



Ein cyf/Our ref ATI 10670

September 2016

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 10670 - Ecosystem Approach, Environment (Wales) Act and 'A Living Wales'

Thank you for your request dated 16 August. You asked for the following:

- 1) Please provide any advice or guidance provided to Welsh Government or any Ministers regarding the ecosystem approach and/or its implementation.
- 2) Please provide any information on the outcome of the legislation workshop referred to on page 37 of "A Living Wales".
- 3) Please provide a list of the 230 pieces of statute referred to in paragraph 13 of the Environment (Wales) Bill Explanatory Memorandum.
- 4) Was any report produced documenting the review of environmental legislation in Wales (other than input into the Law Commission report on the Wildlife Bill)? If so, please provide a copy.

Regarding the first part of your request, I can confirm that no advice or guidance was provided to Welsh Government regarding the ecosystem approach and /or its implementation.

The second part of your request refers to a legislation workshop held in 2012. I am afraid we do not hold any recorded information on the outcome of this legislation workshop. I can advise that it helped to inform the work taken forward by the Natural Resource Management Programme which was established to take forward proposals set out in the 'Sustaining a Living Wales Green Paper' and the 2011 Programme for Government commitments in relation to:

- Sustainable development;



- Natural resource management;
- Delivery of an Environment Bill;
- Establishment of a single natural resource management body for Wales.

We now have in place two Acts which relate to some of these commitments, namely the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. For further information on this legislation please see attached links, which include communication materials such as animations and factsheets:

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/?lang=en>

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/natural-resources-management/environment-act/?lang=en>

In relation to the third part of your request, a list of the 230 pieces of statute referred to in paragraph 13 of the Environment (Wales) Bill Explanatory Memorandum is available in the public domain (Natural Resources Wales, Functions Order 2013, Schedule 2). Please allow me to refer you to the link below.

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2013/755/pdfs/wsi_20130755_mi.pdf

In the final part of your request you asked for a copy of any report produced documenting the review of environmental legislation in Wales. I was able to find one report that meets this criterion. The Welsh Government commissioned a report that was produced by Lynda Warren of Aberystwyth University in 2011 entitled 'Natural Environment Framework: Report from Regulatory and Management Approaches Work Stream'. Please find enclosed a copy of the report.

The purpose of the NEF was to ensure that Wales had increasingly resilient and diverse ecosystems that delivered economic, environmental and social benefits. The report itself covers the outcome of eight projects that collectively provided the evidence base for the NEF workstream.

The Regulatory and Management Approaches (RMA) Workstream was set up in order to ensure that the NEF outcomes would be delivered. The focus of the RMA Workstream was to:

- Analyse the effectiveness of the current regime;
- Identify gaps in policy, management and legislation;
- Identify areas where financial instruments may be more appropriate than legislation;
- Make recommendations for legislative change; and
- Make recommendations for changes in approach to regulation and management.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,

CF10 3NQ

or Email: FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,