

Alun Davies AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd
Minister for Natural Resources and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref MB AD0689/14
Dafydd Elis-Thomas
Chair,
Environment and Sustainability
Committee
National Assembly for Wales

21 February 2014

**Re: The Environment and Sustainability Committee Meeting 23rd January 2014.
Update on the Inquiry into Coastal Protection in Wales**

At the Environment & Sustainability Committee on 23rd January 2014, I agreed to provide details of projects which enabled £2million to be made available in this financial year for emergency works to coastal defences. I also undertook to update the Committee on whether an appeal for European Union assistance should be made.

In the 2013/14 financial year, the Welsh Government has allocated a total of £28.7 million capital funding for flood and coastal defence improvements. The funding supports an ongoing programme of works promoted by Natural Resources Wales and Local Authorities throughout Wales.

The Welsh Government closely monitors the actual in-year expenditure against the forecast expenditure. In consultation with Natural Resources Wales and local authorities, and to ensure that we responded effectively to urgent funding needs following the recent coastal flooding, we identified that schemes at Pontarddulais (Swansea), Llanmaes (Vale of Glamorgan), and Coldbrook (Vale of Glamorgan) programmed for this year will now commence in 2014/15.

We have also reviewed the potential role of the EU Solidarity Fund in supporting the restoration of damaged infrastructure. The Welsh Government believes that there may be potential for a wider UK bid to this fund and I have written to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, to say that we would welcome working with and

contributing to a wider UK application to the EU Solidarity Fund should the UK Government, as the Member State, decide that it was appropriate to submit such a bid.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun Davies', written in a cursive style.

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