

**Rebecca Evans AS/MS**  
**Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning**  
**Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio**



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1476  
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/10069/24

Chair - Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

7 October 2024

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your letter from the Petitions Committee regarding a petition concerning buffer zones for quarries.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and Minerals Technical Advice Note 1 Aggregates (MTAN1) contain comprehensive planning policy which is robust about controlling the impacts of quarrying.

The primary purpose of buffer zones is to limit the impact of mineral working and to protect land uses that are most sensitive to the impact of mineral operations by establishing a separation distance between potentially conflicting land uses.

The 200m buffer zone outlined in national policy is a minimum distance and the buffer zone should be defined from the outer edge of the area where extraction and processing operations will take place, including site haul roads, rather than the site boundary.

The maximum extent of the buffer zone would depend on a number of factors: the size, type and location of workings, the topography of the surrounding area, existing and anticipated levels of noise and dust, current and predicted vibration from blasting operations and availability of mitigation measures.

Buffer zones will of necessity vary in size depending on the mineral being extracted and the nature of the operation but must be clearly defined and indicated on development plan proposals maps.

Yours sincerely,

**Rebecca Evans AS/MS**  
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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.