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Edwina Hart AM MBE

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



Our ref: GT/00126/09
Your ref:

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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

20 APR 2009

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15 April 2009

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter of 25 March, writing as Chair of the Petitions Committee, asking for clarification on whether the National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Social Welfare and Other Fields) Order 2008 provides the legislative competence to require local authorities to identify and support young carers, and whether the proposed National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Social Welfare) Order 2009 [the Carers' LCO] makes a similar provision. I am responding on behalf of my Colleague Gwenda Thomas AM, Deputy Minister for Social Services

Regarding the approved 2008 Legislative Competence Order, I can confirm what the Deputy Minister said in her letter to you of 15 February 2008 [GT/00049/08], that the LCO could provide the scope for a Measure on the lines suggested by Mr Cooper.

Likewise, the proposed Carers LCO is broadly drafted and does embrace young carers and could, once approved, also provide the scope for the development of such a Measure. To this extent, there is some overlap between the two LCOs but in my view this is acceptable if we are to avoid the risk of finding out later that there are unforeseen gaps in legislative competence that are not covered by either LCO.

EW

REC
LCO
GDT

Edwina Hart AM MBE

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

Our ref: EH/01344/09

Your ref:

Val Lloyd AM

Chair

Petitions Committee

National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff Bay

Cardiff

CF99 1NA

Dear Val

GDZ

7 0 APR 2009



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
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17th April 2009

You wrote to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills and on the 1 April asking for further details about the Modernising Pharmacy Careers Programme Board. This has been passed to me as Minister for Health and Social Services to answer.

A Pharmacy White Paper (*Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths- delivering the future 2008*) set out a vision for pharmacists working at the heart of plans to deliver high-quality, safe, more personalised care and professional support for improved health and well being. The Modernising Pharmacy Careers programme aims to reform and provide pharmacy education and training and workforce planning that is sustainable for the long term and delivers improved benefits for patients, employers, and commissioners of pharmacy services and those staff who work in pharmacy (pharmacists, technicians and others).

The Modernising Pharmacy Careers Programme Board will be providing the advice and developing proposals on professional issues, education and training and workforce planning related to the profession. The Board is chaired by the Chief Pharmaceutical officer in the Department of Health. Carwyn Wynne-Howells, Chief Pharmaceutical officer in Wales is also on the Board.

The Board is currently developing a work programme that will include:

- assessing how best to provide pharmacy undergraduates with:
 - the clinical context and experience that will complement their scientific training to prepare them for registration and to enable them to develop

further the required clinical competencies to deliver high quality healthcare services

- professional and other leadership skills
- the skills and training that provide flexibility and choice in their future career development – e.g. in healthcare, academia, the pharmaceutical industry
- examining the scope for maximising the benefits of a new approach through integration of the undergraduate course and pre-registration training year
- securing the funding framework that will support delivery of the new approach
- identifying how best to secure effective implementation of changes in pharmacist undergraduate and pre-registration training
- developing a framework for the evaluation of change
- assessing education and training workforce capacity and the appropriateness of the current clinical practice infrastructure to support delivery of a new approach to pharmacy education and training
- building on arrangements for pharmacist post-registration training and career development - for example, in a way that promotes and supports clinical competence and excellence and the importance of leadership skills. This requires close working with the professional regulator to achieve a consistent approach to the regulation of advanced and specialist pharmacist practice in hospitals and the community, to standards of practice for those working in the pharmaceutical industry, and CPD
- how best to make the most effective use of all those who work in pharmacy, including opportunities presented by legislative changes and scientific and technological solutions
- examining and advising on how best to improve and strengthen pharmacy workforce planning
- ensuring there is strong and effective communication, engagement, and partnership working with all stakeholders in developing and delivering this important programme for change

The Programme Board will be publishing its work programme in early summer, together with arrangements for engaging with pharmacy partners and others in shaping this further and working together to secure effective implementation.

I hope this provides you with the information that you require. As more information becomes available I am happy to pass this on to you.

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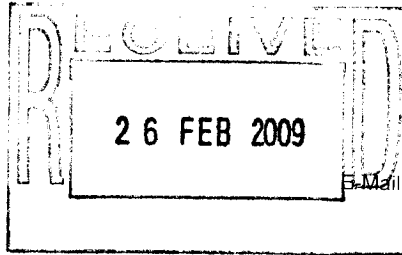
Edwina Hart AM MBE

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

Our ref: EH/00608/09

Your ref: PET-03-137

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



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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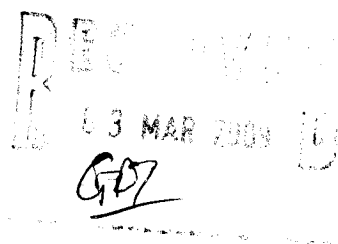
26 February 2009

Thank you for your letter dated 13 February about the development of clinical guidelines for the assessment and management of hypothyroidism in Wales.

Decisions about the most appropriate clinical intervention are a matter for professional judgement based on clinical evidence. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) develops clinical guidelines for the NHS in Wales and England on the care and management of a range of conditions. It currently has no plans to develop guidelines for hypothyroidism, but it is open to anyone to suggest a topic for NICE guidance. Further details on how to do this are available on the Institute's website: www.nice.org.uk. There are other sources of clinical evidence available to professionals including the Cochrane Library and the BMJ publication 'Clinical Evidence'. I understand both have described the current state of the evidence on this condition to assist professionals.

The National Public Health Service undertook a review of the evidence around treating sub-clinical hypothyroidism and I attach a website address for your information

http://www.attract.wales.nhs.uk/question_answers.cfm?question_id=1719



To: The Petitions Committee
The National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA

20th April 2008

Dear Petition Committee Members
Reference: PET-03-137 [Hypothyroidism in Wales]

I refer you to my previous correspondence and a letter dated the 30th of January 2009 sent to Mrs Edwina Hart the Minister for Health for the Welsh Assembly Government and to her response to me dated 19/2/09, which I have copied to the Petitions Secretariat. The following is a response to that letter and in addition it highlights a worrying turn of events in relation to this issue, which will be explained later on in this letter.

However for clarity, I wish to return to the wording of the petition in order to re-iterate what it is, the petitioners want from the Assembly.

Firstly, **“We call upon the National Assembly for Wales (NAfW) to investigate the non-diagnosis and mismanagement of hypothyroidism in Wales with a view to producing recommendations to rectify this situation. It is felt that the current method of diagnosis and management of hypothyroidism, which is dependent on the interpretation of blood tests, [whilst often ignoring the signs and symptoms of hypothyroidism], is flawed and has led to a failure to diagnose and/or adequately treat this debilitating condition in many thousands of patients, rendering many of them profoundly disabled”.**

This petition has been submitted to the National Assembly for Wales **by hypothyroid patients and their supporters on behalf of hypothyroid patients**, whose voices, continue to be ignored by the medical profession. Whilst, there are those within the medical profession, who are sympathetic to such patients and take the trouble to listen, there are also those within this profession who apparently are not prepared to acknowledge that the issues and concerns that the petitioners have with regard to the non-diagnosis, misdiagnosis and mismanagement of hypothyroidism actually exist or that the blood tests can be flawed. Thus it is believed that this issue requires further investigation.

As well as being consistently ignored by the medical profession in general, the petitioners have another major concern – also contained in the petition as follows: **“many patients are being denied alternatives to thyroxine even when this is merited”.** Many patients are intolerant to thyroxine, yet, thyroxine alone, has been promoted by many doctors as the only treatment for hypothyroidism. This is something the petitioners wish to see changed. Doctors need to work with each patient to ensure they receive the optimum treatment for their individual needs. This could include the prescribing of alternatives to thyroxine, when this is merited. Such alternatives are already available.

Finally, the petition spells out the current situation with regards to this issue and its effect on both hypothyroid patients and the state. **“The non-diagnosis and mismanagement of hypothyroidism is not only catastrophic for the patients concerned but is a financial drain on the Welsh economy, the NHS, the Benefits Systems and Social Services Systems throughout Wales.”** Thus we have an appalling situation, which not only has a detrimental impact on the health and welfare of individual patients but also has social, financial and political

RECEIVED
19 APR 2008
G.D.

impact throughout the Principality and beyond. As stated above, hypothyroidism if not treated is catastrophic for the individual and is costly for the state as the following shows. [NB this is an extract from a paper produced by TPA-UK which was recently sent to the Royal College of Physicians et al – under the heading 'Huge costs to the NHS of Improper Treatments']

***** Huge cost to the NHS of Improper Treatments**

“A further, and very important consideration to be taken into account, is the considerable cost to the NHS of other medicines prescribed for sufferers of the symptoms of hypothyroidism and its mimics. Hypothyroid patients chronically used more prescription drugs, especially for diabetes, cardiovascular disease and gastrointestinal conditions. (1) These are a great financial burden to the NHS and an overwhelming burden to the quality of life of the tens of thousands of hypothyroid sufferers in the UK alone.

Irving Kirsch's recent Department of Psychology at the University of Hull study (25 February 2008) is the first to examine both published and unpublished evidence of the effectiveness of selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (SSRIs), which account for 16 million NHS prescriptions a year. The largest study of its kind concluded that antidepressant drugs DO NOT WORK. More than £291 million was spent on antidepressants in 2006, including nearly £120 million on SSRI.(2)

Depression has an association with lower thyroid hormone levels (3-13) and research has shown that improvement can be achieved with thyroid hormone replacement. (14-21)

There is also an association with anxiety and lower thyroid hormone levels (22-27) and yet again, research has shown improvement with thyroid treatment replacement therapy. (28,29)

Memory loss and Alzheimer's disease likewise have an association with lower thyroid hormone levels. (30,31-34) Both these conditions have shown improvement with thyroid treatment. (35-38)”

The petitioners and patient support groups such as TPA-UK and the registered charity, ThyroidUK, have been active in trying to persuade the medical profession to investigate our concerns, but there appears to be a reluctance to do so despite the suffering of many thousands of such hypothyroid patients.

In addition, the Royal College of Physicians published a press release [dated the 6th of February 2009], with a link to a joint statement entitled, 'The Diagnosis and Management of Primary Hypothyroidism' written by the Royal College of Physicians et al., which has recently come to the notice of the petitioners: http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/news/news.asp?PR_id=436

The Royal College of Physicians et al. have already been contacted by myself [on 4/4/09] and many others regarding concerns we have about the joint statement. We have asked the RCP et al. to produce scientific references and the evidence based medicine, which prove or back up, the assertions made within the joint statement. To date they have not done so. However, they have now agreed to review letters and papers and similar communications sent to them and to respond to us within 4 weeks. However whilst such a review is welcome, we have proposed the following: That such a review must include an unbiased and broad view of this very serious issue and be in line with good practice by critically evaluating all available information. Furthermore, the process needs to be transparent. It is essential that the views of all individuals, including patients, who have already come to harm or are at risk of coming to harm, as a direct result of the joint statement are considered, this could include inviting some such patients to this review. For balance, the patient support groups who were not consulted in relation to the joint statement must

now be invited to attend the review. Finally, it is essential that doctors and researchers who have successfully treated hypothyroid patients by prescribing T3 preparations [including desiccated thyroid] and T3/T4 combination therapy are also invited to attend this review to deliver their viewpoint and share their experiences and expertise with the review body in the spirit of research and furtherance of medical knowledge.

To summarise, to ensure the validity and credibility of this review, all evidence must be considered and it is essential that all the above are allowed to participate.

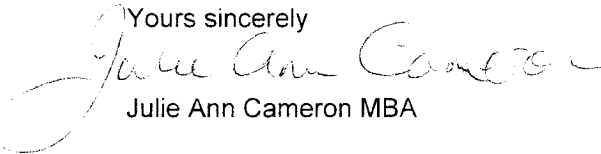
Naturally it is hoped that the outcome of the above review [if conducted as we would wish] will be a step in the right direction and will be helpful to the thousands of hypothyroid sufferers who might otherwise come to harm as a direct result of the joint statement.

Nevertheless, whatever the outcome with the RCP et al., we still wish for the support of the National Assembly for Wales. We believe that the NAFW and the Welsh Assembly Government are to be commended on the lead taken on many health issues. These include diabetes, Alzheimer's disease and the strategy for older people to name but a few quite excellent initiatives.

Please note also that the RCP et al. joint statement was produced without consultation with TPA-UK [over 1000 members] and the registered charity ThyroidUK [which has received some 14,000 letters and e-mails from adversely affected hypothyroid patients nationwide – over the last few years]. These organisations and other similar ones have also received many thousands of hits on their websites regarding this issue.

Naturally, I will keep your staff within the Petition's Secretariat Office updated on the outcome of the review by the Royal College of Physicians et al. but we still wish for the support of the National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government as requested within the petition.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Ann Cameron". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Julie Ann Cameron MBA

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



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET - 03 - 162
Ein cyf/Our ref DFM/00483/09

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

20 APR 2009

07 April 2009

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter dated 6th March regarding petition PET-03-162, Road Safety on the A40 Trunk Road near Llanspyddid.

The review will be carried out once the new speed-limit guidance has been published. This is currently expected to be within the next few months.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ieuan Wyn Jones'.

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

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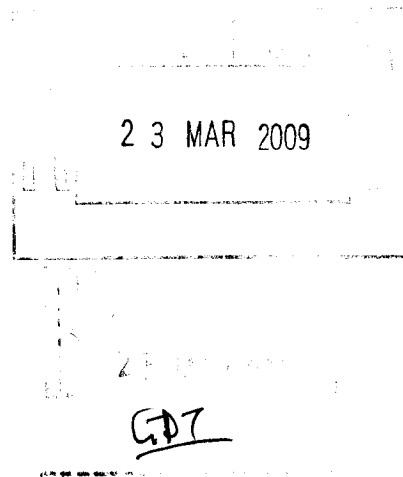
Elin Jones AM/AC
Y Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig
Minister for Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-185
Ein cyf/Our ref EJ/00165/09

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



19/03/2009

Dear Val,

Re: Petition P-03-185- Llantwit Major Regeneration (Boverton Road)

I refer to your letter dated 12th February 2009 addressed to my colleague Leighton Andrews, Deputy Minister for Regeneration, I am responding as the project you refer to was submitted under the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-13.

The Creative Rural Communities Partnership was awarded status to act as the Local Partnership for the rural areas of the Vale of Glamorgan, under the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-13. The Partnership submitted 14 project applications for consideration, 1 was withdrawn by the Partnership during the appraisal process, 11 were approved and 2 were rejected. The total budget for the approved projects is £2,601,026 with £2,024,890 investment coming from the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-13.

The Welsh Assembly Government wrote to the Vale of Glamorgan Council as Lead Body for the Creative Rural Communities Partnership on the 1st July setting out the reasons for rejection of the projects and offering to continue to work with the Partnership, perhaps with a view to a future submission under the second Business Plan period (1st March 2011-31st Dec 2013).

There is an appeals process and the Council, as lead body for the Partnership, did lodge an appeal against the decision on Boverton Road. The appeal has moved through the first 4 stages of the appeals process to date with the rejection currently still upheld. There are further stages to progress through, should the Partnership decide to continue with the appeal.

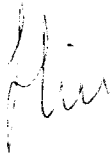
Alongside the appeals process Assembly Government officials have met with representatives of the Council, as the Lead Body of the Partnership (18th December 2008) to discuss the continuing reasons for rejection and also to look at how the project's

development can be furthered in the intervening period prior to any future submission under Business Plan 2.

One of the reasons given for rejection concerned the age of a study provided in support of the project, which was produced in 1996. The Creative Rural Communities Partnership intends to use around £8,000 of Rural Community Action funding from the current Action Plan year to update the study. The Welsh Assembly Government provides £148,908 funding to the Rural Community Action capacity building programme for 2008/09 in the rural Vale. This update to the study may aid future applications.

Another problem related to the necessity or otherwise of obtaining Planning Permission for the proposed capital works. After the end of the appraisal process the Council obtained a letter from their Planning department advising that planning is not required, which again may aid any future application.

Officials recently went on a site visit with Council staff and the Welsh Assembly Government's Rural Programmes team will continue to work with the Council and Partnership to look at available funding options including the possibility of a submission under Axis 3 of the Rural Development Plan for Wales under Business Plan 2.



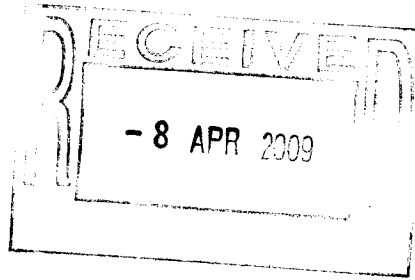
Elin Jones AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig
Minister for Rural Affairs

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



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET - 03 -187
Ein cyf/Our ref DFM 484/09



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

06 April 2009

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter dated 6th March regarding a petition received by the Petition's Committee to abolish the Severn Bridge tolls.

The Welsh Assembly Government has no legislative responsibility for the Severn Crossings, which rests with the Department for Transport's Government Representative in England and the Highways Agency. The precise method for the setting of tolling levels is stipulated in the Severn Bridges Act 1992.

The Highways Agency has a Concession Agreement with Severn River Crossing Plc (the Concessionaire) for the day to day operation and maintenance of the bridges. The Assembly Government must abide by the terms of the Concession Agreement made between the Department for Transport and Severn River Crossing Plc.

In view of the above I can confirm that the Assembly Government has conducted no investigations into the feasibility of abolishing the tolls on the Severn bridges. Similarly I have not held any discussions with Department for Transport Ministers on this issue.

*Yours
Ieuan*

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

[Faint stamp and signature]

Edwina Hart AM MBE

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

Our ref: EH/00752/09
Your ref: PET-03-188

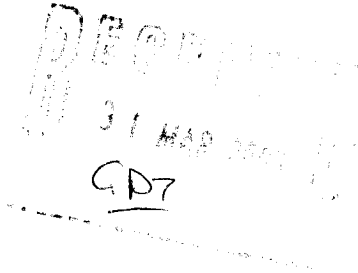
25 MAR 2009

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

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
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25 March 2009

Thank you for your letter of 24 February regarding the special care baby unit at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital and enclosing the letter from Cwm Taff NHS Trust.

I am aware of the issues which have been highlighted by the Trust regarding the recruitment of middle grade doctors to some specialities in Wales. This is a UK wide problem which has arisen from a number of reasons including the European regulations and changes to immigration rules for overseas doctors. The Welsh Assembly Government, the NHS Trusts and the Postgraduate Medical and Dental Deanery in Cardiff University, who are responsible for managing the training of Junior Doctors in Wales, are working together to resolve the current problem.

Currently the immigration rules only allow for a two year fixed term training post for medical trainees from outside the EU and this has brought about a reduction in applications. The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) receives evidence about shortages in health professionals and reviews the shortage application list each year. Each health department in the UK contributes evidence and MAC is aware of the issues we are facing.

Changes to immigration rules are not the only factor that affects recruitment and the delivery of services. There is also a reduction of UK trained doctors applying for training in the paediatric specialities. The reason for this is unclear but individual employers will need to develop recruitment strategies that attract those doctors that do wish to work in their specialty. The Post Graduate Deanery of Cardiff University and the British Medical Association have worked together to produce a DVD outlining the general benefits of working in Wales. This is being distributed to all

welsh graduates and anyone who indicates an interest in working in Wales. Individual departments now need to build on this to enhance their own attractiveness to doctors both through the development of good working practices and the development of the whole team in supporting the delivery of services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes, positioned below the main text.

My Ref: BD/NJH/AP/LP CEX 2811
Your Ref: PET-03-197



17 April 2009

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

17 APR 2009

Dear Ms Lloyd,

GDS

PETITION P-03-197 – SAVE THE VULCAN

I refer to your letter to the Chief Executive of the 25 March 2009, regarding the above matter and he has asked me to respond to you directly on his behalf.

As you will be aware, the Vulcan is not protected by any statutory listing, nor is it on the Council's local list or situated within a Conservation Area and, therefore, not protected from demolition.

The property is included within the outline planning permission (05/502C) for redevelopment as part of the SD2 development; this permission remains extant and does not include for the pub's retention. The pub is also contained within two current planning applications (07/3011C and 07/3012C) for redevelopment of the wider site. In respect of the detailed application, 07/3012/C, the Council is currently awaiting amended plans and responses to the various consultations, whilst the outline application 07/3011/C is currently on hold, pending a review of market conditions; neither of the applications include for the retention of the Vulcan.

Reference is made in the Minutes of the Petitions Committee to additional information having been received by Cadw regarding the pub's history. The Council is not in receipt of this information and cannot therefore make any comment on its status. However, if Cadw are of an opinion that the building should be listed, the current application would have to be assessed in this light although, technically, it would not prevent the applicant still pursuing a listed building consent to demolish the property. In the event of the pub being listed, it is difficult to foresee how the scale, form and layout of the current proposed development would be compatible with the two storey building. Consequently, in our view, a fundamental review of the redevelopment proposals would be likely, both in terms of the design and layout, the setting and context of the potential listed building, as well as the overall commercial viability.

If, on the other hand, Cadw are not minded to list the property, there is the possibility of the Local Planning Authority seeking a legal agreement with the owners to have the building dismantled and reconstructed at the St. Fagans site as indicated in the Petition Committee's minutes. This would have to be explored more fully but is nonetheless a possibility. Alternatively parts of the building could be potentially salvaged and incorporated into the new development.

With regard to the Council's wider powers, it would not wish to serve a building preservation notice on the structure unless there was an assurance from Cadw that they would list the building, as the Council would be liable to compensation claims in respect of hardship encountered by the owner from the service of a preservation notice.

I trust this is of assistance, but it is given without prejudice to the determination of any current or future applications relating to the site.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Phillips', with a horizontal line underneath.

Steven Phillips
Corporate Director (Environment)

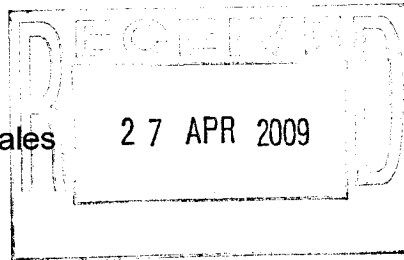
Alun Ffred Jones AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth
Minister for Heritage



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Ein cyf/Our ref ourref

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



27 April 2009

Dear Val,

VULCAN PUBLIC HOUSE, ADAMSDOWN, CARDIFF

The Committee recently took evidence from my officials in Cadw about the consideration which was being given to the listing of the pub as a building of special architectural or historic interest. I hope that the information provided was helpful to the Committee in its work.

The Committee was anxious, given the present uncertainty about its future, that Cadw should complete its assessment of the building for listing as quickly as possible. My officials have now completed their examination of the new information provided in the light of the listing criteria. I attach a copy. Cadw has written today to forward a copy to the two petitioners – Graham Craig and Rachel Thomas – who also provided evidence to the committee inviting their further views. I also recently visited the Vulcan to see the building for myself.

Cadw's assessment is that the available evidence is insufficient to support a recommendation to me that the Vulcan should be listed as a building of special architectural or historic interest. I am minded to accept Cadw's assessment but my officials are seeking comments on this assessment before I decide finally whether the Vulcan should be listed.

I hope you will find this helpful.

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

Vulcan Public House, Adamsdown, Cardiff

The Vulcan was inspected in 1991 (Cardiff Bay Resurvey), in c1998 (Adamstown resurvey), and again in 2003. More recent informal inspection has been carried out in order to confirm these earlier assessments, which had concluded that it was not listable, and also to take into account new information about the historical development of the building.

Architectural Interest

According to this new information, the building dates from c1853, and there are records tracing its history back to about this date. I have considered this carefully, but have concluded that the architectural character of the building suggests a date more recent than that - perhaps late C19 (the general form of the building, and some of the detail - the brickwork of the chimneys, for example). The information from Graham Craig suggests that the tiled façade dates from 1901 – this date would be consistent with the *art nouveau* style of the tile work, and may even date the entire facade. Alterations in 1914 are also documented (the work of F.J.Veall). These appear to concern the interior only – the eccentric positioning of chimneys suggests that an earlier plan with a central cross wall on both floors was modified to create a single front bar. The small scale of this work would make it difficult to claim the Vulcan as a significant example of his work, which is better represented in other listed buildings in Cardiff and Ebbw Vale. The likely development history for the building is therefore as follows: original building c1853, rebuilt/extensively remodelled c1900, altered internally 1914.

Because listing is based on the architectural character of the building, Cadw has to assess it as effectively a building of c1900- 1914, rather than a building of c1850. After about 1840, greater selection is necessary to identify best examples of particular building types, and only buildings of definite quality and character are listed. For C20 buildings, Cadw is required to identify key examples for a range of building types.

The general architectural character of the Vulcan is unexceptional, and the quality of the tiled frontage is its main claim to any distinction. There are better examples of this characteristic feature of late C19/early C20 pub architecture – in Cardiff the Golden Cross, which was designed for a corner site and also has a tiled interior, and the former Queens Vaults, also designed for a corner site.

Cadw's attention is also drawn to the interior, which is said to have remained unaltered since 1914. The general layout – of front bar and rear lounge (originally a smoke room) - has been preserved (though an earlier guide to Cardiff suggested that the rear had been domestic accommodation until c1950), but the detail of the interior has been changed since 1914. The 1914 plans show two fireplaces in the front bar, and a curved-fronted servery partially in front of the rear window, and enclosing a small office. Now, a single fireplace remains, and the bar itself (the servery) has been pushed

back towards the back wall, (where the office had once been) – it now has an angled, rather than a curved, front. Other pubs preserve the multi-room plan, so that this is not exceptional (eg the Royal Oak PH, Adamstown – late C19). The survival of a glazed partition between the bar and the corridor would not in itself be sufficient to warrant listing.

Historic Interest/Historical Association

The listing criteria enable Cadw to consider historical associations where these relate to figures or events of Welsh importance. It does not enable Cadw to evaluate the cultural significance of contemporary figures.

Graham Craig's information suggests that the Vulcan has social significance as the sole remaining building linked to Newtown, the part of Cardiff which housed Irish immigrant labourers in the 1840s and 1850s, associated with the building of Cardiff Docks. Sad to say, the social historical significance of this association is undermined firstly because the building is not preserved in a way that confirms and illustrates this association - it has been either rebuilt or substantially remodelled since the mid C19 - and secondly because it lacks meaningful context or group value. Although the criteria enable us to take social history into account (it being possible to list buildings of importance to the nation's social and economic history), it would be difficult to argue that the Vulcan was of more than local significance for social history; difficult also to regard it as a direct link to the mid C19 history of this part of Cardiff when the building's architectural character relates to a later period; problematic to allow a single building to represent the social history of an entire neighbourhood – the housing which has now been lost would have been a far more powerful testimony to the social history of Newtown.

It has also been suggested in Rachel Thomas's letter of 19th February, that the Vulcan PH characterises Cardiff's history. It would be very difficult to argue persuasively that a single building somehow encapsulates the history of the city – many buildings could claim to contribute to different aspects of the historical character of the city – including those Victorian and Edwardian pubs which have already been listed. I think the broader point being made here is that the distinctiveness of the city is being eroded by commercial developments. This may be a valid point, but it does not furnish us with sufficient justification in support of listing, where the assessment must be based on the specific architectural and historic merits of the individual building, and where the criteria guide us to be selective.

Cultural Associations

The criteria for listing also enable us to consider buildings which illustrate important aspects of the nation's cultural history. Several cultural associations with the Vulcan have been put forward (Frank Hennessy has performed there, writers such as John Williams, Des Barry and Tessa Hadley have met there, and other famous patrons have included Neil Kinnock). These are all broadly contemporary associations, which fall out-with the scope of the criteria for listing. It is simply too soon to assess the significance of any of

these figures to the cultural history of the nation; nor could the specific role of the Vulcan in the formation and development of their work be easily demonstrated.

In conclusion, although there is clearly a strong case to be made for the local significance of the Vulcan, and for its contemporary social and cultural value, there are insufficient grounds to support a recommendation for listing.

Cadw
March 2009

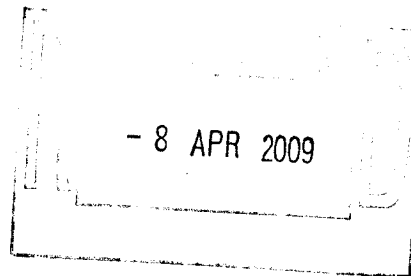
Jane Hutt AC/AM

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-03-202
Ein cyf/Our ref JH/00464/09



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

6 April 2009

Dear Val,

GDI

Thank you for your letter of 24 March 2009 regarding the petition calling upon the National Assembly for Wales to recognise young people over 16 years as independent when assessing eligibility for the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

Firstly, I would like say how pleased I was to hear of this petition, I am always encouraged when young people participate in the democratic process and applaud the young people from Deeside for using our petitions service to express their views on the EMA.

The EMA Wales scheme was introduced to encourage young people from modest to low income families to remain in education after their compulsory schooling. Wales like the United Kingdom in general has had a very low participation rate in post 16 education and the EMA was designed to address the problem of retaining those young people in the education environment. The use of household income levels to determine eligibility is not unique to EMA and is used widely across government.

I do not generally expect 16 year olds in education to be, or encouraged to be financially independent; however where they are independent they are automatically entitled to the full allowance of EMA. Determining the independence of a young person living within the household would be extremely difficult to substantiate and would have wider complex contradictions with other household/family benefits such as tax credits, income support and child benefits. Therefore I believe we have the right balance in place by combining prudent measures of income assessment with a system that is consistent and familiar for families.

I understand that many young people who do not qualify for the EMA incentive are disappointed. In many cases it is their first direct experience of means testing to determine eligibility for government support. We have just recently completed a first stage evaluation of the EMA scheme and are now considering its findings to determine the impact it has had in Wales and whether we can make improvements to the scheme in the future.

Sincerely,
Jane

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
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Wedi'i argraffu ar t...