

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol
Minister for Natural Resources



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref MB/CS/2275/15

Simon Thomas AM

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 June 2015

Dear Simon

During Plenary on 2 June you raised the issue of my review of grant funding within the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate.

Following my considerations of the way in which grants are allocated across the Directorate I have organised revenue grants into three distinct funding streams: core funding, project funding and local authority funding. The way in which these three streams are administered will ensure that grants are focused more closely on the priorities set out for my Department and for the Welsh Government as a whole. It will also ensure better value for money and compliance with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, in particular through the delivery of multiple benefits.

There will be particular advantages in the new arrangements for the end beneficiaries of the grants: the funding offers will be clearer, simpler, more consistent, and more transparent. They will open the door to new organisations and to innovation in delivery, and will give organisations the security of longer term allocations, beyond the usual annual cycle.

In order to assist with the transition and raise awareness of the new arrangements my officials have been working with the WCVA who have facilitated workshops in north and south Wales as well as holding a well attended webinar.

The application window for core funding proposals closed on 5 June, with 61 applications being received. On 29 June I announced the outcome of the assessment of the core grant funding proposals. Details regarding project funding will be available shortly. Further updates about the grants will be available on the Welsh Government website:

<http://gov.wales/funding/grants/environment/?lang=en>

You referred specifically on 2 June to funding awarded to the Environment Wales initiative. As part of the new grant funding arrangements Environment Wales will no longer be able to distribute funding as they and others have previously done; however the Environment Wales partnership organisations are eligible to apply for core funding.

Small organisations will still be able to benefit from capacity building support from those organisations who receive core funding as well as from project funding under the arrangements that I have set in place going forwards.

In respect of the 31 organisations who have been awarded EW management grants this year I announced, on 25 June, my decision to extend this specific element of funding for a period of up to 18 months (until the end of March 2017). All of the organisations / projects have been notified of my decision.

I am copying this letter to the Jane Hutt in her role as Minister for Finance and Government Business.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a vertical line and a small flourish at the bottom.

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
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