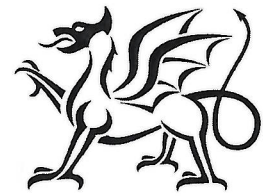


Mark Drakeford AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref

Leanne Wood AM

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|| July 2018

*Dear Leanne,*

During OAQs on 20 June, you raised the issues surrounding the ownership and future use of the Rhondda tunnel.

I said at that time that the future use of the tunnel had featured in our conversations with Plaid Cymru around the Budget process. As a result of these discussions a grant of £10k was awarded to the Rhondda Tunnel Society in January last year in order that they could undertake a tapping survey.

At the request of the Society, this funding was re-directed to open a new access point to the tunnel to enable easier and safer access for surveys and future repair work or construction. This complemented funding of £90k the Society received from the Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm Community Fund for a number of further surveys of the tunnel and its surroundings.

The Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport met with the Leader of Rhondda Cynon Taf Council in May 2018 to discuss Rhondda tunnel. The Council have offered to be the lead local authority and to work closely with their neighbouring authorities and the Welsh Government to determine the feasibility of reopening the tunnel (taking into consideration the outcomes of the survey work), the necessary capital investment required, and the long term running costs.

The Rhondda tunnel is currently owned by the Secretary of State for Transport. In consideration of future ownership, it is necessary to have full sight of the costs and liabilities associated to ascertain the cost to the public purse.

I would be happy to meet with you to discuss this matter further and to hear more about the possibilities for the tunnel.

*Best wishes,*

*Mark*

**Mark Drakeford AM/AC**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance