



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Nick Ramsay AM
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Eich cyfeirnod
Your reference

Ein cyfeirnod
Our reference

Dyddiad
Date

11 November 2019

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Dear Chair

Pinewood Studios

I write to follow up on Andrew Slade's letter dated 14 March 2019 in relation to Pinewood Studios and Penpil farmhouse within the site and apologise for the delay in responding.

The previous letter advised that Cadw had reassessed the building and concluded that it now no longer met the criteria for listing. Penpil was significantly altered in the 1980s and 1990s, with much of the original features being removed or damaged at this time. The building then sustained severe fire damage in the early 2000s and has suffered from subsequent decay. It is clear that both the renovation work and the fire have been responsible for extensive loss of historical interest. The building no longer retained the historic fabric which had formed the basis of the original decision to list.

Cadw therefore commenced the consultation process for delisting the property on 8 March 2019 and the property was subsequently delisted on 11 April 2019.

Since acquiring the property Welsh Government had been managing the property having due regard to its deterioration over the 10 years since the fire, the health and safety risks associated with this, the costs associated with refurbishing and the limited future use of the property. The recommended course of action in this instance would normally have been to demolish the property. However, this option was not pursued at the time due to the building's listed status and the possibility that it may be required for use in the future in connection with the adjoining studios. For these reasons the property was secured and monitored.

A survey of the property undertaken in December 2018, in addition to informing officials on the costs associated with refurbishing the farmhouse, emphasised the unstable nature of parts of the property with access internally considered unsafe.

Following the delisting of the property, and in light of that survey advice, officials reviewed the management regime for the property and determined that the most appropriate approach was to demolish the building, thus removing the health and safety risks associated with its retention. The building was subsequently demolished in September 2019.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Thomas'.

Jason Thomas
Director
Culture, Sport & Tourism