



Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Welsh Government
5th Floor
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

10th February 2025

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Re: Consultation on the Removal of Article 4 Direction – Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

I am writing to seek your views on the consultation currently being undertaken by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) regarding the potential removal of the Article 4(1) Direction within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. Several businesses within the park, as well as residents, have raised concerns with me regarding this proposed change, and I would appreciate the Welsh Government's perspective on the matter.

The removal of the Article 4(1) Direction will enable the Authority to mandate planning permission for temporary 28-day camping, caravan, and mobile home sites. This would mark a significant shift in the planning framework and would have considerable implications for local communities and businesses operating within the National Park. As such, I am keen to understand the Welsh Government's position on this issue and how it aligns with broader tourism ambitions for our popular tourism area of Pembrokeshire.

I would be grateful if you could address the following points in your response:

- 1. Welsh Government's Opinion on the Removal of Article 4:** What is the Welsh Government's stance on the potential removal of the Article 4 Direction within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park? Is the Welsh Government supportive of the proposed change, or does it believe that the current direction should remain in place to meet economic aspirations and farm diversification plans in addition to helping to meet tourism demand?

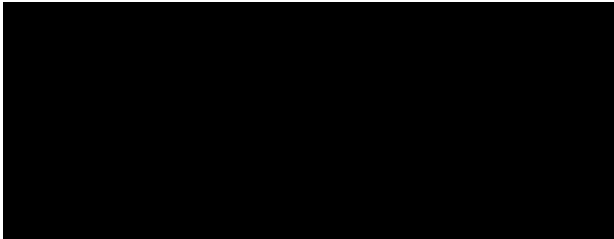
2. **Consistency with National Planning Objectives:** How does the removal of the Article 4 (1) Direction align with the Welsh Government's broader planning policies, particularly those related to protecting National Parks and promoting economic development? Does the Welsh Government foresee similar changes to permitted development rights in other National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty across Wales?
3. **Consultation process:** I understand as a delegated authority PCNPA has the power to implement the changes after the consultation closes. Would Welsh Government consider the need for its involvement given the concerns that have been brought to my attention?

I fully appreciate the importance of protecting our natural heritage and ensuring sustainable development in designated areas like the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. However, I believe it is crucial to carefully consider the potential impacts of removing the Article 4 (1) Direction, particularly for local communities striving to balance environmental protection with economic opportunities.

I would be very grateful for your insight into the Welsh Government's position on this matter and whether you have been fully sighted on such a significant change to their existing planning policy?

Thank you for your attention to this issue. I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,



Samuel Kurtz MS