

A strong voice for Scotland's oil and gas industry

Since the global oil and gas downturn, the the Scottish Government has been doing everything it can within its powers to support jobs and businesses in the sector.

Report on Wales' future landscapes published

The Group was established to explore the recommendations of the Marsden Report into the future of Wales' designated landscapes, which provided 69 recommendations, the range and scope of which were considerable.

The [report](#) says designated landscapes should be the leaders of the sustainable management of natural resources in their areas and emphasises the importance of joint-working to achieve this.

It recommends the Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales and all designated landscapes provide assistance and support to other landscape managers across Wales, including landowners, farmers and the wider rural community, on issues such as biodiversity, access and protection, in order for the whole society to benefit fully from our landscapes.

The report acknowledges the challenges the UK's exit from the EU poses, with so much of Wales' environmental legislation tied into EU laws and the uncertainty over future funding for agriculture, at a time when action is needed to build the resilience of our eco-systems. It concludes that genuine partnership is needed to ensure the best outcome for Wales.

Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas said:

“From the start the main feature of the working group was partnership, including everyone from national park authorities and areas of outstanding natural beauty, from agricultural and tourism businesses, voluntary organisations and trusts contributing equally to the discussions.

“The basic principle guiding our work is seeing and understanding the role of designated landscapes not as separate excluded areas, but as a distinctive part which could contribute to good practise for the rest of our country's landscape.”

The Welsh Government will now look at whether legislation needs to be changed to support the recommendations of the report. This includes looking at whether greater weight should be given to the importance of these areas and their ecosystems in decision making and whether governance arrangements should evolve to reflect local circumstances, rather than the current one-size-fits-all system.

The Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths said:

“Wales’ landscape is a huge part of our identity and an important national asset. It attracts tourism, outdoor recreation and local employment. It delivers benefits to our health and well-being and has been identified as having huge potential for developing greener energy solutions.

“This is why it is so important we are making the most of our iconic landscape. There is much we can learn from each other as we navigate our way towards a future outside of the EU.

“I thank the group for their work on this report. The next step is to deliver against the ambition, not in isolation, but together as part of the collaborative approach.”

[Carl Sargeant marks two years of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence \(Wales\) Act](#)

The Act aims to improve prevention, protection and support for people affected by violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Since the legislation came into force, achievements include the appointment of the first National Adviser for Violence against Women, Gender-based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence and the publication of a National strategy. The anniversary coincides with the re-launch of the Welsh Government’s Cross the Line campaign which tackles the subject of emotional abuse from a partner.

Carl Sargeant said he wants to continue to work collectively with organisations to protect and support victims.

Carl Sargeant said:

"We continue to make progress in implementing measures to prevent Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. As well as appointing the first National Adviser and the National Strategy we have published the National Training Framework which will help professionals to deal with disclosures of abuse and ensure consistent training is available for specialist professionals.

"A pilot of "Ask and Act" – which requires professionals like Health visitors and Housing Officers to identify symptoms of abuse and to ask clients if they are being abused – has also launched in two early adopter sites with a view to further rollout later this year. In addition to these initiatives, some of the work we have done has focused on children and young people to ensure they know how to recognise the symptoms of unhealthy relationships.

"We recognise there are still areas to progress and we will continue to build on the foundations which have already been made to create a stronger, more resilient sector to support individuals and families who are either at risk, or are struggling with the consequences of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence."

JOHN SMITH'S WIDOW BACKS IAN MURRAY

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The widow of former Labour leader John Smith has backed Ian Murray's bid for re-election in Edinburgh South.

Elizabeth Smith, an Edinburgh South resident, said that Ian Murray speaks up for ordinary people – the very reason John Smith got into politics.

John Smith served in the cabinet in the 1970s, and was Labour leader at the time of his death in 1994.

Elizabeth Smith said:

"My late husband, John Smith, said: 'Why would anyone go into politics unless it was to speak up for people who can't speak up for themselves?' Ian has always spoken up for ordinary people."

Ian Murray said:

"I am honoured to have Elizabeth Smith's backing in my bid to beat the Nationalists in Edinburgh South. John Smith was my political hero, and his

legacy was the reason I stood for election in the first place.

"I have a strong track record of standing up for people here in Edinburgh South, and I want the opportunity to carry on doing that.

"We know that it's a two horse race between me and the Nationalists. The only way to send a message to Nicola Sturgeon that people don't want another divisive independence referendum is to vote Labour on 8 June."

Train / Work / Live in Wales: international nursing recruitment campaign launches as nursing bursary is extended

The campaign starts as Health Secretary Vaughan Gething has announced that NHS Bursaries for eligible student nurses, midwives and allied health professionals will continue to be available in Wales in 2018/19.

The bursary will be based upon individuals committing in advance to taking up the opportunity to work in Wales, post qualification, for a period of two years.

The Health Secretary met with a group of registered nurses today at the Keir Hardie University Health Park to talk about their experiences of working in Wales.

The recruitment campaign forms part of the Welsh Government commitment to take action to attract and train more nurses, GPs and other health professionals across Wales. It follows the successful recent GP recruitment campaign, which saw a 16% increase in GP training places filled.

The international campaign will target newly qualified and experienced registered nurses, as well as those who may be considering returning to the profession. The Train, Work, Live campaign will be represented at the RCN Congress in Liverpool from May 13 -17.

It is supported with a single telephone point of contact for all enquiries and online through the www.trainworklive.wales website. People interested in working in Wales can ring: 01443 848 576 for more details.

Health Secretary Vaughan Gething said:

"In Wales, we are committed to investing in supporting the training

and development of nurses, midwives and other professionals working in our NHS.

“We can offer flexible working arrangements and support for nurses and we are the first country in Europe to introduce a nurse staffing levels law.

“Wales is a great place to train, work and live; we value the professional judgement of nurses and we want to get that message out to attract more nurses to come experience what we have to offer.

“I’m pleased to announce the bursary will continue to be available to those who commit in advance to work in Wales, post qualification, for two years.

We’re taking positive action to attract more health professionals across the country and investing in education and training are key to developing our workforce.”

Professor Jean White said:

“The Welsh Government has significantly increased investment in nurse education with more nurses educated annually now than at any time since devolution”

“There are opportunities to learn on the job with continuing professional development that supports nursing revalidation requirements.

“We are committed to investing in education, in the right staffing levels, and in the professional development of our nurses. Wales has a lot to offer, from our fantastic coastline, mountains, to our towns and cities, and I want to encourage nurses to consider Wales as a place to train, work and live.”