

From: Algar, Andrea (Staff Cymorth yr Aelod | Member Support Staff)

[REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 4:17 PM

To: Correspondence mail - JJ <Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.wales>

Subject: Query via Huw Irranca-Davies MS (Case Ref: HI2694)

Hi,

Please see below correspondence for the attention of the Minister and I have also attached the letter Huw refers to in his correspondence.

Dear Julie,

Could I request a meeting at your earliest opportunity, to discuss an ongoing issue of poorly installed energy-efficiency measures in properties in Caerau in my constituency. I have previously met and discussed this with Lesley Griffiths earlier this year, along with Cllr Huw David the Leader of BCBC. I attach a letter which I follows a meeting I had with Lesley Griffiths in March, which may help you.

In short, one particular company involved in the installation of external wall cladding in the Caerau area several years ago has left over a hundred properties badly damaged. Over twenty of these properties were installed under the Arbed scheme and administered locally by Bridgend County Borough Council. The remainder were installed under the CESP and CERT programmes of the UK government. The commons factor is the sub-standard installation by the contractor.

Even though BCBC was not directly involved in the installations, the local authority has committed publicly to making good the damage to the properties which they administered under the Arbed scheme locally. That bill may come to in excess of £1m, which I do not believe should fall on the local authority to the further detriment of local residents. That still leaves the vast majority of properties installed under the parallel CESP and CERT schemes damaged, and detrimental to the health and well-being of the residents.

Trading Standards were unable to take action, not least as the company involved in the installations folded long ago. The local authority is not directly responsible, but has accepted that it will seek to act on the over twenty properties administered under the Arbed scheme. The regulator will not take responsibility. Neither will the energy companies whose levy underpins Arbed (and CERT and CESP). Neither – up to this

moment – has the Welsh Government or UK government wanted to take responsibility.

This has the potential to undermine confidence in energy efficiency measures locally, and perhaps beyond. But moreover, local people have been left with badly damaged properties, with no responsible organisation to help them get remediation or redress.

I therefore seek your help and advice. I believe that this may need both UK and Welsh Government to work with stakeholders to put together a funded scheme of repairs for the affected Caerau properties. This may also need consideration of how to resolve such issues if they were to happen in future too.

I hope we can meet, together with your officials if that would help, as soon as possible,

My kind regards,

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

Kind regards,

Andrea

Andrea Algar

Senior Caseworker / Uwch Weithiwr Achos

Huw Irranca-Davies MS/AS

Member of the Senedd for Ogmore/Aeolod o'r Senedd dros Ogwr

Welsh Labour and Co-operative/Llafur Cymru a Chydweithredol

