



Mark Isherwood MS  
Chair  
Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff CF99 1NA

25 February 2026

Dear Chair

**Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee – Wrexham AFC**

Further to the discussion at Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> February, Welsh Government has corresponded with Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC) regarding the Subsidy Control compliance arrangements for developing the support package awarded to Wrexham AFC. The total award was split into two phases – Tranche A for preparatory works and early installations, and Tranche B for the majority of the capital works in support of the achievement of UEFA Category 4 status for Stok Cae Ras. Those exchanges were as follows:

- In the lead-up to the 2022 award WCBC obtained external legal advice in relation to subsidy control, and the Welsh Government Subsidy Control Unit (SCU) were not approached for comment.
- In the lead-up to the 2024 award WCBC approached the SCU for advice on the subsidy control regime's Transparency requirement. At this point SCU officials identified that WCBC had not completed a Transparency registration for the 2022 award, with SCU officials supporting WCBC to undertake the process of a corrective registration.
- SCU officials then flagged with WCBC officials that the CMA referral requirement then in place for larger, more distortive awards of subsidy would apply to the proposed 2024 standalone subsidy award, and pointed to the existence of a suite of existing Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) subsidy schemes that might obviate the need for referral to the CMA if the proposed subsidy complied with their terms and conditions.
- WCBC officials reviewed the WLGA subsidy scheme suite and identified a WLGA subsidy scheme that would provide appropriate subsidy cover and awarded the 2024 support accordingly.
- On receipt of the relevant information from WCBC SCU officials registered this 2024 award on the UK Transparency database.

Parc Cathays/Cathays Park  
Caerdydd/Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

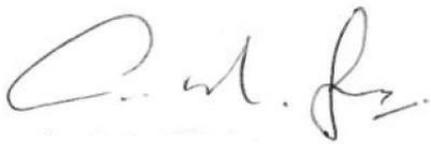
In response, WCBC acted as follows:

- Tranche A was issued for publishing on the official subsidy database for Transparency on 22nd March 2024, reference number 14857. There was a single response from a member of the public to that submission, objecting to the grant. The response was followed up through direct contact from WCBC. No further action was required.
- Tranche B was issued for publishing on the official subsidy database for Transparency on 23rd September 2025, reference number 42276. There have been no responses in relation to that grant.

I hope this addresses the queries you raised. Please let me know if the Committee requires any further information.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Slade', written in a cursive style.

**Andrew Slade**  
Director General  
Economy, Energy and Transport