

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-745
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00246/17

Mike Hedges AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

15

February 2017

Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter of 31 January, regarding the petition to increase provision for motorsports – Ref. P-05-745.

Off-roading is a very emotive issue. Whilst I am aware of the problems caused by illegal off-road motoring in the countryside I am also mindful of the many responsible users who drive and ride on legitimate routes and are considerate to other users.

Provision in Wales is limited due to a number of factors, including opposition to planning applications for managed tracks and to the recording of rights of way for motorised users. However, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) already provides access to many parts of its estate for use by a range of users, including motorcyclists and other off-road vehicles as long as they are road legal, taxed and insured as required.

With regard to the Wales Off-Road Motors Group (WORMs), this was administered by NRW and attended by a range of off-roading interests, including, representatives from local authorities and National Parks, motorised user groups and motor trade bodies. It was a very useful group when it was established in 2004, providing advice and expertise to the Welsh Ministers and Department for Environment and Rural Affairs. However, the group has not met since 2014.

The WORMs group contributed to guidance on regulating off-road motoring in the countryside published in 2005 by Defra, in partnership with the Welsh Government. Whilst the law regarding off-roading has not changed I will instruct my officials to review this existing guidance to ensure it is up to date.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I will ask officials to meet with those responsible for the petition to discuss their concerns and to listen to any suggestions they may have for increasing the provision for off-roaders.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs