

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref WQ83523

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
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16 November 2021

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders MS,

Thank you for your tabled written question of 1 October regarding the steps Natural Resources Wales (NRW) have taken to improve the capability of the flood warning systems.

The storms throughout 2020, and in particular those in February, made it the worst year of flooding in decades, with over 2,600 homes and 600 businesses affected during Storms Dennis and Ciara. Responding to these events through a pandemic was extremely challenging for all involved. However, it is important that lessons are learnt to help improve response procedures.

NRW undertook a thorough review of its activities relating to the February 2020 floods, publishing its findings in October 2020. It identified improvements in the short, medium and long term, which are being implemented. NRW has already made changes to some of their processes, for example:

- less emphasis on providing updates for warnings already issued and clear prioritisation on new warnings;
- further steps taken to improve system reliance to their website;
- improvement to on-line services, with better data on rainfall, river levels and sea;
- increased the numbers of staff on incident response rotas.

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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.

NRW are also exploring ways to further improve the issuing of flood warnings. Other ongoing projects over the longer term include improving the accuracy of field data and forecasting tools. NRW remains committed to working with partner organisations such as the Met Office in these areas, utilising the latest data and evidence.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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