

Lee Waters AC/AM
Dirprwy Weinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

David Rees AM

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Dear Dai,

During the Business questions on 12 March, a commitment was made to provide information on Welsh Government actions to date on the ownership of the Rhondda Tunnel.

The Rhondda Tunnel is owned by Highways England. The Welsh Government has previously signalled it is content to explore how it might support local authorities wishing to take ownership of the tunnel.

Although the Rhondda tunnel, if reopened as a walking and cycling route, has undoubted leisure and tourism potential it will be difficult to demonstrate that it has the potential to be used for substantial numbers of purposeful journeys.

We have previously provided some funding for the Rhondda Tunnel project. A funding application for the Active Travel Fund was not successful, however, in August 2018 the then Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport made £125,000 of other funding available to Rhondda Cynon Taff to progress survey work and for business case development for the Rhondda Tunnel.

We are supporting the WeITAG process to assist the authority in obtaining clarity on important factors such as if the scheme represents good value and if it is sustainable. This work is progressing as planned. Once this work is complete, it is possible that further funding requests are made.

Yours sincerely,

Lee Waters AC/AM
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Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport

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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.