

Funding for the South West Coast Path National Trail

Response from Natural England

From: Diamond, James (NE)
Sent: 05 March 2018 16:48
To: Hilary Winter <hilary.winter@devon.gov.uk>
Cc: Natural England Correspondence Unit
<NaturalEnglandCorrespondenceUnit@naturalengland.org.uk>
Subject: Funding for the South West Coast Path National Trail

Dear Hilary Winter,

Funding for the South West Coast Path National Trail

Thank you for your letter of 22nd February 2018 to James Cross regarding our funding for National Trails in 2018/19. James has asked me to respond on his behalf as Director of Operations.

It would appear that there has been a misunderstanding. Our funding offer of 50% of the 2017/18 allocation is an interim, not a final offer. Our letter of 6th December to National Trail Partnership Chairs explained that:

‘This is the amount we can offer at this stage of budget negotiations and we will review this again once we have agreed our final funding position for 2018/19. At that time we will advise of our further offer and we will also review the Terms and Conditions and confirm the claim process.’

Budget negotiations with Defra are still ongoing, but we expect to be able to confirm later this month the full National Trails budget for 2018/19.

I do apologise for any confusion caused by our interim offer, which was made in response to a specific request from the Trail Partnership Chairs group. Please be assured we fully recognise the benefits that National Trails bring to local economies, and we will continue to work to ensure that these national assets are protected into the future.

Yours sincerely

James Diamond

Director of Operations
Natural England
www.gov.uk/natural-england

We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.