

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ90668

Adam Price MS
MS for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
Adam.Price@senedd.wales

9 February 2024

Dear Adam Price MS,

You recently asked a Written Question (ref WQ90668) enquiring whether the Welsh Government have any plans to implement a biodiversity credit scheme similar to the scheme in England managed by Environment Bank? This was not answered substantially, and I indicated that I would write to you on this matter.

In response to your question, statutory biodiversity credits are a mechanism of the statutory framework for biodiversity net gain in England. Welsh Government policy in Planning Policy Wales (PPW) is a net benefit for biodiversity, based on the Section 6 Duty of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (securing biodiversity enhancement and ecosystem resilience). PPW provides a framework through the step-wise approach to securing a net benefit for biodiversity. This approach is place-based, focused on improved outcomes for the environment, and not the commodification of our habitats and species. It establishes the need for collaboration between local planning authorities across larger areas using existing regional mechanisms or voluntary arrangements to explore ways in which land may be identified and set aside to deliver net benefits for biodiversity. As part of this process contributions may come forward towards the funding of nature recovery projects.

Yours sincerely,

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

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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.