



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Lesley Griffiths MS  
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales  
Welsh Government  
5th Floor, Tŷ Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021

*Dear Lesley,*

**RE: New targets in special areas of conservation (SAC) across Wales**

A number of constituents, businesses and statutory agencies, including Wrexham Council's Housing team, have contacted me regarding issues they have encountered when undertaking building renovations and developments as a result of the recently introduced guidance on phosphate levels in special areas of conservation (SAC) across Wales.

From recent conversations, I understand that the Welsh Government has, in a laudable attempt to protect rivers from the excessive release of phosphates into the water course, regulated that additional certification is required to meet new targets. However, the process of gaining this certification is currently unknown, leaving local authorities unable to determine some planning applications in SAC areas.

In Wrexham, this has detrimentally impacted several significant projects, such as the supported living development Tŷ Nos. In addition, this has also impacted home renovations, including examples where renovations are vitally important to allow for improved disabled access, housing developments of various sizes, and the expansion of school and medical facilities. It may also impact on the finalisation of Wrexham Council's pending Local Development Plan.

As such, please could you clarify what steps the Welsh Government is taking to make sure local planning authorities have the information required to allow planning applications to progress?

Thank you in advance for your support with this urgent issue.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Sarah Atherton**  
Member of Parliament for Wrexham