

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet
dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Climate Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1472
Ein cyf/Our ref HIDCC/00698/25

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee

24 April 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your correspondence of 07 April regarding "Petition P-06-1472 Protect our wildlife...ban plastic grass in Wales!".

I welcome continued interest from the Petitions Committee in this important issue and I am pleased to provide an update on the microplastics event held in partnership with Environment Platform Wales.

[The Plastic in the Environment Knowledge Exchange Workshop](#) took place in December 2024 and was a productive and well-attended two-day event. Participants included academic researchers from Welsh and UK universities, representatives from the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Natural Resources Wales, Public Health Wales, and Welsh Government policy leads from a wide range of cross-cutting areas. We were also pleased to welcome key third sector and stakeholder organisations, such as Keep Wales Tidy, Afonydd Cymru, Friends of the Earth, the National Environment Research Council, Transport for Wales, and the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

A key outcome from the workshop was the establishment of a new 'Plastics in the Environment Group', formed by Environment Platform Wales in agreement with attending researchers. This group has committed to meeting regularly to share knowledge on current and future research projects and identify opportunities for collaboration to help inform policy development. The group held a second meeting in March.

The workshop highlighted several important priorities for future consideration and reinforced the need for an integrated approach across biodiversity, waste, water, and health policies, and helped identify where further scientific evidence is needed to support effective regulation and long-term environmental outcomes. The following report by UK Water Industry Research, is interesting to read and found that 99.9% of microplastics are removed from drinking and wastewater through water company treatment processes [Water Industry Research reports \(ukwir.org\)](#)

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Huw.Irranca-Davies@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@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.

As part of our broader commitments to address plastic pollution and the nature emergency, the Welsh Government continues to take action through our Circular Economy Strategy, the Beyond Recycling plan, and the Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Act 2023. We remain committed to phasing out unnecessary plastics, promoting sustainable alternatives, and working with partners to build a more circular economy.

In addition, we continue to support public sector and land managers in adopting biodiversity-friendly practices, including alternatives to artificial grass. Our 'It's for Them' campaign and Bee Friendly Scheme continue to raise awareness about the benefits of natural habitats and sustainable land management.

I hope this update provides reassurance that Welsh Government is taking a comprehensive, evidence-informed and collaborative approach to addressing the concerns raised in the petition. We will continue to keep this important topic under close review and are grateful to stakeholders and the public for their continued engagement.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping loops and lines, positioned above the printed name.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs