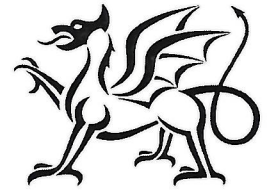


Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-816
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00814/18

David John Rowlands AM
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National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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April 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 12 April regarding Petition P-05-816 Say 'NO' to pheasant shooting on Welsh public land.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) are reviewing their policy on the use of firearms and shooting activity on the land that they manage. As part of the review they have undertaken an extensive call for evidence and have issued a consultation entitled *proposals about the use of firearms on land managed by Natural Resources*. This consultation closes on 25 April.

The review, call for evidence and current consultation was as a consequence of concerns raised with the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) over the ethical and welfare issues of pheasant shooting on public land. The current consultation relates to NRW's land management role and remit and is focused on firearms and shooting activity on land managed by NRW.

My officials have been engaged with the process to ensure all the issues of concern which have been raised with Welsh Ministers are addressed and Welsh Government policy is taken into account

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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.

The Welsh Government produced a Code of Practice for the Welfare of Game Birds reared for shooting purposes in January 2011. The Code provides practical guidance in relation to Section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. The Code refers to all birds bred and reared under controlled conditions for the purposes of release for sport shooting and birds retained for breeding purposes. Currently, any concerns about the health or welfare of animals should be reported to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) or Local Authority; they are responsible for the delivery and enforcement of animal health and welfare provisions on behalf of the Welsh Government.

Following the close of the NRW consultation and the analysis of responses either I or the Minister for the Environment will discuss this matter with the NRW Chair and Chief Executive.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs