

Virginia Hawkins
Clerk to the Sustainability Committee
Welsh Assembly Government
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

25th August 2009

Dear Ms Hawkins,

Inquiry into Access to Inland Water in Wales

The following is the submission to the inquiry into Access to Inland Water in Wales on behalf of Islwyn & District Anglers, we make our submission representing 200 Welsh anglers.

Q1. What is your interest in the issue of access to inland waterways

We own / lease game fishing on approximately 20 miles of the Rivers Ebbw & Sirhowy in South Wales as well as two still waters, Penyfan Pond & Pant-yr-eos Reservoir.

Q2. Are you a member of an organisation related to your use of water?

I am the Secretary of the club, which operates via an Executive Committee that meets on a monthly basis; the club was formed in the 70's and has established itself as one of the leading angling clubs in South Wales.

Q3. Which stretch/es of water do you own/use/manage?

We have purchased numerous plots of land on the River Sirhowy so that our fishing is guaranteed for the future of the club. We also have obtained leases via local companies and local landowners, and the local Council for additional fishing rites on both the Sirhowy and Ebbw

Q4. Legal Rights

We are happy with our legal rights regarding access and fully understand what we can and cannot do with regard to access. We are unhappy with the level of unlawful access (Trespass) but due to the laxness of the law find it difficult to bring this under control. This unlawful access is causing nuisance to our members and is causing disruption to our enjoyment of the environment in which we fish.

Q5. Voluntary Agreements

We have agreements with farmers, estates and the local Council for access to our rivers for fishing. These have been obtained through consultation and negotiation over many years and incur rental fees.

Further Comments

We as a club are extremely concerned that unlawful access will have a detrimental effect on both the club and the environment. We have worked tirelessly to obtain access to waters that were at the time totally devoid of any fish. The club actively pursued the cleaning up of the rivers Ebbw and Sirhowy and is now reaping the benefits with 1st class fishing available for our members and visitors.

Yours Sincerely

John H.Otter (Secretary)
Islwyn & District Anglers
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