

Paul Speight Esq

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Head of Unit - DG ENV E.3 – Environmental Enforcement
Directorate-General Environment
Office : BU9 - 02/184 European Commission B-1049 Brussels

CHAP(2018)00832 agricultural pollution in Wales

Dear Mr Speight

I have delayed a response to your letter of the 18th December 2018 to learn more about the proposals made by the Cabinet Secretary on 14th November last year. Afonydd Cymru is now included in a group that is advising Welsh Government (WG) on the matter of water pollution from agriculture.

Attached are details of WG's proposals which run along similar lines to the existing Nitrate Vulnerable Zones but will apply pan Wales. These will apply from 1st January 2020 and there will be a six month transitional period to allow full compliance. We are very pleased that the Cabinet Secretary has advanced regulation in this way.

However, we have significant concerns in three areas:

- Is there sufficient willingness and capacity to enforce these regulations by Natural Resources Wales having stood by and allowed pollution on a wide scale to happen unchecked?
- The level and type of monitoring is not comprehensive enough to capture all pollution events and ensure that subsequent resolution has taken place.
- That modelling shows the production of slurry in parts of Wales, notably the south west, far exceeds what can be safely managed by spreading, given the herd size.

Without attention to these issues, it is unlikely that there will be resolution of either water or air quality issues in Wales resultant from agriculture.

Yours sincerely



Dr Stephen Marsh-Smith OBE

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