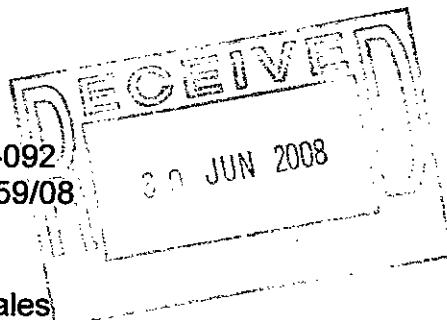


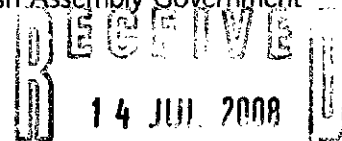
Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM
Dirprwy Brif Weinidog /Deputy First Minister



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-092
Ein cyf/Our ref DFM 1159/08



Val Lloyd AM
National Assembly For Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

ABD

25 June 2008

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter in respect of Bryn Bach School, Tredegar.

In response to Recommendation 1 I can confirm that my officials in Transport Wales have instructed Capita Symonds Consulting Engineers to consider the proposal suggested by Mr Doug Harris. Unfortunately there was initially a mis-understanding of Mr Harris' proposal, complicated by a series of requested amendments. This has been addressed by my officials and South Wales Trunk Road Agency as confirmed in the letter of 3rd June sent to Mr Harris, a copy of which is attached for your information.

In response to Recommendation 2, I would reiterate that at my meeting of January 16th with interested parties including Mr Doug Harris and Trish Law AM, it was concluded that this is a local issue regarding a school on the local road network and hence a matter for the local highway authority to determine and fund.

Should Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council propose an option that would affect the trunk road or its slip roads my officials would work closely with them to facilitate their preferred proposal, subject to consideration of safety and the policy to limit the number of direct accesses to trunk roads. The A465 Heads of the Valleys route is currently being improved in stages generally utilising grade-separated junctions, with access to the local road network being taken at these points. The full implications of the proposals for traffic and road safety would need to be taken into account as well as consideration of the design itself and the acceptability of any departures from national design standards required. As you refer to in your letter, any amendment to the trunk road falls within the competency of the Welsh Assembly Government and my officials would wish to ensure the safety of trunk road users.

Mr Harris' latest option, including the technical aspects, are currently being considered on our behalf by Capita Symonds and the final report is expected shortly. The final report will have considered a range of eight options including relocating the school, provision of a lay-by and several options comprising a variety of access and slip road arrangements. The report will be forwarded to Mr Clive Rogers, Chief Technical Officer at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council for their consideration and action as appropriate. When the

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Council have determined their preferred option it is expected they will contact my officials in due course to discuss further, should their preferred option affect the trunk road.

Jen
Jen

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



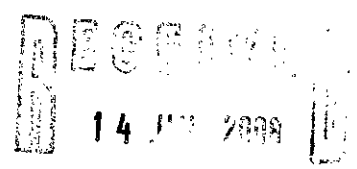
Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Mr D Harris
Spindrift
11 Lakeside Close
Tredegar
NP22 3BN

Trafnidiaeth Cymru
Transport Wales

Eich cyf . Your ref:
Ein cyf . Our ref: ZC-403-75-5-4

Dyddiad . Date: 3rd June 2008



ABD

Dear Mr Harris,

A465 Relief Roads to Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate, Tredegar.

Thank you for your e-mail of 3rd May send to Mr Ieuan Wyn Jones, The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport. I have been asked to respond on his behalf and to send him a copy of this letter.

As you refer in your email Capita Symonds completed a technical appraisal of your proposal as detailed in your letter of 23rd January. This was referred to as Option 7 in the amended report and included two main proposals of a new eastbound slip road off the A465 to Llecryd Bridge and a new road across the fields behind the Price of Wales Inn to tie into the top road of the Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate. In your email of 3rd May you quite rightly pointed out that Capita Symonds' consideration of your proposal was incorrect in part, though this was a genuine oversight with no intention to misconstrue your proposals. Unfortunately Capita Symonds missed the comment in your letter that you intended HGV's to return on the existing route via Rhymney Bridge. Incorrectly, they included provision of an eastbound on slip from Tafarnaubach Bridge to the A465, which as you refer has a high level of bank cutting works and is costly.

The South Wales Trunk Road Agency have since discussed with you the details of your email of 3rd May to ensure that there can be no further misinterpretation. For the avoidance of doubt they confirmed by email what they understood your proposals to be. You have since confirmed the Agency's understanding is correct and kindly provided a plan of the proposals you wish to be considered. However, the proposals as detailed in your email of 3rd May included for a slip road east of Llecryd Bridge, which was not mentioned in the original letter of 23rd January. This would provide west bound off slip access through the western end of Bryn Bach Park, to the junction at the southern end of Llecryd bridge. In addition, following

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your discussions and agreement with our Agency it would appear that your latest proposals have further altered since the proposals of 3rd May. These latest proposals also include for the removal of the east bound off slip road at Llecryd Bridge (which was included within Option 7 in Capita Symonds' amended report) and a further slip road on to the A465 from Llecryd Bridge for eastbound traffic. It has also been clarified that the proposed new road across the fields should consider two-way traffic movements.

You will be aware from your attendance at the meeting on 16th January that the Minister agreed as a continued gesture of goodwill that further improvements would be considered as an addendum to the report already produced. This was carried out by Capita Symonds who considered your proposal as detailed on your letter of 23rd January, albeit with the unfortunate oversight as described above. Given the concerns you raised in your email of 3rd May it was intended that Capita Symonds would reconsider your original proposal as described. However, from the correspondence and plans provided and agreed by you, there have been some significant incremental changes to your original proposals first presented to us.

Notwithstanding these amendments, as continued gesture of goodwill and to reach a conclusion for the technical appraisals, Transport Wales will instruct Capita Symonds to consider your latest proposal as it stands and issue the final report as soon as possible. This report will be forwarded to Mr Clive Rogers, Chief Technical Officer at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council for the council's consideration and action as appropriate. As was concluded at January's meeting, the school and industrial estate are remote from the trunk road and a matter for the local highway authority. It was also agreed that Transport Wales would not wish to consider incremental appraisals of options for what is essentially a local issue. Any further consideration or progression of options will be a matter for the local highway authority, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

I trust that this letter fully clarifies the position and will request that Mr Rogers forwards copies of the final report to the attendees at January's meeting.

Yours faithfully,

N Ley
Route Manager
Network Management Division