

Janet Finch-Saunders AM/AC  
Chair  
National Assembly for Wales  
Petitions Committee  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

8 May 2019

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders

## **Petition P-05-825 Protect children's lungs from harmful pollution whilst at school**

Thank you for inviting NRW to comment on the above-named petition to protect children's lungs from harmful pollution whilst at school.

Natural Resources Wales is responsible for providing a risk-based approach to regulation, to ensure the sustainable management of our natural resources for human and environmental well-being. We seek to achieve this directly, through delivery of our regulatory duties, using powers and tools available as set out in legislation; and indirectly through wider interventions that support the delivery of relevant outcomes, such as raising awareness with industry trade bodies to ensure they are taking steps to reduce emissions that have an air quality impact.

Our duties in respect of air quality fall into two categories, Compliance and supporting Local Air Quality Management (LAQM).

We ensure that the facilities we regulate comply with:

- The EU's requirements for Wales and the UK, such as Air Quality Directives, the Habitats Directive, the National Emissions Ceiling Directive and the Industrial Emissions Directive;

- Wales and UK requirements, such as the Environmental Permitting Regulations, the UK Air Quality Strategy, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act.

Air quality monitoring is not one of NRW's statutory duties, however we are represented on Public Service Boards and attend the Wales Air Quality Forum (WAQF). Through these groups we work with Public Health Wales, Local Authorities and Welsh Government to ensure air quality issues are addressed. As part of the WAQF we also input into policy and strategy decisions regarding air quality issues. Specific advice on health matters are provided to government by Public Health Wales.

Welsh Government and local authorities are required by legislation to monitor air quality across a network of sites throughout Wales. The data is used as part of the evidence that informs our interventions at sites we regulate.

NRW is also a partner in the Air Quality in Schools Citizen Science Project for Europe with the European Environment Agency. This is a new project that is developing methodologies for harmonising approaches to addressing air quality in schools, which includes both monitoring and behaviour change initiatives.

NRW is working in a partnership project with Cardiff Council to monitor air quality in 20 schools in Wales, which is summarised below:

- Targeted for one year of NO<sub>2</sub> Monitoring.
- Data will be included in Bridgend-Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Council's LAQM Annual Air Quality Progress Reports 2020.
- Targeting awareness, education and behaviour change in tandem with monitoring.
- Following completion of 2019/20 annual ratified data sets, data will then be included in the 2020 LAQM progress reports.

The trial started in March 2019 and will run for a year, the results will be discussed at the WAQF to establish if the evidence suggests the monitoring should be expanded.

Best wishes



Clare Pillman  
**Prif Weithredwr, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru**  
**Chief Executive, Natural Resources Wales**