



Welsh Affairs Committee

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From the Chair of the Committee

Meirion Thomas
Director – Wales, Industrial Communities Alliance
1-3 Regent Chambers
Barnsley
S70 2EG

22 February 2024

Dear Meirion,

Thank you for taking the time to appear before the Welsh Affairs Committee on Wednesday 6 December. It was an excellent session and will help us greatly going forward in our inquiry into population change in Wales. There are several matters on which the Committee would appreciate additional information, as soon as is convenient for you:

1. In your response to Q38, you said you would be willing to send a report about the Industrial Communities Alliance's argument regarding apprenticeships. Could you please write to the Committee with a copy of this report?
2. In your response to Q21, you mentioned you had asked Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council to provide you with relevant information ahead of your appearance. Could you please write to the Committee with further information sent to you by local authorities to inform the evidence session, which you believe may be relevant for our inquiry?
3. How should transport interventions be aligned with other policies, such as on housing, attracting businesses and graduates?
4. Are there any international examples that struggling communities can learn from, of people pooling resources or doing things differently, to remain viable?

Thank you again for contributing to the Committee's work.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Stephen Crabb MP



Industrial Communities Alliance

Rt Hon Stephen Crabb MP
Chair of the Committee,
Welsh Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

4th March 2024

Dear Mr Crabb,

Thank you for your letter dated 22nd February 2024 providing a number of follow-up questions regarding my recent evidence session given in front of the Committee on 6th December 2023.

Thank you for the opportunity of providing evidence and I am pleased to respond to your questions as follows:

1. Regarding my answer to Q 38, my colleagues at the Industrial Communities Alliance main office in Barnsley will be sending the Committee a hard copy of the Apprenticeship report entitled "Vocation, Vocation, Vocation".

(An electronic copy of the report can also be accessed via the ICA's web site at: [Apprenticeship Report 2023.](#))

2. The information referenced at Q21 provided to be Merthyr County Borough Council in preparation for my evidence session consisted of reports from 2017 supplemented by a verbal update which I did not record.

I have attached, to my email, the two most relevant reports which are, I understand, in the public domain.

3. Unfortunately, I cannot add anything to my contribution given at the verbal evidence session on the matters highlighted in your question 3.
4. I am unable to provide any relevant international examples on the point raised.

I trust that you will find my response adequate and helpful. I look forward to reading the Committee's report on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Meirion Thomas
Director -Wales, Industrial Communities Alliance