

**SWYDDFA'R ARWEINYDD
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Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM37094

Eich Cyf / Your Ref: P-04-539

Dyddiad / Date: 28 April 2017

Mike Hedges AM
National Assembly Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Annwyl / Dear Mr Hedges,

Thank you for your letter dated 23rd February 2017, I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

As you may be aware, progress is being made with the Coal Exchange redevelopment and whilst there are some people who are not fully supportive of the development, generally the response to the scheme has been welcomed. I have no doubt that whilst some opposition to the redevelopment in its current guise remains, everyone wants to see the renovation of the Coal Exchange taken forward in a way that secures the long-term future of the building.

With regard to the query raised, my correspondence referred to in the letter you attached reflected the position at the time of writing. The development proposal has since progressed and should be considered a matter for the developer and the planning authority.

Notwithstanding this, the Memorandum of Understanding was put in place to help facilitate a redevelopment of the Coal Exchange in a way that reflects and respects its heritage, enables a sustainable model for regeneration and does not expose the public purse to any further financial risk. We remain committed to working with the developer to ensure that the obligations within the Memorandum of Understanding are kept and that includes addressing the Car Park area in the front of the building.

It should be noted that the Memorandum of Understanding is not intended as a means of restricting or controlling development which must be managed by the local planning authority as the statutory body in line with the correct legal processes and procedures. From the outset Signature Living were asked to follow the correct procedures and to apply for permissions before progressing works. I understand they

have done this and work has begun on the entrance to the Coal Exchange, which includes work on the concrete structure described as 'extremely ugly' in the attached correspondence. In terms of public procurement, the City of Cardiff Council has followed legal advice.

Please let me or my office know if you need any further information.

Yn gywir,
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Bale', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**CYNGHORYDD / COUNCILLOR PHIL BALE
ARWEINYDD, CYNGOR DINAS CAERDYDD
LEADER, THE CITY OF CARDIFF COUNCIL**