ATAL / AMDDIFFYN / YMATEB PREVENTING / PROTECTING / RESPONDING

Dawn DocxPrif Swyddog Tân / Chief Fire Officer



P-06-1222 Ban disposable barbecues from our National Parks, National Nature Reserves and Welsh beaches! - Correspondence from North Wales Fire and Rescue Services to the Committee. 21 March 2022

21 March 2022

Petitions Committee Welsh Parliament CARDIFF

Sent via email to: petitions@senedd.wales

Dear Mr Sargeant

Re: Petition P-06-1222 Ban disposable barbecues from our National Parks, National Nature Reserves and Welsh beaches

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon the above petition.

Undoubtedly, the misuse of disposable barbecues can cause grassland fires with the consequences being significant damage to the environment and wildlife. However, North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority cannot provide statistical evidence that the use of such equipment has resulted in a significant number of grassland fires in the North Wales area.

The ambition of the Petition is similar to the public space protection orders (PSPOs) in England. I am familiar with the ones put into force on the moors above Oldham and Tameside in November 2019 which banned the lighting of fires and barbecues or the setting off of fireworks and sky lanterns. People breaching the order could be fined up to £100. This was welcomed by Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service at the time, because it sent a clear strong message to the public.

Lastly, although I wholeheartedly approve of the desire to make our countryside in Wales safer from fires, I am also conscious of the challenges of enforcing such a ban across the whole of Wales and I am unsure as to what an extent this ban would prove to be a deterrent.

Yours sincerely

Dawn Dodx

CHIEF FIRE OFFICER