

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

13 January 2022

Dear Llyr Gruffydd MS

Thank you for your letter of 14 December 2021 concerning the Future Funding of Natural Resources Wales. You will have seen that the Draft Budget for 2022 to 2023 has now been published.

Fighting the climate and nature emergency is a priority of this government and is one we take seriously. Addressing the issues brought by these twin emergencies will require us to reassess what we do and embed good practices in all of our activities. Our Programme for Government and Co-Operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru sets out an ambitious programme of work with and our draft budget ensures that there is £1.8bn in targeted investment to respond to the climate and nature emergency in this Sixth Senedd.

This includes an additional £12m of revenue and a total capital investment of £57m in the National Forest and Welsh Timber Strategy up to 2024-25. This will support delivery of a National Forest extending from the north of Wales to the south and also support communities to create 30 new woodlands, connect habitats and protect ancient woodlands. Further, we are investing an additional £9m revenue and close to £90m capital up to 2024-25 to enhance green spaces at all scales. This includes a new National Park, the Nature Networks programme, Local Places for Nature, the National Peatlands Action programme, Natur am Byth and our Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places capital programme to ensure that our most precious habitats and species are able to thrive.

You will have noted that Natural Resources Wales's (NRW) budget for 2022/23 is broadly similar to the 2021-22 budget. As it stands, NRW and Welsh Government officials are in the process of undertaking an exercise which examines the allocation of NRW resources against its statutory functions and Programme for Government commitments. This exercise will inform how NRW allocates its funding to meet its statutory obligations whilst achieving Ministerial priorities for the coming year (2022-23) and the remainder of the current term of Government. We will work closely with NRW over the coming months to ensure their funding is sufficient to discharge their responsibilities and support tackling climate change and its impact in Wales.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change