

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1205
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/11392/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
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petitions@senedd.wales

8 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 10 September regarding the petition to invest in flood defences for the River Towy in Carmarthen.

The Welsh Government has made a commitment within its Programme for Government to protect an additional 45,000 homes over the lifetime of this government. In support of this, our Flood and Coastal Erosion Programme can provide grant funding to our flood and coastal erosion Risk Management Authorities to bring forward business cases and interventions to reduce such risk to our communities.

The decision on whether a flood scheme should be brought forward for the River Towy rests with Natural Resources Wales as the relevant Risk Management Authority for main rivers. We would expect any major scheme to also include discussions with the local authority and those benefitting.

The Welsh Government does not stipulate which communities our Risk Management Authorities should focus its attention on, but expect them to prioritise areas which primarily reduce risk to homes. Businesses may also benefit where homes are also being protected, or where the Risk Management Authority is able to justify a scheme which only protects businesses.

All schemes which are submitted to the Welsh Government for funding support are then prioritised according to risk, utilising information from Natural Resource Wales' Communities at Risk Register, historic flood events, the number and type of property at risk, costs and wider benefits.

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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.

This prioritised approach to flood risk management is set out within our National Strategy for Flooding and Coastal Erosion. It also aligns with our National Planning Policy, which can allow less vulnerable development within areas of increased flood risk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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