

Clerk to the Sustainability Committee,
Welsh Assembly,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff, CF99 1NA

Dear Sir,

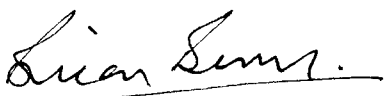
I have read with great consternation that your committee will soon be under pressure from the Welsh Canoe Union to grant free access for all canoes to all Welsh rivers. I sincerely hope that you will feel it essential to reject such an idea. It appears that pressure from commercial canoeing interests is the driving force in this matter. I have no connection whatsoever in this context to any commercial activity in Wales other than a regular fishing holiday for two for one week each year. This annual visit is not cheap and can be marred by other river users, particularly inconsiderate canoeists.

Should your committee grant the unreasonable free access being demanded then this years' visit to Wales will definitely be our last.

Other considerations must be recognised. Environmental damage by canoeists is often not understood except for example, by fishermen and farmers (unauthorised access to private land). Damage to spawning gravel beds is also a major concern in many rivers.

I look forward to hear that no action will be taken by your committee in this serious matter.

Yours sincerely,



Brian Bury