

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-06-1535
Ein cyf/Our ref HIDCC/01271/25

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee

31 July 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 July regarding “Petition P-06-1535 Ban plastic mesh netting in grass turf in Wales”.

I am committed to tackling plastic pollution, which is essential to help protect our environment, biodiversity and human health.

Plastic pollution is a complex area, with microplastics originating from a range of different sources, including industrial and domestic activities. Across government, we are working collaboratively to enhance our understanding of the issue and take informed action. This includes drawing on UK-wide research, strengthening monitoring, and developing targeted policy interventions.

It is essential we take an evidence-led approach in considering the way forward on plastic mesh netting in turf. I have asked my officials to consider the potential risks posed by this product as part of a broader evaluation of plastic pollution. This work will contribute to the upcoming review of the Natural Resources Policy as we go into the next Senedd term.

The petition calls for housing regulations to ban plastic mesh netting in turf. Future Wales and Planning Policy Wales set out our approach to providing a net benefit for biodiversity as part of all new development. Whilst Planning Policy Wales does not explicitly cover the use of artificial grass or plastic netting turf in new build housing with gardens, the principles of good placemaking require housing developers to consider positive biodiversity outcomes when new development is proposed and to promote more sustainable behaviours and outcomes wherever possible.

I hope this update provides reassurance the Welsh Government is taking a comprehensive, evidence-informed and collaborative approach to addressing the concerns raised in the petition. We will, of course, take account of the petitions recommendations as we continue to build our evidence base and consider appropriate next steps.

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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 welcome continued engagement and involvement from stakeholders and the public as we develop our policy and deliver action to tackle plastic pollution.

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'.

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