

Your Ref: P-06-1447 and P-06-1474
Our Ref: CX24-130 and CX24-154

Carolyn Thomas MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

By email only: petitions@senedd.wales

4 March 2025

Dear Carolyn,

P-06-1447 Stop Natural Resources Wales closing the visitor centre at Ynyslas National Nature Reserve

P-06-1474 Stop Natural Resources Wales closing Bwlch Nant yr Arian, Coed y Brenin & Ynyslas visitor centres

Thank you for your letter dated 7 February regarding the above petitions, which have been considered by the Petitions Committee. I appreciate your confirmation that the Committee has decided to close both petitions.

In respect of the Committee's enquiry about the duties of our visitor centre staff, I can confirm that the visitor centre staff are not responsible for managing the land in and around the site, nor are they responsible for the conservation of any wildlife habitats and geological features. This is the responsibility of our Land Management staff.

We acknowledge however that some of the duties carried out by visitor centre staff are not purely retail and catering – for example, some staff at Bwlch Nant yr Arian assist in feeding the red kites. Our teams are currently working through a process to ensure that all statutory and essential functions are delivered by other staff across our Land Management and Facilities teams. It is also possible that some of the additional responsibilities currently undertaken by visitor centre staff could be included in the final lease agreements for Bwlch Nant yr Arian and Coed y Brenin. Negotiations on this would likely form part of the procurement process when it takes place. Our aim in the discussions will be to secure the greatest benefit for users, local businesses and the community.

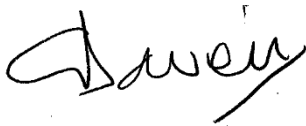
Ynyslas will continue to be managed as a National Nature Reserve (NNR) in line with the other NNRs we manage across Wales that do not have visitor centre provision. Our Land Management and Commercial teams are looking at how we deliver statutory services at the NNR in the long-term, with this change. While the NNR Officer is ably supported by a

wider team of conservation and land management experts, we have accepted that some things will no longer be available or will have to change as a result of the Case for Change. Nevertheless, the continuation of the NNR and the conservation of the local environment, including the Ringed Plover Project, remain our priority.

All paths, trails, car park and toilets facilities will remain open at Ynyslas, Bwlch Nant yr Arian and Coed y Brenin and we will continue to maintain the sites to ensure public access continues.

I trust this response assists with the Committee's enquiry, however if it has any further questions or would like clarification on this or any other issue please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ceri Davies', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ceri Davies

Prif Swyddog Gweithredol Dros Do
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi.
Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.