

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-683
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/01879/17

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

KF August 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 7 August, regarding increasing tree canopy cover in Wales' towns and cities as a priority for the area statement process.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has responsibility for the preparation of area statements to facilitate the implementation of the Natural Resources Policy. Every area of Wales will be covered by one or more statements. Each statement will include information on the natural resources within the area it covers and will detail the benefits and opportunities that arise from their sustainable management. Area statements will therefore be a means for NRW and other public bodies to prioritise at a local level the opportunities arising from natural resources, including trees in towns and cities.

NRW has a wealth of Wales-related tree canopy evidence available to assist it in the preparation of area statements. They have published a country-wide study of urban tree canopy cover, '*Tree Cover in Towns and Cities*', contributed to technical good practice guidelines and participated in three 'iTree Eco Studies'. iTree Eco is a tool for quantifying the ecosystem services that can be delivered by urban trees, for example in relation to air quality improvement, carbon dioxide reduction and flood control, and assessing the value of them.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

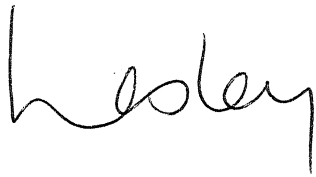
Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales

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.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 establishes Public Service Boards for each Local Authority area in Wales, NRW is a member of each Board. Public Service Boards have responsibility for preparing and delivering Local Well-Being Plans for their respective areas which set out local objectives and steps for their delivery. Area statements will help Public Service Boards to develop their local objectives and plans. I am content, therefore, that there are already sufficient measures in place in order for each Public Service Board to consider tree canopy cover as part of their statutory duties when preparing their Local Well-being Plans and the NRW area statements.

Our forestry strategy '*Woodlands for Wales*' already recognises the benefits of urban trees and woodlands (Chapter 2.6 refers) however, during our refresh of it in early 2018, we will be compelled to consider their role further.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs