

Andrew Davies AM/AC
Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks
Y Gweinidog dros Fenter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref AD/0533/06

Mr Glyn Davies AM
(Mid & West Wales)
Constituency Office
20 High Street
Welshpool
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SY21 7JP

DD July 2006

On the 5th July 2006 I said I would write to you further regarding issues at the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER) at Aberystwyth following the announcement of redundancies at the establishment.

In particular I said I would write to you with details of the work that IGER is undertaking in the area of bio-fuel projects.

IGER is involved in a number of bio-fuel projects, specifically in partnership with Swansea University, and is looking at bio-mass in the production of transport fuels. Funding has been agreed in principle from the Wales Energy Research Centre.

In addition, IGER is also forging closer links with Swansea, Aberystwyth and Bangor Universities in environmental, land management and bio-mass to collaboratively increase their research capability in order to compete more effectively for research projects.

The Institute has also obtained European Objective 1 funding for the "Willows for Wales" demonstration project that is investigating the benefit to farmers of bio-mass production from willows at several sites throughout Wales.

More recently, the Department for Trade and Industry announced its Energy Review which referred specifically to electricity and fuels. Bio-mass will play an important role in this development.

We will also be maintaining close contact with senior management at IGER regarding current and future opportunities for support or assistance from the Welsh Assembly Government.

To: 1. Andrew Davies AM
From: Geraint Davies
Executive Director
DEIN Mid Wales

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Date: 14 July 2006

[AD/0533/06]
CC: Dàvid Childs
Simon Morris
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MB/AD/0533/06 – Institute for Grassland Environmental Research

1. A supplementary question was raised Q9 (0AQ0966), dated 5 July 2006, by Glyn Davies AM, raising concern about the number of jobs currently under threat because of the speed of change in programmes and asking for details on what steps you are taking to introduce longer lead-in times, so that we do not have disruption to what is a huge employment contributor to the west Wales economy.
2. You undertook to write to Glyn Davies detailing some of the potential in the development of biofuels and the use of grasses and other material for the production of renewable energy sources.
3. A draft response is attached.