

MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU

Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

23rd September 2020

Dear Petitions Committee

**INCC Comments regarding Natural Resources Wales' response (CX20-136) to Petition P-05-941
- Biodiversity Remit for Natural Resources Wales.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide further representation to the committee in relation to NRW's response (CX20-136) to Petition P-05-941.

INCC believes that Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is misleading the committee, the Welsh Parliament and the people of Wales by claiming that:

"NRW's purpose and focus supports the transformational change needed to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity"

Clare Pillman - Chief Executive
Natural Resources Wales

There is very little independent evidence to support the claim made by NRW. On the contrary, it could be suggested that NRW's purpose is too conflicted and their focus too risk adverse to make the necessary and meaningful contributions needed to reverse the decline of biodiversity in Wales. Both the NRW and Ministerial response to the petition have been disappointingly defensive. Neither party has acknowledged the growing discrepancy between the work undertaken by NRW and the work needed to be undertaken by NRW – if we are to truly reverse the decline in biodiversity.

The committee can be in little doubt that Wales is still failing to deliver the necessary nature conservation action needed to halt (let alone reverse) the declines in biodiversity, with many habitats and species still being lost in Wales.

It is also worrying that neither NRW nor the Minister has made any suggestions for improvement, nor has there been any inference that more could be done by the organisation. Even the most successful organisations strive for improvements in delivery.

NRW's reliance on verbosity and defensiveness has made evaluating their organisational delivery against what is actually needed to reverse the declines in biodiversity very difficult. It is for this reason why INCC would strongly recommend that an independent inquiry be established to ascertain whether Wales has the appropriate statutory body, with the appropriate purpose, focus and remit to truly undertake the actions needed to reverse the decline of biodiversity.

The recent global focus on species extinctions has brought a keener focus on the plight of Wales' own biodiversity and the efforts needed here to ensure nature's long-term survival. An independent inquiry would therefore be an appropriate step to take to reassure the people of Wales that we have the appropriate statutory organisation with the appropriate purpose, focus and remit to bring about the outcomes needed for wildlife and their habitats.

I would like to thank the committee for debating this petition and if you require any further information regarding this response please feel free to contact me.

Yours Faithfully



Robert

Robert Jones Parry
Chief Executive Officer