

**Y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus
Public Accounts Committee**

Mr E T Wilde
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



6 January 2015

Dear Mr Wilde,

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 December to Darren Millar, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, in relation to the reconfiguration of the A470 trunk road and its A494 and A493 junctions. Please take this letter as your requested acknowledgement your letter was received, and a further response will follow.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you would like any further assistance.

Yours sincerely

Leanne Hatcher
Committee Clerk

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Ffôn/Tel: [REDACTED]

Y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus
Public Accounts Committee

Mr E T Wilde
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



20 January 2015

Dear Mr Wilde,

Thank you for your letter dated 27 December 2014 regarding the reconfiguration of the A470 trunk road and for raising this important issue with the Public Accounts Committee.

The Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry into Motorway and Trunk Road Investment and is currently consulting on this issue. As part of our inquiry we will consider:

- whether the Welsh Government's approach to delivery of major trunk road projects provides value for money;
- the extent to which the current approach to routine maintenance and improvement of the network via Trunk Road Agents has delivered value for money; and
- how the maintenance and improvement functions delivered by the Trunk Road Agents can be improved, in the context of the on-going Welsh Government review of these agents.

We will soon be holding evidence sessions on this issue, and plan to hear from the lead authorities and trunk road agents and we will examine the underlying issues you raised in your letter, particularly in considering how maintenance and road improvement can be enhanced.

You may also be interested to know that the National Assembly's Petitions Committee currently has a petition in progress entitled, *P-04-585 Changes to A494/A470 Junction Dolgellau*. The petition was considered by the Petitions Committee on 23 September 2014 and is waiting for further information from the petitioner, before making a decision on how this should proceed. I have copied this letter and your

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Ffôn/Tel: [REDACTED]

original correspondence to the Chair of the Petitions Committee to contribute to their consideration of that petition.

Details of the inquiry will be published on the Public Accounts Committee's pages of the National Assembly for Wales's website – www.assembly.wales – as the inquiry proceeds. If you do not have access to the internet, I would be happy to write to you once the inquiry has concluded to provide an outline of the Committee's findings and recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren Millar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Darren Millar AM
Chair

Y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus
Public Accounts Committee

Mr E T Wilde

██████████
██████████████████
██████████
██████████
██████████



23 February 2015

Dear Mr Wilde,

Thank you for your reply to my letter and for your offer to participate in an evidence session to share your experiences.

The Committee considered its scope and approach to this inquiry at its meeting on 13 January 2015, and the Committee is keen to consider the investment in Wales's trunk road network and its maintenance on an all-Wales basis. The Committee will not therefore be focussing on individual projects, and has agreed a list of witnesses able to give a broad view of major trunk road projects, maintenance and improvements.

The Committee will begin taking oral evidence at its meeting on Tuesday, 3 March 2015. If you are agreeable we will accept your letters dated 27 December 2014 and 12 February 2015 as written evidence for the Committee's consideration as part of this inquiry.

It is the Committee's intention to publish all written evidence submissions and I have attached at Annexe A, the Assembly's policy on disclosure of information, including how we remove any personal data. I would be grateful if you would consider these details carefully and confirm if you are content.

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Ffôn/Tel: ██████████

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren Millar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Darren Millar AM
Chair

How we will use your information

Working with your evidence

The Assembly will make hard and electronic copies of the written evidence you provide to a committee. These copies will be used by Assembly Members and their support staff, and Assembly Commission staff, during the committee's inquiry. All copies will be stored securely, either on our internal ICT network or in secure offices.

A committee is not obliged to accept your written evidence, nor to publish all or any part of it even if it has been accepted. This may occur where a submission is very long or contains material which we view as inappropriate to publish.

Publication and retention of your evidence

The Assembly will publish your written evidence on our website, which will mean the evidence is available via Internet search engines. This published, electronic version of your evidence will be kept indefinitely on our secure internal ICT network and by The National Archives (TNA).

Please state clearly within your evidence whether you are submitting it in an official or personal capacity. For evidence submitted in:

- an official capacity (e.g. as part of a job or other position you hold), the published version of your evidence will include your name and your contact information, and these details may also be used in other publications or publicity material, unless you state within your evidence that you wish these details to be removed.
- a personal capacity, the published version of your evidence will include your name, but not your private contact details.

We will remove any other personal data from the published version of your evidence if: a) we consider that it could be used to identify you

personally; and/or b) we agree to do so in response to a request by you (see below).

We may also use all or part(s) of the published version of your written evidence in other publications or publicity material relating to the committee's work. For example, we may quote from your evidence:

- in committee reports and other publicly available papers about the inquiry, which are published on our website and distributed in hard copy to interested parties (with the electronic version being retained on our network and by TNA);
- in committee briefing papers, which are not routinely published, but are held indefinitely on our secure internal ICT network;
- on our website (which is archived indefinitely by TNA);
- on other online channels (such as [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#)) where information is retained and processed in line with the privacy policies of those individual processors. (Privacy policies of those processors can be viewed on their websites).

If you provide any information in your evidence which you feel is not suitable for public disclosure, please indicate within your evidence which parts should not be published and give your reasons for this. We will consider this when publishing evidence or when dealing with any requests for information (please see below). If you have any questions about the kind of information which is suitable to be provided as written evidence, please contact the relevant committee clerk directly.

All hard and electronic copies held by Assembly Commission staff, apart from the published electronic version, will be destroyed as soon as possible after the committee has completed its inquiry.

Contacting you

We will retain your contact details (on our secure internal ICT network) for the duration of the Fourth Assembly (i.e. until April 2016) so that we can:

- keep you up to date about the inquiry;
- ask you any necessary follow-up questions about your evidence;

- discuss (if appropriate) whether you could provide additional (written or oral) evidence;
- send you a copy of the committee's report at the end of the inquiry; and
- contact you about any follow-up work the committee might undertake in relation to the inquiry.

We will not contact you about other Assembly business beyond the inquiry for which you have submitted evidence. For information about following and participating in other Assembly business, please see our website, www.assemblywales.org.

Requests for information made to the Assembly

In the event of a request for information being made under access to information legislation, it may be necessary to disclose all or part of the information that you provide. This may include information which has previously been removed by the Assembly for publication purposes. We will only do this if we are required to do so by law.

Data controller

The National Assembly for Wales Commission is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998. If you have any concerns or questions about the processing of your personal information please contact the committee clerk who may raise relevant enquiries with the Assembly Information Governance Manager.

COPY

Mr. E.T.Wilde,



23rd March 2015

Matthew Mortlock, Director Performance Audit,



RECEIVED

25 MAR 2015

Dear Mr. Mortlock,

Subject: A470 Trunk Road, Dolgellau.

I refer to your letter dtd. 12.4.15 and our subsequent telephone conversation. As promised, I enclose a copy of the Ministers letter dtd. 12.3.15 where she advises me of her decision to now install roundabouts at both the A493 and A494 junctions.

Whilst many will welcome this very belated decision, one which has been advocated widely for over 30 years, there will be much 'gnashing of teeth' about the implications, not least the premature and unnecessary reconfiguration expenditure with a wastage factor of at least £1.5 Million. Moreover, the travelling public are to face a wait of over two years before the work is completed. The delay is to be exasperated by the dubious need for an 'ecological impact study' (lesser horseshoe bats) which as well as having its own cost implications, also arouses public frustration.

The Ministers decision to put the roundabout solution in place has strengthened my case that the reconfiguration project was illjudged, illdesigned, unsafe and inappropriate. Clearly it did not match the evidence statement submitted by WG to the Public Accounts Committee under the heading 'Planning', that "Programmes of work on the network are carefully planned to to maximise cost effectiveness".

Similarly, the evidence submitted by NMWTRA suggests that such a disastrous outcome from their role with others in the reconfiguration would be prevented by their 'ensuring arrangements': Paras. 2.3, 3.1(4th line), 3.8, 5.1 & 5.2. refer.

I will respond to the Ministers letter dtd. 12.3.15 shortly and will copy to you accordingly. IT is also my intention to write to the Head of NMWTRA, David Cooil who has ignored my numerous attempts to contact him by telephone. Again, I will copy you in.

REPRESENTATIONS TO GWYNEDD COUNCIL/YGC.

To date no reply or acknowledgement of my letter to Huw Williams (YGC) dtd. 11.3.15. This letter was copied to the Councils Chief Executive and again no response. I am very concerned that given the Councils obligations and responsibilities, quite apart from basic courtesy, that the Council do not appear to have proper arrangements in place to receive and handle representations from the public particularly where they relate to serious matters of probity and financial accountability.

Whilst the relationship and status of NMWTRA and YGC to Gwynedd Council is apparent to some of us, it would seem reasonable that the tax/rate paying public should have legitimate representational access to question or challenge issues concerning good stewardship of public funds. Whether responses should be provided by the umbrella Gwynedd Council or more directly by NMWTRA or YGC, may not be clear, what should be crystal clear is that to ignore public representation is not an option.

My letter was also copied to the Councils Scrutiny Manager and a copy of his rather strange reply is attached. I have decided to ask the Councils Audit Committee to intervene and I will copy you in.

Yours sincerely

E.T. Wilde

COPY

Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AC / AM
Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref EH/00711/15

Eric T Wilde



12 March 2015

Dear Mr Wilde,

I am writing to provide you with an update regarding our plans for two junctions on the A470 near Dolgellau.

Following observation of CCTV footage from the A493 and A494 junctions, I have decided that installation of roundabouts at both junctions will provide the most appropriate solution for road users and the local community.

We will need to identify appropriate mitigation of the ecological impact of the works, and these studies will begin in the spring when species such as lesser horseshoe bats become more active. Studies and design will be completed through the summer and construction should then start early in 2016, to be completed in early spring 2017. I have made funding available in both 2015/16 and 2016/17.

In the meantime, I have asked officials to carry out any improvements possible to the temporary traffic signal installations at the junctions, to reduce disruption through the summer months. For major events such as the Royal Welsh Show it may be necessary to manually control the signals at peak times.

Edwina Hart

Adran Strategol a Gwella
Strategic and Improvement Department

Pennaeth/Head - Geraint George

Gofynnwch am/Ask for: Gareth James

☎ [REDACTED]

✉ [REDACTED]

Ein Cyf /
Our Ref:
Eich Cyf /
Your Ref:

copy



13 March 2015

Re: Complaint – YGC and A470 Dolgellau Reconfiguration

Dear Mr Wilde,

I refer to your letter dated 11th March 2015 and enclosures.

It appears that this is a matter initially for the Welsh Government to address.

However, I am forwarding your correspondence to my colleague, who is the adviser to the Communities Scrutiny Committee for his information.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Gareth James
Scrutiny and Member Support Manager

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE

Mr. E.T.Wilde,

24th April 2015

Darren Millar AM, Chair,
Public Accounts Committee,
National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff CF99 *NA.

Dear Mr. Millar,

Subject: Complaint of Serious Maladministration
A470 Trunk Road Reconfiguration, Dolgellau.

I enclose copies of further correspondence to and from various parties to assist in your deliberations. I would be most grateful if you will read carefully the contents of each enclosure, which I list as follows:

1. Letter dtd. 31.3.15 from Edwina Hart MBE, AM
2. My response to (1) above dtd. 24.4.15
3. Letter dtd. 26.3.15 from YGC (Gwynedd Council)
- NB. This letter shows clear lack of ownership of own responsibilities.
4. My letter dtd. 24.4.15 to David Cooil, Head of Service, NMWTRA.
5. My letter dtd. 24.4.15 to Gerrard Elias, Standards Commissioner, WAG.
6. My letter dtd. 24.4.15 to Clr. John Pughe Roberts, Chair, Audit Committee, Gwynedd Council.

I will ofcourse copy any replies which I may receive from the above in due course.

Perhaps you will be kind enough to advise me of any progress of your own deliberations in this matter together with any findings or conclusions following your various evidence gathering activities if this is yet available. (as you know I do not have Internet access)

As you know I continue to provide parallel information to Matthew Mortlock at WAO.

Yours sincerely,


E.T.Wilde.

NB. YOU MAY WISH TO NOTE IN PARTICULAR THE CONTENTS OF THE MINISTERS LETTER (1 above) AND THE ENORMOUS WASTAGE COSTS TO THE PUBLIC PURSE TOGETHER WITH THE PATHETIC ATTEMPT TO DEFLECT BLAME THROUGH THE VILIFICATION OF ACCIDENT VICTIMS,

COPY

1

Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AC / AM
Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref EH/01182/15

E T Wilde



31 March 2015

Dear Mr Wilde,

Thank you for your letter of 10 March regarding the A470 near Dolgellau.

I take road safety throughout Wales very seriously, as do my officials. Following the junction layout changes made in early spring last year there were four serious collisions. There have been two separate successful prosecutions of drivers involved, a further case is with the Director of Public Prosecutions and the other incident is with the coroner's office awaiting inquest.

The junction layout installed is a standard design. The layout changes were considered during preparation of a scheme to resurface the bypass and were instigated following a previous fatality at the A494 junction.

It is clear that there is a particular issue at the A494 junction which is why temporary signals were installed. We undertook CCTV monitoring at the A493 junction, which has a very similar layout to the A494 junction but with no serious incidents following change of the layout. The CCTV footage showed unexpected driver behaviour and temporary signals were therefore also installed at this junction.

The scheme costs are £721,623 for construction, and £79,557 for surveys, data collection, feasibility, design, and site supervision.

Edwina Hart

COPY

Mr. E.T.Wilde,

[REDACTED]

2

24th April 2015

Edwina Hart MBE, AM,
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport,
Welsh Government,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff CF99 1NA

Dear Mrs. Hart,

Subject: A470 Trunk Road, Dolgellau, Re-configuration.
Your Ref. EH/01182/15

This is the first opportunity I have had to respond to your letter dtd. 31.3.15.

It is beneath contempt that you choose to castigate those unfortunate members of the public (living and dead) and their bereaved families in a feeble attempt to evade blame and responsibility.

You tell me that the layout is a 'standard design' which to just about 'every man and his dog' (except you and your officials) is a seriously dangerous and stupid design as well as an expensive piece of dysfunctionality. It is interesting that in this modern age when public departments can barely go to the toilet without summoning a 'consultant', that your officials found it necessary to burden the taxpayer with the employment of a 'consultant' to "design a layout which according to you was already pre-designed as 'standard'?????? and for them to make a pigs ear out of it in the bargain.

The public require accountability not evasion and deception.

Members of the public including myself, who raise serious matters in the public interest, do not expect to be patronised and treated as fools and we do have better things to do than be sent round in circles. I have tried in vain to get your officials at NMWTRA and their outsourced contractor YGC to acknowledge the failure and consequences of the reconfigured road but I will persist with my representations through Wales Audit Office to bring about accountability and sanction.

I have today written to David Cooil, Head of NMWTRA asking him for his 'honest' on the ground account of how and why the project went so disastrously wrong including the outcomes of road accidents, fatalities, severe inconvenience to the traveling public and the wastage of at least £1million of public funds. Perhaps you will contact Mr. Cooil and require him to respond to my letter reminding him that as a public servant, he does not have the option to ignore those representations which gave him particular discomforture.

In your letter to me dtd. 12.3.15, you have finally agreed to the obvious solution to install roundabouts but that we are having to wait at least two years before they are in place. It is noted with particular irritation to me and the public generally, that their interests are secondary to those of "bats" ? and that this will contribute to the delay and costs. What an absurdity! It may well be that infernal EEC tail wagging the Welsh dog with questionable balances of interpretation or over zealous Welsh Government officials lacking prioritisation judgements? . I am more than happy to make representations to appropriate officials if you will advise me who they are.

Finally and particularly importantly, I need to know if any or all of the Officials involved with the A470 reconfiguration, participate in any kind of performance pay/bonus arrangement and whether despite what has happened with considerable losses to the public purse, any will benefit from what may be described as reward for failure?

Please acknowledge this letter promptly following with comments in due course.

Yours sincerely

E.T.Wilde

cc WAO, PublicA/Cs Com'tee, . Gerrard Elias, Standards Commissioner.



copy



3

Huw Williams, B.Sc., C.Eng., C.Env., F.I.C.E.
Pennaeth YGC
Head of YGC

Gofynnwch am/Ask for: Huw Williams



Ein Cyf / Our Ref: HW/2415/NJOM
Eich Cyf / Your Ref:

26/03/2015

Mr E T Wilde



Dear Mr Wilde,

Re : A470, A493 & A494 Junctions, Dolgellau.

Thank you for your letter dated 11th March, 2015.

I can confirm that the YGC design complied with the relevant design standards.

I have discussed the contents of your letter with NMWTRA, and I have been informed that Welsh Government will address the matters raised in your letter.

Yours faithfully,

Huw Williams
Head of YGC



Swyddfa'r Cyngor
Caernarfon
Gwynedd LL55 1SH
01286 672255
www.gwynedd.gov.uk

copy

Mr. E.T.Wilde,

4

24th April 2015

David Cooil, Head of Service,
North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency,

Dear Mr. Cooil,

Subject: A470 Trunk Road Reconfiguration, Dolgellau.

When I lodged a formal complaint of serious maladministration to the Auditor General for Wales on 27th December 2014 regarding the disastrous outcome of this project, I was unable to represent your own account of the flaws in action and design because I was not able to contact you by telephone and messages left before and since the complaint was made, were not responded to.

I have come to realise that your failure to respond reflects a contempt for legitimate public interest representation and your discomforture in being personally responsible for the dysfunctionality of the scheme.

Having read the evidence statements which you submitted to the Public Accounts Committee relating to their generic examination of your Agencies operation, your management and governance arrangements described do not marry up with the reality of failure manifestation in projects like the scheme in question.

Please find attached a copy of my letter to Huw Williams (YGC) which is self explanatory but which he fails to respond to, other than to tell me that the design "complied with the relevant design standard".

I will continue in my endeavours to lead the public demand for accountability. We now know the wasted costs to the public purse to be over £1million and rising coinciding with a 4.5% rise in Council Tax providing salt in the wound of austerity.

Unlike your lack of courtesy to me, this letter provides you with the opportunity to provide your honest account and explanations for failure and any mitigating factors unknown to me and will become part of the public record alongside all my other related submissions to W.A.O and Public Accounts Committee.

Please provide a prompt acknowledgement of receipt of this letter confirming your intention to provide me with a full response in due course. Any failure on your part to respond will be deemed to be an acceptance of the negative project outcomes and your part in that responsibility.

Yours sincerely,

E.T.Wilde.

cc. Edwina Hart MBE, AM
Wales Audit Office
Public A/C8s Committee

COPY

Mr. E.T.Wilde, (5)

24th April 2015.

Gerrard Elias, Standards Commissioner,
National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA.

Dear Mr. Elias,

Subject: Poor handling of complaint by Minister for
Economy, Science and Transport, inconsistent
with public expectation of standard of conduct
for Minister/Public Official.

I bring this matter to your attention, in the public interest, primarily to make you aware of it and to invite you to consider if my experiences reflect the specificity of the source complaint or whether they are indicative of a more general systemic problem.

The matter relates to a serious complaint of maladministration which I lodged with the Auditor General for Wales on 27th December 2014 regarding the disastrous reconfiguration of the A470 Trunk Road at Dolgellau, Gwynedd, together with my submission to the Assembly's Public Accounts Committee requesting their intervention/investigation.

Please find attached, copy of my latest letter to the Minister which is self explanatory together with copies of related correspondence.

It has become increasingly clear to me that the Minister, in collusion with her officials and others involved, have conspired in a 'damage limitation' exercise designed to mislead the public as to the extent of her departments irresponsibility and ineptitude in designing a scheme not fit for purpose and not least in causing the wastage of public funds in excess of £1 million.

In her letter dtd. 31.3.15, you will note how the Minister has debased herself by castigating drivers (some deceased) and their bereaved families in a feeble attempt to deflect the entire blame and responsibility.

Such a lack of integrity fuels public disenchantment in politics and Government but there are still a few of us acting as unpaid civilian scrutators who remain determined and relentless in bringing about Accountability.

I will be interested in receiving your comments in due course. Please ensure prompt acknowledgement of this communication.

Yours sincerely,

Eric T. Wilde.

Copy

Mr. E.T.Wilde, (6)

[REDACTED]
24th April 2015

Clr. John Pughe Roberts, Chair,
Audit Committee,
Gwynedd Council.

Dear Mr. Roberts,

Subject: A470 Trunk Road Reconfiguration, Dolgellau.
Complaint of serious Maladministration to
Auditor General for Wales and Public Accounts
Committee.

Although this project was a Welsh Government led initiative which has brought about disastrous outcomes, not least accidents/fatalities and wastage of public funds (over £1million), Gwynedd Council through its lead role in NMWTRA and Gwynedd Consultancy (YGC) have a lot to answer for.

I have always assumed that financial management, governance and probity are meant to be the foundation stones of a local authorities ethos and responsibilities and that any legitimate concerns or representations made by members of the public which question them, will be taken very seriously. I hope you will concur with that?

However, when I wrote to Huw Williams (YGC) with copy to your Chief Executive, I gained quite a different impression from their responses. Firstly, your CEO acknowledged my letter but made no comment whatsoever. Secondly, Mr. Williams was most evasive and thirdly Gareth James, your Scrutiny Manager gave me a rather odd response (copy of his letter attached) He evidently did not think you should be involved??.

The public are very concerned, even angry about what has occurred particularly the loss of life and immense wastage of public money and yet we see no proactive comment, apologies or expressions of regret from Gwynedd Council.

Perhaps you will advise me how you and your Committee will examine and investigate what has occurred in so far as the Council played a part

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter ASAP.

Yours sincerely,

E.T.Wilde.

cc. Wales Audit Office.

Encl: Copy letter to YGC, NMWTRA.

PS. Since completing this letter, I have just had sight of a copy of the Councils 2013/14 Statement of Accounts and in particular the Annual Governance Statement. Having read this statement it is clear that Members of the Governance Arrangements Assessment Group, the Corporate Management Team and others would need to concern themselves with the contents of this letter. May I ask that you ensure that it is fully circulated confirming to me that you have done so.

RECEIVED

6 MAY 2015

Mr. E.T.Wilde,


4th May 2015

Darren Millar AM, CHair
Public Accounts Committee,
National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff CF99 1NA

Dear Mr. Millar,

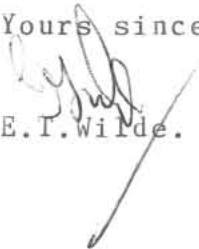
Subject: Complaint Re: A470 Trunk Road Reconfiguration, Dolgellau

Further to my letter dtd. 24.4.15, I now enclose copies of further related correspondence as follows:

1. Reply from NMWTRA dtd. 1.5.15
2. My response to (1) above dtd. 4.5.15
3. My letter to Edwina Hart dtd. 4.5.15
4. My letter to Gerard Elias, Standards Commissioner
5. My letter to Audit Committee Chair, Gwynedd Council.
6. Letter/minutes from PCC dtd. 24.4.15

I await your response to my letter dtd. 24.4.15 also taking account of the supplementary information provided herewith.

Yours sincerely,


E.T.Wilde.

cc. WAO



Asiant Cefnffyrdd Gogledd a Chanolbarth Cymru North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent

Uned Rheoli Cefnffyrdd / Trunk Road Management Unit

Gofynnwch am/Ask for: Dave Cooil



Ein Cyf / Our Ref: DRC/LH
Eich Cyf / Your Ref:

Mr E T Wilde



01 May 2015

Dear Mr Wilde,

A470 Trunk Road Reconfiguration, Dolgellau

Further to your letter dated 24th April 2015. I respond as follows:

The North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency operate and maintain trunk roads on behalf of Welsh Government (WG). In accordance with WG policy I have forwarded your correspondence onto WG for their attention and they will respond to you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Dave Cooil
Head of Agency



Mr. E.T.Wilde,

4th May 2015.

Mr. D. Cooil, Head of Agency,
North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent,
Trunk Road Management Unit,

Dear Mr. Cooil,

Subject: A470 Trunk Road Reconfiguration, Dolgellau.

I have your response dtd. 1st May 2015 to my letter dtd. 24th April 2015.

You know that I am aware of your role and that of the Agency on behalf of Welsh Government. However, my understanding is that NMWTRA is an entity derived from a consortium of Local Authorities with Gwynedd Council as the lead Authority. Presumably the Agency cannot function without its own policy and terms of reference and that these will either be discrete to the Agency or an adoption of the lead Local Authorities Policies and terms of reference.

I must, therefore, ask you to clarify the Agencies position in this regard and whether it binds itself to the principles, obligations and responsibilities as set out in Gwynedd Councils Governance Statement which is subject to National Audit. This question is particularly critical where you as Agency Head and members of your staff are Gwynedd Council employees.

Issues which have direct and ultimate responsibility with Welsh Government are well covered by my existing, continuing and various representations but this does not provide absolution for those such as NMWTRA and YGC particularly where there are Local Authority associations.


In responding to this letter, please ensure that you provide me with the clarifications requested and if possible, a copy of NMWTRA policies relating to public concerns and challenges.

Yours sincerely,

E.T.Wilde.

cc. Edwina Hart ~~MBE~~ BE, AM,
Darren Millar, AM. Chair, Public Accounts Committee
Matthew Mortlock, Wales Audit Office
Clr. John Pughe Roberts, Chair, Gwynedd Council Audit Committee.

Mr. E.T.Wilde,


4th May 2015

Edwina Hart MBE, AM,
Minister for Economy?, Science and Transport,
Welsh Government,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff CF99 1NA.

Dear Mrs. Hart,

Subject: Complaint re A470 Trunk Road Reconfiguration, Dolgellau.

Further to my letter dtd. 24th April 2015, I now enclose copies of recent correspondence between myself and Dave Cooil, Agency Head, NMWTRA which are self explanatory.

It is concerning to me that your contractual arrangements with NMWTRA apparently require or enable them to avoid accountability accusations for their own actions against the public interest. It will be interesting to see how they respond to the questions posed in my letter to them dtd.4.5.15.

I confirm my telephone request on 1.5.15 to Sheena Hague for copies of minutes of meetings which you refer to in your letter to me dtd.6.3.15 where there was Police representation in discussions about the A470 project.

Please acknowledge and advise me of your comments in due course.

Yours sincerely,

E.T.Wilde.

cc. WAO
Public A/C Comm'ee
Gerard Elias, Standards Commissioner.

Mr. E.T.Wilde,



4th May 2015

Gerard Elias QC,
Standards Commissioner,
National Assembly for Wales,
Pierhead, Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff CF99 1NA.

Dear Mr. Elias,


Further to my letter dtd. 24th April 2015, I thank you for your prompt acknowledgement. I now enclose copies of my correspondence with NMWTRA which is self explanatory and illustrative of the frustrations experienced in trying to achieve accountability explanations in the public interest.

A copy of my latest letter (4.5.15) to the Minister is also attached for your interest and information.

Yours sincerely,

Eric T. Wilde

Mr. E.T.Wilde,


4th May 2015

Clr. John Pughe Roberts, Chair,
Audit Committee, Gwynedd Council,

Dear Mr. Roberts,

Subject: Complaint re: A470 Trunk Road Reconfiguration, Dolgella

Further to my letter dtd. 24th April 2015, I now enclose copies of
correspondence between myself and David Cooil, Agency Head, NMWTRA, which
are self explanatory.

I hope to receive your comments as soon as possible.
Please acknowledge.

Yours sincerely,

E.T.Wilde.

cc. WAO
Public A/C CommTee.

Mr E T Wilde



Ein Cyf / Our Ref: WR/JS/931
[FOI.2015.14]

24 April 2015

Dear Mr Wilde

Freedom of Information Request - A470 Trunk Road Dolgellau

As promised in my letter of 3 March, I enclose the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Executive Board minutes of 9 December at which the Dolgellau By Pass was discussed. I hope this furthers your investigation.

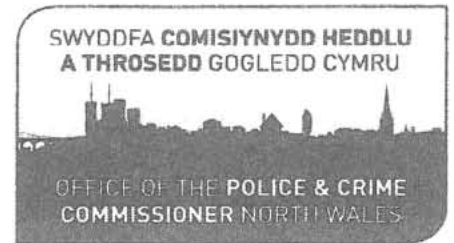
With kind regards.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Winston Roddick".

Winston Roddick CB QC
Police and Crime Commissioner

enc



STRATEGIC EXECUTIVE BOARD

09 December 2014

PRESENT:

- Police and Crime Commissioner
- Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
- Chief Constable
- Deputy Chief Constable
- Assistant Chief Constable
- Temporary Assistant Chief Constable (T/ACC)
- Chief Executive Officer, OPCC
- Deputy Chief Executive Officer, OPCC
- Chief Finance Officer, OPCC
- Guto Edwards, Head of Finance (Assistant Director)
- Chief Superintendent Simon Humphreys
- Diane Jones, Commissioning Officer, OPCC
- Helen Evans, Research and Information Officer, OPCC

103 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

104 ACTIONS LOG

ACTION NUMBER	TOPIC	STATUS
33	Neighbourhood Policing Teams	The College of Policing have a grant available and a workstream is being prepared. The Force attended the Royal Welsh Show and other agricultural shows, along with the Commissioner. ACTION CLOSED
56	Arrangements be made for the Commissioner to meet the Operation Mayfield Team at Wrexham Police Station	The Operation Mayfield team no longer exist. The Commissioner met with the Superintendent on 29 September and a meeting had taken place with members of the affected community. ACTION CLOSED
69	The Deputy Commissioner and the Head of Professional Standards to meet to discuss the design and	Further discussions have taken place but these were disrupted due to a HMIC inspection. The Deputy

forces were showing an increase. On an All Wales basis, North Wales is the only Force showing a reduction over 12 months when compared to the previous year. When looking at national crime figures North Wales was the fifth best in recording crime.

Antisocial Behaviour and Criminal Damage are both showing reductions. There has been an increase of 9.1% in recorded shoplifting which is a considerably increased position to that of the same period last year. Local policing teams around the force have been preparing for the Christmas period. Such example is 'Operation Santa' which aims to provide more visible policing in retail premises around this period in order to reassure the public and business communities and prevent offences of retail theft.

Burglary Dwelling and Burglary other than dwelling are both showing strong reduction.

Offences of Gold Burglary remain sporadic with a seven week period recently where no offences were reported.

Deliver an effective response – 999 call handling

There has been an effective response to emergency call handling and the quality has been good and initial contact strong. Response times continue to be strong.

The abandonment rates have been very low with all earlier problems having been addressed.

Feedback through surveys is that satisfaction levels with ease of contact have been above average, with the latest three quarters demonstrating an upward trend. As from 12 January, there will be some changes in the Forces' processes to improve the satisfaction of victims. This change will focus on the aftercare services.

Reduce harm and risk of harm

The Force have identified that there is a current increase year to date in the number of Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) within the force area. Road policing teams are working hard to identify and target key vulnerable groups through various initiatives and a partnership approach with local authorities.

The Commissioner reported that he had been invited to join a campaign in relation to the A470 at Dolgellau following recent fatalities. There appears to be a problem with the configuration of the junctions and there is a serious accident pattern at the location. A report has been compiled by Gareth Osmond Jones and sent to the Welsh Government for their consideration. One of the suggestions put forward in the report was for a roundabout to be situated at the location but this option has been dismissed by Welsh Government. The police are supportive of either roundabouts or lights at both junctions in question.

It was recommended that a letter be written to the Welsh Government to say that this issue has been discussed at the Strategic Executive Board meeting asking them what they are proposing at the location if they have already dismissed the option of a roundabout. The Force were supporting re-engineering at the location and welcomed anything the Commissioner could do to lend weight to the argument. It was agreed that a letter be drafted by the Deputy Commissioner for signature by the Commissioner.

ACTION Action Log 108	That the Deputy Commissioner prepare a letter to be sent to Welsh Government regarding the issues on the A470 in Dolgellau
--	--

The Commissioner also asked for information regarding the weighting in fatalities since the road has been reengineered.

ACTION Action Log 108	Information be provided to the Commissioner regarding the weighting in fatalities since the road has been reengineered.
--	---

The Christmas drink drive campaign began in December and there has been a significant amount of activity. During the first week, 12 arrests were made, 11 for drink driving and 1 for drug driving. The initiative will continue throughout December and into the new year.

The National Policing Lead for Missing Persons commissioned a capability assessment to determine the capability of police forces nationally in this important area of work. In terms of call handling and child sexual exploitation management, the outcome was positive in North Wales.

Build effective partnerships

North Wales Police, Public Protection Unit have recently secured funding and entered a partnership with the charity Barnardo's to provide 3 additional members of staff dedicated to safeguarding young people at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation. Effective processes have been established to ensure that any identified risks are being fed back into PPU and managed appropriately.

The update went on to provide information around ongoing Christmas campaigns.

Outcomes

The Assistant Chief Constable shared information with the Deputy Commissioner regarding outcomes and comparison of the tables and will brief the Commissioner.

The Commissioner posed the question whether the Force would be able to reduce crime by the end of the financial year. The Chief Constable stated that the Force would work very hard to ensure that this was achieved. There are significant forcewide operations to pin down victim based crime further and, using predictive analysis, resources can be deployed in a sensible way.

109. COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

The Commissioner stated that he had two matters of concern. Firstly, Child Sexual Exploitation in North Wales and, secondly, the ISIS threat in North Wales.

The Commissioner raised 7 questions at the recent meeting with the Children's Commissioner and other organisation and proposed the same to the Force.

The Chief Constable confirmed that he would brief the Commissioner in relation to the recent ISIS arrests and the overall ISIS threat in North Wales.

Mr E T Wilde

A470 Trunk Road Reconfiguration, Dolgellau

6 May 2015

Dear Mr Wilde,

Thank you for your letters of 24 April and 4 May to me as Chair of the Public Accounts Committee at the National Assembly for Wales.

Your concerns in relation to A470 Trunk Road Reconfiguration at Dolgellau have been noted as part of the Committee's inquiry into Value for Money of Motorway and Trunk Road Investment.

The Committee has concluded gathering evidence on this inquiry and is preparing to report later in the summer term. I shall ensure the Committee Clerk sends you a copy of the report, when published.

Yours sincerely,



Darren Millar AM
Chair



Mr E T Wilde

3 June 2015

Dear Mr Wilde,

I refer to the Committee Chair's letter to you of 23 February, copy enclosed for reference.

Paragraph three of that letter asks whether you wish your correspondence of 27 December 2014 and 12 February 2015 to be considered as part of the Public Accounts Committee inquiry into the value for money of Motorway and Trunk Road Investment and if so, if you could also confirm if you are content with the National Assembly's policy on disclosure of information. Unless I hear from you on this specific issue by 12 June, I shall assume you do not wish your correspondence, as detailed above, to be published.

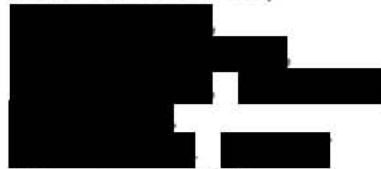
The Committee is now considering its report which is anticipated to be published in July. I shall ensure that you receive a hard copy of the report, when published.

Yours sincerely,

C Griffiths
Deputy Clerk



Mr. E.T.Wilde,


5th June 2015.

Mrs. C. Griffiths, Deputy Clerk,
National Assembly for Wales,
Public Accounts Committee,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff CF99 1NA.

Dear Mrs. Griffiths,

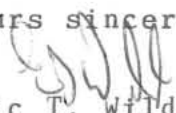
I refer to your letter dtd. 3.6.15 and our telephone conversation this morning.

As requested, having read the Assembly's policy on disclosure of information, I am happy for ALL my correspondence related to the inquiry to be published under my name but excluding contact details.

My letters dtd. 27.12.14, 12.2.15, 7.3.15, 24.4.15 & 4.5.15 together with their various enclosures including press clippings. Letters to and from other parties total 16 in number.

I thank you for agreeing to keeping me informed and copied into reports etc to be circulated in due course.

Yours sincerely,


Eric T. Wilde.