

Alun Davies AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd  
Minister for Natural Resources and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref Biodiversity  
Ein cyf/Our ref Biodiversity

Alun Ffred Jones AM  
Chair, Environment and Sustainability Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
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25 June 2014

### **Response to the Environment and Sustainable Development Committee on Biodiversity**

Thank you for your letter dated 3 June 2014 regarding biodiversity.

I refer to your questions as numbered in your letter

#### **1.3 – Nature Recovery Plan timetable and how it relates to Natural Resource Management.**

I can confirm that the Wales Biodiversity Strategy Board, a partnership of stakeholders from Natural Resources Wales, the farming unions, Local Authorities, Welsh Government and the third sector are currently producing a Nature Recovery Plan for Wales. This Nature Recovery Plan will lay out our high level objectives, aligned to the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity targets, and the actions we will be undertaking to reach them.

I intend to launch a consultation on the Nature Recovery Plan at the Wales Biodiversity Conference on 10 September 2014 and to subsequently publish the final plan in early 2015.

Natural Resource Management gives us the opportunity to consider the overall resilience and the multiple benefits and opportunities available for biodiversity by looking across all issues at a wider scale. Its introduction in the Environment Bill will address our global commitments to mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystems in decision-making and through public engagement. While many site and species conservation actions are still needed, and many landscape scale initiatives are underway, the Nature Recovery Plan

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*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

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aims to provide a transition between the traditional approach to biodiversity and the fully integrated, area based approach of natural resource management. Biodiversity will be an integral part of a National Natural Resource statement.

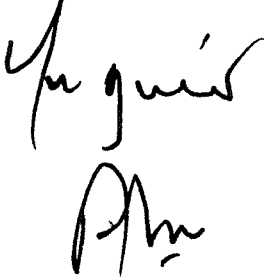
#### **1.4 – Responsibility for the data hub.**

With regard to the data hub I can confirm that Welsh Government is the lead body responsible for the project, working collaboratively with NRW. This partnership approach has been very effective and much has been achieved and I am pleased to report that a demonstration of the hub will be available at the Royal Welsh Show.

#### **1.5 / 1.6 – Update on the biodiversity audit.**

The audit of biodiversity actions taken across all Government Departments and agencies was undertaken in 2011. The audit showed that biodiversity action was being taken throughout Welsh Government and that consideration of biodiversity had penetrated effectively where Government Departments were undertaking activities that had a direct impact on biodiversity. However, there is more work to do, for example, with regard to the management of our own estate and the continued integration of biodiversity into policy development.

The Nature Recovery Plan will continue to put an emphasis on integrating biodiversity throughout our policies and strategies and the Natural Resource Management programme has already started this process. A comprehensive and structured evaluation of the biodiversity action needed throughout Welsh Government departments and agencies will be undertaken within the Nature Recovery Plan.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is a cursive script that appears to read 'Alun Davies'. The bottom signature is a more stylized, blocky cursive script that also appears to read 'Alun Davies'.

**Alun Davies AC / AM**

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Minister for Natural Resources and Food