



Huw Irranca-Davies MS

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12 January 2023

Dear Huw,

Please find below the answer to your Written Questions.

Huw Irranca-Davies (Ogmore): Will the Minister instruct Natural Resources Wales to work with local angling associations and environmental organisations to develop options to restore the passage of migratory fish to spawning grounds after the disruption caused by the appearance of a sinkhole in the river Ewenny. (WQ87019)

Huw Irranca-Davies (Ogmore): What consideration has the Welsh Government given to options for rectifying a naturally occurring sinkhole in a river to restore passage for fish given the risks that drought poses to then drying up that river, in light of the disruption to fish accessing spawning grounds on the river Ewenny. (WQ87020)

Lesley Griffiths:

The incident in the river Ewenny occurred at a time of prolonged dry weather and elevated temperatures. A fish rescue, something which is only undertaken in exceptional circumstances, was attempted and over 600 fish were moved to suitable locations further down river.

NRW carried out an assessment of the situation and a number of options were reviewed, including diversion of water flow and filling the sinkhole. However, as none of the options assessed had a strong likelihood of success, and in line with previous responses to naturally occurring sinkholes present within Wales, NRW decided not to intervene as doing so may have had a detrimental effect on the river itself. NRW awaited the river to naturally replenish when the water table rose through the groundwater levels recovering.

I understand NRW's decision, and the reasoning of such approach was communicated to external parties at the time.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'L' and 'G'.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

