

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS  
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros  
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig  
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate  
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Our ref: PO/HIDCC/0131/25

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS  
Chair  
Finance Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

31 March 2025

Dear Peredur,

During the scrutiny session on 20 February 2025 on the Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill, I offered to provide you with information about using logic models and the theory of change to evaluate the impact of policy.

Logic models and theories of change are commonly used to evaluate policies (see for example HM Treasury guidance on evaluation set out in the [Magenta Book](#)). A theory of change approach is popular because it provides an overarching framework which can be used to inform the detail of the evaluation design that accompanies the development of a policy at an early stage. The approach is used to describe how, and why, an intervention - in this case the Disused Tips Authority for Wales and the regime established by the Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill - is expected to work.

The aim is to describe, in some detail, the change expected to happen as a result of a policy, and the pathways to this change; and to explain how a policy's activities are understood to produce a series of desired results which contribute to achieving the final intended outcomes and impact. This, in turn, informs decision making on data requirements and evaluation methods.

Importantly, developing a theory of change is typically undertaken in an iterative manner, and should involve collaboration with stakeholders, ensuring it reflects a wide range of views on how the intervention is likely to work. An initial theory of change can then be refined over time to reflect changes in understanding as a policy develops and is implemented.

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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.

A logic model can be used to illustrate, in a simplified way, the steps necessary to achieve the stated goals of a policy, typically including:

- resources/inputs;
- activities/process;
- implementation/outputs; and
- outcomes/impact.

Elements of the logic underpinning the Bill that will contribute to achieving its stated aims, and will need to be considered as part of the evaluation design, are likely to include:

- establishing a single body, staffed by specialists, which has responsibility for monitoring and assessing the safety of disused tips, will improve the maintenance of disused tips, avoid instability and associated threats to human welfare;
- the creation of a proactive approach to managing disused tips will reduce the costs of interventions by reducing the likelihood and scale of disused tip failures;
- the creation of the regime will increase the pool of specialist staff by creating:
  - positive perception changes around the employment opportunities available;
  - attracting more people to train and work in the fields associated with maintaining disused tip stability; and
  - increasing the diversity of routes available to gain qualifications and experience in the specialisms required to staff the regime.

I would, of course be happy to have further discussions with the Committee on this or any other matter.

Yours sincerely,



**Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS**

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