



Paul Davies MS  
Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

17 June 2022

Dear Paul

Thank you for your letter of 9 June on behalf of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

Within four days officials had established a taskforce to support the ex-Orthios employees who were made redundant. The taskforce is made up of representatives from Anglesey Local Authority, Department for Work & Pensions (DWP), Citizens Advice, Mon CF, Business Wales, Careers Wales and North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

Within a matter of days, a jobs fair was organised and over 70 ex-employees attended. In addition to offering advice in securing new employment during the event, foodbank vouchers were handed to those in need. A number of Anglesey based businesses also attended and as a result a number of ex-employees secured new employment on the day. Voscap, the administrators for the site and buildings, have also re-employed 8 ex Orthios staff to maintain the site during the ongoing process.

There are ex-employees who the taskforce group are unable to ascertain their situation. The group through the established social media channels attempt to reach out to these individuals indicating support is still available. Through Mon CF a Facebook page and WhatsApp group has been created to support ex-employees. The taskforce have also created an information sheet detailing the support available and contact details of the key agencies for those made unemployed.

DWP were able to cover travel costs for claimants starting new employments and those applying for support through the ReACT programme saw their applications approved within a matter of days.

For ex-employees who have not secure work many have enrolled on various training courses. This information is collated through the React programme and has highlighted there is a wide range of training being undertaken including in new professions.

Officials have utilised the Business Wales communication channels to support business in the supply chain who may have been affected. Now the administrators have provided detailed information on the list of creditors in their proposals filed with Companies House officials are monitoring the situation with the Welsh businesses listed.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Officials have been in continued dialogue with the administrators around the future of the site. Officials have also received numerous enquiries from interested parties. To avoid any concerns of showing favouritism and possibly inflating prices officials have not entered into any meaningful discussions with interested parties at this stage. All enquiries have been referred to the administrators. Officials have been informed to date the administrators have received in the region of 65 enquiries for the site. Of which 15-18 companies visited the site when the administrators held two separate open days at the site recently. Administrators anticipate this number will equate to 8-10 serious bidders. Administrators have indicated they will engage with officials once the closing dates for submitting bids has elapsed. This meeting is scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> June.

Both administrators have now filed their proposal with Companies House indicating they will be seeking to realise property in order to make a distribution to one or more secured or preferential creditors.

During the last Taskforce group meeting (7<sup>th</sup> June) Welsh Government officials proposed a prospectus is created outlining the agencies and the support they provide to the successful bidder. The group acknowledge the successful bidder is not obliged to engage with any agencies but feel this could be a way to start the working relationship.

Officials are aware there remains 8-9 tonnes of plastic on site. The administrators have until November to remove the plastic if the sale has not been completed. Solicitors acting on behalf of the administrators are seeking a solution if the sale is not complete. Officials have been reassured by the administrators the situation with the plastic, including temperature checks, is monitored on a daily basis. Officials have requested the administrators consider utilising the local supply chain if there becomes the need to remove the plastic.

I will continue to keep members updated on progress, as I appreciate the significance of the site to Ynys Mon and the wider North Wales region.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Vaughan Gething AS/MS**  
Gweinidog yr Economi  
Minister for Economy