

## **Newborough Abermenai & Aberffraw dune SAC JNCC adjudication**

[me](#) 17 Nov

To: wendy.dalton@jncc.gov.uk ; john.hewsonwebb@jncc.gov.uk

CC: Craig Shuttleworth, martin hollingham; Roger Cooper

## **Newborough Abermenai & Aberffraw dune SAC adjudication**

I understand you have recently provided a report or review of certain disputed issues regarding the Newborough area of the Abermenai & Aberffraw dune SAC on Anglesey. This was requested by either or both the Welsh Government (WG) and NRW. I'm now making an FoI request to try and clarify just what JNCC were asked to adjudicate on and what information JNCC were provided with in order to look into the disputed issues. I am one of the independent participants in the so-called Newborough Science Review set up by CCW at the request of the WG and am making this request on behalf of the independent participants of the Science Review.

The information requested are details of the issues that JNCC were asked to adjudicate on - the adjudication briefing document from WG/NRW; what information NRW (and/or WG) provided to JNCC regarding the disputed issues and a copy of JNCC's adjudication report or review; the conclusions in other words.

You may or may not be aware that at the outset of the Newborough Science Review a commitment was made by CCW/NRW and the WG that non-partisan, independent arbitration would resolve any disputed issues that arose from the review of various conservation status and dune management issues at the site. The fifth Science Review meeting provided details of that commitment: that an independent arbitration panel should be set up made up of three appropriately qualified scientists with a clear understanding of the issues and the Habitats Directive and the panel chaired by a fourth appropriately qualified scientist of stature in the scientific/conservation community. NRW in concert with the WG have reneged on that commitment and JNCC have been used in part to circumvent the commitment by NRW to substantiate their claims before an independent panel of appropriately qualified scientists. The WG in order to circumvent the commitment to independent arbitration also commissioned a WG internal review which was a highly partisan report by a WG officer to justify proceeding with a clearfelling agenda at Newborough.

I am concerned that JNCC have carried out the adjudication of the disputed issues without reference to or clarification of the views of independent scientists participating in the Newborough Science Review. JNCC seem to have relied totally on information provide by one side of a complex dispute, NRW (formally CCW). JNCC have in effect been used to circumvent a clear commitment by NRW and the Welsh Government to resolve disputed conservation and dune management issues by independent arbitration.

I look forward to information that will help to clarify just what JNCC have been asked to do, what information was provided to JNCC regarding the disputed issues and the views of independent scientists; and what were JNCC's conclusions.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr Ian Miller

**JNCC response:**

**RE: Newborough Abermenai & Aberffraw dune SAC JNCC adjudication**

[Wendy.Dalton@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:Wendy.Dalton@jncc.gov.uk) 17 Nov

To: me

Dear Dr Miller

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 17 November 2014. We are dealing with your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

As required by the legislation, we aim to answer your request within 20 working days from the date we received it. If for any reason we are unable to meet this deadline we will keep you fully informed of the reasons for this.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Wendy Dalton

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