



Ein cyf/Our ref WQ96945

Samuel Kurtz MS
Member of the Senedd
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

31 July 2025

Dear Samuel,

Thank you for your Written Question WQ96945 which was tabled for answer on 22 July. You asked: What steps is the Welsh Government taking to reduce planning barriers for farm businesses seeking to diversify? I apologise for the late response on this occasion.

Future Wales and Planning Policy Wales (PPW) strongly support appropriate diversification activities in rural areas to help maintain a sustainable and resilient agricultural and forestry sector and strengthen the viability of rural communities. PPW encourages planning authorities to adopt a positive approach to diversification and set out policies to enable this in their local development plan.

PPW indicates that small business activities can often be sustainably located on farms and provide additional income streams. Diversification can strengthen the rural economy and bring additional employment and prosperity to communities.

PPW recognises that diversification activities come in many forms and include both agricultural and non-agricultural activities. Activities can include, for example, livestock and crop processing, non-traditional livestock and crop farming, tourism and recreation projects, farm shops, and making and selling non-agricultural products. Diversification can also include renewable energy proposals such as anaerobic digestion facilities or solar and wind installations, which will help to increase the viability of rural enterprises by reducing their operating costs. Planning authorities should consider the nature and scale of activity when considering proposals and be supportive of schemes where there is no detrimental impact on the environment and local amenity.

While initial consideration should be given to adapting existing farm buildings for diversification projects, the provision of a sensitively designed new building within existing farm complexes may be appropriate where a conversion opportunity does not exist.

Technical Advice Note (TAN) 6 provides further guidance on planning for rural areas. This includes advice on the provision of rural enterprise dwellings to allow rural enterprise

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

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.

workers to live at or near their work, for example, to encourage younger people to manage farm businesses and to promote diversification. TAN 6 sets out the criteria that need to be met to allow such proposals.

In addition, the Welsh Government supports the roll-out of digital communications infrastructure across Wales. Mobile and broadband services are vital for daily life and especially important in rural areas. They help improve access to services, support social and economic interaction, and create opportunities for business, including rural diversification, and help overcome barriers associated with distance to market. Planning authorities should work with providers to ensure the needs of rural areas are met.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The script is cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'R' and 'E'.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio