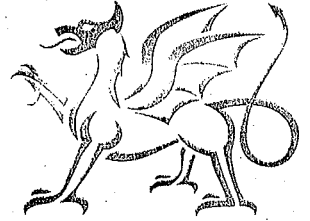


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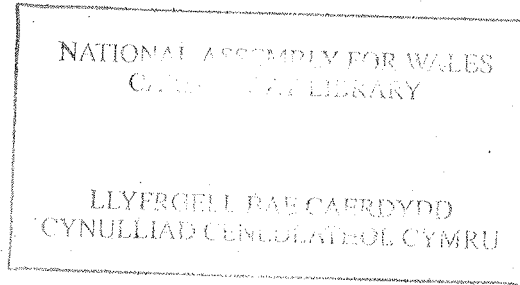
Sue Essex AM

Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd
Minister for Environment

Our ref: WAQ 18199



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



Ms A Halford AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA

14 June 2002

Dear Anson

You asked how much extra funding has been provided to ensure that north Wales' coastal defences will withstand the rise in sea levels caused by global warming.

Local authorities and the Environment Agency are the operating bodies with responsibility for coastal defence in Wales. The Assembly has a policy lead role and provides financial support to the operating authorities for appropriate coastal defence measures.

Since 1993 the Welsh Assembly Government and its predecessor have required that all new coastal defence schemes make provision in their design for an annual rise in sea level of 5mm. Scheme designs must also be adaptable so that, if necessary, defences can be adjusted in the future. The Welsh Assembly Government and the former Welsh Office has provided significant grant aid and credit approval for coastal defence schemes on the North Wales coast since 1993 amounting to approximately £8 million in grant aid and nearly £2 million in credit approval.

The Welsh Assembly Government has also encouraged and grant aided operating authorities to prepare Shoreline Management Plans which aim to provide the basis for sustainable coastal defence management into the future by taking account of coastal processes, including sea level rise, and human and other environmental influences and needs. As part of this process the Assembly also assists the operating authorities with grant aid for coastal monitoring and studies.

In Autumn 2000 I announced an additional £3million increasing the funding available for flood and coastal defence schemes to £25million over the following 3 years.

Best wishes

Sue



BUDDSODDWR MEWN FOBL
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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