

16 December 2024

Dear

ATISN 22110 FOI request - Designated Bathing Waters – The Warren, Hay-on-Wye

Thank you for your request which I received on 18 November 2024. You asked for:

- Copies of any environmental assessment or initial screening process that took place or was considered before the designation was made. Including any completed environmental assessment such as a habitats regulation assessment as well as any initial screening for an environmental assessment.

Our response

The Welsh Government recently conducted a public consultation to assess the suitability of designating The Warren as a bathing water. The application included opposition from key stakeholders, including Natural Resources Wales (NRW), The Hay Warren Trust, and Hay Town Council, due to environmental concerns. As a result, the site was not initially designated.

The Welsh Government's position on this matter is detailed in an official written statement as detailed below. The Welsh Government does not conduct habitats regulation assessments. The Welsh Government received the following assessments of The Warren's potential designation as a bathing water from the environmental regulator NRW:

- **Attachment 1** - NRW's initial consultation response on the proposed designation of The Warren, Hay-on-Wye, including their initial assessment.
- **Attachment 2** - NRW's response to the public consultation on the proposed designation of The Warren, Hay-on-Wye, which includes assessment of environmental impact considerations.

Also enclosed with this letter are two further documents which contain details of the decision made by the Deputy First Minister for Climate Change and Rural Affairs regarding the designation of The Warren, Hay-on-Wye:

- **Attachment 3** - The Welsh Government response to the 2024 bathing water consultation, which identifies that The Warren, Hay-on-Wye will not be designated as a bathing water due to environmental concerns.
- **Attachment 4** - Welsh Government's Written Ministerial Statement by the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

regarding the circumstances of the decision to designate The Warren as a Bathing Water

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely