

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol
Minister for Natural Resources



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-537
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/01209/14

William Powell AM
Assembly Member for Mid & West Wales
Chair Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

23 September 2014

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Bill

Thank you for your letter regarding further considerations given by the petitioner in response to my predecessor's reply on the subject of tree planting to reduce flooding.

Trees and hedgerow management remain a part of Welsh Government's approach to flood risk management. Improving the way we manage land and water within our catchments forms an important part of our natural flood risk management. However, we also need to appraise each scheme on its own merits and there is no one solution that can be applied in all cases. Certain solutions, such as tree planting, may not always be the most effective solution or provide the greatest benefit when compared to other flood risk management methods.

A critical factor in achieving the potential environmental benefits of tree and hedgerow planting is the strategic and well-informed choice of locations, species and management.

Flood alleviation schemes will usually benefit from a variety of methods to reduce risk; better land management, including the planting of trees, will continue to form an important part of flood risk management, for example in slowing down the rate of overland flow and reducing peak flows in our watercourses.

Whilst the Welsh Government cannot agree to always plant a certain number of trees in flood risk schemes, it will continue to be advocated where it is appropriate to the location and provides a cost effective solution to reducing flood risk.

The Welsh Government will continue support for tree planting under the Glastir scheme under the next Rural Development Plan programme subject to its approval by the EU.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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A revised and updated woodland opportunities map will replace the “red, amber and green” map that was used under the previous programme.

I hope that is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop followed by a vertical line.

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
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Minister for Natural Resources