

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1478
Ein cyf/Our ref HIDCC/10771/24

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee

16 January 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 6 December on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-06-1478 and a comprehensive review of Natural Resources Wales (NRW). Thank you also for sight of the petitioner's letter dated 11 November.

I wrote to you on 10 December and informed the committee of NRW's intention to extend the retail and catering facilities at the three visitor centres until 31 March 2025 and the expected interim measures beyond that date. NRW has provided assurances that it will continue its management of these sites and they will remain open for walking, biking, play areas, car parking and toilet provision.

All public sector organisations have experienced severe financial pressures and challenges. Acknowledging these, NRW took the difficult decision to embark on a comprehensive exercise to reshape the organisation recognising the delivery of its core functions and statutory duties must take priority within available budgets. The Welsh Government continues to support NRW to ensure the delivery of its front-line services and legal obligations as an environmental regulator.

The petitioner also refers to NRW's management of environmental incidents. I can assure you that every environmental incident is assessed and categorised by NRW to deem what actions are necessary and appropriate. When required, NRW will take legal action against an offender. The Welsh Government continues to support NRW's work in this area through regularly monitoring NRW's activity.

The petitioner's question around whether funds could be put back into the Welsh environment rather than into the UK Treasury is not a devolved matter as the responsibility for this rests with UK Government. However NRW is looking at developing efficient, more cost recovering tools to enhance enforcement.

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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.

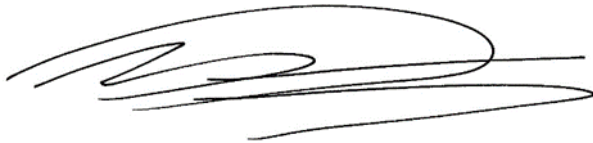
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The petitioner's final point asks for the Welsh Government to consider action to split NRW back into its original components. I can confirm that the Welsh Government has no plans to consider dividing NRW into its three original entities.

The Welsh Government meets with NRW at regular intervals to monitor and analyse its performance in achieving agreed aims and objectives contained within both its Annual and Corporate Plans.

Thank you for writing to me on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping loops and lines, positioned above the typed name.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

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