

Carl Sargeant AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio  
Minister for Housing and Regeneration



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref SF/CS/2390/14

Alun Ffred Jones AM  
Chair of the Environment & Sustainability Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

16 July 2014

Dear *Alun Ffred*

Thank you for your letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014 regarding a review of Technical Advice Notes 14 and 15.

The Welsh Government accepted in principle Recommendation 10 of the Committee's report *Coastal Protection in Wales*. It is worth re-iterating the response we gave to the committee at that time.

*The Welsh Government has always accepted that a review of TAN14 and TAN15 is likely to be required as a result of emerging policy developments resulting from aspects of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Marine Spatial Planning, National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping project, and the revisions to Shoreline Management Plans.*

*However, until the objectives of these other policy areas are clearly established and publically adopted it would be premature to embark on a formal review. A review without a robust evidence base to provide clarity and purpose could become a focus for delaying production of other plans and strategies that rely on national planning policy. This could result in undermining much needed investment and regeneration across Wales in areas not actually affected by coastal erosion or flooding issues. Therefore now is not the time to embark on a formal review of TAN14 and TAN15.*

The Shoreline Management Plans are still in draft and the Marine Spatial Plan is due for publication by Autumn 2015. The Marine Spatial Plan project will also involve a review of the Welsh Government's Inter-coastal Zone Management (ICZM) strategy, and will therefore clarify the interface between marine and terrestrial planning. My officials are engaged, as part of the marine policy board, in taking forward the Marine Spatial Plan.

However until such time as the Marine Spatial Plan has been formulated, consulted upon, and finalised providing certainty on objectives and policy considerations, it would be premature to embark on a review of the two TANs.

We are still committed in principle to undertaking a review of TAN14 and TAN15, and this was expressly identified in the Positive Planning Consultation (Paragraph 4.31), which was subject to public consultation earlier this year.

We continue to monitor implementation. For example, since January we have published a number of policy clarification letters relating to flood risk, and my officials have held 4 workshops around Wales for all Local Planning Authorities to reinforce the policy considerations set out in TAN14 and 15.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Sargeant'.

**Carl Sargeant AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio  
Minister for Housing and Regeneration