

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS  
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LG/02584/20

Mick Green  
Chair of Welsh Ornithological Society  
WOS

mick@gn.apc.org

17<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Mick,

Thank you for your letter of 27 October regarding tree felling within the bird breeding season, and the release of gamebirds and their impact on ecosystems and protected sites.

The issuing of a felling licence does not permit a breach or negate the need to comply with other related or subsequent legislation. Felling should be undertaken in line with all legal obligations and should also adhere to good practice guidelines provided by NRW. NRW have recently piloted long-term management plans with land managers, which incorporate requirements to ensure the appropriate management of habitats and species. Welsh Government will continue to consider with NRW, whether further legislative changes are needed.

Any suspected breach of wildlife law should be reported to a police wildlife crime officer. It would be useful if you could ensure your society's members are aware of this situation.

Regarding the release of gamebirds, the recent Judicial Review (JR) in England between Wild Justice and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has highlighted many of the issues you have raised. Now that this has concluded I am currently considering the implications of the recently announced outcome for Wales and will be outlining the approach we will be taking in Wales shortly.

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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 am keen to ensure that the approach we take is the right one for Wales and proportionate to the effects of the gamebird regime on protected sites and the wider landscape.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'L' and 'G'.

**Lesley Griffiths AS/MS**

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