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Minister for Economy, Science and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref KR/AW(1)
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/00988/15

Cllr Keith Reynolds
Leader
Caerphilly CBC

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10 March 2015

Dear Keith

Thank you for your letter of 23 February to the First Minister of Wales in relation to the UCI Velothon Wales cycling event scheduled for 14 June 2015. I am replying as Major Events and Transport fall within my portfolio responsibilities.

I understand your concerns in relation to the potential impact of necessary road closures. There is no doubt that an event of this scale requires a huge logistical challenge for all five local authorities through which the 190km closed road route will pass. I have been assured that the organisers are taking all possible steps to work proactively with the affected local authorities to mitigate the impact as far as possible and to minimise unavoidable disruption for local residents and businesses, whilst making sure that they are fully informed what to expect well in advance of the event.

It is the biggest and highest profile mass participation and professional cycling event ever to be held in this country, and we have made a significant financial contribution to securing this event for South Wales. It will ensure a significant economic, social and cultural legacy for the region and further raise Wales' international profile and reputation as a tourism and events destination.

The event will provide another opportunity to showcase some of our most historic landmarks including Caerphilly Castle which has featured so prominently in the Tour of Britain in recent years.

It is also important that, in building Wales' position in a fiercely competitive global market, we are able to demonstrate a strong 'Team Wales' partnership. A clear sense of unity of purpose across all partners is vital if we are to ensure the successful delivery of this major event.

I'd like to thank you and your colleagues for your support so far for Velothon Wales and I hope that you will continue to work constructively with the events organisers to make sure that this event will cause as little disruption as possible and be the success we all want it to be.

Edwina Hart