



Mr Andrew Hogley,
Acting Chief Executive Officer
British Wool Marketing Board,
Wool House,
Sidings Close,
Bradford.
BD2 1AZ

Your Ref:
Our Ref: NFUCym/Mei/BWMB
Email: lestyn.Pritchard@nfu.org.uk
Phone: 01341 423148
Date: 16 December 2020

Dear Mr Hogley,

Re: Rationalisation of BWMB activities in Meirionnydd in response to the current Covid pandemic

I write to you on behalf of the Meirionnydd County Branch of NFU Cymru, following a recent county branch meeting, to express their disappointment at some of the plans that are part of the current review of the British Wool Marketing Board's operations in the county.

The membership is acutely aware and appreciative, of the absolutely unprecedented times that we are witnessing due to the current Covid pandemic and the resultant economic devastation it is causing.

We are also mindful of how the fall out of the pandemic is indeed having a significant effect on the Board and its activities and how significant savings are having to be made to remedy this. NFU Cymru of course has stood side by side with the Board to try and secure a support package from Government both at Cardiff Bay and Westminster over recent months.

Our regional Board Member was in attendance and outlined in detail how the Board's changes were about to play out within the county. Member's discussed at length these changes and the scaling down of the depot at Dinas Mawddwy from an intermediate depot to a collection centre. The resultant movement of valuable and much needed jobs from a rural area, to the more urban centre in Newtown, and a missed opportunity to utilise the recently refurbished depot at Dinas Mawddwy as a grading centre, we're all concerns that were voiced.

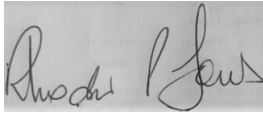
Members were particularly displeased to understand that although the collection centre would remain at Dinas Mawddwy, all wool delivered there by producers would incur a charge of £5.15 per wool sheet, to transport onwards to Newtown. It was felt that having refurbished the roof at Dinas Mawddwy and acknowledging the large storage capacity that exists there with relatively low non-domestic rates, it seemed to be a missed opportunity not to fully utilise the facility in which the members had invested so heavily in, recently.

The additional charge of £5.15 is a further blow to the industry as it adjusts to the low returns from the 2020 wool clip. Whilst they face an uncertain market for the forthcoming season the introduction of the £5.15 charge will certainly result in negative returns from their wool handling operations regardless of the costs of shearing.

Whilst members appreciate the currently challenging nature of the wool market, they felt that the imposition of further charges on the producer would have a detrimental effect on profitability and

would lead to some producers questioning their allegiance to the Board. It was felt that it was only correct that we draw these matters to your attention on behalf of the wool producers in Meirionnydd and to request that you re-visit these proposals.

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to be 'Rhodri Jones' written in a cursive style.

Rhodri Jones
NFU Cymru Meirionnydd County Chair