



Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/00743/20

Penny Lewns

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4 May 2020

Dear Penny,

Thank you for your letter of 16 April to Lesley Griffiths AM, Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, requesting clarification on the continuation of ecological work during the current Covid-19 restrictions. It has been passed to me to respond as planning falls within my portfolio.

The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) Regulations 2020 ("Coronavirus Regulations") prohibit people from leaving or remaining away from the place where they live without reasonable excuse. One of the reasonable excuses is the need to travel for the purposes of work where it is not reasonably practicable for that person to work from where they are living. As you point out in your letter, undertaking ecological field work or studies is one of these examples.

The Chief Planner wrote to local planning authorities on 29 April to provide guidance on this, and a number of other practical planning issues, confirming our expectation that the planning system will continue to function during this difficult time. The letter is available via the following link and may be a useful resource for your members to consult. <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19-updated-guidance-planning-authorities>

Yours sincerely,

**Julie James AC/AM**  
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol  
Minister for Housing and Local Government

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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.