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I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you would like me to appear at any event or think that I should be involved in any community project, organisation or debate then please get in touch. I really would like to hear from you. My details are above so please get in touch.

This will be the last report before the results of the Welsh Labour leadership election. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve on Mark Drakeford's cabinet as Minister for Housing & Local Government and as Minister for Climate Change. I want to thank him again for his leadership and determination to do the right thing for Wales. I truly believe Jeremy Miles is the right person to continue Welsh Labour's work and whoever wins I hope that they will continue to build on the progressive legacy they will be inheriting.

This month I was pleased to be able to publish the location maps for the remaining categories of disused coal tips in Wales – category A, B and R tips. These maps are available at: [Find disused coal tips](#).

Category A, B and R tips are much less likely to impact public safety. There are more than 2,500 disused tips in Wales, and we believe it is important to be transparent about their locations with the public.

I also provided an update on the Welsh Building Safety Programme. The Building Safety (Wales) Bill is still set to be introduced within this Senedd term as promised. This bill aims to establish a more comprehensive building safety regime than the one in England, covering all multi-occupied residential buildings with two or more units, irrespective of height. The government is focusing on ensuring resident voices are central to the regime, with local authorities playing a key role in its implementation. The initiative represents a substantial step forward in enhancing building safety and accountability.

Constituency



Tata Steel Support

We had a productive session in Port Talbot discussing the closure of the blast furnace and the help that we can offer everyone affected. It was good to speak with trade union representatives about the best way to make common cause to ensure a future for steel in Wales and the UK.



Consultation

The Welsh Government is consulting on a new Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy. If you want to have your say on how Mental Health Practises could be improved in Swansea and nationwide take a look at the materials [here](#).



Cwtch Mawr

Cwtch Mawr, Wales' first Multibank officially opens in Swansea.

A multibank is a clothes bank, bedding bank, baby bank, hygiene bank and furniture bank all in one. Companies with surplus goods people need will be connected with local charities who know the people who need them. [Read more](#)



Closed Lists

Many of you have got in touch about the closed list system in the new Senedd Elections Bill. The newly proposed closed-list system aims to make every vote count, moving away from the less proportionate first-past-the-post system. Parties will select a list of candidates, rather than the single candidates they choose now & voters can still choose independent ones. Endorsed by two-thirds of the Senedd, the system includes a post-2026 election review. Welsh Labour is committed to working with stakeholders to encourage diverse candidacies, offering engagement and training support to ensure political representation truly reflects Wales' diverse population.

Senedd



Benefits Charter

The ambitious Charter will create a joined-up system, where individuals will only have to tell their story once in order to access all the benefits that they are entitled to.

This new approach puts the needs of the individual at the centre of a system which has historically been seen as intimidating and difficult to navigate.

The Charter has seen huge support across Wales, with all 22 local authorities endorsing it.

Since the launch, progress has already been underway to turn what is written into the Charter's commitments into reality.

I am pleased to see such a compassionate, person-centred approach to helping tackle poverty, and empowering the people of Wales to easily claim what they are entitled to. [Read more](#)



NHS digital

The NHS will benefit from £10 million of additional funds to upgrade a variety of digital equipment, infrastructure and services. The funding will include £5 million for digital services to modernise and boost the efficiency of IT, £1 million to upgrade MRI scanners and £1.3 million dedicated to ultrasound scanning equipment. The Welsh Government and Welsh NHS are facing very tough financial pressures and difficult decisions are being made. Against this backdrop, I welcome this funding which will improve the experiences of many patients across the country.



14-16 learning

Parents and carers have unique and crucial insights into how the young adults they support are adapting to the world around them, and what support and skills would be helpful for them to learn as they approach adulthood.

The Welsh Government will listen to those opinions in a new consultation, asking for views on 14-16 learning under the Curriculum for Wales.

The Curriculum is already being rolled out for younger learners in Wales. Once it reaches 14-16 year olds, it is vital that skills are being learnt which are helpful and transferable to the outside world. [Give your views here.](#)



St. David's Day

In his last Saint David's Day message as First Minister, Mark Drakeford took the opportunity to praise Wales as a home to global businesses, where innovators, creators and brilliant ideas can thrive. He also paid tribute to the close-knit communities of our country, which have a strong sense of social justice- places where everyone is welcome and no one is left behind. The full message can be read here.