

Ceri Davies, Interim Chief Executive
Natural Resources Wales

3 July 2025

Dear Ceri,

Investigation into Allegations of Illegal Toxic Waste Disposal at Ffos-y-Fran

I am writing on behalf of the Senedd's Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee to request further information following recent reports by Nation.Cymru about allegations of illegal waste dumping at the Ffos-y-Fran opencast coal mine site.

The report on the Nation.Cymru website stated:

"Fiona Hourahine, operations manager for NRW, said:

'We understand the ongoing concerns in the local community regarding the Ffos-y-fran opencast mine.

'The site does not hold any permits or licences associated with waste disposal and we will be investigating this recent report of illegal activity accordingly, in line with our regulatory procedures.

'It is crucial that anyone with concerns or evidence related to how waste is being disposed – or any other suspected environmental incident – report their concerns directly to NRW without delay. If there is a delay in matters being reported to us, it limits the actions we can take. They can do this by calling our incident communications line on 0300 065 3000 or using the report-it form on our website: Natural Resources Wales / Report an incident. All reports are treated in the strictest confidence.'

Given the serious environmental and public health implications raised in the report, the Committee would be grateful for your response to the following questions:

- What is the status of NRW's investigation into the alleged illegal waste disposal activities at the Ffos-y-Fran site?
- What is the scope and timeline for this work?
- When was NRW first made aware of these allegations?
- Has NRW previously raised any concerns with Merthyr (South Wales) Ltd in relation to environmental compliance or waste management practices?
- What steps have been taken to verify the allegations raised by the whistleblower concerning the disposal of hazardous materials, including battery acid?
- Will NRW commit to publishing the findings of its investigation and keeping the public and relevant stakeholders informed of progress?

I am copying this letter to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, in view of our shared interest in securing a satisfactory way forward for the Ffos-y-Fran site.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,



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

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.