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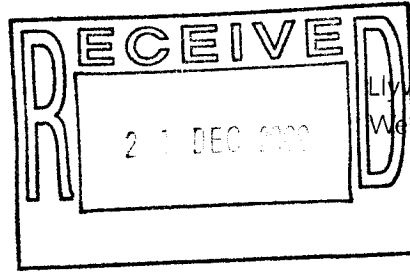
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Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM
Dirprwy Brif Weinidog /Deputy First Minister



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-100
Ein cyf/Our ref DFM/06415/09



Val Lloyd AM
97 Pleasant Street,
Morriston,
Swansea,
SA6 6HJ.

15 December 2009

Dec Val

I am responding to your letter of the 26 November regarding Petition P-03-100 for the A487 Tesco Junction.

I have written recently to Ceredigion County Council and Cardigan Town Council to update them on the progress we've made with options for re-opening the Junction. I have enclosed a copy for your information.

Ieuan

Ieuan Wyn Jones
Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for the Economy and Transport

[Faint handwritten notes and signature]

Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM
Dirprwy Brif Weinidog /Deputy First Minister



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref: MB/DFM/0901/09

The Clerk
Ceredigion County Council
Canolfan Rheidol
Rhodfa Padarn
Llanbadarn Fawr
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion, SY23 3UE

October 2009

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to update you on the progress made with the issue of re-opening of the "Tesco Junction" at Cardigan following a constructive meeting with Elin Jones AM on the 23rd September. I would be grateful if you would forward my letter to the County Councillors.

Although the current closure of the junction has resulted in a removal of accidents at this location, we agreed that re-opening of the junction under a new, but safe configuration should be implemented as soon as possible

I am now pleased to be able to tell you that the options for re-opening the junction have been reviewed and the conclusion is that a traffic signal controlled junction is the preferred option. This solution would include priority measures built into the traffic signal system to facilitate the movement of heavy goods vehicles uphill through the junction. Minor geometrical improvements would also be required. The solution takes into account the Bathhouse development and also the final design will be tested for potential enlargement of the existing Tesco's. This solution is seen as deliverable in the immediate future since it does not require any land purchase.

This option has recently been the subject of a Road Safety Audit which did not raise any significant issues.

We have examined the alternatives suggestions of a roundabout or gyratory but these have had to be discounted because of the difficulties of conforming to design standards due to the topography, the necessity to purchase land and potential objections from those that would live close to the gyratory solution.

It is now intended that my officials meet with the police and representatives of the county and local council, to explain further the proposals which could be taken forward next financial year following completion of detailed design.



Ieuan Wyn Jones

Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for the Economy and Transport

Canolfan Bedwyr

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Dr Llion Jones

Cyfarwyddwr • Director

10 Rhagfyr 2009

10 Rhagfyr 2009

Annwyl Val Lloyd AC,

Par: Deiseb Cysgliad am Ddim

Diolch yn fawr am eich llythyr, dyddiedig 8 Rhagfyr 2009 yn holi am fy ymateb i'ch llythyr cynharach, dyddiedig 5 Mehefin.

Fel y gwelwch o'r ohebiaeth atodedig, fe anfonais yr ymateb hwnnw atoch (wedi'i gopïo i'r Gweinidog dros Treftadaeth) ym mis Gorffennaf eleni.

Gobeithio y bydd cynnwys y llythyr hwnnw o gymorth i'r Pwyllgor wrth geisio ymateb i gynnwys y ddeiseb. Os oes unrhyw gwestiynau pellach yn codi, fe fyddwn yn hapus iawn i geisio eu hateb.

Yn gywir,

c.c. Alun Ffred Jones AC
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Dr Llion Jones

Cyfarwyddwr • Director

8 Gorffennaf 2009

Annwyl Val Lloyd AC,

Par: Deiseb Cysgliad am Ddim

Diolch yn fawr am eich llythyr, dyddiedig 5 Mehefin, ynghylch y ddeiseb uchod. Diolch hefyd am y copi o lythyr y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth mewn perthynas â'r un ddeiseb.

Mewn ymateb i gais y Pwyllgor Deisebau am fanylion y telerau a gynigiwyd i Fwrdd yr Iaith er mwyn ein galluogi i gynnig **Cysgliad** am ddim i ddefnyddwyr cartref, nodaf i mi ysgrifennu at Dr Jeremy Evas, Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg (3 Tachwedd 2008) yn mynegi ein dymuniad i hwyluso cynnig **Cysgliad Cartref** i'w lwytho i lawr am ddim, dim ond i Fwrdd yr Iaith ein digolledu am y golled ariannol o ran gwerthiant yn sgil hynny. Yr arian gwerthiant hwn sydd yn ein galluogi i barhau i ddatblygu'r fersiwn cartref ymhellach a'n galluogi i gynnig gwasanaeth cefnogaeth llawn. (Mae'n debyg y byddai'r angen am wasanaeth o'r fath yn cynyddu'n sylweddol pe darperid fersiwn am ddim). Er mawr siom i ni, gwrthodwyd ein cynnig gan y Bwrdd.

O ystyried y cyfraniad sylweddol y gallai cynnig **Cysgliad** am ddim i bob cartref yng Nghymru ei wneud tuag at gyflawni nod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad o greu "*cenedl wirioneddol ddwyieithog*", rydym yn credu bod y telerau a gynigiwyd yn rhoi gwerth arbennig am arian. Yn bwysicach, y maent hefyd yn fodd o sicrhau y bydd y feddalwedd yn parhau i gael ei datblygu i'r dyfodol a chefnogaeth yn parhau i gael ei chynnig i ddefnyddwyr y feddalwedd.

Yng nghyswllt llythyr y Gweinidog, y mae'n deg cywiro'r camagraff mai Bwrdd yr Iaith yn unig a fu'n gyfrifol am ariannu **Cysgliad** ar gyfer Windows. Mae'r gwaith o ddatblygu **Cysill** a **Cysgeir** (y ddwy raglen sy'n rhan o **Cysgliad**) wedi bod ar droed ym Mhrifysgol Bangor ers 1993, ac er bod y Brifysgol wedi derbyn grantiau gan y Bwrdd i ariannu elfennau o'r gwaith dros y blynyddoedd, y mae'n deg nodi fod y grantiau hynny yn cynrychioli canran cymharol fechan o'r buddsoddiad a wnaed yn y project cyfan.

Ers lansio **Cysgliad** yn 2004 y mae Prifysgol Bangor wedi parhau i gynnal a datblygu'r pecyn gan ariannu'r gwaith yn llwyr o werthiant y feddalwedd, heb unrhyw draul ar y pwrs cyhoeddus. Oni bai am y buddsoddiad sylweddol hwn, byddai sylfaen cod **Cysgliad** wedi dyddio, ac ni fyddai bellach yn gweithio'n foddhaol gyda meddalwedd

ddiweddaraf Microsoft. Y mae hyn yn annibynnol ar y gwelliannau a wnaed o ran deunydd ieithyddol y rhaglenni sy'n rhan o **Cysgliad**, sy'n cynnwys ychwanegu geiriau Cymraeg newydd, enwau personol, gwella'r rheolau gramadeg yn **Cysill**, ac ychwanegu nifer o eiriaduron newydd i **Cysgeir**. Mae ein gwasanaeth dyddiol yn cefnogi **Cysgliad**, ar e-bost ac ar y ffôn, hefyd yn hynod o brysur, ac yn cael ei ariannu'n llwyr gan Brifysgol Bangor.

Camarweiniol hefyd yw'r awgrym yn llythyr y Gweinidog nad yw Canolfan Bedwyr mewn sefyllfa i ryddhau cydrannau unigol **Cysgliad** ar gyfer datblygwyr meddalwedd. Dyfynnaf o'm llythyr at Dr Jeremy Evas:

Rhyddhau Cydrannau Cysgliad

Rydym yn teimlo bod angen trafodaeth lawn gyda'r Bwrdd ar hyn er mwyn cael eglurder llwyr ar yr hyn a fyddai'n cael ei ryddhau a'r defnydd a fyddai'n cael ei wneud ohono. O ran egwyddor, fodd bynnag, fe fyddem yn hapus i ryddhau modiwlau/cydrannau unigol Cysgliad am ddim i ddatblygwyr eraill.

Yn hyn oll, fe garwn bwysleisio fod Canolfan Bedwyr, yn unol â'i chenhadaeth, yn awyddus iawn i ganfod ffyrdd cynaliadwy o rannu ei gwasanaethau a'i harbenigedd. Un arwydd clir o hynny yw'r ffaith y byddwn yn lansio **Cysill Ar-lein** yn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol eleni (gw. fersiwn Beta ar <http://www.cysgliad.com/cysill/arlein>). Bydd y fersiwn cyfyngedig hwn o'r gwirydd sillafu a gramadeg yn galluogi defnyddwyr i wirio darnau byr o destun ar y we yn rhad-ac-am-ddim. Efallai y dylid ychwanegu bod y datblygiad cyffrous hwn yn cael ei ariannu yn gyfan-gwbl trwy werthiant trwyddedau.

Gobeithio y bydd y sylwadau hyn o gymorth i'r Pwyllgor wrth geisio ymateb i gynnwys y ddeiseb. Os oes unrhyw gwestiynau pellach yn codi o'r llythyr hwn, fe fyddwn yn hapus iawn i geisio eu hateb.

Yn gywir,



c.c. Alun Ffred Jones AC
Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth

Edwina Hart MBE OStJ AM

**Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services**

Our ref: EH/07332/09

Your ref: P-03-150

Val Lloyd AM
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8 December 2009

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter dated 26 November on behalf of the Petitions Committee about the outcome of the Cancer Services Co-ordinating Group's (CCSG) all Wales report on performance against the target requiring full compliance with the National Cancer Standards by March 2009.

I have seen this report from my Lead Adviser for Cancer and Director of CSCG, Dr Jane Hanson, which is based on a self assessment by the NHS undertaken in April. After discussing the report with Dr Hanson, I agreed to her suggestion that she ask the NHS to submit reports to reflect all progress and improvements since the April self assessment to provide me with an up to date picture of performance across Wales. I am awaiting formal advice from Dr Hanson and officials on what action I should take and I will write to all AMs on this shortly.

Edwina Hart

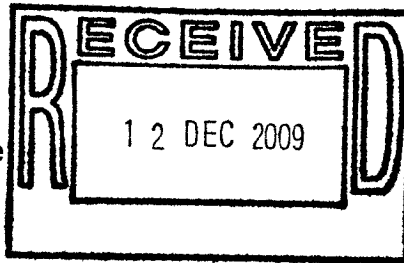
Edwina Hart MBE OStJ AM

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Our ref: EH/07331/09

Your ref: P-03-153

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8 December 2009

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter of the 26 November regarding restricting access to body piercing for those under 16 years old.

As you are aware, my officials are currently assessing the regulatory arrangements and regulatory options in relation to non-surgical cosmetic treatments provided by the private sector. A Task and Finish Group has been established to undertake this review. The group are considering the following non-surgical cosmetic treatments:

- Botulinum toxin injections.
- Dermal filler injections.
- Tattooing, body and skin piercing and tongue splitting.
- Semi-permanent skin colouring and chemical peels.
- The use of intense pulsed lights and electrolysis for non-health related treatments.
- Cosmetic dentistry, including tooth whitening.

In considering these treatments, the review will take into account:

- The risk of harm to the person receiving this service.
- Existing regulations and legislation.
- Industry self-regulation (currently being considered in England).
- The costs and benefits of regulation through the Care Standards Act 2000.
- Existing consumer guidance.

There is currently no legislation available to restrict the age at which a person can have body piercings. The Task and Finish Group will, however, be considering age when making recommendations about future regulatory options.

The Task and Finish Group anticipate completing their work in early 2010, at which point I will inform the Committee.

The Committee may also be interested to note that Welsh model byelaws on acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis have been published on the Welsh Assembly Government website: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/protection/communicabledisease/acupuncture/?lang=en>. These model byelaws provide local authorities with a model which they may use to develop their own byelaws to control businesses offering these treatments in their area.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes that form a cursive name.

Edwina Hart MBE OStJ AM

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Our ref: EH/07330/09

Your ref: P-03-156

Val Lloyd AM
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8 December 2009

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter dated 26 November on behalf of the Petitions Committee about the implementation of the Respiratory Directives.

The National Leadership and Innovation Agency for Healthcare (NLIAH) has undertaken the 2nd annual audit of progress made by Local Health Boards (LHBs) against the key actions set out in the Service Development and Commissioning Directives for Chronic Respiratory Conditions. LHBs were required to submit responses to NLIAH by 30th September 2009.

NLIAH are currently finalising the report detailing the full audit results for the Chronic Respiratory Conditions Directives which will be issued next week. Preliminary results have shown that considerable progress has been made by the LHBs in meeting many of the key actions. The specific key action relating to care pathways for chronic respiratory conditions, including sleep apnoea, has shown that each of the seven integrated LHBs have developed care pathways but further development work is still required to fully comply with the action.

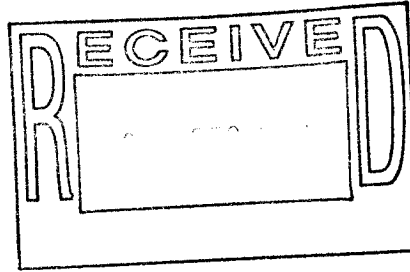
[Signature]

Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM
Dirprwy Brif Weinidog /Deputy First Minister



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-162
Ein cyf/Our ref DFM/06414/09



Val Lloyd AM
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15 December 2009

Deus Val

I am responding to your letter of 26th November regarding Petition P-03-162, Improvements to the A40 near Llanspyddid.

I was pleased to announce the launch of revised guidance for setting local speed limits on 5 November 2009. We will be reviewing all trunk road speed limits in Wales over the next five years and are developing a programme of investigations to start next financial year.

In view of the concerns raised by the petitioners, we will investigate the situation in Llanspyddid at the earliest opportunity.

Ieuan Wyn Jones

Ieuan Wyn Jones
Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for the Economy and Transport

[Faint handwritten notes and a signature]

Dear Gareth

Thank you for forwarding the letter from Val Lloyd, Chair of the Petitions Committee.

I am pleased to report that I have now made contact with eleven pharmaceutical companies and that two are interested in taking this issue forwards and are currently investigating the possibility of producing Methylcobalamin (our preferred form of B₁₂) and I hope to be able to report progress regarding this soon. Goldshield Pharmaceuticals and Alliance Pharma are both interested.

I would be most grateful if you would let the Val Lloyd know of this.

Please be aware that Dr. Dai Lloyd A.M. has tabled a Statement of Opinion regarding reviewing the diagnosis and treatment of Pernicious Anaemia.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

M

Martyn Hooper
Executive Chairman

THE PERNICIOUS ANAEMIA SOCIETY

WEST WALES BUSINESS INITIATIVE

Anedd Wen, Wernddu, Ammanford. SA18 2UR

Val Lloyd,
Chair – The Petitions Committee
National Assembly, Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

- 8 OCT 2009

5 October 2009.

Dear Mrs Lloyd

Petition – PET-03-182

Thank you for your letter of 2 October 2009 re the above. The private sector is very concerned that once again the Assembly has side stepped the issue of how and where the EC Objective One funds were spent. To remind you, our petition called for “ ***an investigation into the economic use of the European funding received by Wales since 2000 and into the proposed mechanisms for delivery of the Convergence funds in 2007-2014.***”

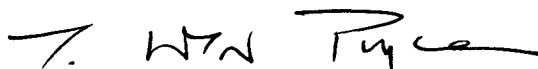
Now, one year later, we are told that the E&L committee is to consider only the implementation of the 2007-2013 Programme sometime in the future. This programme started on 1 January 2007. We are already half way through. How duplicitous can the Assembly be ?

The history of this petition is daunting. Our petition was lodged with the Assembly on 14 Oct 2008. Having had no reply, I contacted the secretariat by e-mail on 28 December 2008. A copy is attached and I also note in order the attached e-mails.

As you can see from e-mail5, I was surprised to learn that our petition had become subsumed into the E&L Committee enquiry into the Assembly Governments response to the international economic crisis and that we had not been invited to give evidence. I then contacted Dr Kathryn Jenkins, the late Clerk to that Committee. This resulted in an invitation to attend the E&L committee meeting on 19 March. However, in that committee the Chair Gareth Jones, made it very clear that he did not want to discuss EC funding, repeatedly telling on camera, both Assembly Members and those giving evidence, that it was not on the agenda but that it would be “ later in the term “.

Some weeks later we discovered that no EC funding enquiry would be held. I then sent e-mail7 and had a reply e-mail8. Tragically Dr Kathryn Jenkins died that weekend and I did not hear anything until June, when I was told by Sian Phipps that the 2009/10 agenda would be determined on 9 July. By copy of this letter to the Chair of the E&L committee and to the WAG Complaint Office, I am informing you that the WWBI intend to pursue this mal-administration vigorously and, if necessary, through the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely



T Wyn Pryce
Secretary

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11th January 2010

Ms Val Lloyd,
Chair, Petitions Committee,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff,
CF99 1NA

Dear Ms Lloyd,

On behalf of the Community Affairs Committee of Monmouth Town Council, may I thank you for your persistence and patience in this matter. We are taking up your invitation to respond to the letter you received from Mr Ian H Williams, S.E. Wales District Manager of Jobcentre Plus.

Firstly, we are grateful that Mr Williams personally followed up two of the incidents at Abergavenny Jobcentre, we reported. We have had no feed-back, so far.

Secondly, we are extremely pleased that Mr Geraint Lewis, External Relations Manager, Cardiff has visited Monmouthshire County Council's One Stop Shop in Monmouth, as promised in Mr Williams' letter.

Their Area Manager, Mrs Jenny Lewis feels that some serious misunderstandings were resolved. Detailed discussions on the problems and benefits of the Jobcentre access phone based in the 'Shop' were very useful. Included in this, Mr Lewis was able to see for himself the difficulties that the MCC staff face daily: frustrated and ill-informed jobseekers who can gain little factual help and so may frequently vent their frustrations in a public place which is designed for other assistance.

While our committee is impressed and relieved that this visit has been made, we would like to ensure that it is understood that if it is possible, within the **£1.7 billion** allocated by UK Government, Monmouth still needs a face-to-face facility, where Jobseekers may speak in privacy, with trained, knowledgeable staff. An **interview room, even once a week** would not only relieve our Jobseekers and MCC staff at Monmouth's One Stop Shop, but also the very stretched facilities in Abergavenny and Coleford Jobcentres.

Meanwhile, we continue to receive reports of many ongoing frustrations faced by Jobseekers of all ages in Monmouth. May I urge your committee to consider persisting with this solvable problem.

Yours sincerely,

Anthea Dewhurst,

Chair, Community Affairs Committee, Monmouth Town Council

Edwina Hart MBE OStJ AM

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Our ref: EH/07361/09

Your ref: P-03-221

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Val Lloyd AM
National Assembly for Wales
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14 December 2009

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter of 1 December on behalf of the Petitions Committee asking for an update on the scoping exercise of NHS Chiropody and Podiatry services in Wales.

As you know from my earlier response, I recognise the importance of good footcare for the elderly and that this project was instigated at my request. Following the appointment of a new therapy adviser we will now be able to complete this scoping project. On 27 November my officials met with Lance Reed of the Welsh Therapists Advisory Group to discuss an initial draft report on podiatry provision in Wales that was based on analysis of evidence from the field and discussions at a Stakeholder Task Group.

As a result of the recent meeting a project plan has been agreed to complete some further work that is needed to finalise the report. A meeting with the stakeholder group to discuss the final draft of the report is being planned for March, following which advice will be submitted to Ministers as a basis for wider consultation. This is an important exercise that I want to see concluded and reported on as soon as possible.





Cyngor Cymuned Llanmaes
Llanmaes Community Council

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7th December 2009

Your ref: PET-03-227

Ms Val Lloyd AM,
Chair, Petitions Committee,
National Assembly of Wales,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff CF99 1NA

10 DEC 2009

NS AM.

Dear Ms Lloyd

Petition: Access Road in Llanmaes.

Thank you for your letter of 28th October enclosing the response from the Deputy First Minister and from Ms Nicky Bailey of the Department of Economy and Transport. The main points relevant to the petition are covered in the First Minister's letter, and we shall focus on these in our reply. In this reply, we contest a number of the conclusions expressed by the Deputy First Minister.

Public Consultation

p1 para 4: We would argue that the process of Public Consultation was one of 'hearing' not of 'listening'. In particular no attempt was made to take into consideration the unanimous views of local residents regarding the proposed route of the Northern access Road. In fact, during one of the public consultations in early 2009, a senior official of the WAG went as far as to deny that there had been any disagreement with the proposed route. It was largely this unresponsiveness which turned many of the local residents against the whole proposal. In fact the proposals for Access via West Camp were made in a public meeting held in St Athan on 9th December 2008, not March 2009 as specified p3 para 1 of the letter.

p2 para 2: Llanmaes Community Council was not involved in any discussions on the proposals in 2006. Individual letters were not sent to Llanmaes residents and no local exhibition was held in Llanmaes village hall. As a result most Llanmaes residents were unaware of the proposed development and were not party to any discussions. The public exhibition was NOT held in Llanmaes, the community to be most affected by the proposals.

Furthermore, the Community Council has no record of receiving a letter in 2006, but in any event the notification of Llanmaes Community Council by letter is totally inadequate given the large scale impact of such a massive development on Llanmaes residents.

....Continued

Consideration of Access from the West

P4 para 2: Reference is made to the 'suggestion submitted by a local resident' of an alternative access off the B4265 south of the existing West Camp access.. This alternative proposal was also submitted by Llanmaes Community Council to the Vale of Glamorgan Planning Committee as part of our policy of making a positive contribution to the proposals.

The comments and criticisms in Ms Bailey's letter (p2 paras 5 & 6) are virtually identical to those made of other considerations of access from the West despite both Llanmaes Community Council and Mr David Harris, a consultant civil engineer and designer of the alternative proposals, highlighting the ways in which these proposals overcame the earlier criticisms made by the WAG officials.

The major concerns were:

- The protection of national and local security from terrorism and
- The need to safeguard runway clearance.

Llanmaes Community Council maintains that this alternative scheme does not prejudice national or local security, or runway clearance. The scheme would meet the criteria laid down and should have the benefit of further examination in an independent review. The construction of the road proposed has been accepted as technically feasible, but no evidence has been provided of any attempt by the developers to design an alternative layout that could accommodate an internal access road, as well as satisfy the above security and safety requirements. In addition, no comparative costings have been offered (although requested and promised) of the proposed Northern Access Road and this cheaper alternative.

In more detail, Mr Harris has responded that his scheme would not prejudice national security since the proposed road does not go through the site but alongside it, and in any event it would be dedicated to the users of the DTC and ABP with its own security post. This is therefore no different to the existing security measures at West Camp. The proposed alternative road would follow the boundary of MoD land and connect with the proposed internal road providing access to the northern section of the ABP.


The alternative route proposed would not reduce the buildable footprint to any great extent and although a few buildings would need to be removed this would not comprise the viability of a scheme of this size (covering 400 hectares). The road itself would be shorter in length, would not require the construction of a bridge over the valley or such a complicated junction with the B4265. It would therefore be less costly, offsetting the loss of any developable land and allowing funding for the other infrastructure adjustments needed. Construction could proceed more quickly and provide the construction road needed. In addition, as the great majority of transport arriving at the site is expected to come from the East, this would significantly reduce the associated carbon emissions and obviate the need for the second access road planned for the aerospace business park.

Conclusions

We argue that both these matters should be addressed to the satisfaction of local residents before the WAG considers the construction of the Northern Access Road.

Yours sincerely



 Councillor Dafydd Stephens
Chair, Llanmaes Community Council.

cc. Jane Hutt AM, Chris Franks AM, Ieuan Wyn Jones AM and Carwyn Jones AM.

Jane Davidson AC/AM

**Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing**



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-238/241
Ein cyf/Our ref JD/06385/09

Val Lloyd
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF991NA

14th December 2009

Dear Val,

**PETITIONS P-03-238 POLLUTION OF THE BURRY INLET AND P-03-241 SAVE
OUR SEWERS – LLANELLI STAR**

Thank you for your letter of 16 November 2009 regarding Petitions; P-03-238 Pollution of the Burry Inlet and Carmarthen Bay, and P-03-241 'Save our Sewers' Llanelli, which were considered at the Petitions Committee meeting on 10 November 2009.

Following my earlier letter to you dated 20 October 2009, the Committee agreed to seek further clarity on specific actions that I have taken to address the issues at the Burry Inlet and in Llanelli.

This letter provides an overview of the actions undertaken at Burry Inlet and Llanelli, which I hope the committee will find useful in considering the two petitions.

Actions at Burry Inlet

In relation to sewers in Llanelli, there has been substantial investment over the last decade by Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) to improve sewage treatment provision, including full treatment for sewage from the north shore of the Burry Inlet at a new treatment works at Bynea. This work was required to meet the requirements of EU Directives covering Urban Wastewater Treatment and Bathing Waters. The treatment works at Bynea provides full biological treatment, nitrogen removal and disinfection of sewage flows, compared to the former, much more basic treatment. The discharge from Gowerton Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW), which also discharges into the estuary, is provided with a similar, improved high level treatment process.

Further improvements are planned by DCWW through a scheme (costing around £10 million) to provide additional capacity and storage of storm sewage at

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Northumberland Pumping Station and for disinfection of overflows that occur at Northumberland and Llanelli STW. This scheme should be completed during spring 2010.

Action is also being taken by the Llanelli Technical Flood Group. This group is tasked with investigating flood risk from all sources in Llanelli with the objective of identifying current flood risk problems and identifying options to resolve those problems. Its remit includes work to progress the removal of surface water from the combined surface water and sewerage collecting system serving the area. The group consists of representatives from the Environment Agency Wales (Chair), Carmarthenshire County Council and DCWW.

Following Ofwat's final determination of water company business plans, DCWW has included Llanelli as one of eight sites for its Surface Water Reduction Strategy. The aim of this project is to reduce surface waters contribution to the sewerage network, thereby reducing the frequency and quantity of storm discharges to the Burry Inlet.

Investigation of Cockle Mortality

As I have advised previously as part of the commitment to maintaining and improving water quality as outlined in the Environment Strategy for Wales and my Strategic Policy Position Statement on Water, I and Elin Jones, Minister for Rural Affairs have asked the Environment Agency to lead an investigation into increased cockle mortalities with the Burry Inlet and Carmarthen Bay. The investigation is supported by a research group of academic institutes and a working group consisting of interested parties such as representatives of the hand gathering cocklers. Welsh Assembly Government officials are closely monitoring the programme and checking the progress of the investigation on a regular basis

It is important to fully understand the reasons for the raised cockle mortality in the Burry Inlet. There are many theories including water quality, but there have also been suggestions that increases in water and air temperature, change in sediment depth, parasites, blue green algae, density of cockles, lack of food and genetic similarities of the cockle populations may be causing the problems.

The investigation began this spring and expected to last two years, before the cause(s) is identified and solutions are proposed. I can confirm the Environment Agency is investigating all possible causes of the cockle mortality including impacts of pollution from sewage and both Elin Jones and I have given additional financial support to the investigation.

A timetable recently sent to my officials by the Environment Agency indicates that the research group, consisting of the Institute of Estuarine Coastal Studies,(IECS) (University of Hull), Bangor and Swansea Universities and other partners are planning to meet on the 10th December to discuss and collate their various results. Welsh Assembly Government policy officials hope to arrange a meeting in early January with the Environment Agency Wales in advance of a working group meeting planned for February 2010. Officials are advised by the Environment Agency that an interim report will present the latest results of the investigation to the Welsh Assembly Government in early January.

You may also be interested in a report commissioned by DCWW look at nutrients and water quality in the Burry Inlet. This report 'Loughor Estuary – Water Quality and Nutrient assessment' has shown no adverse impact on the receiving water body. The report is available from officials in the water branch, please contact Sarah Melkevik on 029 2082 3192.

I hope this further clarifies the position; but in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'J'.

Jane Davidson AM

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Jane Hutt AC/AM

Minister for Business and Budget
Gweinidog dros Fusnes a Chyllideb



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Val Lloyd AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
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Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-243
Ein cyf/Our ref JH/003/09

11th January 2010

Dear Val,

Petition: Withdraw from the West Cheshire/North-East Wales Sub-Regional Strategy

I am writing in response to your letter of 1 December to Dr Brian Gibbons AM regarding the petition organised by The People's Council of North Wales. The response is sent in my capacity as Lead Minister for the Wales Spatial Plan.

Firstly, let me reassure you that our cross-border working in North East Wales and West Cheshire is about sharing information and improving communication between key agencies in order to provide seamless services, continued economic prosperity and well-being for the area's people, businesses and communities. It has no implications whatsoever for the border or the territorial integrity of Wales.

The West Cheshire - North East Wales Sub-Regional Spatial Strategy ("the Strategy") was produced jointly by the local authorities of Denbighshire, Wrexham, Flintshire, Ellesmere Port and Neston, Chester, and Cheshire as well as other key partners, including the Welsh Assembly Government in response to a collective recognition of the area as a key socio-economic sub-region where people regularly cross the border in both directions for jobs, services, leisure and retail.

The production of the Strategy was the first major step forward in agreeing a broad common vision to support the ways in which people live their lives in this area. Signed up to by the key agencies in 2006, it won a Royal Town Planning Institute Award, and provided a sound basis for the Update of the Wales Spatial Plan, and in England, the North West Regional Spatial Strategy. The Mersey Dee Alliance (MDA) partnership was officially reconstituted in 2007 to progress key elements of the Strategy and is fully accountable through a democratically elected body.

The Strategy and the Wales Spatial Plan 2008 Update both underwent public consultations.

The North East is unique in Wales in having an area of relatively densely populated urban communities along the border with England. Deeside and Wrexham are the drivers of prosperity in North East Wales and it is common sense that we should work well with our neighbours to ensure continuing sustainable economic development. The Mersey Dee Alliance and the Sub-Regional Spatial Strategy provide a framework within which we can achieve this without in any way compromising the Assembly Government's *One Wales* priorities.

Please find at Annex A some further information in response to the issues raised by the Petitioners. I would be happy to provide further detail should the Committee require.

Yours

Jane

Jane Hutt AM
Minister for Business and Budget
Gweinidog dros Fusnes a Chyllideb

Annex A – Supplementary Information

Status of the Strategy and the Mersey Dee Alliance

- The Strategy cannot be 'adopted' as it has no formal status. It was approved and agreed by the Cabinets of each of the local authorities and the other partner organisations.
- The MDA is bound by the terms of its formal Partnership Agreement, and is administered by Cheshire West and Chester Council as the Accountable Body.

Consultation

- The Strategy underwent a full public consultation process, including Assembly Members (AMs).
- The 2008 Update of the Wales Spatial Plan was subject to a 12 week public consultation which included a number of events across Wales which over 800 people attended. The revised Plan was then subject to debate and approval by the full Assembly.
- The production of the Update itself was led by the area's Ministerial partnership which included elected members from each Local Authority.
- AMs were invited to attend a technical briefing by officers on the Update Consultation, chaired by Andrew Davies AM, the lead Minister at that time.
- The Local Development Plan process includes several stages of public consultation including the publication of a Community Involvement Scheme (CIS), which proposes how the Council will engage stakeholders in preparing, reviewing and amending the LDP; public consultation at the pre-deposit and deposit stages; and examination in public.

Commuting

- Commuting is a proxy measure for the integration of the economies on both sides of the border. There is a net outflow of working commuters from Wrexham, Flintshire and Denbighshire across the border (WAG Statistics on Commuting in Wales, 2008).
- In Wrexham, 11,300 residents commute across the border each day, while 7,800 commuters travel across the border to Wrexham, a net outflow of 3,500.
- In Flintshire, 20,700 residents commute across the border each day, while 13,400 commuters travel across the border to Flintshire, a net outflow of 7,300.
- In Denbighshire, 3,400 residents commute across the border each day, while 700 commuters travel across the border to Denbighshire, a net outflow of 2,700.

Local Development Plans / Housing

- The Strategy is non-statutory. It is to be regarded as one of a large number of sources of evidence in the preparation of Local Development Plans by any local authority in North East Wales.
- Planning is a devolved competence and all planning decisions are taken within the context of planning policy issued by the Welsh Assembly Government.
- Planning Policy Wales 2002, Ministerial Interim Planning Policies and Technical Advice Notes include advice on housing and affordable housing provision, the relationship to

official population projections, local housing market assessments and affordable housing delivery statements, as well as advice on Welsh language, sustainability, conserving landscape and heritage and maintaining the distinctive character of place.

- The housing figures contained within the Strategy for the Welsh authorities broadly align with completion rates at the time of writing the Strategy (a range of 17,000 – 20,000 new homes suggested for the three North East Wales authorities between 2006 and 2021). Including these figures in a non-statutory document does not compromise the Local Development Plan process at a local level, it is a further piece of the evidence base, to be tested through a transparent examination open to the public. The Local Development Plan places a great emphasis on robust evidence, making this available as early as possible in the process, as well as maximising the ability of participants to comment on the evidence. This applies to both the local planning authority and proponents critical of the plan and/or suggestions for alternative proposals.

Population Projections

- Population projections provide estimates of the size of the future population based on assumptions about births, deaths and migration. They are not forecasts. They indicate what may happen should the recent trends continue.
- Local authorities are not expected to adhere to the projections in planning services. The projections provide a consistent basis and assumptions for all local authorities. Local Authorities have access to the data and methodologies utilised and are able to refine using locally specific information. If local authorities have information which suggests alternative levels of provision to those indicated by the projections this is perfectly acceptable, as long as the evidence base to support any deviation is robust and transparent.
- Projections should form the starting point for local authority Local Development Plans but local authorities may wish to produce their own policy-based projections, justifying the approach they have adopted.
- Local authorities have been involved in the formulation of the population projections which should not therefore come as a surprise.

Household Projections

- Household projections provide estimates of the future number of households based on assumptions about future population growth. They are not forecasts and indicate what may happen should recent trends continue.
- They are not projections of the number of houses which need to be built. These are projections of the number of households not the number of new houses required.
- Local authorities are not expected to adhere to the projections in planning services. Projections should form the starting point for Local Development Plans but local authorities may wish to produce their own policy-based projections, based on a robust evidence base, justifying the approach they have adopted, and explaining the rationale for any deviation from the household projections.
- Evidence about housing pressures within the sub-region, gained in the production of the Strategy, supported the allocation of a housing Growth Point in West Cheshire, which will provide additional affordable homes. This is expected to reduce the housing pressure in terms of housing numbers and housing affordability, which is exerted by the West Cheshire area onto surrounding local authorities, including those in North East Wales.

Partnership is way forward – now more than ever, says Andrew Davies

Close working between all parts of the public, the voluntary and private sectors, is essential Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery Andrew Davies said today [Thursday, 19 November] during a visit to the North Wales Economic Forum.

The Minister was addressing the Forum having been invited to discuss the Wales Spatial Plan.

He said: "These are tough times. Close working between all public service providers is essential, and the Welsh Assembly Government is committed to this partnership.

"This partnership is essential for the Spatial Plan to continue to work effectively.

"The Spatial Plan is making a real difference - influencing policies and where the Assembly Government and others make their investment.

"The priorities for North West and North East Wales, set out in the Wales Spatial Plan 2008 Update, have had a significant influence on policy and investment in North Wales. These include the designation of the Mon a Menai and North Wales Coast Strategic Regeneration Areas, the transformation of post-16 education and training in North Wales, as well as shaping Welsh Assembly Government and EU investment in the region.

"Major Welsh Assembly Government investments include the FibreSpeed broadband infrastructure, the Parc Cybi, Bryn Cefni and North East Wales strategic business parks, £15m over three years in Mon a Menai and £20m for the first three years in the area around Rhyl and Colwyn Bay.

"Strategic capital investment has been awarded for rail enhancements to the north-south route, the modernisation of schools in Wrexham, a new primary school in Gwynedd and the new Da Vinci innovation centre in Bangor.

"These investments go a long way to delivering on some of the key North Wales priorities in the Wales Spatial Plan: tackling deprivation and economic inactivity, building a modern, innovative knowledge economy, tackling climate change.

"Now more than ever it is important to work in partnership, across all sectors and regions, and that includes our partners across the border through the Mersey Dee Alliance. The Wales Spatial Plan is a long term plan and a continuous process of engagement. It is not always easy to work together but the drive and determination of those across all sectors can make it happen."

Our Ref/Ein Cyf:
Your Ref/Eich Cyf:
Date/Dyddiad:
Please ask for/Gofynnwch am:
Direct line/Llinell uniongyrchol:
Email/Ebost:

8th December 2009
Tim Peppin
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Val Lloyd AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

Dear Ms Lloyd

PETITION: REGISTER FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES

Thank-you for your letter to Steve Thomas, dated 1st December, which he passed to me for a response.

I have consulted our highways advisers on the issue. They have raised three main issues:

- the definition of a road safety scheme
- the difficulty of giving timescales beyond the current financial year
- the potential for new priorities to emerge which could impact on any published lists.

On the definition of a 'road safety scheme', it could be argued that all improvement and major maintenance schemes have a road safety element. A focus on specific accident remedial measures would be easier to manage but there would need to be a clear definition of the types of schemes to include in such a category. For example, some schemes are developed in light of analysis of accident rates and expected rates of return on remedial work. Others (such as 'Safe Routes in Communities' schemes) are in response to community concerns and are designed to tackle perceptions and change travel behaviour. Both contribute to road safety however.

In relation to timescales, uncertainties over future funding levels mean it would be difficult to publish a list with commitments beyond the current financial year. This has become more of an issue given the uncertain financial situation ahead for local authorities (especially in relation to capital expenditure).

Councils have already moved away from having long 'waiting lists' of schemes approved for action "as and when funds become available".

Steve Thomas
Chief Executive
Prif Weithredwr

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Instead they are drawing up deliverable programmes within available budgets. Information on such schemes is already in the public domain through annual reports, reports to scrutiny committees etc. Whilst it is accepted that these sources tend not to be looked at frequently by the general public, it does raise the issue of what is meant/required by the term 'publish'.

Finally, issues can and do arise that have not featured in plans before – for example, following completion of a new development. This may mean that new safety schemes have to be developed and prioritised. This in-year re-prioritisation could have an impact on any published lists, causing a reassessment of timescales.

In summary, whilst recognising the interest of the general public in having such information available:

- there are definitional issues that would have to be addressed
- lists could not (with any degree of certainty) extend beyond the current financial year and would be subject, in any case, to in-year reprioritisation
- they may not satisfy the requirements of residents whose real interest is likely to be with a specific scheme in their neighbourhood
- there may be better ways for residents to find out about the latest position of schemes in which they are interested than requiring authorities to publish and update lists (with the associated time/cost implications)

I hope that this information is of use to you.

Yours sincerely



Tim Peppin
Director of Regeneration and Sustainable Development.

Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM
Dirprwy Brif Weinidog /Deputy First Minister



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref DFM/06364/09
Val Lloyd AM
Chair
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17 BEB 110

AM - NS

15 December 2009

Dea Val

I am responding to your letter of 17th November 2009 sent on behalf of the Petitions Committee, who has received a petition, calling for the Welsh Assembly Government to require Local Authorities to publish a regularly updated waiting list of road safety schemes for which they are responsible.

Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility under the Road Traffic Act 1988 to promote road safety and investigate road collisions. The Welsh Assembly Government however should not prescribe how they progress such issues for local roads. Having said that, the County Surveyors Society Wales' Traffic Services Sub Group or Road Safety Wales could be of assistance with this matter, therefore I will arrange for my officials to refer the matter to those organisations.

The Welsh Assembly Government has since the Financial Year 2000 / 2001 been providing the annual Road Safety Grant to Local Authorities to help promote safety schemes / campaigns. We request that the Local Authorities provide us with an indication of projects and schemes they intend funding from the Road Safety Grants. This is however by no means a comprehensive list of road safety schemes they have in their respective areas some of which will be funded from the Local Authorities own budgets.

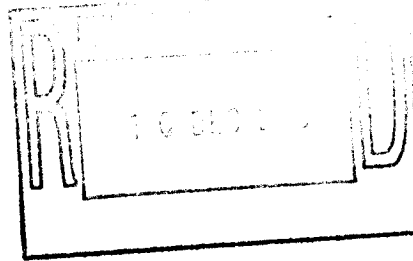
Ieuan Wyn Jones
Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for the Economy and Transport

Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM
Dirprwy Brif Weinidog /Deputy First Minister



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-246
Ein cyf/Our ref DFM 6363/09



Val Lloyd AM
97 Pleasant Street,
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07 December 2009

Dea Val

I am responding to your letter of 18 November requesting information on the 50mph speed limit operating on the M4 at Newport.

The M4 50mph speed limit between Junctions 24 to 28 (Coldra to Tredegar Park) was introduced last year as a safety feature due to the urgent need to replace the ageing central reserve barrier along this length of motorway. We are aware that should there be a high speed vehicle impact between these junctions it could result in a serious cross-over incident with consequent personal injury to drivers involved. The minimum disruption in most such cases would entail motorway closure and long delays for motorists and heavy congestion on the local roads used as diversions.

The speed restriction and accompanying traffic management therefore remain necessary whilst the programme for installation of the new concrete central reserve is ongoing and concurrent work to deploy the Variable Speed Limit (VSL) system also takes place.

The 50mph speed limit will be removed when this work is complete and the VSL, which will be operated from our Traffic Control Centre at Junction 32 (Coryton), can then be used to set speed limits that are appropriate to prevailing road and traffic conditions. The VSL is scheduled to be operational by autumn 2010 allowing us to constructively manage the volume of traffic on one of the busiest areas of our road network in Wales.

There are benefits derived from the reduced speed limit, the foremost of which is improved traffic flow at peak times with consequential reduction in incidents and accidents. In addition local air quality is likely to improve and noise from traffic reduce. Whilst reduced speeds bring about an increase in journey times outside peak hours we believe in this instance that the smoother traffic flow at peak times and reduction in road traffic incidents are a greater benefit to motorists.

Ieuan Wyn Jones

Ieuan Wyn Jones
Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for the Economy and Transport

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Jane Davidson AC/AM

**Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing**



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-254
Ein cyf/Our ref JD/06447/09

11 DEC 2009

Ms Val Lloyd AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff
CF991NA

9 December 2009

Dear Val,

Thank you for your letter of 17 November, concerning a petition you have received about third party representations at planning meetings, and the invitation to set out the Assembly Government's position on this matter.

Local planning authorities operate in accordance with their own standing orders. It is within the rights of any local planning authority to amend its standing orders so that third parties can have the opportunity to address Planning Committee. I understand that a number of planning authorities in Wales have already adopted this practice, and any measure taken to increase the opportunities for members of the public to participate in the planning process is to be commended.

However, I should point out that planning decisions should be based on planning reasons, and material considerations where appropriate. Planning law already requires a degree of public consultation, which invites written responses. These responses can be accepted and put to Committee, whether verbatim or in a summarised form, as late as the day of the Committee meeting itself.

There is a legal requirement to notify the public of a planning application, a requirement to consider all comments received when deciding whether to approve, and, should they wish to, local planning authorities themselves have sufficient powers to adopt this protocol should they consider it appropriate. The Assembly Government therefore has no plans to introduce such a requirement, neither does it consider that it would be appropriate to introduce one.

Yours,

Jane Davidson AM

**Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing**