



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1190  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/10260/21

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

21<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 31 August to Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change, regarding Petition P-06-1190 Ban the use of peat in horticulture and all growing media by 2023. Your letter has been forwarded to me for a response as responsibility for horticulture falls within my portfolio.

Welsh Government are working with the UK Government with a view to launching a consultation on a sales ban for peat and peat containing products. Whilst there is no current peat extraction in Wales, preventing sales of peat compost is in line with our Well-being of Future Generations Act commitment to be globally responsible.

I launched Wales' first national peatland action programme (NPAP) in November of last year. The NPAP outlines a plan of action to be taken over five years (2020-2025) under six priority themes:

1. Peatland erosion
2. Peatland drainage
3. Sustainable management of blanket peats
4. Sustainable management of lowland peats
5. The restoration of afforested peatlands
6. The gradual restoration of our highest carbon emitting peatlands

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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.

These actions are well under way, with restoration activity undertaken on over 650ha in the first year of delivery. It is important to acknowledge the initial 5 year Programme is just the starting point when meeting our ambition. It will take considerable commitment over many years by Government, Natural Resources Wales and partners to achieve our ambition.

The NPAP focuses on areas most in need of restoration or management activity across the whole of Wales as well as safeguarding areas in good and recovering condition. The aim is to progressively restore an estimated 600-800 ha per annum with a capital budget of £1m/yr and a dedicated delivery team in NRW. A cross cutting theme of the NPAP is to build up capacity and co-ordinate a national monitoring and recording system to capture information on condition and restoration activity.

Within 18 months of the end of the 5 year Programme, NRW will undertake a review against the Priority Themes and report on the delivery and outcomes achieved with partners. It will consider the experiences, learning and evidence gathered throughout its delivery and make recommendations to whether a second National Peatland Action Programme should be commissioned and if so in what form, scale and rate. It is expected, this will be delivered to Welsh Government by the end of period 3 of the 2024/25 financial year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

**Lesley Griffiths AS/MS**  
**Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd**  
**Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd**