



Janet Finch-Saunders MS|AS

Aelod Senedd Cymru dros Aberconwy
Member of the Welsh Parliament for Aberconwy



Mark Drakeford MS,
First Minister,
Welsh Government.
Via email

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Welsh Parliament,
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14/08/2020

Re: Support of Welsh Wool by the Welsh Government

Janet.Finch-Saunders@Senedd.Wales

Dear First Minister,

I am writing to urge the Welsh Government to look at making the use of wool mandatory in new home insulation schemes, as well as for future insulation and carpeting upgrades in public buildings. This will stand as a bold symbol of support for an industry that is integral to the Welsh economy.

This summer, Welsh sheep farmers have seen the price they receive for their wool clip collapse as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and its subsequent impact on the worldwide market for wool. Some sheep farmers are now receiving merely 28p a fleece, an amount which is dwarfed by the cost of shearing. This year, industry officials predict that the value of wool is set to drop by at least half. Subsequently, several farmers have taken the difficult decision to plough their wool into the fields as fertiliser. I think you will agree that it is heart-breaking to see such tragic decisions having to be taken, adversely impacting a farmer's hard-earned livelihood.

Welsh Wool can play a fundamental role in insulating new homes, especially as our nation looks to combat climate change and reduce the cost of living. Locally sourced, its use would lower the carbon footprint of home insulation and will raise the profile of Welsh wool as a sought-after commodity. Furthermore, officials at British Wool and NFU Cymru, have called on devolved bodies such as the Welsh Government to support our sheep farmers by specifying wool rich carpets and other interior fabrics in all government and local authority buildings. This is a sensible solution that receives my full backing. As such, I am calling for the Welsh Government to review its position on this matter.

I would be grateful if you could kindly write in response to this letter by:

- Outlining whether the Welsh Government has given full and proper consideration to using locally sourced, Welsh wool in publicly funded home insulation programmes, and whether your stance on this issue will change.
- Outlining whether the Welsh Government will work with the relevant public bodies, including our 22 local authorities and the Senedd Commission, to press home the case for using Welsh wool in carpeting throughout public buildings.

I look forward to your reply on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS

Janet Finch-Saunders will deal with all personal data in accordance with her privacy notice which is available on www.janetfinchsaunders.org.uk/privacy or on request from my office.

Bydd Janet Finch-Saunders yn delio â'r holl ddata personol yn ôl ei hysbysiad preifatrwydd. Mae hwn ar gael yn ei swyddfa ac yn fan hyn: www.janetfinchsaunders.org.uk/privacy



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