



# Janet Finch-Saunders AC/AM

Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberconwy

Assembly Member for Aberconwy



Lesley Griffiths AM,  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural  
Affairs,  
Welsh Government,  
*By Email*

Office of Janet Finch-Saunders AM,  
29 Madoc Street,  
Llandudno,  
LL30 2TL.  
01492 871 198

14 March 2019  
Ref: MJ/JF0429

National Assembly for Wales,  
Cardiff Bay,  
CF99 1NA.  
0300 200 7454

**Private and Confidential**  
**Re: Fishery Patrol Vessels**

[janet.finch-saunders@assembly.wales](mailto:janet.finch-saunders@assembly.wales)

Dear Minister, Lesley,

I am writing with regards to serious concerns about the Fishery Patrol Vessels, and some of which that have been based at Conwy Marina.

As you will know, these vessels have important responsibilities, including enforcement, protecting Welsh waters from illegal fishing, and safeguarding our local fishing industry. However, this is only when the multi-million pound fleet is in use.

It is common knowledge locally that your vessels berthed at Conwy Marina rarely go out to sea. Therefore, I have looked into the matter, and discovered, through a Freedom of Information Request, that the fleet has only undertaken a total of 63 patrols in 26 months (between January 2017 and February 2019). More so, in 2018, only 7 patrols were undertaken by the Cranogwen, 2 by Aegis, and 1 by Lady Megan.

Given that these vessels formed part of a multi-million pound fleet, and that they existed to serve the national interest at a cost to taxpayers, I was concerned to learn that they have been out to sea so few times in such a long period. Therefore, I would be very grateful if you could investigate why the boats did not undertake more work in 2017 and 2018 separately, and explain what they were being used for in the significant majority of days when they were in their moorings.

Additionally, I note that the Cranogwen and Aegis were replaced by the Lady Megan in January 2019. I would appreciate a full explanation as to why you chose not to retain either the Cranogwen or Aegis. More so, I would be grateful if you could explain why the Aegis has been gifted to Liberia, and provide clarity as to why she could not continue in service here.

Mi wnaiff Janet Finch-Saunders cadw unrhyw wybodaeth bersonol yn gwbl gyfrinachol, ac fel arfer mi fydd rhaid iddi rannu'r wybodaeth 'efo aelodau o staff i'w galluogi nhw i ddelio 'efo'r awdurdodau perthnasol er mwyn eich helpu a'ch cynorthwyo chi. Efallai mi fydd angen i rywun ysgrifennu atoch er mwyn darparu'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf o bwys. Gadwch wybod i ni os nad oes diddordeb gennych mewn cael eich cysylltu at y diben hwn.

Janet Finch-Saunders will treat in confidence any personal information which you may pass on to her, and she will normally allow her staff to see it, so that they can consult with relevant authorities in order to help and advise you. We may wish to write to you from time to time to keep you informed on issues which you may find of interest. Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted for this purpose.

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Finally, I would be grateful if you could clarify the original cost of the Lady Megan and the Aegis separately, and with regards to the latter, provide detail of the amount invested in her since she joined the Welsh Government fleet, and her current market value.

Some of these concerns have been brought to my attention by constituents. Therefore, your consideration and response will go a long way in enabling me to provide a satisfactory response.

Thank you once again for your kind assistance.

Yours sincerely

**Janet Finch-Saunders AM/AC**

Enc – Freedom of Information Request