

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1476
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/01557/25

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

3 March 2026

Dear Carolyn Thomas MS,

Thank you for your letter regarding Petition P-06-1476 1000 metre mandatory buffer zone for all new and existing quarries.

As I have outlined previously, I'm afraid it is not appropriate for the Welsh Government to pre-determine what may or may not be considered evidence. The development of evidence-based policy making relies on gathering information from an extensive range of sources and stakeholders in order to fully appraise and understand the impacts and implications of policy options before taking any final decision.

Society needs, and will continue to need for the foreseeable future, a wide range of minerals and ensuring the sustainable supply of minerals is a strategic issue which plays a fundamental underpinning role in supporting non-minerals development.

The overarching objective in planning for aggregates provision therefore is to ensure supply is managed in a sustainable way so that the best balance between environmental, economic and social considerations is struck, while making sure that the environmental and amenity impacts of any necessary extraction are kept to a level that avoids causing demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledged importance.

The key policy is to provide positively for the safeguarding and working of mineral resources to meet society's needs now and in the future, encouraging the efficient and appropriate use of high quality materials, whilst at the same time minimising the impacts on communities and the environment.

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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.

Should new evidence come to light in terms of new data on blasting, air quality limits or dust for instance, I would be happy to consider it. I would stress however the need for any new information or data to be of a robust nature and to have sought scientific consensus.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning

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