



**John Griffiths AC / AM**  
**Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy**  
**Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development**

**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Ein cyf/Our ref JG/06577/12

William Powell AM  
Chair Petition's committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

8 August 2012

*Dear William,*

Thank you for your letter of 10 July with which you enclose a letter from Countryside Council for Wales, and a petition from the Gower Society which I have already commented upon in my letter to you of 18 April.

Regarding your comments about Countryside Council for Wales' service levels reducing before the new Single Body is established. I have made my priorities and services level requirements very clear to them in their 2012/13 Remit Letter which is published at <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/ccw/remit1213/?lang=en>

Included within the list of priorities is work on Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty relating to pre-designation work to which it is committed. Countryside Council for Wales have not made any commitment to undertake pre designation work for the extension of the Gower AONB and this is therefore consistent with the service levels I expect from them in the implementation year.

Any consideration of the extension to an AONB is a matter for Countryside Council for Wales, which from 1 April 2013 will be a matter for the new Single Body. I am however aware that to aid any future work on AONB designations, the Countryside Council for Wales have been developing and testing a methodology for landscape designation in Wales.

Countryside Council for Wales in their letter to the Committee advise that there is to be a review of designations to inform the Environment Bill. In your letter you seek a timeline for the White Paper and the Bill. My officials are currently analysing the responses received to Sustaining a Living Wales, which will be published at the end of August. While a review of designations will be part of my considerations it is far too early to speculate whether any provision will be needed within an Environment Bill.

*Best wishes,*

**John Griffiths AC / AM**  
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*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

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