

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref WQ81696

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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Janet.Finch-Saunders@senedd.wales

18 December 2020

Dear Janet,

I am writing with a reply to your Written Question 81696 below.

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): Will the Minister clarify the Welsh Government's spend on biodiversity in 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21 separately?

Leslie Griffiths: In Wales we take an ecosystem approach, in line with internationally recognised best practice. As a result, biodiversity conservation is embedded in a wide variety of environmental schemes to, amongst other things, enhance habitats, support farmers and improve water quality. Therefore, there is no single figure that can be attributed to biodiversity conservation.

I have been working across government to ensure that all of our policies and programmes integrate biodiversity into decision making and implementation. A taskforce has been set up to drive this work forward, drawing together representatives across a range of different policy areas to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity. An example of success in this is through transport initiatives such as creating green corridors on our trunk roads improving connectivity for biodiversity.

I have allocated significant funding in 2020-21 to support the development of a number of new programmes specifically aimed at building resilient ecosystems. These include developing a National Forest, improving our peatlands, conserving our seas, improving inland water quality and restoring our Natura 2000 Network. Good progress has been made despite the impact of covid restrictions, which will be built on in subsequent years.

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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.

Integral to halting and reversing the decline in biodiversity is having a strong delivery sector. In partnership with National Lottery Heritage Fund I launched the Green Recovery capacity building scheme for the environmental sector at the Wales Biodiversity conference last month. The scheme will provide support for project development, governance, risk management, financial resilience and strengthen community engagement.

In addition, my department provides substantial funding to Natural Resources Wales, the Welsh National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. These organisations have the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as one of their core aims. For example, Snowdonia National Park is helping to develop a mobile app that the public can use to locate the invasive Japanese knotweed so it can be better controlled and managed.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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