

# HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MS/AS

Member of the Senedd for Ogmore | Aelod o'r Senedd dros Ogwr

Ogmore's Voice in the Senedd



**THE BEST DEAL NOT THE CHEAPEST DEAL FOR STEEL !**

## STATEMENT: TATA STEEL, PORT TALBOT

"TATA Steel is a major employer across South Wales and we recognise that constituents right across Bridgend County Borough will be affected by the devastating news regarding TATA's decision, supported by the UK government, to close the two blast furnaces at its Port Talbot Works.

Several hundred workers and their families living across the County Borough rely on the steel works for their livelihoods. We know that Trade Unions and the Welsh Government have worked constructively to try and find a meaningful solution. Up to 3000 well paid and highly skilled jobs could be lost as a direct consequence of this decision.

The UK Government has spent half a billion pounds worth of taxpayers' money only to make thousands of workers redundant, leaving us unable to produce primary steel. Such a decision will leave us at the mercy of foreign governments and more reliant on imported steel.

TATA Steel and the UK Government need to rethink their approach, realise that British steelmaking at the plant can thrive by taking forward a multi-union plan. Such a plan would be emboldened by a £3 billion investment from a future Labour UK Government to support the steel industry."



Chris Elmore MP

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

Sarah Murphy MS

Cllr. Huw David (Leader, BCBC)



The multi-union plan for the future of Port Talbot steel would ensure the continuation of primary steel-making at Port Talbot, alongside electric arc and recycled steel.

We have over 500 workers and families directly affected in the Bridgend area, and many times more indirectly reliant on the plant. They deserve a hearing. They deserve a government which believes in steel!

Watch an extract of my contribution to the Plenary Debate, in which I was pleased to speak alongside colleagues like David Rees MS, Sarah Murphy MS, Jack Sargeant MS, John Griffiths MS, Carolyn Thomas MS, Hefin David MS, Jenny Rathbone MS and others.

Watch here: [https://youtu.be/7\\_HfBc1TWe0](https://youtu.be/7_HfBc1TWe0)



[huw.irranca-davies@senedd.wales](mailto:huw.irranca-davies@senedd.wales)



0300 2007328



# A strong voice in the Senedd and around the constituency

## VOICES HEARD AT PACKED OUT TFW RAIL MEETING



A packed out meeting at the Maesteg Harlequins saw rail travellers from across the constituency Pontyclun and elsewhere along the Maesteg to Cardiff rail line brave a stormy night to meet with representatives from Transport for Wales and Network Rail.

Many people voiced their frustrated and heart felt concerns throughout the 3 hour meeting about their experiences with poor service on the main route. Representatives listened intently and agreed to feed back the issues and also provided an update on future plans and improvements.

**Watch this space for further upcoming meetings for rail and bus transport!!**

## A CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP FOR WALES, AND FOR WELSH LABOUR



Jeremy Miles MS  
Manifesto

The contest for the next leader of the Labour Party in Wales – and the likely next First Minister of Wales – is well under way. The current First Minister Mark Drakeford MS had announced that he would serve for five years only. He will step down by mid-March, to make way for his replacement. We are fortunate to have two strong candidates to take Wales forward on the next stages of our young devolution journey.

This decision on the next leader is not only crucial for the future of Welsh Labour, but also for the future of Wales as a nation. We need a leader who will stand up for Wales – for all parts of Wales, and in all its great diversity. We also need someone who not only has a vision for a better and fairer and greener future for Wales, but who can set out the vision and the road-map to get there.

We have two great candidates but I am pleased to support Jeremy Miles, MS for Neath and the current Education Minister, who has set out an inspiring and comprehensive manifesto in “A Mission for Wales Future”. This is publicly available via this link or the QR code above:

<https://www.jeremymiles.wales/wp-content/themes/JMilesBlueStag/manifesto/JeremyMiles-Manifesto-Digital-English.pdf>

Jeremy has also been backed by the majority of nominating Members of the Senedd, the majority of Welsh Government Cabinet members, the majority of CLPs, the majority of Labour Council Leaders and Deputy Leaders, and the majority of affiliated societies too.

Whether you are a Labour Party member or not, we hope you will take an interest in this, because of the importance to Wales.

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## ANNUAL JOINT FUNDING ADVICE DAY

Chris Elmore MP | Sarah Murphy MS | Huw Irranca-Davies MS

# FUNDING ADVICE DAY 2024



Friday 23rd February  
10am - 12noon  
**Pencoed Rugby Club**  
Felindre Road, CF35 5PB

Get an overview of **funding opportunities** available along with the chance for one to one discussions with **funders**

**Book your place!**

Email [Chris.elmore.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:Chris.elmore.mp@parliament.uk) or call 01656 860034



## Funding Advice Day 2024 takes place this month Friday 23rd February.

This is a valuable opportunity to bring new community funding opportunities to Ogmore and Bridgend. I'd encourage any local club, charity or group looking for funding to register now to secure a place.

Join me, Chris and Sarah to find out what funding is available from a range of funding providers and experts, such as National Lottery Community Fund, Arts Council of Wales, BAVO, Ground Works Wales and the Heritage Lottery Fund to name a few.

These organisations will be able to provide you with information on potential funding opportunities and will be able to answer any questions you might have.

Get in touch via email to register.

## IMPROVING RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP IN WALES

Great to catch-up with the Blue Cross team on their campaign to promote responsible dog ownership, and to thank them for the incredible work they do in disadvantaged communities.

See more here:

[www.bluecross.org.uk/advice/dog/wellbeing-and-care/dog-laws-uk](http://www.bluecross.org.uk/advice/dog/wellbeing-and-care/dog-laws-uk)

They also want to see Wales become the first nation to offer dog ownership courses (like speed awareness courses) for any owner found guilty of a low level offence. Gwent and South Wales Police Forces are doing it, but it would be great if it was Wales-wide!

Do you agree that Responsible Dog Ownership Courses should be offered across Wales for low-level offences?



## EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION IN THE HEALTH OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

### Effective intervention in the health of our young people HPV immunisation



During Cervical Health Awareness Month I was pleased to discuss with the First Minister the importance of collaboration between our local authorities, healthcare providers and schools in promoting health and preventative measures like HPV Vaccination.

It is good to hear how effective the vaccination has been in reducing cervical cancer rates by almost 90% in vaccinated women in their 20s.

Well done to our local authorities, healthcare providers, schools and everyone else involved in making this such a success.

Watch the Plenary discussion here:  
<https://youtu.be/Gb5gqGfEFvQ>





## CLOSURE OF BARCLAYS BANK BRIDGEND

“I was shocked and disappointed to hear about the imminent closure of Barclays Bank in Bridgend.

This closure will severely affect people across Bridgend County Borough, including constituents across Ogmore.

As elected members for the county borough, Sarah Murphy MS for Bridgend & Porthcawl, Chris Elmore MP, Bridgend County Borough Council leader, Cllr Huw David and I have written a letter to Barclays expressing our concerns.”

Dear Mr. C.S. Venkatakrisnan

### Regarding the imminent closure of Barclays Bank in Bridgend

Earlier this month, along with constituents across Bridgend County Borough, we were shocked and deeply disappointed to learn that Barclays has decided to close its branch in Bridgend Town Centre from the 12th April this year.

Such a move will leave around 145,000 constituents across both the Ogmore and Bridgend constituencies with even more limited financial services, in Ogmore there is now only one bank left to service the entire constituency.

Across the county borough, we hear every day the hardship that charities are experiencing in trying to gain both access to cash and in-person banking services. Furthermore, we know that older people are feeling more and more isolated when it comes to managing their bank accounts, many do not have the means to access their finances online therefore high street banking is a very real lifeline for them.

This decision will only add to the access to cash crisis that is severely affecting the most vulnerable in society. As elected representatives covering Bridgend County Borough, we strongly urge you to reverse this course of action to ensure that your customers and our constituents are not left behind in the wake of the banking sector's digitisation.

We look forward to your response so we can update our constituents.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Elmore MP – Member of Parliament for Ogmore

Sarah Murphy MS – Member of the Senedd for Bridgend and Porthcawl

Huw Irranca-Davies MS – Member of the Senedd for Ogmore

Cllr. Huw David – Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council

## INVESTING IN OUR RIVER QUALITY

Following on from a recent Dwr Cymru Welsh Water public drop-in event we arranged in the Richard Price Centre in Llangeinor, I caught up with the UK Water Regulator OfWat and Natural Resources Wales to discuss investment in our river quality.

We have multiple pressures on our rivers, from antiquated sewerage systems to agriculture to development pressures (housing and industry) to barriers which are stopping our migratory species like salmon and sewin.

There is much to do and everyone needs to play their full part to turn this around.

It was helpful to see some of the projects already underway and also the ramped-up investment over the next few years.

There's certainly greater urgency now on this matter, but we'll need to chase progress so we clean up our rivers from source to sea and make them good for species, good for nature, and for people too.

Look out for details of our next Dwr Cymru Welsh Water public drop-in event in Porthcawl arranged with Sarah Murphy MS and Chris Elmore MP on 8th March.



## UNITED IN THE FIGHT FOR RIGHTS AND EQUALITY



This LGBT+ History month and every month I stand with the community across Wales.

We are creating a Wales that is inclusive, safe and where LGBTQ+ people can live fully and freely.

The Welsh Government's LGBTQ+ action plan has been praised by the UN as an example of good practice in human right policymaking.

Read it here: [bit.ly/47YCgIK](https://bit.ly/47YCgIK)



# A strong voice in the Senedd and around the constituency

## CELEBRATING APPRENTICESHIP WEEK IN WALES

As joint Chair of the new Cross-Party Group on apprenticeships I'm pleased to promote Apprenticeships Week and their great value to individuals and society.

Apprenticeships are key in many of the important sectors of the Welsh economy – crucially in training the Welsh health and social care workforce of the future. Since 2019, more than 26,000 people have started an apprenticeship in health and social care, representing more than a quarter of all apprenticeship starts in Wales.

Apprenticeships will be vital in developing the green skills needed as Wales continues the transition to net zero and a sustainable economy and I'd encourage anyone in Ogmor who is looking for a career, or to upskill to consider an apprenticeship.

Welsh Government's Apprenticeship Vacancy Service:  
<https://findanapprenticeship.service.gov.wales/>



## IMPORTANCE OF MICROCHIPPING CATS



Here's Teresa, a volunteer of 22 years with Cat's Protection, the UK's largest feline welfare charity helping an average of 157,000 cats and kittens every year.

I was delighted sponsor the event and meet with Teresa and other members to discuss their work and support their campaign for compulsory microchipping of owned cats.

Currently across the UK there are over three million owned cats that are not microchipped. This compares with just 800,000 dogs.

Microchipping is a safe, permanent and cost-effective method of identification.

## WORLD CANCER DAY 2024

I was pleased to meet with Cancer Research UK following World Cancer Day to support their campaign for better care and treatment.

The collective efforts of these wonderful charities and health organisations make such a difference to many people living with immense challenges.

Cancer remains the leading cause of death here, with 19,000 new cases diagnosed every year.

However survival rates in Wales have doubled since the 1970s, due to research and advancements in diagnosis and treatment, but there is much more to be done.



## CONSTRUCTION SKILLS SHOWCASE



Here's some very skilled apprentices displaying their expertise at a CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) Senedd event during National Apprenticeship Week.

My thanks to the team for their patience and efforts towards teaching my colleagues and I carpentry skills.

I'm pleased the Welsh Government's Curriculum for Wales focuses on developing these enterprising creative learners.

I strongly support the importance of skills as part of learning and the opportunity for schools and colleges to work together to meet the needs of young people.



# A strong voice in the Senedd and around the constituency



## EXPANSION OF FREE FLYING START CHILDCARE PROVISION

Flying Start childcare provision extended to additional postcode areas of Cefn Cribwr, Cornelly and Kenfig Hill

As one of the Welsh Labour Government's defining policies here in Wales the first ever Flying Start began in Caerau, Maesteg. The programme has exceeded expectations providing high quality learning and care and supporting early year child development with a focus on Welsh medium provision too.

As part of the co-operation agreement with Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru, the Flying Start programme recognises the importance of early-years development and continues to positively impact on the lives of Ogmore families.

## Contact Me!

Get in touch if you need help or support. Or if you wish to highlight issues or share ideas.

## Advice Surgeries

I hold regular Advice Surgeries and 'Coffee Mornings' in all parts of the constituency and these are advertised via my website and social media channels

## Committee Work & Cross Party Groups



I am currently Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and a member of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee, Chair of the Strategic Forum for Regional Investment in Wales and Chaired the Special Purpose committee on Senedd Reform.



I am also Chair, Vice Chair and member of 25 Cross Party Groups.



Keep up with my committee work here: <https://senedd.wales/people/huw-irranca-davies-ms/>

## Follow Me on Social Media



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## CONSTITUENCY CASEWORK

Housing, Transport and Health continue to dominate my daily caseload.

I am often seen highlighting issues raised by my constituents directly with Ministers during Plenary sessions or via Written Parliamentary Questions.

Follow my policy work and Plenary exchanges via this link:

<https://rb.gy/phsb8s>



# Website: [huwirranca-davies.wales](http://huwirranca-davies.wales)

Promoted by & on behalf of Huw Irranca-Davies MS - Welsh versions are available on request