



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales**

William Powell AM
Chair,
Petitions Committee,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff,
CF99 1NA

Your ref: P-04-439

08 May 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter seeking my views on the petition submitted by Coed Cadw calling for greater protection for ancient, veteran and heritage trees across Wales. The issues raised by Coed Cadw are matters that Natural Resources Wales takes seriously. Natural Resources Wales is committed to the sustainable management, use and enhancement of Wales' trees and woodlands as a key delivery partner of the Welsh Government's Strategy for Woodlands and Trees.

Whilst the legislation regarding Natural Resources Wales' functions did not place additional duties on us in the area of woodland and tree protection, we are working closely with the Welsh Government to explore how this might be best achieved. As the Welsh Government has indicated, there are opportunities in the planned Environment, Heritage and Planning Bills for improvement of tree protection legislation, management and advisory work. We are listening to our many interested stakeholders, including Coed Cadw, and we will continue to work closely with them and others, including teams in Cadw and the newly established forestry policy team in the Welsh Government, to ensure that we effectively contribute our collective expertise to these processes.

As stated in our 2013-2014 Business Plan, Natural Resources Wales will continue to deliver the commitments set out in Forestry Commission Wales' Corporate Plan 2012-2015. This includes action for trees and woodlands in rural and urban settings and working with a broad range of stakeholders and partners. We will continue to encourage public involvement with woodlands for example through recreation, enterprise and the provision of learning opportunities in woodland and about woodland for people of all ages.

As part of the development of our Corporate Plan for the next three years, there will be an opportunity for interested stakeholders to contribute their views on our future priorities, including the management, conservation and protection of trees and woodland.

Yours sincerely,

Emyr

EMYR ROBERTS

Prif Weithredwr, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Chief Executive, Natural Resources Wales

emyr.roberts@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Natural Resources Wales,
Ty Cambria, Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0TP

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Ty Cambria, Heol Casnewydd, Caerdydd CF24 0TP