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Dear John

## Improvement Assessment

In my letter of 23 September 2013, I gave my opinion on whether the Authority had discharged its statutory duties in respect of improvement planning.

I am also required, under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure) to give an opinion on whether Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (the Authority) has discharged its duties in respect of improvement reporting and met the requirements of the Measure.

**In my opinion, and based on audit work undertaken to date the Authority has discharged its improvement reporting duties under the Measure, although there is potential to strengthen its arrangements further.**

The Authority has discharged its improvement reporting duties under the Measure:

- the Authority published an assessment of its performance during 2012-13 in its *Annual Report on the Improvement Plan 2012-13 Part 2* (the Report) before 31 October 2013;
- the Report assesses the Authority's performance in the preceding financial year (2012-13) and sets out how the Authority has sought to discharge its duties under the Measure;
- the Report includes summary evaluations on progress against the Authority's improvement objectives and sets out performance information for a number of areas together with, where available, comparisons with its own performance since 2010-11 and with the other two national park authorities in Wales;
- the Report includes information on the ways in which the Authority has sought to collaborate.

However, the Report did not explicitly include an invitation for citizens to provide feedback or make comments on its contents. The Report does include an invitation for readers to visit its website to find out more about how the Authority is structured and administered. This, together with its public webcasting of its main committee meetings and its inclusive approach to carrying out its scrutiny reviews, suggests that the Authority is eager to engage with the public.

### **Further proposals for improvement/recommendations**

No proposals for improvement are being suggested in this letter. We will continue to monitor and report on the progress made by the Authority in implementing the proposals set out in my previous reports and letters.

I will undertake more detailed work on the arrangements that support the Authority's performance management and reporting over the following months and report this, as well as summarising all of my work and that of relevant regulators during 2013-14, in an Annual Improvement Report for the Authority that I will publish by the end of March 2014.

Yours sincerely



**HUW VAUGHAN THOMAS**  
**Auditor General for Wales**

CC: Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Local Government and Government Business

John Griffiths, Minister for Culture and Sport

John Roberts, Performance Audit Lead