

Carl Sargeant AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau  
Minister for Local Government and Communities



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/

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

January 2012

Dear Bill.

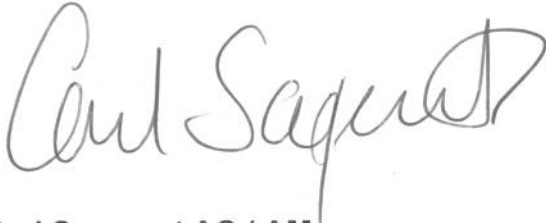
### **Abergavenny Improvement Acts 1854-71**

I wrote to you in November acknowledging receipt of copy evidence received by your Committee in relation to Abergavenny Livestock Market.

Today, I have issued a Written Statement to the National Assembly explaining my decision to repeal the Abergavenny Improvement Acts, a copy of which I enclose. I carefully considered the evidence forwarded to me by the Petitions Committee, and understand the strength and sincerity of feeling expressed by those people who do not wish the existing livestock market to close. I have not included within the consultation responses received, the approximate 5,000 petition letters forwarded to your Committee in 2009, but I have taken account the sentiment of that petition during my consideration of the matter.

I received a very high number of responses to my consultation, many of which oppose repeal of the Acts on the grounds that the current market should not close, or that the proposed development of the site should not proceed. The retention of the Acts is perceived as a means of preventing these things from happening, but such planning considerations are properly for the democratically elected local Council, not me. Furthermore, it is a misconception that the retention of the Acts prevents the development of the existing market site.

I wish to thank you and your Committee colleagues for keeping me informed of the responses you have received concerning Abergavenny's livestock market. I expect shortly to place before the National Assembly an Order repealing the Acts, and that the Order will come into force one month after it is made. The enabling powers in the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 provide that this order will be subject to the negative procedure in the Assembly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Carl Sargeant'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'C' and 'S'.

**Carl Sargeant AC / AM**

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