

Hannah Blythyn AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref HB/00488/20

Howard Davies
Chairman
National Access Forum Wales

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4 August 2020

Dear Howard Davies,

Thank you for your update of 20 July regarding the progress of the Access to Water Sub-Group. I am pleased to see the varied range of stakeholders engaging with the process, and the headway that has been made to date by the group.

You have suggested a number of proposals which would require consideration of legislative measures and compliance with rural payment schemes, and I have therefore asked my officials to arrange an online meeting with you to discuss the feasibility of some of your proposals in more detail. As you're no doubt aware, the Welsh Government are currently considering a new system of financial support for landowners following last year's Sustainable Farming and Our Land consultation. A white paper is due to be published on this before the end of this term, as a precursor to an Agriculture (Wales) Bill.

Whilst it is encouraging to see firm progress being made on long term options, and I am happy for this to continue, I would also like to see the development of options to promote interim solutions and evaluation of a range of proposals that may offer a way forward in the shorter term. It would help to consider proposals to build better relationships and encourage more collaborative arrangements. In particular, it would be interesting to understand why the group feel previous voluntary access agreements have not been successful, and whether improvements can be offered in this respect to facilitate more cooperative solutions. I would also be interested to hear your thoughts on ways of including other recreational activities such as wild swimming.

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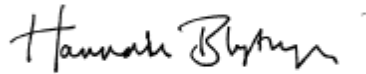
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

I note Dwr Cymru are already a member of National Access Forum Wales and would encourage you to continue to engage with them directly regarding discussions around proposals to increase recreational activities on reservoirs.

If you are in a position to put forward pilot trials that can be implemented in the short term i.e. proposals which can be actioned by agreement rather than legislation, I would be very pleased to support their development and hear the outcome of these trials.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hannah Blythyn'.

Hannah Blythyn AS/MS

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