

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1259
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/00236/22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

18 February 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 27 January regarding the petition to ban the use of non-biodegradable dog poo bags.

I sympathise with the concerns raised in this petition and am often dismayed to see dog waste bags strewn across our countryside by irresponsible dog owners. Whilst banning non-degradable bags may appear to offer a potential solution, such an approach comes with its own challenges. For example, materials used for making dog waste bags, even “environmentally friendly” ones, vary considerably. “Compostable” bags made from natural materials often require specific conditions of heat and temperature to decompose, which are not found in the natural environment. There is also the potential unintended consequence of people not disposing of their bags properly as they believe they will quickly and safely breakdown. However, they will likely remain littered in the environment for a long time.

I believe the most effective way to tackle this issue is to ensure dog owners pick up dog waste and dispose of it appropriately in a bin. To help with this, the Welsh Government continues to work with Local Authorities and organisations such as Keep Wales Tidy. This includes the recent funding of the *Caru Cymru* programme which aims to raise awareness and influence changes in behaviour across a range of local environment quality issues. This includes a specific campaign focusing on dog fouling and working with Local Authorities to trial different solutions to help address the problem. I have attached a link to their campaign page below for reference:

[Keep Wales Tidy – Leave Only Pawprints](#)

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

In addition, last year we consulted on a draft *Litter and Fly-tipping Prevention Plan* which has been written in collaboration with a range of stakeholders including Councils, businesses and environmental charities. The plan will include a range of actions which will focus on things like reducing the amount of waste we produce, awareness raising and improving enforcement activity.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AS/MS

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