Hannah Blythyn AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd
Minister for Environment

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-717
Ein cyf/Our ref HB/00752/18

David John Rowlands AM

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

24 August 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter dated 27 July regarding the Petition P-05-717 Establish Statutory Public Rights of Access to Land and Water for Recreational and Other Purposes.

The proposals on access within the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources consultation generated a lot of interest and initiated wider debates across different sectors.

Rural areas and interests are facing significant changes and uncertainty as a result of the UK's decision to withdraw from the European Union. I do not intend to add further uncertainty and complexity to what may be a difficult transition for all concerned which is why I have said now is not the right time for substantive access reform. The consultation has been an extremely valuable exercise to inform the direction I want to take with regard to access, both through legislation and other means. I will provide further detail on the reform and the approach I believe is necessary when I formally respond to the consultation later this year.

My officials will continue their engagement on the access proposals through established groups such as the National Access Forum. The nature of future engagement will be shaped by my response to the consultation. However, I expect the need to draw on the valuable knowledge and experience of the National Access Forum to shape the best ways of utilising and also protecting our countryside will continue.

Yours Sincerely,

Hannah Blythyn

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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.