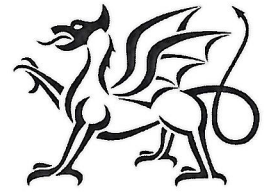


Lesley Griffiths AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-809  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00515/18

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee.

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

March 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 6 March, regarding petition P-05-809 regarding procedures and processes of Natural Resources Wales (NRW) related to its proposed introduction of fishing byelaws relating to salmon and sea trout.

It is unclear from the petition as to whether this issue has been the subject of a formal complaint to NRW. Individuals that are dissatisfied with the standard of service expected of NRW are able to make a formal complaint, the process for which can be accessed via NRW's website <http://naturalresources.wales/about-us/contact-us/making-a-complaint/?lang=en>

If, after pursuing matters with NRW, complainant remain dissatisfied, the complainant is then open to make a complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. The Ombudsman is independent of public bodies and has legal powers to look into complaints about public services and any failure on their part. Details of how to contact the Ombudsman can be found on [www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk](http://www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk). Before contacting the Ombudsman, you must first have complained to NRW. Any complaint to the Ombudsman must be made within 12 months of the date on which the complaint was made to NRW. It is of course for the committee to consider whether the petitioners should be advised of the availability of this course of action.

My Department has been liaising with NRW throughout and I have received a significant number amount of correspondence from stakeholders on the issue.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400  
[Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales](mailto: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 Welsh Government has made clear in our Natural Resources Policy (NRP), our rivers and seas provide important recreational angling opportunities and economic benefit in rural and coastal communities. I want to see thriving rivers supporting angling and other important economic activities within our rural communities. However, this vision can only be built on a foundation of healthy fish stocks.

NRW has now proposed significant changes to fishing byelaws on the rivers of Wales, primarily to introduce compulsory catch and release across all rivers in Wales for a 10 year period commencing with the fishing season in 2018. NRW received approval of its Board regarding these proposals on 18 January 2018. I subsequently received a formal application to determine the byelaws from NRW on the 20 February, under the provisions contained within the Water Resources Act 1991.

I will therefore consider the range of issues in detail, including the adequacy of the NRW procedures, before making a determination in line with the process set out in the Act.

Until this is completed I am unable to comment on the proposals.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Regards Lesley". The word "Regards" is written on the top line and "Lesley" is written on the bottom line, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of "Lesley" across the width of the signature.

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs