



Mining  
Remediation  
Authority

200 Lichfield Lane  
Mansfield  
Nottinghamshire  
NG18 4RG  
T: 01623 637156

E: [lisa.pinney@miningremediation.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.pinney@miningremediation.gov.uk)

W: [www.gov.uk/miningremediationauthority](http://www.gov.uk/miningremediationauthority)

Lukas Santos  
Deputy Clerk  
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee  
Welsh Parliament

Email: [seneddclimate@senedd.wales](mailto:seneddclimate@senedd.wales)

16 January 2025

Dear Lukas,

Thank you for your invitation to the Evidence session about the Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill scheduled for 30 January 2025. I can confirm that Carl Banton, Operations Director, will attend, give evidence and engage with the committee. It may be helpful if I outline the Mining Remediation Authority's involvement with coal tip safety in Wales ahead of the meeting.

Local authorities are currently the primary authority for the regulation of disused tips and quarries, as set out by the Mines and Quarries (Tips) Act 1969. The Act does not include requirements for regular, formal inspections of tips. In the past, there have been a range of approaches by local authorities to tip management, due to varying levels of experience and resources.

In February 2020 extreme rainfall caused landslips at disused coal tips in Tylorstown and Wattstown in Rhondda Cynon Taf. The Welsh and UK Governments set up the Coal Tip Safety Task Force, to assess the immediate status of disused coal tips in Wales. Our long history of coal tip management meant we were asked by Welsh Government to be a key partner in the Task Force. Our initial work involved emergency inspections at priority tips and developing a database categorising all disused coal tips in Wales. This has helped to identify tips which present a higher potential for impacting public safety.

From this work it became clear that a coordinated programme of risk-based inspections was required. We have supported Welsh Government by undertaking these inspections and have provided a chronology which you can see at Appendix A. This work has provided a baseline to support the development of a Wales wide tip inspection programme.

Making a better future for people  
and the environment in mining areas

In addition to our work for the Welsh Government Coal Tip Safety programme, we are also contracted to Natural Resources Wales to provide tip management advice and undertake inspections.

Whilst managing the associated public safety of tips is a matter for the landowner and local authority, we have and will continue to provide advice to local authorities, Welsh Government and other partners as needed. It was clear from discussions with stakeholders that there was a wide range of approaches to tip management, and that a coordinated programme of risk-based inspections was required to provide a baseline from which development of a Wales wide tip inspection programme could be established.

With assistance from the Mining Remediation Authority, Welsh Government engaged the services of the Law Commission to undertake a review of the existing Mines and Quarries (Tips) Act 1969, the result of which was a recommendation to develop new legislation to address the issue of tip safety in Wales.

We welcome the Introduction of the Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill and look forward to working closely with Welsh Government on its implementation as an active partner.

I hope this is helpful. Please do let me know if we can assist further. We look forward to attending the inquiry on 30 January 2025.

Yours sincerely,



**Lisa Pinney MBE**  
**Chief Executive**

Making a better future for people  
and the environment in mining areas

## Appendix A – Examples of recent support provided by the Mining Remediation Authority

- **2020 – 2021** Coal Tip Safety Task Force set up, inspections of high-risk tips commenced (184 inspections), development of GIS database and categorisation commenced.
- Our Tips Response Team liaised with all Welsh local authorities to collate information on disused tips, including current awareness and management. This work was funded by Welsh Government and delivered under a Memorandum of Understanding.
- **2021 – 2022** Work with Welsh Government and external suppliers on technology trials to give early warnings of movement on tips. First round of Category C and D inspections completed (329 inspections).
- Engaging with Natural Resources Wales, Local Resilience Forums and the Welsh Local Government Association to raise awareness of tip management and emergency response.
- Supported Welsh Government to request that the Law Commission review the Mines and Quarries (Tips) Act 1969. As a result, they recommended that new legislation be developed to address the issue of tip safety in Wales.
- **2022 – 2023** Second round of Category C and D inspections completed (427 inspections).
- We were also instructed by Welsh Government to develop a design for remedial works at Wattstown and to procure and supervise the works. We successfully provided these works in 2022.
- **2023 – 2024** Publicly owned Category B inspections completed (233 inspections). Third round of Category C and D inspections completed (433 inspections).
- **2024 – 2025** Privately owned Category B inspections completed (433 inspections). Fourth round of Category C and D inspections underway (100 inspections to date).

### Tip categories

Disused coal tips are being given interim categories. The categories reflect which tips may need more frequent inspections to assess drainage and stability. Categorisation considers many different factors which are assessed by technical experts. Factors considered include:

- Size and geometry
- Potential hazards
- Potential receptors
- Site history
- Any associated infrastructure
- Inspection and monitoring requirements

### Category D

Making a better future for people  
and the environment in mining areas

A tip with the potential to impact public safety, to be inspected at least twice a year.

### **Category C**

A tip with the potential to impact public safety, to be inspected at least once a year.

### **Category B**

A tip with the unlikely potential to impact public safety.

### **Category A**

A tip with the very unlikely potential to impact public safety.

### **Category R**

A tip with the very unlikely potential to impact public safety. Potentially removed or levelled and often built over.

Making a better future for people  
and the environment in mining areas

## **DMQTWB 08 - Evidence from: The Mining Remediation Authority**

---

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

[Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith | Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee](#)

[Bil Tomenni Mwyngloddiau a Chwareli Nas Defnyddir \(Cymru\) | Disused Mine and Quarry Tips \(Wales\) Bill](#)

---

### **1. What are your views on the general principles of the Bill, and is there a need for legislation to deliver the stated policy intention?**

The Mining Remediation Authority support the Bill and the general principles contained therein. We agree that there is a need to introduce new legislation to provide a modern and consistent framework for managing the legacy of disused coal (and other) tips and quarries in Wales.

### **2. What are your views on the Bill's provisions (set out according to Parts below), in particular are they workable and will they deliver the stated policy intention?**

#### **▪ Part 1 - The Disused Tips Authority for Wales (sections 1 to 5 and Schedule 1)**

Section 1 – 5 No comment.

#### **▪ Part 2 - Assessment, registration and monitoring of disused tips (sections 6 to 32 and Schedule 2)**

Section 10 – Would be clearer if the manner and minimum frequency of inspections were specified.

Section 12 – Would be clearer if the details of a preliminary assessment were specified.

Section 15 – Would be clearer if the details of a full assessment were specified, and whether this includes ground investigation, soil testing and slope stability analysis.

---

▪ **Part 3 - Dealing with tip instability and threats to tip stability (sections 33 to 54 and Schedule 3)**

No comments.

▪ **Part 4 - Supplementary (sections 55 to 70)**

Section 55 (1) (e) - This should be amended to “the Coal Authority or Mining Remediation Authority”.

▪ **Part 5 - General (sections 71 to 88)**

No comments.

**3. What are the potential barriers to the implementation of the Bill’s provisions and how does the Bill take account of them?**

Lack of knowledge by private landowners.

**4. How appropriate are the powers in the Bill for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation (as set out in Chapter 5 of Part 1 of the Explanatory Memorandum)**

No comments.

**5. Are any unintended consequences likely to arise from the Bill?**

1. Potential for conflict of interest with existing Quarry Regulations with regard to definition of abandoned tip / quarry.
  2. Potential for loss of staff by expert bodies currently undertaking this work.
  3. Conversely, recruitment of staff for these roles may be difficult based on Mining Remediation Authority experience.
-

**6. What are your views on the Welsh Government's assessment of the financial implications of the Bill as set out in Part 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum?**

No comments.

**7. Are there any other issues that you would like to raise about the Bill and the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum or any related matters?**

No comments.

---