

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Coal tip management
Date: 05 April 2024 15:23:55
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks for this [REDACTED], it's very helpful.

I don't think we'll need a line as such. [REDACTED] is going to use this to speak to the reporter over the phone.

We may be able to avoid the story altogether but will let you know if anything else is required.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 3:06 PM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Coal tip management

Hi [REDACTED],

As discussed, the information provide to the BBC by the individual is either misrepresentative or false - this individual is also known to Welsh Government and has a specific agenda.

We would prefer to distance coal tip safety from this, where possible. It is a complex issue and is in fact driven by a multitude of other factors.

It would also be worth asking Education if they have anything more specific re the school.

Generic Lines:

- The recent round of winter inspections of category C and D tips concluded in February and no major concerns were raised.
- The Coal Authority have been asked to inspect category C coal tips once a year and category D twice a year and in 2023 the Coal Authority began a process of inspecting all Category B tips. This work helps to identify any maintenance works needed.
- It is worth noting that the category of a tip is based on several factors, including the closeness of a tip to local communities, houses or major infrastructure. A tip with Category C or D does not mean it is unsafe, but it may be larger or more likely to be closer to communities or major infrastructure.
- The Welsh Government has made available £44.4 million in capital funding for coal tip maintenance over financial years 2022 to 23, 2023 to 24 and 2024 to 25.

[Find disused coal tips | GOV.WALES](#)

Background:

- This is a matter for the Council. Media queries should be directed to NPTCBC.
- The situation at Godre'r Graig primary school pre-dates Welsh Government's Coal Tip Safety programme, which was established in 2020 following the events at Tylorstown.
- Kirsty Williams AM, then Minister for Education gave this Written Statement in 2019 - [Written Statement: Closure of Godre'r Graig Primary School, Neath Port Talbot \(22 July 2019\) | GOV.WALES](#)

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 2:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Coal tip management

Hi all,

We've had the below query from BBC on Godre'r Graig primary school closing due to concerns of a landslide from a quarry behind the school.

Demolition work on the school begins Monday, are you able to provide some lines for a response? Would be good to have something in case of further queries over

the weekend for duty officers.

We've had the below from the journalist:

Campaigners who wish to save the school are saying the tip that's been registered on the Coal Tip Map is a different one to which NPT are claiming is a danger.

"The small quarry at the top is included on the new national **Coal Tip Map** published in Nov 23 but that's a fraction of the site Neath Port Talbot Council /Earth Science Partnership claim might be the tip boundaries. It's also a sandstone quarry, not a coal spoil tip.

"I had a couple of meetings with Sam Deely, Head of Spoil Tips, Welsh Government in the summer.

"He gave me the June 2023 WG Inspection which clearly states the slope studied by ESP is outside the tip boundary and the tip is an old sandstone quarry.

This inspection only happened after I met Sam and it appears the WG have had some difficulty with missing paperwork from NPT. It's a real mess.

"The authority has claimed funding from the Coal Tip Safety Grant for this and there are doubts if that is allowed. I believe a fudge is being done to justify that funding by including the small quarry and calling it a coal tip, but that now casts massive questions, as none of the ground investigations have actually been done on any registered tip and none of ESP work can be accurate."

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 11:57 AM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Coal tip management

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for getting back to me.

I'm working on a piece about Godre'r Graig primary school. Neath Port Talbot council are planning to start demolition work on the school on Monday after years of concern about a medium risk of landslide behind the school because of a quarry tip.

Campaigners who wish to save the school are saying the tip that's been registered on the Coal Tip Map is a different one to which NPT are claiming is a danger.

I've had this information:

"The small quarry at the top is included on the new national **Coal Tip Map** published in Nov 23 but that's a fraction of the

site Neath Port Talbot Council /Earth Science Partnership claim might be the tip boundaries. It's also a sandstone quarry, not a coal spoil tip.

"I had a couple of meetings with [REDACTED], Head of Spoil Tips, Welsh Government in the summer.

"He gave me the June 2023 WG Inspection which clearly states the slope studied by ESP is outside the tip boundary and the tip is an old sandstone quarry.

This inspection only happened after I met [REDACTED] and it appears the WG have had some difficulty with missing paperwork from NPT. It's a real mess.

"The authority has claimed funding from the Coal Tip Safety Grant for this and there are doubts if that is allowed. I believe a fudge is being done to justify that funding by including the small quarry and calling it a coal tip, but that now casts massive questions, as none of the ground investigations have actually been done on any registered tip and none of ESP work can be accurate."

I just want some clarity on this, is it correct? And a statement to back it up.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

On 5 Apr 2024, at 11:41, [REDACTED] wrote:

External: Think before clicking

Hi [REDACTED]

Just confirming we've received your query - can you send us a bit more information on this please?

What's your deadline?

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 11:33 AM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Coal tip management

Hi B [REDACTED]

I'm working on a story about the closure of Godre'r Graig primary school and campaigners who want to save the school have some questions about the coal tip which is registered behind the school.

Who's the best person to speak to from Welsh Gov about this please?

Thank you,



Sganiwyd y neges hon am bob feirws hysbys wrth iddi adael Llywodraeth Cymru. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn cymryd o ddifrif yr angen i ddiogelu eich data. Os cysylltwch â Llywodraeth Cymru, mae ein hysbysiad preifatrwydd<"<https://gov.wales/about/welsh-government-privacy-notice/?lang=cy>"> yn esbonio sut rydym yn defnyddio eich gwybodaeth a sut rydym yn diogelu eich preifatrwydd. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn anfon ateb yn Gymraeg i ohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi. ----- On leaving the Welsh Government this email was scanned for all known viruses. The Welsh Government takes the protection of your data seriously. If you contact the Welsh Government then our Privacy Notice<<https://gov.wales/about/welsh-government-privacy-notice/?lang=en>> explains how we use your information and the ways in which we protect your privacy. We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.