

## **Update on organic farming support in 2024**

**December 6<sup>th</sup> 2023**

In August the Welsh Organic Forum urged Welsh Government to reconsider its plans to abandon support for organic farming in Wales. Many of you supported this campaign, involving more than 500 organic producers, five trade bodies/organic processors and nine environmental NGOs.

Collectively we reminded the First Minister Mark Drakeford that a withdrawal of support for organic farming would have serious economic and environmental consequences in Wales and would likely precipitate a mass exodus of organic farmers, inflicting long lasting damage on the sector.

It was therefore encouraging to hear the Minister for Rural Affairs Lesley Griffiths state in a Senedd Plenary session last month (8<sup>th</sup> October) that a small budget for organic support had been found.

**Unfortunately, we're still waiting for the Minister to provide a statement to confirm this and set out further details.**

Until a written statement is provided we only have the Minister's words from the Plenary session:

"There will be some specific funding for organic farmers. I absolutely recognise the case that they put forward to me, and I have been able to identify a small pot of money, which I do hope will help."

Given that the First Minister recently warned that 'there simply isn't money to do all the things we would like to do' we cannot yet be certain that Welsh Government will turn words into action.

Welsh Government's 2024 budget proposals will be published on the 19<sup>th</sup> December, but in the meantime Lesley Griffiths will be in front of ETRA committee for general scrutiny on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

We're expecting her to be asked about the ending of Glastir contracts and interim agri-environment arrangements in 2024. Here's a link to this meeting: <https://business.senedd.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=738&MId=13575&Ver=4>

*Please forward this update to your networks and supply chain contacts.*

*Welsh Government's decision on future support may directly impact businesses, the wider organic market and shared aspirations to be leaders in the production of climate and nature friendly food.*

*The Welsh Organic Forum continues to engage with government officials and keenly awaits further update from Ministers.*