

8 October 2026

Dear

ATISN 27501 – Historic PCB and chemical-waste

Thank you for your Environmental Information Regulations 2004 request which we received on 10 September 2026. For clarity, I have set out our response under each of the bullet point set out in our acknowledgement letter of 16 September:

1. The evidence, reports, correspondence and assessments the Welsh Government has so far considered in deciding whether an inquiry or other independent investigation is warranted.

Response – The Welsh Government does not hold any information in relation to this.

2. Confirmation that the Welsh Government has contacted the BBC, Michael Sheen, the programme's producers and scientific contributors to obtain the documents, test results and other underlying evidence assembled during the investigation.

Response – The Welsh Government does not hold any information regarding contact with the BBC or Michael Sheen in relation to the underlying evidence used in the programme. The testing and assessment of sites are matters for the regulators. It would, therefore, be for either the relevant local authority or Natural Resources Wales to determine whether to obtain the information and whether any further action is required

3. The evidential criteria against which the case for an inquiry is being assessed, together with the identity of the minister or official responsible for making the decision.

Response - The Welsh Government does not hold information in relation to this. We do not have evidential criteria against which a decision to establish a Public Inquiry is made. Consideration of any future action would be informed by the available evidence and the circumstances of the case at the relevant time. Any decision as to whether to establish an inquiry, and the nature and scope of any such inquiry, would be a matter for Welsh Ministers.

4. Details of any work being undertaken to map suspected historic PCB and chemical-waste disposal sites across Wales, that assess possible pathways into water, soil and the food chain, and identify any present risk to human health.

Response - The Welsh Government does not hold information in relation to this. The identification of contaminated sites in Wales and the undertaking of site-specific risk assessment falls primarily to local authorities. They would therefore be best placed to advise you of any work undertaken to map suspected sites. I have included contact details for local authorities below so you may contact them.

5. Details of what strengthening the polluter-pays principle will mean in practice.

Response – The Welsh Government does not currently hold information regarding the strengthening of the polluter pays principle under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act. We are awaiting the outcome of the [Interim Environmental Protection Assessor Wales](#) review of Part 2A before determining how best to proceed.

6. Details on legal advice being obtained about potential recovery of remediation costs from the responsible companies or their corporate successors.

Response – The Welsh Government does not hold information in relation to this. The recovery of remediation costs is a matter for the regulators rather than for the Welsh Government.

In most cases, local authorities are the regulator. In the case of designated 'Special Sites', Natural Resources Wales are the regulator. For this reason, these organisations are better placed to answer this question. I have included contact details for local authorities and Natural Resources Wales below so you may contact them.

7. A timetable for reaching and publishing a decision on an independent inquiry.

Response – The Welsh Government does not hold information in relation to this. Please also see the response at bullets 1 and 3.

As the information you have requested is likely to be held by local authorities, I have provided the relevant contact details below.

Local Authority	FOI / EIR contact
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	foi@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
Bridgend County Borough Council	foi@bridgend.gov.uk
Caerphilly County Borough Council	foi@caerphilly.gov.uk
Cardiff Council	FOI@cardiff.gov.uk
Carmarthenshire County Council	foia@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Ceredigion County Council	FOI@ceredigion.gov.uk
Conwy County Borough Council	info-gov.unit@conwy.gov.uk
Denbighshire County Council	FOI@denbighshire.gov.uk
Flintshire County Council	foi@flintshire.gov.uk
Gwynedd Council	RhyddidGwybodaeth@gwynedd.llyw.cymru
Isle of Anglesey County Council (Ynys Môn)	foi@anglesey.gov.wales
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	FOI@merthyr.gov.uk
Monmouthshire County Council	foi@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Neath Port Talbot Council	foi@npt.gov.uk
Newport City Council	information.management@newport.gov.uk
Pembrokeshire County Council	FOI@pembrokeshire.gov.uk
Powys County Council	information.compliance@powys.gov.uk

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	FreedomOfInformation@rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk
Swansea Council	freedomofinformation@swansea.gov.uk
Torfaen County Borough Council	foi@torfaen.gov.uk
Vale of Glamorgan Council	FOIUnit@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Wrexham County Borough Council	FOI@wrexham.gov.uk

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