

Dawn Bowden AS/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau a Chwaraeon, a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref DB/00277/22
Tonia Antoniazzi MP
Member of Parliament for Gower

tonia.antoniazzi.mp@parliament.uk

24 May 2022

Dear Tonia

Thank you for your correspondence dated 9 May 2022 raising a number of concerns regarding the Welsh Rugby Union.

There have been recent positive developments in the women's game in Wales to address longstanding issues. However, I am very clear that this is only the beginning of the journey. The WRU still has much to do and I expect them to continue to build on this progress leading to this year's World Cup and beyond. It will be an area I will continue to press for improvements in my discussions with the Chief Executive, and others.

My understanding is the foundation for many of these recent changes we have seen in the women's game have been driven by the review undertaken last year. Whilst I have not seen the report directly, I recognise the concerns raised about the report not being made public and I have engaged with the WRU to understand their approach. It is my understanding that it was always intended to be an internal report to allow consultees and the authors the freedom to be candid in their views of the issues and the changes needed in the women's game. A public-facing report may not have reached the same conclusions and to release the report now may betray the confidences of those involved. However, in moving the game forward, it is critical that the WRU demonstrates that the approach it is taking is being developed with players and stakeholders and that their actions reflect that partnership working.

Whilst I am unable to comment on an ongoing employment tribunal, we should be very clear that any individual or groups wishing to raise complaints or concerns should follow the organisation's complaints or whistleblowing processes in the first instance, before deciding whether or not to escalate matters further.

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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.

I have not received any direct representations on any such concerns you highlight.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn Bowden'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping underline.

Dawn Bowden AS/MS

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