

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1010
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/02027/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair of the Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

24 August 2020

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 12th August, regarding Petition P-05-1010 “An independent inquiry into the 2020 flooding in Rhondda Cynon Taf” so lessons are learned”.

I understand and share your wish to see the risk of future flooding reduced as quickly as possible. I do not agree however an independent inquiry is required at this stage. Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCT) needs to complete its statutory review of the flooding earlier this year before I consider whether any inquiry or other review is required. A significant amount of work is underway across the Rhondda Cynon Taff area, both by NRW and the RCT to assess the causes of the flooding has occurred this year, both during the unprecedented storms in February and more recently.

It is the responsibility of the relevant lead Local Flood Risk Management Authority (RMA), designated under the **Flood and Water Management Act 2010**, to produce a ‘Section 19’ Flood Investigation Report following any incidences of flooding. These reports analyse and investigate the reasons to why the flooding occurred, how the relevant RMA responded and can make recommendations on how flood risk may be reduced in the future and help inform new flood defence scheme proposals.

RCT is currently developing 19 reports to assess the causes of flooding from Storm Dennis and recent events. NRW has confirmed it is working with RCT to support this process. Once completed, the reports must be published by each RMA so they can be subject to appropriate scrutiny by the public, elected members and all other interested parties.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I have made clear to Wales' RMAs these reviews need to be prioritised to help bring forward scheme proposals to address flood risk. In my recent remit letter to NRW I set out as a top priority the need to consider asset improvements in those communities which suffered flooding and to accelerate delivery on flood schemes.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS

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