

Mark Drakeford, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Welsh Language
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

9 June | 2025

CC: Huw Irranca-Davies, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

Re: The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

The UK Government is considering the future of [public bodies and quangos](#). We have heard that the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) is to be considered as part of this review, and that it could be subsumed into a single UK public body. If this were to happen then we are concerned that its ability to fund projects in Wales could be lost and both UK and Welsh Government's ability to meet their biodiversity and net zero commitments could be compromised. There is significant value in funding cultural and natural heritage together, and NLHF is uniquely placed to do this. As such, we recommend that NLHF remains in its current form with devolved governance and staff in Wales, so that it can continue to deliver the vital investment in our priceless and fragile natural heritage.

The NLHF has an essential role to play in meeting the Welsh Government's commitments under the Global Biodiversity Framework and to achieve future nature targets that will be set under the framework of the Environmental Governance, Principles and Nature Targets Bill.

There is a significant funding and delivery gap in efforts to meet both the UK and Welsh Governments' nature commitments. NLHF is one of the few organisations that

can help to fill that gap in a cost-effective and socially progressive manner. The Fund has delivered over £2.2bn in funding for environmental projects (23% of its overall funding), restoring natural infrastructure that underpins economic resilience, and boosting green spaces in and around towns and cities with huge health and wellbeing benefits. Since leaving the EU, the Fund is now one of, if not the most significant nature funders in Wales and a trusted grant delivery body for Welsh Government funds for nature, such as the Nature Networks Fund. The most recent “[Where the Green Grants Went](#)” report shows that Wales received significantly more in terms of Lottery funding than it does in funding from Foundations. Indeed, there are few long-term funds for nature available to Wales, so any loss of Lottery funding for nature in Wales would present serious challenges for nature conservation and restoration work.

We ask for reassurance that you will make representations to the UK Government on the importance of the Fund for Wales. We would be glad to meet to represent our concerns and outline the NLHF’s vital importance for Wales if this would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Whitfield, Director, Wales Environment Link

Alun Pritchard, Director, RSPB Cymru

Kit Stoner, Chief Executive, Bat Conservation Trust

Owen Derbyshire, CEO, Keep Wales Tidy

Clare Dinham, Wales Manager, Buglife

Gareth Clubb, Director, WWF Cymru

Rachel Sharp, Director, Wildlife Trusts Wales

Gail Davies-Walsh, CEO, Afonydd Cymru

Lesley Fletcher, Head of Plantlife Cymru

Jonathan Colchester, Chair, Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW)

Jim Foster, Conservation Director, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust

Gareth Ludkin, Senior Policy and Projects Officer, Campaign for National Parks

Swyddfa Caerdydd

Tramshed Tech

Uned D, Stryd Pendyris Caerdydd CF11 6BH

F: 07498 228066 | E: enquiry@waleslink.org

Trydar: @WalesLink

Cardiff Office

Tramshed Tech

Unit D, Pendyris Street, Cardiff CF11 6BH

T: 07498 228066 | E: enquiry@waleslink.org

Twitter: @WalesLink

www.waleslink.org