Y Pwyllgor Iechyd, Lles a Llywodraeth Leol

Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol **Cymru** National Assembly for **Wales**

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

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: HWLG(3)- Presumed Consent

29 July 2008

Dear Val

Report of Inquiry into Presumed Consent for Organ Donation

I enclose a copy of the Committee's report of its inquiry into Presumed Consent for Organ Donation.

As a member of the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee you are of course aware of the report. However, the inquiry was instigated following a petition from Kidney Wales Foundation that was referred to us by the Petitions Committee. I would be grateful therefore, if you could draw this letter and the report to the attention of the Petitions Committee.

The report will be published and formally laid before the National Assembly tomorrow and will be debated by the Assembly in the autumn. We have asked the Welsh Assembly Government to respond to the report and I look forward to receiving the Minister for Health and Social Service's response to the recommendations. I have also written today to Roy J Thomas of Kidney Wales Foundation to provide him with a copy of the report.

As part of our monitoring of the Minister's response to the report we may return to consider again some of the issues in the report. However, for now, this effectively concludes our consideration of the petition.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Morgan

Jonathan Morgan
Chair

Tel: 029 2089 8019 GTN: 1208 8009
Llinell Union / Direct Line: 029 2089 8009
Ffacs / Fax: 029 2089 8021
E-bost / E-mail: Stephen.George@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

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

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-067
Ein cyf/Our ref DFM/00799/08

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

12 May 2008

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter dated 16th April 2008, regarding Miners' Welfare Ground at Ty Du, Nelson.

Caerphilly County Borough Council granted an outline planning permission for the Ty Du site on 5th March. The site will now be developed in accordance with the permission.

As the land is required as part of the overall development concept, there is no intention to return any of the land to the control of the local residents. However, it is important to ensure that the development is of benefit to the community and my officials would like to involve the community in the development where possible.

I have asked my officials to meet with the Community Council to explore ideas and opportunities for the development.

Yours
Ieuan

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Ffacs * Fax 029 2089 8198
PS.DeputyFirstMinister@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Rhyl Flats Wind Farm Development

Rhyl Flats under construction off North Shore Llandudno

Response from

'Save our Scenery' and Others

June 2008

Observations

1. We recognise that the overall consent and control of this project is in the hands of the UK government via DBERR
2. However, when this petition was first produced in **August 2007** and presented that month, it was as a result of evidence that the developers were 'depositing tonnes of waste slate' upon the sea bed in Llandudno Bay.
3. Therefore, it was under the terms of the FEPA licence, that we were seeking **Urgent** action to prevent damage to the marine life and the sea bed, in particular to the Constable Bank.
4. We sought the actions of the Welsh Assembly Government to suspended activities until a full investigation of the activities was undertaken.
5. **The FEPA licence is the responsibility of the Assembly Government, who issue the licence and should be supervising the actions of the developers.**
6. It is disappointing that the department in question have still not responded to you and in the meantime the developers have wasted no time in commencing the construction of the wind farm.
7. The construction methods involve 'pile driving' the bases into the Constable Bank and this has been occurring both day and night, we believe, in contravention of a number of regulations and best practice as recommended by the JNCC with regard to marine mammals.

Jane Davidson's letter- 19th May 2008

1. We do not believe that by simply attaching copies of various documents supplied by DBERR, is sufficient to address the concerns of the petitioners, who incidentally, are not just Save our Scenery, we are leading a group of influential stakeholders in the Llandudno and Colwyn Bay area, who were signatories to the petition.

2. CCW did in fact raise the issue of the dynamics / stability of the Constable Bank, but no investigation was undertaken by the developers. We believe from the British Geological Survey, that no seismic or detailed geological investigation of the Constable Bank was ever undertaken by the developers.

3. With the Constable Bank being in an area with a known geological 'fault line' it should have been the duty of the developers and WAG to have commissioned such a survey, before allowing such large scale industrial operations to be carried out upon this section of sea bed.

4. This survey would be invaluable to determine the likely effects upon the Constable Bank and the repercussions for the coastline, particularly, the possibility of the increased risk from flooding and or increased storm damage caused by high intensity storm waves.

5. The dismissal of the risk of flooding due to the destabilisation of the Constable Bank by offshore engineering works was an error. We believe your confidence to be misplaced and that this has occurred through a misinterpretation of letters from CCW.

6. One of our requests, which was supported unanimously by the Petitions Committee, was that the Welsh Assembly Government, commission a full and independent geological seismic survey of the Constable Bank. We made this request in the Public Interest and in the interest of Public Safety, and were pleased that our request met with full and unequivocal support from all members of the committee. This appears to have been ignored ?

7. With regard to the UK Government's Planning Bill we have submitted a response to the consultation, suggesting that all wind farm planning decisions should be made in Wales, by the people of Wales, irrespective of the size of the project. In addition, we are opposed to the idea that objectors will not have the opportunity to cross examine developers. It is often the case that local objectors have a far greater knowledge of the local issues than bureaucrats working within a non-elected quango.

Naming of the Site

1. We firmly believe that the UK government, WAG, the local county councils and the general public were misled by the naming of this project.

2. We do not accept that 'a full and proper consideration of all relevant matter' was undertaken.

3. We suggest that the Dti were swayed by the lack of objections, particularly by Conwy CBC, who only placed the matter in front of their planning committee, when one would expect such a major project to be placed in front of a full council. Even planning officers did not appear to envisage the impact this project would have upon the local area.

4. The construction underway at present, clearly shows that it has no relationship whatsoever with the town of Rhyl or the sea bed, known as Rhyl Flats, but is clearly being constructed some 15 miles away from both , off

Rhos on Sea and visually, dominating the tourist resorts of Llandudno and Colwyn Bay.

5. Recent questions of concern were raised in the House of Commons by local MP's at the Welsh Grand Committee.

a. ***David Jones MP**, (Clwyd West) challenged Energy Minister Malcolm Wicks over the consent process for the Rhyl Flats wind farm, which is currently in course of construction, David Jones reminded the Minister of the "trenchant criticism" of the Welsh Affairs Select Committee in its report on energy.* The Select Committee criticised the Government over the consent, in which the wind farm was described as being located on the Rhyl Flats, whereas its correct location was on the Constable Bank, close to Rhos Point, several miles away. The committee concluded "We look to the UK Energy Minister to acknowledge the shortcomings of the consultation process on this occasion and set out clear unambiguous guidelines for the accurate description of wind farm locations for the future." David Jones asked the Minister if any such guidelines had been issued and if he would indeed acknowledge the shortcomings of the process.

b. ***Mr. Elfyn Llwyd** (Meirionnydd Nant Conwy) (PC): May I draw the Minister's attention to the development called Rhyl flats? I am fully in favour of wind farms and renewable development and understand their role in the whole package, but the people of Colwyn Bay and Rhos-on-Sea were not consulted about that scheme. The development is nowhere near Rhyl flats, but is nearer to the bay of Colwyn, where people are up in arms about the whole thing, giving wind farm development a bad name. It has been done undemocratically, and I wonder how the licence was granted. I hope that the Minister will reply to that point in due course?*

6. We are convinced that this consent was a major planning blunder and that all parties to the original planning decision should be thoroughly ashamed of themselves.

7. It should never be allowed to happen again.

Tourism Impact

1. Where is the response from the Minister for Heritage ?

2. The quoted university research paper by Glasgow Caledonian University also indicated ;

   'There is often strong hostility to developments at the planning stage on the grounds of the scenic impact and the perceived knock on effect on tourism. However ***developments in the most sensitive locations do not appear to have been given approval*** *so that where negative impacts on tourism might have been a real outcome there is, in practice, little evidence of a negative effect'*

3. Llandudno is the 'Queen of Welsh Resorts', one of Wales's premier tourist resorts and in a very sensitive area on a stretch of Heritage coastline.

4. Can there be a more sensitive location in Wales to construct an industrial wind farm ?

5. So how can comparisons be made with areas of coastline not known for its tourism, such as Burbo Bank, North Hoyle, etc

6. How many wind farms have been located in front of English resorts, such as Eastbourne, Torquay, Brighton, etc.

7. These are our competitors in the tourist and conference business and will benefit from the demise of the Llandudno, Wales tourism's leading resort.

Visual Impact / Noise

1. **Dti Consent – 12th December 2002**

2. 2.4 ii) Visual Impact

   'Development is around 8km from the coast and the impact it will have is considered to be slight – the photomontages produced by the developer indicate the likely extent of the impact'

3. The reality is shown in the attached photographs accompanying this report.

4. The work has just started and only the bases are in position, with over 300 feet of turbine to go onto top. The current impact is far from 'slight' and makes a mockery of the developer's photomontages.

5. iii) – Noise – ***' operational and construction noise, considered unlikely to be significant above background noise levels at key locations onshore'***

6. The residents and hoteliers of Llandudno, Penrhyn Bay and Rhos on Sea are already suffering from noise from night-time pile-driving. Alarmed residents were making emergency calls to the police fearing an earthquake – see *Press Report form North Wales Weekly News*

7. The Llandudno Hospitality Association has found it necessary to write to Npower complaining about the noise affecting their guests along the sea front hotels.

8. Consent under the Electricity Act 1989 - 12 December 2002 section 5.

   'The noise generated during construction of the Development to be monitored at Rhos on Sea, Llandulas or Kinmel Bay'.

9. **Records of this monitoring should be made available to the public.**

FEPA Licence

1. The FEPA licence issued by WAG on the **06 July 2007** stated,
   '***During construction the Licence holder must ensure that disturbance to the cetaceans is minimised, including temporary suspense of piling operations if cetaceans are sighted in the area'***.
   Therefore, precluding them from Night-time operations, as mammals cannot be sighted in darkness.
2. *A later licence issued **25th April 2008**, uses the word **'detected'** thus enabling the developers to work at night. This assumes that some form of monitoring devices of cetaceans is being undertaken.*
3. ***We would suggest that WAG obtains:***
   a. *A copy of the developer's method statement indicating how this monitoring is being undertaken.*
   b. *A list of the names of the trained marine mammal observers, together with their experience and qualifications.*
   c. *A log of all operations carried out so far.*
4. *WAG were therefore in contact with the developers during this period and even altered the licence for the benefit of the Developers, but to the detriment of the sea life and the residents of Colwyn Bay and Llandudno, who have had to suffer the incessant noise of the pile driving throughout night-time operations.*
5. **It is disturbing that WAG can respond to developers needs, but not to the concerns of the Assembly Petition Committee or the Petitioners**.

1. **Seascape and Visual impact**

a. *In the Environmental Statement. COWL acknowledge that the proposal would cause substantial or substantial/moderate magnitude of change in views in the coastal zone between the Great Orme and Abergele*

b. *CCW predicted a significant effect on the character of the Llandudno Bay and Colwyn Bay Seascape Units.*

c. *The Great Orme 'is designated as Heritage Coast for the purposes of preserving it coastal natural beauty and improving visitor access, the only such area between North Anglesey and St. Bees Head in Cumbria.*

d. *The proposal would have a significant and unacceptable visual impact on parts of the Creuddyn and Conwy Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest by introducing an alien and moving industrial form into the seaward vista*.

e. *The visual impression produced by a development of this pattern and layout would detract from the existing character and natural beauty of the area by having the effect of visually enclosing the open bay aspect.*

f. *It puts the importance of the Great Orme Heritage Coast into perspective, and the need to properly conserve the relatively limited high quality coastal landscapes along the North Wales coast.*

g. *There will be a significant effect on the landscape character of the Great Orme part of the Limestone escarpment and hills" landscape type.*

1. **Coastal Processes – Constable Bank**

a. *The Environmental Statement does not address the dynamics/stability of Constable Bank, particularly changes in its form over time this is* ***major omission.***

b. Understanding the extent to which the site is an erosional or deposition environment is an important constraint.

We would respectfully suggest that the committee seeks the current views of CCW with regard to their above concerns, bearing in mind the opportunity to see for themselves, the operations presently being undertaken off our Heritage coastline

To be fair to them, they did highlight a number of fundamental issues, which were either ignored or not appreciated by the decision makers and planners.

Wales Tourism -22nd September 2000

a. *The Board opposes the introduction of commercial wind turbines and wind turbine power stations in both the primary designated areas (National Parks, Heritage Coast, National Marine Nature Reserves and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and on natural sites that are clearly visible from the primary designated areas.*

b. *Board oppose the development of offshore wind farms adjoining the coastline, which is either within a National Park, designated Heritage Coast, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty*

c. *"The Board would be concerned about the potential visual impact of the proposals on the tourist resorts of Rhyl and Llandudno.*

d. *They feel that it is difficult to assess the impact without a visualisation of the appearance of the development from these resorts - if they appear as* ***small objects on or near the horizon****, then their impact is likely to be marginal*"

We now know that they are far from being **'small objects on or near the horizon**' they are massive 400 feet high steel constructions, which will dominate the seascapes of Llandudno and Colwyn Bay.- *see below*

Wales Tourism as with other stakeholders, were misled by the E.S and photomontages produced by the developers, which led them to believe that the impact upon the visual seascapes would be minimal and have no great affect upon tourism in the area.

How wrong they were ! !
Svanen 'Drilling Rig' 300ft – Turbines will be 429 feet

Conclusions

1. We understand the importance of respecting policies and the decision making processes of government but without a full and independent seismic study of the Constable Bank how can anyone, be they government minister or wind farm developer be sure that the current massive and unprecedented engineering works on the Constable Bank are not compromising the natural sea defences of the communities who live along this coast-many of them living below sea level in known flood risk areas?

2. Mistakes are made and at such times people look to those who govern to intervene on behalf of the people who have elected them.

3. One clear outcome of the review of the literature provided by wind farm developers is the misleading use of out of date photomontages, which do not give a fair interpretation of the likely visual impact from the construction of the current larger wind turbines. –*see photos*

4. The Rhyl Flats project **consent** was a clear example of planning decision makers being misled by such montages. No Llandudno or Colwyn Bay councillor would have approved the current construction of the Rhyl Flats wind farm, if they had realised how prominent and close the turbines would be off our Heritage coastline.

5. The proposed **Gwynt y Mor wind farm** is presently with the UK government for planning approval and we would urge the Petitions committee, via WAG, to advise BERR of the repercussions from the Rhyl Flats and to reinforce concerns made by all local councils and the petitioners over the impact these wind farm proposals will have upon the communities along the North Wales coast.

6. The **fundamental questions** still to be addressed are ;

    a. We are seeking that the Welsh Assembly Government commission the request for a full **independent geological seismic study** of the Constable Bank. That this be treated as urgent matter, which is in the Public Interest and is a matter of Public Safety.

    b. The urgent need for a **Tourism Impact study** to consider the effects of wind farms being constructed in the main tourist resorts of Wales, particularly, the effects upon Llandudno.

    c. The immediate **withdrawal or suspension of the FEPA licence**, pending the study of the effects on the Constable Bank from the current and future

turbine installations, and its possible effects upon coastal flooding and erosion.

d. We would urge the Assembly to consider the consequences flowing from the failings in this Rhyl Flats project, as it could affect other future Welsh wind farm projects, in particular, the proposed massive Gwynt y Mor project.

7. Finally, may we respectfully suggest that the Petitions committee consider ways to speed up the consideration of petitions, especially, when a request for urgent action is requested, and to prevent a state of 'fait accompli' being achieved by developers.

Photographic Evidence

Llandudno as a Tourist Resort

or

Industrial Wind Farm

HLV SVANEN off Llandudno Pier – installing Turbine Bases

HLV SVANEN off the Little Orme – installing Turbine Bases

HLV Svanen from Penrhyn Bay – North Hoyle in background

Jane Hutt AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau
Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-079
Ein cyf/Our ref JH/00375/08

Val Lloyd AM
Valerie.Lloyd@ Wales.gov.uk

21st April 2008

Dear Val,

I am writing in response to your letter of 14 March in respect of a petition submitted to your Committee requesting strengthening of the powers of the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

In respect of your request for an update on work carried out as a result of the Waterhouse and Clywch inquiries, I attach:

a) an action grid relating to the Waterhouse Report completed in 2003, recommendations 1 and 2 of which relate to the setting up of and role of a Commissioner;

b) a report of the Assembly Government setting out responses made by the Assembly Government to recommendations of the Clywch Report prepared by the Children's Commissioner, all of which have now been met.

With reference to the allegations set out in the petition, it is difficult to comment accurately without having more specific details of the allegations being made and the wording is not entirely clear. It would appear that items or aspects of them that do not relate to actions of the courts, or agencies over which he has no powers of examination, could be examined by the Children's Commissioner should he wish to do so using his existing powers.

The Children's Commissioner is specifically prevented from enquiring about matters that are or have been the subject of court proceedings. A system of appeal is already provided within the independent judicial system and the introduction of what would effectively constitute a second appeal process would compromise this. However, the position may change when the Legislative Competence Order for Vulnerable Children and Child Poverty comes into effect.

You refer to the unsubstantiated assertions made in the petition and state that children, social workers and officials are named. Without seeing details it is difficult to provide clear advice in relation to these. However, the Chief Inspector, Care and Social Services Inspectorate (Wales) advises that any allegations made concerning the various agencies involved in particular child abuse and custody cases where children, social workers and

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Ffacs • Fax 029 2089 8475
Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

other officials involved are named must be referred to the responsible statutory agencies, social services and police, without delay. Allegations about individuals, staff or officials should similarly be referred to the relevant employers without delay.

You write that legal advice recommends that the details provided of these matters should not be considered by the Committee. Before doing so the Committee needs to be certain that this will not prejudice any current or future investigation. Those responsible for the petition should be made aware of the seriousness of such allegations and the importance of reporting them to the agencies responsible for investigating them.

Should you require advice on this aspect you should contact Jonathan Corbett, Assistant Chief Inspector in the Care and Social Services Inspectorate, on 029 2082 5905 or by email at jonathan.corbett@wales.gsi.gov.uk . I would also ask that through him the Committee informs the Inspectorate and policy officials who deal with safeguarding of the action it intends taking in respect of this matter.

Best Wishes,

Jane

79

Oxfam House, Charter Court, Phoenix Way, Llansamlet, Swansea SA7 9FS
Tel: 01792 765601 Fax: 01792 765601
Email: post@childcomwales.org.uk
Website: www.childcomwales.org.uk
Y Tŷ Gwrando, Llys Siarter, Phoenix Way, Llansamlet, Abertawe SA7 9FS
Ffôn: 01792 765601 Ffacs: 01792 765601
Ebost: post@childcomwales.org.uk
Gwefan: www.childcomwales.org.uk

RECEIVED
14 JUL 2008
APJD

Comisiynydd Plant Cymru
Children's Commissioner for Wales

11 July 2008

14 JUL 2008

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

Dear Ms Lloyd

Petition requesting Strengthened Powers for the Children's Commissioner for Wales

Further to our letter of 17th April please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

We did meet with the lead petitioner and discussed the current parameters of the Commissioners' powers including the more grey area of our role in relation to CAFCASS Cymru.

I do not wish to supplement the evidence given to the Vulnerable Children LCO except in so far as the further and similar evidence given to the Welsh Affairs Select Committee.

Yours sincerely

Maria Battle
Deputy Children's Commissioner for Wales

Also at:
Penrhos Manor, Oak Drive, Colwyn Bay, Conwy LL29 7YW
Tel: 01492 523333 Fax: 01492 523336
Email: post@childcomwales.org.uk Website: www.childcomwales.org.uk
[illegible] Conwy LL29 7YW
[illegible] Ffacs: [illegible] plantcymru.org.uk

Jane Hutt AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau
Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-081
Ein cyf/Our ref JH/00856/08

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

16 July 2008

Dear Val,

PETITION – AMENDING STUDENT SUPPORT REGULATIONS

Thank you for your letter of 6th June from the Petitions Committee concerning the course exemptions list in the current student support regulations which allows those students already possessing an honours degree to qualify for a maintenance loan.

Optometry and Pharmacy have not been specifically mentioned in the current consultation relating to The Assembly Learning Grants and Loans (Higher Education) (Wales) (No.2) 2008, as they are still the subject of discussions between my officials, DIUS and HEFCW . The current rationale is that, in terms of subjects allied to medicine, only those that attract an NHS bursary are included in the exemptions list. Any comments received on the general subject of graduate entrants included in the consultation will of course be published upon its completion.

The process for determining which graduate courses are eligible for support will be raised as one of the issues considered by my recently established Task and Finish group chaired by Prof. Merfyn Jones. The group expects to begin reporting in the autumn. I will ensure that your committee is kept informed of their feedback.

Best wishes,

Jane

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

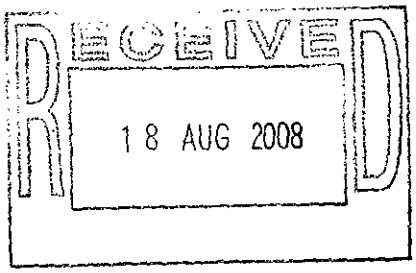
English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Ffacs * Fax 029 2089 8475
Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

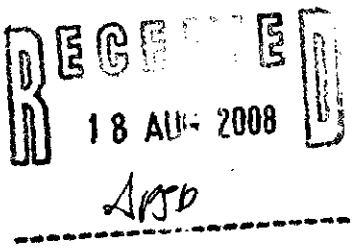
82

Jane Hutt AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau
Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-082
Ein cyf/Our ref JH/01101/08





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

14th August 2008

Dear Val,

Thank you for your letter of 21 July regarding the additional funding of leisure opportunities for disabled children and young people.

I am pleased to say that I was able to present the work and recommendations of the Disabled Children and Young People Task Group to the Cabinet Committee for Children and Young People on 23 June 2008. I asked the Committee to reaffirm the Assembly Government's Commitment to disabled children, young people and their families across their respective portfolios.

Regarding funding for additional activities, the Assembly Government must produce its draft budget by 7 October. In this context, Ministers needs to consider whether they can reprioritise and reallocate resources within their portfolio to maximise delivery, particularly One Wales commitments. The final budget proposals must be agreed by 3 December. However, I must add that we are not reviewing the three year budget allocations made last year across the Welsh Assembly Government.

Best wishes,

Jane

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Ffacs • Fax 029 2089 8475
Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Jane Hutt AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau
Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-103
Ein cyf/Our ref JH/01102/08

Val Lloyd AM
Valerie.Lloyd@Wales.gov.uk

13th August 2008

Dear Val,

Thank you for your letter dated 21 July 2008 asking that Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg Sir Fynwy (Gogledd) be added to the list of consultees for the forthcoming consultation on a Welsh-medium Education Strategy.

I have asked the Welsh Language Development Unit within DCELLS, who are leading on the Strategy, to arrange a meeting with Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg Sir Fynwy (Gogledd) through the Chair of the group, Ms Emma Hill, to discuss the issues relating to Welsh-medium education in the former Gwent area. The group will also be added to the list of consultees for the forthcoming consultation on the Strategy, due to take place in spring 2009.

The Welsh Language Development Unit will take the matter forward on my behalf.

Best wishes,

Jane

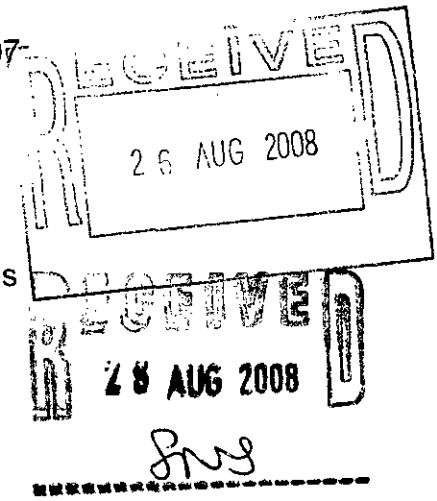
Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Ffacs • Fax 029 2089 8475
Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Alun Ffred Jones AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth
Minister for Heritage

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-107-
Ein cyf/Our ref AJ/00021/08



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

21 August 2008

Dear Val,

I am writing in response to your letter dated 4 August, 2008.

On 29 May it was announced that following an open process, in which interested parties were invited to apply, Golwg Ltd had won the tender to provide a daily Welsh language news service. This new development will create a daily news service through the medium of Welsh in addition to strengthening the printed version of Golwg. This will also see the development of a sustainable news company in west Wales and stabilise Welsh language journalism. This development strengthens the industry as well as taking Welsh to multiple platforms and creating pluralism in the Welsh language news sector. Therefore, the decision to implement the commitment in One Wales has been made.

On 9 August 2007, the previous Minister for Heritage announced that he had asked the Welsh Language Board to carry out a review of the Welsh-language print media in Wales. The purpose of the review was to obtain a clear and comprehensive picture of the state of the Welsh-language print media in Wales. It was also to investigate how the Welsh Assembly Government could implement in a sustainable way the recommendation of *One Wales* (which was: "We will expand the funding and support for Welsh-medium magazines and newspapers, including the establishment of a Welsh-language daily newspaper".).

The Welsh Language Board appointed Dr Tony Bianchi to conduct the review, and his report 'A Review of the Welsh Language Print Media', which was published on 14 January, included a detailed analysis of the publications that were within the review's terms of reference—Golwg, Y Cymro, Barn, and the new proposed Welsh-language daily newspaper, Y Byd—as well as useful international comparisons. This report is available to download on the Welsh Assembly Government website;
http://new.wales.gov.uk/caec/report/cabinetstatements/2008/080114review/revwelshlangpmediarepe.doc?lang=en

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Ffacs * Fax 029 2089 8015
correspondence.alun.ffred.jones @wales.gsi.gov.uk

The Welsh Assembly Government is earmarking an additional £600,000 during the next three years to fulfil the commitment in One Wales - £200,000 a year until 2011. This is in addition to the £173,000 which is currently being spent by the Welsh Assembly Government, through the Welsh Books Council, on Welsh-medium news and current affairs publications and more than doubles the funding currently being spent on similar publications in the Welsh language

The Institute of Welsh Affairs, an independent think-tank that promotes quality research and informed debate, recently undertook an audit of the media in Wales at the request of the Welsh Assembly Government. The report was intended to help inform debate in the field of broadcasting and the media. Their publication, which contains a chapter on the print media in Wales, is also available from their website;
http://www.iwa.org.uk/publications/pdfs/IWAMediaInWales.pdf

Yours sincerely,

Alun Ffred Jones AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth/Minister for Heritage

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR PETITION COMMITTEE FROM RANT

Leakage from the base of the landfill
The Purchon investigation took a lot of evidence on this and concluded from test results that chemicals from the tip were at that time leaking into groundwater. The evidence covered:
The standards at the time did not require a clay layer, so the liner used shale beneath the synthetic HDPE sheeting
The HDPE laying in circa 1988 was substandard because of difficult wind and rain conditions
The HDPE layer could not be found at one edge of the site (may have slipped down the slope)
HDPE liners develop increasing leaks with time, as recognised by government in the late 1990s (see Alan Watson-Friends of the Earth Cymru evidence to the Investigation) and evidence from various American Authorities (RACHEL)

The council called the capping scheme "containment plus", but it addressed only the gases escaping to air, not leakage through the base, while 'plus' referred to air monitoring.

Leakage underground has been directly detected
by pollutants in stream water –Nantygwyddon picnic area sampled on behalf of the Investigation
by gases in the communities (including within homes) detected by the Hapsite and Tenax monitoring (see below).

Health Effects
early reports were of community complaints of 'minor ailments' and of the rare birth defect gastroschisis

Bro Taf Health clinics which also collated a large number of minor conditions
.....
The Fielder/Palmer study found a gastroschisis cluster and unexplained high levels of other birth defects

Bro Taf HA failed to follow up the Palmer recommendations for further study
The Purchon report contained several recommendations on follow-up tests (of blood samples for the presence of volatile organic chemicals) and incidence of illness rates.

Purchon commissioned a toxicology report (from IEH Leicester) but recognised that this did not take into account the many chemicals for which no toxicology data exists. Moreover modern findings in the multiple chemical effects of low doses of VOC's and chemical sensitisation of an individual by prior exposure to a high dose followed by repeated exposure to the same or a related chemical

#The ATSDR report found that levels of minor ailments were increased (while not persuaded of the rarer serious conditions). This would not be expected on standard toxicology from levels of gases recorded in the open air

RANT pointed out high incidence of sarcoidosis, NHL and diabetes, but found no cooperation from official health bodies in obtaining good statistics for further investigations. Moreover the numbers of cancer cases within the localities of the NYG landfill appear to have increased dramatically over the last few years. This is in line with Palmer's epidemiological study in which he stated that the time for development of a neoplasm from exposure to a mutagen is 10+ years

The Welsh NHS professionals (in Welsh Centre for Health etc.) are firmly wedded to old toxicology. RCT Council in 2002 purchased a Hapsite monitor capable of detecting the wide range of gaseous chemicals (the first in Wales), as a constructive response to the high levels of concern (which had led to the ousting of Labour in the county election).

Hapsite & Tenax Tube Monitoring 2002-2006
RCT conducted an extended programme of sampling inside and outside a number of homes of selected participants in Blaenclydach, Tonypandy and Gelli for analysis by the Hapsite mass spectrometer. The programme was delayed because of learning to operate the instrument and interpret the data. Samplers were collected in 'tedlar' bags which should be free from contaminants and be analysed within 48 hours, but these conditions were not generally met.. Nevertheless significant results were found on gaseous VOCs

Specific VOCs were variable in concentration, correlating with smells reported by participants
Spikes in specific VOCs were sometimes detected in several homes, uncorrelated with possible chemical use by the participants
Specific VOCs were detected both in the street and in the homes, but at similar or higher abundance in the homes
Some chemicals are in household cleansers etc. but other unusual ones were detected that are not used in homes, so could be used to identify gas originating from the landfill.(furan et al)
the levels of VOCs tended to decrease over the years, consistent with decreasing rates of leakage from the landfill
Dichlorobenzene DCB found at a high level in one Gelli home, subsequently diminishing, spiked again more strongly in 2005(?) causing high concern.
RCT ESD monitored two nearby homes, finding DCB in one of them. Despite a campaign orchestrated by RANT for more homes to be monitored in the Gelli area and agreed by a significant number of the people of that area the ESD refused. WHY?

At this time, the LHB and RCT officers fixed to discontinue the monitoring; they called RANT to consult over it, but in fact had already decided and got agreement from the Council leadership. At this so called consultation meeting they just told us they were finishing. The LHB officer's justification was that the levels were below the toxicology thresholds where these were known. She refused to accept multiple chemical combinations (which may be synergistic, stronger than additive) and chemical sensitisation, insisting that that standard toxicology is conclusive.
This only serves to prove how archaic is her understanding

RANT believes that the officers decided to stop monitoring when and because the obvious conclusion from the Hapsite studies was that the landfill is failing to contain

the toxic materials, that gases from the dump are leaking underground into peoples' homes, and that leakage may at times increase ie. that capping has not solved the problem and removed the hazard to people. Nothing could be done about this (they believed) so in their view monitoring would unnecessarily alarm people.

Bio monitoring – Purchon's recommendation is now more feasible
Purchon recommended monitoring chemicals in local people's blood. The practice of monitoring blood, fat, and urine etc. samples is now better established. California in 2006 was the first state to introduce it. Here the LHB gave excuses of privacy, but in fact people are very ready to volunteer and it's our right to know what's in us. Jill Evans MEP was of course a prominent local volunteer for WWF's campaign..

Moreover two valley women, of different weight, height and life style had been bio monitored by an accredited London laboratory and found an alarming amount of VOC's in their fat. This testing had been undertaken at their own expense and demonstrates the level of concern in the area

RANT believes that we have been very badly let down by the NAfW, the WCfH, the LHB and the RCTBC. It is the people of the NYG area who do and will further suffer from this gross miscarriage of justice.

June Bacon Sec RANT

Supportive Evidence

INNOVATIVE STATE LEGISLATION

ISSUE: BIOMONITORING

Introduction

We monitor what's in our air, our water, and even what's in our fish.
It's time to start looking at what's in our bodies. – *California Body Burden Campaign*

Biomonitoring is the direct measurement of environmental chemicals, their primary metabolites, or their reaction products (such as DNA-adducts) in people – usually in blood or urine specimens. Currently, human exposure information is limited. Reliable and accurate exposure data are required for studies that examine the relation between exposure and adverse health effects. Decision makers need information about which environmental chemicals actually get into people and at what levels to make decisions about public health issues that will benefit the American public.[1]

Biomonitoring is a type of research that allows us to measure the "pollution in people" by analyzing blood, urine, and breast milk samples for pollutants, synthetic chemicals, and industrial compounds. The data produced through biomonitoring can support efforts to improve public health by indicating trends in chemical exposures, identifying disproportionately affected and particularly vulnerable communities, linking environmental exposures and pollution-related disease, assessing the effectiveness of current regulations, and setting priorities for legislative and regulatory action.[2]

More than 85,000 synthetic chemicals have been introduced in the last 50 years for industrial, farming, and other uses, yet more than 90% of them have not been tested for their effects on human health. Biomonitoring studies have detected more than 200 toxic substances in breast milk.[3]

In March 2001, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the first National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals. This first edition of the report presents 27 levels of environmental chemicals measured in the United States population, including metals such as lead, mercury, and uranium; cotinine (a marker of tobacco smoke exposure); and, organophosphate pesticide metabolites as well as phthalate metabolites. An increasing amount of research indicates that many of the kinds of chemicals measured by the CDC can have an adverse impact on human health. In January 2003, the CDC National Center for Environmental Health issued the second National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals. The report presents biomonitoring exposure data for 116 chemicals measured in the United States population, including 89 additional environmental chemicals, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and various pesticides and herbicides, which were not included in the first report.[4]

The CDC National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) currently conducts its biomonitoring program through the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). NHANES is an annual, cross-sectional representative survey designed to collect information about the health and diet of the civilian, non- institutionalized population of the United States. NHANES samples about 5,000 people every year. Extensive laboratory testing of participants' body fluids is conducted. For more information on NHANES' methodology and results, please visit www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm. Although the NHANES is a valuable source of information for environmental health, the study has limitations that include:

- A limited number of chemicals;

back to | | |

Not received

========== Electronic Edition ==========

#316

---December 16, 1992---

News and resources for environmental justice.

Environmental Research Foundation
P.O. Box 5036, Annapolis, MD 21403
Fax (410) 263-8944; Internet:

NEW EVIDENCE THAT ALL LANDFILLS LEAK

Starting in the 1970s and continuing throughout the 1980s, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] funded research which showed that burying household garbage in the ground poisons the groundwater. On several occasions, EPA spelled out in detail the reasons why all landfills leak. (For example, see RHWN , , and)

Then in late 1991, after several years of deliberation, EPA chief William Reilly issued final landfill regulations that allow the continued burial of raw garbage in landfills. (See RHWN .) EPA's 1991 regulations require an expensive landfill design: two liners in the ground and an impervious plastic cover over the landfill after it has been filled with garbage. This is "state of the art" technology, the very best that modern engineers can build. However, EPA officials still expect such landfills to fail and eventually poison groundwater.

As early as 1978, EPA knew why all landfills eventually leak. The main culprit is water. Once water gets into a landfill, it mixes with the garbage, producing a toxic leachate ("garbage juice"), which is then pulled downward by gravity until it reaches the groundwater. Therefore, the goal of landfill designers (and regulators) is to keep landfills dry for the length of time that the garbage is dangerous, which is forever.

Now a 1992 report from a California engineering-consulting firm, G. Fred Lee & Associates, has examined recent scientific studies and has confirmed once again why modern "dry tomb" landfill technology will always fail and should always be expected to poison groundwater.

The new report, authored by Fred Lee and Anne Jones, reviews recent evidence--much of it produced by government-funded research--that landfill liners leak for a variety of reasons; that leachate collection systems clog up and thus fail to prevent landfill leakage; that landfill leachate will remain a danger to groundwater for thousands of years; that even low-rainfall areas are not safe for landfill placement; that gravel pits and canyons are particularly dangerous locations for landfills; that maintaining a single landfill's cap for the duration of the hazard would cost hundreds of billions, or even trillions, of dollars; that groundwater monitoring cannot be expected to detect landfill leakage; that groundwater, once it is contaminated, cannot be cleaned up and must be considered permanently destroyed; and that groundwater is a limited and diminishing resource which modern societies grow more dependent on as time passes.

A 1990 examination of the best available landfill liners concluded that brand-new state-of-the-art liners of high density polyethylene (HDPE) can be expected to leak at the rate of about 20 gallons per acre per day (200 liters per hectare per day) even if they are

installed with the very best and most expensive quality-control procedures. This rate of leakage is caused by pinholes during manufacture, and by holes created when the seams are welded together during landfill construction. (Landfill liners are rolled out like huge carpets and then are welded together, side by side, to create a continuous field of plastic.) Now examination of actual landfill liners reveals that even the best seams contain some holes.

In addition to leakage caused by pinholes and failed seams, new scientific evidence indicates that HDPE (high density polyethylene, the preferred liner for landfills) allows some chemicals to pass through it quite readily. A 1991 report from University of Wisconsin shows that dilute solutions of common solvents, such as xylenes, toluene, trichloroethylene (TCE), and methylene chloride, penetrate HDPE in one to thirteen days. Even an HDPE sheet 100 mils thick (a tenth of an inch)--the thickness used in the most expensive landfills) is penetrated by solvents in less than two weeks.

Another problem that has recently become apparent with HDPE liners is "stress cracking" or "brittle fracture." For reasons that are not well understood, polyethylenes, including HDPE, become brittle and develop cracks. A 1990 paper published by the American Society for Testing Materials revealed that HDPE liners have failed from stress cracks in only two years of use. Polyethylene pipe, intended to give 50 years of service, has failed in two years. Lee and Jones sum up (pg. 22), "While the long-term stability of geomembranes (flexible membrane liners) in landfills cannot be defined, there is no doubt that they will eventually fail to function as an impermeable barrier to leachate transport from a landfill to groundwater. Further, and most importantly at this time, there are no test methods, having demonstrated reliability, with which to evaluate long-term performance of flexible membrane liners."

Recent scientific studies of clay indicate that landfill liners of compacted clay leak readily too. For example, a 1990 study concludes,

> [I]F A NATURALLY OCCURRING CLAY SOIL IS COMPACTED TO HIGH DENSITY, THEREBY PRODUCING A MATERIAL WITH VERY LOW HYDRAULIC CONDUCTIVITY, AND IF IT IS MAINTAINED WITHIN THE SAME RANGES OF TEMPERATURE, PRESSURE, AND CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT, IT WOULD BE EXPECTED TO FUNCTION WELL AS A SEEPAGE BARRIER INDEFINITELY. IN WASTE CONTAINMENT APPLICATIONS, HOWEVER, CONDITIONS DO NOT REMAIN THE SAME. THE PERMEATION [PENETRATION] OF A COMPACTED CLAY LINER BY CHEMICALS OF MANY TYPES IS INEVITABLE, SINCE NO COMPACTED CLAY OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF LINER MATERIAL IS EITHER TOTALLY IMPERVIOUS OR IMMUNE TO CHEMICAL INTERACTIONS OF VARIOUS TYPES.

The 1992 study by Lee and Jones is an excellent resource for anyone wanting to understand why landfills always fail. In their footnotes, they cite 18 other studies of landfill problems that they themselves have authored, so their expertise is unquestionable, their information reliable, their arguments solid.

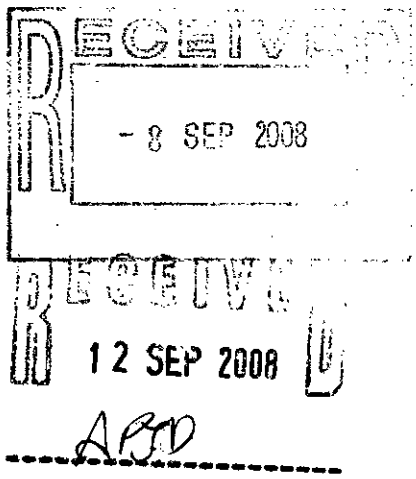
There has been sufficient scientific evidence available for a decade to convince any reasonable person that landfills leak poisons into our water supplies, and are therefore anti-social.

The question remains: what will it take to convince government--specifically EPA--to

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

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-121
Ein cyf/Our ref DFM/01470/08



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

29 August 2008

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter dated 29 July 2008 about the petition regarding Morriston roundabout, which I have received from your committee.

As part of their responsibility for the local highway network, local authorities have a duty to monitor road safety and to initiate and prioritise any type of road safety or traffic engineering scheme as they see fit.

There is a wide range of design and guidance documents available for a local authority highway or traffic engineer to consult. Some of the most pertinent documents in relation to road safety and traffic engineering can be found on the Department for Transport website: www.dft.gov.uk

The Welsh Assembly Government only has a role in the prioritisation of safety and traffic schemes when they involve the trunk road network.

With regards to the funds made available by Welsh Assembly Government for road safety, the Road Safety Grant was introduced in 2000 in response to concerns over the lack of direct funding for road safety schemes and its effect on casualty numbers. It is provided to local authorities each year by the Welsh Assembly Government to contribute towards solutions to road safety problems in their respective areas. Since the grant was introduced in 2000, over £50m has been allocated via the Special Road Safety Grant and the annual sum has risen from £3.66m in the initial year to £7.52m in 2008/09. The grant is in addition to local authority highway and traffic engineering budgets.

Yours
Ieuan

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Ffacs * Fax 029 2089 8198
PS.DeputyFirstMinister@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Our Ref/Ein Cyf:
Your Ref/Eich Cyf:
Date/Dyddiad: 19th August 2008
Please ask for/Gofynnwch am: Tim Peppin
Direct line/Llinell uniongyrchol: 029 2046 8669
Email/Ebost: tim.peppin@wlga.gov.uk

WLGA • CLILC

RECEIVED 20 AUG 2008

RECEIVED 28 AUG 2008

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

Dear Ms Lloyd

Petition – Unadopted Roads

Thank you for your letter to Steve Thomas, Chief Executive, WLGA of 4th August enquiring whether any legislative or administrative barriers prevent Welsh local authorities from adopting roads.

After consulting with advisors the main barrier does appear to be financial. As you will be aware there are significant costs involved in maintaining the existing highway with a current backlog of maintenance standing at approximately £240m.

However there is also a legislative framework in place stemming from the Highways Act 1980. Enclosed with this letter is the relevant guidance on highway adoption from the Welsh Assembly Government and the Department for Transport which was published in 2007 in the Manual for Streets. As you will see the local authority can set down standards which must be achieved before adoption can take place. Our investigations have not gone to sufficient depths to assess whether developers are meeting specified standards but we would be happy to examine this further if the Committee felt it was appropriate.

I hope you find this helpful and should you require any more information please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

T. Peppin

Tim Peppin
Director, Regeneration & Sustainable Development
Cyfarwyddwr Materion Adfywio a Datblygu Cynaladwy

Steve Thomas
Chief Executive
Prif Weithredwr

Welsh Local Government Association
Local Government House
Drake Walk
CARDIFF CF10 4LG
Tel: 029 2046 8600
Fax: 029 2046 8601

Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru
Tŷ Llywodraeth Leol
Rhodfa Drake
CAERDYDD CF10 4LG
Ffôn: 029 2046 8600
Ffacs: 029 2046 8601

www.wlga.gov.uk

11.6.4 A highway authority may be unwilling to adopt items such as planting and street furniture (e.g. play equipment and public art) which are not considered to relate to the highway functions of the street. If there is no private management company, arrangements can be made for such features to be maintained by another public body, such as a district or town/parish council (e.g. by designating areas of public open space).

11.6.5 In these circumstances the developer must ensure that there is agreement between the county, district and town/parish councils as to:

- which authority is best able in practice to take day-to-day responsibility for each element of planting and/or non-highway-related furniture;
- the future maintenance responsibilities, obligations and liabilities arising from such planting, street furniture etc.; and
- the apportionment of these contributions among the authorities concerned in the light of the apportioned responsibilities/liabilities.

11.7 Highway adoption – legal framework

Section 38 Agreements

11.7.1 Section 38 of the Highways Act 1980 gives highway authorities the power to adopt new highways by agreement and this is the usual way of creating new highways that are maintainable at the public expense. The Act places a duty on highway authorities to maintain adopted highways at public expense under section 41.

11.7.2 Under a Section 38 Agreement, the developer is obliged to construct the streets to an agreed standard, having first secured technical approval of the designs from the highway authority. A fee is normally payable by the developer to the highway authority to cover its reasonable costs in checking the design and supervising the construction of the works.

11.7.3 The Section 38 Agreement sets out the obligations of the developer to construct the streets and to maintain them for a set period – normally 12 months. Following the satisfactory discharge of these obligations, the new streets are automatically dedicated as public highway and are maintainable at the public expense.

Advance Payments Code

11.7.4 The Advance Payments Code (section 219 to section 225 of the Highways Act 1980) provides for payments to be made to a highway authority to cover future maintenance liabilities in the absence of a Section 38 Agreement.

11.7.5 The Advance Payments Code provides a compulsory process which involves cash deposits being made by the developer to the highway authority before building works can commence. It is an offence to undertake any house building until these payments have been deposited with the highway authority. The money securing the road charges liability is used to offset the cost of the works in instances where the highway authority carries out a Private Street Works Scheme to make up streets to an acceptable standard.

11.7.6 Thus, before any construction begins, the developer will normally be required either:

- to secure the payment of the estimated cost of the highway works under the Advance Payments Code provisions as set out in section 219 of the Act; or
- to make an agreement with the highway authority under section 38 of the Act and provide a Bond of Surety.

Private streets

11.7.7 Where a developer wishes the streets to remain private, some highway authorities have entered into planning obligations with the developer under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990,16 which requires the developer to construct the new streets to the authority's standards and to maintain them in good condition at all times.

16 Town and Country Planning Act 1990. London: HMSO.

11.7.8 Such a planning obligation enables the developer to avoid making payments under the Advance Payments Code, as the highway authority can then be satisfied that the streets will not fall into such a condition that a Private Streets Work Scheme will be needed. The planning obligation thus provides exemption to the developer from making advance payments under section 219(4)(e) of the Highways Act 1980.

What is adoptable?

11.7.9 The highway authority has considerable discretion in exercising its powers to adopt through a Section 38 Agreement under the Highways Act 1980, but there are other mechanisms contained in the Act which help to define the legal tests for adoption.

11.7.10 Although seldom used, section 37 of the Act does provide an appeal mechanism in the event of a highway authority refusing to enter into a Section 38 Agreement. Under section 37(1), a developer can give notice to the authority that he/she intends to dedicate a street as a public highway.

11.7.11 If the authority considers that the highway *'will not be of sufficient utility to the public to justify its being maintained at the public expense'*, then it will need to apply to a magistrates' court for an order to that effect.

11.7.12 A further possibility is that the authority accepts that the new highway is of sufficient utility but considers that it has not been properly constructed or maintained, or has not been used as a highway by the public during the 12-month maintenance period. On these grounds it can refuse to accept the new road. In this case the developer can appeal to a magistrates' court against the refusal, and the court may grant an order requiring the authority to adopt the road.

11.7.13 Section 37 effectively sets the statutory requirements for a new street to become a highway maintainable at the public expense. The key tests are:

- it must be of sufficient utility to the public; and
- it must be constructed (made up) in a satisfactory manner.

In addition:

- it must be kept in repair for a period of 12 months; and
- it must be used as a highway during that period.

11.7.14 There is little case law on the application of these tests, however.

11.7.15 Highway authorities have also tended to only adopt streets that serve more than a particular number of individual dwellings or more than one commercial premises. Five dwellings is often set as the lower limit, but some authorities have set figures above or below this.

11.7.16 There is no statutory basis for the lower limit on the number of dwellings justifying adoption. The use of five dwellings as a criterion may have come from the notional capacity of private service supplies (gas, water, etc.) but it is now more commonplace for utilities to lay mains in private streets.

11.7.17 It is not desirable for this number to be set too high, as this would deny residents of small infill developments the benefit of being served by an adopted street.

11.7.18 It is recommended that highway authorities set a clear local policy on this issue.

Adoption of streets on private land

11.7.19 Under some circumstances the developer may not be able to dedicate a certain area of land as highway because he does not own it. If so, the road (or footway, etc.) can be adopted using the procedures under section 228 of the Highways Act 1980.

11.7.20 On completion of the works to the satisfaction of the highway authority, and following any agreed maintenance period, notices are posted on site. These state that unless objections are received from the owner of the land, the highway in question will become maintainable at public expense one month after the date of the notice. An inspection fee is payable in the same way as for Section 38 Agreements.

Section 278 Agreements

11.7.21 A Section 278 Agreement, under the Highways Act 1980, enables improvements to be made to an adopted highway that convey special benefit to a private body – for example, the formation of a new access to a development site, or improvements to permeability and connectivity that help strengthen integration with an existing community.

11.7.22 Before entering into such an agreement, a highway authority will need to be satisfied that the agreement is of benefit to the general public. The developer will normally bear the full cost of the works, and a bond and inspection fee is also payable, as with Section 38 Agreements.

11.8 Design standards for adoption

11.8.1 The highway authority has considerable discretion in setting technical and other requirements for a new highway. Concerns have been raised over the rigid adherence to these requirements, leading to refusal to adopt new streets. This issue was explored in *Better Streets, Better Places.*[17]

11.8.2 Highway authorities are nowadays encouraged to take a more flexible approach to highway adoption in order to allow greater scope for designs that respond to their surroundings and create a sense of place. It is recognised, however, that highway authorities will need to ensure that any future maintenance liability is kept within acceptable limits.

11.8.3 One way of enabling designers to achieve local distinctiveness without causing excessive maintenance costs will be for highway authorities to develop a limited palette of special materials and street furniture. Such materials and components, and their typical application, could, for example, be set out in local design guidance and be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document.

11.8.4 Developers should produce well-reasoned design arguments, and articulate these in a Design and Access Statement (where required), particularly if they seek the adoption of designs that differ substantially from those envisaged in a local authority's design guide or MfS. However, provided it can be demonstrated that the design will enhance the environment and the living experience of the residents, and that it will not lead to an undue increase in maintenance costs, then highway authorities should consider responding favourably.

11.8.5 Drawings should indicate which parts of the layout the developer expects to be adopted and how the adoption limits are to be differentiated on the ground. Widths and other key carriageway dimensions, and the location and dimensions of parking spaces, should also be shown, together with full details of all planting.

11.8.6 Highway authorities would be expected to adopt street layouts complying with their Design Guide which have been constructed in accordance with the highway authority's specification of works. They would normally be expected to adopt:

- residential streets, combined footways and cycle tracks;
- footways adjacent to carriageways and main footpaths serving residential areas;
- Home Zones and shared-surface streets;
- land within visibility splays at junctions and on bends;
- trees, shrubs and other features that are an integral part of vehicle speed restraints;
- any verges and planted areas adjacent to the carriageway;
- Structures, i.e. retaining walls and embankments, which support the highway or any other adoptable area;

17 ODPM (2003) Better Streets, Better Places: Delivering Sustainable Residential Environments: PPG3 and Highway Adoption. London: ODPM

- street lighting;
- gullies, gully connections and highway drains, and other highway drainage features;
- on-street parking spaces adjacent to carriageways; and
- service strips adjacent to shared surface streets.

11.9 Private management companies

11.9.1 Any unadopted communal areas will need to be managed and maintained through private arrangements. Typical areas maintained in this way include communal gardens, shared off-street car parking, shared cycle storage, communal refuse storage and composting facilities, and sustainable energy infrastructure.

11.9.2 Where a private management company is established, it is desirable for residents to have a strong input into its organisation and running in order to foster community involvement in the upkeep of the local environment.

124

Canolfan Bedwyr
Prifysgol Bangor/Bangor University
Safle'r Normal/Normal Site
BANGOR
Gwynedd
LL57 2PZ

(01248) 383293
(01248) 383243
swyddfa.canolfanbedwyr@bangor.ac.uk
www.bangor.ac.uk/canolfanbedwyr

Dr Llion Jones
Cyfarwyddwr • Director

CANOLFAN·BEDWYR

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY 1884

1 Gorffennaf 2008

Annwyl Val Lloyd AC,

Deiseb P-03-124 :: Cysgliad

Diolch yn fawr am eich llythyr, dyddiedig 20 Mehefin, ynghylch y ddeiseb a ystyriwyd gennych yn ddiweddar yn y Pwyllgor Deisebau.

Mae ***Cysgliad*** yn feddalwedd poblogaidd sy'n cynnwys gwirydd gramadeg a sillafu Cymraeg yn ogystal â geiriadur electronig cynhwysfawr Cymraeg a Saesneg. Y mae cannoedd o ddefnyddwyr cartref ac mewn swyddfeydd yn tystio bod y meddalwedd yn eu galluogi i weithio'n hyderus trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Mae ***Cysgliad*** yn cael ei ddatblygu gan Uned Technolegau Iaith, Canolfan Bedwyr ym Mhrifysgol Bangor. Gan fod yr uned honno yn un gwbl hunan-gyllidol, y mae'n ddibynnol ar incwm o werthiant y meddalwedd i gyflogi staff i gynnig cefnogaeth dechnegol i'r meddalwedd ac i weithio ar ei ddatblygu ymhellach.

Mae'r ddeiseb yn cyfeirio at y ffaith fod fersiwn rhad-ac-am-ddim wedi'i ryddhau'n ddiweddar ar gyfer cyfrifiaduron Mac. Roedd hynny'n un o amodau'r grant a ddyfarnwyd gan Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg ar gyfer y prosiect penodol hwnnw. Mae'n werth nodi, fodd bynnag, fod y fersiwn Mac yn cael ei gynnig heb unrhyw gefnogaeth dechnegol nac unrhyw addewid i'w ddatblygu ymhellach.

O ran y ddeiseb felly, er y byddem yn cytuno y byddai gallu cynnig ***Cysgliad*** yn rhad-ac-am-ddim i bob cartref yng Nghymru yn gyfraniad gwirioneddol werthfawr at gyflawni nod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad o greu *"cenedl wirioneddol ddwyieithog" (Iaith Pawb)*, ni fyddai modd i Ganolfan Bedwyr hwyluso hynny heb nawdd i sicrhau cyflogaeth yr uned sy'n gyfrifol am y gwaith. Yn naturiol, fe fyddem yn croesawu unrhyw drafodaethau i'r perwyl hwnnw.

Os oes unrhyw gwestiynau pellach yn codi o'r ymateb hwn, fe fyddwn yn hapus iawn i geisio eu hateb.

Yn gywir,

Llion Jones

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 PET-03-144
Ein cyf/Our ref JD/01019/08

Val Lloyd AM
Valerie.Lloyd@Wales.gov.uk

14th August 2008

Dear Val,

PETITION – SHARED USE SPACE AND DUTIES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Thank you for your letter of 4th August regarding the Petition submitted by Guide Dogs for the Blind relating to shared surfaces. The Welsh Assembly Government's policy in respect of shared surfaces is contained in Manual for Streets which was published jointly by the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Transport and the Welsh Assembly Government in 2007.

Manual for Streets indicates that shared surfaces can play a role in encouraging low vehicle speeds; creating an environment in which pedestrians can walk without feeling intimidated by motor traffic; making it easier for people to move around and promoting social interaction. However, it recognises that shared surfaces can cause problems for some disabled people. It is important therefore that consultation with the community and users, particularly with disability groups, is undertaken when any shared surface scheme is developed. Manual for Streets makes it clear that in many instances a protected space with appropriate physical demarcation will need to be provided.

Yours,

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Ffacs • Fax 029 2089 8129
PS.minister.for.ESH@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Neath Port Talbot
Castell-nedd Port Talbot
County Borough Council Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
Making a difference Gwahaniaeth er gwell

127

3 July 2008 Date **Dyddiad**
01639 763279 Direct Line **Rhif Ffôn**
c.preece@npt.gov.uk email **ebost**

Contact **Cyswllt**
Your Ref **Eich Cyf**
DSSH/CP/EB Our Ref **Ein Cyf**

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

Dear Ms. Lloyd,

PETITION – AGAINST NEW CARE HOMES IN SEVEN SISTERS

Your letter to the Chief Executive, Mr. Ken Sawyers, has been passed to me for reply. At this time, the Council has not determined a planning application from Castle Care Homes, although Planning Officers have given advice that planning consent will be necessary if an educational facility is to be provided on the premises. No further action will be taken by the Council pending an application from this organisation.

The registration of a children's home is, of course, not a matter for determination by this Council and will fall to the Assembly Government's Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW).

Yours sincerely

COLIN PREECE
Director of Social Services Health & Housing

Y Gwir Anrh/Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AC/AM
Prif Weinidog Cymru/First Minister for Wales

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-134
Ein cyf/Our ref FM/00389/08

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

28 August 2008

Dear Val,

I am writing in response to your letter of 21 July about a petition calling for the establishment of a Welsh Honours system and requesting some figures regarding honours and nominations in respect of Welsh people.

The Welsh Assembly Government does not have the power to establish a separate Welsh Honours system. However, I am/my Cabinet are currently considering how our systems for recognising significant achievements by Welsh men and women might be strengthened.

With one exception, the Welsh Assembly Government does not hold the data you have requested since it relates to the UK Honours system. The Honours and Appointments Secretariat, Cabinet Office, are responsible for the policy on honours, decorations and medals and the administration of the honours selection system on behalf of the Prime Minister. They may be able to provide you with the information you requested. However, with regard to your third bullet point, my Honours Secretary's post log shows that the following numbers of honours nominations have been sent by members of the public to the Honours Unit since 2005.

2005	107
2006	123
2007	111
2008 (to date)	83

However, please note that these figures only show the number of nominations submitted by members of the public and not those that may have been submitted by organisations/public bodies etc. that work with the Welsh Assembly Government. They only show those "public nominations" that relate to sectors for which the Welsh Assembly Government has responsibility e.g. a nomination for someone in the Welsh police service would normally be sent to the Home Office initially since the Welsh police service falls within their remit and such nominations, therefore, would not have entered the Honours system via the Welsh Assembly Government.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Ffacs * Fax 029 2089 8198
rhodri.morgan@wales.gsi.gov.uk

If you require the other statistics mentioned in your letter I suggest you write to the Prime Minister's Office.

Rhodri

136

Edwina Hart AM MBE
Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Our ref EH/02806/08/Update
Your ref

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA
English Enquiry Line: 0845 010 3300
Fax: 029 2089 8131
E-Mail:Correspondence.Edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd CF99 1NA
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg: 0845 010 4400
Ffacs: 029 2089 8131
E-Bost:Correspondence.Edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

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

30th July 2008

Dear Val,

When I wrote to you in June, I informed you that I would provide you with an update on the Cardiff and Vale situation when my officials had received a Car Parking Action Plan from the Trust. The Action Plan for the Trust has now been received and scrutinised.

Some of the actions being taken forward by the Trust to reduce car parking congestion in and around the UHW site are:

- The development of a brand new Public Transport Interchange at the Concourse at the UHW which is planned to come on-line during Autumn 2008.
- Installation of Information points throughout the Trust, in association with Traveline and InfoPoint to install an Information Point that will direct staff, patients and visitors in finding sustainable alternatives such as Public Transport or taxis.
- Further development of the Trust Intranet site with direct links to Traveline Cymru, Sustrans and Cardiff bus.
- Cycle routes into UHW linked to the Taff trail, routes improved and supported by Sustrans.
- Liftshare has been selected as a Car Share partner and an agreement has been signed. It is planned to launch the Trust's car scheme this Summer.

As you can see Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust are taking seriously the matters raised within the petition on Heath and Birchgrove parking, and are actively seeking solutions to the issue of parking congestion in and around the UHW site.

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

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-141/149
Ein cyf/Our ref DFM/01555/08

Val Lloyd AM
Assembly Member for Swansea East
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

08 September 08

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter of 4 August 2008 which was sent to my cabinet colleague Jane Davidson, the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing about the development of Llanbedr Airfield. I am responding as the Minister with portfolio responsibility for this issue and address below each of the points which you have raised.

It may be helpful if I set out a little of the history. Firstly, no decision has yet been made as regards the future of the Airfield. You may be aware that the Airfield has been in military use since the 1940s. The Ministry of Defence announced in 2002 that it would be ceasing its use of the Airfield. Ever since this announcement was made, the Welsh Assembly Government (together with the WDA before its abolition in April 2006) has been involved in seeking to facilitate an economically and environmentally sustainable future for the Airfield. In particular, in early 2003 the WDA commissioned a report from KPMG as to the most viable future options for the site. The report's conclusion was that a continuation, so far as possible, of the previous use was the preferred outcome. The Ministry of Defence ceased operating at the site in late 2004 and the WDA purchased the site in March 2006. The Welsh Ministers therefore became the freeholders of the site in April 2006 upon abolition of the WDA.

So far as the process is concerned (your second and third questions) and given that the operation and management of an airfield is a specialist activity, it was decided to market the property widely in 2007 with the express intention of attracting a private sector operator which would ensure that the airfield use was continued in support of the Assembly Government Aerospace Strategy and that the activities at the airfield would also benefit the local community in terms of job creation and sustainability. It was decided that a long lease was the most effective means of achieving these combined aims.

As part of this process, a site open-day and tour was held in June 2007 to discuss the Welsh Assembly Government's potential plans with the local community and with other local interested parties. The invitees were co-ordinated primarily through the local Community Council, but the Open Day was also widely advertised through local newspapers and posters at key local sites.

Expressions of interest were received in November 2007 and Kemble Air Services Limited was identified as a preferred bidder to be granted a lease of the Airfield. However, I again

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Ffacs * Fax 029 2089 8198
PS.DeputyFirstMinister@wales.gsi.gov.uk

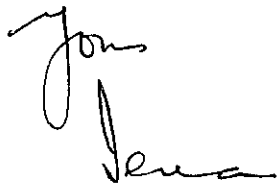
stress that no final decision has yet been made as to the granting of a lease and consultation is on-going with the Snowdonia National Park Authority and the Countryside Council for Wales.

I am conscious of my duties in making any decisions as to the future of the Airfield including the duty which arises under Section 11A of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 to have regard to the purposes of the National Park. Those purposes include conserving the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park and promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities. I can assure you that in making any final decision I will be taking account of all my duties.

As to documentation, I enclose a copy of the following:-

WDA brief to KPMG (undated);
KPMG Report dated 30 January 2003;
Executive Summary of the above dated 7 February 2003 (both this document and the Report itself are marked "draft" but I understand that these are the final versions);
Note of Welsh Assembly Government Mid Wales Region Executive Management Report of 23 May 2006;
Notes for Llanbedr Airfield Community Visits – June 2007;
Press Release;
Note of Meeting between Officials and SNPA on 21 May 2008.

I trust that this response sufficiently answers your questions.



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

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
National Assembly for Wales

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

Y Gwir Anrh yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AC, Llywydd
The Rt Hon the Lord Elis-Thomas AM, Presiding Officer

13 August 2008

Dear Val

PETITION TO REMOVE MARGARET THATCHER ARTWORK FROM THE SENEDD

Thank you for your letter regarding the above petition which asked for further information in relation to displaying artwork in the Senedd.

In relation to the rules, regulations and procedures for the displaying of artwork in the Senedd, guidance for short term, temporary displays is contained in the Guidance for use of the public areas of the Senedd for events and exhibitions. The guidance states that artwork exhibitions must be sponsored by an Assembly Member and the maximum period for display is normally three days. Artwork exhibitions sponsored by a Member which will not interfere with the proper use of the Senedd are normally approved as a matter of routine, although anything out of the ordinary is the subject of discussion with relevant Commissioners.

The display of the above artwork which features both Aneurin Bevan and Margaret Thatcher was not suitable for temporary, short term display in the Senedd due to the nature and size of the artwork. The artwork was specifically developed by the artist for display in the Senedd to complement and integrate with the structure of the front glass windows so that the artwork could be viewed from both inside and outside of the building. Therefore, the artist's proposal in this case was different to the majority of requests received to display artwork in the Oriel which can be quickly and easily installed and subsequently removed.

Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1NA

Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Ffôn • Tel: 029 2089 8911
Ffacs • Fax: 029 2089 8117
Ebost • Email: Dafydd.Elis-Thomas@wales.gov.uk

In addition, it was considered that the artwork and its location did not impede or prevent the large number of other events and activities which take place in the Senedd. A longer display period was agreed in these circumstances, although it will be dismantled and removed shortly.

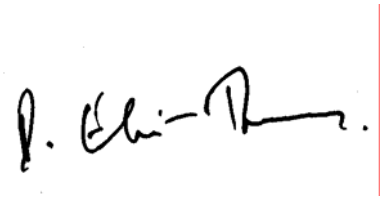
In terms of approving this installation, the artist, Dylan Hammond gained support and sponsorship for his installation from the following cross party grouping of Assembly Members:

Alun Cairns AM
Jocelyn Davies AM
Andrew Davies AM
Jenny Randerson AM

The artist's application was considered in detail, both in terms of health and safety and in relation to the standard policy. After thorough discussion with both myself and the Commissioner whose portfolio includes Assembly buildings (Lorraine Barratt AM), the installation was approved. Its stated intention was to generate debate and discussion about political figures who have had significant impact on Wales, and the level of discussion in the Welsh, UK and international media, as well as comments from visitors to the Senedd and the generation of a petition seem to indicate that this intention has been achieved.

I hope this answers the questions raised in your letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Y Gwir Anrh yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AC, Llywydd
The Rt Hon the Lord Elis-Thomas AM, Presiding Officer

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/01321/08

Val Lloyd
Chair of Petitions Committee
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

31 July 2008

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter of 3 July regarding the petition received by the National Assembly for Wales on fuel and road haulage in Wales.

I fully appreciate the petitioners' concerns, and recognise that the continuing rise in fuel costs is having a significant impact on haulage businesses in Wales. I recently had a constructive meeting with Welsh road hauliers in order to understand fully the impact of rising fuel costs on the industry.

The recently launched Wales Freight Strategy identifies a number of supportive measures for the freight industry, with specific initiatives to support the road haulage industry. The strategy was developed in partnership with the Wales Freight Group, which comprises of providers and users of freight services across all modes of transport, including representatives from the road haulage industry. The group provided a forum for discussing key issues and preparing the document and will now assist the Welsh Assembly Government in taking forward the measures identified in the strategy.

Due to the commercial nature of freight transport it is essential that we work in partnership with the industry on delivery of the strategy. For example, we recently held the first Freight Conference in Wales in partnership with the Freight Transport Association. The conference looked at key issues such as the threat to the Welsh supply chain due to escalating fuel and logistics costs; the long term vision for the efficient movement of freight in Wales; and the importance of freight to the economic success of Wales.

I am currently considering a number of initiatives that could provide much needed support to the road haulage industry such as the introduction of Safe and Fuel Efficient Driving (SAFED) training, developing a Freight Direct service and working with the industry to identify possible pilot consolidation centres.

As recognised in your letter, a number of relevant measures are outside the remit of the National Assembly for Wales. I am in correspondence with Angela Eagles, MP, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury seeking her views on possible UK Government interventions that

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Ffacs * Fax 029 2089 8198
PS.DeputyFirstMinister@wales.gsi.gov.uk

could support the industry, such as the introduction of a fuel price regulator or a rebate for hauliers on fuel duty.

We also need to consider EU legislation. We are currently working with the Department for Transport to ensure that the interests of the Welsh haulage industry are taken into account in the development of relevant policies, for example on cabotage, enforcement and inter-operable databases.

Yours

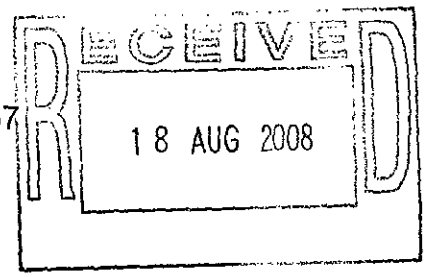
Ieuan

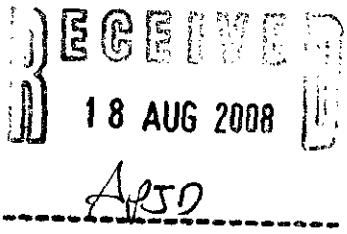
Ieuan Wyn Jones
Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for the Economy and Transport

157

Jane Hutt AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau
Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government





Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-157
Ein cyf/Our ref JH/01162/08

Val Lloyd AM
Welsh Assembly
Government
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

12 August 2008

Annwyl Val,

Thank you for your letter of 31 July, on behalf of the Petitions Committee, about Cymdeithas yr Iaith's petition for a Welsh Federal College.

In my statement of 16 July I announced that Professor Robin Williams, ex Vice Chancellor of Swansea University, had agreed to chair a Coleg Ffederal Planning Board. This Board will consider a number of models for a Welsh medium Federal College, including the model that Cymdeithas yr Iaith has put forward. Professor Williams will gather a group of experts from the HE sector, school and student bodies, employers and other interested parties to become core members of the Board. He may also see a need for smaller sub-groups to consider particular issues. Professor Williams will meet with a wide range of organisations to hear their views and discuss their proposals, or request written evidence. He is also considering holding a larger consultative meeting, although a date has not yet been set.

Professor Williams will prepare an independent report, based on his findings and the views of the Planning Board members, and report back to me by June 2009.

I can assure the Petitions Committee that every model will be fully scrutinised by the Board. Whatever form the Coleg takes, the Board will need to ensure that it enhances and encourages the delivery of Welsh medium provision, in line with the Welsh Assembly Government's One Wales commitment.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely,

Jane

c.c. Gareth David Thomas, APS Committee Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Ffacs * Fax 029 2089 8475
Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@Wales.gsi.gov.uk