



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1373
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/00586/25

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee

10 June 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter about petition P-06-1373 relating to the proposed Skyline attraction on Kilvey Hill in Swansea.

This is a project the Welsh Government strongly supports. We believe that a world-class adventure tourism attraction will significantly enhance Swansea's tourism offer and widen the city's appeal for visitors. The attraction will create 100 permanent new jobs directly and is expected to attract 450,000 visitors. The build phase will support over 400 construction jobs. A new attraction on this scale will help boost many other aspects of Swansea's visitor economy, bringing an estimated £54m of additional visitor spend into the local economy over 15 years.

The attraction will include a gondola ride, luge rides, chairlift, sky swing, zipwire, mountain bike trails and a visitor building including food and drink sales. The base station for the gondola ride will be at Hafod Morfa, supporting the wider regeneration of the historic copperworks heritage site as a vibrant new focal point within the city.

The commercial operator which is bringing the project forward, Skyline Enterprises Ltd, is a global attraction business based in New Zealand with extensive experience of running attractions of this type in New Zealand, Canada, Malaysia, South Korea and Singapore. Visit Wales has offered the company financial support of £4m as a tourism development grant, of which £1m is repayable. Nevertheless, most of the expected £34m cost of developing the attraction will be met by the company itself and the project therefore represents a significant foreign direct investment into Wales.

The petition expresses concern about loss of public open space and nature amenity on Kilvey Hill. It is important to be clear that open public access will continue, and the public will be able to access Kilvey Hill on foot, bike or horseback just as they currently do. In addition, the Gondola system will offer a means of access to the elderly, disabled & other disadvantaged groups who are currently excluded from being able to enjoy the benefits of the hill and the spectacular views it provides. Existing footpaths will remain, and new paths

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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.

will be created. Less than ten percent of the land on Kilvey Hill will be used by Skyline and only very limited areas of land around the Skyline infrastructure will need to be enclosed, largely for safety reasons. Whilst a limited number of trees will need to be felled these will be mostly conifers and there will be fresh planting of native species which will in time enhance nature diversity. Almost all current wooded and grassed areas and well-known features such as the Quaker's seat will remain open to everyone to enjoy. Picnic areas and a new children's play area will be free to use.

The petitioners raise concerns about the expected visitor numbers but there is strong evidence that Skyline attractions succeed in attracting large numbers of visitors, including in locations with cool and wet winters similar to ours. In 2023-24 Skyline sites globally catered to 1.3m gondola passengers and visitors took 7.46m luge rides.

The petitioners' response to the Committee mentions the operator's involvement with Casino operations in New Zealand. Casino operations have no relevance to the Skyline attraction proposed for Swansea which does not include any gambling facilities. It is a standard condition of all Welsh Government grants to businesses that no part of the grant may be spent on activities related to gambling and this condition is included in our funding offer to Skyline as it is in all others.

The Welsh Government believes that the Skyline attraction will enhance people's enjoyment of Kilvey Hill whilst also safeguarding its natural beauty and vantage points. We recognise the sincerity of the views conveyed to the Committee by the petitioners, but we do not share them.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio