

Ken Skates AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref Petition P-05-827  
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/02309/18

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee.

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

25 August 2018

*Dear David,*

Thank you for your letter of 25 July regarding P-05-827 Roads surrounding Trago Mills/  
Cyfartha Retail Park

Welsh Government are currently undertaking a study to investigate the levels of congestion on the A470 around Swansea Road Roundabout. The study will take into account the impact of the recently opened Trago Mills Store. The study involves stakeholder liaison with organisations such as Merthyr County Borough Council, who are the responsible Highways Authority for the local road network.

Appraised transportation solutions that are considered necessary and offer best value will be progressed in line with Welsh Government processes.

Multi-agency planning took place prior to the opening of the Trago Mills store on 21 April, in view of the anticipated visitor numbers to the area. We have installed temporary message signs and utilised existing variable message signing to inform drivers of expected delays on this section of the A470. Traffic information has also been publicised via the Traffic Wales web site and social media to assist drivers in planning their journeys. We have extended the Traffic Officer service and there has been a police presence in the area to assist with managing traffic flows during peak times.

Unfortunately there was insufficient time to finalise a temporary Park and Ride solution before the store opening and I appreciate the concerns raised. However, I can assure you my officials are working with the local authority to look at feasible short to medium term solutions.

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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.

The section of A470 around Trago Mills is currently being investigated and appraised to the requirements of the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG). Studies are on hold at the present time whilst unsettled traffic patterns and demands return back to average conditions following the opening of the Trago Mills Store. The 'bedding in' period is expected to last some 6 months, at which time the study will recommence by testing projected trends with those known post opening of Trago Mills. This sensitivity testing will better inform the appropriateness of the longer term solutions.

Appraised Transport interventions to address congestion on the A470 will be known once the Stage 2 studies along the corridor have been completed. Stage 2 is expected to be completed by early 2019. Short to Medium term measures will be progressed in the meantime.

*Yours ever,*



**Ken Skates AC/AM**

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