



Ein cyf/Our ref:KS/PO/58/2026

Andrew RT Davies, MS

Chair of the Economy,
Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

29 January 2026

Dear Andrew

Thank you for your letter regarding the closure of Terminal 5 at Holyhead Port after a berthing incident on Friday, 5 December.

I share your concern about this further incident within the Port of Holyhead and acknowledge that since this letter another incident took place at the beginning of January 2026. I have spoken to the port operator about both incidents.

The closure of terminal 5 did not affect crossings and the Port maintained a full sailing schedule thereafter. While passenger and freight capacity, loading cargo, trade volume and economic activity are ultimately matters for the Port as a commercial entity, I have been reassured by Port officials that no impacts were felt across these areas.

Since December 2024 and following your work and that of the Welsh Government convened Irish Sea Taskforce, we have seen an improvement in the response to subsequent port closures. There is now a commitment on the parts of any Welsh Port dealing with an incident, to inform governments and the core taskforce membership group as quickly as possible and continue to share communication in a timely manner until normal operations resume.

I have thanked all those involved for putting into practice those key elements that we discussed and agreed at our Irish Sea taskforce as being vital when an incident of this nature occurs.

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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.

As a commercial entity any actions on the prevention of further incidents must come from the Port Authority itself and they have reviewed all marine procedures and historical berthing incidents undertaken. This includes looking for any trends or common issues. Their berthing parameters have been reduced and guidance issued on berthing and the use of fenders to all companies and masters. We remain in very close contact with Stena Line.

On 14 January I issued a written statement on the Irish Sea Taskforce and published the recommendations [Ministers welcome strengthened ties as Irish Sea Taskforce recommendations published | GOV.WALES](#)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Ken Skates AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales