# WRITTEN STATEMENT

# BY

# THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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| **TITLE**  | **Vessel monitoring systems for fishing boats in Wales** |
| **DATE**  | **18 July 2019** |
| **BY** | **Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs** |

I launched a consultation on 29th January this year on the introduction of a vessel monitoring system for all fishing vessels in Wales. The consultation ended on 3rd May.

I would like to thank all those who took time to respond. In total, 20 responses were received, via email, hard copy and online survey.

The majority of respondents were in favour of the introduction of VMS (60%), quoting enforcement, sustainability and minimising environmental damage as the main benefits. However, there were some concerns raised, mainly in relation to privacy and data protection, practicalities of installing VMS on smaller vessels, along with financial costs to fishers.

Most respondents indicated VMS was the only feasible, cost-effective option, which would provide reliable data. Some respondents offered alternative solutions, but the same respondents also acknowledged their limitations.

Having considered all responses, Welsh Government officials are working hard to ensure a low-cost solution for fishers.

A summary of the consultation responses is available at**:** <https://gov.wales/vessel-monitoring-systems-fishing-boats-wales>.