

Carl Sargeant AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau  
Minister for Local Government and Communities



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-393  
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/07293/12

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

5<sup>th</sup>

March 2013

*In Bill*

I am responding to the Petitions Committee's request for an update further to my letter of 5 November 2012 on plans for a bypass of the villages of Pant and Llanymynech.

Officials from Welsh Government have approached their counterparts in Highways Agency, Area 9 regarding this matter and have been informed that the A483 Pant to Llanymynech Bypass Scheme was considered by the West Midlands Regional Transport Board in 2006 as part of the Regional Prioritisation process. The board advised that the scheme was a low priority because of its low cost benefit score and the modest contributions it was thought to make towards economic development and housing in the region.

Following this decision, the Highways Agency undertook a detailed review of the scheme, to assess whether its cost could be reduced whilst maintaining a substantial proportion of its benefits. The review concluded that even the possible smaller scale solutions along this route would still offer poor value for money.

UK Transport Ministers have since instructed Highways Agency to stop work on the scheme and it is therefore no longer included in their programme of major regional works.

Additional inclusions to this programme would be led by the Department for Transport in consultation with UK Ministers.

You will appreciate that because of the nature of these cross border schemes we cannot progress our scheme programme as we envisaged without the cooperation of the Highways Agency. Therefore we will need to reconsider our options along the Welsh trunk road length.

*al*

**Carl Sargeant AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau  
Minister for Local Government and Communities

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: Carl.Sargeant@wales.gsi.gov.uk  
*Printed on 100% recycled paper*