Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/00497/22

Annie Smith
Chair of Wales Environment Link's Biodiversity Policy Working Group
Wales Environment Link

Rory@waleslink.org

30 March 2022

Dear Annie,

Thank you for your letter of 3 March regarding our plans for a deep dive on biodiversity.

I am pleased you share our ambition to tackle the decline of biodiversity and recognise our deep dive is fantastic opportunity to address the challenges we face in Wales.

Our Programme for Government fully recognises the urgency of the joint climate and nature crises and the speed with which we need to tackle these complex matters. If we are to achieve the transformational change required to mitigate the crises, we must strive for a society-wide approach. I hope our work in this area will embed a greater understanding across Wales and recognise us as a globally responsible nation.

In undertaking the deep dive, I have drawn upon lessons learnt from our two previous exercises in keeping a narrow focus to ensure we can agree tangible deliverables. My biodiversity deep dive will therefore focus on the approaches and actions we need to effectively implement to achieve the Convention on Biological Diversity 30 by 30 target and its contribution in reversing biodiversity decline.

The deep dive will be pivotal in tackling the twin crises and its solutions-based focus will be key in driving progress towards our goals. It is imperative we build upon the pro-active restorative ecosystem approach embedded in Environment (Wales) Act recognising this forms a platform for future progress.

I am running the deep dive in partnership with NRW and I am clear a key output will be actionable deliverables. Whilst the core deep dive group will be small, it is imperative we draw upon a wider and cross cutting range of stakeholder expertise to ensure we tackle the range of complex challenges we face.

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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.

Thank you for the range of structural and practical obstacles you have raised in your letter. I will ensure that these matters are aired within the Deep Dive discussions. This deep dive is a real opportunity to consider alternative and creative means to address some of the barriers we may face in delivering our ambition.

Thank you for your kind offer to assist the deep dive, my officials will be in touch with stakeholders shortly to discuss representation at the meetings.

Yours sincerely,



Julie James AS/MS
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