

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

Ein cyf/Our ref HIDCC/00449/25

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee

02 April 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 4 March regarding the petition received from Steven Gittins seeking Welsh Ministers to direct Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to revoke the environmental permit and ensure the closure of Enover's, Hafod Landfill Site in Wrexham.

As you are aware, NRW is the statutory decision maker responsible for regulating waste sites and they consider their regulatory action in line with their published [regulatory principles](#). All the facts and implications need to be considered before revoking a permit, including the consequences of any action on a company's ability to operate and whether revoking the permit could result in a worse outcome such as the site and waste being abandoned. In deciding what action to take the regulator assesses the risk posed and they work with the operator to bring the site back into compliance. Revoking the permit and closing the site would not immediately resolve the current odour issues, as ongoing management of leachate and landfill gas is required to minimise potential offsite impacts.

On Wednesday 19 March I met with NRW officers and Enover senior management and heard directly about the action being taken by the company to address the issues and the work NRW is doing to safeguard the environment and protect local communities. I was also updated on the work of the stakeholder and residents group which is providing the latest information on the action being taken and gives an important platform for local people to directly engage.

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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.

Whilst Welsh Ministers have the power to direct the regulator in the exercise of their functions, the purpose of this direction-making power is to direct specific action to be taken where it is appropriate in the circumstances for the decision to be taken by Welsh Ministers rather than by NRW. As the issues at Hafod landfill site are regulatory/operational decisions, I am confident that NRW as the regulator are best placed to determine the appropriate regulatory action and I therefore do not feel it is necessary to direct NRW to revoke the permit. NRW has a duty to regulate sites in accordance with the law. If they believe a site is not able to come back into compliance and poses a significant risk to the environment and people's health, the appropriate enforcement action will be taken.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Huw Irranca-Davies', written in a cursive style.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

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