

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Latest press release Gwaelod-y-garth
Date: 14 August 2026 12:31:58
Attachments: [image.png](#)

[REDACTED].

As discussed in the meeting today this was the updated release as of yesterday.

Thanks [REDACTED], much appreciated. See revised:

A Health and Safety Executive spokesperson said:

"We recognise the concern this incident has caused for local residents of Gwaelod-y-Garth, particularly those living close to the quarrying operations. HSE inspectors attended the site within 24 hours and are investigating the causes and implications of this incident, which remains ongoing, while Cardiff Council is leading and coordinating the recovery. Our initial findings indicate this is an isolated incident unique to this quarry and its location, and there are no immediate implications for quarrying operations at other locations."

Background:

A Quarries Inspector and a Mines Inspector have visited the Taff's Well Quarry and gone underground in the Garth Iron Mine to conduct site investigations. HSE has received assurances from Breedon's geotechnical specialists, supported by observations made underground by HSE's Mines Inspector, that the integrity of the mine voids and adit has not been compromised. On that basis, the recovery operation and investigation were able to proceed.

This is an isolated incident where a substantial quantity of rock from a planned blast entered one of four interconnected known bodies of water collected in the old iron mine workings. A significant volume of that water was displaced out of an existing mine adit (tunnel).

The quarry and mine had been subject to geotechnical assessment by specialists, the information used in the development of the blast design by specialist blasting contractors, and engineered blast mitigation measures by specialist contractors. This will be the focus of our ongoing investigations.

Quarries are regulated under the Quarries Regulations 1999, in line with HSE's Major Hazard Regulatory Model (MHRM). Targeted interventions focus on major hazard topic areas,

including blasting and explosives, to assess quarry operators' compliance with statutory provisions. Restrictions on blast vibration intensities are imposed by the local mineral planning authority as part of site-specific planning permission, and compliance is monitored using remote vibration equipment and enforced by the MPA.

Due to the unique circumstances of the Taff's Well incident, HSE does not consider it appropriate to suspend blasting activities at other sites at this time. HSE will continue its investigation and take enforcement action in line with the Enforcement Management Model (EMM). Where wider findings relevant to the quarrying industry are identified, these will be shared through a safety alert and/or liaison with trade associations. HSE is also liaising with Natural Resources Wales, who are leading the investigation into environmental impacts.

If you have any questions or queries though, please get in touch



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