

John Griffiths AC /AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-383
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/07208/12

William Powell AM

Chair Petition's committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

2 November 2012

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter dated 10 October about the petition you have received regarding the proposal to designate Llangorse Lake as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ). I have noted the accompanying documents which you provided with your letter.

I have set out below the background which led to Llangorse Lake being identified as a proposed Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.

Member States are required to review their implementation of the EC Nitrates Directive every four years. The outcome of the review is used to propose new or amend NVZ's and/or the measures in the Action Programme.

Following consideration of the consultation responses to the latest Review of the Nitrate Directive in Wales, issued in December 2011 and recommendations made to us by the Environment Agency, the Welsh Government issued letters to identified owners or occupiers of land which falls within a proposed NVZ area. The letter set out that the Welsh Government was minded to designate identified NVZ areas in Wales.

Within this process of reviewing and proposing NVZ's in line with the requirements of the EC Nitrates Directive there is an opportunity for those land owners/occupiers to appeal against the proposals. The grounds for appeal are clearly set out in Part 2 of the Nitrates Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations 2008. All appeals received in relation to the current NVZ proposals are being considered by Planning Inspectors as appointed by Welsh Ministers.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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In relation to the appeal raised by owners/occupiers of land within the proposed NVZ around Llangorse Lake, a public hearing was held on 16 October and the Planning Inspector will make a final decision by the end of November. Appeals decisions are binding on the Welsh Government.

In response to your question about possible financial assistance for those whose farms are within a designated NVZ, I can advise you that financial assistance will be available to farmers within newly designated Nitrate Vulnerable Zones. This will be through a combination of advice and grant aid aimed at tackling pollution at source and intercepting/mitigating pollution pathways.

Advice regarding compliance with Nitrate Regulations is available through Farming Connect's Farm Advisory Service. Farm advisory visits, together with specialist support from an approved adviser will provide on-farm advice and training. All eligible businesses can apply for up to 80% funding towards this service.

Capital investment aimed at tackling pollution at source and intercepting and mitigating pollution pathways will be available through Glastir Efficiency Grants. This scheme will be prioritised for farms in NVZs through a revision of Priority Water Catchments. Eligible technologies include:

- Rainwater separation – rainwater goods and protection, pipe work and associated yard reinstatement, roofing over livestock gathering areas, diversion kerbing;

- Slurry separators and associated equipment;

- Roofs/ covers and floating covers over slurry stores;

- Roofs over manure stores;

- Slurry, manure and dirty water stores – new, extensions and modifications, with associated reception pit, slurry channels and fixed equipment;

- Low trajectory slurry spreading equipment (e.g. trailing shoe spreaders, shallow injectors) – *not applicable to Glastir Entry Option 14* ;

- Recycling – pipe work, storage tanks, water troughs; and

- Rainwater collection – guttering, pipes, filters, storage tanks, 1st flush diverters, pumps, associated controls and electrics.

A Nutrient Management Plan including soil analysis will be needed for Glastir Efficiency Grants, which can be part funded through Farming Connect. The plan will recommend slurry/manure applications and any inorganic fertiliser use and will provide a Storage Report. This will illustrate the current situation and improvements required to reach the five month storage requirement. The report will include actions to reduce the quantity of material to be stored such as clean/dirty water separation and may also include recommendations on storage.

Grants can be awarded for a proportion of the costs of the eligible items which improves manure /slurry storing facilities for the purpose of increasing the storage period allowing farmers to make best use of their manure and slurry. Matching slurry/manure application to

crop needs will reduce nutrient leaching to water courses addressing diffuse pollution. Up to 40% of eligible costs, subject to a maximum grant per holding of £50,000 will be available.

For Young Farmers, 50% of eligible costs is available. Grants will be made subject to a minimum grant contribution of £2,000. The amounts available through Glastir Efficiency Grants exceed those of the previous Catchment Sensitive Farming Scheme.

Yan,



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