



**Jeremy Patterson,**  
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*If calling please ask for / Os yn galw gofynnwch am*

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Dear Mr. Powell,

**National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee**

Thank you for your letter dated 24 April 2013.

I appreciate you seeking my views in this matter. In fact, I wrote to officials in Welsh Government last summer on behalf of elected Members seeking financial support for the public inquiry process. In response, the point was made that whilst the government continues to support our authority in helping commission expert input into the planning process, prior to decisions being taken, any such financial support does not extend to funding the costs of defending decisions, for example, at public inquiry.

My understanding is that this has been the government's consistent stance in this matter although I would be very interested in hearing any updated view in the light of the petition.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to feed into the process. However, following my unsuccessful attempts last year, I feel that there is little that I can add at the present time.

Yours sincerely

**Jeremy Patterson**  
**Chief Executive**

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