

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



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1382  
Ein cyf/Our ref LW/02803/23

Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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

20 December 2023

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 26 October regarding Petition P-06-1382 relating to balloon releases.

Whilst I acknowledge the concerns around the environmental impacts associated with balloon releases, such events are sensitively used to commemorate the loss of loved ones. The Welsh Government is mindful of such sensitivities and consequently, does not believe introducing legislation to prohibit releases would be proportionate nor in the public interest to do so. Rather, we continue to work with others to encourage alternative, more sustainable forms of commemoration as appropriate. For example, with our partners we promote commemorative woodlands as part of the Wales National Forest project.

We have also previously written to several charitable organisations requesting they consider the wider impacts, for example littering, resulting from balloon releases at their events. A similar approach was adopted with Welsh Local Authorities and most now operate a voluntary policy of discouraging the release of balloons and sky lanterns from Local Authority owned land.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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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.

We will continue to work with environmental organisations such as Keep Wales Tidy to identify additional ways of raising awareness of the littering issues associated with balloon releases, accompanied by promoting alternatives to this practice whilst noting inherent sensitivities.

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**  
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Minister for Climate Change AS/MS