

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-868
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/01598/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair of the Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

08 July 2020

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 23 June regarding a petition on water safety and drowning prevention and the development of an All Wales Water Safety Strategy.

Progress on the development of the Wales Water Safety Strategy is continuing, with Water Safety Wales having completed initial consultation with their 16 member organisations. These organisations include representation from emergency services, safety charities and water companies. The Strategy will support the drowning prevention and water safety work which they and their partner organisations deliver in Wales.

The next stage will be to review consultation responses and any proposed changes to the draft Strategy with the Water Safety Wales steering group. Once this is completed, Water Safety Wales will consult the National Water Safety Forum and families who have been affected by a water fatality.

Water Safety Wales' aim is to have a formal launch of the Strategy in September.

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, as part of their long term commitment to water safety, are once again running their 'One Last Breath' campaign during the summer. They are using social media to get the message across about the dangers of swimming in reservoirs due to freezing temperatures, strong currents and dangerous hidden machinery, which can drag even the strongest swimmer under.

The Fire Services in Wales have a duty to respond to serious flood and inland water rescue emergencies. Whilst this duty does not extend to water safety promotion, I know all three services in Wales are involved in a number of water safety campaigns across Wales. Just recently, all three services joined partners in supporting and promoting Drowning Prevention Week 12-19 June.

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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.

You may wish to note a sub-group of the National Access Forum Wales (NAFW) was established in November 2019 to consider how access to inland waters can be increased for recreational purposes. The NAFW will report the outcomes of its sub-group discussions, and associated conclusions and recommendations to the Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government by March 2021. I expect part of this consideration to include health and safety around water.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS

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