



## Milford Haven Port Authority

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Your ref:

Our ref: AD/EF/82

14<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Nick Ramsay  
Chair of Enterprise and Business Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Ramsay

### Business and Enterprise Committee Inquiry into International connectivity through Welsh Ports and Airports

I would like to thank you and your committee colleagues on behalf of Mark and myself for a most interesting and enjoyable session this morning. On the drive back to Pembrokeshire I can confirm that the roads were clear and the drive time merely a reflection of the distance! A supplementary thought occurred on the drive, which I thought it worth sharing with yourself and your colleagues. This was prompted by the discussion about the Severn Bridge Tolls and the difficulty of dealing with the issue because the matter is not devolved.

A solution to this in the interests of Wales does not necessarily require fighting a political battle with the central UK Government to achieve control of the bridge: it would of course be perfectly possible for the Welsh Government to approach the bridge management company, and strike a cost effective and long term deal to pay the bridge tolls on behalf of articulated trucks so that this sector of road users can cross the bridge into and out of Wales free of charge. My feeling is that that this would only take weeks to negotiate and deliver, and would provide a substantial boost to levels of economic activity as well as send a very strong signal that the Welsh government is about effective and immediate action in the interests of the Welsh economy and employment, much more so than the combative and time consuming pursuit of political devolution.

This is entirely consistent with many of the lines of argument set out in our submission.

With that said, it only remains to thank you and the Committee again for the opportunity to discuss the ports sector in so much detail.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Alec Don  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Awdurdod Porthladd Aberdaugleddau