

Hannah Blythyn AC/AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol  
Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref HB/05720/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM  
Chair of the Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

11 December 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 19 November regarding Petition P-05-829 and the Petitions Committee request for further information on the progress of proposals to ban or restrict the sale of certain single use plastic items in Wales.

I can confirm the Welsh Government is currently undertaking research to assess the economic, social and environmental impacts of introducing bans or restricting the sale of 10 items that the European Commission has identified as being commonly littered in the coastal environment. I anticipate this research will be completed early next year and the subsequent Impact Assessments will be included as part of a comprehensive consultation process. After this consultation process has been completed and the feedback fully considered, we will then bring forward regulations using secondary legislation, potentially utilising powers available under section 140 of the Environment Protection Act 1990.

Whilst I acknowledge the calls in this petition for urgent action to address plastic pollution, I believe it is important that, as a Government, we ensure any action we take does not have any unintended consequences. For example, I am aware of concerns of over the potential for particular restrictions to disproportionately affect those with certain disabilities. We will, therefore, ensure that new restrictions on the sale of single use plastics are carefully designed and introduced. I also believe our proposals offer a more coherent legislative approach than those currently put forward by the UK Government and Scottish Government.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

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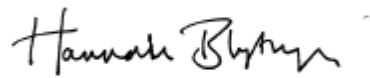
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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 would like to reassure Committee members of my commitment to tackling this issue in Wales and to note that these proposals are just one part of a suite of policy and legislative measures aimed at developing a holistic approach to the problem in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hannah Blythyn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

**Hannah Blythyn AC/AM**

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