



Cllr Aaron Wynne,
Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure,
Conwy County Borough Council,
By Email

Office of Janet Finch-Saunders MS
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URGENT

Re: Paddling Pools

Janet.Finch-Saunders@senedd.wales

Dear Cabinet Member, Cllr Aaron,

I hope that this letter finds you well. I am writing with regards to serious concerns about the announcement that the paddling pools at Craig y Don, Llanfairfechan, and Penmaenmawr won't be opening as normal in May this year.

It is my understanding that the pools fall under your portfolio.

By keeping the pools closed Conwy Council are penalising children and young people, depriving them of fantastic free fun facilities. At a time of financial hardship, activities such as a trip to the public paddling pools are needed more than ever.

The kiosk in Craig y Don has recently been taken over. There is no doubt that the income the new business will have expected to generate when developing a business plan, will now be considerably lower because the pool is empty. Alongside this, all four facilities play a part in our County's tourism offer. Indeed, I have seen first hand cars parked back to back by some pools on glorious days, with local and visiting families enjoying a paddle. Consequently, it is reasonable to expect that the closures will negatively impact our hospitality and retail sector.

In an effort to ensure that there is complete transparency as to how the Local Authority has been able to reach this situation where so many individuals, families, and businesses have been let down, I would be grateful if you could address the following questions:

1. On what dates were the full safety audits of each pool undertaken?
2. On what dates were the Local Authority informed of the outcome of each safety audit?
3. Will you provide me with copies of the aforementioned audits?
4. On what basis is the Local Authority able to claim that there is only one business in the whole of the UK which can apply the anti-slip coating to the surfaces?
5. On what date did the Local Authority find out that the business was unable to apply the anti-slip surface?

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6. How was the decision to keep the pools closed subject to democratic processes: a. A decision by the Leader or relevant Cabinet Member? b. A full Cabinet decision? c. A decision by full Council?
7. What assessments have been carried out to establish the impact of the decision on the tourism sector, and public health and wellbeing?

I look forward to hearing from you, and receiving assurances that a new contractor will be found to undertake the required works urgently so that the decision made can be reversed.

Yours sincerely,

Janet

Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS