



Eich cyf/Your ref: JF357  
Ein cyf/Our ref:FM /05648/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM  
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13 August 2019

Dear Janet,

I am writing in response to your letter of 22 July regarding Snowdonia National Park Authority.

I greatly value the role our Parks play in protecting our landscapes, supporting farming, and promoting biodiversity and tourism. In recognition of this, we have managed to protect their core budgets both last year and this year despite the tremendously challenging financial situation. We have also provided more than £5 million in additional funding to the Park Authorities in the last two years to enable them to progress a range of projects and programmes that otherwise would not have been able to take place.

I am fully aware of the issues facing the National Park Authorities. However, as the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd pointed out in the Siambr, the pressures the Parks face are not unique to those organisations, important as their work is. The impact of a decade of austerity is such that no service can be immune from the year after year cuts we experience. Any additional protection for the Parks can only be provided by reductions in the budgets of other services.

No final decisions have been taken on the Welsh Government budget as yet. The Deputy Minister for Housing & Local Government has received detailed financial information from the Authorities with regards to their future funding, and Ministers and officials will be considering the matter further over the coming weeks.

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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 Deputy Minister meets regularly with the three National Parks to talk through their concerns, most recently on 23 July, and during late July visited each of the Parks to discover more about the superb work they carry out in protecting and enhancing our most cherished landscapes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

**MARK DRAKEFORD**