

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change

9 May 2025

Dear Huw

The Cockle Fishing Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024

At the meeting of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee on 6 May 2025, the Committee noted a letter from Julie James MS, Counsel General and Minister for Delivery, which outlined the Welsh Government's commitments to correct statutory instruments where errors have been identified by the Committee in our reports to the Senedd.

You will be aware that the Committee's report identified several issues with The Cockle Fishing Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024. In response, the Committee was told that the Welsh Government would aim to bring forward legislation which will make the required corrections by Spring 2025.

In her letter to us dated 28 April 2025, the Counsel General states that reporting points 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16 and 17 in the Committee's report will be addressed in one of the omnibus amending instruments planned to be laid before the Senedd in the summer term. However, the Counsel General's letter does not address reporting point 20 of the Committee's report, which noted:

"The specified area is the area described in Schedule 1 to this Order. The Explanatory Memorandum at paragraph 4.3 and 4.4 states that "Maps of the specified area will be provided to permit holders when permits are issued to permit holders under the Order. A programme of work is underway to produce new mapping of the whole of the specified area. The updated mapping will be made available on www.GOV.WALES when the Order comes into force." It would be helpful for the reader to be referred to the maps of the specified area in this Order."



The Welsh Government's response to reporting point 20 stated:

"As indicated in the Explanatory Memorandum, maps have been made available online. Maps of the individual fisheries are also provided with permit conditions. However, the point is noted and the Welsh Government will consider an amendment to the Order to add clarity."

The Committee would welcome clarity as to whether the Welsh Government has now considered an amendment to the 2024 Order to address the issue raised in reporting point 20 of the Committee's report, and confirmation as to whether and when such an amendment will be made.

The Committee would welcome a response by 28 May 2025.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hedges". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Mike Hedges

Chair

