



All Assembly Members

21 October 2015

Dear Assembly Member

I am writing to update Members on the recent announcement of a consultation on the closure of the Crown Packaging plant in Neath.

Due to a global downturn for the demand of their product coupled with considerable over-capacity in the marketplace, the Crown Group are considering closing the plant, which currently employs 243 people. The consultation period began on 16 October and will last for a minimum of 45 days. A final decision is expected early in 2016.

I have been briefed by representatives of the company and the Union. I will continue to engage with them during the consultation period, and consider what support we can provide. This will include the establishment of a task force to help employees affected by this decision. I have also advised that the Welsh Government could offer support for, but not limited to, the development of alternative products via R&D, Capital Expenditure and Skills. The company has stated, however, that due to fundamental differences in technology, there are no opportunities to bring alternative products to the Neath plant.

My officials will continue close liaison with the company and I will write to you again following completion of the consultation process.

Edwina Hart

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0300 0603300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0300 0604400
Correspondence.edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

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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.