

**Jane Davidson AC/AM**

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai  
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

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Mick Bates AM  
Sustainable Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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6 November 2008

*Dear Mick,*

### **UPDATE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT LCO**

Thank you for your letter of 1<sup>st</sup> October in which you ask about the progress on the Environmental Protection and Waste LCO.

During the summer recess discussions between my officials and officials at Whitehall have continued to clarify the outstanding aspects of the LCO. As I have stated before, there is a wide range of legislation covering the Environment field and the LCO covers a wide span of policy areas with a complex relationship between devolved and non-devolved responsibilities. This has meant that Whitehall discussions necessarily involve a wide range of interests.

Many of these issues have been addressed and resolved and those with the lead department, Defra, are nearing completion. Negotiations with BERR and The Department for Energy and Climate Change are proceeding.

With regards to single use carrier bags, my officials are working with Defra and Retailers to agree a voluntary approach on this issue and indications are that the main retailers will have reduced usage by 50% by next Easter. However should a voluntary agreement not be reached on further reductions, the Climate Change Bill will give Wales powers to address this issue. An outline legislation timetable is in place to enable the introduction of a charge for single use carrier bags by April 2010 if we choose to do so. The Waste Management and Environmental Protection LCO will also enable Measures to be developed in this area.

*Yours,*

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