

Sir David Henshaw, Chair  
Natural Resources Wales

25 March 2025

Dear Sir David,

Thank you for your attendance at the annual scrutiny session of Natural Resources Wales. Further to the meeting, I have been contacted by someone who has raised some questions that I hope you can address.

These issues are:

Firstly, at the committee meeting, you set out that the cost of running the visitor centres at Ynyslas, Coed y Brenin and Nant yr Arian is around £1 million a year. The representations I have received claim that it can be evidenced that Ynyslas is not loss-making.

Secondly, as you have acknowledged, the Visitor Centre Wardens do not have retail and catering responsibilities alone. I am told that there is "a job description issued by NRW which proves that the Visitor Centre staff's remit was much wider than retail and catering. Duties officially included ensuring safe public access to the site amongst many other things." NRW has provided reassurances that the site and paths will remain open to the public. I appreciate that you are engaged in a process to ensure that all statutory and essential functions are delivered by other staff. However, my correspondent suggests that, under the proposals, there would be no one to maintain that access, since the Land Management function is "just one individual with 2,000 hectares of land to look after". I am also told that it is the wardens who ensure that the ringed plover nesting sites are fenced off.

Finally, concerns have been raised with me about public safety due to the site being a red flag beach due to tidal currents, quick sands and unexploded WW2 ordnance which is regularly uncovered and safely detonated.

I would be grateful if you could address these issues that have been raised with me. It would be helpful if you could respond by **Tuesday 22 April 2025**.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Petitions Committee and to fellow Members of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee.

Your sincerely,



Llyr Gruffydd MS,  
Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee  
Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. / We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.