

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref:MA/JJ/1703/23

Chairs of National Park Authorities
Relevant Council Leaders
AONB Joint Committee Chairs

Cc: NPA Chief Executives
NPA Heads of Democratic Services
Relevant Local Authority Heads of Democratic Services
AONB Lead Officers

25 September 2023

Dear Chairs and Council Leaders,

I attach great importance to the role of our Designated Landscapes, both our National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, in helping deliver key Welsh Government priorities including addressing the nature and climate emergencies. For these bodies to be successful in these endeavours it is important to ensure that the governance of these bodies, the National Park Authorities (NPAs) and AONB Joint Advisory Committees (JACs), are as effective as possible. Consequently, I am keen to ensure the members of these bodies, many of whom are County Councillors, have the full range of skills, and the latest information, at their disposal to best discharge their duties for their communities and the people of Wales.

To help with this important task, my officials are developing a training package comprising three online training modules for all NPA and AONB JAC members. Each module will last for around two hours and are likely to be delivered over the autumn and winter. They will be delivered online and we will strive to arrange them at the most convenient times for attendees given their other duties. We will also strive to ensure bilingual provision.

The three priority areas, developed in consultation with the NPAs, AONBs and Natural Resources Wales, are:

- Introduction to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (for NPA and AONB JAC members);
- Tackling the Nature and Climate Emergencies (for NPA and AONB JAC members);
- Effective Governance (for NPA members only – the National Association for AONBs is exploring options for governance training programs tailored specifically for AONBs).

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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.

I am keen that we work together so that members can maximise the opportunities they have to protect and enable access to our most cherished landscapes and to ensure robust governance arrangements are in place so that NPAs and AONBs can carry out their important roles. I therefore ask that you help in promoting and encouraging these opportunities amongst members.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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