

11 April 2024

Dear

ATISN 20340: Bedwas Coal Tip reclamation project

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 12 March 2024. You asked for:

- 1. Copies of all information provided to ERI Reclamation Ltd by Welsh government for their proposed Bedwas Tip Reclamation, including dates of communication.*
- 2. Copies of all communication between Welsh government, NRW, Caerphilly County Borough Council, ERI and any other relevant organisation, including councillors, community groups, NGO's, contractors (e.g. assessments and surveys), and their agents, etc. relating to the proposed Bedwas Tip Reclamation, including meetings, emails, phone calls, letters, online enquiries, in person enquiries, etc. For meetings, please include date, location, invitees, attendees, apologies received, agenda, minutes, and actions. For all other communications, please include details of the communication along with the date, name of people and organisations (where relevant) and method of communication. **[we have interpreted this as all external communications relating to the proposed Bedwas tip reclamation project between the organisations and groups listed above]***
- 3. Copies of all reports and research shared with ERI, NRW and Caerphilly Country Borough Council which were deemed relevant to the Bedwas Tip reclamation.*
- 4. Copies of any other information provided by Welsh government to ERI to allow them to prepare their pre-planning consultation documents (<https://erireclamation.co.uk/bedwas/>)*
- 5. How long have Welsh government been aware of the proposed Bedwas Tip reclamation?*
- 6. What financial benefit will Welsh government gain from the proposed Bedwas Tip reclamation? And how will this be reinvested into the Sirhowy Valley community who are going to be subjected to all detrimental impact from losing access to the busiest parts of the Sirhowy Valley Country Park – on the forestry roads to be used for haulage and the area proposed for the plant, as well as the loss of nature along the haul route and on the common where the residual spoil is to be dumped?*
- 7. How has the Well-being of future generations Act been considered as part of discussions with ERI and their proposed plans for Bedwas Tip reclamation, along with any decisions taken by Welsh government (e.g. if they allow the extraction of coal)?*
- 8. Why the colliery site (Tip T90319) has been referred to by ERI as being in private ownership, when it is actually owned by Welsh government, and managed by NRW on Welsh government's behalf? And why the Welsh government have not corrected ERI on this statement?*
- 9. Please confirm if Welsh government has requested or discussed with ERI to include Tip T90319 as part of their reclamation scheme? If so, why is not part of the proposed scheme? If not, why not?*

Our response

The information you requested is enclosed as follows:

- 1. Copies of all information provided to ERI Reclamation Ltd by Welsh government for their proposed Bedwas Tip Reclamation, including dates of communication.*

Grouped with -

2. Copies of all communication between Welsh government, NRW, Caerphilly County Borough Council, ERI and any other relevant organisation, including councillors, community groups, NGO's, contractors (e.g. assessments and surveys), and their agents, etc. relating to the proposed Bedwas Tip Reclamation, including meetings, emails, phone calls, letters, online enquiries, in person enquiries, etc. For meetings, please include date, location, invitees, attendees, apologies received, agenda, minutes, and actions. For all other communications, please include details of the communication along with the date, name of people and organisations (where relevant) and method of communication. **[we have interpreted this as all external communications relating to the proposed Bedwas tip reclamation project between the organisations and groups listed above]**

- See **Docs 1 to 17** enclosed.

3. Copies of all reports and research shared with ERI, NRW and Caerphilly Country Borough Council which were deemed relevant to the Bedwas Tip reclamation.

- Welsh Government does not hold this information.

4. Copies of any other information provided by Welsh government to ERI to allow them to prepare their pre-planning consultation documents (<https://erireclamation.co.uk/bedwas/>)

- Welsh Government does not hold this information.

5. How long have Welsh government been aware of the proposed Bedwas Tip reclamation?

- Welsh Government was first made aware of the proposed Bedwas Tip reclamation project on 12 October 2021 – see **Doc 1**.

6. What financial benefit will Welsh government gain from the proposed Bedwas Tip reclamation? And how will this be reinvested into the Sirhowy Valley community who are going to be subjected to all detrimental impact from losing access to the busiest parts of the Sirhowy Valley Country Park – on the forestry roads to be used for haulage and the area proposed for the plant, as well as the loss of nature along the haul route and on the common where the residual spoil is to be dumped?

- Welsh Government will not gain financial benefit from the proposed Bedwas Tip reclamation. The financial arrangements put forward within ERI Reclamations proposals are entirely separate, between the developer and the local authority.

7. How has the Well-being of future generations Act been considered as part of discussions with ERI and their proposed plans for Bedwas Tip reclamation, along with any decisions taken by Welsh government (e.g. if they allow the extraction of coal)?

- Welsh Government is subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and works to deliver improvements for the well-being of people and communities in Wales. Welsh Government have not made, or taken part in, any decision relating to the Bedwas Tip Reclamation Scheme.

8. *Why the colliery site (Tip T90319) has been referred to by ERI as being in private ownership, when it is actually owned by Welsh government, and managed by NRW on Welsh government's behalf? And why the Welsh government have not corrected ERI on this statement?*

- Welsh Government has not been involved with any works completed by, or reports issued for, ERI Reclamation relating to the proposed Scheme and does not own the associated land. Neither have Welsh Government provided any comment on materials published by ERI Reclamation.

9. *Please confirm if Welsh government has requested or discussed with ERI to include Tip T90319 as part of their reclamation scheme? If so, why is not part of the proposed scheme? If not, why not?*

- Welsh Government has not made any requests relating to scheme proposal. The Bedwas Tip Reclamation Scheme is currently a matter for Caerphilly County Borough Council and ERI Reclamation.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely