

18th. August, 2009.

M/s V. Hawkins,
Clerk to the Committee,
Sustainability Committee,
Welsh Assembly,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff CF99. 1NA.

To the Committee Members,

I am Alan Francis Sanders my address and contact details appear above.

For the past 15 years I have been a member of the Management Committee of the North Wales Branch of The Country Land and Business Association. For six years upto October 2008 I served as branch Vice Chairman, Chairman and President. I have also served as Chairman of the Dee Fishery Association and I formed the original River Dee Trust Charitable Trust. In addition I also served on the LFAG for the Rivers Dee and Clwyd.

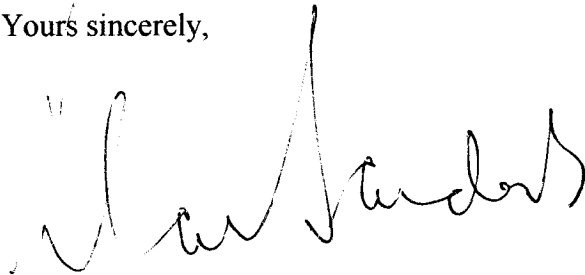
In 1990 the statement that there was a shortage of access to the Rivers of Wales for canoeists would, with a few exceptions, have been true. In 2009 that statement is only true because of the manipulation by those who are responsible for management of the canoeing organisations within Wales. Access to the major Rivers in Wales is on offer by way of voluntary agreements. An agreement needs two parties and sadly Canoe Wales refuses to enter into any form of agreement and where agreements have existed the canoe interests have either terminated those agreements or refused to re-new them when they have come up for re-negotiation.

The premise behind this strategy is to promote a belief that access to the Rivers of Wales is being refused and that opening the floodgate of unrestricted access to every inch of every River in the Principality is only way to balance the perceived injustice.

Access to every inch of flowing water also means that there must be a corresponding right to cross any piece of land (whether it be a field of grain, silage or other private property) to reach that water.

I respectfully submit that the members of the Sustainability Committee should follow the advice of the Environment Agency and CCW and encourage the canoe interests to accept the access agreements on offer throughout Wales. Further consideration of the Petition should be deferred for a reasonable period so that the access made available by agreement can be properly assessed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Iain Stoddart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.