

Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AC / AM
Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref EH/02623/15

David Davies MP

david.davies.mp@parliament.uk

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Dear David

Thank you for your email of 9 June regarding the Velothon Wales.

The Velothon Wales was organised by Lagardere Events Unlimited UK. The safe and successful event was enjoyed by thousands of visitors to Wales and local participants and has raised a significant amount for charity. It has already become one of the biggest mass participation cycle events in the world; however the organisers and delivery partners recognise the disruption caused to some and that lessons need to be learnt to minimise disruption and maximise benefits.

The event was a brand new professional and mass participation cycling event that, due to the significant scale and safety considerations, required road traffic orders to implement closures along the route through 5 local authorities. The signing of these associated Traffic Orders by the relevant local authorities was protracted due to the scale and extent of the event and this did contribute to delaying the implementation of the plan to inform residents and businesses along the route. However, the organisers and local event partners initiated new efforts to publicise the route and implications of the road closures, in advance, in order that residents and businesses could plan ahead to minimise disruption and personal inconvenience. I note your comment regarding compensation for affected businesses; however the Welsh Government is not the event owner or organiser and is not in a position to offer compensation.

The event is supported by Welsh Government through its major events strategy which seeks to attract sporting and cultural events that will raise Wales' profile to important audiences here and overseas.

With respect to your question about why a rolling road-block was not deployed, Velothon Wales comprised both a high profile elite race and a mass participation sportive unlike for example the Tour of Britain (hosted in Monmouthshire in 2014) which is a professional road race only. Closed roads were therefore required to ensure the safety of the cyclists taking part.

As is usual with all major events supported by us, the continuation of any support depends on a post-event review, and consideration of whether pre-agreed targets have been met, including economic impact.

There will be full debrief in terms of the event and your comments, along with the others we have received, both positive and negative, will be taken into account in that process.

Edwina Hart