

**Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd,  
yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith**

—  
**Climate Change, Environment,  
and Infrastructure Committee**

**Senedd Cymru**

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN  
SeneddHinsawdd@senedd.cymru  
senedd.cymru/SeneddHinsawdd  
0300 200 6565

—  
**Welsh Parliament**

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN  
SeneddClimate@senedd.wales  
senedd.wales/SeneddClimate  
0300 200 6565

Councillor Geraint Thomas  
Leader of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council  
Ellis Cooper  
Chief Executive of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

30 April 2024

Dear Geraint and Ellis,

I am writing as Chair of the Senedd's Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee regarding a short inquiry we are undertaking on opencast mining, including the site at Ffos-y-Frân.

The Committee's secretariat has contacted officials in your organisation to invite them to attend a meeting of the Committee. Unfortunately, our invitation has been declined.

From our discussions so far, it is clear that the Council's input is vital to understanding the issues concerning the site at Ffos-y-Frân and how they can be resolved. I would sincerely ask that you reconsider our invitation and agree that council representatives, either elected representatives, officials, or both, can attend a meeting of the Committee to discuss these matters further.

The Committee's next meeting is on 22 May and is scheduled to take place between 9.30 am and 12 pm. If this meeting is not convenient, please liaise with the Committee secretariat, and we will do everything we can to find an alternative opportunity.

Given the significant public interest in this matter, the Committee is determined that the Council has the opportunity to state its position and explain the latest developments. The Committee has power at its disposal under the Government of Wales Act 2006 to require persons to attend proceedings for the purpose of giving evidence. Our preferred option is, of course, for a positive response to this invitation.

I would be grateful if you could respond to this invitation by **8 May**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Llyr', with a stylized flourish underneath.

**Llyr Gruffydd MS,**  
Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.  
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.