

Natasha Asghar MS | AS

Member of the Welsh Parliament for **South Wales East**

Aelod Senedd Cymru dros **Dwyrain De Cymru**



Mark Isherwood MS,
Chair of Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee,
Via email

October 24th, 2025

Dear Mark,

Hope you are well.

I am writing to you today to draw the Committee's attention to a project being undertaken by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to install a solar panel canopy above part of the car park at the Grange University Hospital in Cwmbran.

According to information released under the Freedom of Information Act, the project will cost £3,306,000 (including VAT) and is expected to generate around 645,000 kWh of electricity per year.

The Health Board has stated that the scheme will achieve a payback period of 19.7 years.

However, a quick calculation based on realistic commercial electricity prices — around 21.7 pence per kWh, suggests a payback closer to 24 years, which is approximately the expected lifespan of the panels.

In addition, the project will require the temporary removal of 302 parking spaces during construction, adding pressure to what the Health Board itself describes as an "overcrowded" site.

A temporary 150-space car park is being created on land currently designated as a helicopter landing area to mitigate the impact.

Given the significant public expenditure involved, the long payback period, and the disruption to hospital operations, I would be grateful if the Committee could consider

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whether this scheme represents good value for money and whether sufficient due diligence and options appraisal were undertaken before approval.

I appreciate the Committee's ongoing work to ensure that public funds in Wales are used effectively and transparently, and I believe this project warrants scrutiny to ensure that best value has been achieved for taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Natasha Asghar MS
Member of the Welsh Parliament for South Wales East
Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Children, Young People, and Education

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