

**Questioner: Nicola Cutcher**

**Question 1:**

Does the NMB know if farmers in the catchment are being well-served by government schemes funding nature-friendly farming? Do delayed payments risk undermining confidence in the environmental schemes? Where do problems lie?

**Response requested from Rural Hub Herefordshire**

**Question 2:**

For NRW: Citizen Scientists in the Wye catchment have been collecting data for around four years now, when will NRW start making proper and systematic use of it?

**Response from Ann Weedy, Natural Resources Wales:**

NRW welcomes the efforts that are being made by many citizen scientists on the Wye catchment and is actively engaging with the Wye Alliance on how we can work better together to use this data, which provides us with a vast pool of additional 'intelligence' on the health of our river.

We do need to recognise that there are limitations to the use of this data and these are explained in this previously published document here.

[Link to 'An assessment of the use and acceptability of citizen science data to support better water quality for Wales'](#)

We are also in regular discussions with our colleagues in the EA to ensure we are working in a consistent way across the border.

**Question 3:**

For EA: In September, Wye citizen scientists met EA Chair Alan Lovell, and two key actions were proposed - to offer a triage path to ensure your call centre prioritises incident reports coming from named CS Managers and problem locations & to have a monthly review of data and actions. What progress has been made on these initiatives?

**Response by Martin Quine, Environment Agency:**

We will provide a direct response to Nicola on the questions she has raised. I will share our response at a later date.

**Question 4:**

Has anyone been appointed to do the Welsh numbers for the NMP (essentially doing the DWPP-style analysis for Wales)?

**Response by Liz Duberley, Herefordshire Council:**

Yes, Ricardo consultants.

**Questioner: Friends of the River Wye**

**Question:**

Will the Wye Nutrient Management Board send a formal response to Steve Reed in relation to his suggestion during his speech at the Oxford Farming Conference that "planning rules have got in the way for too long. We will speed up the system so you can grow and diversify your farm business, such as chicken producers who need a larger shed to increase the amount of food they produce". Will you counter this messaging?

**Question to be considered by the Nutrient Management Board**

[\[link to the full text of 'Steve Reed speech at the 2025 Oxford Farming Conference', 9 January 2025\]](#)