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Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref IWJ/H/09/02
Ein cyf/Our ref MB/JG/05522/11

Ieuan Wyn Jones AM/AC

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19 August 2011

Dear Ieuan,

Thank you for your letter of 21 July about the Review of Science for the Newborough Forest Special Area of Conservation.

I understand that the terms of reference for the Review made provision for arbitration by a single independent scientist if a consensus was not forthcoming. I have seen CCW's subsequent proposal to convene an expert panel of scientists (agreed by both parties) but I am not convinced that it represents the best way forward.

Given the already protracted nature of the Newborough case, I believe a more cost-effective and streamlined approach is necessary. I have asked the Welsh Government's Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor John Harries to examine the scientific aspects of the case and determine what if any arbitration is necessary.

The Forestry Commission's Forest Management Plan for 2010-2015 has been running for over six months, and requires clarity on some of the scientific issues in order to progress. My officials have been in contact with representatives of Newborough Forest Partnership and CCW and it appears that there is considerable potential for agreement on a way forward. Both parties have been asked to outline their scientific concerns and submit them for the consideration of Professor Harries. I look forward to receiving his advice and expect that it will lead to the development of appropriate management measures for the site.

I have written in similar terms to Albert Owen MP.

*Best wishes
John*

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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