



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol**
Cymru
**Natural
Resources**
Wales

Ein cyf/Our ref:
Eich cyf/Your ref:

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Sustainable Land Management Team
Welsh Government
Rhodfa Padarn
Llanbadarn Fawr
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SY23 3UR

17 July 2014

Dear Sir or Madam

Consultation on Welsh Government Cross Compliance proposals for 2015

Thank you for inviting us to respond to your consultation on the Welsh Government Cross Compliance proposals for 2015. We have reviewed this document within Natural Resources Wales and have collated our comments in the attached response form.

Agricultural production plays a key role in determining the quality of both our land and water based environment. Many of the farming practices that impact our environment are not economically beneficial; poor management practices reduce the financial viability of farm businesses and impact on the wider rural economy. Conversely, sustainable land management practices are economically beneficial, support rural communities and deliver a better environment.

Advice and guidance, together with key regulatory regimes, such as cross compliance, are the essential tools that we and others can use to help us achieve the delivery of sustainable environmental outcomes. These outcomes include those that meet the requirements of the Water Framework, Habitats and Birds Directives, and positive outcomes for our protected sites, habitats and species, and for our access and recreation remits. Working together with Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales aims to integrate regimes to meet our aspiration for integrated natural resource management.

Yours faithfully

Hazel L J Drewett (Mrs)
Head of Terrestrial Ecosystems Group