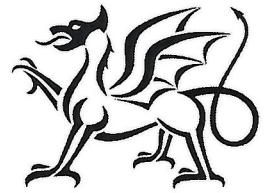


Lesley Griffiths AC/AM  
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Huw Irranca-Davies AM

[Huw.Irranca-Davies@assembly.wales](mailto:Huw.Irranca-Davies@assembly.wales)

3 October 2019

Dear Huw

During the Business Questions on 24 September there was a commitment made for me to write to you regarding a response to the points you raised. You asked for information on the matter of flood resilience in communities, and what we can do to promote sustainable drainage.

I am fully aware that flooding can have a devastating and lasting impact on the lives of those affected. I am always grateful for the hard work and quick response of our emergency services, Local Authorities and NRW before, during and after flood events, which undoubtedly reduces the impacts on residents.

Managing the risk from flooding and coastal erosion remains a key priority. Over the life of this Government, we will invest over £350 million in flood and coastal erosion risk management across the whole of Wales.

We recently consulted on a new National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management for Wales. This included proposals to reduce risk through more natural alleviation methods and better provision of information to help build our resilience, adapt to climate change and make better decisions over future development.

Periods of heavy rainfall across Wales remind us how vulnerable our communities can be to the threat of flooding. Historically our drainage systems have focused on draining water into our sewers and rivers as quickly as possible, an approach, which can quickly overload the existing infrastructure.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

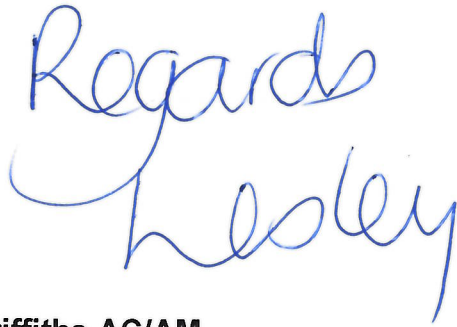
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

Wales is leading on the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and from January 2019 this was made a requirement for all new developments. SuDs is recognised as a way of preventing drainage problems from becoming worse. The SuDS approach aims to mimic natural processes in the way that surface water is dealt with in the built environment, improving the resilience of our communities and environment to deal with the effects of climate change.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Regards Lesley". The word "Regards" is written on the top line and "Lesley" is written on the bottom line, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of "Lesley" across the width of the signature.

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

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Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs