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**Communities and Culture  
Committee**

**Pwyllgor Cymunedau a  
Diwylliant**

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



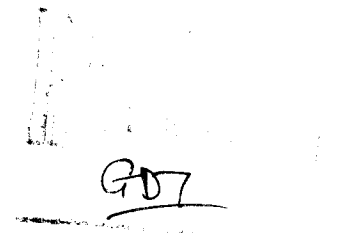
Cynulliad National  
Cenedlaethol Assembly for  
Cymru Wales

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

29 May 2009

Dear Val,

**Canoeing Petition**



Thank you for your letter asking my committee to investigate further the canoeing issue raised by petitioners. Whilst I understand there is significant support for the petition, due to a heavy ongoing workload and full forward work programme, it is unlikely my committee will be able to commit time to this matter in the near future.

Regards,

**Janice Gregory**

**Committee Chair**

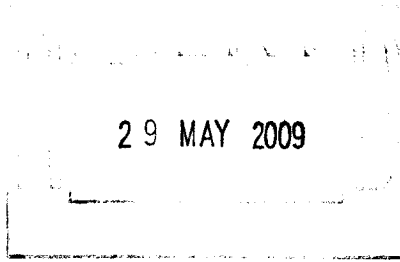
Chair, Communities and Culture Committee



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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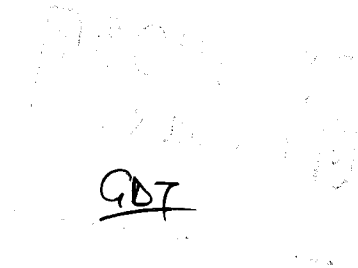
**Alun Ffred Jones AC/AM**  
Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth  
Minister for Heritage



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-166  
Ein cyf/Our ref AJ/00263/09

Val Lloyd AM  
Petitions Committee  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA



28 May 2009

*Dear Val,*

Thank you for your letter of 2 April about Cadw's examination of the former Abertillery and District Hospital for listing as a building of special architectural or historic interest.

The hospital and the memorial gates were listed, at grade II, on 20 February 2009. Copies of the list descriptions which provide the reason for listing are attached.

As the Committee will be aware from other concurrent work relating to historic buildings, listing is not a preservation order but a marker to the planning authority to help guide and inform any prospective changes to the building affecting its character. My officials in Cadw have worked closely with Welsh Health Estates and the Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust about the proposal to list the former hospital and have contributed to a conservation plan to help inform works to the building to provide it with a new and sustainable use. My officials attended an open day at the hospital on 2 April, also with the local authority, to explain to prospective new owners the effect of listing, the processes for applying for listed building consent and the range of technical and other assistance available.

I hope this is helpful.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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CF99 1NA

*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

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Authority	<b>Caerphilly</b>	Record No	<b>87579</b>
		Date Listed	<b>20/02/2009</b>
Community	<b>Crumlin</b>		
Locality	<b>Aberbeeg</b>	Grid Ref	<b>320705</b>
201730			
Postcode	<b>NP13 2XA</b>	Grade	<b>II</b>
Name	<b>Abertillery and District Hospital (original ranges only)</b>		
Street No, Name	<b>Pendarren Road</b>		

### Location

The hospital is situated to the south of the Abertillery valley, high up on a spur of land overlooking the confluence of the River Ebbw and the River Ebbw Fach, and approached from Pantddu Road, where it is adjacent to the parish church of Llanhilleth.

### History

The hospital was founded in 1920, commissioned and paid for by the miners of the Abertillery area, via a subscription levied on wages. It was designed by Walter Prosser of Newport. The foundation stone was laid by the chairman of Powell's Tillery Steam Coal Co Ltd, John Lancaster and Co Ltd, Lancasters Steam Coal Collieries Ltd. The hospital opened in 1922. In 1925, one of the first Marie Stopes Birth Control Clinics in Wales was opened here. Subsequent small-scale extension has left the original building substantially unaltered. Ancillary range, including mortuary building, in the grounds.

### Exterior

The hospital comprises two parallel ranges linked by a short corridor: the administration, treatment and accommodation block forms the main range, with the ward block to its rear. In its separation of the elements, it represents a scaled-down version of the pavilion plan which had become a norm for hospital planning from the mid-nineteenth century. Both ranges have a common architectural language (arts-and-crafts or domestic revival), but the main block has a more elaborate architectural scheme with a higher level of enrichment. Flemish bond brick-work with some tile-hanging to main elevation of main range, render to its sides and rear, and to ward block, bold clay tiled roofs with strongly projecting eaves and wrought-iron brackets to gutters throughout.

The main range is designed to resemble a house, in an expressive arts and crafts idiom, displaying the influences of Voysey and Lutyens. A long two-storeyed range with axial stacks in steeply pitched hipped roof, which is swept down over the ground floor at each end. The range is symmetrically set out with advanced hipped gables at either end, and 3 linking bays to either side of the slightly advanced entrance block. The façade is articulated by the use of plain brick pilasters between the bays, and the windows are clasped between the pilasters to form rhythmic bands of fenestration. Entrance block of 3 bays, breaking the eaves line to form a parapet, with gable over the central bay, enriched with raised brick diaper work. Wide central entrance clasped by pilasters, with very shallow arched head and brick-work imposts stepped back to paired inner doors, panelled with leaded glazed upper lights and overlight. Above the entrance, a long 5-light wood mullioned window with leaded lights, aligned with all other first floor windows to form a strong band of fenestration. Tile-hanging between doorway and this window. Flanking bays of entrance block have wood mullioned and transomed windows with leaded lights to ground floor (with foundation stones as aprons), and small 2-light mullioned windows above; herringbone tile-work between the ground and first floor windows. To either side of the entrance block, 3 bays with windows of 4, 2 and 4 lights, mullioned and transomed to ground floor, mullioned to first floor, and immediately below the eaves.

Advanced gables at either end, each with steep hipped roof with distinctive pitch change at apex, and pilasters clasping 4-light mullioned window beneath the eaves. Varying ground-floor detail: left-hand gable was an original entrance (to the casualty department), and has round-arched doorway with stepped-back brickwork detail in arch, and paired doors with glazed upper panels. Main roof sweeps down over ground floor to its left, where there is a narrow rendered bay forming the return of the side elevation: large, asymmetrical roof, with two hipped-dormers; series of ground floor windows with

transoms, variously 3, 2 and 1 light. Right hand gable has mullioned and transomed window to ground floor; beyond it, the roof again sweeps down over the ground floor, with narrow recessed rendered bay forming the return of side elevation: this has narrow round-arched service entrance, and single light transomed windows.

Detached ward block to rear, with linking corridor: two wards, in long range, symmetrical to either side of the corridor. Single storeyed, with steep hipped roof. Regular fenestration - 2-pane sash windows with top-lights immediately below the eaves. Buttresses define day room at each end; these have hipped roof carried on brackets over canted bay window (in left-hand ward this is advanced from the gable end, and in right-hand ward, from the end of the east elevation). Three original service blocks to rear.

### **Interior**

Original layout survives with only minor alteration: mosaic-tiled entrance lobby gives access to long corridor forming the link to the ward block at the rear. This is lined with turquoise-tiled dado, and there is similar tile-work to ward corridors. Each ward has small rooms opening off central corridor, then the main ward subdivided by a cross wall, with well-lit day room at far end. Main block housed kitchen and staff rooms to right, with treatment rooms etc to left; offices and staff quarters to first floor, where the doctors' sitting room is distinguished by a timber-framed ingle-nook fireplace, built-in cupboards and window seats.

### **Listed**

Listed as an exceptionally well-preserved example of a small cottage hospital, retaining original layout (a good, small-scale example of the pavilion plan), and skilfully designed using a domestic arts-and-crafts idiom to convey its ethos of care.

### **Reference**

Jeremy Taylor, *Hospital and Asylum Architecture in England 1840-1914*, 1991;  
Information supplied by S.P.Baghurst.

Authority	<b>Caerphilly</b>	Record No	<b>87580</b>	DateListed	<b>20/02/2009</b>
Community	<b>Crumlin</b>			Grid Ref	<b>320645</b>
Locality	<b>Aberbeeg</b>			Grade	<b>II</b>
	<b>201646</b>				
Name	<b>Memorial Gates to Abertillery and District Hospital</b>				
Street No, Name	<b>Pendarren Road</b>				

#### **Location**

At the end of Pendarren Road, at the entrance to the hospital grounds.

#### **History**

Panels on the gates record that they were given by "The Abertillery Municipal Officers as a tribute to their colleagues who served in the Great War 1914-1918."

#### **Exterior**

Cast-iron gates and gate-piers. Paired main gates flanked by smaller side gate to left which is balanced by fixed rail section to right. Square-section piers with moulded panel detail, capitals and ornate caps to main gates, and similar but simpler terminal piers to either side. Main gates have closely spaced rails and diagonal brace below the dog bar, side panels with lyre motif above it, and ornate scroll-work surmounting the top rail. Similar detail to side gate (and fixed rail section to right), but with swept down top rail; short length of plain spear head railings beyond side gate, and at right-angles to fixed rail section. Original cast panels recording history incorporated in design of main gates, and set beneath the top rail.

#### **Listed**

Listed as good early 20th century cast-iron work, as a war memorial, and for group value with Abertillery and District Hospital.



Department for  
Work and Pensions

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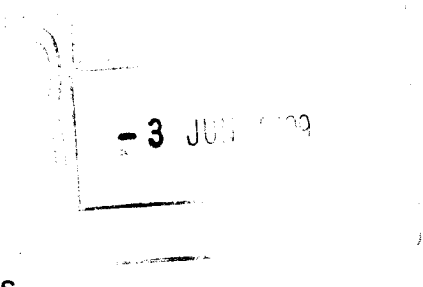
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Your ref: PET-03-207

POS(2)4079/633

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



2 June 2009

Dear Val

*GD*

Thank you for your letter of 1 April about the closure of Monmouth Jobcentre and the support available to local people.

Over the last few years Jobcentre Plus has modernised the way in which it delivers its business. The changes that have been introduced with the new service are about enhancing the service that is provided to all its customers and not just about closing offices such as the one in Monmouth.

We have made a significant investment in Information Technology and this has meant that as more of our services become available online and by telephone, we are reducing the need for many of our customers, and especially those that live in rural areas such as Monmouthshire, to travel to a jobcentre just to report a routine change in their circumstances or to apply for a job.

All our customers making a new claim for Jobseeker's Allowance and our other benefits do so by telephoning us on 0800 055 66 88 or by textphone on 0800 022 48 88. A Welsh Language service is available on 0800 0121 888, and a Welsh textphone service is on 0800 022 48 88.

I appreciate that our customers travelling from Monmouth to either Abergavenny or Chepstow have a round trip of around 35 miles but there are alternative Jobcentres at Coleford in Gloucestershire which would be a 14 mile round trip and at Ross-on-Wye in Herefordshire which would be approximately 22 miles there and back.

We have recently contacted all our customers with a Monmouth address to let them know of the alternative Jobcentres that they could use and I can confirm that customers from Monmouth making a new claim for Jobseeker's Allowance should be advised by our Call Centre colleagues that they can choose to sign fortnightly at Abergavenny, Coleford, Chepstow, or Ross-on-Wye Jobcentres.

However, where there are customers claiming benefits other than Jobseeker's Allowance who have exceptional difficulties in attending a Jobcentre, for example, disabled people with mobility problems or lone parents who have no access to childcare facilities; we will consider making home visits to meet them and discuss the help we can provide.

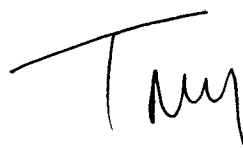
Similarly, our customers can telephone Jobcentre Plus on 0845 60 60 234 to find out what vacancies are available and how to apply for them. A textphone service is available on 0845 60 55 255, a Welsh Language service on 0845 60 67 890 and a Welsh Language textphone service on 0845 60 44 022.

I hope that this is helpful in clarifying our position. However, if you would like to discuss this matter further, Sue Matheson, jobcentre Plus Customer Correspondence Manager will be happy to help. She can be contacted by telephone on 02920 423621 or by writing to: Jobcentre Plus, South East Wales District Office, Block 4, Government Buildings, St Agnes Road, Gabalfa, Cardiff, CF14 4US.

I can assure you that although we do not have plans to open any new jobcentres, additional staff are being recruited in Wales to ensure that we continue to deliver a good service despite the rising number of customers. I do fully recognise how the pressures of the current economic situation present us with new challenges. However, we are taking steps to ensure that we can respond to changing circumstances.

The changes we have made in Jobcentre Plus in recent years have enabled us to make best use of the latest technology, ensuring that our customers are aware of how to contact us and that they do so using the most effective and appropriate way. In addition we are looking at maximising space in our offices throughout Wales and we are also considering an extension of opening hours and taking certain services out to our customers in the community.

I believe we will be able to offer a good service by adopting a flexible approach, despite the rising demand we are seeing on our services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony McNulty', with a long horizontal line above the first few letters.

**TONY MCNULTY**



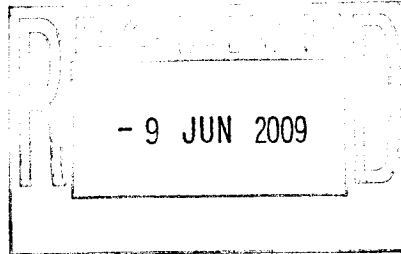
Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM  
Dirprwy Brif Weinidog /Deputy First Minister



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref DFM/00916/09

Val Lloyd AM  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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09 June 2009

*Dec Val*

Thank you for your letter of 18 May 2009 regarding a petition asking for a relief road for St Asaph.

Responsibility for the highway network in Wales is divided between the Welsh Assembly Government which maintain the trunk roads and motorways and the local authorities who maintain the local road network.

St Asaph is adjacent to the A55 Trunk Road, whereas the A525 route, which carries the largest volume of traffic through St Asaph, is a Denbighshire County Council principal road. Any schemes to improve traffic flow through St Asaph town centre would be promoted by Denbighshire County Council.

*Ieuan Wyn Jones*

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

*AD7*

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



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-213  
Ein cyf/Our ref EJ/00397/09

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

/ June 2009

*Dear Val,*

Thank you for your letter of 18 May 2009 regarding the petition raised by Secret Wildlife Rescue against badger culling. I was recently informed of this petition by Ms Pauline Kidner, Charity Founder, and of the intention to submit the signatures to the Petitions Committee.

Bovine TB is out of control in large parts of Wales. During 2008 more than 12,000 cattle were slaughtered in Wales alone and the compensation bill for the Welsh Assembly Government amounted to over £25 million in 2008-09. By 2014, compensation for bovine TB could reach more than £80 million which is a considerable burden to the tax payer. This is why I am clear we need to tackle this disease now and I believe the best way of doing this is with the comprehensive approach I have outlined in the TB Eradication Programme.

You will be aware that the TB Eradication Programme was given detailed consideration by the Welsh Assembly Government Cabinet in March and again in April 2008. Subsequently, on 15 April 2008 the National Assembly for Wales debated and supported the TB Eradication Programme as I set out in a statement on 8 April 2008. Since this statement last year I have provided several updates on progress made on the Programme. Further details of the TB Eradication Programme, including records of Cabinet and Plenary meetings, are made publicly available on the Welsh Assembly Government's bovine TB website [www.wales.gov.uk/bovinetb](http://www.wales.gov.uk/bovinetb)

In relation to the culling of badgers, this is one aspect of the agreed programme to eradicate bovine TB in Wales. In my latest statement on the TB Eradication Programme in March this year I announced the intention to establish an Intensive Action Pilot Area in north Pembrokeshire where we will put in place even stricter cattle control measures and undertake a cull of badgers to deal with both sources of bovine TB.

Badgers are a source of infection to cattle and vice versa. This has been demonstrated by the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT) undertaken in England. Following publication of the final report of the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB (ISG), further post-cull analysis was undertaken which demonstrated a continued decrease in bovine TB in cattle in

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the areas concerned. You will wish to note that the information which I considered in making my decision on the Intensive Action Pilot Area, including Wales specific modelling work, has been published on the Welsh Assembly Government bovine TB website.

- Any Intensive Action Pilot Area (IAPA) in Wales will learn the lessons from the RBCT and will not duplicate it. Ultimately, our Programme is about dealing with all sources of infection which is why I believe Intensive Action Pilot Area needs to include both cattle and badger measures.

I have always recognised that I will use all available tools to pursue the eradication of bovine TB in Wales. Badger culling is one of those tools as is vaccination. In my last statement I welcomed confirmation that an injectable licensed vaccine for badgers is expected in mid 2010 and that an oral bait vaccine will be available by late 2014. The latter is recognised as an efficient means of vaccinating the wildlife population over large areas, although any benefits in reduced cattle herd breakdowns are not expected to be evident, through vaccination alone, for several years. I will continue to work with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on research to explore the potential for the use of an effective badger vaccine. In relation to its bearing on Government policy, I will monitor vaccine development closely with a view to introducing vaccination into Welsh policy as and when available and appropriate.

A consultation on badger vaccination and culling is ongoing and provides an opportunity for members of the public to comment on the proposals. The consultation on '*the Tuberculosis Eradication (Wales) Order 2009 under the Animal Health Act 1981*' can be viewed on the following website: [www.wales.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.wales.gov.uk/consultation)



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