



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE **The Beavers (Wales) Order 2026**

DATE **3 February 2026**

BY **Huw Irranca-Davies MS, Deputy First Minister & Cabinet
Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs**

Last year, I announced my intention to move toward the managed reintroduction of the Eurasian beaver in Wales. In October 2025, following extensive stakeholder engagement, I confirmed my intention to bring forward legislation to recognise Eurasian beaver as a native species and provide the necessary protections for them to thrive in Wales.

Today I have laid the [Beavers \(Wales\) Order 2026](#). This Order amends the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 to recognise Eurasian beaver as a native species in Wales and to grant European Protected Species of animal status. The legislation will come into force on the 4 March 2026.

These legislative changes will allow us to establish a clear legal framework for licensing and management, ensuring that any future releases are regulated and that Eurasian beavers are afforded appropriate protections in Wales.

The Welsh Government will continue to support Natural Resources Wales in developing detailed licensing guidance, monitoring protocols, and stakeholder engagement plans. Any wider policy decisions on managed reintroduction programmes will be subject to separate impact assessments and consultation. This includes working closely with landowners, farming and fisheries interests, and conservation organisations through the Wales Beaver Forum to address concerns and maximise benefits.