NATIONAL PARKS WALES  
Britain's breathing spaces

Mr William Powell AM  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff CF99 1NA

21 November 2011

Dear Mr Powell

### P-03-328 Maritime and Coastguard Agency's Modernising Coastguard Proposals

Thank you for your correspondence dated the 9<sup>th</sup> November on behalf of the Petitions Committee of the National Assembly for Wales, and your invitation to National Parks Wales to present views concerning the above petition. National Parks Wales is a partnership of the three Welsh National Park Authorities (NPAs).

We do not have a position concerning the *Maritime and Coastguard Agency's Modernising Coastguard Proposals*. The development of one would not be regarded as a sound use of our resources, especially in the current climate, since one-third of the partnership is not coastal. It is the responsibility of individual NPAs to respond to local proposals in detail. However, we wish to utilise this opportunity to make two relatively brief observations. The first concerns the value of local knowledge and the second concerns the new marine planning system.

The value placed upon local knowledge in a continually changing, potentially hazardous environment, as found along Wales' coast cannot be underestimated. Safety within the more hazardous environments within National Parks relies on local knowledge whether it is through a mountain rescue team or lifeboat station. An understanding of local conditions, people and places, often gained from direct, personal, experience is a valuable asset. As coastal tourism in Wales is expected to increase, drawn by the coastal path and away from the "honeypot" areas such as the Pembrokeshire Coast Path, local knowledge beyond these areas will continue to be relied upon when co-ordinated action is required.

Our second observation concerns the marine planning system. What effect would the closure of the MRCC have upon the proposed marine planning system in Wales? We would not expect the Committee to answer this observation, but it may be a line of inquiry worth pursuing if it has not already been followed.

Parciau Cenedlaethol Cymru  
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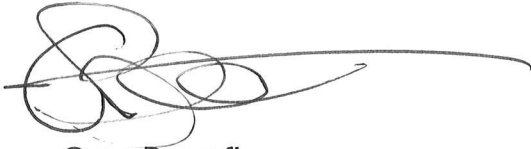
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Should you wish to further discuss the two above observations please contact me via the contact details on the front page.

Yours sincerely



**Greg Pycroft**  
**Policy Officer**

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