



Ein cyf/Our ref WQ82790

Joel James MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

8 July 2021

Dear Joel,

Please find an updated response to your written question regarding Lloyds Bank branch closures, noting that HM Treasury has now published the consultation on legislative proposals for protecting access to cash.

Lloyds Banking Group's recent announcement that it is closing a further three bank branches in Wales, is part of an ongoing trend by the major High Street Banks.

Banking is a reserved matter and despite the UK Government announcing its intention to bring forward legislation to protect access to cash in the March 2020 Budget, a consultation on the legislative proposals has only just been published.

Our Programme for Government supports the creation of a Community Bank for Wales and will establish the first Community Bank in the UK to be known as Banc Cambria. Banc Cambria will provide retail banking services across the whole of Wales, operating bilingual services across all channels, including face-to-face and branch banking and open some 30 new outlets over the next decade.

The Welsh Government's Financial Inclusion Unit supports credit unions and these are increasingly opening up new outreach points to try to reach communities who have lost a traditional branch. The unit also works with LINK who run a Financial Inclusion Programme to protect access to cash in more deprived communities.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy