Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: OQ62914

Jenny Rathbone MS
Member of the Senedd for Cardiff Central

jenny.rathbone@senedd.wales

9 March 2026

Dear Jenny,

During our discussion at Plenary on 25 June regarding OQ62914, I offered to write a follow-up letter to you to provide additional information about SuDS. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in providing a substantive response, due to an administrative error.

As you know, Wales has been successful in delivering SuDS for almost all new developments for over 7 years, with 8000+ projects that have been through or are going through our pioneering statutory SuDS approval process in that time.

However, retrofit SuDS whilst visually similar is far more technically challenging to deliver. Noting that pioneering retrofit SuDS has been delivered in Llanelli and Cardiff (you rightly referred to the success of Greener Grangetown in your plenary statement), there has been slow progress in encouraging further projects in Wales.

In order to change we are working closely with NRW to deliver several new retrofit schemes in communities across Wales, encouraging the important partnership with Local Authorities where practical.

Furthermore, my officials are also part of a UK team developing a new updated SuDS design guide which will include retrofit for the first time. When published, we are hoping to use this new document to enable more retrofit SuDS across Wales, particularly in relation to investment from our two water companies to reduce spills from their storm overflows; a statutory obligation in their OFWAT approved Drainage Water Management Plan (DWMP).

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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.

I thank you for your interest in this exciting area of drainage engineering and believe that with the support of both the public and private sector, that Wales can lead in developing retrofit SuDS as it already does in statutory SuDS for new development.

Yours sincerely,



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