

# LYNNE NEAGLE AM

*Assembly Member for Torfaen*

73 Upper Trosnant Street      Phone: 01495 740022  
Pontypool, Torfaen              Fax: 01495 755776  
NP4 8AU                              Email: [lynne.neagle@wales.gov.uk](mailto:lynne.neagle@wales.gov.uk)

William Powell AM  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

19<sup>th</sup> March 2014

## **Make the MTAN Law Petition**

Dear Bill,

I noted with great interest the recent discussion in relation to the above named petition that took place during the Petitions Committee meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March. As you will remember, I gave evidence in person last year to your committee, alongside the lead petitioner, Dr John Cox, who is a constituent of mine.

Given the events that took place at the Varteg Hill Planning Appeal, where the Planning Inspector appeared to interpret MTAN2 differently to the Welsh Government who introduced it, and the Assembly Members who lent it unanimous support, I believe it would be really sensible to clarify the view of the Planning Inspectorate by inviting their representatives to give evidence to your committee.

While I recognise that the petitions committee has many different priorities to balance, and that time is limited, I think this would provide a really important opportunity to clarify an ambiguity that has had already had serious repercussions for my constituents, and could impact on many more communities where opencast is either already taking place, or where planning applications have been submitted for future working.

I would be very grateful if, as a committee, you could take my views into account when deciding upon your next step. As you'll see below, I have copied in your fellow committee members to this letter.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



**LYNNE NEAGLE AM**  
Assembly Member for Torfaen  
cc: Joyce Watson AM  
Bethan Jenkins AM  
Russell George AM