

Ellis Cooper BSc. (Hons)
Prif Weithredwr
Chief Executive

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Croesawn alwadau yn y Gymraeg
We welcome calls in Welsh



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Ein Cyf / Our ref: EC/JJ
Eich Cyf / Your ref:
Dyddiad/Date: 7th May 2024

Gofynnwch am / Please ask for: Ellis Cooper
Llinell Uniongyrchol / Direct Line: 01685 725000
e-bost / e-mail: Ellis.Cooper@merthyr.gov.uk

Dear Llyr Gruffydd MS,

I trust this letter finds you well.

Thank you for your correspondence dated 30th April 2024, concerning the ongoing inquiry by the Senedd's Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee into opencast mining, with particular emphasis on the Ffos-y-Fran site.

Firstly, can I apologise in the fact I was on holiday when your first request came through and was unable to respond in person. We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this discussion. While we initially provided written evidence to the inquiry, the recent decline of the invitation extended to our organisation to attend the Committee meeting was not indicative of any disregard for the importance of the issue at hand, but rather due to scheduling constraints and our officer's ability to only provide evidence on bullet point one of your request - *The financial and Practical arrangements in place for the restoration of the opencast site.*

We fully recognise the value of our participation in the Committee's proceedings and are committed to engaging constructively with your inquiries. Therefore, we are pleased to accept the invitation for Council officers and the Leader, Geraint Thomas, to attend the upcoming meeting on 22nd May, scheduled between 9:30 am and 12:00 noon.

Furthermore, given the complex nature of the subject matter under discussion, we respectfully request the opportunity to bring a panel of officers to cover the various issues concerning the mine relative to bullet point one. It is our belief that a panel approach will ensure comprehensive coverage of the diverse aspects of this topic and provide the Committee with a more nuanced understanding of the complexities involved.

If it is feasible, we would like to propose the following representatives to be in attendance:

1. Geraint Thomas - Leader of the Council
2. Ellis Cooper - Chief Executive
3. Judith Jones - Director of Neighbourhood Services
4. Carwyn Morris - Head of Engineering
5. David Cross - Principal Planning Officer
6. Geraint Morgan - Solicitor

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Please consider this request and if possible, kindly confirm whether the Committee would be amenable to accommodating a panel of officers from our organisation for the meeting on 22nd May.

Thank you once again for extending this invitation and we look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with the Committee on this crucial issue.

Yours sincerely



ELLIS COOPER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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