

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref fA5010892

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair, Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN
SeneddHinsawdd@senedd.cymru

26 February 2026

Dear Llyr,

Thank you for your letter of 11 February regarding the Ffos-y-Fran Land Reclamation Scheme.

The Welsh Government continues to closely monitor the situation at the site, with our priority remaining the safety of the local community and protection of the environment. Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council has provided Ministers with assurances regarding the site's current condition. The active contribution of key regulators through the Technical Working Group and the planning process is ensuring the best possible outcomes are being pursued for the people of Merthyr.

Senior officials have met with lead officers at the Council to reaffirm our commitment to supporting the development of a long term, managed solution. The ability to finance any agreed restoration works at Ffos-y-Fran will be an important factor in securing the best possible outcome for the community. The Council should seek the best achievable outcome in this regard.

The Welsh Government has made it clear that all parties must commit to transparent communication and the timely sharing of information. I understand and agree with the concerns expressed in correspondence to the Committee, particularly in relation to access to this information.

I understand that the Council is in the process of seeking legal advice in relation to the direction from the Information Commissioner. It will be for the Council to defend its position on the matter, including the failure to comply with the direction from the Information Commissioner.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

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.

The application for the revised restoration scheme is under active consideration for call-in, as are two planning applications relating to the Cwmbargoed Disposal Point. I hope to issue a decision on these cases following the next Technical Working Group at which the Council will provide an update on hydrology and geotechnical engineering information at the Ffos-y-Fran site which is still to be provided by the applicant to support the planning application.

The Technical Working Group comprises representatives from a number of public authorities, which share information and discuss the detail of the current status of the site, and the technical aspects of the proposed works.

A recent disclosure following a request made under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 lists a number of minutes of meetings of the Technical Working Group, and can be found on the Welsh Government website at <https://www.gov.wales/atisn24655>. This may also be helpful to Committee members and correspondents in understanding the detail of the technical work being undertaken by the group.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a distinct 'E'.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio