



Janet Finch-Saunders MS|AS
Aelod Senedd Cymru dros Aberconwy
Member of the Welsh Parliament for Aberconwy



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

Office of Janet Finch-Saunders MS,
29 Madoc Street,
Llandudno,
LL30 2TL.
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17 February 2021
Re: Upper Conwy Project

The Welsh Parliament,
Cardiff Bay,
CF99 1NA.

Janet.Finch-Saunders@senedd.wales

Dear Minister, Lesley,

It is with much enthusiasm that I write with regards measures which could potentially reduce the risk of flooding in the Conwy Valley.

Whilst I must note that I still believe that an independent inquiry needs to be undertaken, looking at the whole catchment, I have been pleased to see a number of positive developments recently.

For example, I have been working with RWE Innogy to see if measures can be implemented to reduce the flood spill from Llyn Eigiau, and as such hold more water in the mountains during storm events. I am delighted that the project has resulted in RWE identifying that increasing the flow capacity of the tunnel from Llyn Eigiau to Llyn Cowlyd could reduce the average spill by half. Such innovation should be celebrated and I very much hope that the measure will be implemented.

As I am sure you will agree, there is no simple solution to the flooding crisis in the Conwy Valley. In fact, a number of measures need to be taken. Alongside the work on Llyn Eigiau and Llyn Cowlyd, I can also inform you that I am in communication with RWE and Welsh Water about Ffynnon Llugwy Reservoir. It is my understanding that during wet periods rain water significantly exceeds demand and the reservoir spills, so I am pursuing measures to address this.

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Importantly, there is a step the Welsh Government can take to assist with the plan to help slow the speed at which water reaches the Conwy Valley from the mountaintops: look favourably on the Upper Conwy project's application for £800,000. I understand that the project which is a partnership between the National Trust, NRW, and landowners, would build on the exceptional work already undertaken. I have seen first hand the River Machno which has now been transformed, and the measures taken to block drainage ditches in blanket bog. In fact, more than 30,000 small dams have been built to make the blanket bog wetter, and I would be pleased to see the Welsh Government respond positively to proposals to expand the project.

Kind regards,

Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS