

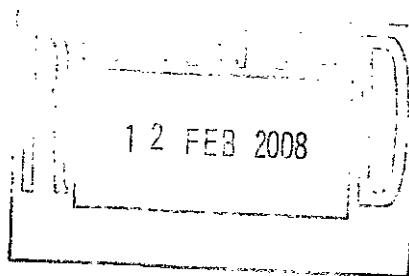
Jane Davidson AC/AM

**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-03-074
Ein cyf/Our ref JD/00127/08



Val Lloyd AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

10 February 2008

Dear Val,

Thank you for your letter of 23 January 2008 regarding the formal closure of a petition registering opposition to Redrow Homes' application for a licence to discharge sewage into the Nant Cylla watercourse in Ystrad Mynach.

In view of the Committee's request that I consider producing a guidance note for the public on the discharge consenting process, my officials have contacted the Environment Agency Wales to find out what information is currently available. I understand that most applications for consent to discharge are advertised in the local press and that such notices include information on how members of the public may make representations. If members of the public subsequently make representations to the Environment Agency they are advised of the procedure they should follow if they wish to ask the Welsh Assembly Government to call-in the application. The advice provided at that stage by the Environment Agency to the public also refers to the criteria the Welsh Assembly Government uses when deciding whether an application should be called-in.

However, my officials have confirmed that the Environment Agency does not currently produce any guidance to help the public understand how the discharge consent process works more generally. I have therefore requested that the Environment Agency produce a guidance note to inform the public about the discharge consenting process and how it is operated by the Agency.

Yours,

Jane Davidson AM

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