

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio
Minister for Housing and Regeneration



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf / Your ref:
Ein cyf / Our ref:

13 May 2014

Dear *Elmer*

I promised to write to you when responding to the question you put to me in Plenary about Plas Morolwg in Aberystwyth.

The situation people face when losing a home is always very difficult and can cause great upset and distress. Housing officials assure me that local organisations continue to work hard to support the tenants and leaseholders affected by the exceptionally severe storms over the weekend of 12 February 2014.

This episode of extreme weather has rendered as unsafe the 34 occupied flats that comprise Plas Morolwg. I am sure you will agree that the health and safety of tenants is of paramount importance. Following extensive assessment, the flats have now been issued with Dangerous Structure Notices. All residents of Plas Morolwg have now been informed they cannot return to their homes for safety reasons. This decision has removed uncertainty for many of the residents and bespoke accommodation solutions are now being sought for individual households.

Tai Cantref continues to provide practical support to households, advice and financial assistance. The organisation is meeting regularly with residents to listen to their concerns and find solutions such as site security and presence, appointments slots to remove belongings from their former homes, liaison with utility companies, and skips to help dispose of damaged goods.

To help reduce uncertainty about the future for displaced residents, Tai Cantref has acted quickly to find new homes for those affected. To date, eight tenants have arranged a permanent move and three leaseholders have agreed to sell or swap their homes. Others are either viewing properties or are in the process of signing up for permanent homes. Those subletting and licencees will all have vacated the flats by the end of May 2014 and will have found alternative accommodation. Those remaining in temporary accommodation continue to be supported by Tai Cantref, with alternative accommodation sought with the help of partner housing associations and local authorities.

Tai Cantref is committed to providing social housing on the Plas Morolwg site. Before the storms, Tai Cantref's Board was already considering the options for redevelopment and had liaised with my officials to explore funding options. The storms have brought additional urgency to the future plans for the site. Currently, the Association is exploring fresh options and will be appraising these over the coming months. My officials have asked Tai Cantref to be kept them abreast of these plans.

I trust this information is helpful.



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