

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-0953  
Ein cyf/Our ref HB/00420/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

8 July 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your further letter of 23 June on behalf of the Senedd's Petition Committee regarding Petition P-05-953 about plastic milk bottles, submitted by St Aidan's Church of Wales VA School.

Plastic pollution is one of the biggest issues the world is facing today, as it impacts on the places we love to visit, on wildlife and on our health.

In terms of St Aidan School's question in relation to funding for a pergal unit, the school may wish to consider applying to our £6.5 million Circular Economy Fund which is available to help publicly funded bodies like schools adopt solutions that reduce waste and increase reuse and recycling. The aim of the fund is to help organisations and businesses work towards a more circular plastics economy in Wales. Details of how to apply to the fund can be found [here](#). I also welcome St Aidan's suggestion of making glass bottles in Wales and I'm pleased that the research undertaken by WRAP on this issue has been useful to the school.

In relation to a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), in partnership with the UK government and Northern Ireland Executive, we are developing proposals for a DRS and plan to ask people's views on the plans for a DRS. I am very keen to hear the views of children and young people as a key part of the consultation.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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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.

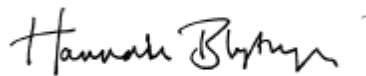
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

We are also working with the UK government to bring in a tax on plastic packaging. This will encourage businesses to include more recycled plastic in their products. The idea is that this will speed up increased levels of recycling and collection of plastic waste, diverting it away from landfill or incineration.

Littering of plastic is not acceptable and we are trying very hard to make sure everyone either puts it in the bin or recycles it, rather than throwing it on the ground. We are also writing a new Litter Prevention Plan and this will involve the help of companies, councils and environmental groups to make sure we find answers to stop littering in Wales.

Wales is already third in the world when it comes to recycling and our aim is to be number one! We will continue to build on the fantastic progress we have made in Wales on recycling, by making sure more products such as plastic bottles are recycled.

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 AS/MS**

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