

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/11674/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions Committee

petitions@senedd.wales

21 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 23 September regarding petition P-06-1213: Ban leisure use of Seadoo/jet ski in Cymru, except in strictly controlled designated areas.

I share your concerns about peoples' safety in public spaces such as beaches, and that our natural habitats and wildlife are at risk due to the increasing effects of pollution and climate change. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is a criminal offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb marine species such as dolphins and whales. Management measures for Welsh Marine Protection Areas can be considered and applied where there is an evidential risk from threats.

I am aware there has been a recent increase of reports by members of the public of disturbance to marine wildlife caused by recreational vehicles in Wales. Local authorities have the power to regulate speed and nuisance driving through byelaws and the power to fine those breaching the rules, though I recognise that this may not be enough to prevent an irresponsible minority of jet ski users behaving recklessly.

You may be aware that the UK Department for Transport has launched a consultation (<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-enforcement-of-the-dangerous-use-of-recreational-and-personal-watercraft>) on strengthening the enforcement of safety laws for recreational and personal watercraft which should provide a greater deterrent to those who might use jet skis in a dangerous manner.

Yours sincerely,

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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.