



Janet Finch-Saunders MS|AS

Aelod Senedd Cymru dros Aberconwy
Member of the Welsh Parliament for Aberconwy



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6 December 2021

Re: Storm Damage - Llanfairfechan

Dear Minister, Julie,

I hope that this letter finds you well.

Last week, in reply to my request for a statement on support for local authorities in the aftermath of Storm Arwen, the Trefnydd stated that you were working “very closely with local authorities to ensure they have everything they need.” Considering the renewed storm damage in Llanfairfechan over the weekend, I am writing to ask that you collaborate with the Minister for Finance and Local Government to review whether a long-term and ringfenced contingency budget can be established so to financially assist local authorities when unexpected and long-term damage does occur.

Such financial assistance would be of instrumental help to this specific community at present, with Conwy County Borough Council having previously begun restorative works following a breach in the sea wall on 5 October 2021, leaving homes along West Shore Road more vulnerable to flooding. Whilst the Cabinet took quick action to vote to carry out urgent repairs under the Building Act 1984, the cost assessment was already substantial with reports citing a figure of £275,000.

Given that this recent storm caused waves to wash railings and restoration works away, I am concerned that an updated assessment may now see the repair costs increase as a consequence of the environment and climate change. As such, I ask that your reply specifically addresses the concerns raised by the community in Llanfairfechan and indicate what additional support can be given so to safeguard and repair the seawall.

Engagement with local communities reaffirms that coastal tourism ventures and parts of Snowdonia National Park will also be vulnerable to more frequent and torrid storms. With this in mind, I ask that you provide an overview of the engagement that you have undertaken with authorities to evaluate what financial support is required to improve storm resilience.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS