Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ85805

Rhys ab Owen MS
MS for South Wales Central

Rhys.AbOwen@Senedd.Wales

05 August 2022

Dear Rhys,

Thank you for your recent Written Question relating to the protection of trees on Transport for Wales (TfW) land (WQ85805).

As part of their remit letter, the Deputy Minister for Climate Change has asked TfW through their plans to consider how to address wider climate challenges including biodiversity and climate adaptation.

TfW are electrifying the rail network in South East Wales and vegetation management in this area is an essential part of this to allow them to facilitate this work, particularly to reduce the risk of trees falling across the tracks. TfW and its partners have a series of protocols undertaken collectively in advance immediately before and during works to identify areas requiring management. TfW will also be investigating all options for biodiversity enhancement on the CVL after line energisation including a full review of lineside assets along with habitat creation and habitat enhancement where appropriate.

In addition they have committed to develop new green spaces at stations, including the establishment of a Habitat Creation Group to explore the development and utilisation of potential green spaces across the network and in station environments. TfW have been successful in working with community groups within one mile of railway stations to create and enhance community green spaces and create 'green routes' within wider station environments.

Yours sincerely

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change