



Cynulliad National  
Cenedlaethol Assembly for  
Cymru Wales

## **Y Pwyllgor Deisebau**

### **Adroddiad Cwblhau**

**Crynodeb o ystyriaeth y Pwyllgor Deisebau o P-03-178 Carchar  
Newydd**

**Chwefror 2009**

## **Cyflwynwyd yr e-ddeiseb**

18 Medi 2008

## **Dyfarnwyd yn dderbyniadwy**

5 Ionawr 2009 (ar ôl casglu llofnodion)

## **Ystyriaeth gychwynnol**

### **13 Ionawr 2009**

Ystyriodd y Pwyllgor y ddeiseb am y tro cyntaf a chytunodd i wneud y canlynol:

- Ysgrifennu at y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol yn gofyn am fanylion y canlynol:
  - Unrhyw drafodaethau y mae wedi'u cael gyda'r Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder ynghylch lleoli carchar newydd yng Nghymru, ac yn benodol yng Nghwbrân
  - Pa ddylanwad y gall y Gweinidog ei gael ar leoliad carchar newydd yng Nghymru, o dan y trefniant datganoli
  - A oes unrhyw ddarpariaeth statudol yn bodoli sy'n golygu bod yn rhaid ymgynghori â Gweinidogion Cymru ynghylch lleoli carchar yng Nghymru a pha ymgynghori pellach a fydd yn mynd rhagddo ynghylch y cynlluniau hyn

(Gweler Atodiad 1 ar gyfer y darn perthnasol o'r trawsgrifiad o'r cyfarfod ar 13 Ionawr 2009 ac Atodiad 2 ar gyfer y llythyr a anfonwyd at y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol)

## **Ystyriaeth bellach**

### **10 Chwefror 2009**

Trafododd y Pwyllgor ymateb gan y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol. Yn sgil yr ymateb a phenderfyniad Gweinidog Carchardai'r Deyrnas Unedig i leoli'r carchar newydd yng Nghaernarfon, cytunodd Pwyllgor nad oedd modd mynd â'r ddeiseb ymhellach, gan fod y nod wedi'i gyrraedd.

(Gweler Atodiad 1 ar gyfer y darn perthnasol o'r trawsgrifiad o'r cyfarfod ar 10 Chwefror 2009, Atodiad 2 ar gyfer yr ymateb a gafwyd gan y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol ac Atodiad 3 ar gyfer y datganiad i'r wasg gan Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder Llywodraeth y DU)

## **Clerc y Pwyllgor Deisebau**

**Chwefror 2009**

# Atodiad 1

# Trawsgrifiadau o gyfarfodydd y Pwyllgor Deisebau

**13 Ionawr 2009**

**Val Lloyd:** The fourth petition, P-03-178, is against the opening of a new prison in Cwmbrân, and it was raised by Councillor Elizabeth Haynes.

**Michael German:** As I have supported this petition, do I now have to do the usual thing and say that I will not take part? What is the new protocol?

**Val Lloyd:** I think so. If you remember, that is what I did with the petition relating to the Cork ferry. I think that is probably the wise thing to do. However, I will take a view on that.

**Ms Phipps:** I think so too.

**Michael German:** I have supported this petition and taken part in action concerning the matter.

**Val Lloyd:** Thank you. That is on the record.

**Andrew R.T. Davies:** The prison is not in my constituency—and I do not believe that there are any such proposals in my constituency—but I have heard, through questions in Plenary and committee, from other Members whose constituencies are affected by the various proposals in north and south Wales. I think that the common-sense approach here would be to try to get an overview from the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, whom I presume would be the contact in the Government, to see what discussions the Welsh Assembly Government is having. Ultimately, the location of prisons is a Westminster decision. The Assembly plays a role in the delivery of this project, but it is a peripheral one. We need to get an understanding of exactly what participation the Welsh Assembly Government has had to date and what its views are on such a site for future prison development in Wales. That matter will, I presume, go to be Brian Gibbons, the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government.

**Val Lloyd:** Yes, it will go to Brian, but I think that you are right.

**Bethan Jenkins:** I know that it is a Westminster decision, but perhaps the Minister could also indicate whether the Government will be consulting further on this, because it did seem that it was announced without many people in the area being aware of what was going to happen. So, even if the Government does not have any powers in this regard, I would like to know whether consultation will be forthcoming on it.

**Val Lloyd:** Thank you. I think that we have covered everything. It is a very emotive subject, of course, particularly as the prison population is rising.

**Andrew R.T. Davies:** What are the superprisons called?

**Val Lloyd:** They are called 'Titans'.

## **10 Chwefror 2009**

**Val Lloyd:** The next petition is P-03-178, on the new prison in Cwmbran, and is therefore out of date.

**Michael German:** It was this committee what done it, Chair. [Laughter.]

**Val Lloyd:** I was driving when I heard the announcement about the new prison—

**Michael German:** We can happily close this one.

**Bethan Jenkins:** They are happy in north Wales—they want the prison there.

**Michael German:** Everyone is happy, and this committee has done its job.

**Val Lloyd:** We will chalk that up as a success, then.

## **Atodiad 2**

## Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

### Petitions Committee

Dr. Brian Gibbons AM  
Minister for Social Justice and Local  
Government  
Welsh Assembly Government  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: PET-03-178

19 January 2009

Dear Brian

#### **Petition against a new prison in Cwmbran**

The Petitions Committee is considering a new petition that is calling upon the National Assembly for Wales to:

"investigate the Welsh Assembly Government's involvement in the proposed siting of the new prison for Wales, in particular the implications of situating the prison in Greenmeadow, Cwmbran."

The Committee agreed that I would write to you to ask whether you have held any discussions with the Ministry of Justice regarding the siting of a new prison in Wales, and specifically if you have had any discussion about the Cwmbran site?

The Committee would also like to know what influence the Welsh Assembly Government has on the siting of a new prison in Wales, under the devolution settlement, and whether there are any statutory provisions for Welsh Ministers to be consulted? We would be grateful if you could clarify what further consultations will be held over this process, particularly with the local residents affected.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



**Val Lloyd**  
Chair, Petitions Committee

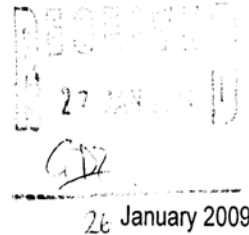
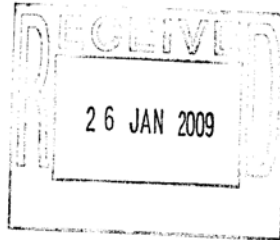
**Brian Gibbons AC/AM**  
Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth  
Leol  
Minister for Social Justice and Local Government



Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref BG/00035/09

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Val Lloyd AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA



*Dear Val*

Thank you for your letter of 19 January informing me that the Petitions Committee has received a petition about the proposed siting of a new prison in Wales and the implications if it is located in Cwmbran. I have seen a copy of the transcript.

You have asked a number of specific questions and I will answer them in turn. There has been regular correspondence and contact between myself and the Prisons Minister, David Hanson MP. In particular I wrote to David Hanson MP following the consultation last year. Our position, should the decision be to locate a prison in South Wales, was that we would prefer the Merthyr Tydfil option.

Prison matters are not devolved to Wales. They are the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice. Under the devolution settlement devolved administrations are committed to the principle of good communication especially where one administration's work may have some bearing on the responsibilities of other administrations. Where necessary the administrations should seek to give appropriate consideration to the views of other administrations. The First Minister and the Counsel General may make appropriate representations about any matter affecting Wales, so in this case Welsh Ministers were able to make representations to the Ministry of Justice concerning any consultation on the location of the proposed new prison in Wales.

Since the announcement of proposals for additional prison spaces in England and Wales, the Ministry of Justice have kept us updated on progress and we have kept them informed of Welsh opinion including the representations made from the MPs, AMs and the local population in the Cwmbran area.

We have not yet been informed of any decisions following the consultation in Wales and it will be for them to decide if they need further consultation.

Yours sincerely

**Brian Gibbons AM**

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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## Atodiad 3

The site for a new prison in Wales was announced today by Prisons Minister David Hanson. The chosen location is the Dynamex Friction site near Caernarfon in North Wales.

This follows an extensive four-month consultation on a shortlist of four sites, which ran from August to November 2008.

Although the site has been selected, the timing of building the new prison has not yet been determined. The current prison capacity programme already includes additional prison places in Wales as a result of the planned expansion of HMP Parc in Bridgend, South Wales. However, Ministers have decided that the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) should also acquire a suitable site in North Wales.

The decision takes into account comments from the consultation, demand for prison places, site characteristics, location, planning policy, and the views of the local planning authority.

Negotiations are under way with the site's owners and we are submitting an application for outline planning permission shortly.

David Hanson said:

'I am very grateful for all the comments that have been received since the publication of the shortlist in August. This is an important announcement for the people of Wales. A new prison would help bring considerable economic benefits to this part of Wales as well as providing much needed additional places for us.

'We will open preliminary negotiations with the owners of the site, and we will also prepare a planning application for submission in respect of the new prison in consultation with Gwynedd Council.'

Bluefield Caernarfon Ltd., the current owners of the site, said:

'Following a lengthy evaluation process and an open consultation exercise, the Ministry of Justice have today indicated that the former Dynamex Friction Site at Caernarfon represents their preferred location for additional prison capacity in Wales.

'Bluefield Caernarfon Limited recognises the unique nature of the site and the economic importance of this proposal to the town of the Caernarfon and the surrounding area. Bluefield Caernarfon Limited indicated during the consultation process that it would be willing to enter into positive discussion with the Ministry of Justice should they deem the site appropriate for a prison and should Gwynedd Council be supportive of such a proposal at this location.

'The development of a prison at this site will have a positive economic impact on this area, providing widespread support for local businesses and suppliers and generating many jobs in the future.'

