



Welsh Affairs Committee

Wednesday, 18 December 2024

Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds MP **Secretary of State for Business and Trade**

Dear Jonathan,

I am writing to ask about UK Government support regarding the closure of the port of Holyhead on Ynys Môn. The port was damaged by Storm Darragh on the weekend of 6 and 7 December, and it was reported yesterday that the port could remain closed until 15 January at the earliest.

Although ports in Wales are a matter for the Welsh Government, international trade is a matter reserved to the UK Government. Holyhead's strategic location is key for the UK's economy, and every day it is not operating is a loss to the many businesses and workers dependent on it, and to the UK's reputation as a great place to invest.

This closure comes at a critical time of year, with additional goods moving between the Republic of Ireland and the UK to meet Christmas demands, and people travelling to see their loved ones.

Local and national businesses face not only the additional cost of re-routing goods but also the potential loss of goods, for example perishable goods. Passengers face the additional costs of finding alternative travel routes. While some passengers and businesses will be able to reclaim some of their costs, there is no such support for the wider supply chain on Ynys Môn.

There is also a direct impact on those living in Holyhead; many of whom rely on the port for work or income. With port closure from 6 December to 15 January, many people will find themselves in financial difficulty across the winter period.

Given the UK Government's role in supporting and promoting international trade, I would be grateful for an update on the support the UK Government is providing to getting the port back up and running, and to all businesses and employees impacted directly and indirectly by the closure.

I am copying this letter to Llinos Medi, a Member of the Welsh Affairs Committee and constituency MP for Ynys Môn.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Jones MP
Chair of the Welsh Affairs Committee