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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.

I want to congratulate Vaughan on winning the Labour leadership. As the first black head of Government in Wales, the UK and all of Europe, this marks a proud and notable moment in our history. The new First Minister said:

“I believe in a Wales that recognises that we can celebrate our differences and take pride in all those things that draw us together and make us who we are. While there will be many challenges ahead, there are even greater opportunities. I am ambitious about the work this team will do to make Wales an even better place.”

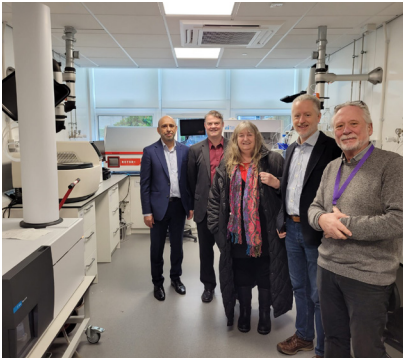
The FM has appointed his new Cabinet. One exciting addition is that of a Minister for Mental Health and Early Years. Full details of the Cabinet [here](#).

I'm very excited to be back dealing with Local Government and I look forward to serving the people of Wales further as the Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Local Government & Planning. You can see a list of my portfolio responsibilities [here](#).

In particular, I am excited to continue the work towards tackling homelessness and I want to thank all those organisations who have said they look forward to continuing to work with me.

This week I took the infrastructure bill through its final stage in the Senedd. The Bill introduces a streamlined process for approving major infrastructure projects, such as those related to energy, transportation, and water. This new approach combines various approvals into a single “infrastructure consent,” making it easier and quicker to get the green light for significant projects that exceed certain size criteria.

Constituency



Swansea University

I met with the Swansea University Biotech Department who are putting in a bid for a grant of several million for a new Green Economy Centre. They are the only applicant from Wales and if awarded they will be one of only 5 successful applicants. Your local Labour MS have signed a letter to support the application which we hope will be ultimately be successful.



Dylan Thomas House

I would like to thank Geoff Haden for extending an invitation for me to visit Dylan Thomas House. The opportunity to tour this iconic site was truly enjoyable, and it provided a valuable chance for us to engage in discussions about tourism in Swansea.



School Essentials

I am raising awareness about the Welsh Government offering help with school costs. Don't miss out on help with school essentials! 88% of those eligible have claimed their free School Essentials grant to help with costs like school uniforms, shoes, bags, sports kits and equipment. There's still time to [check eligibility and apply](#) for this year's funding now.



Tidal Lagoon Challenge

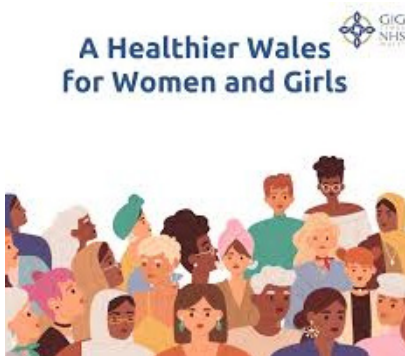
Last month I announced the successful applicants of the Welsh Government's £750,000 Tidal Lagoon challenge. I wanted to again congratulate Swansea University who won in the Environment category. I am excited how the research will help to move the tidal lagoon sector in Wales forward by developing the tidal lagoon schemes whilst also recognising the potential value of this work for other marine industries. Swansea University project Director Dr David Clarke said: "This is great news, the funding will support migration studies looking at movements of acoustically tagged Atlantic salmon, sea trout and twaite shad, enabling us to understand the risks of marine renewables to these species." [Read More](#)

Senedd



Workplace Recycling

On Saturday, April 6 it became law for all businesses, charities, and public sector organisations to sort their waste in Wales. This initiative is part of the Workplace Recycling Regulations aimed at enhancing recycling rates and reducing waste directed to incineration and landfills. Key materials such as food, paper, card, glass, metals, plastics, cartons, textiles, and small waste electricals must be separated for collection. This will bolster recycling quality, benefiting Welsh businesses by minimizing exports of materials. The legislation also prohibits disposing of food waste into sewers, incinerating separately collected waste, and sending all wood waste to landfills. Huw Irranca-Davies, Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change, said this move was crucial for maintaining Wales' leading recycling status, aiming for zero waste while supporting the economy by keeping high quality materials in circulation.



New Clinical Lead

This new appointment was announced on International Women's Day. Clinical lead Dr Helen Munro will take charge of developing the Women's Health Plan for Wales. The plan will be informed by the health experiences of thousands of women and girls across the country. The Welsh Government also announced £750,000 of funding for research commencing from April 2025, focused on women's health. This follows findings that over half of women have reported long-standing illnesses and 40% of these women feel limited by them.



£39 Million for Buses

A new "[Roadmap to Bus Reform](#)" from the Welsh Government aims to radically improve the ease & accessibility of public transport, connecting up bus, rail, walking and cycling routes to create seamless journeys for passengers. The aim is one joined up network and one integrated timetable which can be accessed using one ticket. It is not an easy or quick fix, but this plan will address current flaws, creating a system that puts the needs of passengers in Wales first. Bus reform will be crucial in tackling transport poverty and making sustainable transport choices easier.



Memorial Garden

The memorial garden in Senghenydd, commemorating those who died in the worst disaster in the history of British mining, has been formally named by the Welsh Government as the National Mining Disaster Memorial Garden of Wales. The garden has been opened more than a century after the Senghenydd disasters and 40 years on from the anniversary of the miners' strikes. The hope is that the garden will not only honour those who died in the tragedies of Senghenydd but all who lost their lives in collieries across Wales.