

**Prif Gynllunydd, Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gynllunio Chief Planner,  
Planning Directorate**

To: All Chief Planning Officers

1 April 2026

Dear Colleagues,

**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (COAL AND PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT)  
(NOTIFICATION) (WALES) DIRECTION 2026**

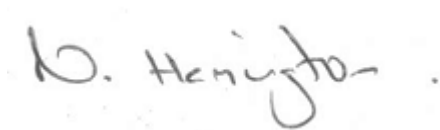
I am writing to inform you about the new Direction above.

The Town and Country Planning (Notification) (Coal and Petroleum) (Wales) Direction 2018 sets out where a local planning authority does not propose to refuse a planning application for the development of petroleum or the development of coal, they must refer the application to the Welsh Ministers.

The 2018 Direction has been cancelled and replaced by this new Direction which updates the definition of "coal and petroleum development" to explicitly confirm that coal, extracted from mineral-working deposits, including disused tips is included within the scope of the direction

This new Direction will apply to any application for planning permission registered as valid on or after 7 April 2026.

Yours faithfully,



**Neil Hemington  
Prif Gynllunydd, Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gynllunio  
Chief Planner, Planning Directorate**