

Ken Skates MS

Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales

21 January 2026

Dear Ken,

Holyhead Port closure

Following my letter regarding the berthing incident at Holyhead on 5 December, there has been yet another berthing incident at the Port. This one led to the full closure of the Port on 7 January.

Whilst I accept this closure was significantly shorter than the closure we saw last year, given the vital role of the port for Wales' economy, trade and transport, this second full port closure is extremely concerning. I was pleased to note from press reports that you have sought reassurance from Stena Line Ports regarding the integrity of the port and its services.

Given this closure comes almost exactly a year after the previous one, as well as the questions in my previous letter, I would be keen to understand the impact of this closure and how you felt the response to this closure compared to that last year. I would also be interested in your overall views on the current resilience at the port. Please could you answer the following questions:

1. Were there any lessons from the previous full closure of the Port in December 2024-January 2025 do you consider were most relevant this time around?
2. How was the Irish Sea Taskforce work reflected in the response to the most recent closure?
3. Given the port is a piece of critical national infrastructure, were you reassured regarding the integrity of the port and services after speaking to Stena Line Ports? Is there any work you feel may need to be undertaken to improve that?



Thank you for your attention to this important issue. It would be helpful to our continuing work on the issue if we could receive your response by 13 February.

I have copied this letter to Llyr Gruffydd MS in his capacity as Chair of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew RT Davies". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Andrew RT Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

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