

Messrs Winckworth Sherwood
Solicitors and Parliamentary Agents
35 Great Peter Street
Westminster
LONDON SW1P 4LR

Eich cyf . Your ref
Ein cyf. Our ref
Dyddiad.Date 31 January 2006

Dear Sirs

**TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT 1992: SECTION 1
APPLICATION BY PONTYPOOL AND BLAENAVON RAILWAY COMPANY FOR
AN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE TRANSFER FROM BRB (RESIDUARY) LTD
OF THE STATUTORY POWERS TO MAINTAIN AND OPERATE THE EXISTING
RAILWAY FROM FURNACE SIDINGS TO THE LIMIT OF THE LINE AT A POINT
ABOUT 400 METRES SOUTH EAST OF BLAENAVON HIGH LEVEL, IN THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF TORFAEN**

1. A Planning Decision Committee of the National Assembly for Wales (PDC (2) 2006/1) has considered the application for an Order, under section 1 of the 1992 Act, submitted by the Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway Company (1983) Limited on 3 May 2005 in accordance with the motion which the Assembly passed in plenary session on the 24 January 2006.

2. A draft Order was submitted with your client's application. The application and the draft Order were assessed by an Inspector of the Planning Inspectorate. A copy of his assessment report is attached. He recommended that the Order should be made without modifications. No representations, either objecting to or supporting the application were received.

3. The Inspector considered the application in the context of national planning policies on transport and tourism, sport and recreation. He also had regard to the effect of the proposal on environmental issues, the interests of local communities, the

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natural, built and cultural environment and the economy, employment and environmental conservation.

4. He considered that increased passenger use of the railway would assist the provision of benefits to the appreciation of the historical significance of the area and to the local economy. He also considered that the making of the Order would be in accord with the policy objectives of Planning Policy Wales.

5. The Committee took the view that there are existing and potential advantages of the proposal for the local area. They agreed with the inspector's view that the application would be in accord with the relevant sections of Planning Policy Wales and with his view that the proposed Order should be made without modifications.

6. A copy of the draft Order embodying the proposal as approved by the Committee is attached. I shall now, in my capacity of Assembly Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside proceed to make the necessary Statutory Instrument to give effect to the Committee's decision in accordance with and subject to the procedures laid down by Standing Order 28.

Yours faithfully

CARWYN JONES

Chair, Planning Decision Committee (2) 2006/1

Enc: Leaflet "HC(TWA)"