

Sent: 21 October 2019 20:34

Subject: Welsh Government letter to the Restoration Project in Dale

Dear Sue

I am writing to you on behalf of Welsh Government in my capacity as Head of the Ecosystem and Biodiversity Branch. This email follows and supports the messages and content within the letter issued by the Minister dated 23rd September 2019, relating to the proposed Seagrass Restoration Project in Dale.

Welsh Government welcome the project and the endeavour to work closely with local marine users and coastal communities. The proposal seeks to restore seagrass in a location that has multiple interest groups but strives to work within the confines of these existing activities. Working in this way is certainly in line with Welsh Governments policy to support marine use, whilst also working towards restoring and enhancing our marine environment. Through this process it is recognised that some concerns have been raised to the project in regard to previous policy direction. To that end I would like to stress the key message from the Welsh Government that HPMCZs are not current Welsh Government policy and all previous proposals have been withdrawn by Welsh Ministers. It is, as mentioned, current policy to support restoration and enhancement of our Welsh marine environment whilst also supporting the sustainable use and enjoyment of our waters.

The letter from NRW, dated 18th October 2019, is a good reflection of the advice that they provide to us, especially on this issue, and we are content with the messaging as stated. The Welsh Government is very much in support of this project and especially in the endeavours made to work closely with existing marine stakeholders and the local communities to not endanger livelihoods or marine access. Previous discussions over potential restoration locations, and the subsequent changes to the planned site, demonstrate the projects commitment to this end. Such a project has the potential to showcase how collaboration and communication can be successfully deployed to the benefit of all.

We wish you every success with the project.

Yours sincerely

Chris

Chris Jenkins

Head of Marine Science and Evidence Branch

Head of Ecosystem and Biodiversity Branch/ [Pennaeth y Gangen Cadwraeth Morol](#)

Marine and Fisheries Division/ [Is-adran Môr a Physgodfeydd](#)

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