

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-06-1527  
Ein cyf/Our ref HIDCC/00783/25

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair - Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales](mailto:Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales)

12 May 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 17 April regarding the Senedd Petition Committee's Petition P-06-1527 which calls upon the Welsh Government to *Review dog walking restrictions on Welsh beaches and issue guidance to relevant bodies*. I am responding as policies relating to Local Environmental Quality reside within my portfolio.

The requirement for byelaws, set by Local Authorities, prohibiting dogs from certain beaches exist primarily to protect the interests of beach goers during the spring and summer seasons, for example, to prevent potential risk to health from dog waste which is not removed and disposed of correctly by dog owners. Local Authorities can also use Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO), which require local consultation every two years. The aim of such orders is to stop the unreasonable behaviour in public spaces, such as the risk outlined above, by introducing restrictions on the use of a physical area. Breach of a PSPO restriction is an offence liable, on conviction in court, to a fine of up to £1000.

Whilst I acknowledge there may be reduced beach users outside of the peak tourist seasons, I firmly believe it is individual Local Authorities who are best placed to make decisions on what approaches are needed for their beaches in their areas.

I understand Local Authorities advertise their restrictions and requirements on their websites to enable dog owners to check these before visiting any beaches. In addition, they often include detailed maps which clearly identify the areas where dog restrictions apply and post notices at relevant beaches.

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.

Whilst I sympathise with the sentiments expressed in the petition in relation to responsible dog owners, there are no plans to introduce further guidance. Local Authorities already have the necessary powers to amend local restrictions and, as noted above, they are best placed to decide on any potential changes, should they consider it necessary.

Thank you for writing to me about the petition and this important subject. I hope you will find the information above helpful in updating the Senedd Petition Committee and the petitioner.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'Huw Irranca-Davies'.

**Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS**

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