



From: Sharon Wroe, HCDC Liaison Officer
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James Davies
 Clerk of the Welsh Affairs Committee
 Committee Office
 House of Commons
 7 Millbank
 London SW1A 0AA

Your Reference
 Our Reference
 D/Parliamentary/22/22
 Date
 16 June 2004

[Dear Mr Davies]

PRE-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY OF THE DRAFT TRANSPORT (WALES) BILL

Thank you for your letter of 9 June on this subject, in which you invite written evidence from RAF Valley on the draft Transport (Wales) Bill, and in particular the possibilities for using RAF Valley for civilian air-links between North and South Wales. I am responding to this request on behalf of the Ministry of Defence.

I will not comment on the draft Bill in general as we do not have the requisite expertise on the issues covered, but I can offer the following advice on the possible use of RAF Valley.

Members of the Welsh Affairs Committee that visited RAF Valley on 25 March 2002 will have seen for themselves that the layout of the Station lends itself to use for commercial flights; in that it is relatively easy to establish secure separate access to the airfield and that capacity exists for a terminal building and a limited amount of car parking. Whether the RAF Valley option is viable will, from our perspective, very much depend on the volume of traffic that is required and associated regulatory and management issues. I am sure you will understand that the operational tasks at RAF Valley are our primary concern and that the Station's main operations cannot be compromised.

We will have a better idea on viability when the current study, funded by the Isle of Anglesey County Council and the Welsh Development Agency, reports. This study is evaluating the feasibility of operating scheduled civil air services from Valley and among other things likely demand. It will also develop a business plan if appropriate. For our part, officials are co-operating with the consultants undertaking this study and will continue to attend meetings of the Valley Action Group to offer practical advice on the possible use of RAF Valley. This Group is chaired by the local MP, Albert Owen, and is made up of interested parties from within the region.

We are content to engage in the proposals for this venture, which not only would be of benefit to the local economy and the wider Welsh economy, but would also provide an opportunity to reduce the cost of running the Department, through income generation. In the event of such an outcome,



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I can confirm that all costs, charges and rentals would, of course, be levied in accordance with appropriate MOD policy at the time.

Clearly there are a number of important issues yet to be resolved, but there are no objections, in principle, to the possible use of RAF Valley for civil air movements.

[signed: Sharon Wroe]