

John Griffiths AC /AM  
Y Gweinidog Diwylliant a Chwaraeon  
Minister for Culture and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref MTR/01040473  
Bin cyf/Our ref JG/00885/13

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09 JUL 2013

5 July 2013

Thank you for your letter of 5 June regarding possible legislation on access to inland waters and related stakeholder engagement

There is a great deal of speculation over whether there will be legislation to increase access to Wales' inland waters. I am acutely aware that there are strong views on this issue. I have discussed them with a number of interests, including a number of angling interests, in recent years. I have met with your constituent, Mr Davies a number of times and this matter has been raised.

During the Waterways Conference on 4 June I stated that I was looking at ways to increase opportunities for public access to, and participation in, outdoor recreation in Wales. The Programme for Government makes a commitment to increasing public access to land and water, particularly for families and children. Legislative change is one means by which this can be done effectively. There is demand for wider access and it is important that we look at the whole picture to try and find a sustainable solution. However, a decision on whether to legislate has not been made and will not be made until a full and sensible discussion can be had - and this is what I hope to have across the full range of stakeholders over the coming months. I have asked officials to arrange a number of workshops across Wales to develop ideas for taking this work forward, one of which will be solely dedicated to the topic of access to water. Officials will be in touch with the angling associations and landowning interests to ensure suitable representation at this event. There will also be a number of other opportunities for their representatives to become engaged in the conversation.

I hope that this clarifies this matter for you and your constituent.

*Best wishes*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Griffiths'.

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