

Clare Pillman, Chief Executive

Sir David Henshaw, Chair

Natural Resources Wales

Welsh Government Offices

Cathays Park

King Edward VII Avenue

Cardiff

CF10 3NQ

Copied to the Chair of the Senedd's Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

15 November 2024

Dear Clare and Sir David,

Petition P-06-1474 Stop Natural Resources Wales closing Bwlch Nant yr Arian, Coed y Brenin & Ynyslas visitor centres; and Petition P-06-1447 Stop Natural Resources Wales closing the visitor centre at Ynyslas National Nature Reserve

As you may be aware, the Petitions Committee considered the above petitions from Gareth Jones and Kim Williams at its 4 November meeting. This followed a debate on Petition P-06-1474, which reached over 13,000 signatures, in plenary on 9 October.

We are writing to highlight the petitions and further comments received from the petitioners following the debate. As you are aware there is a great deal of concern about the possible closure of the visitor centres following NRW's announcement on 6 November of the outcome of its Case for Change consultation.

In discussion on 4 November, Members noted that there remained uncertainty over the future of the centres and that the issue was a matter of concern for Members across the chamber. Members also note that petitioners say what they are hearing on the ground does not match with what NRW has said publicly about its intentions, and how you will engage with stakeholders locally on plans to find new operators for the facilities at the visitor centres.

Members agreed to write to you with the petitioner's request to ask NRW to share the financial records of the three centres, their visitor management plans, and an impact assessment on what closure would mean for access.



Members also agreed I would write to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs regarding concerns raised with the Committee by the petitioners about what they were hearing on the ground, including their concerns about possible mothballing of the centres prior to new operators taking over.

The full details of the Committee's consideration of the petitions, including the correspondence and the actions agreed by the Committee can be found here:

[P-06-1474 Stop Natural Resources Wales closing Bwlch Nant yr Arian, Coed y Brenin & Ynyslas visitor centres](#)

[P-05-1447 Stop Natural Resources Wales closing the visitor centre at Ynyslas National Nature Reserve](#)

I would be grateful if you could send your response by e-mail to the clerking team at petitions@senedd.wales.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

