



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales**

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Rachel Evans
Director
Countryside Alliance

By e-mail: rachel-evans@countryside-alliance.org

23 November 2021

Dear Rachel

Thank you for attending our public board meeting last week and for setting out your concerns and observations during our consideration of the matter. I said I would discuss with the Chief Executive your question raised during the public Q&A session with regards to there being no consultation taking place with all interested stakeholders across Wales prior to making our decision, and I wish to address this aspect.

I would first like to reiterate that this was a difficult decision for NRW and to assure you that we were not taking a view on the behaviour of any individuals taking part in trail hunting activities in Wales to date, nor were we taking a view on the activity itself which, as we recognised in the Board paper and in the discussion, is a lawful activity in Wales provided it has the landowners permission.

The decision last week was taken by NRW acting as landowner and manager of the NRW Estate as to whether to continue with a previously permitted activity, in this regard there is no statutory duty or obligation to engage with stakeholders as part of this particular decision making process. NRW have the power to make such decision as to whether we wish to permit a specified activity to be carried out on that land. As was also mentioned last week there is no extant agreement in place with any organisation or individuals to undertake trail or access only hunting on the NRW estate, as the previous agreement expired back in September.

Having said that the MFHA and affected Hunts were made aware that the Master Agreement had expired and that we were considering whether or not it should be renewed. So we have tried to ensure that those with whom we have had a relationship with in this regard have been kept abreast of matters.

I'm conscious of and our Equality Impact Assessment identifies the importance of the rural economy in Wales and I would hope that we can continue to work with you on such matters. However, as the Board Members and my Executive Team pointed out last week

we feel that the resources to ensure that this activity is undertaken in compliance with the legislation is not something we can support.

Our decision will remain as agreed last week and I hope this explains the situation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Henshaw'.

Sir David Henshaw
Cadeirydd, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Chair, Natural Resources Wales