



Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 19321

20/12/23

Dear ,

**ATISN 19321 – Exempted Camping Sites.**

Thank you for your request submitted on 22 October, which I received on the same day.

Your request asked for:

- (i) how many new exempted organisations have been granted as able to authorise campsites in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (PCNP) over the last 3 years - and how many organisations in total are able to grant licenses in the NP?
- (ii) how many pitches were allowed to be granted in the PCNP?
- (iii) how many of these organisations have been given license to authorise more than the 60 days and have given permission for 365 days a year instead?
- (iv) does WG require the exempted organisation to submit any information regarding a HRA assessment for disposal of sewage/grey water? If not, whose responsibility is it to assess this impact? Is it delegated to NRW?
- (v) does WG monitor the organisations in terms of whether they consult the Planning dept before granting exemptions or whether they monitor the number of days each sites operate for? Whose job is it to monitor the exempted sites?

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.

- (vi) do the exempted organisations have to assess the landscape impact on granting new campsites in protected landscapes?

The information caught by your request constitutes environmental information and has been considered for disclosure under the Environmental Information Regulations (“EIRs”).

I will respond to your request in the order in which it was submitted.

- (i) The Welsh Ministers have granted 50 camping exemption certificates between 1 January 2020 to 20 December 2023 under section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 to Clubs and Organisations that meet the specified criteria set out in our Guidance Notes. A copy of the Guidance Notes is attached for your information. The Clubs and Organisations are advised they must also comply with the Welsh Government’s Model Code of Conduct in carrying out their activities in Wales. I also attach a copy of the Code of Conduct for your information. Please note this exemption allows a Club or Organisation to carry out its activities covering the whole of Wales. The above figure does not include certificates of exemption granted under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.
- (ii) It is a matter for each individual Club or Organisation to decide how many pitches a particular site can accommodate, following consultation with the local planning authority. In most cases they usually restrict it to a maximum of 10 pitches. Please note the exemption only allows fully paid-up members of the Club or Organisation to use the site, as stated above the exemption covers the whole of Wales and is not specific to the PCNP.
- (iii) 50 (Camping exemption certificates do not specify a time limit).
- (iv) The issue of a Welsh camping exemption certificate does not in itself grant planning permission. The construction of any permanent structures on the land such as hardstanding areas and toilet/shower blocks would require a planning application to the local planning authority, PCNP. PCNP, as competent authority under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Habitat Regulations), would be responsible for considering the need for HRA and determining the application in accordance with the Habitat Regulations.

Where the camping by members of a recreational organisation is simply a change of use of the land and no building operations are involved, planning permission is granted by Part 27 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995. This permission, however, is subject to consideration of the Habitat Regulations, which is explained in Annex 5 of Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning. This can be found on the Welsh Government website at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/tan5-nature-conservation.pdf>

- (v) The Welsh Government does not carry out any monitoring of Clubs or Organisations about whether or not they consult with the Planning Department, prior to using a site, but the expectation is that they should do so. The Welsh Government does not monitor the use of specific sites. But if the use of a site is a cause of concern then the Welsh Government will investigate, and if appropriate take action against the Club or Organisation whose use of the site is causing concern.

- (vi) It would be a matter for each Club or Organisation, in consultation with the local planning authority to decide whether the use of a site would cause an unacceptable impact on the landscape. There is an expectation that a Club or Organisation has a system for consulting neighbours and the local planning authority before issuing a certificate and that it would not use a site to which the local planning authority objects. The local planning authority has the power to restrict permitted development rights in exceptional circumstances.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,  
Welsh Government,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ

or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Any information released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004 will be listed in the Welsh Government's Disclosure Log (at <https://gov.wales/about/open-government/freedom-of-information/responses/?lang=en>).

Yours sincerely