

Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a
Llywodraeth Leol

Communities, Equality and Local Government
Committee

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

31 May 2012

Dear Colleague

INQUIRY INTO THE WELSH GOVERNMENT'S HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT POLICY

The National Assembly for Wales' Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee is to undertake an inquiry into Welsh Government's historic environment policy. To assist with its inquiry, the Committee would welcome your views on this subject

Purpose of the Inquiry

In 2014–15, the Welsh Government intends to introduce a Heritage Bill. As such, it is currently consulting with stakeholders with a view to introducing a *Historic Environment Strategy* in the autumn of 2012. This is likely to form a basis for further appraisals and consultations leading up to the Bill's introduction.

The Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage has also set up a working group to look at how the functions of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales could be merged with the functions of other organisations, including Cadw. The group is due to report by July 2012.

The purpose of this inquiry therefore is to provide the Committee with an opportunity to **feed into the two above processes** and to make recommendations as necessary. The Committee intends to focus specifically on the **overall policy direction** and **strategic priorities** of the Welsh Government in this regard.

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh
Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a Llywodraeth Leol / Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee
Gwasanaeth y Pwyllgorau / Committee Service
Ffôn / Tel : 029 2089 8429
Ebst / Email : celg.committee@wales.gov.uk

Consultation Questions

- How appropriate and successful are the current systems employed by the Welsh Government for **protecting** and **managing** the historic environment in Wales?
- How well do the Welsh Government's policies **promote** the historic environment in Wales (for instance, in terms of interpretation, accessibility, attracting new audiences and tourism)?
- How well do the policies for the historic environment **tie in with wider Welsh Government policy objectives** (such as the regeneration of communities)?
- What would be the advantages and disadvantages of **merging the functions** of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales with the functions of other organisations, including Cadw?
- What role do **local authorities** and **third sector organisations** play in implementing the Welsh Government's historic environment policy and what support do they receive in this respect?

Invitation to contribute to the inquiry

The Committee welcomes responses from both individuals and organisations. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please provide a brief description of the role of your organisation.

The Committee welcomes contributions in English or Welsh and will consider responses to the inquiry and hold oral evidence sessions in due course.

If you wish to submit evidence, please send an electronic copy of your submission to celg.committee@wales.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can write to:

Committee Clerk
Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA.

Submissions should arrive by **Friday 29 June 2012**. It may not be possible to take into account responses received after this date.

The Committee would be grateful if you could forward a copy of this letter to any individuals or organisations that might like to contribute to the review. A copy of this letter will be placed on the National Assembly's website with an open invitation to submit views.

Disclosure of Information

It is normal practice for the National Assembly to publish evidence provided to a Committee. Consequently your response may appear in a report or in supplementary evidence to a report. The National Assembly will not publish information which it considers to be personal data.

In the event of a request for information submitted under UK legislation, it may be necessary to disclose the information that you provide. This may include information which has previously been removed by the National Assembly for publication purposes.

If you are providing any information, other than personal data, which you feel is not suitable for public disclosure, it is up to you to stipulate which parts should not be published and to provide a reasoned argument to support this. The National Assembly will take this into account when publishing information or responding to requests for information.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

Cadeirydd / Chair