

Huw Irranca-Davies MS/AS

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



Welcome 2025!

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda/Happy New Year and welcome to a brand new year.

It has been a busy 2024 full of changes, including a new UK government and new leadership in the Senedd. I look forward to what the new year will bring and send my warmest wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

Maesteg Town Hall: Grand Re-Opening

It was wonderful to join with others for the official opening of the Maesteg Town Hall.

The iconic and much loved Grade II listed grand old building, has been transformed into a welcoming community hub for residents and visitors, taking it forward for new generations to use and enjoy, and giving a major boost to the town of Maesteg and the valleys too.

This has been made possible through a strong partnership led by Awen with Bridgend County Borough Council, Welsh Government, Arts Council of Wales, the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the staff and users of Maesteg Town Hall.

Well done to everyone who has worked so hard to make this happen.



A Budget to Build a Brighter Future for Wales

Just before Christmas, the Welsh Government announced a Draft Budget with an extra £1.5bn for our public services. This is a significant step towards putting Wales back on the path to growth and will help us rebuild after 14 difficult years.

Every department will see an increase in funding

Health, Social Care and Early Years

Housing and Local Government

Education

Transport

Economy, Energy and Planning

Climate Change and Rural Affairs

Social Justice

Some of the key benefits include:

- Additional £610m for health, social care and early years
- Additional funding to repair and monitor coal tips
- £81m more capital funding to build more homes for social rent
- More than £100m more for the education budget
- £181.6m to improve rail services, including transforming the Core Valley Lines
- £3.7 million to accelerate planning decisions and digitise planning services.
- Two new funds to maintain Wales' road network – fixing potholes and repairing defects.

www.gov.wales/draft-budget-2025-2026



Senedd Votes to Ban Single Use Vapes

Banning single-use vapes in Wales from 1st June is a big win for our environment.

A major step forward from Welsh Government in tackling throwaway culture, it will help stop single use vapes harming wildlife and the environment when they're littered or sent to landfill.

It will generate less waste, clean up our streets, and protect nature and wildlife.

Many young people are opting to use single-use vapes and we must do all we can to stop children from starting smoking.

<https://www.gov.wales/senedd-votes-ban-single-use-vapes>



Meeting the Heroes of Christmas Mail

Before the Christmas break, I visited the Royal Mail delivery office in Pontyclun with Alex Davies-Jones MP where we met with the dedicated workforce working tirelessly during the busy festive period.

We thanked the team for their hard work and commitment and it was interesting to hear about the new processes and technologies being introduced to improve how efficiently they operate.



Help to Buy Wales Scheme extended until September 2026

The Help to Buy Wales scheme - which has so far helped 14,000 households achieve homeownership has been extended by 18 months.

The current scheme is set to close for applications at the end of March 2025, but it will now run until September 2026 giving more people the opportunity to buy their own home.

The extension also provides certainty to the 50 developers and SMEs registered with Help to Buy Wales.

<https://www.gov.wales/help-buy-wales>

Celebrating our fantastic schools in Ogmore

With school visits, Christmas Concerts, Daily Mile Challenges, Awards/Certificates, and a very talented Christmas Card competition winner.





A wonderful visit to Ty Hafan Children's Hospice alongside Sarah Murphy MS/AS and the esteemed Michael Sheen.

As a dedicated ambassador, Michael Sheen continues to play a vital role in supporting Ty Hafan and it was inspiring to hear about his ongoing commitment to this fantastic charity.

Ty Hafan provides invaluable care and support to children facing life-limiting conditions and their families during the most challenging times.

The dedication and compassion shown by the staff and volunteers is truly remarkable.



The Transition Board is dedicated to supporting individuals and communities impacted by Tata Steel's transition and the associated job losses.

The Board has established a range of funding programmes to assist the people of Port Talbot and wider community with dedicated funds for skills development, supply chain support, and new business start up.

As the majority of redundancies are now taking effect, the Transition Board is eager to ensure that all affected former Tata Steelworkers are aware of the available support.

Anyone seeking to launch a small business can find out about grants or loans through UKSE and other funding streams via the Community Support Centre located in the Aberavon Shopping Centre.



As a result of our long campaigning and regular meetings with TfW, including several packed out public meetings with residents from right across Ogmores, it is good to see some improvements on the Maesteg to Cardiff rail line.

We now have 3 early morning trains rather than 2 and the new carriages are increasingly being seen on the line. We also have the new services on the main line (additional services for Llanharan, Pencoed and Pontyclun) and lower numbers of aborted journeys at Tondur.

We continue to press for improvements on this vital rail-line, so look out for details of my next public rail meeting - details to be announced soon.



We stand with the communities in Ogmores and right across Wales who have been devastated by recent flooding.

During visits to some of the affected areas with the First Minister, we witnessed first hand the devastating impacts the increasingly frequent extreme weather events are having on our towns, homes and businesses.

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council Leader Andrew Morgan provided a guided update on the joint working of our emergency services, Natural Resources Wales, local authorities and others who united across Pontypridd in a collective response to the storms.

Since 2021, the Welsh Government has provided risk management authorities with close to £300m to invest in flood risk management.

Last year, it has maintained record levels of funding and provided more than £75m to flood Risk Management authorities across Wales.

This includes £9.7 million capital and £4.95 million revenue funding for local authorities, and £22 million capital and £24.5 million revenue for Natural Resources Wales.

Delivering for Wales: building a Wales that works for everyone as Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change & Rural Affairs



More than £100m will be invested into coal tip safety this Senedd term

The extra investment will expand the coal tip safety grant to expedite work on disused tips across the country.

This follows the announcement of a new 'Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill - the first of its kind in the UK, to prevent disused coal and non-coal tips from being a threat to human welfare.

This fulfils our promise to introduce legislation to deal with the legacy of centuries of mining and to help ensure that the tragic mistakes of the past are not repeated.

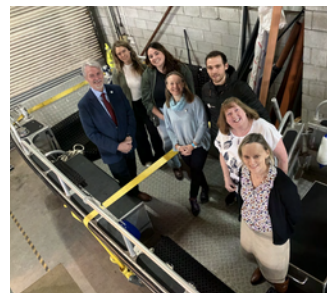


More than £20m has been announced to help universities tackle climate change.

I was pleased to join with the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Vikki Howells, at Cardiff University to see how a £12.2m investment is accelerating their progress towards carbon reduction.



Over £1.2m of grant funding to help tackle litter across Wales and clean up our streets



Extra funding will help restore the equivalent of 266 rugby pitches of Welsh seagrass.

The additional £100,000 will support the development of Seagrass Network Cymru's (SNC) National Seagrass Action Plan.

Restoring seagrass and saltmarsh habitats in Wales is crucial for tackling the climate and nature emergencies and is a Programme for Government commitment.

The sites span the whole of Wales.

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



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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

Follow Me on Social Media



/huw4ogmore



@huw4ogmore



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CONSTITUENCY CASEWORK

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

I have often previously highlighted issues raised by my constituents directly with Ministers during Plenary sessions or via Written Parliamentary Questions.

You can find a record of this work via this link: <https://rb.gy/phsb8s>

Integrated public & community transport in Ogmore



Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change & Rural Affairs

My constituency office does not deal with Ministerial correspondence. If you wish to contact me in a Ministerial capacity please use the following details:

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