



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1270  
Ein cyf/Our ref FM -/00598/22

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair  
Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
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18<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter about Petition P-06-1270 *Make October 21st an official Memorial Day for those killed and affected by the Aberfan Disaster*, which was dated June but which my office received on 26 October. Your further letter asks about a national memorial day for all those who have been killed in mining disasters.

As I set out in my previous letter to you on 29 April, the power to designate national days rests with the UK Government. There is a current debate about whether St David's Day should be a national holiday, so there may be an opportunity to add the idea of a national Memorial Day to that discussion. In the meantime, every year we recognise and remember the anniversary of the Aberfan disaster and all those who died on that terrible day.

I explained the Welsh Government has provided financial support to the Aberfan Memorial Charity to help with the maintenance of the memorial gardens and the Aberfan Education Charity for school projects in Aberfan and Merthyr Vale.

We also have a Welsh National and Universal Mining Memorial Garden, in Senghenydd. The ceramic pavers in the garden document each national colliery disaster in Wales.

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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.