Peter Fox OBE MS/AS
Member of the Senedd for Sir Fynwy Torfaen
Aelod o'r Senedd dros Sir Fynwy Torfaen

Constituency/Etholaeth
Unit 5, Llanover Business Centre, Llanover, NP7 9DU

Welsh Parliament/Senedd Cymru
Pierhead Street, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

01291 674898 / 0300 200 7298

Peter.Fox-MS@Senedd.Wales

Peter Fox MS

peterfox.uk/

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Cabinet Minister for Rural Resilience and Sustainability
Rural Resilience & Sustainability
Welsh Government
5th Floor
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Our Ref: PF00705

1 September 2026

Dear Cabinet Minister

I write following the publication of Natural Resources Wales' (NRW) Annual Report for 2025/26. You may recall in the previous Senedd, a debate in October 2025 on the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee report, looking at scrutiny of NRW for 2024/25. As the Chairman of that Committee at the time that report was produced, I know you will be familiar with its findings.

I namely raised the issues on funding and staffing pressures within the organisation, and the numerous contradictions on funding, such as the proposed flood risk management budgets cuts being offset by Welsh Government funding to offset those cuts. I referred to it as 'robbing Peter to pay Paul', instead of it being funded correctly. Furthermore, I took the opportunity to highlight the cycle of reports, monitoring and reviews, noting the system of; calls for more funding and Welsh Government asking NRW to monitor its spending efficiency. At the time I stated this was bureaucracy, and not the action communities needed on flooding as we approached Winter.

Following the appalling flooding in Monmouth during the winter, and the recent ongoing spate of wildfires across Wales, residents are rightly asking if NRW are prepared for these enormous challenges, and if they are being funded correctly. The latest report annual report from NRW has come at the opportune moment, following recent wildfires, and I was pleased to see that meaningful progress on several of my previously raised concerns, such as their financial position, flood risk and flood defences has been made, but my previous argument that NRW needed greater resources rather than more monitoring and bureaucracy seems to be ongoing and un-resolved.

I note from the report that NRW state demand for their services and the scale of environmental challenges continue to exceed available resources, with the report also highlighting that climate risks are increasing and that overall progress across Wales remains too slow relative to the scale of the challenge. Whilst I appreciate the scale of recent wildfires was perhaps a new challenge for NRW, I was again concerned to see there was no mention in the report of any dedicated wildfire funding, such as we see for flood management, coal tips or peatland restoration. NRW themselves highlight the increasing risks from hotter, drier conditions and significant incidents and suggests that greater resilience investment will still be required.

As NRW remains the body responsible for such issues, I would be grateful for your confirmation that Welsh Government are actively reviewing NRW's funding, with a view to ensuring they are properly funded for all events, including wildfires, and this endless cycle of bureaucracy is ended.

Yours ever

Peter Fox OBE MS
Sir Fynwy Torfaen