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Brian Gibbons AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth
Leol
Minister for Social Justice and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-205
Ein cyf/Our ref BG/05701/09

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

6 November 2009

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter dated 28th October sent on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales' Petitions Committee on the petition to keep Abergavenny Livestock Market.

The Petitions Committee has asked whether I have considered the position of amending, rather than repealing, the Abergavenny Improvement Acts. Section 58(2) of the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 provides for a number of options, including:

(a) that the [Welsh Ministers] may by order extend the relevant provision throughout the new principal area ...;

and

(d) repeal or revoke any local statutory provision to which this section applies and which appears to the Minister to have become spent, obsolete or unnecessary or to have been substantially superseded by any enactment or instrument which applies or may be applied to the area, persons or things to which or to whom the relevant provision applies.

The order making power has been transferred to the Welsh Ministers. Such an order would be made under the National Assembly for Wales 'negative resolution' procedure.

Thus, in theory it would be possible to make an order under section 58(2)(a) to amend the Improvement Acts by extending them to the whole of Monmouthshire. However I wish to make it clear that I have yet to undertake any detailed consideration of the matter as I have yet to receive any formal request to do so.

Yours sincerely

Brian Gibbons AM

Edwina Hart AM OStJ MBE

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

Our ref: EH/06845/09

Your ref: PET-03-216

Val Lloyd AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
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Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
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3 November 2009

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter dated 26 October about IVF treatment within Wales.

Based on the guidelines introduced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) it was agreed that on balance, the fairest way to implement an equitable service across Wales, within the available resources, was to offer new and existing patients one cycle of treatment which would be subject to a number of criteria. The IVF access criteria across Wales were implemented by Health Commission Wales in July 2005.

Whilst the Welsh Assembly Government recognises that one cycle of IVF treatment falls short of the NICE recommendation of three cycles, the budget position of the NHS in Wales does not allow an increased service at the current time beyond one cycle of treatment.

i am now considering if any improvements can be made and have asked NHS Wales' Medical Director, Dr Stephen Hunter, to review the situation and report back to me in due course.

EW

Edwina Hart
GDS

**Communities and Culture
Committee**

**Pwyllgor Cymunedau a
Diwylliant**

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

Communities and Culture Committee
Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

3 November 2009

Dear Val,

Petition: National Library of Wales: Saturday Opening

Thank you for your letter asking my committee whether we would be considering the issue of funding the National Library of Wales as part of our scrutiny of the Welsh Government's draft budget 2010-11. Unfortunately the Committee were not able to discuss this matter on this occasion.

Regards,

Janice

Janice Gregory

Committee Chair

Chair, Communities and Culture Committee

COMMUNITIES AND CULTURE COMMITTEE
BAE CAERDYDD / CARDIFF BAY
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CF99 1NA
AG



Edwina Hart AM OStJ MBE

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

21 OCT 2009

Our ref: EH/06692/09

Your ref: PET-03-221

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Val Lloyd AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
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23 OCT 2009
G.D.J.

20 October 2009

Dear Val -

Thank you for your letter dated 12 October on behalf of the Petitions Committee about the provision of NHS chiropody treatment.

Provision of NHS chiropody and podiatry services is a matter for local determination by Local Health Boards (LHB). Basic nail care for individuals with no specific foot pathology is not normally provided by NHS chiropody and podiatry services. Their clinical resources are targeted toward patients with a medical need. Such needs will include people with diabetes, peripheral vascular disorders and other similar conditions. I have asked health service planners across Wales to make improvements to the delivery of therapy services including chiropody and podiatry.

I recognise that general foot care enables elderly people to keep mobile and independent. I also appreciate that for some older people managing their own general foot health is difficult. I have asked officials to work with the podiatry profession, voluntary sector and others to undertake a 'scoping exercise' to look at the delivery of services in these areas. This exercise will provide, a working definition of the term 'social foot care', and provide a population based profile of the level and nature of current provision, an indication of gaps in current provision, an identification of issues affecting current and potential future provision, and a range of potential solutions and associated costs (at this time there is no indication of the potential costs involved). The report of this work is nearing completion. My officials are working with the Welsh Therapists Advisory Committee in finalising this report.



Cwm Taf
Ymddiriedolaeth GIG / NHS Trust



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

Your ref/eich cyf:
Our ref/ ein cyf: DJ/AM
Date / dyddiad: 20/10/2009
Tel: 01685 373 032
Fax/ facs:
email/ ebost: denise.jenkins@wales.nhs.uk
Dept / adran: Podiatric & Orthotic Services

26 OCT 2009

Dear Chair

Mrs D Davies, the representative of Cynon 50-plus Older People's Forum, contacted me direct yesterday for information regarding the scoping exercise being undertaken in the Assembly. We discussed the possible benefits which could be achieved by meeting with them directly and it was decided that at this time it would be appropriate to wait for the guidance to be published. However, as there is no current timescale known I agreed to meet with them in February 2010 if developments had not occurred.

As requested, I will notify the Committee of the outcome of that meeting if it takes place.

Yours sincerely

Denise Jenkins

DENISE JENKINS
Head of Podiatry and Orthotics

Denise Jenkins
CIDZ

Return Address:

Upper Floor, Block 6, Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 9DT

Cwm Taf
Ymddiriedolaeth GIG / NHS Trust



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Dept / adran: Therapies Directorate

DEPARTMENT OF THERAPIES

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

A handwritten signature and the initials 'GDJ' are visible on the right side of the page, appearing to be written in blue ink.

Dear Ms Lloyd,

Re: Petition: Improved NHS Chiropody Treatment

In your recent communication, dated 12th October 2009, you asked for my comments on the issues highlighted by the Cynon Valley 50 Plus Older People's Forum. The forum as you know is petitioning for 'Improved Chiropody Service (foot care) to be available on the NHS especially for Older People who are housebound in the RCT area'.

In my previous letter dated 18th August 2009, I noted that Cwm Taf Health Board appreciated that there was a genuine demand for social foot care in the health communities it serves and the detrimental implications this can have on overall Health and Wellbeing. I also noted that there was a scoping exercise being lead by Jan Smith, Therapy Advisor for Wales, underway. Age Concern Cymru (2008) clearly highlighted there had been a "clear decline in the provision of foot care services in Wales" and that there was "no provision for lower level foot care services".

Cont'd...

Return Address:

Therapies Department, Block 6, Prince Charles Hospital

To comment directly on the report, there seems to be some misunderstanding on what maybe deemed social need and not a medical need. The criteria currently being applied in Cwm Taf, which is recognised across NHS Wales Podiatry services is "Social foot care is for people with no foot pathology including those with medical conditions who have been assessed as low risk of developing lower limb complications". With all RCT now being covered by Cwm Taf Health Board this is standard across the patch. In reference to the comment that some GP Surgeries offer Chiropody/Podiatry services, I am not aware of any who now directly employ private practitioners but believe that the report is actually referring to where NHS services are delivered from Health Board premises offering a range of Primary care and Community services.

Whilst I am aware of the variety of schemes being run across Wales, both as independent organisations and in partnership with their local NHS providers, as yet, Cwm Taf Health Board have not been in a position to explore this option. It is felt that it would not be feasible to undertake such activity at the moment. We will await the recommendations from Welsh Assembly Government on how Health Organisations should best move forward to meet this unmet demand.

I am aware that Denise Jenkins, Head of Podiatry and Orthotics has spoken directly with Mr D Davies and, at this time, neither feel it would be beneficial to meet and have deferred meeting until next year.

Yours sincerely,



GILL BOWTELL
Clinical Director of Therapies Services

Cc Lindsey Richardson, Head of Strategy, Integrated Division

Edwina Hart AM OStJ MBE

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

Our ref: EH/06843/09
Your ref: PET-03-222

Val Lloyd AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
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Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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3 November 2009

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter of 26 October on behalf of the Petitions Committee about the National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People's Standard on falls and fractures. I will respond to the specific points in your letter in the order you raised them.

Phase 1 of the NSF, which focussed on setting down the structures and foundations underpinning this 10 year programme, has been largely achieved across Wales. Whilst recognising that the initial targets and milestones for the NSF standard for falls and fractures have been largely achieved, there is variation across Wales and more work remains to be done.

2009 - 2011 will be interim years for the NSF and through mechanisms such as Regional Meetings, there are opportunities to share experience and discuss good practice. One further development suggested from the Regional Meetings is an all-Wales 'Community of Practice' for falls and fractures. This possibility is at an early stage of consideration.

Please note that responses have been sent to all the individual petitions received on behalf of the National Osteoporosis Society. There are no plans to meet with the petitioners, as this was not requested. However discussions have been initiated with the National Osteoporosis Society, as committed in my previous letter. These discussions may in turn lead to developments, for example the National Osteoporosis Society contributing to the NSF newsletter.

Edwina Hart

Regarding the independent NSF review being conducted jointly by Health Inspectorate Wales and Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales, the review methodology and associated reports are available on their respective websites. Further correspondence on the review, given that it is independent, may be taken up directly with the Inspectorates.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes that are difficult to decipher as specific letters.

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
Ein cyf/Our ref JH/07003/09

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

31 October 2009

Dear Val,

Thank you for your letter on 13th October in response to my letter of 8th July 2009 (JH/05028/09). I am sorry that no alternative funding could be found for Stepping Stones Nursery at Coleg Gwent.

My letter outlined some of the support we offer to local authorities via the Cymorth Fund and Financial Contingency Funds that are available to Further Education Institutions to help support parents into training and into the workplace. I would like to stress how important the role of the local authorities is in securing appropriate provision of childcare and how the review of childcare will inform the basis of the next childcare strategy for Wales.

Section 22 of the Childcare Act gives Local Authorities a new duty to secure, as far as is reasonably practicable, provision of childcare that is sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in their area in order to enable them to work or undertake education or training leading to work." The local Family Information Services are the first point of contact for parents and I would encourage your petitioners to contact them, the contact details for Cardiff is shown below:

Cardiff Family Information Services
The Harlech Suite
The Conference Centre
Eastmoors Road
Cardiff
CF24 5RR

Tel: 029 2035 1700
Email: FIS@cardiff.gov.uk

Following the analysis of the first Childcare Sufficiency Audits, issues have been identified that will be focussed on in the coming months, in order to establish the future needs for a childcare strategy.

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Officials are in the process of visiting authorities to discuss the findings at a local level and particular issues that are prominent for a new strategy including; Infrastructure, Diversification, Supporting Enterprise and Workforce Development.

The plans for the future Childcare Strategy will become clearer once these visits have taken place and proposals can be drafted. The proposals for the new Childcare Strategy for Wales will go out to consultation in the New Year.

Bert Hisher,

Jane

Our ref: NB/ed

22nd October 2009

Mrs V Lloyd AM
Petitions Committee
Welsh Assembly Government
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA

26 OCT 2009

Dear Mrs Lloyd

Petition

Thank you for your letter of 20th October 2009 informing me of correspondence between the NAW Petitions Committee and the Deputy Minister for Skills.

I agree with the Deputy Minister's point that we find the multiple funding stream much less satisfactory than the more predictable recurrent funding for our planning and budgetary processes.

We have been able to benefit from the ESF grants this year, including the ENGAGE project mentioned by the Deputy Minister. However, we still find that progress in accessing these funds is extremely slow and we have yet to reach the amount of income from this source that we have put in our 2009-10 budget.

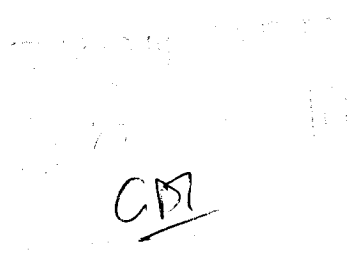
We have managed to gain support for our provision in Pontarddulais (Canolfan y Bont) from both Swansea University (Department of Adult and Continuing Education) and Swansea Metropolitan University (Widening Access Fund) to put on a limited number of short courses at this centre. We are in negotiation with the local regeneration trust to lease, on a peppercorn rent, the building to them for further educational and youth activities.

I hope that I have been able to update you satisfactorily on this matter.

Yours sincerely



NICK BENNETT
Principal & Chief Executive



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



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: PET-03-225
Ein cyf/Our ref: DFM/06135/09

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

06 November 2009

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter of 20 October regarding the petition to support extra funding for Gorseinon College and asking for information about the allocation of EU Structural Funds, especially the allocation of Convergence funding available to West Wales and the Valleys.

As you will be aware European Structural Funds are intended to provide additional resources for projects either by stimulating new activity or enhancing existing provision in line with the aims and objectives of the relevant Operational Programmes. The Funds are not there to fund core activities of organisations.

In implementing the new Programmes we have adopted a more strategic approach to delivery in order to minimise duplication of activities and maximise the resources available, thereby achieving a greater impact from the level of funding available to West Wales and the Valleys. Achieving that more strategic approach does take time, nevertheless to date, we have already committed £935 million EU Convergence grant providing a total investment of over £2 billion through a variety of projects that will create jobs and economic growth in line with EU and Assembly Government strategies.

My officials are not aware of any applications for Convergence funding directly from Gorseinon College itself but I understand that the College is closely involved, as a joint sponsor, under the recently approved £32m (ESF £16.7m) ENGAGE project led by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

It is still possible to apply for EU funding and there are also opportunities for organisations, including FE colleges, to access European funding by tendering into European-funded projects to delivery project activity. Information on projects offering tendering opportunities is published on the the WEFO website www.wefo.wales.gov.uk and also in more detail on the *Sell2Wales* website. Guidance on how the FE sector can benefit from European funding is also available on the WEFO website.

Ieuan

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

Directorate for the Built Environment
National Spatial Planning, Aquaculture and North Division

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



Your ref: PET-03-231
Our ref:
16 November 2009

Dear Ms Lloyd

PETITION – DISTANCE OF WIND FARMS FROM RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS

Thank you for your letter of 13 October in which you request details of the Scottish Government's policy in relation to the proximity of wind farms to residential dwellings.

Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 6 Renewable Energy, accompanied by Planning Advice Note (PAN) 45: Renewable Energy Technologies, sets out the Scottish Government's approach to the planning and siting of wind farms in Scotland. The intention is to provide a sound national policy context for addressing onshore wind development.

Annex A of SPP6 concerns the preparation of spatial frameworks by planning authorities. It states that: "Broad criteria should be used to set out the considerations that developers should address in relation to local communities. These should ensure that proposals are not permitted if they would have a significant long term detrimental impact on the amenity of people living nearby. When considering spatial policies, planning authorities may consider it helpful to introduce zones around communities as a means of guiding developments to broad areas of search where visual impacts are likely to be less of a constraint. PAN 45 confirms that development up to 2 km is likely to be a prominent feature in an open landscape. The Scottish Ministers would support this as a separation distance between turbines and the edge of cities, towns and villages so long as policies recognise that this approach is being adopted solely as a mechanism for steering proposals to broad areas of search and, within this distance, proposals will continue to be judged on a case-by-case basis".

The 2km separation distance applies to cities, towns and villages. Its purpose is to guide planning authorities in identifying broad areas of search in their development plans or supplementary planning guidance for wind farm proposals over 20 megawatts. SPP 6 also confirms that planning authorities should use broad criteria to ensure that proposals are not

permitted if they would have a significant long-term detrimental impact on the amenity of people living nearby. This principle applies equally to all dwellings, whether within or outwith broad areas of search.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Graham Marchbank

GRAHAM MARCHBANK
Principal Planner

Edwina Hart AM OStJ MBE

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

Our ref: EH/06852/09

Your ref: PET-03-251



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
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Val Lloyd AM
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3 November 2009

Raw Val

Thank you for your letter of 26 October regarding a petition from Tenovus that calls for the banning of unmanned, coin operated sunbeds in Wales and sunbed use by under 18 year olds.

My intention is to prohibit the use of sunbeds by persons under 18 years of age and also to ban the operation of unstaffed sunbed salons in Wales. I am exploring all legislative means to achieve these and the other associated policy objectives by way of primary legislation with the UK Government made through the Westminster Parliament; secondary legislation made by the Welsh Ministers under the umbrella of existing primary legislation; and legislative competence for the Welsh Assembly Government. I am currently unable to provide specific detail on what option or mix of options will be pursued and the timescales that will be involved.

Edwina Hart

26 11 09
C107

The Chair of the Petitions Committee
Welsh Assembly Government
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

4 November 2009

Dear Madam,

Ref: PET(3)-14-09 and PET-03-227

Further to your response to our petition, we should point out that there were three signatories to the petition and we would be grateful if you would consider the following.

Before considering the detail of our comments please bear in mind that although there are aspects in common between the petitions of Llanmaes and of Boverton, there are those that are specific to Boverton. The major one of these is the lack of any consideration given to the residents of Boverton with regard to their close proximity to the B4265, to the proposed junction with the Northern Access Road and the new road itself. We particularly draw your attention to this in considering our response.

Referring then to your letter dated 28 September 2009 (DFM-4043-09) we will begin by commenting as follows on points raised in the responses you have received to the Llanmaes petition:

'Ministry of Defence is responsible for the housing element'

Response: We acknowledge this. However, WAG is responsible for the protection, albeit conditional, of greenfield/greenbelt sites and has legislation in place for that purpose. We would therefore submit that it is irrelevant who is 'responsible' for the housing element in this context. WAG's responsibility, and that of the Vale of Glamorgan Planning Committee, is to protect such 'green' sites wherever it is possible.

Given its impact, the initial destruction of any part of the Tremain's Farm site based on the premise that the DTC and the ABP project might reach fruition can only be considered to be a risk not worth taking until all parties reach full agreement that the project is to proceed.

It is of note to us that the use of the term 'greenfield' is used extensively in the documents supporting use and development of land at Tremain's Farm. At the public meeting in Llantwit Major, where public opinion was overwhelming demonstrated to be against development outside the existing airfield boundary, Nicky Bailey denied that there is any such description as 'greenfield site' applicable to land in Wales.

'The requirement to deliver an enhanced ABP to accommodate the Welsh assembly Government's proposals.'

Response: The Royal Air Force has occupied the airfield site at St Athan and utilised current access routes for more than seventy years. During this period it simultaneously operated the RAF's largest Aircraft and Ground Engineering Maintenance Unit, its largest Ground Training School and the RAF's Driving Training School. Planning submissions include the recognition of '*in excess of 10,000 personnel*' being on the strength of the base at stages of its existence. This testifies to the busy nature of the site in the past and should

also be considered together with the fact that our roads were, in general, much less busy then than now.

We submit that the applicants are duplicitous in using this fact in support of their submission, elsewhere claiming that the NAR is essential for the operation of a site that will, in all likelihood, be smaller than the one that previously occupied it.

The Defence Training Academy is unlikely in these times of reduced Armed Services strengths to match previous military training requirements even given its tri-service nature. Estimates of establishment and strength of the proposed DTC are notoriously wide ranging but it seems unlikely that they will exceed 3,000 in total. Many of these will not be commuting to or from the site but will be 'living in' as trainees.

The ABP is a totally unknown quantity. Opinions are divided as to whether such a project will be sustainable. Even if it were to be, it is highly unlikely that it will exceed a strength of 5,000 employees either.

Added to this, the proposals provide for two other access routes to the ABP. These in themselves will, possibly with modification, adequately serve the ABP sites.

We therefore submit that the case for the NAR is erroneous and that its ultimate purpose is not for operational reasons but to provide access for future development between the Eglwys Brewis Road and Llanmaes.

'The necessity to maintain the national and local security of West Camp for the MOD'

Response: The lack of a Northern Access Road and the proposals for an alternative route place West Camp in no more jeopardy than exists from adjacent housing and access routes to the site.

Assuming the risks to be physical in nature; elements who threaten national and local security are not averse to utilising buildings, including private homes, as vantage points from which to launch devices at buildings or to fire on individuals inside secure areas. The IRA was well known for such tactics, the most notorious instance probably having been the attack on Downing Street in 1991. There can be no doubt that any other threatening agency would, if thought appropriate, use such tactics.

It is also absurd to think that there is any more risk from existing traffic routes than will exist from the industrial site (ABP) that is to be built adjacent to West Camp or indeed the proposed NAR. This would particularly be the case during the construction phases of both DTC and ABP when construction vehicles would provide effective bulk and deception to mount an infringement of security.

Given these arguments, the nature of the existing West Camp MOD establishment and any consideration of it being at risk because of security issues, should logically result in it being relocated to a more appropriate environment than it currently occupies.

There are therefore, no more justifiable security grounds for the construction of the NAR than when the Royal Air Force was in occupation of the site.

'The necessity to avoid extraneous traffic passing through St Athan village'

Response: Instead all future traffic will be routed through the two hazardous junctions at Boverton and Llanmaes. Another junction, also likely to prove as hazardous as those, is to be built between them.

The traffic, recognised as being at 'substantial levels' in the future, will pass along the B4265 at approximately 30 metres distance from residences in Boverton particularly those of Monmouth Way and Denbigh Drive. The inclusion of three sets of traffic lights at the proposed junction will result in even more noise than is created by passing traffic. It should be remembered that this justification of the Northern Access Road will result in an exacerbation of the problems that will be experienced by residents of Boverton and the wider implications of the safety of all those who travel on the B4265.

The provision of any measures to reduce the environmental affects of the substantial increase in traffic and of construction of the NAR on residents of Boverton has been totally ignored. One might consider that there is a human rights issue here!

'Safety aspects concerning airfield airside access and runway operation'.

Response: As previously mentioned, and as referred to in the letter dated 26 August 2009 from Nicky Bailey, the Royal Air Force has operated the airfield for more than seventy years. This has probably been with more intensity than the ABP and DTC combined is likely to.

If construction of the ABP is now considered to lead to enhanced risk in respect of these issues there is a strong case not to build it at all!

We would now like to refer to further issues raised by Nicky Bailey in her letter to Steve Ball by way of Rob Thomas, Head of Planning & Transportation at the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Public Consultation

The developers place great store in their 'Public Consultation' exercise. At the Public Meeting held in Llantwit Major a director of Metrix expressed his pride in it being the most successful of its kind in his experience. The effort that went into the Consultation exercise and its success should be properly analysed before being acknowledged as successful or supportive of the developer's cause.

We would like to draw your attention to comments referred to in documents that they themselves provide in support of their application for the St Athan project.

Source: Community Engagement Statement, Dated April 2009.

'Consultations:

Comments included:

- *'Like many people, we found the first display very basic and lacking in detail'*
- *'I enjoyed the recent exhibitions but would have liked a little more detail'*
- *'The proposals as a whole are too vague to enable a true picture of what is proposed to be understood'*
- *'A very poor presentation, no information to be able discuss anything. Very juvenile map a six year old could have produced'*

- *'Very good presentation, looking forward to seeing the final plan'*
- *'Excellent display at the Gathering Place. Boards very informative and staff knowledgeable'*

*'Although positive comments were made about the information available during Phase One of the consultation programme, **this was balanced with a similar number of negative comments.** Many of these were based around a perceived lack of detail, particularly on the draft plan.'*

Again from their own supporting documents:

- Five exhibitions were held
- Invitation letters were door-dropped to 30,000 residents living in the area immediately surrounding and in close proximity to the site including St Athan, Llantwit Major, Cowbridge, Rhoose, Bonvilston and the small villages located between them.
- Adverts were placed in the South Wales Echo, Barry & District News, the Glamorgan Gem series and press releases issued to the key local media.

As a result:

- **300** members of the public attended exhibitions in St Athan, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major (**Note: 1% of those reached out to by invitation!**)
- A large number of comments and questions focused on the potential impact of increased traffic on the local area. Many of these expressed concern over the impact of increased traffic and went on to draw attention to specific roads, junctions, streets and/or villages that they felt needed to be given particular attention
- 40 comment forms were returned after initial exhibitions. After modification to the comment forms the total received rose to **78 (Note: 0.26% of those reached out to by invitation!)** and two workshops were subsequently organised and promoted, as were the exhibitions.
- A further two meetings of Interest Groups covering Environment and Community welfare were then held with the familiar publicity methods employed
- Over 100 people attended the Interest Groups over the two dates (**Note: 0.33% of those reached out to by invitation!**)
- The Workshop on Community Facilities attracted over **45** attendees (**Note: 0.15% of those reached out to by invitation!**)
- The Workshop on Transport attracted almost **70** attendees (**Note: 0.23% of those reached out to by invitation!**)

A second round of **public exhibitions** was held prior to the submission of the Planning Applications with similar publicity given. It is of note though that an invitation letter was also posted direct to 1,900 local residents in St Athan and Llanmaes yet none to those of Boverton whose homes are closer to the B4265, the NAR and its junction than the vast majority of any of the others contacted.

We would submit that the attendance of approximately 100 people, the overall group eventually in consultation, hardly reflects a consultative triumph; particularly as there seems to have been little or no input from Llantwit Major, the largest conurbation in the area influenced by the development.

It should also be borne in mind that the consultation exercise would have involved the expertise of specialists employed by elements of Government and commerce. We would furthermore respectfully draw your attention to Para. 3.3.e - Conclusion of the Community Engagement Statement that clearly shows the overall negative response from residents after the consultations.

These results should be considered together with the views of petitioners at Llanmaes and Boverton and the numerous personal letters that have been written in objection to aspects of the project. The failures of the Vale of Glamorgan Planning Committee to recognise the

objections or of the developers to accommodate any of the objections is a cause for great concern in our view and is one that should be addressed.

We would draw your attention to the fact that the petitions achieved responses of c95 % compared to the derisory results achieved by the developers in consulting with the public – achieved at far less expense and with far less effort.

We would now refer to the unreliability of statistics presented in the initial development brief as referred to in the Planning Application.

The developers acknowledge that the requirement for 815 SFA's was inaccurately assessed - by a factor of 40.7% by our calculation. So too was the likely population that would live in the 483 units.

One of us had expressed their view to local councillors that the originally postulated figure was incorrect and also queried the figure with the panel of developers at the public meeting previously referred to. Representatives of the developers were adamant that the originally quoted figure was correct.

In papers presented to the Vale of Glamorgan Planning Committee the number of children of school age had been amended to reflect a total of 821. This figure would result in an overall SFA population of 1787 – assuming 2 adults per household but excluding anyone above school age. This reflects an error of 41.5% above the original estimate!

We also believe, based on personal experience of airfield operations, that there are inaccuracies in the reporting of aircraft movements during its use by the Royal Air Force as reported in project documentation.

Minor inaccuracies perhaps, but what of the other estimates and projections? What of all the other statistics and measurements? Can these be taken as accurate given their complexity when compared with the very basic and easily tested population figures?

We think that if we were paying £15m for a road for example we would be very wary of a potential error of 40% in costing!

On the issue of occupation levels of the SFA's it is suggested that those for whom the houses are provided are unlikely to purchase homes in the local area because, *'a sailor is more likely to purchase his or her own house in or around Portsmouth or Plymouth where they could be spending most of their career'*.

We agree that this is a reasonable supposition in respect of naval personnel. One has only to make the most basic of enquiries however to discover that the population of Llantwit Major, and indeed that of towns such as Barry and Bridgend, have been swollen by servicemen based at St Athan who have purchased homes in the area during their careers and subsequently settled here. Indeed the Brackla estate in Bridgend was often referred to as RAF Brackla during the latter years of RAF St Athan!

A high proportion of service personnel prefers to live off base and this can also be easily ascertained. It is also a mistaken belief that servicemen posted to St Athan will remain for just three years. Many remain for a significant proportion of their service careers. All three of us are ex-servicemen and can attest to this on the basis of our own long experience of military life.

In consideration of such errors in estimates and assumptions we also have severe doubts about the noise assessment results said to have been gathered in Monmouth Way, Boverton. Although lacking the skills and equipment to challenge the data scientifically, common sense alone indicates that traffic noise levels will be higher 30 metres from the B4265 than they will

be some 235 metres from the NAR on Eagle Road for example! A fact seemingly overlooked by the Vale of Glamorgan Planners. What other potential errors of fact or omission are contained within the application we wonder.

Further to the noise issues, the proposals contain no consideration for the provision of noise suppression measures on the B4265 or its junction with the NAR despite the close proximity of the increased traffic to adjacent homes - a serious omission in our belief.

It should be noted that the stretch of the B4265 adjacent to the estate on which Monmouth Way and Denbigh Drive are located is currently subject to a speed limit of 50 m.p.h. During the collection of signatures for the Boverton petition many people commented on speeding on this road and the noise that already emanates from traffic using it.

Complaints to the Vale of Glamorgan that the hedgerow bounding the B4265 is ineffective as a noise suppressant, particularly during the winter months, have resulted in the response that it is not there for that purpose and that the Council has no responsibility for its maintenance. An interesting response given proposals for such planting made in the planning applications! Nor apparently has the Highways Agency, who has also been contacted in this regard, any responsibility in this matter it seems.

Residents particularly mentioned the problem of motorcycles. We have no hesitation in asserting that motor cyclists regularly exceed 100 m.p.h. on this section of road, exceptionally we have timed a motorcycle travelling its 0.44 mile length in 13 seconds – an average speed of 114 m.p.h.! Complaints made to the police on safety issues have, of course, been totally ineffective. Sadly we advise that three fatalities have occurred on the B4265 between Llanmaes and St Athan junctions in a six-week period this summer alone.

It is stated that the location of the Picketston FTA has been '*carefully considered*' for the benefit of the DTC 's requirements. Might we ask what consideration is being given to local residents - in your opinion? In ours it is none!

We agree that Salisbury Plain is not a feasible option for the envisaged training. The holding of exercises for which such a facility is necessary could however be accommodated on a number of closer sites even if they were to entail a day or so away from base camp at St Athan. This would give the advantage of taking students and staff away from the 'college campus' environment that the DTC is proposed to be, adding greater realism to such exercises. We concede that the retention of a small arms range is acceptable to meet the needs of basic weapons training and requalification.

As to environmental issues, the much vaunted environmental plan gives more consideration to non-existent Dormice and of Otters for which there is very little evidence on the Tremain's Farm site than is given to the human inhabitants of Boverton. Appreciative as we are of things environmental it is enlightening to know where developers and planners alike place us in the scheme of things.

In respect of future development of remaining greenfield sites in the vicinity of Tremain's Farm, Llantwit Major and St Athan in general. Although the developers claim to '*have no intention to develop land between the NAR and Llanmaes*' it is foolhardy in the extreme to ignore the fact that the building of the SFA's will set a precedent for such building in the area. Furthermore, the construction of the NAR before any development of the airfield site will provide access and an excuse to build should the St Athan project be shelved. It is imperative therefore that the developers should not be granted permission to construct the NAR unless in accordance with the conditions placed by the Vale of Glamorgan Planning Committee. Any attempt to appeal against the imposed conditions should be strongly contested and permission denied.

Referring to '*Change of character of the area*' Ms Bailey states that the Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan identifies St Athan as a "*key development opportunity*". We would point out that Tremain's Farm is not in or adjacent to St Athan or on the airfield. Development should, in the view of almost all who have been petitioned, and certainly all but one of the many residents that we have spoken to, be confined to within existing airfield boundaries.

Of the substantial community facilities Ms Bailey refers to might we point out that they are almost entirely confined to sports facilities thereby restricting their use to those who so partake, notwithstanding the inevitability of there being significant restrictions placed upon their use. The community at large will not therefore benefit at all! To accrue benefits of any significance the catchment area would need to be significantly larger with the result that inroads would be placed on the Green Travel Plan, which, in its self, is unlikely to achieve the optimistic forecast of benefits.

Finally might we refer again to the NAR?

It is claimed, among other justifications, that it is necessary to ensure safe and effective access to the DTC and south ABP. The road is approximately 1.4 miles long. To access this and its junction with the B4265 from the M4 to the north, traffic will need to negotiate 6.8 miles of country road and lane, including single track lane; from the west, 8.9 miles of country road from Bridgend, and from the east the road either transits through the bottleneck of Culverhouse Cross and Barry, or the notoriously dangerous Five Mile Lane. Alternatives exist in the many 'rat runs' currently used by local residents that would create even more significant impact if used. These facts are acknowledged in the various documents though they are glossed over with questionable reasoning as to why they are of little consequence.

To what extent then is the NAR of any safety benefit?

In mentioning this we would respectfully draw your attention again to the significance that the developers place upon the NAR because of aspects of safety and transport infrastructure and to an application made to develop the derelict Dunsfold Airfield near Guildford.

We acknowledge the differences between the two development plans, it would largely be for housing though would have included an element of industrial use, it was however rejected by Waverley Borough Council Planning Committee, one of the reasons being that the development would be unsustainable in transport terms.

On appeal the Government Planning Inspector commented on: '*the very high overall level of sustainability and a low carbon lifestyle which the development would achieve*' yet concluded that '*the site is not in a sustainable location and little can be done to improve the existing infrastructure beyond minor alterations to road junctions*' and, most relevantly, '*the additional vehicular movements resulting from the development would put severe and unacceptable pressure on an overstretched road network in which there is only limited scope for improvement*'

We would draw your attention to an incident occurring on the afternoon of 2nd November 2009 on a section of the B4265. See photograph attached. You should note that this is a two way stretch of the road! This type of incident, and worse, occurs, not in the vicinity of St Athan but on approach roads. This occurred some 6 miles away from the base.

We believe that the factors relating to the Dunsfold case apply equally to the development of St Athan airfield and that this precedent should be considered in parallel to our petition and to all other objections.

All of the above would indicate to us that there are serious flaws in the overall planning process of the project and though we would wish it success request that you take our observations into consideration.

Again we emphasise that the basis of our petition is in consideration of the consequences that will be imposed on Boverton residents should the project proceed. We maintain that these have not been adequately assessed or made provision for and that they should, before approval of the Welsh Assembly is given.

We further consider that it is essential that the recommended conditions set by the Vale of Glamorgan Planning Department are upheld and that it is a matter of public confidence that deliberations on the issues of the St Athan development be more open to public scrutiny. We feel strongly that thus far the views of those most adversely affected by it are being ignored, their concerns not being responded to when there is validity in their arguments.

Yours sincerely,

R Gant (Mr)

M Lobb (Mr)

D Mountain (Mr)

CC. Ieuan Wyn Jones AM, Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economy and Transport
Jane Hutt AM, Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning & Skills
Andrew RT Davies AM, Shadow Minister for Health and Social Services
Alun Cairns AM, Shadow Minister for Heritage and Culture

