

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/01174/25

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee

15 July 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your follow-up letter of 17 April regarding the Senedd Petition Committee's consideration of Petition P-06-1527 and the Committee's request for an update on the review of The Bathing Water Regulations 2013 (the Regulations).

Following our consultation in collaboration with UK Government on reforms to the Regulations, the Welsh Government published its [response](#) on 12 March 2025. I also published a [Written Statement](#) at the same time. These reaffirmed our commitment to protecting and improving the quality of bathing waters across Wales.

Informed by valuable feedback from a wide range of stakeholders, the reforms aim to modernise the regulatory framework, introduce greater flexibility, and strengthen protections for both the environment and public health. Key changes include the removal of automatic de-designation, the introduction of feasibility assessments to support water quality improvements, and the move from fixed bathing season dates in legislation to flexible guidance.

Alongside these, nine technical amendments will simplify processes and ensure regulations remain fit for purpose. These changes will be taken forward via a Statutory Instrument, with implementation expected in the Autumn, as part of our broader ambition to deliver cleaner, safer, and more resilient bathing waters for the future.

While dog fouling was not included as a specific area of consultation, it remains an important local concern. As noted in my previous response to the Committee on this matter, responsibility for managing dog access on beaches lies with individual Local Authorities and I believe they are best placed to make decisions on this matter.

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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.

I note the Committee agreed with this position and that Petition P-06-1527 has now been closed.

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 AS/MS

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