

David Stanley Lewis

Director, Merthyr (South Wales) Limited

Chris Barber

Operations Manager, Merthyr (South Wales) Limited

2 December 2024

7 November Committee visit

Dear David and Chris,

I am writing on behalf of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee to thank you and MSW staff for hosting our recent visit to the Ffos-y-Fran opencast coalmine in Merthyr Tydfil.

The visit allowed the Committee to better understand the issues that we discussed during the course of the inquiry, as well as the history involving the site, the work undertaken by Merthyr (South Wales) Limited and its predecessor companies, as well as the development of the proposed plans for a revised restoration plan, alongside Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Richards, Moorehead & Laing Ltd.

Following our visit, we would also like to use this opportunity to highlight the plenary debate on "Restoration of opencast mining sites", held on 13 November, which can be [watched on SeneddTV](#), as well as:

- The Committee's [report on the Restoration of opencast mining sites](#);
- The [response](#) from the Welsh Government;
- The [response](#) from Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council;

Lastly, in light of the ongoing work between Merthyr (South Wales) Limited and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, we would like to encourage greater community engagement and transparency, particularly given the impact on local residents as restoration plans are being revised, and that residents are consulted on any proposals that come forward in the coming months.



We look forward to seeing the development of a long-term plan to restore the site so that it is useful and honouring to the people of Merthyr, is environmentally diverse, plays its part in the region's economic growth and serves generations to come.

Due to the relevance of this matter, I am copying this letter to Ellis Cooper, Chief Executive of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.

Kind regards,



Llyr Gruffydd MS,

Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg | We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.