

Lee Waters AS/MS  
Dirprwy Weinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth  
Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LW/00640/20

Huw Jones  
Chair  
Radyr and Morganstown Community Council

[clerk@radyr.wales](mailto:clerk@radyr.wales)

16 September 2020

Dear Huw,

Thank you for your letter of 12 June sharing the results of the Community Council's recent Mobile Signal Strength Survey for Radyr and Morganstown.

We recognise that access to a reliable mobile signal and mobile internet services is increasingly important for everyday activities, and I share your concerns regarding the poor mobile coverage across many of communities across Wales and fully appreciate the detrimental impact that poor connectivity has on both economic and social development.

Although responsibility for mobile policy rests with the UK Government, given the importance of mobile connectivity, we have stepped in to try and encourage and support the improvement of mobile connectivity in Wales. Through our Mobile Action Plan we have used the levers within our power to work together with the mobile phone industry and the regulator to create the right conditions for improving mobile coverage. Most notably we have worked with planning colleagues to update the Planning Regulations around Mobile Infrastructure to allow for mobile phone masts up to 25 metres, 20 metres in protected landscapes, to be built under permitted development rights. However, the decision where additional masts and subsequent coverage improvement is situated remains within the gift of mobile operators.

In addition to the work of our Mobile Action Plan and to counteract not spot areas within Wales, we are also working closely with the UK Government and the mobile industry around their announced £1bn deal to improve 4G coverage across the UK by creating a Shared Rural Network (SRN). The SRN will see EE, O2, Three and Vodafone investing in a shared network of new and existing phone masts, overseen by a jointly owned company called Digital Mobile Spectrum Limited.

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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.

Across the UK all four mobile network operators will deliver 95 per cent combined coverage across the whole of the UK by the end of 2025. Coverage in Wales will improve to 95 per cent of the landmass from at least one operator and 80 per cent from all four operators. The SRN is planned to be completed in 2026. Further information regarding the SRN is available by visiting [www.srn.org.uk](http://www.srn.org.uk)

We are currently in discussion with UK Government and mobile operators to understand exactly which areas across Wales will be covered by the SRN and will, when in receipt of this information, highlight the areas that we feel need attention, including areas such as Radyr and Morganstown.

Addressing your comments regarding the installation of 5G masts and the potential impact this could have on signal strength, it is important to remember that the deployment of 5G technology across wales, some supporting infrastructure and services is and will be industry-led, predominantly by the Mobile Network Operators (MNOs); the Welsh Government and Local Authorities are not responsible for the building of 5G networks.

The installation of 5G supporting technology should not have a detrimental effect on current mobile coverage and indeed, could see improved coverage should mobile operators decide to increase their 4G and 3G services during 5G building work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee', with a long vertical stroke extending upwards from the start of the signature.

**Lee Waters AS/MS**

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Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport