



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-949
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/00723/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

09 June 2020

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders MS,

Thank you for your letter of 27 May on behalf of the Petitions Committee asking for my comments on the request for the listing decision on the former Girl's School, Cowbridge to be referred for an independent peer review by Historic England or Historic Environment Scotland.

I am acutely aware of the strength of local feeling regarding Cowbridge School and I have personally given careful consideration to all the requests for the building to be listed. In addition to the assessments carried out by highly experienced officials in Cadw, I obtained independent advice from Richard Hayman, a building historian and archaeologist <https://www.richard-hayman.co.uk/index.html> with particular expertise in historic buildings in Wales and he supports the original decision not to list.

I am satisfied that the assessments that I have received from my officials and Mr Hayman are unbiased and have been carried out to a highly professional standard. To be listed, buildings have to be of national importance on account of their special architectural or historic interest and I do not consider that Cowbridge School has sufficient quality or character to be listed at the national level, nor is it one of the best examples of its type. Neither do I consider there to be a case for requesting further independent advice or peer review by organisations from England or Scotland.

I wrote to campaigners last month explaining the evaluation process that has been taken and why I am rejecting their request for a peer review. I recommended that, if they have not

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

already done so, they should submit representations to the Vale of Glamorgan Council so that their concerns can be taken into account in the context of local listing, in deciding the planning application and considering options for giving the building a sustainable new purpose by incorporating it in the redevelopment of the site.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Elis-Thomas'.

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism