6, 2023 6:25 PM  
**To:** [Information Redacted] – Welsh Government Officials  
**Cc:** [Information Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: MA/LG/1559/23 - Agriculture (Wales) Bill: His Majesty's Consent  
Thanks [Information Redacted],  
To confirm, this has now issued.  
Many thanks,  
[Information Redacted]

---

**From:** [Information Redacted] – Welsh Government Officials  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 6, 2023 6:17 PM  
**To:** [Information Redacted] – First Ministers office  
**Cc:** [Information Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: MA/LG/1559/23 - Agriculture (Wales) Bill: His Majesty's Consent  
**Importance:** High

Thanks [Information Redacted]  
Grateful if the attached letter and enclosures can be issued asap. Grateful if you can reply all on back of clearance email so everyone knows it has issued.  
It's the same recipients as last time but for ease of reference they are;  
To: [Information Redacted]  
Cc: [Information Redacted] ; [Information Redacted]  
Suggested covering email:  
*Dear Sir/ Madam,*  
*Please find attached a letter from the Head of the Office of the First Minister of Wales for the attention of the Private Secretary to HM The King. Please note that no hard copy of the letter will issue.*  
Kind regards,  
[Information Redacted]

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**From:** [Information Redacted] – First Minister  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 6, 2023 6:02 PM  
**To:** [Information Redacted] – Welsh Government Officials  
**Cc:** [Information Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: MA/LG/1559/23 - Agriculture (Wales) Bill: His Majesty's Consent  
Hi [Information Redacted]  
Apologies for the delay. The First Minister has now cleared.

Many thanks,  
[Information Redacted]

---

**From:** [Information Redacted] – Welsh Government Officials  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 6, 2023 11:40 AM  
**To:** [Information Redacted] – First Minister  
**Cc:** [Information Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: MA/LG/1559/23 - Agriculture (Wales) Bill: His Majesty's Consent  
Thanks [Information Redacted]  
[Information Redacted] - Grateful if you can confirm FM clearance so we can get the letter issued asap.  
Kind regards,  
[Information Redacted]

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**From:** [Information Redacted] - Minister for Climate Change  
**Sent:** Monday, June 5, 2023 5:26 PM  
**To:** [Information Redacted] – Welsh Government Officials  
**Cc:** [Information Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: MA/LG/1559/23 - Agriculture (Wales) Bill: His Majesty's Consent  
Hi [Information Redacted]  
The MCC has noted the letter.

Many thanks,  
[Information Redacted]

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**From:** [Information Redacted] - Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd  
**Sent:** Monday, June 5, 2023 12:59 PM  
**To:** [Information Redacted] – Welsh Government Officials  
**Cc:** [Information Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: MA/LG/1559/23 - Agriculture (Wales) Bill: His Majesty's Consent  
Thank you [Information Redacted], the MfRANWT has noted.  
[Information Redacted]  
*MfRANWT's private office*

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**From:** [Information Redacted] – Welsh Government Officials  
**Sent:** Friday, June 2, 2023 11:57 AM  
**To:** [Information Redacted] – Counsel General  
**Cc:** [Information Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: MA/LG/1559/23 - Agriculture (Wales) Bill: His Majesty's Consent  
Hello,  
The Counsel General has noted the contents. While he is not happy with the exclusion, he recognises the ongoing convention and therefore confirms clearance. He would however like a briefing on this issue and the convention referred to.  
Kind regards,

[Information Redacted]

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**From:** [Information Redacted] – Counsel General  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 1, 2023 6:24 PM  
**To:** [Information Redacted] – Welsh Government Officials

**Cc:** [Information Redacted]

**Subject:** RE: URGENT: MA/LG/1559/23 - Agriculture (Wales) Bill: His Majesty's Consent

I have noted the contents.

[Redacted: not related to the topic]

I confirm clearance.

Counsel General

[Redacted: not related to the topic].

---

**From:** [Information Redacted] - Welsh Government Officials

**Sent:** Thursday, June 1, 2023 12:48 PM

**To:** [Information Redacted] – Counsel General

**Subject:** URGENT: MA/LG/1559/23 - Agriculture (Wales) Bill: His Majesty's Consent  
CG, please read through the attached MA re the Agriculture (Wales) Bill and note that you are aware that the letter at Doc 1 will be sent to the Private Secretary and to the King by the Director of the Office of the First Minister.

Clearance requires to be arranged by 5<sup>th</sup> June.

[Information Redacted]

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**From:** [Information Redacted] - Welsh Government Officials

**Sent:** Thursday, June 1, 2023 11:26 AM

**To:** [Information Redacted] - Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd, Minister for Climate Change, Counsel General, First Minister

**Cc:** [Information Redacted]

**Subject:** MA/LG/1559/23 - Agriculture (Wales) Bill: His Majesty's Consent

Good morning,

The consent of His Majesty the King is required to the Agriculture (Wales) Bill before the Bill can be considered by the Senedd at Stage 4 on 27 June. Ministers are asked to note that the letter at Doc 1 will be sent to the Private Secretary to the King by the Director of the Office of the First Minister.

By convention, the Palace should be given at least 14 days to consider such requests. I would therefore be grateful if you can arrange urgent ministerial clearance **by 5 June.**

Kind regards,

[information redacted]

## **7. 6 June 2023 - Letter issued to Buckingham Palace**

**Doc 1**

### **LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER, REQUESTING CONSENT OF HIS MAJESTY**

To:

The Private Secretary to The King  
Buckingham Palace,  
London  
SW1A 1AA

Dear Sir,

#### **AGRICULTURE (WALES) BILL**

Please find enclosed two copies of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill, passed at Stage 3, for which the Consent of His Majesty is sought. We previously wrote following Stage 2 of the Bill; however, further amendments were made to the Bill at Stage 3 and, therefore, we are making an additional request for the Consent of His Majesty.

We have not repeated here provisions for which consent has already been sought in the letter (sent by email correspondence on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023). We do not consider there are any other provisions which engage the requirement for the Consent of his Majesty but the full Bill is enclosed for your perusal.

#### **Statutory background**

Section 111(4) of the Government of Wales Act 2006 states:

*“The standing orders must include provision for securing that the Assembly may only pass a Bill containing provisions which would, if contained in a Bill for an Act of Parliament, require the consent of His Majesty or the Duke of Cornwall if such consent has been signified in standing orders.”*

Standing Order 26.67 of Senedd Cymru further states:

*“If a Bill contains any provision, or is amended so as to include any provision, that would, if contained in a Bill for an Act of the United Kingdom Parliament, require the consent of His Majesty, or the Duke of Cornwall, the Assembly must not debate the question whether the Bill be passed (or approved following Reconsideration) unless such consent to such a provision has been signified by a member of the government during proceedings on the Bill at a meeting of the Assembly.”*

## **Purpose of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill**

The purpose of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill (“the Bill”) is to make provision about sustainable land management; to make provision for and in connection with support for agriculture; to amend the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 and the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995 in connection with resolution of disputes in respect of agricultural tenancies, to make provision about matters relating to agriculture and agricultural products; to amend the Forestry Act 1967 in connection with tree felling licences; and to amend the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in connection with prohibitions relating to snares and traps.

## **How the Bill could affect the Crown**

### Forestry Act 1967

We would ask you to note that there have been extensive amendments to the provisions in Part 4 of the Act which insert provisions in, and make amendments to, the Forestry Act 1967. However, the intention and overall effect of the drafting remains the same as at Stage 2, but the wording has been amended to ensure operability of the new provisions, when considered alongside the existing provisions of the 1967 Act. The new drafting ensures that the correct person is served a notice, and where relevant the correct person has the right to appeal and to compensation.

Therefore, Welsh Government are of the view the prior request for His Majesty’s Consent adequately addresses this matter.

### Agricultural Tenancy Act 1995

Section 24 of the Bill inserts new sections 8A and 36A into the Agricultural Tenancy Act 1995 (“1995 Act”). It also inserts a new provision into section 28(5) of the 1995 Act.

Section 8A of the 1995 Act provides a route for Farm Business Tenancy (“FBT”) tenants to refer to arbitration disputes for consent or over proposed changes to their FBT (rejected by their landlord) which would enable the FBT tenant to access financial support under schemes made under the Bill as well as financial support under specified agricultural legislation. The dispute may also relate to a request for landlord’s consent where it is made for the purpose of complying with a statutory duty. Section 8A also provides the Welsh Ministers with a regulation-making power to make provision in connection with such arbitration. The amendment to section 28(5) of the 1995 Act is a consequential amendment and the new section 36A sets out the procedure under which any regulations must be made.

Section 37 of the 1995 Act provides that the 1995 Act applies to land in which a Crown Interest (as defined) subsists or has at any material time subsisted. It is therefore possible that the Crown may be a landlord under a FBT. Therefore, the Bill may affect the hereditary revenues of the Crown or the personal property of the Crown.

Assurance regarding enforcement action

Further to the conversation between your office ([Information Redacted]) and the Welsh Government Lead Solicitor on this matter, we confirm that when making regulations under Part 3 of the Agriculture (Wales) [Act 2023], the Welsh Ministers will keep in mind the exclusion by convention of the Crown in respect of criminal enforcement and powers of entry.”

### **Consent**

We respectfully ask His Majesty for consent, in so far as he may be affected by the amendment highlighted above in the Bill.

Thank you for considering this request and please let us know if we can be of any further assistance to you. The Lead Solicitor on this matter is [Information Redacted] and he can be contacted on [Information Redacted]

Yours sincerely,

[Information Redacted]  
Director of the Office of the First Minister

Enc: One copy of the Bill

cc:

[Information Redacted], Messrs Farrer and Co., 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3LH

The Secretary to the Crown Estate Commissioners, 16 New Burlington Place, London, W1S 2HX

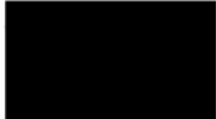
**8. 20 June 2023 - Letter received by Welsh Government from Buckingham Palace for Kings Consent**



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

20th June, 2023.

Des



Thank you for your letters of 10th May and 6th June addressed to [redacted] seeking The King's consent to the Agriculture (Wales) Bill. I can confirm that His Majesty is content to place his personal interest at the disposal of the Welsh Parliament in relation to this Bill, including the amendments made at Stage 3.

*With best wishes,*



Deputy Private Secretary to The King





**9. 26 June 2023 - Email correspondence confirming receipt of Kings Consent letter**

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**From:** [Information Redacted] – Welsh Government Officials

**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2023 1:38 PM

**To:** [Information Redacted] – Welsh Government Officials

**Subject:** RE: MA/LG/1559/23 - Agriculture (Wales) Bill: His Majesty's Consent

**Importance:** High

Good afternoon,

Please see response attached, confirming His Majesty's consent.

Kind regards,

[Information Redacted]