

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref WQ84857

Andrew R T Davies MS
Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central

andrewrt.davies@assembly.wales

7 April 2022

Dear Andrew,

I write in response to WQ84857: What has the Welsh Government done to make tourist destinations more accessible for wheelchair users, and provide a breakdown of the money spent for this purpose during the last 12 months?

Our strategy, Welcome to Wales: Priorities for the Visitor Economy 2020-2025, emphasises the importance of accessibility and inclusivity in all our activities and we engage and work closely with Disability Wales to support the delivery of our work. Accessibility is a key criteria for all of our investments, either directly through condition of grant, or indirectly through statutory requirements.

A number of projects have been allocated funding from tourism budgets over the past 12 months, with some allocations also over several years, to support making tourist destinations more accessible to wheelchair users. Allocations have been provided through the Brilliant Basics capital fund and through our EU-funded Tourism Attractor Destination programme. A list is attached as Annex A.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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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.

Brilliant Basics Fund Organisation / Project	Amount Awarded
Visit Cardiff (Cardiff Council): Cardiff Castle Visitor Toilets. The accessibility elements included additional baby changing facilities in disabled toilet; Disabled toilets upgraded; Bilingual signage, with braille signs on the doors.	£70,000
Vale of Glamorgan Council: Cosmeston Gateway Project. There were numerous improved accessibility elements to this projects including seating and shelter; access road; entrance; jetty and slipway.	£122,124
Dwr Cymru, Elan Valley Cycle Hub: Elan Valley Cycle Hub included a new building for bike infrastructure and included toilets with a Changing Places unit.	£128,000
Elan Valley Trust: Visitor Facilities at Elan will see the renovation and upgrade of three toilet blocks which will include improved lighting and accessibility, and improved parking facilities and interpretation.	£124,000
Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust: Dyfi Wildlife Centre will see improved car parking infrastructure, improved accessibility and disabled access, lighting, car and bike EV charging points, solar panel installation and signage.	£120,000
Conwy County Borough Council: Dwygyfylchi Beach Access Improvements Construction of a timber boardwalk from the bottom of the footbridge ramps down to foreshore making it suitable for wheelchairs.	£91,700.00
Conwy County Borough Council: Llandudno Promenade Shelters. Shelters will be replaced on North Shore which will include seating, respite opportunities and viewing points.	£126,000
Groundwork North Wales, Minera Lead Mines visitor amenities: This project is to remodel a building and accessible toilet block, to provide a venue suitable for visitor seating, events, talks/lectures, and activities.	£94,060
Conwy County Borough Council: Redevelop the public facilities at Gwydir Park. Facilities will be provided that are available all year round and will include accessible conveniences, cycle storage, Wi-Fi boosting for connectivity, smart device charging and inbuilt cycle maintenance services and electric bike charging. The utilities at these facilities will be derived from renewable sources	£128,000
Cyngor Gwynedd, Park Gwledig Glynllifon: Improvements to car parking and to include accessible toilets.	£128,000
Denbighshire County Council, Llantysilio - Creating a Visitor Welcome. Renovation project and also to include access improvements.	£30,800

Dwr Cymru Cyfyngedig. Waterfall Swing and water Artistry at Llyn Brenig: The installation of a Waterfall Swing this is a 4m wide structure uses hundreds of downward jets of water to create a controllable waterfall effect. It incorporates swings and, as they pass through the cascade, the water stops falling at the exact moment. The swing can also be adapted to take users with limited mobility, including wheelchairs.	£128,000
Carmarthenshire County Council: Sustainable and Accessible Pendine Sands will see an improved car parking area and beach friendly wheelchairs that are suitable for adults and children.	£127,872.73
National Botanic Garden of Wales: This accessibility project will developing a Changing Places facility at the entrance gatehouse and develop an accessible toilet with baby changing facilities in the Theatre Botanica.	£80,000
Neath Port Talbot Council: Aberavon Seafront will create a designated, fully accessible, Changing Places toilet facility within the existing public toilet facility and access improvements to the beach.	£120,000

Tourism Attractor Destination Programme Organisation / Project	Amount Awarded
Saundersfoot Harbour. The Wales International Coastal Centre: The accessibility elements included altering the floor design of the Marine Centre of Excellence to ensure that all 10 short stay accommodation rooms can accommodate wheel chair access rather than the previous dedicated 2 rooms. This redesign offers greater flexibility and ensures that families stay together in addition to removing the need for platform lifts and ramps within the Storm centre. The wheelchair pathways have been widened at the outdoor Ocean Square giving access to the raised plaza area as well as establishing a further access ramp that wasn't part of the initial design.	£5.6m ERDF and WG funding.
Llys y Fran. Llys y Fran Park and Activity Centre: As part of the wider project the following elements were included to improve accessibility for wheelchairs: Disabled angling and cycling, new wheelchair friendly trails including ramps and rest points. The main Welcome building and car park are fully accessible together with the road and footpath access to buildings and viewpoints across the site. Welsh Water also provide access to the reservoir and multiple water sports for those with special requirements. The land activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance bike and disabled friendly pump track. Designed for young children using balance bikes and for disabled children and adults, there is enough room to push a wheelchair, guide a bike ability style bike, or to walk alongside a wobbly child. 	£1.7m (ERDF)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Project Enduro descent'. Designed with Calvin Williams of Project Enduro to be suitable for 4 wheel gravity bikes (designed for users with physical disabilities) as well as two wheeled mountain bikes. 	
<p>Pendine. Investment to enhance Pendine as a tourism destination. The accessibility element of the project includes disabled accommodation and beach wheelchairs.</p>	<p>£4.5m ERDF and WG funding</p>
<p>Caernarfon Waterfront. The accessibility element of the project included a Changing Places toilet facility at the new Welsh Highland Railway Station.</p>	<p>£3m ERDF and WG funding</p>
<p>Caernarfon Castle. To develop the King's Gate Tower: This includes improved access to the upper embattlements of the Castle via a lift. This is the first for any similar UK World Heritage Site investment providing a unique experience for those with mobility issues.</p>	<p>£4.2m of ERDF and WG funding</p>
<p>Porthcawl. Provision of lifts in the new Rest Bay Watersports Centre: This included ramps designed into the watersports centre and harbour enhancement facility. The project also includes disabled toilet facilities, circulation areas which have been designed to ensure free flowing wheel chair access, changing facilities appropriate for disabled users.</p>	<p>£1.6m ERDF and WG funding</p>