



Cymdeithas y Cymod

Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales
Rhif Elusen /Charity No 700609

3 Tai Minffordd, Rhostryfan, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL54 7NF
Ffôn 01286 830913 E-bost post@cymdeithasycymod.org.uk

09/12/2012

Mr. Powell
Chair
Petition Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

Re Petition P 04 404

Thank you for forwarding a copy of the letter written by Edwina Hart in response to our petition regarding the flying of Unmanned Aircraft at Aberporth.*

We should be grateful if you could ask the Minister to address the following 7 issues:

- 1) Her letter notes that the 'aerospace industry' provides direct employment for over 20,000 people in Wales. May we be given a breakdown of this number, and with respect to our society's particular concern, for specific figures relating to the UAV sector within this industry?*
- 2) Further, could we be told what the breakdown is of the number employed in the UAV sector first of all for military and secondly for non-military use.*
- 3) The letter asserts that the Ministry of Defence's trials of the Watchkeeper UAV programme currently provides a 'valuable boost to the local economy'; could this be quantified please, including number of people in the immediate locality be employed through this activity?*
- 4) What is the proportional split between the profits generated for foreign investors and Welsh investors by the industry in Aberporth?*
- 5) The letter also notes that regulatory issues surrounding the use of airspace is currently severely restricting the development of UAV technology. Would the Minister tell us why she believes that this is the case?*

6) *Following from (5) above, what is the Minister's response to those who believe that Wales is being used as a practice ground for operations which other countries have refused because of doubts as to their safety?*

7) *When was the last time the Assembly or the Local Authority representatives canvassed the opinion of local residents about the UAV's flights and what was the outcome of such a review?*

May we take this opportunity to thank you again for your time and for coming to meet us on the Senedd steps in Cardiff in October.

In eager anticipation of your response

**please note, that though the Minister's letter is dated July 25th we did not receive it until the last week of November.*

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Arfon Rhys', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Arfon Rhys

Hon.Sec Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales