

Sustainability Committee

SC(3)-24-10 : Paper 1

Inquiry into Biodiversity - Further evidence from RSPB Cymru

Sent Via Email

22 November 2010

Dear Kirsty,

Re: Sustainability Committee inquiry into biodiversity in Wales 2010

We have been watching the recent inquiry sessions with interest and welcome the diverse range of witnesses that have submitted evidence around this vitally important inquiry. As promised, we attach two further briefings- one concerning Biodiversity offsets (as discussed by the Environment Bank) and the latter surrounding key components of the legal framework for protecting biodiversity in Wales.

I would also like to use this letter to clarify some of our answers to questions asked by the Committee during our evidence session on 7th October 2010, as we are concerned that some of our comments have been misinterpreted.

In particular, during the Committee's session with the National Parks and the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) on 11th November 2010, we were described as being "highly critical" of both of these organisations. With the greatest respect, this is certainly not our position nor do we feel this is the position we have presented in our evidence.

Whilst reading through the transcript of our evidence it is clear a number of references were made to CCW and National Parks as well as specific lines of inquiry. Our position throughout this inquiry has always been based in our desire to see a thorough, positive and objective appraisal of biodiversity conservation leading up to 2010 and the identification of practical solutions to current and future challenges. Our concerns are directed towards the effectiveness of delivery mechanisms, systems and processes and how these limit the ability of organisations/institutions such as CCW and National Parks to deliver their biodiversity responsibilities. We continue to stand by these comments.

Please do let me know if I can provide any further information surrounding this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sean Christian
Head of Conservation, RSPB Cymru
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