

From: XR Cymru Political Circle <xcymrupoliticalcircle@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 10:05 AM
To: Correspondence mail - JJ <Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.wales>
Cc: [Personal Information S40]; [Personal Information S40]; [Personal Information S40]; [Personal Information S40]
Subject: WHY MEET WITH EXTINCTION REBELLION CYMRU?

Dear Julie James

WHY MEET WITH EXTINCTION REBELLION CYMRU?

Congratulations on your election and securing such a comprehensive and important portfolio. No doubt you will be inundated with meeting requests.

Extinction Rebellion Cymru (XR) wish to help Welsh Government to move quickly to tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergency in Wales for a number of reasons:

- We believe we must move faster and work deeper than current Welsh policies and programmes propose, if there is to be any chance of Wales making its fair contribution to keeping global warming to within 1.5°C and of preventing more ecological damage.
- 21 elected Senedd Members (including yourself) signed up to the Six Principles - a significant cross party group who can be galvanised into supportive action.
<https://www.sixprinciples.org/>
- XR will work with Welsh Government and our Six Principles partners (including Future Generations Commission, Centre for Alternative Technology and Coed Cadw) to help meet difficult decisions head on and early enough to make a difference to the Low Carbon Delivery Plan. In particular, we will work to gather public support for the necessary changes to the lives of all people living in Wales.
- You have witnessed how a small community of people in Blaenau Gwent can progress important and radical decisions about their lives; why not consider deliberative democracy approaches at an all Wales level? Our members are ready to provide MSs and others with information and examples to assist their understanding and identify options.

We hope we can build on the good relationship with Welsh Government developed in the last few years and look forward to meeting with you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

[Personal Information S40]
[Personal Information S40]

Extinction Rebellion Cymru Wales Political Engagement

A PDF Ministerial response from Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change can be seen at Doc 1 – “ATISN 18641 - Doc 1 - JJ/10200/21 - Outgoing - Redacted PDF”.

From: [Personal Information S40] (Staff Cymorth yr Aelod | Member Support Staff) <[Personal Information S40]>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 10:06 AM
To: PS Minister for Climate Change <PSMCC@gov.wales>
Subject: FW: Letter of support from Extinction Rebellion.

Good morning

One for Julie as a Minister.

Kind regards

[Personal Information S40]

-----Original Message-----

From: [Personal Information S40]
Sent: 05 June 2021 10:06
To: James, Julie (Aelod o'r Senedd | Member of the Senedd)
<Julie.James@senedd.wales>
Subject: Letter of support from Extinction Rebellion.

Dear Julie

Congratulations on being re elected as our AM.

We are pleased that you have taken on the new role of minister for climate change. This is a great step in the right direction. We are sure you are fully aware of the dire situation we are now in concerning the climate and ecological crisis.

Your new role is not going to be an easy one.

The 1.5 degree limit on global warming governments talk about we know is no longer achievable, tipping points are being reached. People are already dying from the climate crisis. It is imperative that we act swiftly to limit the damage.

As you may know Extinction Rebellion has 3 demands

1. To tell the truth.

From our previous actions, the UK and Welsh governments 2 years ago declared a climate emergency which we hoped, was the start of a radical programme of change to address the crisis. However the truth of what we are facing has not been communicated in a fully honest and open way to the public. The mainstream media are not reporting on it as the emergency it is. You need to tell the truth. The public have a right to know. Really difficult and unpopular decisions will need to be made but if the public are told the truth those decisions will be understood and on the whole be supported. The pandemic has shown that this is possible.

2. Act Now.

You must act now to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025. This seems like an unachievable task. But this is an emergency. The Coronavirus Pandemic has shown what governments can do when there is an emergency. This same action needs to be taken with the climate and ecological emergency which is so much greater than the pandemic. We are facing extreme weather ,crop failure, mass migration, starvation, social unrest, mass extinctions and the end of civilisation as we know it. Some scientists believe this could happen within the next 10 years if multi breadbasket failure occurs due to the extreme droughts, flooding and fires we have been experiencing. By 2050 it is forecast that central Swansea in your constituency will be flooded by tidal surges.

3. Go Beyond Politics.

It has been obvious that successive governments over the past 30 years have not acted on the emergency due to lobbying by polluting corporations, party allegiances and ideologies. The normal way of doing politics has failed us as we now find ourselves in this desperate situation. We can see from the pandemic how cronyism and corruption has resulted in decisions made which have cost lives. To deal with the emergency we need to be led by the decisions of a citizens assembly on climate and ecological justice. Ordinary people from all walks of life with no political agenda being told the truth by experts about the climate crisis and collectively making the decisions to try and navigate the emergency.

It is imperative that no more time is wasted, we are running out of time. The targets for 2050 are far too late.

We the members of Extinction Rebellion Swansea are ordinary people from all walks of life with a shared love for all life on Earth and deeply concerned about the climate crisis. There are many members in the group well read and versed on environmental matters and the climate and ecological emergency. We wish wherever we can to support and help you in your role as Minister for Climate Change and would be happy to meet with you to discuss matters further.

We look forward to hearing from you

Best Wishes

Extinction Rebellion Swansea.

A PDF Ministerial response from Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change can be seen at Doc 2 - "ATISN 18641 - Doc 2- JJ/10398/21 - Outgoing - Redacted PDF".

From: XR Cymru Political Circle <xrcymrupoliticalcircle@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 6:11 PM
To: Julie James (Ministerial) <Julie.James@gov.wales>
Subject: Fwd: Comments on the CCEIC Meeting of 25th November 2021

Apologies, now sending to the right address.

From: **XR Cymru Political Circle** <xrcymrupoliticalcircle@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, 7 Dec 2021 at 18:06
Subject: Comments on the CCEIC Meeting of 25th November 2021
To: <Julie.James@senedd.wales>, <Llyr.Gruffydd@senedd.wales>

Dear Julie and Llyr

A number of our group watched the CCEIC meeting which took place on Thursday 25th November, either live or subsequently. In particular we observed the scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Net Zero Wales Plan agenda item.

We were encouraged by the mutually supportive nature of the meeting, and we are very glad to see progress being made in a range of areas. We thank you for what you, the Committee Members and others are doing to address the climate and ecological emergency in Wales.

Of course there are areas where we want to see more action and faster responses. We have summarised our observations and concerns in the appendix attached below.

We are glad to engage with Welsh politicians and look forward to future discussions,

Yours sincerely
XR Cymru Political Engagement Group.

This email had an PDF attachment with can be seen at Doc 3 - "ATISN 18641 - Doc 3 - Comments on CCEIC 25.11.21 from XR Cymru PE".

From: XR Cymru Political Circle <xrcymrupoliticalcircle@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 9:18 AM

To: DS Minister for Climate Change <DSMCC@gov.wales>

Subject: Fwd: Meeting with Lee Waters (Our ref DC/JJ/01685/22)

Dear [Personal Information S40]

Very sorry but I got [Personal Information S40] email address wrong when I wrote to you yesterday.

Please delete [Personal Information S40] and instead use:

[Personal Information S40]

Sorry to be a pain!

[Personal Information S40]

From: XR Cymru Political Circle <xrcymrupoliticalcircle@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, 10 Oct 2022 at 18:12

Subject: Re: Meeting with Lee Waters (Our ref DC/JJ/01685/22)

To: <DSMCC@gov.wales>

Cc: <DSMCC@gov.wales>, [Personal Information S40], [Personal Information S40], [Personal Information S40], [Personal Information S40], [Personal Information S40], [Personal Information S40], [Personal Information S40]

Dear [Personal Information S40]

Thank you for your email and the quick rescheduling of our meeting with Julie James.

I confirm that we can meet with the Minister on Thursday, 13th October at 5pm - 5.45 pm on Teams.

The members of our group who can come are:

[Personal Information S40], [Personal Information S40], [Personal Information S40], [Personal Information S40] and [Personal Information S40].

Our personal email addresses are cc'd to this email for you to send us the Teams link.

Many thanks and all good wishes

[Personal Information S40]

on behalf of XR Cymru Political Engagement team

On Mon, 10 Oct 2022 at 10:11, <DSMCC@gov.wales> wrote:

Dear [Personal Information S40],

With apologies for the short notice but unfortunately, we will need to reschedule this meeting tomorrow as the Minister needs to consider responses to the SUP Bill ahead of the General Principles debate during Plenary.

The Minister has availability on Thursday 13 October at 17:00 – 17:45 and I'd be grateful if you could confirm if this would be suitable please? This would still be over Teams.

Kind regards,

[Personal Information S40]



[Personal Information S40]

Diary Secretary to Julie James MS / Ysgrifennydd Dyddiadur i Julie James AS

Minister for Climate Change / Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd

Cabinet Division / Is-adran y Cabinet

Welsh Government / Llywodraeth Cymru

E-mail / E-bost DSMCC@gov.wales | DSMCC@llyw.cymru

From: XR Cymru Political Circle <xrcymrupoliticalcircle@gmail.com>

Sent: 19 September 2022 18:24

To: DS Minister for Climate Change <DSMCC@gov.wales>

Cc: [Personal Information S40]

Subject: Re: Meeting with Lee Waters (Our ref DC/JJ/01685/22)

Dear [Personal Information S40]

Many thanks for your email and invitation to meet with the Climate Change Minister on 11th October.

We confirm our acceptance and look forward to the meeting.

Yours sincerely

[Personal Information S40]

on behalf of XR Cymru Political Engagement group

On Fri, 16 Sept 2022 at 15:23, <DSMCC@gov.wales> wrote:

Dear [Personal Information S40],

Thank you for your email. Please note, there have been some changes to the responsibilities in the climate change portfolio within the Welsh Government. The Deputy Minister is currently focussing solely on the ambitious reform programme in transport required to address climate change. These changes take place with immediate effect. External communication on this has been delayed by the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. I wanted to keep you up to date in the meantime and going forward, you will receive responses from the Minister for Climate Change's office.

The earliest availability the Minister has to meet with XR is on Tuesday 11 October at 09:30 – 10:15 over Microsoft Teams. I'd be grateful if you can confirm if this is suitable please?

Regarding regular meetings, unfortunately, given additional diary pressures, we cannot commit to a regular series of meetings.

Kind regards,

[Personal Information S40]



[Personal Information S40]

Office of Julie James MS / [Swyddfa Julie James AS](#)
Minister for Climate Change / [Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd](#)

Cabinet Division / [Is-adran y Cabinet](#)

Welsh Government / [Llywodraeth Cymru](#)

From: XR Cymru Political Circle <xrcymrupoliticalcircle@gmail.com>

Sent: 12 September 2022 15:20

To: DS Deputy Minister for Climate Change <DSDMCC@gov.wales>

Subject: Meeting with Lee Waters

Dear [Personal Information S40],

Thank you for keeping us in the loop. We haven't been able to arrange a meeting with the M Minister yet. It would be helpful to re-establish the quarterly meetings with the deputy minister.

Please will you send some possible dates to the PE group?

Many thanks,

[Personal Information S40]

From: PS Minister for Climate Change <PSMCC@gov.wales>
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 1:36 PM
To: DS Minister for Climate Change <DSMCC@gov.wales>
Cc: PS Minister for Climate Change <PSMCC@gov.wales>
Subject: FW: URGENT REQUEST FOR A MEETING

Could you send for advice please [Personal Information S40]
[Personal Information S40]

From: [Personal Information S40]< [Personal Information S40]>
Sent: 01 August 2022 19:25
To: Julie James (Ministerial) <Julie.James@gov.wales>
Cc: xrcymrupoliticalcircle@gmail.com; [Personal Information S40]; [Personal Information S40];
[Personal Information S40]; [Personal Information S40]; [Personal Information S40]
Subject: Fw: URGENT REQUEST FOR A MEETING

Dear Minister,

While understanding that the Senedd is in recess and that you might be taking holiday, we're disappointed not to have received a response to our letter attached, requesting a meeting. I've had the pleasure of meeting you on 2 occasions, although not recently, and have welcomed your candour and straight talking. I hope you've felt that we have been similarly honest about Welsh Government plans and we feel that now is the time for another meeting.

As stated below, we feel extremely concerned about the seeming lack of progress being made on addressing the Climate and Ecological Emergency in Wales and would like to understand better the urgency with which work is being undertaken. Since writing on 13th July two new factors have emerged: 1) the unprecedented temperatures in Wales and a temperature of more than 40C in England has brought climate change to the front of many peoples' minds. This perhaps provides a rare opportunity for Welsh Government to gain public support for radical action; 2) Against this background it was of great concern to hear Sir Keir Starmer's speech last week where he pledged the UK Labour Party to "Growth, Growth, Growth". Our concern is that a focus on growth seems to cut across the need to decarbonise and reduce humanity's impact on our fragile Earth.

We would like to understand the position of Welsh Government on how best to accelerate the decarbonisation journey so that Wales can become a beacon of hope on this most serious of issues.

Looking forward to your reply.

Best regards,

[Personal Information S40]
behalf of

Political Engagement Team

Extinction Rebellion Cymru

From: XR Cymru Political Circle <xrcymrupoliticalcircle@gmail.com>
Sent: 01 August 2022 18:02
To: [Personal Information S40]
Subject: Fwd: URGENT REQUEST FOR A MEETING

----- Forwarded message -----

From: XR Cymru Political Circle <xrcymrupoliticalcircle@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, 13 Jul 2022 at 07:26
Subject: URGENT REQUEST FOR A MEETING
To: <Julie.James@senedd.wales>
Cc: [Personal Information S40], [Personal Information S40]

Dear Julie,

It seems a long time since we met with you before the last election. We applaud the work you are devoting to your vital role as Minister for Climate Change. We also understood why you suggested we meet with Lee Waters as your deputy who has been very helpful.

We have also had regular meetings with Llyr Gryffydd and more recently with Claire Chappell, which we believe she has mentioned to you.

We are writing to see if you have some time over the recess to meet with us. **Our main concern is the need for immediate action on the Climate and Ecological Emergency and the seeming lack of a sense of urgency in the Welsh Government's response.** We have been urging the Welsh Government to act since 2019! We recognize that it is often difficult to make the wheels of government turn faster but they did so during the pandemic. The situation we face now is equally serious as outlined by the recent CCC Progress Report.

As stakeholders we have expressed the need for speed in our response about the developing **Behaviour Change Strategy**. Claire was very clear that she is working as quickly as possible with substantial resources and there is no delay in the programme. But we are worried that the programme appears to cover a number of stages leading up to a formal consultation in the autumn. This we feel indicates that **the need to engage the public is not being treated by the Welsh Government and the First Minister with sufficient urgency.**

We continue to express our deep concern about the coal mine at Aberpergwm to all the politicians we have met and encountered. We are calling for a briefing of Senedd members about this issue to counter the propaganda by the coal mine owners.

The strength of feeling of the wider XR Cymru membership was demonstrated at the protest held at Aberpergwm last weekend. ([Http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-62116194](http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-62116194).) Welsh protesters were joined by rebels from Bristol and the Southwest of

England, to signify that an extension to mining in Wales is a UK-wide issue. In fact, it is a global issue which will give a deeply damaging message from Wales to the whole world. Whilst many of us can see and appreciate the efforts being made by Senedd politicians, people cannot comprehend that there is silence on this particular issue, and conclude that silence is consent to 'business as usual', which at the time of climate emergency, is condoning further death and destruction of people and planet. We are therefore asking you to meet with us, and to rethink immediately the Welsh Government stance on Aberpergwm.

We are aware of the pressures on your time but the rest of this government term is crucial to the achievement of Welsh targets on Net Zero and the actions recommended by the CCC. As these actions and the above topics go to the heart of government we consider that a meeting with you is critical and timely.

Best Regards

[Personal Information S40], [Personal Information S40]

on behalf of

Political Engagement Team

Extinction Rebellion Cymru

From: XR Cymru Political Circle <xrcymrupoliticalcircle@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 21, 2022 8:47 AM

To: Julie.James@senedd.wales

Cc: DS Minister for Climate Change <DSMCC@gov.wales>; [Personal Information S40]; [Personal Information S40]; [Personal Information S40]; [Personal Information S40]; [Personal Information S40]; [Personal Information S40]; [Personal Information S40]; [Personal Information S40]; [Personal Information S40]; Lee.Waters@senedd.wales

Subject: Follow up to our meeting on 13 October

Dear Minister for Climate Change

We would like to thank you for your time and the helpful atmosphere at the meeting last week. We also appreciate the opportunity to influence the Public Engagement and Action Strategy before publication.

There are some further points we would like to make:

- The delay of the national media strategy until early 2023 is an example in our view that the Welsh Government is not yet acting at a speed required to meet the growing emergency that the Welsh population face;
- That such a media strategy needs to be fronted by Welsh Government Ministers; in particular the First Minister needs to explain to the Welsh people, at the outset, why decarbonisation is vital and urgent, and ask for the whole-hearted cooperation of everyone in this national endeavour.
- We are hoping that the document about to be published is a structured strategy with aims, objectives, proposed methods for achievement, and time-scales, and not only a set of principles and ideas;
- If the aim is to target harder to reach and/or local community groups, helping them to use deliberative democratic approaches, there needs to be consistency and **support** around the approaches used by those individuals and groups (methods and outcomes across all groups/areas).

We feel strongly that there is an important role for a more deliberative approach to maximise the buy-in of ordinary citizens and will be sending you a briefing paper about how it can be done effectively and efficiently without huge expense.

With regard to the extraction of coal, we understand your specific role makes it difficult for you to comment. However, we are not aware that it binds the First Minister or other Ministers to silence. We need a Welsh Government statement that says “to extract more fossil fuels is madness”, and for it to take action to prevent local councils from approving such applications as just announced in Scotland.

We look forward to reading the Strategy published this week.

Best regards

PE Team

A PDF Ministerial response from Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change can be seen at Doc 4 – “ATISN 18641 - Doc 4 - JJ/02380/23 - Outgoing”.

From: XR Cymru Political Circle <xrcymrupoliticalcircle@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 3:56 PM
To: Julie James (Ministerial) <Julie.James@gov.wales>; Lee Waters (Ministerial) <Lee.waters@gov.wales>
Cc: mark.drakeford@gov.wales; Llyr.Gruffydd@senedd.wales
Subject: Public Engagement and Action Strategy - Summary consultation response by XR Cymru

Dear Ministers

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Government's Public Engagement and Action Strategy on the climate emergency. We have written detailed comments on the draft Strategy which are attached in a document below, and will also be sent through the formal consultation process. This email contains some headline comments we wanted to make to you.

XR Cymru have been working in good faith with the Welsh Government since 2019. We appreciate the time politicians have listened to us and the chance to influence the public consultation strategy.

We also recognise that the Welsh Government is streets ahead of England and the UK in its consideration of behaviour change.

However, whilst there are positives within this document, **it does not fully address our concerns about the rate of progress, which is not yet commensurate with the emergency we face.** It represents to us the flaws in the Welsh Government's approach to the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE). We are, therefore, eager to work with the Welsh Government to do whatever we can to help accelerate progress.

We'd like to summarise our response to this document by revisiting and restating Extinction Rebellion's 3 Demands and how they relate to this consultation.

1 TELL THE TRUTH

- **The Welsh public need to hear the truth from the top of the Welsh Government, a request we made in 2019.** This has yet to happen, to the extent and detail required for people to learn and begin a faster, timely response to the climate crisis. We feel it is critical that the publicity campaign that will be launched in 2023 and the Welsh Government's planned new on-line hub fully address the significant gap that has existed thus far in tone as much as content.
- **The Welsh public need to know that the next seven years are crucial in limiting global heating to 1.5C and be receptive to reviewing their lifestyles and be prepared to act accordingly.** People need to know that it is likely that science will demand an earlier net zero target date than 2050 for both the UK and Wales. We understand the science behind that 'levelling' off of carbon emissions means concentrations of atmospheric CO2 would still be far too high to satisfy climate and environmental stability. Current projections

suggest significant overshoot of the 1.5C target is now likely, with the UN now saying that, based on current national commitments, average global temperature is likely to be at least 2.5C.

- **Documents on Net Zero, including this strategy need to be in plain language.** It also needs to be available in appropriate languages, as well as be available in a variety of formats, for maximising accessibility, sharing and responses. This document, though part of the government consultation process, is not suitable for general consultation; it appears to be mainly targeted at interest groups.

2 ACT NOW

- **This timing of this consultation is representative of the lack of urgency shown by the Welsh Government in engaging with the Welsh people.** The national media campaign and public engagement should have started in 2019, and be ongoing. It should continually monitor the success of its impact and support the direction of future communications.
- **It is now vital that the media campaign begins early in 2023,** as previously indicated to XR Cymru, and should not await the analysis of this consultation document. Though there are many issues competing for people's attention, any delay will be counterproductive at the very least (and potentially catastrophic at worst)
- The campaign needs to be high impact, comprehensive, continuous and led by the First Minister.

3 DECIDE TOGETHER - CITIZENS ASSEMBLIES/DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY

- **Academic research shows that people change their behaviour if fully engaged in the decision making process.** It has also demonstrated that people want change that they believe to be just.
- The XR Cymru Political Engagement group acknowledges there are cost implications of effective deliberative democracy processes. However, we also believe that this is a necessary process to save resources and further ecological and climate damage in the long-run from lack of buy-in by the public. Public comprehension of the issues and commitment to action necessitates effective deliberation and engagement.
- National exercises in deliberative democracy should be viewed as a key investment in helping secure the progress we all know is essential. They offer value for money and potential for Welsh people and wildlife to thrive longer term rather than being viewed as an unaffordable short term expense.
- We are frustrated that the Welsh Government seems to put emphasis on targeted exercises by "trusted messengers". Though this may result in community level action, such exercises will not provide consistency of approach or results, nor have sufficient impact on the Welsh media and public perception to be effective beyond the target groups.

- We remain convinced of the benefits of deliberative democracy at both the national and local authority level. This is the most effective way to help the Welsh Government make difficult decisions about future policy. An informed public is a civic asset that meets the goals of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act.
- To assist the Welsh Government, we have produced a briefing note on deliberative democracy for the Climate Change Minister.

TO CONCLUDE:

Only a truthful and timely national focus on the climate and ecological emergency and effectively publicised high level deliberative democracy activity will have the necessary impact on the understanding and behaviour of the Welsh public.

Once again, thank you for your time, and we look forward to future meetings,

Yours sincerely

XR Cymru Political Engagement group

This email came with a PDF attachment which can be seen at “ATISN 18641 - Doc 5 - Consultation response by XR Cymru to the Welsh Government Draft Public Engagement and Action Strategy December 2022”.

From: XR Cymru Political Circle <xrcymrupoliticalcircle@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 3:50 PM
To: Julie James (Ministerial) <Julie.James@gov.wales>
Cc: [Personal Information S40]; [Personal Information S40]
Subject: Participatory and deliberative democracy in Wales - briefing note from XR Cymru PE group

Dear Minister

At our last meeting with you on 11th October, you invited us to send you a briefing note about participatory and deliberative democracy in Wales. We've now completed this, and it's attached below. It's taken us a bit longer than we thought, because we've had discussions with a number of people who are pursuing participatory and deliberative democracy in different ways, and have included their perspectives. It is a summary of where we think progress has been made, and where developments could go next. We'd be happy to discuss the details with you or others.

Many thanks for the opportunity to offer this to you,

Yours sincerely
XR Cymru Political Engagement group

This email came with a PDF attachment which can be seen at ATISN 18641 - Doc 6 - Participatory and deliberative democracy briefing note from XR Cymru PE group requested by Julie James - December 2022".

From: XR Cymru Political Circle <xrcymrupoliticalcircle@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 12:40 PM
To: James, Julie (Aelod o'r Senedd | Member of the Senedd) <Julie.James@senedd.wales>
Cc: [Personal Information S40]; [Personal Information S40]; [Personal Information S40]; [Personal Information S40]
Subject: MEETING REQUEST AND COAL MINES

Dear Minister

We have considered the decision of the courts on the action taken by the Coal Action Network against the Welsh Government and the Coal Authority. In particular, Section 103 which states:

“ Welsh Ministers correctly decided that they had no power pursuant to S26A to make a determination...”

We are writing to ask you and the Welsh Government how you are now going to approach the continuation of the mining of coal in Aberpergwm, given your policy commitment to no new fossil fuels?

We note that the UK Energy Bill is in the Committee stage. Will the Welsh Government be asking for an amendment to clarify Section 26A of the Coal Industry Act so that the powers are truly devolved? Are there other examples in Wales of this loophole?

Will the Welsh Government put pressure on the UK Government to use and amend the Coal Industry Act to alter the approval decision of the Coal Authority to allow mining to continue at Aberpergwm?

Will you and the Welsh Government now join, or at least voice your support for, the campaign initiated by the Coal Action Network and assist it in appealing the recent legal decision?

We suggest that this is an important moment for everyone in Wales, the Welsh Government included. We need everyone to stand up for a coal-free future for Wales, and an end to new extraction of fossil fuels. There are other Welsh mines operating without permission or seeking extensions. Words are fine but action is required. If mining continues on this scale, all the effort that Welsh Government is putting into behaviour change will be to no avail.

Will you and Wales stand out from the crowd? Given all of the warnings we do not think this is a radical position to take.

(https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/may/17/global-heating-climate-crisis-record-temperatures-wmo-research?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other).

We also note the recent disappointing progress report by the UK Climate Change Committee. We would therefore request a meeting to discuss the way forward for Net Zero Wales and fossil fuels in particular.

Best Regards

[Personal Information S40] on behalf of
Extinction Rebellion Cymru Political Engagement Team

A Ministerial response had not been drafted at the time of this FOI request.