

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1222
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/11923/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee

petitions@senedd.wales

18 November 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 20 October regarding, Petition P-06-1222 Ban disposable barbecues from our National Parks, National Nature Reserves and Welsh Beaches.

There have been a number of national and local campaigns around responsible access to the countryside. We have worked closely with the National Park Authorities on messaging since Covid restrictions began, particularly around responsible recreation. This led to a Visit Wales marketing campaign to encourage responsible behaviours in the countryside which reached large numbers of people on buses, motorway services, and on social media. Targeted messages, around the risks of disposable barbecues and only lighting fires in designated places featured prominently.

In regard the issue of fire damage caused to our National Parks, National Nature Reserves and Welsh beaches by misuses of barbecues, the great majority of fires in grassland and forested areas are started deliberately and maliciously, not by barbecues. We have reduced the number of such fires significantly in recent years through a programme of collaboration between the Fire Service, the Police, Natural Resources Wales and others to deter people from deliberate fire-setting and to respond swiftly to fires that do occur. This remains our main focus. While accidental fires, such as those started by barbecues and camping stoves, are also a concern the risks involved are relatively modest.

Yours sincerely,

Julie James AS/MS
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Minister for Climate Change

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.