

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol
Minister for Natural Resources



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-550
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/00870/15

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions Committee
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1ST July 2015

Dear Bill

Thank you for your letter passing on the views of the petitioner Mr Payne of the St. Mellons Action Group in relation to my previous response to the above petition.

My view remains that section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 provides local planning authorities with sufficient powers to tackle the condition of land that is having an adverse effect on their area.

Since my previous reply to you, the Planning (Wales) Bill has been scrutinised by the National Assembly for Wales. The provisions in the Bill relating to appeals against the notices served under section 215 have, in my view, been strengthened. In future, once the bill receives Royal Assent, appeals against unsightly land notices will be dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate rather than magistrate courts. This will enhance consistency in the making and determination of these appeals with enforcement appeals.

Failure to comply with a notice remains a matter for the Courts. The offence is punishable by a fine of up to £1000 and up to £300 every day the requirements of the notice remain unfulfilled after the initial conviction.

I am unable to comment on individual cases to avoid prejudicing any later role the Welsh Ministers may have. It is for the local planning authority to determine what, if any, action is required to maintain land in its area in a clean and tidy condition, using the appropriate legislative tools available.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Sargeant', written in a cursive style.

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
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