

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-876
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05740/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

April 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 8 April regarding petition P-05-876 about the protection of Red and Amber listed species in Wales.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW's) powers to issue licences to kill, injure or take wild birds are granted under section 16 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (the Act). Licences can only be issued for specific purposes listed in the Act and only when all other avenues of scaring or deterring have failed.

NRW has recently made a statement regarding bird licencing on their website providing further information about the licences recently awarded. This can be seen at <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/news-and-events/statements/issuing-bird-licences/?lang=en>

Under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 NRW must pursue the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR), applying the principles of SMNR in the exercise of its functions.

The objective and principles of SMNR are at sections 3 and 4 of the Environment (Wales) Act and whilst they support our well-being they must also take account of the intrinsic value of our natural resources, including animals and plants. The objective is to maintain and enhance the resilience of our ecosystems, and biodiversity is integral to the functioning of these ecosystems, so it is essential that we reverse the decline of our species and habitats.

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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 Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales, currently being refreshed, sets out our actions for biodiversity, and NRW has published its strategic steer for biodiversity in Vital Nature – Making the connections between biodiversity and the People and Places of Wales’, which can be found on their website.: <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/strategies-and-plans/vital-nature-making-the-connections-between-biodiversity-and-the-people-and-places-of-wales/?lang=en>

My officials will be happy to provide further detailed information as required when you formally consider the petition.

Regards
Lesley

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