

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/Your ref P-06-1525
Ein cyf/Our ref HIDCC/00010/26

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

23 January 2026

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 5 January on behalf of the Petitions Committee, referring to the preservation of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal for the future generations of Wales.

I welcome the Committee's acknowledgement of the Welsh Government's announcement on 5 December confirming additional investment for the canal. This commitment provides an important degree of stability for those who work on, rely upon, and care deeply about the canal over the next five years. I am also pleased that Members found value in their recent visit and the Senedd debate, and I echo the Committee's congratulations to the petitioners on their effective and dedicated campaign.

Regarding the Committee's request for written confirmation on the long-term future of the canal, I can confirm that the Welsh Government remains committed to safeguarding the canal as a significant cultural, environmental, and economic asset for Wales. While the current £400,000 allocation is set for this Senedd term, the Ministerial led group is actively examining the longer-term requirements, including sustainable funding models, maintenance needs, and opportunities for future development. Its work will inform decisions that ensure the canal's continued protection and enhancement beyond the current funding period.

I appreciate the Committee's continued interest in this issue and will ensure that updates are provided as our work progresses. We remain pleased to support this important initiative and are firmly committed to working in close partnership with all stakeholders to safeguard and enhance the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. Our shared aim is to ensure that the canal continues to thrive as a valued asset for local communities, a destination for visitors, and a contributor to the wider Welsh economy for many years to come.

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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.

Once again, thank you for writing to me on this important topic. I hope this information is helpful to you and or goes someway in answering your queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and horizontal strokes, positioned above the typed name.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

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