

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/11270/21

Christian Hanagan
Service Director - Democratic Services & Communication
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

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10 September 2021

Dear Christian,

Thank you for your letter of 27 August seeking clarification about our intentions regarding the regulation of coal tip safety in Wales.

I am pleased to learn about the Council's proactive engagement with the Law Commission on its review of coal tip safety legislation, it is important all stakeholders contribute to ensure we develop a modern fit-for purpose regime.

This is a priority area for the Welsh Government and the Law Commission's review is an important element of the evidence required to ensure we have an effective management regime for coal tips in Wales.

The Welsh Government is committed to legislating for a new management regime for disused coal tips for Wales during this Senedd term. As the Mines & Quarries (Tips) Act 1969 is a UK piece of legislation, as such our general approach would be to amend the relevant part of the UK Act, in this instance Part 2 which deals with disused coal tips, from applying to Wales.

In addition to the aforementioned review, for which we will await a report from the Law Commission in early 2022, we will also be undertaking our own analysis of proposals and we will issue a White Paper in the future to consult on specific Bill proposals.

In relation to your enquiry about regulation 40 of the Environmental Permitting Regulations, substantial further analysis is required on the connections between environmental law and coal tip safety legislation before any decisions can be made, particularly as these regulations apply across numerous policy areas. My officials will continue to consult with all relevant stakeholders on this matter.

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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.

I appreciate the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's interest in this matter and I encourage the Council to remain proactively involved in the development of our legislative proposals.

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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