

Julie James AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1213  
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/00653/23

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions Committee

05 April 2023

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 16 March regarding Petition P-06-1213 Ban leisure use of Seadoo/jet ski in Cymru. Except in strictly controlled designated areas.

Wales is recognised internationally as having some of the best beaches and water quality in Europe and I am keen to protect this special achievement. High bathing water quality is important for supporting valuable outdoor water recreation opportunities and helps contribute to the objectives set out in the Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: A healthier Wales. These high bathing water quality standards demonstrate what can be achieved where strong collaborative working between government, regulators and communities is in place.

The use of jetskis and seadoos is an unregulated leisure activity. However, there are marine codes of conduct on the use of personal water craft aimed at preventing disturbance to protected species which cover most of the seas around Wales.

I note that Local Authorities have the power to regulate jet skis through byelaws. And the Department of Transport is currently consulting on [strengthening enforcement of the dangerous use of recreational and personal watercraft](#) (UK Government website) within the scope of the Merchant Shipping Act – which is not a devolved issue. Although the issue lies outside my own portfolio remit, I can advise that any new responsibilities for local authorities would need to be accompanied by recognition of the need for additional resources.

Recognising there has been a rise in incidents involving watercraft such as jet skis impacting marine wildlife, the MPA Network Management Action Plan contains specific measures to tackle disturbance such as raising awareness and behaviour change through marine codes of conduct, the introduction of the Wales Coast Explorer app and targeted interventions with North Wales Police.

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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.

The UK Dolphin and Porpoise Conservation Strategy sets out the expectations for improving cetacean populations in the UK. Following the consultation, it is anticipated a targeted action plan for specific pressures such as wildlife disturbance will be produced.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Julie James AS/MS**  
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