

Hannah Blythyn AC/AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: WAQ 78621

Mohammad Asghar AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Mohammad.asghar@assembly.wales

1 August 2019

Thank you for submitting the following Assembly Question:

What events is the Minister planning, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Act of Parliament to establish national parks in Wales and England?

With apologies for not meeting the original deadline, I am pleased to respond to your question as follows.

The 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act paved the way for the establishment of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the UK, as well as providing new rights of access for the public to enjoy the countryside. It was an important piece of legislation and has enabled some of our finest landscapes to be protected for future generations. Wales's three National Parks and five AONBs were established in the decades following this legislation.

Last week I visited all three of our wonderful Parks to mark this anniversary.

April this year marked the start of Discover National Parks Fortnight - a two-week celebration across the UK with events and experiences running throughout the Easter holidays.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Hannah.Blythyn@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Hannah.Blythyn@gov.wales

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 2019 UK National Parks Conference will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Act and our National Parks and Welsh Government will be represented at the event. Representatives of Welsh National Parks will also take part in the *National Parks Big Picnic*, hosted by Exmoor National Park.

Later this year I hope to attend the Welsh Designated Landscapes conference in Snowdonia where I will reflect on the progress we have made since the 1949 Act came into force.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hannah Blythyn'.

Hannah Blythyn AC/AM

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