Edwina Hart MBE OStJ AC / AM Y Gweinidog Busnes, Menter, Technolog a Gwyddoniaeth Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science



Eich cyf/Your ref Ein cyf/Our ref EH/06307/11

Antoinette Sandbach AM

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\& January 2012

Dear Antoinette,

Thank you for your letters of 13 December to John Griffiths AM and myself, regarding the fish farm at Dinmor Quarry, Anglesey which was owned and operated by Selonda (UK) Limited. I am replying in view of my portfolio responsibilities.

Details of funding provided to Selonda (UK) Limited can be found in the public domain. You can find information regarding EFF funding at: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/foodandfisheries/fisheries/europeanfundforfisheries1/effpublications/approvedprojects/?lang=en
Information on FIFG funding can be found on the WEFO website: http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/programmes/other/eff/?lang=en

A project was supported in 2011 to develop a more sustainable power supply for the site at Penmon. The total project cost of £85k consisted £58k from Selonda UK Limited with the remaining £27k by the Welsh Government. My officials have confirmed that the financial assistance provided has been spent for this purpose, and the project is due for completion in March 2012.

In November 2011, Selonda (UK) Limited approached the Welsh Government regarding its cash flow difficulties, following technological and production problems encountered last summer. The Welsh Government made a one-off payment of £40k to the suppliers of air products for the site in December 2011. This enabled the company to keep the current stock of fish alive in the short-term whilst alternative arrangements for ownership of the site were explored with Administrator Price Waterhouse.

The Sea Bass farm has now been sold to Anglesey Aquaculture Ltd who now own and manage the site securing both the facility and the jobs. We are working with the new owners regarding the terms and conditions of the previous grants and equipment in relation to the site, and their plans for the future.

In terms of risk assessments relating to animal welfare and the environment, Welsh Government Officials and the Fish Health Inspectorate have monitored the situation very closely and made management aware of their obligations. Since the company has entered into new ownership it has been confirmed that the new owners are aware of their obligations concerning animal welfare and the environment.

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