

Alun Davies AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd
Minister for Natural Resources and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-439
Ein cyf/Our ref AD-/00037/14

William Powell AM
AM for Mid & West Wales
Chair Petitions committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

21 January 2014

Waw Bill,

Ancient, Veteran and Heritage Trees in Wales

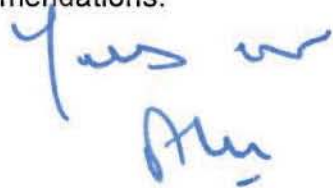
Thank you for your letter dated 16 December 2013 in which you sought my views regarding the petition for greater protection of ancient, veteran and heritage trees submitted to you by Coed Cadw.

I welcome Coed Cadw highlighting this matter and in my oral statement that I gave to Plenary on 5 November regarding the opportunities and challenges facing the forestry sector in Wales, I made reference to ancient and veteran trees and their biodiversity value.

My forestry officials have been working to establish a Task and Finish Group with the remit of examining the adequacy of the protection that currently can be given to such trees and to report to me on whether there is scope to improve that protection.

A number of individuals from the public, private and voluntary sectors, each with expertise and experience in relation to the protection of trees in Wales, have been invited to participate in the Group and they have been asked to indicate by 20 January whether or not they wish to join it.

Membership will therefore be confirmed by that date and the Group's initial meeting will then be arranged. Once they have completed their remit the Group will report to me with its recommendations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yus or Alun'.

Alun Davies AC / AM
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Minister for Natural Resources and Food