Lesley Griffiths MS
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

28th June 2023

Dear Minister,

Rural stakeholder concern regarding the lack of Glastir support for 2024

In the recent Stage 3 debate on the Agriculture (Wales) Bill you emphasised the vital role Welsh farmers must play in restoring and maintaining nature. You also made it clear the new Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) will support them to achieve this important goal, alongside producing food sustainably and tackling climate change. Therefore, it is of great concern that there is no commitment from Welsh Government to fund existing Glastir contracts beyond 2023. As the SFS isn't due to be introduced until the beginning of 2025 many Welsh farmers, who are being supported by Glastir to manage their land for nature, carbon and sustainable food production goals are currently facing a significant funding cliff-edge at the end of this year.

We are very concerned that this uncertainty, if not addressed, will undermine confidence in farming with nature and associated publicly funded schemes, such as the SFS. It also may place some wildlife habitats and low-carbon farming practices at risk if farmers seeking to maintain their incomes during these challenging times have no choice but to change their practices in ways that may not be appropriate in terms of a number of the goals we all agree upon.

To demonstrate Welsh Government's support for sustainable farming we strongly urge you to commit to funding ongoing Glastir Advanced, Glastir Organic and Glastir Commons contracts during 2024. We also ask that this decision is made as a matter of urgency and communicated to the farming sector to maintain confidence in the agri-environment scheme approach now and in future.

The following organisations agree on this important issue:

Nigel Hollett, Director **CLA Cymru**

Glyn Roberts, **FUW** President

Hywel Morgan, **NFFN Cymru** Chair

George Dunn, Chief Executive **TFA**

Steven Jacobs, **OF&G**, and Haydn Evans, **Soil Association** Cymru for **Welsh Organic Forum**

Arfon Williams and Andrew Tuddenham, joint Chairs **WEL** Land Use Group