



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales**

Ein cyf/Our ref: ME/ub CX21-245
Eich cyf/Your ref:

Maes Newydd / Maes Newydd
Llandarsi / Llandarcy
Castell-Nedd Port Talbot / Neath Port Talbot
SA10 6JQ / SA10 6JQ

Ebost/Email:

[REDACTED]

Ffôn/Phone:

[REDACTED]

Jack Sargent MS
Chair of the Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

By email: petitions@senedd.wales

29 November 2021

Dear Jack Sargeant MS,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 19 November 2021 regarding *Petition P-06-1205 Invest in flood defences on the Towy in Carmarthen including the Quayside area*. Clare Pillman has asked me to respond on her behalf as Head of Operations for South West Wales.

The short answer to your question is that Natural Resources Wales is not currently considering a flood scheme for the Towy in Carmarthen.

This is in part because parts of the town already benefit from flood schemes, whilst other parts, such as The Quay are not a high priority compared to other areas at risk from flooding in Wales.

As you and the committee members will already be aware, Natural Resources Wales, as a Wales wide body, has to prioritise how it uses the Grant in Aid and resources received from the Welsh Government in accordance with the Welsh Government's National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales and also their Grant Memorandum Flood & Coastal Erosion. Both of these documents identify that in carrying out its flood risk management functions, Risk Management Authorities, including Natural Resources Wales, must prioritise investment on a risk basis, with homes being considered a higher priority than businesses.

This is, I believe, the essence of the letter that the Minister for Climate Change sent to the Petitions Committee in which the Minister wrote :

“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

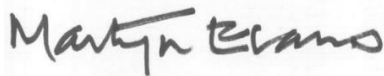
at Risk Register, historic flood events, the number and type of property at risk, costs and wider benefits.

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”.

The other difficulty in progressing a flood scheme for The Quay, even if it was a high enough priority, is that previous studies of flood schemes at the location have identified that, in accordance with government project appraisal guidance, a scheme will not meet the economic business criteria necessary to allow public funds to be invested.

We will continue to be mindful of the area and should policy relating to prioritisation or other circumstances change that may influence a potential scheme there, we will review accordingly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martyn Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Martyn Evans
Head of Operations South West Wales
Pennaeth Gweithrediadau De Orllewin Cymru