


Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol
Minister for Natural Resources



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Jocelyn Davies AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

 December 2015

Dear Jocelyn

I am writing following the plenary meeting on 03 November, during which you asked for information on what the Welsh Government is doing to protect puffin colonies in Welsh waters.

The EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (2009/147/EEC) is the legislative framework which allows us to create Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for the conservation of species. Puffins are protected under Article 4.2 of the Directive, as they are a regularly occurring migratory species that breeds at sites around our coast.

Puffins in Wales have been protected by this legislation since August 1982, when Skomer SPA was first classified under the Directive. The site was subsequently extended to include Skokholm Island in August 1991. The site underwent a further extension in October last year to cover the areas of sea used by the birds for resting, loafing and other essential maintenance behaviours.

The Skomer and Skokholm SPA provides protection for a number of seabirds, including puffins. Recent monitoring data shows a peak count on Skokholm of 6,665 individuals (5,070 in 2014) and 21,349 individuals on Skomer (18,237 in 2014). This suggests that the puffin population in Welsh waters is stable and increasing, in contrast to the declines seen elsewhere.

Yours sincerely

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol
Minister for Natural Resources

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0300 0603300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0300 0604400
Correspondence.Carl.Sargeant@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.