

Gwenda Thomas
AC Dros Gastell-nedd / AM for Neath

Our Ref: GT/AA/NAW

To whom it may concern

8 September 2008

I am delighted to support the proposal for the co-location of Valleys Radio, Swansea Sound and The Wave in one UTV South Wales Headquarters. I would also be delighted if this new development was located within Neath Port Talbot. The Swansea Gate site would seem to me to be an ideal location and siting the new Headquarters here would have my full support.

I am very aware of the service that is provided for my constituents by Swansea Sound and The Wave and I am sure that the service provided by Valleys Radio is also much appreciated. The ongoing commitment to continue to provide Welsh medium programmes is very welcome indeed.

It is very important in my view that local radio stations have a secure future and that they are supported in their efforts in informing the local public of matters of interest including current affairs, sports, weather, travel and other topics and in their regular scrutiny of local and sometimes national politicians of all parties. The attraction of local radio stations for young people should also be protected.

The additional investment of £80,000 per annum in taking Valleys Radio to FM will be key in ensuring growth and will pave the way for this station to return to profitability.

I note with pleasure that Ofcom is very supportive of this plan and I commend the efforts of all who are involved in promoting this visionary initiative which I fully support.

Yours sincerely



GWENDA THOMAS AM

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