

19 September 2017

Natural Resources Management Team  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Pillar J08  
East Core  
CF10 3NQ

Dear colleagues

We are writing in response to the Welsh Government's *Taking forward Wales' sustainable management of natural resources* consultation.

The Sport and Recreation Alliance brings together the sport and recreation sector and supports members to tackle challenges and take advantage of opportunities. We are the voice of the sector with Government, policy makers and the media. We help get the nation active at the grassroots by providing advice, support and guidance

The Welsh Sports Association (WSA) is the independent umbrella body that supports and represents the sport sector in Wales, including over 60 national governing bodies of sport. As the collective voice for this sector in proactively advocating on its behalf, we also enable our members to become stronger, more successful and sustainable through providing a wide range of business support services.

We have come together to respond to the consultation as we both recognise the value of outdoor recreation and have a shared commitment to helping create an active population.

We welcome the Welsh Government's efforts to improve access to the outdoors against the backdrop of challenging Brexit developments. We know that outdoor recreation can generate economic, health and social benefits and we support moves to enable more children, young people and adults to enjoy our wonderful natural assets. We hope that this consultation results in positive action and improved access to quality outdoor recreation opportunities for all.

We are pleased to read that the Welsh Government is not aiming to take away or reduce access rights for existing users. Instead, we agree the focus should be on working together to find the best way for a variety of activities - including walking, cycling, horse-riding, angling, canoeing and gliding - to make the most of rights of way. These discussions should involve users, providers, local communities and land owners, and we hope that the response to the Welsh Government's consultation creates a positive, unified dialogue between all stakeholders.

Another overarching area we welcome is the consultation's recognition of the successful approach taken by Scotland in relation to placing the onus on users to respond and protect the areas to which they have access. We support Welsh Government moves to facilitate responsible use and urge decision makers to work with stakeholders on an education programme as part of the implementation phase so that all users are aware of the new

arrangements and how they should be behaving. Several national governing bodies of sport already provide guidance for their members on shared use and the Sport and Recreation Alliance and Welsh Sports Association are considering how we can bring stakeholders together to build on this. We would be happy to update you on our progress if helpful.

We know that several of our respective members, both within Wales and more widely across the UK, have responded directly to the consultation, and we defer to their expert views on the detailed proposals. We would be happy to facilitate any further engagement with the outdoor recreation sector to support the implementation of actions that come from this consultation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Boggis', written in a cursive style.

Emma Boggis  
CEO  
Sport and Recreation Alliance

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V Ward', written in a cursive style.

Victoria Ward  
CEO  
Welsh Sports Association