

Carl Sargeant AM
Minister for Natural Resources
Welsh Government
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

8 March 2016

Dear Carl,

Water quality

Further to your letter dated 11 August 2015, we wish to thank you for your response which provided useful additional information.

We wish to offer an additional concluding view on efforts to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive ('the Directive').

As you acknowledge, the requirements of the Directive are extremely testing and ambitious and we accept that achieving good ecological status for water bodies is challenging.

We believe that this should be a priority area for the next Welsh Government's work programme. This view was supported by stakeholders at recent legacy workshops we have held. It is an area of policy that we have recommended for inclusion in a future committee's work programme. This is because improving water quality has the potential to deliver a wide-range of benefits beyond simply meeting the Directive's requirements.

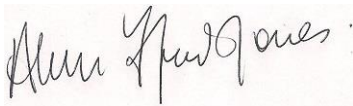
The funding and action profile for meeting the requirements of the Water Framework Directive is something that we believe needs further consideration as it appears to us that a substantial amount of action and investment is being left for the final cycle.



In the meantime, it is essential that those responsible for delivering the actions set out in the second cycle river basin management plans are adequately supported, both in terms of the political priority allocated to this work and the resources that are made available to support them.

This letter is copied to Dr. Emyr Roberts in recognition of Natural Resources Wales's important role in supporting the delivery of actions to meet the requirements of the Directive.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background, reading "Alun Ffred Jones".

Alun Ffred Jones AM
Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee

