

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/ Our ref: WQ82450

James Evans MS
Member of the Senedd for Brecon and Radnorshire

09 June 2021

Dear James,

Thank you for your written question WQ82450 due for answer on 28 May.

Will the Minister look to urgently review the decision that Natural Resources Wales and Powys County Council have taken to prohibit the launching of canoes and other crafts on the river Wye at Glasbury-on-Wye?

Apologies for being unable to answer your question within the deadline. I understand that Powys County Council have temporarily suspended canoe launching at Glasbury while they undertake an environmental assessment. This will examine the potential impact of launching boats on the Wye and identify any actions that may need to be taken to prevent potential damage to the Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Any change in non-conservation human activity in a Natura 2000 protected site such as the Wye should be assessed for impact, and the definition of 'change' includes progressive increases in particular activities over time. I understand the frustration this may cause canoeists and other water sports enthusiasts, but it is important that we protect and preserve our conservation areas and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSRIs).

In the last Senedd term, the Welsh Government asked the National Access Forum for Wales to identify ways of improving recreational access to inland waters. A sub-group submitted a progress report just before the recent election, which is currently under consideration.

Yours sincerely

Julie James AS/MS
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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.