



David Rees AM

Assembly Member for Aberavon

Labour  Llafur



Proposed new prison



Baglan Industrial Park

DAVID REES AC /AM

Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberafan
Assembly Member for Aberavon

Ein cyf/Our Ref: 146-55719

Sam Gyimah MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary
State for Prisons and Probation
Ministry for Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

29 March 2017

Dear Sam,

Thank you for your telephone call relating to the decision by the Ministry of Justice to site a new prison within my constituency of Aberavon. I appreciate that this forms part of a £1.3 billion proposal which would build four prisons, two of which would be new and 2 of which would be replacements, and that these four include a site in Port Talbot. Whilst I welcome the possibility of a multi-million pound investment project within my constituency and the opportunities which that investment would bring your discussion over the telephone provided brief information and lacked detail with regard to the proposal. I would therefore be appreciative of your ability to provide more detail and clarify points I have identified below.

Could you provide details as to how many sites for the construction of a new prison were considered across South Wales.

Could you provide details as to the criteria used by the Ministry of Justice to select candidate sites for the location of a new prison.

Could you provide the criteria used by the Ministry of Justice to select the most suitable sites from the list of candidate sites that you established within South Wales.

Can you provide the detail as to the criteria used in identifying the specific site in Port Talbot as the only one within South Wales which the Ministry of Justice considered to be appropriate for a new prison.

Could you please provide details as to what alternative sites within Port Talbot were presented and what criteria were being used to decide whether those sites would be suitable or not.

Will the Ministry of Justice consider new sites now and what criteria need to be reflective for the suitability of these sites.

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Could any alternative site be a combination of public owned and private owned land and would the Ministry of Justice consider such possibilities.

Could you confirm whether the new prison will be classified as a category C prison and could you confirm the minimum and maximum number of inmates that are being considered for the prison.

Could you provide details as to whether the prison would create new jobs and, if so, how many? Or would it be a situation where it is possible that one of the other prisons within South Wales (which are considered to be of the Victorian era and not meeting necessary standards i.e. Swansea and/or Cardiff) would close resulting in staff being transferred from those to the new prison in Port Talbot thereby reducing the number of new jobs created in Port Talbot.

Could you provide information as to the number of meetings your officers/officials from the Ministry of Justice have had with officials from both Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and the Welsh Government in relation to this particular site.

Could you provide details of how many meetings your officers/officials have had with officials from other councils and Welsh Government in relation to other sites.

I am sure that you will note from the above that there is much concern in relation to how the Ministry of Justice came to decide upon this location as suitable and appropriate for a new prison and as such it is important that transparency is ensured. To that end, I hope that as much information as possible is placed into the public domain which would reassure the local community that proper processes have been followed and that due consideration has been given to every possible site that may be appropriate for a new prison in Wales.

It is also important that the local community understands and partakes in the process which now follows the announcement and I would therefore ask as to when the Ministry of Justice intends to undertake a consultation process within Port Talbot regarding the proposals to site a new prison on Baglan Moors and what form that consultation will take. Are you considering a separate consultation process prior to submission of a planning application or do you consider the planning application process to be sufficient for such a consultation? You may be unaware of the specifics of the location but I am informed that the site, which is on land on Baglan Industrial Estate, borders a Resource Centre housing 4 GP practices, a care home housing up to 60

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residents, and a housing estate with approximately 300 homes. Also within half a mile of site there is a brand new 1800 place 3-16 school and the local district hospital is also located within half a mile. The site is at the heart of a major area in Port Talbot and thus the ability of the Ministry of Justice to consult with local residents, local business and local community groups is essential in moving forward.

Could you also confirm as to what conditions the Ministry of Justice will put in place within the procurement agreement, and subsequent contract that will be offered to a developer, to ensure that a large proportion of work is undertaken by local companies and that local people are employed. Could you also identify as to what percentage of the estimated staff at the prison will be recruited locally and what percentage is anticipated to be transferred from other prisons. Could you also confirm as to what arrangements will be put into place for the development of a supply chain to be focused upon local businesses to offer local opportunities plus training and skills development.

Whilst you may confirm that it is to be identified as a category C prison are there any intentions to have any components/sections within the prison which will host inmates other than a category C and if so how many and what categories.

I am sure you will appreciate that my constituents have expressed many questions that seek answers and the answers are in some of the details I have sought. I also recognise that further details would become available in a planning application but at this stage the vagueness is not supportive of the community and we need to ensure that as much accurate information is made available to the community as possible. Therefore, I look forward to you responses to the above points in order to allow me to serve my constituents and to be able to provide information as requested by them.

Yours sincerely,



DAVID REES AM
Assembly Member for Aberavon



Ministry
of Justice

Sam Gyimah MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State for Justice

David Rees AM
Water Street Business Centre
Water Street
Port Talbot
SA12 6LF

MoJ ref: MC43690
Your ref: 146-55719

24 April 2016

Dear David

NEW PRISON AT PORT TALBOT

Thank you for your letter of 29 March about the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice's announcement to build a new prison in your constituency of Aberavon. I am pleased that you welcome the decision and that your constituents are interested in the development of the prison estate.

The development will benefit the community socially and economically creating a range of permanent, varied and high quality work for local people and supporting the construction sector. We cannot yet put a figure on how the economic benefit to Port Talbot but, as a guide to what you might expect, around £78 million was spent with Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) when the new prison at Berwyn in North Wales was being designed and built. A further £35 million was spent in the 50 miles around the site. Over 70 apprenticeships have also been created and 90 people previously unemployed now have jobs.

Port Talbot's new prison is planned to have a lifespan of over 60 years and will be designed to support rehabilitation and resettlement. It will hold, when it opens, male, category C prisoners but this may vary as the prison population changes over the lifespan of the prison.

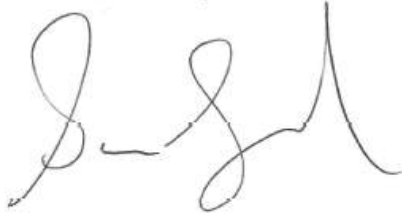
231 local authorities in England and Wales were asked to identify sites for new prisons in their areas. From local authority responses and previous information held by the Department, potential prison sites - including Port Talbot - have been identified based on where prison places are needed and take into account the size of the site, capacity of local infrastructure and the impact on local transport. Environmental factors are also considered. Decisions about future sites will likely follow the same process.

The Ministry of Justice talks to the Welsh Government and relevant councils when developing plans for new and redevelopment prison sites. We welcome comments from local residents, businesses and stakeholders and make this possible through the local planning process and wider public consultation. No decisions, other than those already announced, have been made. Announcements on prison closures will be made later in the year.

The proposed prison development in Port Talbot will create additional permanent, varied and high quality employment opportunities. The prison will create a diverse range of new jobs ranging from those needing professional qualifications, skilled and semi-skilled work, through to roles with low entrance requirements. The building of the new prison will support the local construction sector.

Once again, I thank you and your constituents for your interest in and support for this exciting project.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Gyimah', with a stylized, cursive script.

SAM GYIMAH MP

DAVID REES AC /AM

Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberafan

Assembly Member for Aberavon

Ein. cyf/Our Ref: 146-55719

Sam Gyimah MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Prisons & Probation
Ministry for Justice
102 Petty France
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02 May 2017

Dear Minister,

I write to express my anger and shock upon reading your response to my letter of 28th March 2017 regarding issues and concerns raised by constituents and myself following the announcement by the Secretary of State that a new prison would be built in Port Talbot. Your letter fails to answer my detailed questions and misinterprets my position regarding the proposal. I must initially stress that in your response you state in your opening paragraph that 'I welcomed the decision' and 'my support' for this project in the final sentence. To be clear, I welcomed the possibility of a multimillion pound investment project into my constituency but not specifically this particular project, especially at the location which has now been identified. I would also stress that the interests of many of my constituents are those of opposition to the proposal and not of support for the project. Therefore it is important to ensure that this is made clear to yourself and your officials at the Ministry for Justice so that everyone understands the concerns and issues around the proposal rather than assuming an overwhelming support for such a project. Far from believing this to be an "exciting project", many constituents and myself have serious concerns.

I am amazed and hugely disappointed that your response fails to provide detailed answers to the 11 numbered issues raised within my letter along with the failure to propose a full consultation process before a planning application is submitted by the Ministry of Justice. With regard to the latter point, it appears that the Ministry of Justice wishes to simply to rely on the planning process to undertake such a consultation I would have hoped that the Ministry of Justice would have taken a responsible approach by having a consultation period with the community prior to submitting an application to ensure that everyone was fully engaged with the proposal and purpose of the application, if one arrives.

I now hope that, rather than providing a brief summarised version of the responses to my 11 points, you would provide detailed responses in answering the specific points asked in my original letter (see Annex A for those points). Unfortunately your response appears to be one that indicates that there is a lack of detail to your proposal, a lack of consideration of the local community and their local representatives and a lack of respect for people who live, and will continue to live,

and work, and will continue to work, in the areas around the proposed site. I would hope that your next response will provide the respect that is due and provide the detail that I have asked for.

However, your letter does highlight provide further information that needs clarification with more detail and I hope that this could also be provided in your next response:

- You state that the type of prisoners will be Category C male prisoners but this may vary once it is operational, indicating that the new prison will have a lifespan of over 60 years. It is important that further clarity regarding this particular point is provided; what variation could occur -will it then be varied into providing a site for category C and B or even category A prisoners being located there? What numbers for each category would be considered appropriate for such a prison? What processes will be followed to allow such a variation? What proposals are in place now to ensure that there is sufficient consideration in any design that might take place for an application to be submitted? What infrastructures would be required? Would such a variation be based on the closures of both Swansea and Cardiff Prisons, which do include category B prisoners, and is something that I understand is under consideration by the Ministry of Justice.
- If prison closures occur, which is a decision to be taken later this year according to your response, how many of the jobs which will be lost due to closure will be relocated to this new prison and thus how many 'new' long term job opportunities would be available to the local population?
- You identify that 231 local authorities across England & Wales were asked to identify suitable sites but fail to identify a) how many responded and b) how many were in South Wales.
- You have not indicated whether this prison would be operated by a private organisation or would come under the umbrella of HMP and thus operated under the public sector. What process will be used in making this decision? Will local communities have any part in this process?
- You indicate that identification of potential sites was based upon the following: where prison places are needed; size of the site; capacity of local infrastructure; impact upon local transport; Environmental factors. You add no detail to each of these and it is important to understand the importance of each and the specific aspects that were considered for each. To that end I ask for such detail including the evidence for:
 - o the suggestion that prison places are needed in South Wales (and specifically in the Port Talbot area);
 - o any traffic analysis that has been undertaken;
 - o the size of site which was required;
 - o the environmental factors that were considered;
 - o capacity of local infrastructure, including utilities;

It is clear there is an underlying tone to this proposal which is not being made explicit and I believe it is now time for such detailed information to be made available to the

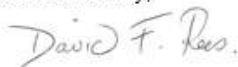
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public so that a full understanding of this proposal is available to all. If your letter indicates that this is the kind of engagement that we can expect throughout this process –failing to respect the valid concerns of local people and their representatives – it is inevitable that this project will fail to win any support.

Yours sincerely,



DAVID REES AM

Assembly Member for Aberavon

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Annex A:

1. Could you provide details as to how many sites for the construction of a new prison were considered across South Wales.
2. Could you provide details as to the criteria used by the Ministry of Justice to select candidate sites for the location of a new prison.
3. Could you provide the criteria used by the Ministry of Justice to select the most suitable sites from the list of candidate sites that you established within South Wales.
4. Can you provide the detail as to the criteria used in identifying the specific site in Port Talbot as the only one within South Wales which the Ministry of Justice considered to be appropriate for a new prison.
5. Could you please provide details as to what alternative sites within Port Talbot were presented and what criteria were being used to decide whether those sites would be suitable or not.
6. Will the Ministry of Justice consider new sites now and what criteria need to be reflective for the suitability of these sites.
7. Could any alternative site be a combination of public owned and private owned land and would the Ministry of Justice consider such possibilities.
8. Could you confirm whether the new prison will be classified as a category C prison and could you confirm the minimum and maximum number of inmates that are being considered for the prison.
9. Could you provide details as to whether the prison would create new jobs and, if so, how many? Or would it be a situation where it is possible that one of the other prisons within South Wales (which are considered to be of the Victorian era and not meeting necessary standards i.e. Swansea and/or Cardiff) would close resulting in staff being transferred from those to the new prison in Port Talbot thereby reducing the number of new jobs created in Port Talbot.
10. Could you provide information as to the number of meetings your officers/officials from the Ministry of Justice have had with officials from both Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and the Welsh Government in relation to this particular site.
11. Could you provide details of how many meetings your officers/officials have had with officials from other councils and Welsh Government in relation to other sites.



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PORT TALBOT
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MoJ ref: MC44896
Your ref: 146-55719

6 June 2017

Dear

David,

PROPOSED PRISON IN PORT TALBOT

Thank you for your letter of 2 May about our proposals to develop a new prison in Port Talbot. I am sorry for misinterpreting yours and your former constituents' views about the proposed development. I am, of course, disappointed that you were unhappy with my previous response. I acknowledge that I was not able to answer all of your questions fully, but in this letter, I will give you as much information as I can and where I cannot provide all the details you are looking for, I will explain why this is not possible at this relatively early stage. In keeping with the policy, procedures and level of public consultation that are rightly required by the planning process in Wales, further detail will be provided to you and the citizens of Port Talbot over the coming months before final decisions are taken. As our plans develop, I hope we can continue to work together to ensure that our proposals benefit the people of Port Talbot and the surrounding area.

I will firstly address your initial eleven points that you provided in Annex A and set out in your first letter. I have grouped some of your questions together by subject.

- 1. Could you provide details as to how many sites for the construction of a new prison were considered across South Wales; and 5. Could you please provide details as to what alternative sites within Port Talbot were presented and what criteria were being used to decide whether those sites would be suitable or not.**

The Department worked closely with the Welsh Government to identify suitable sites for a new prison build. The Department evaluated over 20 sites in South Wales. Due to the risk of prejudicing the Department's commercial interests, and jeopardising good value for the taxpayer, I am unable to release information about other sites considered, including whether any alternative sites in Port Talbot were considered. The criteria for selecting potential sites are as set out below under questions 2-4.

2. Could you provide details as to the criteria used by the Ministry of Justice to select candidate sites for the location of a new prison; 3. Could you provide the criteria used by the Ministry of Justice to select the most suitable sites from the list of candidate sites that you established with South Wales; and 4. Can you provide the detail as to the criteria used in identifying the specific site in Port Talbot as the only one within South Wales which the Ministry of Justice considered to be appropriate for a new prison.

The site-specific criteria used to select potential sites for a proposed new prison are as follows:

1. Sites of a minimum of around six flat hectares (around 15 acres) of developable area;
2. No clear impediments to achieving planning permission for a prison;
3. Ground conditions such that no abnormal costs expected during development (i.e. not marsh or flood plain and avoiding high probability flood zone);
4. Possible to connect to utilities (water, sewage, gas, electricity) without unreasonable cost;
5. Good access to public transport and motorways or trunk roads;
6. Accessible for prison construction without major enhancement of existing transport infrastructure;
7. No known major factors such as ecological or historic designations on the site or on adjoining land that could prejudice development;
8. Any contamination is manageable;
9. Suitable shape for development;
10. Previously developed or brownfield site; and
11. No significant Public Right of Way, third party rights of access or covenants.

We evaluated over 20 sites in South Wales. We prioritised publicly owned land as we estimated this would provide better value for money for the taxpayer, due to the economic and strategic benefit of doing this rather than going to the market. A strategic preference for sites located along the M4 motorway corridor, for accessibility, and travel time benefits were also identified. This led to 11 publicly owned sites being considered further, with Port Talbot being selected as the best potential site for a new prison build, taking into account the criteria listed above.

6. Will the Ministry of Justice consider new sites now and what criteria need to be reflective for the suitability of these sites; and 7. Could any alternative site be a combination of public owned land private owned land and would the Ministry of Justice consider such possibilities.

Based on an extensive site search and the criteria set out above, we are confident that the proposed site is the best available. The Department has no plans to consider new or alternative sites.

8. Could you confirm whether the new prison will be classified as a category C prison and could you confirm the minimum and maximum number of inmates that are being considered for the prison.

I can confirm that at the Port Talbot site, we plan to construct a prison that will hold category C prisoners. The number of prisoners we intend to hold at the prison will be made available during the public consultation process described below.

9. Could you provide details as to whether the prison would create new jobs and, if so, how many? Or would it be a situation where it is possible that one of the other prisons within South Wales (which are considered to be of the Victorian era and not meeting necessary standards i.e. Swansea and/or Cardiff) would close resulting in staff being transferred from those to the new prison in Port Talbot thereby reducing the number of new jobs created in Port Talbot.

The proposed prison at Port Talbot will create additional permanent, varied and high quality employment opportunities. The prison will create a diverse range of new jobs ranging from those needing professional qualifications, skilled and semi-skilled work, through to roles with lower entry requirements. It is not possible, at this stage, to be precise about the employment opportunities that will be created. However, based on the success of HMP Berwyn, where we are estimating the creation of up to 1,000 jobs, we estimate that the new prison at Port Talbot could generate up to 500 jobs and contribute up to £11m a year to the regional economy. Of HMP Berwyn's staff, 66% come from the local area. I cannot, however, give a clearer estimate at this time, as no decision has yet been taken on who will operate the proposed prison, which will be a decision to be taken by the incoming administration.

As stated in my previous letter, no decisions have been made about future prison closures beyond those which have already been announced.

10. Could you provide information as to the number of meetings your officers/officials from the Ministry of Justice have had with officials from both Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and the Welsh Government in relation to this particular site; and 11. Could you provide details of how many meetings your officers/officials have had with officials from other councils and Welsh Government in relation to other sites.

Unfortunately I am unable to provide you with information as to the number of meetings Ministry of Justice officials have had with officials from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, other Councils, or the Welsh Government in relation to the proposed prison site at Port Talbot or any other potential site. This is to preserve the space for free and frank discussion between officials of these bodies for the development of options for new prisons.

I will now address the other points made in your letter of 2 May.

Community Consultation

I can assure you that we value the contributions of the people of Port Talbot in helping shape the development of this site. As you will be aware, the Welsh Government requires an extended pre-application consultation period. We expect to develop the more detailed design in late autumn 2017 (the earliest date at which we expect to be able to appoint a contractor). Once we start to develop the detailed design and we have a proposal ready to share, we will engage with the local community via a public consultation. We expect that we will be ready to submit a full planning application in late spring 2018. The planning process requires a 50 day pre consultation period directly before submitting the planning application.

In due course, we plan to hold a two day event in Port Talbot to show the local community our plans and discuss them with officials. This will enable us to consider the community's views before submitting our planning application, at which point there will be a further opportunity to comment. Details for this event have not yet been confirmed. Should our planning application subsequently be successful, we will continue to work with the community as the project progresses.

Category and design of proposed prison and prison closures

The Written Ministerial Statement of 22 March outlined our proposals to develop the prison estate in England and Wales. At the Port Talbot site, we plan to construct a prison that will hold category C prisoners: at present, we do not have enough category C prison places in South Wales. We have no plans to hold any other category of prisoners at the proposed prison. Should the make-up of the prison population change to the extent that changes to the estate would need to be considered, that would be a decision for the Government of the time, in line with standard prison policy and procedure.

The design of the proposed prison has not yet reached a suitable stage of development to share with you. When it has, we will share it with your former constituents through the community consultation routes I have noted above.

As I have mentioned previously, no decisions have been made about future prison closures beyond those which have already been announced.

Jobs

No decisions have been made about future prison closures beyond those which have already been announced. Where we do close prisons, retaining highly skilled, committed staff is hugely important to the success of the Prison Service, so we will seek to permanently redeploy staff into posts in other locations, but they are also free to apply for jobs that are advertised through normal vacancy filling arrangements. We expect to be able to transfer all such staff to other establishments, which may include Port Talbot if suitable.

I have set out above our best estimates of how many jobs the new prison might create and the proportion that could be local.

Contact with Local Authorities

I am withholding this information to preserve the space for free and frank discussion between officials of these bodies for the development of options for new prisons.

Operation

No decision has yet been made on who will operate the new prisons. The Government remains open to private and voluntary sector organisations who want to get involved with rehabilitation and who have a sensible proposition. The decision as to whether the new prison site will be run by either the public or private sector – and the process for making that decision – will be one for the new administration to consider after the election.

Identification of potential sites

Unfortunately I am currently unable to provide you with the detail of supply and demand for prison places in South Wales. At present, we do not have enough category C prison places in South Wales; the proposed prison at Port Talbot would address this shortfall.

You asked for the traffic analysis undertaken. This will be set out in the Transport Assessment which will be submitted with the planning application which will be sent to Neath Port Talbot Council as the planning authority in 2018.

I have addressed your three other points concerning the size of the site, the environmental factors, and the capacity of local infrastructure earlier in this letter.

I appreciate that this letter does not provide you with *all* the information that you are seeking, but where it does not, I hope I have here provided greater clarity about the reasons why at this early stage. I'm sure

that your former constituents will continue to raise queries and concerns; these will be addressed as the consultation and normal planning application procedures continue. I will ensure that my officials fully engage with the local community in the development of the proposed new prison in Port Talbot, and I hope that you can work together with us to make sure the proposed prison is a success for the people of Port Talbot and the surrounding area.

Yours sincerely



 **SAM GYIMAH**

Ein cyf/Our Ref: 146-55719

Rt Hon Sam Gyimah
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

11 August 2017

Dear Minister,

Proposed Prison in Port Talbot

Thank you for your response of 6 June 2017 to my enquiries and my questions highlighted in annex A of my letter of 2 May 2017. I appreciate the further detail that your letter provided though I do have some additional questions I would like to raise with yourself and seek clarification for, particularly following the election of the Government on 8 June 2017.

Initially, however, can I correct an error in your opening sentence of the letter, and which is repeated throughout your letter, that refers to my 'former constituents' views. As a sitting Assembly Member for the constituency of Aberavon at the National Assembly for Wales they are my constituents' views and not those of 'former' constituents.

In your response to my questions 2, 3 and 4 you identify 11 specific criteria that were used to identify and shortlist the candidate sites but you did not identify whether any additional specific criteria were used to select Port Talbot as the preferred site and you did not provide details as to how each site scored/was assessed against those criteria. I would be grateful if you could provide that detail so that I can understand where you believe the benefits of the Port Talbot site are and where the deficiencies of other sites are. You also stressed that you focused on publically owned sites as you believed they would give better value for money for the tax payer and I would be grateful for clarification as to basis of this assumption and is there a belief within the Government that you can access publically owned land at a cheaper price than its market value.

In your answer to my question 8 you stress that the new prison would be for category C adult male prisoners though you do not identify the number of prisoners at this point. I am disappointed to learn that the

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UK Government does not know the number of inmates that will be held at this prison and I would be grateful for an identification of a date when you will be in a position to know the size of the prison and its capacity, which clearly have implications for the needs of that prison and consequently the numbers of officers and other posts that will be related to the prison.

In your answer to my question 9 you stress that no decision has been taken in relation to any other prisons beyond those that have already been announced. Can you confirm as to when the outcome of the current estate evaluation you informed me of will be available and when a decision on the future of both Swansea and Cardiff prisons would be known. It is often stressed that both of these prisons are of the Victorian era and both have been recognised as being overcrowded. Swansea has been recorded as being the most overcrowded prison in the UK (as a percentage of its suggested population) and thus it is clear that these are currently inadequate to meet the needs of the service at this point in time.

You also indicate that the number of jobs that would be created cannot be given at this time as no decision has been taken on who will operate the prison. I would be grateful if you could clarify as to whether a decision has been taken as to whether the Government will operate the prison (i.e. a public operator) or whether it will now be given to tender to the Private Sector. If the latter could you provide details as to when such a tender would be offered and what input they would have into the size/capacity of this prison and the number of jobs that such a prison would offer.

I am disappointed to note in your answer to my questions 10 & 11 that you could not provide information relating to the number of meetings that had been held between Ministry of Justice officials and officials from Neath Port Talbot Council and between Ministry of Justice officials and officials from the Welsh Government. Whilst you say this is to provide space for free and frank discussion I must stress that I have not asked as to what those discussions entailed simply the number times they have taken place and therefore I cannot see how this information would not preserve the space for free and frank discussion. I therefore hope that you would revisit this request and provide details as to the number of meetings that have been held between the officials.

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Further points made in your letter stress that you would be expecting a more detailed design in late autumn and then an engagement with the community via a public consultation would occur. I must express disappointment that you are not taking the opportunity to engage with communities in a public consultation prior to any detailed design as it gives a clear impression that a decision has been taken and the consultation is merely a paper exercise based upon the design that is already in place. Could you provide details of the timeline of the public consultation and will you bring forward that public consultation to ensure that it is held prior to any detailed design so that the views and considerations of local businesses, local residents and local representatives can be taken onboard prior to the final decision to go into detailed design. Failure to do so only provides the public, and all involved, with a perception that the UK Government has made a decision and is going ahead with that decision irrespective of the views and consultation responses from the public.

You also highlight that you are proposing to build a category C prison as there are not enough category C prison spaces in South Wales at this moment in time. Could you please provide details of the number of category C prisoners that are currently in each of the following prisons: Swansea Prison, Cardiff Prison, Parc Prison and Prescoed Prison (though I recognise that this is a category D Prison and identified as an open prison). Could you also identify the number of prisoners from South Wales (those who were resident in South Wales prior to their conviction) who are located in prisons within England. This would provide clarity as to the need within South Wales for more Category C prison space or will this prison house inmates who were resident outside Wales?

Since the original decision was announced in March 2017 it has been recorded that there have been several disturbances in a variety of prisons across the UK including in the Mount Prison in Hertfordshire, which is also classed as a category C prison. These disturbances highlight the concerns over the impact upon local communities and the need for emergency services to access the prisons quickly. As a result of this has the Ministry of Justice reviewed its criteria and is it now looking at whether the close proximity to a variety of communities, including residential properties, health centers, care homes and local businesses, impacts upon any of those services. It is

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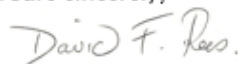
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Assembly Member for Aberavon

important to reassure all within the local community that the consideration of the disturbances and the impact it would have on both the communities and on the inmates that are within the institution are factors in any decision making.

It is evident from these disturbances that there is a crisis at this point in time within the prison service and the establishment of a new prison, whilst it may be focused upon improving the rehabilitation of individuals who are about to return to wider society and thus hopefully reduce reoffending rates, must demonstrate strong management and governance that would avoid such disruption. A prison can only work effectively if it is fully resourced and is managed well. I must express my lack of confidence in the current system in being able to achieve that. I would therefore respectfully ask that additional criteria to consider the impact of such disturbances on communities is taken into consideration and that this is added to your site specific criteria.

Finally you stress in your letter that you will ensure that your officials will be engaged with the community and I hope that this extends to yourself and any of your junior ministers. This will demonstrate to the public that not only are officials fully engaged with the community but the politicians who are guiding the policies and making the decisions are also fully engaged in the process.

Yours sincerely,



DAVID REES AM
Assembly Member for Aberavon



Ministry
of Justice

Sam Gyimah MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State for Justice

David Rees AM
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Gwyn Terrace
Aberavon
PORT TALBOT
SA12 6LF

MoJ ref: 48227
Your ref: 146-55719

11 September 2017

Dear David

PROPOSED PRISON IN PORT TALBOT

Thank you for your letter of 11 August, following the general election on 8 June, you have asked for further clarification on a number of points previously raised in correspondence. I will aim to provide further information where I can in this letter.

Firstly, I apologise for any offence caused by using the term 'former constituents' in my previous letter. At the time of correspondence we were in the pre-election purdah period and therefore the terminology used reflected this.

As you mention in your letter, I previously set out 11 specific criteria that were used to evaluate over 20 sites identified in collaboration with the Welsh Government as suitable for a new prison build. As you know, we focused on publically owned land, which provides better value for the taxpayer due to efficiencies that can be made. Going to the private market would incur an inflated price which does not represent the best strategic and economic benefit for this programme, or for the taxpayer.

11 public sites were identified, of which 3 were shortlisted; Felindre Business Park, Bridgend and Port Talbot. The Felindre and Bridgend sites were ultimately discounted as they had both already been marked for business park development purposes, with EU funding already secured for the site at Felindre. Port Talbot was selected as the best potential site for a new prison build, taking into account the capacity of local infrastructure, the impact on local transport and environmental factors. As I mentioned previously, the Department undertook an extensive site search and has no plans to consider new or alternative sites. I am afraid I remain unable to release information regarding the other sites included in the evaluation, or their scores, due to the risk of prejudicing the Department's commercial interests, and jeopardising good value for the taxpayer.

In my previous letter I confirmed that the new development at Port Talbot will hold category C prisoners. You expressed disappointment that we were unable to share details on the capacity. The design of the proposed prison is still in the initial stages, and I am therefore unable to give you specific detail regarding this. However, this will be fully covered during our consultation exercise.

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In reference to your query regarding evaluation of the prison estate, I am unable to elaborate further on my previous reply regarding decisions on prisons beyond those which have already been announced. It remains that no decisions have been made, including those around the future of Swansea and Cardiff. Decisions and announcements will be made in due course.

As I mentioned previously, the proposed prison at Port Talbot will create additional permanent, varied and high quality employment opportunities. I have explained that I am unable to provide further detail on the number of jobs that will be created at this point, as no decision has yet been taken on who will operate the proposed prison. Decisions will be made in due course and I will keep you updated of developments. Operators would have no input into the size or capacity of the prison, as this is specified by us. The number of jobs would be determined by the capacity of the prison and the operator.

You say that you were disappointed that I was unable to share information as to the number of meetings Ministry of Justice officials have had with officials from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, other Councils, or the Welsh Government in relation to the proposed prison site at Port Talbot or any other potential site. As I mentioned previously, I am unable to provide this to preserve the space for free and frank discussion between officials of these bodies for the development of options for new prisons.

As I hope I have made clear, we value the contributions of the people in Port Talbot in helping shape the development of the site. I have previously explained that we plan to hold a two day event in Port Talbot to consult with the local community on our plans. You expressed your disappointment that we were not taking the opportunity to engage with communities ahead of working on detailed designs and asked us to consider moving this engagement forward to discuss and take on board local views. After careful consideration on this matter, we have decided to bring this public consultation event forward so we can discuss concerns and opportunities directly with local residents, business and other stakeholders ahead of finalising detailed designs. This will allow the local community to have further opportunity to comment via the pre-consultation period required, ahead of submitting a formal planning application. I will notify you once we have a firm date.

As I mentioned previously, at the Port Talbot site we plan to construct a prison that will hold category C prisoners as we do not currently have enough category C prison places in South Wales. You asked for data regarding the number of Category C prisoners currently at Swansea, Cardiff, Parc and Prescoed, although, as you note this is a Category D prison. I can confirm that as of 30 June 2017 there were 1,869 Category C prisoners at the prisons mentioned above. You also asked for data regarding the number of prisoners from South Wales (who were resident in South Wales prior to their convictions) who are located in prisons within England. I can confirm that as of 30 June 2017 this number was 1,053 (208 females and 845 males). I am unable to confirm that the new development at Port Talbot will only hold Welsh prisoners, as prisoners held at this site will depend on the needs of the population at the time to ensure we hold prisoners in the right conditions to help them change their lives. However, as I explained, we have no plans to hold any other category of prisoner at Port Talbot other than category C prisoners.

Safety in prisons remains our highest priority. The Ministry of Justice will work closely with local councils and other relevant stakeholders to assess any impacts on the local community and factor this into final decision making. In particular, we will undertake a full traffic impact assessment as part of our planning submission. With regards to impact on local services, we will have provision for health services on site.

As I have mentioned previously, we will engage fully with the local community in the development of the proposed new prison in Port Talbot, and I hope that we can work together throughout this process to ensure the proposed prison is a success for the people of Port Talbot and the surrounding area.

I hope this information now resolves your outstanding queries.



SAM GYIMAH MP

Ein cyf/Our Ref: 146-56657

Mr Ken Skates AM
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Infrastructure
Welsh Government
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

02 May 2017

Dear Ken,

Land at Baglan Industrial Park that has been highlighted for the development of a new prison by the Ministry of Justice

On the 22 March 2017 the Ministry of Justice announced that it would develop a new prison in Port Talbot but at that point in time did not specify the location of the prison within Port Talbot. It has now come to my attention that the land being identified are plots of land owned by the Welsh Government on Baglan Industrial Estate (I believe they are plots identified as C1 and C2 alongside Moor Road). I have recently met with business operators on the Industrial Estate who have expressed deep concern relating to the loss of usage of land for industrial purposes and the intentions to build a prison along with the implications it would bring with both transportation/logistics and additional pressures on land usage within the estate. There are also serious questions of the impact upon utilities (such as energy) on existing businesses; I understand that businesses who wish to expand have already been informed that there is limited power availability and this development may reduce that, thereby reducing opportunities for growth.

It has also come to my attention that many of the existing businesses within the estate purchased land from the then owner (which I believe was the WDA) and as part of the purchase agreement there were covenants placed stating that the land could not be used for anything other than usage as an Industrial Park. To this end, what consideration have you as Cabinet Secretary for the Economy and Infrastructure given to the important role that this parcel of land can play in both the regeneration of the Port Talbot area and the attraction it could offer to businesses within the Enterprise Zone which was established by the Welsh Government following the threat of possible closure of the steel works in Port Talbot. Clearly the loss of such land would have major

DAVID REES AC /AM

Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberafan
Assembly Member for Aberavon

implications and the possible loss of businesses which are adjacent to the land would damage the local economy.

Could you confirm whether you have met with the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children to discuss the implications that the sale of this land would have upon businesses on the Baglan Industrial Estate and the implications of any covenant existing on the land, which may originate from the original owners (the Margam Estate), to ensure that the land is used for an industrial park and not for offering services such as a prison. Have you also met with Cabinet colleagues to discuss the implications upon traffic flows and transportation at this particular site and the implications that the establishment of a prison at the site would have on economic and regeneration in Port Talbot.

Existing business operators located on the Baglan Industrial Park are deeply concerned about the implications this development would have on their businesses and as such need reassurances that the Welsh Government is focusing upon the local economy and local businesses in the longer term rather than attempt to sell a piece of land in the short term to the Ministry of Justice. It is important that we develop industrial units to attract businesses to the Enterprise Zone, ensuring that we are providing a good offer to them, a part of which will be the existence of larger footprint premises. This parcel of land offers ideal opportunities, even though they may require strong foundations, to develop industrial units of 10,000 sq. ft. or more to interested investors and to existing businesses who may wish to expand their businesses. Therefore it could be used to create growth in the local economy.

I look forward to the answers to the concerns I have raised.

Yours sincerely



DAVID REES AM
Assembly Member for Aberavon

Ein cyf/Our Ref: 146-56657

Mr Ken Skates
Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Infrastructure
Welsh Government
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
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03 August 2017

Dear Ken,

Land at Baglan Industrial Park.

I have become aware that some ground works or investigative works are being undertaken on the site of the proposed new prison in Baglan Industrial Park. As you know, this site is owned by the Welsh Government and therefore I would assume that any works upon the land is with the agreement of the Welsh Government.

I fully understand that a planning process will be required but trust and faith in such a process is thin at the moment. Therefore, could you please provide the following details in order for me to relay information to my constituents, who have expressed concern over such works being undertaken and who have a belief that development of the proposed prison has commenced.

- A) What is the purpose of the work being undertaken on the site?
- B) Who has commissioned this work? Welsh Government or the Ministry of Justice (MOJ)?
- C) When was the work commissioned?
- D) What permission has been given by the Welsh Government to access the land and to whom?
- E) What is the role of the Welsh Government in this work?
- F) What timescale has been placed upon the work?

Constituents have expressed deep concerns that work has been undertaken without consultation with the public and feel that they are being kept in the dark regarding the Welsh Government's role in the proposal for the new prison. Local residents have the perception that everything relating to the site is 'very cloak and dagger' and thus this

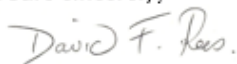
DAVID REES AC /AM

Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberafan

Assembly Member for Aberavon

information is required to provide reassurance to constituents. Whilst I appreciate that no design has yet been submitted by the MOJ to either the Welsh Government, local residents or the local authority for consideration, my constituents have a clear perception that a deal has been agreed and the Welsh Government is not listening to the concerns of local residents and local businesses. Thus, your ability to clarify the role of the Welsh Government in the current works will be helpful.

Yours sincerely,



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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: 146-56657
Ein cyf/Our ref: KS/02883/17

David Rees AM
Assembly Member for Aberavon

david.rees@assembly.wales

3 September 2017

Dear *David*,

Thank you for your letter on 3 August in relation to the proposed development in Baglan Industrial Park.

The Welsh Government has granted two licences to the Ministry of Justice to carry out site investigations and ecological works on Welsh Government land at Baglan. Please be assured that this is not unusual; we grant many licences of this type to prospective developers. The work allowed under the licence does not require planning consent and essentially will assist in the preparation of the planning application. The licence also allows for geotechnical and drainage surveys and archaeological investigations.

To answer each of your questions directly:

- The purpose of the works is to make the site secure and prepare it for development. As planning consent has not been obtained this is an "at risk" cost to the Ministry of Justice.
- The Ministry of Justice.
- The Welsh Government was informed of the proposed site works on 7 July 2017.
- As stated above, the Welsh Government issued the Ministry of Justice two licences for the land at Baglan. The first on 20 September 2016 for ecological surveys and the second on 30 March 2017 for ecological mitigation, site investigations and fencing work etc.
- The Welsh Government will monitor the terms and conditions of the licence(s). This is standard practice.
- It is likely that the fencing will remain in place until planning permission has been decided. If the development is denied planning permission, the fencing will be removed by Ministry of Justice at its own cost. However it may be in the interests of the Welsh Government to keep it in place a little longer as it will make the land more attractive for other potential projects since the environmental works etc. would have been completed. Any data collected by Ministry of Justice in relation to the site will be shared with the Welsh Government, therefore improving our knowledge of the site.

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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.

I hope that the above answers your questions and please be assured that the commencement of ecological works on site does not mean that the development has started. The decision to grant a planning application for a proposed prison will be made by the Local Authority not the Welsh Government and I would urge your constituents to engage in the formal planning consultation if an application is submitted.

I have also asked my officials to contact the Ministry of Justice regarding an informal information/consultation session for the community prior to the formal planning application process.

Ysgrifennu,
Ken

Ken Skates AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure

DAVID REES AC /AM

Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberafan

Assembly Member for Aberavon

Ein cyf/Our Ref: 146-56657

Mr Ken Skates
Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Infrastructure
Welsh Government
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
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09 August 2017

Dear Ken,

Re: Proposed Prison in Baglan.

In a letter to my colleague, Stephen Kinnock MP, the UK Government's Prisons Minister, Sam Gyimah MP, has written that although the sites at Felindre and Brocastle were being considered in the final shortlist, one argument that was used against their suitability was that they have been awarded EU funding for Business Park development. With regard to this I seek clarity from the Welsh Government as to its intentions for these sites and details that would support the above statement.

Thus, could you please provide the following information:

- Have these sites been awarded any EU funding?
- If so, what amount of EU funding have the sites been awarded and for what purpose?
- From which EU funding stream has this money been allocated?
- What investment has the Welsh Government allocated to each of these sites?
- How much of that funding is match funding?
- What plans does the Welsh Government have to develop these sites? (with or without EU Funding)
- What will be the purpose of the development at each site?
- What is the timetable for the development of the sites?
- What actions has the Welsh Government taken to market these sites to investors/businesses?
- Does the Welsh Government have any proposals to improve the infrastructure at these sites?

DAVID REES AC /AM

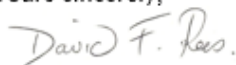
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Assembly Member for Aberavon

As you are aware, the proposed site for the new prison at Baglan Industrial Park is within the Port Talbot Enterprise Zone and as such, is earmarked for economic development. I strongly contest that a prison will not provide the intended economic development that is projected for the Enterprise Zone and would appreciate publication of the evidence used by the Welsh Government to argue that it would bring economic growth to Port Talbot.

Whilst it is for the UK Government to provide the case for siting the new prison at Baglan, it is for the Welsh Government to provide the case for selling this land for use as a prison. I would therefore welcome clarity from the Welsh Government on the economic evidence that it will use to support any decision it will take if and when such a bid arrives from the ~~Mol~~ to purchase the site.

Yours sincerely,



DAVID REES AM

Assembly Member for Aberavon

DAVID REES AC /AM

Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberafan

Assembly Member for Aberavon

Ein Cyf/Our Ref:

13th September 2017

Dear Ken,

As you are aware, I have raised many questions with the Welsh Government relating to the decision of the Ministry of Justice to build a new 'super' prison on land owned by the Welsh Government at Baglan Industrial Park in my constituency. Many of these questions have focused upon the interaction between the Welsh Government and the Ministry of Justice, either at official level or ministerial level, regarding the processes that occurred leading up to the decision and those following the announcement of the decision on 22nd March 2017. Yesterday, during a Westminster Hall debate on the proposed prison at Port Talbot (<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2017-09-12/debates/17091242000002/ProposedPrisonPortTalbot>), initiated by Liz Saville Roberts at the Houses of Parliament, the Minister for Prisons, Sam Gyimah, provided a clear perception that the Welsh Government was enthusiastically supporting the proposal. The following quotes from Hansard from the Minister support this:

'When assessing where to build new prisons, the Ministry of Justice worked closely with the Welsh Government to identify suitable sites for a new prison build in Wales'

'In addition, the site is owned by the Welsh Government, who are supportive of our work to progress these plans.'

'We are engaging with the Welsh Government and Members of Parliament, and with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to develop its plans for the Port Talbot site. We are pleased to have had the support of the leader of the council, Councillor Rob Jones, and the Welsh Government throughout the process.'

'We will continue to work with the Welsh Government, who remain committed to the project on the Port Talbot site, and we will work closely with them when developing the planning event to address the local community's key concerns'

I have spoken to the leader of Neath Port Talbot Council, Cllr Rob Jones, who is also mentioned as a supporter of the plans and he has confirmed that the statement relating to him is incorrect and thus misleading. I therefore seek further detail from the Welsh Government as to its activities and actions with regard to this proposal and the

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DAVID REES AC /AM

Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberafan

Assembly Member for Aberavon

support it has given to the Ministry of Justice together with its position regarding the proposed new prison. Will you therefore confirm, in relation to the proposed new prison:

1. The number of meetings (including telephone conversations/conferences) that took place between officials from your department and those of the Ministry of Justice prior to the announcement on 22nd March 2017.
2. The number of meetings (including telephone conversations/conferences) that have taken place between officials from your department and those of the Ministry of Justice since the announcement on 22nd March 2017.
3. The number of meetings (including telephone conversations/conferences) that took place between yourself (or your predecessor) and Minister(s) from the Ministry of Justice prior to the announcement on 22nd March 2017.
4. The number of meetings (including telephone conversations/conferences) that have taken place between yourself (or your predecessor) and Minister(s) from the Ministry of Justice following the announcement on 22nd March 2017.
5. What role did the Welsh Government (officials or ministerial) played in selecting suitable sites for the ministry of Justice.
6. When was a decision made by the Welsh Government to support the progress of the plans to build a new prison at Port Talbot.
7. What role the Welsh Government is playing in developing the plans for the new prison at Port Talbot.
8. What commitment(s) has the Welsh Government given to the Ministry of Justice regarding the siting of a new prison on the Baglan Industrial Park site.
9. What assessment has the Welsh Government undertaken of the economic impact upon Port Talbot.
10. What financial discussions have taken place between the Welsh Government and the Ministry of Justice.
11. What criteria and/or conditions has the Welsh Government developed for the sale of the land at the Baglan Industrial Park site.

The message that is being portrayed by the Minister at Westminster is that the Welsh Government is fully supportive and working to achieve the building of a new prison in Port Talbot. As the constituency Assembly Member, I am concerned at this message and seek answers to the role of the Welsh Government, both prior to the announcement of the new prison build and since.

Yours sincerely

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Hi Ken

I have previously written asking whether you would be available to attend a public meeting that is being held next Wednesday 20th September on the proposal from the Ministry of Justice to build a super prison in Port Talbot. I understand from your officials that this request has been passed to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities & Children but the focus of the request and the issue at hand is the sale of the parcel of land which is owned by the Welsh Government and which exists within an Enterprise Zone. Thus this is within your portfolio and the reason as to why the request to attend was sent to you. I hope that you take the opportunity to reconsider this request and either attend the meeting to listen to the views of local people & businesses along with the strong arguments as to why this proposal should not be supported, or at least ensure that officials from your department attend. I understand that officials from the Ministry of Justice will be attending and possibly speaking (though this is to be confirmed) and I believe that it would be disrespectful to my constituents if the Welsh Government did not also attend such an important meeting.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

David

David Rees

Labour Assembly Member for Aberavon | Aelod Cynulliad Llafur dros Aberafan

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Chair, External Affairs & Additional Legislation Committee, National Assembly for Wales
Cadeirydd, Y Pwyllgor Materion Allanol a Deddfwriaeth Ychwanegol, Cynulliad Cenedlaethol
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David Rees AM

Email: david.rees@assembly.wales

18 September 2017

Dear *David*

I wanted to write and thank you for your email. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the public meeting later this week owing to the fact that I have to attend a vote in the National Assembly.

There is absolutely no intent to disrespect your constituents. I fully recognise the concerns raised by your constituents on this and the work you have done in representing those issues to the UK and Welsh Government.

Whilst this is a UK Government decision, I will of course be prepared to meet with you at the earliest opportunity to discuss the role Welsh Government has played in regard to the project sites.

Yours sincerely

Ken Skates AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure

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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.

Carl Sargeant AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gymunedau a Phlant
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/ Our ref CS/00489/17

David Rees AM
Assembly Member for Aberavon

david.rees@assembly.wales

6th April 2017

Dear David

Following my reply to your oral question yesterday I am now confirming my position in writing.

You will be aware that the proposed site for the development is owned by the Welsh Government. The facility will be a Category C (low risk closed) prison and will house around 1100 prisoners, concentrating on offender rehabilitation with a strong training and skills improvement element.

As with HMP Berwyn I would expect the Ministry of Justice to fully engage with the Welsh Government, the Local Authority and Communities in developing its proposal for the site and expect planning permission to be sought for the new build. This will enable issues being raised by local residents to be investigated during the planning process.

I also welcome the economic opportunities this will bring to South Wales and in particular to the Port Talbot area in terms of employment and construction and work within the prison. It will provide long term employment and business opportunities in an area that has recently seen recent economic turbulence.

As I said in the Senedd yesterday I have had discussions with the UK Prison's Minister regarding the proposed site for development of a new Prison at Port Talbot. My officials will continue to work with Ministry of Justice officials regarding this proposal. If the development goes ahead, it will mean Wales will have some of the most modern prisons in the country.

Yours sincerely

Carl Sargeant AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gymunedau a Phlant
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children

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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.

DAVID REES AC /AM

Aelod Cymulliad dros Aberafan
Assembly Member for Aberavon

Ein cyf/Our Ref: 146-54769

Mr Carl Sargeant AM
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children
Welsh Government
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

07 April 2017

Dear Carl,

Siting of a new prison in Port Talbot

As you are aware, the Ministry of justice announced on 22 March 2017 that it had decided to site a new prison in Port Talbot. Following that announcement I tabled an urgent question to yourself and have since laid oral questions, also to yourself, regarding this matter. In order to support my constituents it is now important to gain as much detail as possible so that I am in a position to answer the queries and concerns raised following the announcement by the Ministry of Justice. To that end I would be grateful if you would provide detailed answers to the following points:

1. Can you confirm that the site in question is located on Welsh Government owned land on the Baglan Industrial Estate and is land which is bordered by Moor Road, Baglan Way and factories along Christchurch Road?
2. How many sites did the Welsh Government identify as appropriate following a request by the Ministry of Justice to identify suitable sites for a new prison?
3. What criteria was used by the Welsh Government to identify sites and forward those details to the Ministry of Justice?
4. What criteria was provided to the Welsh Government by the Ministry of justice to identify suitable sites?
5. Was the Welsh Government involved in setting this criteria?
6. For each site identified did the Welsh Government undertake an analysis as to whether the site was appropriate?
7. Can you provide a list of all sites submitted to the Ministry of Justice by the Welsh Government?

DAVID REES AC /AM

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Assembly Member for Aberavon

8. Are you aware of other sites submitted to the Ministry of Justice by any local authority within Wales and if so, can you provide the locations of each site and the respective local authority?
9. How many meetings occurred between officials of the Welsh Government and officials of the Ministry of Justice prior to the announcement of the Ministry of Justice prior of the siting at Port Talbot?
10. Is the Welsh Government aware of the criteria used to select the final site from the list of sites submitted to the Ministry of Justice?
11. Will the Welsh Government now undertake an analysis of the site on its own basis to explore whether the site is suitable for a new prison and identify the criteria it would use in that analysis?
12. What alternative sites in Port Talbot has the Welsh Government identified as appropriate/suitable for the siting of a new prison, if any?
13. What criteria will be used in assessing whether the sale of the site to the Ministry of Justice is appropriate for its usage?
14. What criteria will be used to assess the impact it would have upon the locality and the regeneration within Port Talbot?
15. Has the Welsh Government had discussions with the Ministry of Justice as to the role of the Welsh Government in the building of a new prison in Port Talbot?
16. What criteria will be used by the Welsh Government in its decision making process when asked by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to sell (or lease) the land to the MoJ for the purpose of siting a new prison at that location?

I hope you appreciate that these questions seek to identify how we reached this point, the processes that were followed and the involvement of the Welsh Government in those processes. It is vital that my constituents are able to identify those facts and are able to understand the whole decision making process of the Ministry of Justice.

In relation to HMP Berwyn in Wrexham, which is clearly going to be used as an exemplar for such a proposal, could you provide details as to what funding was provided to the Welsh Government by the Ministry of Justice (or the UK Government) to ensure that those services that are delivered through Welsh Government funding (e.g. the Health Care services, provision of Occupational Therapy, provision of Psychiatric

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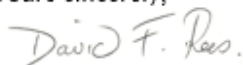
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services, provision of Mental Health services, provision of Educational services) receive additional funding to address the anticipated increase in demand.

I would also invite you to visit the site, to ascertain for yourself its location and the communities around the site and the impact upon those communities that could arise as a consequence of this new development. I believe it would help inform the Welsh Governments view as to whether this is an appropriate site and as to whether it would wish to seed this site used as a prison or for other services.

Yours sincerely,



DAVID REES AM

Assembly Member for Aberavon



Ein cyf/Our ref CS/00594/17

David Rees AM
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8 May 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 07 April.

I welcome your interest in the proposed prison at Port Talbot and I hope that I have been able to answer your questions as fully as possible. I have used your numbering in my reply for ease of reference.

1. Please find attached a map of the proposed prison site which is in Welsh Government ownership. Ministry of Justice (MoJ) have yet to confirm how much of the site (plot C1 and C2) they would wish to be considered for this development.
2. The Welsh Government provided the details of 20 sites to the MoJ that information at the time, showed may have been capable of siting a prison.
3. The Welsh Government used the criteria sent to it by the MoJ (please see point 4 below).
4. The MoJ site criteria was as follows:-
 - Site of a minimum of c.10 flat hectares (c.25 acres) of developable area
 - No clear impediments to achieving planning permission for a prison
 - Ground conditions such that no abnormal costs expected during development (i.e. not marsh / flood plain /avoiding high probability flood zone)
 - Possible to connect to water/sewage/gas/electricity without unreasonable cost
 - Good access to public transport and motorways/trunks roads

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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.

- Accessible for prison construction without major enhancement of existing transport infrastructure
- No known major factors such as ecological or historic designations on the site or on adjoining land that could prejudice development
- Any contamination is manageable
- Suitable shape for development
- Previously developed/ brownfield site
- No significant Public Right of Way (PRoW), 3rd party rights of access or covenants

5. The Welsh Government was not involved in setting these criteria.

6. The Welsh Government searched for sites that met the criteria sent to it by the MoJ. I understand that the MoJ evaluated each site in turn and came to a decision as to which sites it would like to look at in detail. Three sites were selected Baglan Industrial Park, Brocastle and Felindre. The Welsh Government was not party to the evaluation or selection process.

7. The Welsh Government provided the following list of sites to the MoJ that officials thought may be large enough to house a prison.

Sites in Private Sector Ownership

- Baglan Bay, Port Talbot
- St Modwen site, Baglan
- Coed Darcy, Llandarcy, Neath.
- Celtic Business Park Newport
- Sully Moors, Barry
- Parc Eirin, Tonyrefail,
- Bryn Serth, Tredegar
- Llaniliad, Pontyclun
- Hirawun, Aberdare

Sites in Public Sector Ownership.

- Glynneath Business Park, Neath Valley.
- Oakdale Business park, Croespenmaen, Caerphilly.
- Goat Mill Road, Merthyr Tydfil
- Parc Eirin, Tonyrefail
- Baglan Industrial Park, Port Talbot
- Rhyd Y Blew, Ebbw Vale
- Coed Ely, Llantrisant
- Brocastle, Bridgend
- Wentloog Park, Nr Cardiff
- Felindre Business Park, Swansea
- Ffos Y Fran, Merthyr Tydfil

8. We are not aware that individual Local Authorities submitted sites to the MoJ.

9. To date there have been a number of direct meetings between Welsh Government officials and MoJ officials and/or their representatives regarding this project. Alongside these, there have been numerous telephone conversations and conferences. Welsh Government officials have also conducted meetings and telephone calls with partner

organisations such as the Local Authority and Natural Resources Wales. Meetings and discussions are ongoing.

10. The Welsh Government were not party to the decision making process that lead the MoJ to select Baglan.

11. Prisons are a reserved matter and as such I cannot comment on the suitability or otherwise of the land at Baglan for a new prison. Offender management is a complex area where the nature of the offence, the demographics of offenders and their families plays an important role in the siting of a prison. I would however, expect that the planning process and subsequent public consultations will address many local site issues.

12. Please see point 7 above, although again I would stress, that the appropriateness or suitability of a site for a prison is a matter for the MoJ.

13. It has always been an objective of the Welsh Government to see the land at Baglan developed. The Welsh Government will need to be assured by the MoJ that their proposal is fit for purpose and is proportionate prior to sale. Please see point 16 below for further completeness.

14. Should this development go ahead it will not affect the Welsh Government's commitment to its regeneration plans at Port Talbot. I am assured that impact assessments and public consultations will take place as part of the planning process.

15. I have had discussions with MoJ Ministers regarding the development and have made it clear that Ministers will need to have a complete understanding as to what is proposed on the site prior to sale. It is essential that a new prison needs to benefit the people of Wales in terms of offender management and economic impact.

16. Any disposal of Welsh Government land will be subject to the correct disposal procedure.

In addition to the above you asked about the arrangements that were put in place regarding health and education for HMP Berwyn.

The provision of healthcare and related services in public sector prisons in Wales falls to the Local Health Board. In the case of HMP Berwyn, funding has been provided directly by the MoJ having been based on a formal health needs assessment, completed by Public Health Wales. The assessment is a fully costed model based on a healthcare specification agreed jointly between Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB), MoJ and the Welsh Government. BCUHB have not been disadvantaged by the building of HMP Berwyn and a memorandum of understanding has been signed by the MoJ and BCUHB / Welsh Government which ensures the agreed funding model is formally adhered to and will be subject to regular review. Discussions with Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMU) and Neath Port Talbot Local Authority (NPT) will start in due course to ensure a similar settlement is secured in the NPT/ABMU area should the new prison go ahead.

For learning and skills at HMP Berwyn, their delivery has been contracted out to Novus Cambria and the funding is provided by the MoJ. This funding and delivery arrangement is operated through an annual Memorandum of Understanding signed jointly by the Welsh Ministers and MoJ.

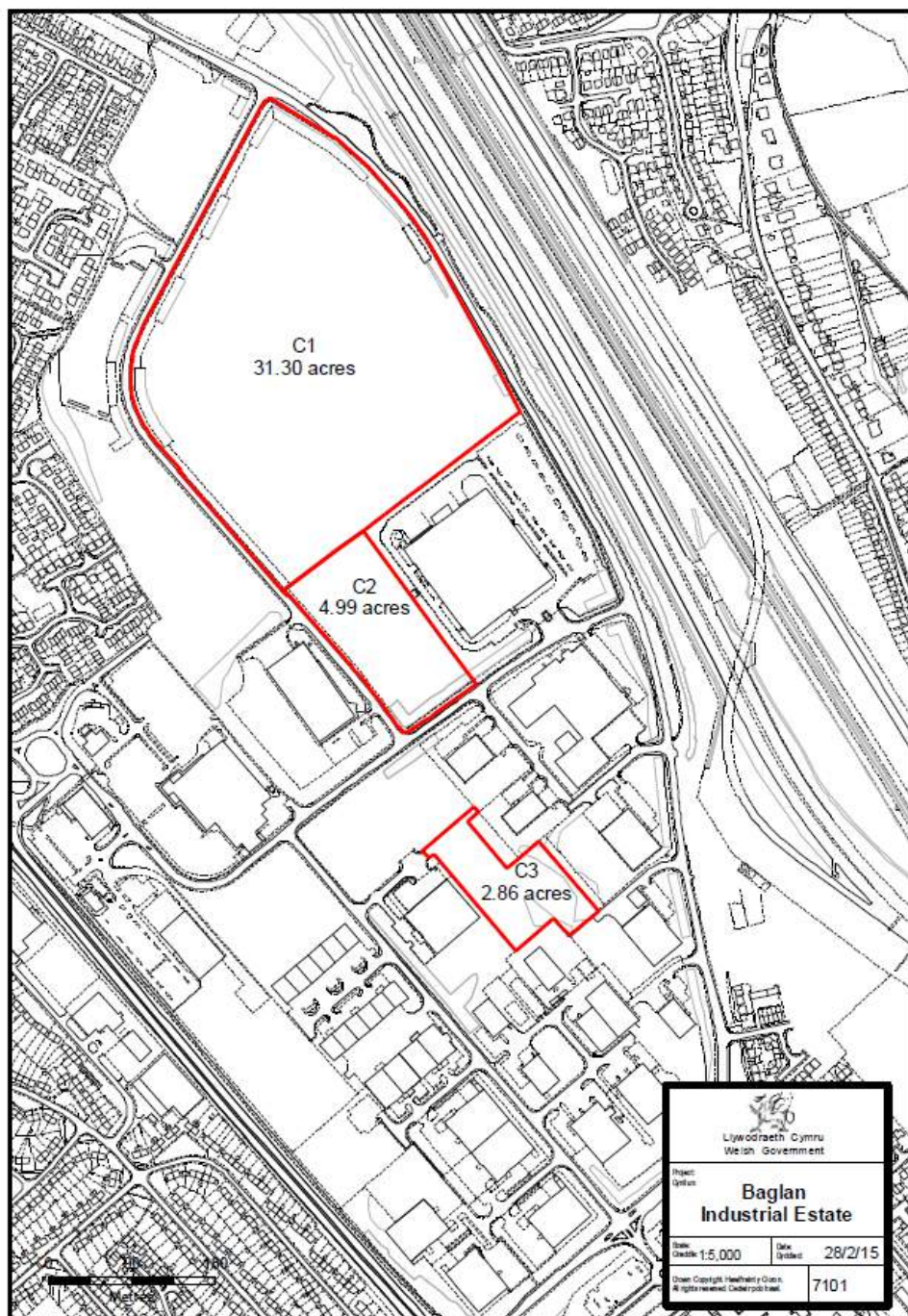
The site itself has poor ground conditions and the need for piled foundations has unfortunately meant that little interest has been shown by developers over an extensive period. Negotiations with the MoJ are at a very early stage and I think it would be more appropriate to conduct a site visit if and when matters progress.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Sargeant', written in a cursive style.

Carl Sargeant AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gymunedau a Phlant
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children



Ein cyf/Our Ref: 146-54769

Mr ~~Sargeant~~ AM
Cabinet secretary for Communities & Children
National Assembly for Wales
Ty ~~Hywel~~ House
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12 May 2017

Dear Carl,

Re: Siting of new prison in Port Talbot

Thank you for your response dated 8th May 2017 in relation to my enquiries regarding the siting of the proposed new prison at Port Talbot as announced by the Ministry for Justice on 22nd March 2017. I am grateful that you and the Welsh Government have been able to provide further detail to the process of arriving at this announcement and your letter will support my ability to respond to my constituents. However there are some aspects of the response which I would wish to pursue further and I highlight those below:

1. The site plan accompanying your letter has a date of 28 February 2015 and you indicate that this was sent to the Ministry of Justice. I must stress that this plan is definitely not reflective of the structures that were in place in 2015. Missing from this plan, and which are adjacent to plot C1, are the Resource Centre (which houses four GP practices plus other services provided by ABMU Health Board) and a residential care home, Llys y Seren, which provides facilities for sixty residents. Both of these buildings were in place at that date and had been for many years prior to that date. There are other buildings missing from your site plan and therefore I have to stress that the site plan did not reflect the actual lay of the land and the buildings that were in very close proximity to the site.
2. In relation to the number sites you have identified, 9 of which were in private sector ownership and 11 of which were in public sector ownership; could you clarify as to whether there was a distinction made by the Ministry for Justice to actually identify both or just one category and whether you (or your officials) have had discussions with the owners of the privately owned sites prior to the submission of their details.

3. In relation to the criteria used by the Welsh Government, which I note was the criteria sent by the Ministry of Justice, could you confirm that the Welsh Government had ensured that each of those criteria were met for each site and what investigations had been taken to ensure this was the case. (e.g. the site at Baglan is built upon a marshland area and as such require much piling, due to the poor ground conditions as you noted in your final paragraph). You note at point 6 that the Welsh Government did not undertake an investigation for each site but that the Ministry for Justice evaluated each one in turn; was the Welsh Government involved in any assessment of each site by the Ministry of Justice and did it receive any conclusions of such investigations? Did the Welsh Government have confirmation as to why the 3 sites identified in point 6, Baglan Industrial Estate, Brocastle and Felindre, were sites they wished to take further evaluation of and at that point did they add any further criteria as to the selection process they would be applying?
4. Did the Welsh Government have any discussions with officials from local authorities within which these sites are located; I particularly note that four of the sites lie within Port Talbot and a fifth lies within the Neath Port Talbot County Borough area. If so, can you confirm as to what officers and members you had discussions with.
5. In point 9 you identified there had been a number of meetings between Welsh Government officials and MOJ officials regarding this project. Could you confirm as to whether any officials from local authorities were present at any of these meetings and in particular as to whether any officials from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council were involved in these discussions.
6. I am pleased to note in point 15 that Welsh Government Ministers need to have a complete understanding of the proposed site and that it is important to ensure that any proposed new prison would benefit the people of Wales both in offender management and in economic impact a prison would have on the locality. I would therefore seek reassurances that the Welsh Government would listen to the views of the local people and local representatives when and if any proposal is made to it for the purchase of land to develop a new prison.
7. I am also grateful for the clarification that public services such as Health and Education are funded by the Ministry for Justice at the new site in Wrexham and I would be grateful if you could confirm as to whether there have been any additional pressures on funding public services as a consequence of the new prison in the Wrexham area and the implications of that pressure

DAVID REES AC /AM

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Assembly Member for Aberavon

8. Your final paragraph indicates that the need for pile foundations has been a possible deterrent to developers and as such it is clear that pile foundations would be a requirement for any new prison. However, the site was originally earmarked for industrial development and neighbouring businesses have managed to develop on that land. I would therefore be interested to understand what discussions you have had with your colleague, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and infrastructure, into developing this site for industrial purposes particularly as there is a shortage of large spaced premises (over 10 thousand sq. ft.) which could be used to attract businesses into the region and into Wales. This could ensure that we are able to develop an economy based upon manufacturing and technology and not simply based upon providing prison services to the UK Government.
9. In your answer to point 12 in my letter, you indicate that the appropriateness or suitability of the site is a matter for the MOJ. However, I believe that if a site has been allocated for industrial development then clearly the original intention was for this to be an area of economic growth and not an area of stagnation which would occur once a prison is built.

I would also ask as to whether any protocol exists for informing constituency/regional Assembly Members, who represent the locations identified, of such discussions between the Welsh Government and UK Government. It appears that these discussions have been ongoing without members being made aware of them. In particular, I believe that such protocol should exist when, in this case, the Ministry of Justice identified the final 3 sites for evaluation.

Finally, I would once again encourage you to visit the site so that if and when matters progress you are already in a position to understand the location, neighbouring properties (both public service and residential) and the implications a new prison would have on infrastructures within the locality. I believe this would provide you with knowledge and understanding to provide a response to the Ministry for Justice.

Yours sincerely



DAVID REES AM
Assembly Member for Aberavon



Eich cyf/Your ref 146 -54769
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/00728/17

David Rees AC/AM
Unit 6
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June 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 12 May and your letter of 2 May to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure to which he has asked that I reply. I am pleased that my earlier response to your correspondence of 7 April has been helpful. I will firstly address your concerns using your numbering in your latest correspondence for ease of reference.

1. The map supplied to you outlined the development boundary to ensure that you were fully aware of where the site is. Please be assured, before any decision was made by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to pursue a planning application, their officials and representatives visited the location and were fully aware of surrounding developments you refer to.
2. The information submitted to the MoJ was retrieved from the Wales Property Database which is maintained by the Welsh Government (WG). It is normal to present sites to potential developers under the "private" and "public" headings. All site owners give consent for their details to be passed on to developers, indeed that is one of the key functions of the database, to promote sites for development.
3. The WG sent site details to the MoJ of sites that it (the WG) thought may have been large enough to facilitate the development. It was not up to the WG to determine if the MoJ criteria were satisfied. That was a matter for the MoJ. The site at Baglan is made up of spoil from the steel works hence, depending upon proposed structures it may need to be piled. MoJ did inform WG that they would be assessing the three sites you mention. WG was not part of that decision or the final assessment.

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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.

4. WG officials did have discussions with officers from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. It would not appropriate to release the names of those officials.
5. Please see answer 4 above.
6. I welcome an open debate on this matter.
7. I am not aware that there has been any additional pressure on public services as a result of the new prison at Wrexham.
8. I understand that the site has been ready for development for over 35 years and despite funding being available to support development, it has attracted very little interest from the business community. I do not agree that this proposal is to service the needs of the UK Government. If it goes ahead a new prison will make our communities safer by improving offender management and offer Welsh businesses economic opportunities, a notion that you support in your point 6.
9. As I have previously stated, I believe the site has been available to developers for decades. I am certain that a new fit purpose rehabilitative facility in Port Talbot will benefit our communities and those individuals who unfortunately find themselves in custody. The economic benefits presented during the construction phase will undoubtedly benefit the local economy in the short to medium term. I am also sure that the proposed training and workshop facilities in the prison will offer longer term economic benefits

I understand that MoJ conducted many site evaluations across England and Wales as part of its Modernisation Agenda. Even when a shortlist of three sites was identified for South Wales, there was no guarantee that one would be chosen for a planning application. With such uncertainty, I don't think that releasing information as you suggest between Welsh and UK Ministers, would have been in the public interest.

My officials will inform me of developments and I would like to visit the site if it becomes appropriate to do so.

I will now address the matters raised in your correspondence to Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure which I have not previously covered.

The proposed planning application for the new prison will follow a defined planning application route where residents and businesses will be able to express their views via a consultation process.

As I confirmed to you in previous correspondence, the land in question is owned by the WG. It has been available for development since 1981. There is a considerable amount of land within the LDP reserved for future development and consequently, I do not see that building a prison on plots C1 and C2 will significantly impact upon industrial land availability. Indeed the land is costly to develop requiring piled foundations which may be the reason why it has remained fallow for many years. Regarding the impact on utilities, particularly energy, a prison will require absolute security of supply. It is my understanding therefore that the proposed prison would have its own supply and back up facility.

As you note the land is within the Enterprise Zone. The Board of the Zone are aware of the potential economic impact this project could have and are keen, at the appropriate point, to look at ways of supporting the local supply chain through the build and operation stages and

to work with prison authorities to consider ways of creating opportunity and economic impact. From the evidence seen at Wrexham, one of the largest industrial estates in Europe, there is nothing to suggest that adjacent businesses have been negatively impacted by the development of HMP Berwyn. Indeed, the response has been positive. Joyriding plagued the Wrexham estate for years but this has now all but stopped due to the increased surveillance and security on the estate. Please visit the following web site for information on the economic impact of HMP Berwyn, which I'm sure you will find helpful. www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/business/prison/index.htm I am confident that the success of the development of HMP Berwyn could be replicated at Baglan should the development go ahead.

I understand that you recently met with 'Envases'. WG officials have also met with the company and I hope that their concerns have been addressed. I am not aware of any other company who are worried about the proposed prison. However, if you are, please let me know and I will ask my officials to visit them.

Both titles pertaining to plots C1 and C2 have a restricted covenant as set out in a Conveyance dated 22nd June 1981 made between (1) The Borough Council of Afan (2) The Welsh Development Agency whereby the Agency covenanted amongst other things:-

"Not to use the property hereby conveyed or any part thereof other than as an Industrial Park in accordance with the planning permission granted in respect of the said property".

The Welsh Ministers as statutory successors in title to the former WDA are able to override easements and other rights restricting the use of land by virtue of The Welsh Development Agency Act 1975 (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2013. The effect of this provision is that the rights which are overridden are turned into compensatory rights if the party benefiting from the rights can demonstrate loss.

Impacts on traffic flow etc. will be drawn out within the planning process where all interested parties will be given the opportunity to voice their views.

Yours sincerely



Carl Sargeant AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gymunedau a Phlant
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children

Ein Cyf/Our Ref:

13th September 2017

Dear Carl

As you are aware, I have raised many questions with the Welsh Government relating to the decision of the Ministry of Justice to build a new 'super' prison on land owned by the Welsh Government at Baglan Industrial Park in my constituency. Many of these questions have focused upon the interaction between the Welsh Government and the Ministry of Justice, either at official level or ministerial level, regarding the processes that occurred leading up to the decision and those following the announcement of the decision on 22nd March 2017 and to date you have been forthcoming in your responses which is very much appreciated. Yesterday, during a Westminster Hall debate on the proposed prison at Port Talbot

(<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2017-09-12/debates/17091242000002/ProposedPrisonPortTalbot>), initiated by Liz Saville Roberts at the Houses of Parliament, the Minister for Prisons, Sam Gyimah, provided a clear perception that the Welsh Government was enthusiastically supporting the proposal. The following quotes from Hansard from the Minister support this:

'When assessing where to build new prisons, the Ministry of Justice worked closely with the Welsh Government to identify suitable sites for a new prison build in Wales'

'In addition, the site is owned by the Welsh Government, who are supportive of our work to progress these plans.'

'we are engaging with the Welsh Government and Members of Parliament, and with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to develop its plans for the Port Talbot site. We are pleased to have had the support of the leader of the council, Councillor Rob Jones, and the Welsh Government throughout the process.'

'We will continue to work with the Welsh Government, who remain committed to the project on the Port Talbot site, and we will work closely with them when developing the planning event to address the local community's key concerns'

I have spoken to the leader of Neath Port Talbot Council, Cllr Rob Jones, who is also mentioned as a supporter of the plans and he has confirmed that the statement relating to him is incorrect and thus misleading. I therefore seek further detail from the Welsh Government

DAVID REES AC /AM

Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberafan

Assembly Member for Aberavon

as to its activities and actions with regard to this proposal and the support it has given to the Ministry of Justice together with its position regarding the proposed new prison.

Will you therefore confirm, in relation to the proposed new prison:

1. The number of meetings (including telephone conversations/conferences) that took place between officials from your department and those of the Ministry of Justice prior to the announcement on 22nd March 2017.
2. The number of meetings (including telephone conversations/conferences) that have taken place between officials from your department and those of the Ministry of Justice since the announcement on 22nd March 2017.
3. The number of meetings (including telephone conversations/conferences) that took place between yourself (or your predecessor) and Minister(s) from the Ministry of Justice prior to the announcement on 22nd March 2017.
4. The number of meetings (including telephone conversations/conferences) that have taken place between yourself (or your predecessor) and Minister(s) from the Ministry of Justice following the announcement on 22nd March 2017.
5. What role did the Welsh Government (officials or ministerial) played in selecting suitable sites for the ministry of Justice.
6. When was a decision made by the Welsh Government to support the progress of the plans to build a new prison at Port Talbot.
7. What role the Welsh Government is playing in developing the plans for the new prison at Port Talbot.
8. What role the Welsh Government has in developing community plans for the proposal.
9. What commitment(s) has the Welsh Government given to the Ministry of Justice regarding the siting of a new prison on the Baglan Industrial Park site.
10. What assessment has the Welsh Government undertaken of the community & social impact upon Port Talbot.
11. What analysis has the Welsh Government undertaken upon the financial implications for both public & community services in Port Talbot.
12. What financial discussions have taken place between the Welsh Government and the Ministry of Justice.
13. What criteria and/or conditions has the Welsh Government developed for the sale & development of the land at the Baglan Industrial Park site.

The message that is being portrayed by the Minister at Westminster is that the Welsh Government is fully supportive and working to achieve the building of a new prison in Port Talbot. As the constituency

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DAVID REES AC /AM

Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberafan

Assembly Member for Aberavon

Assembly Member, I am concerned at this message and seek answers to the role of the Welsh Government, both prior to the announcement of the new prison build and since.

Yours sincerely



DAVID REES AM

Assembly Member for Aberavon

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Ein cyf/Our Ref: 146-55958

Mr Alun Michael
Police & Crime Commissioner
South Wales Police
Police Headquarters
Bridgend
CF31 3SU

07 April 2017

Dear Alun,

As you may be aware, the Ministry of Justice announced on 22 March 2017 that it would be looking to site a new prison in Port Talbot. It has emerged that the likely site is to be on the Baglan Industrial Estate close to industrial units, residential homes, a Resource Centre housing four GP practices and a care home. I would be grateful if you would be able to provide details as to the interaction that has taken place between South Wales Police and the Ministry of Justice as part of the process that has culminated in this decision. Therefore, could you provide details on the following:

1. What discussions have South Wales Police Officers/Officials had with the Ministry of Justice regarding the consideration of siting a new prison in South Wales and could you provide the dates of those meetings?
2. Were the South Wales Police aware of all of the proposed sites that were being considered for the site of a new prison?
3. Did any representative of the South Wales Police provide any input into the process of selecting appropriate sites for consideration by the Ministry of Justice?
4. Did any member of the South Wales Police have knowledge of the criteria to be used to select the proposed site?
5. Did any member of the South Wales Police visit any of the sites that had been identified and provide a report as to the appropriateness/suitability of that site for the housing of a new prison?
6. What analysis has the South Wales Police undertaken of the impact on the local communities of the siting of a new prison?
7. Can the South Wales Police provide details of crime rates in communities/housing estates close to Swansea Prison, Parc Prison (Bridgend) and Cardiff Prison

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Assembly Member for Aberavon

8. Were the South Wales Police asked to provide comments on the final site chosen prior to the announcement?
9. As a result of the siting of a new prison in Port Talbot will the South Wales Police be increasing the number of officers located in Port Talbot?
10. What discussions has the South Wales Police had with the Ministry of Justice regarding the future of both Swansea Prison and Cardiff Prison?
11. Did the South Wales Police have any input to the establishment of the criteria that was being used by the Ministry of Justice?
12. Has South Wales Police undertaken any analysis of each site in South Wales that was under consideration by the Ministry of Justice?

I hope you can appreciate that it is important to be able to provide as much detail as possible to the public so that they can base their judgement upon facts and consequently, their understanding of the proposals will be enhanced. There is clearly at present much confusion amongst the public and this confusion is being utilized for possible political gains which does not serve the community well. The understanding of facts and these details will allow the public to be aware of the detailed consideration that has taken place.

Yours sincerely,



DAVID REES AM

Assembly Member for Aberavon



Rt Hon Alun Michael JP FRSA

Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales
Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddu De Cymru



South Wales
Police and Crime Commissioner
Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddu
De Cymru

Mr David Rees AM
Unit 6,
Water Street Business Centre,
Gwyn Terrace,
Aberavon
Port Talbot,
SA12 6LG

Dear David,

25th April 2017

RE: POTENTIAL PRISON SITE IN PORT TALBOT

Thank you for your letter regarding the announcement by the Ministry of Justice that they are considering a site in Port Talbot for the placement of a new prison.

You have asked several detailed questions about the prison in Port Talbot and the involvement of South Wales Police with that project and I am awaiting a response to a number of enquiries internally. I will write back to you as soon as possible once I have received those answers.

Yours ever
Alun Michael

Rt. Hon Alun Michael JP
Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales



Rt Hon Alun Michael JP FRSA

Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales
Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddau De Cymru



South Wales
Police and Crime Commissioner
Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddau
De Cymru

Mr David Rees AM
National Assembly for Wales
Unit 6
Water Street Business Centre
Gwyn Terrace
Aberavon
Port Talbot
SA12 6LG

25th May 2017

Dear David

RE: POTENTIAL PRISON IN PORT TALBOT

I have now been able to make inquiries about what was known in advance of the announcement of the intention to build a new prison in your constituency.

As you know, I had no prior information and was taken by surprise by the announcement. Although it was known that the Ministry of Justice had been exploring sites in South Wales – you may remember that there were news reports about a couple of other sites including one in the Rhondda – no specific proposals had emerged in advance of the announcement.

Having checked with all chief officers I can now confirm that South Wales Police had no discussion, contact or interaction with the Ministry of Justice in advance of the announcement or subsequently. Checks were made within the Force, particularly in the Western Division that covers your area, and there was no trace of any interactions with the Ministry in relation to the decision. As you would expect, contacts are now being pursued to better understand the proposals and plan so we can participate appropriately in the discussions and assess the impact upon South Wales Police and on the local community.

In your letter you referred to 'crimes rates' around the other prisons, and I have discussed this with the Assistant Chief Constable Richard Lewis who says that his personal knowledge and experience reinforced by discussions with colleagues would suggest the following;

- In general terms there is little impact on the surrounding communities from the prisons in terms of crime. In the case of Parc there has been little crime or anti-social behaviour associated with the prison within the nearby

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The Commissioner and his team welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English
Mae'r Comisiynydd a'i dîm yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg

Clearly we now all need as much information as possible to understanding the proposals and to be in a well-informed position to contribute to the process from here on. I am seeking such information from the Ministry of Justice.

I hope this helps but would be happy to discuss the proposal with you.



Rt. Hon Alun Michael JP
Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales

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Mae'r Comislynydd a'i dîm yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg

Donovan, Lisa (Staff Cymorth Aelod Cynulliad | Assembly Member Support Staff)

From: Rees, David (Aelod Cynulliad | Assembly Member)
Sent: 07 September 2017 12:27
To: DS.FirstMinister@gov.wales; DS.FirstMinister@gov.wales
Cc: Donovan, Lisa (Staff Cymorth Aelod Cynulliad | Assembly Member Support Staff); Thomas, Angharad (Staff Cymorth Aelod Cynulliad | Assembly Member Support Staff)
Subject: Invitation to attend public meeting

Dear Carwyn

As you are aware, the Ministry of Justice has announced its decision of its intention to build a new prison at a site on the Baglan Industrial park within my constituency. Many residents have expressed a strong view against this proposal and much discussion has been taking place between myself, my colleague Stephen Kinnock MP, Bethan Jenkins AM and both the Welsh Government and the Ministry of Justice regarding this matter. Stephen Kinnock has organised a public meeting to be held on the evening of Wednesday September 20th with the intention to both provide the attendees with information that has been gathered since the announcement and to listen to the views of local people. I would like to invite you, as First Minister of Wales, to attend the meeting to represent the Welsh Government and to listen to the case put by those present against the siting of the new prison on the Baglan Industrial Park. I have also written to the Cabinet Secretary for the Economy & Infrastructure inviting him to attend the same meeting. As the land on which the new prison will be built is in the ownership of the Welsh Government and also within the Harbourside Enterprise Zone (as identified by the Welsh Government) I believe it would be beneficial to my constituents for the Welsh Government to be represented and to hear their voices.

Yours sincerely

David

David Rees

Labour Assembly Member for Aberavon | Aelod Cynulliad Llafur dros Aberafan

Email: david.rees@assembly.wales | Epost: david.rees@cynulliad.cymru

Chair, External Affairs & Additional Legislation Committee, National Assembly for Wales

Cadeirydd, Y Pwyllgor Materion Allanol a Deddfwriaeth Ychwanegol, Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

✉ National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA/ Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, Bae Caerdydd, CF99 1NA

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"Dylai unrhyw ddatganiadau neu sylwadau uchod gael eu trin fel rhai personol a nid o reidwydd fel datganiadau neu sylwadau gan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, unrhywn ran ohoni neu unrhywn gorff sy'n gysylltiedig a hi."

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Dear David,

Thank you for your email inviting the First Minister to attend a public meeting to discuss the Ministry of Justice's decision to build a new prison on the Baglan Industrial Park, to be held on the evening of Wednesday 20 September.

The First Minister was pleased to receive the invitation, but unfortunately due to prior commitments he is unable to attend. He has asked me to pass on his sincere apologies and best wishes.

Kind regards,
Patrick

**Private Office Administrative Support | Cynorthwydd
Gweinyddol Swyddfa Breifat
Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM | Y Gwir Anrh. Carwyn Jones AC
First Minister of Wales | Prif Weinidog Cymru**



Welsh Government | Llywodraeth Cymru

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Dylai unrhyw ddatganiadau neu sylwadau uchod gael eu trin fel rhai personol ac nid o reidrwydd fel datganiadau neu sylwadau gan y Llywodraeth Cymru, unrhyw ran ohono, neu unrhyw gorff sy'n gysylltiedig ag ef.

DAVID REES AC /AM

Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberafan
Assembly Member for Aberavon

Ein Cyf/Our Ref:

13th September 2017

Dear Carwyn

As you are aware, I have raised many questions with the Welsh Government relating to the decision of the Ministry of Justice to build a new 'super' prison on land owned by the Welsh Government at Baglan Industrial Park in my constituency. Many of these questions have focused upon the interaction between the Welsh Government and the Ministry of Justice, either at official level or ministerial level, regarding the processes that occurred leading up to the decision and those following the announcement of the decision on 22nd March 2017. Yesterday, during a Westminster Hall debate on the proposed prison at Port Talbot (<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2017-09-12/debates/17091242000002/ProposedPrisonPortTalbot>), initiated by Liz Saville Roberts at the Houses of Parliament, the Minister for Prisons, Sam Gyimah, provided a clear perception that the Welsh Government was enthusiastically supporting the proposal. The following quotes from Hansard from the Minister support this:

'When assessing where to build new prisons, the Ministry of Justice worked closely with the Welsh Government to identify suitable sites for a new prison build in Wales'

'In addition, the site is owned by the Welsh Government, who are supportive of our work to progress these plans.'

'We are engaging with the Welsh Government and Members of Parliament, and with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to develop its plans for the Port Talbot site. We are pleased to have had the support of the leader of the council, Councillor Rob Jones, and the Welsh Government throughout the process.'

'We will continue to work with the Welsh Government, who remain committed to the project on the Port Talbot site, and we will work closely with them when developing the planning event to address the local community's key concerns'

I have spoken to the leader of Neath Port Talbot Council, Cllr Rob Jones, who is also mentioned as a supporter of the plans and he has confirmed that the statement relating to him is incorrect and thus misleading. I therefore seek further detail from the Welsh Government as to its activities and actions with regard to this proposal and the

DAVID REES AC /AM

Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberafan

Assembly Member for Aberavon

support it has given to the Ministry of Justice together with its position regarding the proposed new prison.

Will you therefore confirm, in relation to the proposed new prison:

1. The number of meetings (including telephone conversations/conferences) that took place between officials from your office and those of the Ministry of Justice prior to the announcement on 22nd March 2017.
2. The number of meetings (including telephone conversations/conferences) that have taken place between officials from your office and those of the Ministry of Justice since the announcement on 22nd March 2017.
3. The number of meetings (including telephone conversations/conferences) that took place between yourself and Minister(s) from the Ministry of Justice prior to the announcement on 22nd March 2017.
4. The number of meetings (including telephone conversations/conferences) that have taken place between yourself and Minister(s) from the Ministry of Justice following the announcement on 22nd March 2017.
5. What role the Welsh Government (officials or ministerial) played in selecting suitable sites for the Ministry of Justice.
6. When was a decision made by the Welsh Government to support the progress of the plans to build a new prison at Port Talbot.
7. What role the Welsh Government is playing in developing the plans for the new prison at Port Talbot.
8. What role the Welsh Government has in developing community plans for the proposal.
9. What commitment(s) has the Welsh Government given to the Ministry of Justice regarding the siting of a new prison on the Baglan Industrial Park [site](#).
10. What assessment has the Welsh Government undertaken of the community & social impact upon Port Talbot.
11. What assessment has the Welsh Government undertaken of the economic impact upon Port Talbot.
12. What analysis has the Welsh Government undertaken upon the financial implications for both public & community services in Port Talbot.
13. What financial discussions have taken place between the Welsh Government and the Ministry of Justice.
14. What criteria and/or conditions has the Welsh Government developed for the sale & development of the land at the Baglan Industrial Park [site](#).

The message that is being portrayed by the Minister at Westminster is that the Welsh Government is fully supportive and working to achieve

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DAVID REES AC /AM

Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberafan

Assembly Member for Aberavon

the building of a new prison in Port Talbot. As the constituency Assembly Member, I am concerned at this message and seek answers to the role of the Welsh Government, both prior to the announcement of the new prison build and since.

Yours sincerely

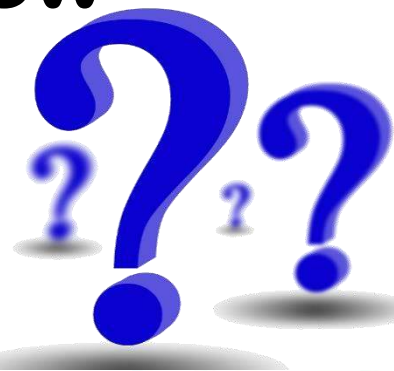


DAVID REES AM

Assembly Member for Aberavon

Proposed New Prison

David's questions:



David's questions 22nd March 2017

Cwestiwn Brys: Y Penderfyniad i Adeiladu Carchar ym Mhort Talbot

Mae [R] yn dynodi bod yr Aelod wedi datgan buddiant. Mae [W] yn dynodi bod y cwestiwn wedi'i gyflwyno yn Gymraeg.

Urgent Question: The Decision to Build a Prison in Port Talbot

[R] signifies the Member has declared an interest. [W] signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

14:42 Y Llywydd / The Llywydd [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Rwyf wedi derbyn cwestiwn brys o dan Reol Sefydlog 12.66, ac rwy'n galw ar David Rees i ofyn y cwestiwn brys.

I have accepted an urgent question under Standing Order 12.66, and I call on David Rees to ask the urgent question.

14:42 David Rees [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Pa drafodaethau y mae Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet wedi'u cynnal â Llywodraeth y DU ynghylch y penderfyniad i adeiladu carchar ym Mhort Talbot? EAQ(5)0124(CC)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary held with the UK Government regarding the decision to build a prison in Port Talbot? EAQ(5)0124(CC)

14:42 Carl Sargeant [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gymunedau a Phlant / The Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children

I thank the Member for his question. I have had direct discussions with the UK prisons Minister regarding the proposed site for the development of the new prison at Port Talbot. This proposal has the potential to offer south Wales a modern, fit-for-purpose facility that concentrates on rehabilitation, making our communities safer.

Diolch i'r Aelod am ei gwestiwn. Rwyf wedi cael trafodaethau uniongyrchol â Gweinidog carchardai'r DU ynglŷn â'r safle arfaethedig ar gyfer datblygu carchar newydd ym Mhort Talbot. Mae gan y cynnig hwn botensial i gynnig cyfleuster modern, addas i'r diben i dde Cymru, sy'n canolbwyntio ar adsefydlu, a gwneud ein cymunedau'n fwy diogel.

14:42 David Rees [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I thank the Cabinet Secretary for that answer. This decision was taken by the Westminster Government before any public consultation had taken place and I deeply regret that they have not taken the opportunities available to them, although I do recognise that the planning process will allow opportunities, perhaps, for that wider public consultation.

Diolch i Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet am yr ateb hwnnw. Gwnaed y penderfyniad hwn gan Llywodraeth San Steffan cyn i unrhyw ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus gael ei gynnal ac rwy'n gresnu'n fawr nad ydynt wedi manteisio ar y cyfleoedd sydd ar gael iddynt, er fy mod yn cydnabod y bydd y broses gynllunio yn caniatáu cyfleoedd, efallai, ar gyfer yr ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus ehangach hwnnw.

They don't seem to be identifying specific sites, although it has come to my attention that perhaps it's on Welsh Government land, on Baglan industrial estate, off Moor Road. Can you confirm that? Can you also identify what impact assessments have been undertaken of local services—health, whether physical or mental health, education, particularly for the inmates who will be going to the prison, and perhaps on transport issues, because, clearly, who will be paying those costs as well? What support services are being identified for those inmates who will be released from prison and where will they be located?

Nid yw'n ymddangos eu bod yn nodi safleoedd penodol, er fy mod wedi clywed efallai ei fod ar dir Llywodraeth Cymru, ar ystad ddwyddiolnod Baglan, oddi ar Ffordd Moor. A allwch chi gadarnhau hynny? A allwch nodi hefyd pa asesiadau effaith a gynhaliwyd o wasanaethau lleol—iechyd, boed yn iechyd corfforol neu iechyd meddwl, addysg, yn enwedig ar gyfer y carcharion a fydd yn mynd i'r carchar, ac efallai yr effaith ar faterion trafidiadaeth, oherwydd, yn amlwg, pwy fydd yn talu'r costau hynny hefyd? Pa wasanaethau cymorth sy'n cael eu nodi ar gyfer y carcharion a fydd yn cael eu rhyddhau o'r carchar a ble y cânt eu lleoli?

We can use HMP Berwyn as an example, perhaps, as an assessment to be made of the local benefits, but have you been given any indication as to how many jobs are being created as a consequence of this decision, particularly in light of the Cardiff University data that have been released today, identifying the fact that, if Port Talbot is an additional prison, then there's going to be an overcapacity for the number of Welsh prisoners who will need to be housed. Does that imply that Cardiff and Swansea are under review and possibly fit for closure, which means that jobs will not be created, but be transferred instead, which, therefore, has a different impact upon the site? I recognise that some of those aspects may be for the Ministry of Justice to answer, but have you asked those questions and have you had answers to those questions?

Gallwn ddefnyddio Carchar Berwyn fel enghraifft, efallai, fel asesiad i'w gwneud o'r manteision lleol, ond a ydych wedi cael unrhyw syniad faint o swyddi sy'n cael eu creu o ganlyniad i'r penderfyniad hwn, yn enwedig yng ngoleuni data Prifysgol Caerdydd a ryddhawyd heddiw, yn nodi'r ffaith, os yw Port Talbot yn garchar ychwanegol, y bydd yna fwy o leodd nag a geir o garcharion o Gymru sydd angen eu lleoli? A yw hynny'n awgymu bod Caerdydd ac Abertawe yn cael eu hadolygu ac o bosibl yn addas i'w cau, sy'n golygu na fydd swyddi'n cael eu creu, ond yn cael eu trosglwyddo yn lle hynny, sydd felly'n cael effaith wahanol ar y safle? Rwy'n cydnabod y gall rhai o'r agweddau hynny fod yn gwestiynau i'r Weinnyddiaeth Gyflawnder eu hateb, ond a ydych wedi gofyn y cwestiynau hynny ac a ydych wedi cael atebion i'r cwestiynau hynny?



Carl Sargeant's answer 22nd March 2017

14:44 Carl Sargeant [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I thank the Member for his question and his interest on that, representing his constituents. Of course, many of the questions he has rightly raised require Ministry of Justice responses, but they are at very early stages. The statement that was issued by the Ministry of Justice was about the indication to consider building a prison in Neath Port Talbot, and those fundamental questions about the indirect consequences that the Member raises are things that will happen through both consultation and also the proper planning processes by the Ministry of Justice.

My team will be engaging with the Ministry of Justice around these issues and, of course, I did visit HMP Berwyn in Wrexham. I think the nervousness of new institutions like this is one that galvanises communities, but I can assure the Member and I would urge him to go and have a look at HMP Berwyn to allay some of his fears. But some of the questions he raises with me today are right and proper, and he does deserve answers to them.

Dioch i'r Aelod am ei gwestiwn a'i ddi-ddordeb yn hynny, wrth gynrychioli ei etholwyr. Wrth gwrs, mae llawer o'r cwestiynau y mae wedi'u gofyn, yn gywir, yn galw am atebion gan y Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder, ond mae'n ddyddiau cynnar iawn. Roedd y datganiad a gyhoeddwyd gan y Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder yn ymwneud â'r awgrym i ystyried adeiladu carchar yng Nghastell-nedd Port Talbot, ac mae'r cwestiynau syllaenol hynny ynglŷn â'r canlyniadau anuniongyrchol y mae'r Aelod yn eu crybwyll yn bethau a fydd yn digwydd drwy ymgynghori yn ogystal â'r prosesau cynllunio priodol gan y Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder.

Bydd fy nhim yn ymgysylltu â'r Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder ynglŷn â'r materion hyn ac wrth gwrs, bwm yn ymweld â Charchar Berwyn yn Wrecsam. Rwy'n credu bod nerfusrwydd sefydliadau newydd fel hwn yn un sy'n ysgogi cymunedau, ond gallaf sicrhau'r Aelod, a byddwn yn ei annog i fynd i gael golwg ar Garchar Berwyn er mwyn tawelu rhai o'i ofnau. Ond mae rhai o'r cwestiynau y mae'n eu gofyn i mi heddiw yn gywir ac yn briodol, ac mae'n haeddu atebion iddynt.

David's question 4th April 2017

14:41 David Rees [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Cabinet Secretary, Vibrant and Viable Places, as projects in Port Talbot, has seen the regeneration of areas of my town, and you've seen for yourself some of the work in the Green Park area. These have been an attractive vision for the local people and for future investors. The announcement two weeks ago by the Ministry of Justice of the siting of a new **prison** in Baglan, which is less than a mile away from these targeted regeneration projects, could—and I say 'could'—reverse the positive impact of these projects. I understand that the land being considered by the Ministry of Justice is Welsh Government-owned land. When asked by the MoJ if it would sell the land, will the Welsh Government say, 'No' and keep its focus on targeted regeneration in Port Talbot?

Ysgrifennwyd y Cabinet, mae Lleoedd Llewyrchus Llawn Addewid, fel prosiectau ym Mhort Talbot, wedi adfywio rhannau o fy nhref, ac rydych wedi gweld rhywfaint o'r gwaith yn ardal y Parc Gwyrdd drosoch eich hun. Mae'r rhain wedi bod yn weledigaeth atyniadol i'r bobl leol ac i fuddsoddwyr yn y dyfodol. Byddai'r cyhoeddiad a wnaed gan y Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder bythefnos yn ôl ynglŷn â lleoli carchar newydd ym Maglan, sy'n llai na milltir i ffwrdd o'r prosiectau adfywio hyn sydd wedi'u targedu, yn gallu—ac rwy'n dweud 'gallu'—gwrthdroi effaith gadarnhaol y prosiectau hyn. Deallaf fod y tir sydd dan ystyriaeth gan y Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder yn eiddo i Lywodraeth Cymru. Pan fydd y Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder yn gofyn a fyddai'n gwerthu'r tir, a fydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn dweud, 'Na' ac yn cadw ei ffocws ar adfywio wedi'i dargedu ym Mhort Talbot?

14:42 Carl Sargeant [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

I'm grateful for the Member's acknowledgment of the investment that we've made in his constituency, and I've been around with him on some of those visits. Again, that is another area that has been dramatically turned around by the Government's investment.

The matter of the **prison** is a matter for the MoJ. The planning system is as appropriate as it is for any other system, whether that be a **prison** or a high-street shop. The land is open to offers by any organisation, and if the MoJ wishes to pursue that, it will be a matter for the MoJ and we will treat that accordingly, under the planning terms and conditions.

Dioch i'r Aelod am gydnabod y buddsoddiad rydym wedi'i wneud yn ei etholaeth, ac rwyf wedi bod o gwmpas gydag ef ar rai o'r ymweliadau hynny. Unwaith eto, mae honno'n ardal arall sydd wedi cael ei thrawsnewid yn ddramatig gan fuddsoddiad y Llywodraeth.

Mater i'r Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder yw'r carchar. Mae'r system gynllunio mor briodol ag ydyw ar gyfer unrhyw system arall, boed yn garchar neu'n siop stryd fawr. Mae'r tir yn agored i yngnigion gan unrhyw sefydliad, ac os yw'r Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder yn dymuno dilyn y trywydd hwnnw, mater iddynt hwy fydd hynny a byddwn yn ei drin yn unol â hynny o dan y telerau ac amodau cynllunio.





David's question 2nd May 2017

Yr Ardal Fenter ym Mhort Talbot

14:00

David Rees [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

5. A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am y cynnydd sy'n cael ei wneud i ddenu buddsoddiad i'r ardal fenter ym Mhort Talbot?
OAQ(5)0571(FM)

14:00

Carwyn Jones [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Y Prif Weinidog / The First Minister

Yes. We know the enterprise zone is a powerful marketing lever. We know that its proximity to the new Swansea bay campus, in terms of the area's assisted area status, is hugely important, and we know the zone is a compelling proposition for investment.

14:00

David Rees [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Thank you for that answer, First Minister. As you know, the enterprise zone in Port Talbot was established due to the real threat of closure of the steelworks following Tata's original decision to sell off its UK operations. That threat is not going away, and it's important that we now diversify our manufacturing and other industries within Port Talbot. However, this proposed new site for a new **prison** in Port Talbot is actually believed to be within the Port Talbot enterprise zone. What analysis has the Welsh Government undertaken to actually consider the impact that building a **prison** in that enterprise zone will have on attracting new businesses and supporting economic growth in existing businesses, to build a stronger economy based upon skills available in manufacturing and high tech that are in Port Talbot? And on the basis of the analysis result giving a negative outcome, will the Welsh Government fail to sell or lease the land to the Ministry of Justice?

14:01

Carwyn Jones [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Y Prif Weinidog / The First Minister

Well, we haven't conducted that analysis as yet. What I can say, however, to the Member, just to reassure him, is that I have a **prison** in my constituency. In fact, it was built when I was the ward councillor in my ward. Indeed, people were concerned and they were worried about what the impact of the **prison** might be. The reality is it hasn't had a negative impact at all. In fact, it employs a large number of people locally and it's provided work for a large number of contractors. So, whilst I can well understand some of his constituents being concerned—and he has represented the views of those constituents this afternoon—the experience that we have in Bridgend is that the **prison** itself—. In fact, there's a housing estate being built next to it as we speak. So, the **prison** quickly becomes integrated into the life of the community and it can, in fact, be a job creator.

The Enterprise Zone in Port Talbot

5. Will the First Minister make a statement on the progress being made to attract investment into the enterprise zone in Port Talbot?
OAQ(5)0571(FM)

Gwnaf. Rydym ni'n gwybod bod yr ardal fenter yn ysgogwr marchnata pwerus. Rydym ni'n gwybod bod ei agosrwydd at gampws newydd bae Abertawe, o ran statws ardal a gynorthwyl yr ardal, yn hynod o bwysig, a gwyddom fod yr ardal yn gynnig deniadol ar gyfer buddsoddiad.

Diolch i chi am yr ateb yna, Brif Weinidog. Fel y gwyddoch, sefydwyd yr ardal fenter ym Mhort Talbot oherwydd y bygythiad gwirioneddol o gau'r gwaith dur yn dilyn penderfyniad gwreiddiol Tata i werthu ei weithrediadau yn y DU. Nid yw'r bygythiad hwnnw yn pylu, ac mae'n bwysig nawr ein bod ni'n amrywio ein diwydiant gweithgynhyrchu a diwydiannau eraill ym Mhort Talbot. Fodd bynnag, credir fod y safle newydd arfaethedig hwn ar gyfer carchar newydd ym Mhort Talbot mewn gwirionedd yn ardal fenter Port Talbot. Pa ddadansoddiad y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ei wneud i ystyried yr effaith y bydd adeiladu carchar yn yr ardal fenter honno yn ei chael ar ddenu busnesau newydd a chefnogi twf economaidd mewn busnesau sydd eisoes yn bodoli, i adeiladu economi gryfach yn seiliedig ar y sgiliau sydd ar gael ym maes gweithgynhyrchu ac uwch-dechnoleg sydd ym Mhort Talbot? Ac ar y sail bod y dadansoddiad yn rhoi canlyniad negyddol, a fydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn methu â gwerthu neu brydlu'r tir i'r Ffeyddiaeth Gyfiawnder?

Wel, nid ydym wedi cynnal y dadansoddiad hwnnw eto. Yr hyn y gallaf ei ddweud, fodd bynnag, wrth yr Aelod, dim ond i roi sicrwydd iddo, yw bod gennyf i garchar yn fy etholaeth i. A dweud y gwir, cafodd ei adeiladu pan mai i oedd y cynghorydd ward yn fy ward. Yn wir, roedd pobl yn pryderu ac roeddent yn poeni am yr hyn y gallai effaith y carchar fod. Y gwir amdani yw nad yw wedi cael effaith negyddol o gwbl. A dweud y gwir, mae'n cyflogi nifer fawr o bobl yn lleol ac mae wedi darparu gwaith ar gyfer nifer fawr o gontractwyr. Felly, er y gallaf ddeall yn iawn bod rhai o'i etholwyr yn pryderu—ac mae ef wedi cynrychioli barn yr etholwyr hynny y prnhawn yma—y profiad sydd gennym ni ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr yw bod y carchar ei hun—. A dweud y gwir, mae ystad o dai yn cael ei hadelladu y drws nesaf iddo ar hyn o bryd. Felly, mae'r carchar yn cael ei integreiddio'n gyflym i fywyd y gymuned a gall, mewn gwirionedd, greu swyddi.





David's question 4th July 2017

Carchar Newydd ym Maglan

A New Prison at Baglan

13:30 David Rees [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

1. A wnaiff y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad am yr trafodaethau a gafwyd rhwng Llywodraeth Cymru a'r Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder mewn perthynas â lleoli carchar newydd ym Maglan? QAQ(5)0702(FM)

1. Will the First Minister make a statement on the discussions held between the Welsh Government and the Ministry of Justice in relation to the siting of a new prison at Baglan? QAQ(5)0702(FM)

13:30 Carwyn Jones [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Y Prif Weinidog / The First Minister

The Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children has had discussions with the UK's prisons Minister regarding the proposed site for development of a new prison at Baglan, and Welsh Government officials are also having ongoing discussions with Ministry of Justice officials regarding the proposal.

Mae Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gymunedau a Phlant wedi cael trafodaethau gyda Gweinidog carchardai y DU ynghylch y safle arfaethedig ar gyfer datblygu carchar newydd ym Maglan, ac mae swyddogion Llywodraeth Cymru hefyd yn cael trafodaethau parhau gyda swyddogion y Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder ynghylch y cynnig.

13:30 David Rees [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Thank you for that answer, First Minister. As you know, the site that's been identified by the MOJ is within the ownership of the Welsh Government, and lies next door to a housing estate, a residential care home, a GP resource centre, with four surgeries in there, and other businesses on that industrial estate. It also lies within the enterprise zone, which was established when the threat to Tata was raised last year, with the intention being to grow and invest in businesses. Now, I don't believe that a prison would actually encourage that. For these businesses to grow, they actually want more space. They need larger units of 10,000 sq ft plus. I've met with local businesses and they want to grow, they want to stay, but if they see a prison coming, damaging their growth opportunities, they have told me they will leave Port Talbot and possibly even Wales. Will the Welsh Government reject any bid from the MOJ for that land, and instead invest in building these units, which can allow them to grow, and commit itself to that as it has done elsewhere in Wales?

Diolch i chi am yr ateb yna, Prif Weinidog. Fel y gwyrddoch, mae'r safle a nodwyd gan y Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder ym mherchnogaeth Llywodraeth Cymru, ac wedi ei leoli y drws nesaf i ystad o dai, cartref gofal preswyl, canolfan adnoddau meddyg teulu, a phedwar o feddyglegdydd ynddi, a busnesau eraill ar yr ystad ddwyddiol honno. Mae hefyd wedi ei leoli yn yr ardal fenter, a sefydlwyd gan godwyd y bygythiad i Tata y llynedd, gyda'r bwriad o dyfu a buddsoddi mewn busnesau. Nawr, nid wyf yn credu y byddai carchar yn annog hynny mewn gwirionedd. I'r busnesau hyn dyfu, maen nhw eisiau mwy o le. Mae angen unedau mwy o 10,000 troedfedd sgwâr a mwy arnynt. Rwyf wedi cyfarfod â busnesau lleol ac maen nhw'n awyddus i dyfu, maen nhw'n awyddus i aros, ond os byddan nhw'n gweld carchar yn dod, gan niweidio eu cyfleoedd ar gyfer twf, maen nhw wedi dweud wrthyf i y byddan nhw'n gadael Port Talbot a hyd yn oed Cymru o bosibl. A wnaiff Llywodraeth Cymru wrthod unrhyw gais gan y Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder am y tir hwnnw, a buddsoddi yn ystrach mewn adeiladu'r unedau hyn, a llw eu galluogi i dyfu, ac ymrwymo ei hun i hynny fel y mae wedi ei wneud mewn mannau eraill yng Nghymru?

13:31 Carwyn Jones [Bywgraffiad](#) [Biography](#)

Y Prif Weinidog / The First Minister

Well, the prison itself will create 500 local jobs and generate £11 million in revenue for the local economy. Could I reassure my colleague that, as somebody who has a prison in his constituency, and who was the ward councillor when the prison was being built in my ward at the time, there were concerns at the time, no question about it, but that those concerns were never realised? We didn't lose investment. In fact, a brand-new housing estate is being built almost up to the prison perimeter at the moment, and those houses are being sold. So, whereas people will inevitably have concerns about something new in the area, what we know not just from Bridgend, but from elsewhere in Wales, is that prisons do generate jobs and, ultimately, of course, they don't have a negative effect on the local economy or town.

Wel, bydd y carchar ei hun yn creu 500 o swyddi lleol ac yn cynhyrchu £11 miliwn mewn refeniw i'r economi leol. A gaf i dawelu meddwl fy nghyd-Aelod, fel rhywun sydd â carchar yn ei etholaeth, ac a oedd yn gynghorydd ward pryd yr oedd y carchar yn cael ei adeiladu yn fy ward i ar y pryd, bod pryderon ar y pryd, heb os, ond na wireddwyd y pryderon hynny? Ni wnaethom ni gollu buddsoddiad. Yn wir, mae ystad o dai newydd sbon yn cael ei hadeiladu bron hyd at deryn y carchar ar hyn o bryd, ac mae'r tai hynny'n cael eu gwerthu. Felly, er ei bod yn anochel y bydd gan bobl pryderon am rywbeth newydd yn yr ardal, yr hyn yr ydym ni'n ei wybod nid yn unig o Ben-y-bont ar Ogwr, ond o fannau eraill yng Nghymru, yw bod carchardai yn creu swyddi ac, yn y pen draw, wrth gwrs, nid dynt yn cael effaith negyddol ar yr economi leol na'r dref leol.



Advice Surgeries

If you are unable to get to one of David's surgeries why not send him an email instead.

Friday 22 nd September	Briton Ferry Community Centre	4.30pm-5.30pm
Friday 29 th September	Coed Hirwaun Primary School, Margam	4.00pm-5.30pm
Friday 6 th October	Cresci's Café, Skewen	4.00pm-5.30pm
Friday 20 th October	Sandfields Library, Moore Road	4.00pm – 5.00pm
Friday 27 th October	Baglan Library, Laurel Avenue	3.00pm-4.30pm
Friday 17 th November	Gwynfi Miners Community Hall	2.30pm – 3.30pm
	Croeserw Community Enterprise Centre	4.00pm-5.00pm
Friday 1 st December	Taibach Library, Commercial Road	10.00am – 11.00am
	Tesco's Port Talbot	5.00pm-6.00pm
Friday 15 th December	Noddfa, Glynorwg	10.00am-11.00am
	Resource Centre, Baglan Moors, Port Talbot	4.30pm – 5.30pm

How to contact David

David holds regular advice surgeries throughout Aberavon and invites you to come along and raise any issues and concerns you may have with him.

David and his experienced team deal with constituent's enquiries, needs and concerns across a range of devolved issues from **Health, Housing, Education, Transport, The Environment and many others**

Contact Details



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Constituency Office Opening Times

Monday – Friday **Morning 9.30am – 12.00pm**

Afternoon 2.00pm – 4.00pm