

## **MICK ANTONIW MS/AS**

Member of the Senedd for Pontypridd  
Aelodau O'r Senedd dros Bontypridd



Ken Skates MS  
Minister for Economy and Transport  
Welsh Senedd  
Cardiff Bay  
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15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### **Rhys Davies Limited In Administration**

Dear Ken,

I am grateful for the very prompt meeting you facilitated with your officers regarding the administration of Rhys Davies Limited.

The company was until last year headquartered in Taff's Well but was then taken over by Cathay Investment an English based company.

I understand your officers are in contact with the administrator and prepared to offer support to a potential buyer and also other support to the workers who have lost their jobs.

The way the company has behaved is quite frankly a disgrace. The workers turned up as normal, were kept waiting for several hours and then told the company was going into administration and that they were being made redundant. They were then told that they would not be paid and they should claim their outstanding monies from the UK Government from the Redundancy Payments Service part of the Insolvency Service.

I have been in contact with Unite the Union and with many individual employees of the company, not just from Taffs Well and there is genuine astonishment as to how this long standing family firm can be taken over one year and put into administration the next.

There are a number of issues I would like you to consider:

1. Has Rhys Davies Ltd received any financial support from Welsh Government?
2. How much has the company received through the job retention scheme?
3. I am informed by employees that the company may have had a furlough rota in place because there were financial advantages to the company to put its own workers in furlough whilst at the same time employing agency staff to do work that would normally have been carried out by its own workers who were furloughed. If this is the case then it may amount to an abuse of the job retention scheme. Will you be carrying out an investigation into the operation of the scheme with this company?

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4. What action is being taken by the Welsh Government to support those workers who have lost their jobs?
5. I have been in contact with the Wales TUC to discuss the viability of a solidarity fund from Welsh Government that might be able to provide some form of emergency financial assistance to workers who find they lose their employment in such circumstances. You will appreciate that although a claim can be made by the workers from the Insolvency service, this can be a lengthy process. I immediately recognise this should be a responsibility of UK government, but I am not confident they have any interest in this matter.  
I understand they are supportive and have raised this matter with Welsh Government. Will you give this your serious consideration?
6. Will your office engage with the Insolvency service to explore how any applications from the workforce can be expedited?
7. Can you update me on the support that might be available from Welsh Government for any new company that might be considering taking over Rhys Davies as a going concern?
8. Have your officers had any contact with the Cathay Investments to ascertain the background to the collapse of this company?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours

**Mick Antoniw MS**

**CC Rebecca Evans MS** Minister for Finance and Trefnydd