



Ein cyf/ Our ref: MA/P/LG/1494/15

Julie Morgan AM

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10 January 2016

Dear Julie

During plenary on 9 December, you asked me if any trends were emerging in relation to the provision of private Gypsy and Traveller sites. I have now reviewed the Caravan Count data which is collected on a biannual basis and can provide you with the following information.

The table in Appendix A shows the number of authorised sites across Wales has more than doubled since the Caravan Count was restarted in 2007. Of the 65 authorised sites recorded at the last Count in July 2015, 23 were recorded as Local Authority sites (including the temporary site for the Royal Welsh Show and Waterloo in Pembrokeshire). At the time of the first Count in 2007, 20 of the 31 recorded sites were Local Authority owned (however, the Leighton Arches / Withybeds site was not recorded, which would have meant 21 of 32 sites were Local Authority owned). Therefore, private Gypsy and Traveller provision has effectively risen from 11 sites in 2007 to 42 sites in 2015.

However, whilst this progress is welcomed we know a significant shortfall in Gypsy and Traveller site provision remains. I expect all Welsh Local Authorities to submit new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAA's) to me by 26 February 2016, which will capture the most comprehensive Wales-wide estimate of pitch need we've ever had.

Under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, Local Authorities will be required to ensure site provision is made to meet the needs identified in GTAA's. Crucially, the duty is for Local Authorities to exercise their powers as far as may be necessary to ensure sites are created, which provides Local Authorities with the flexibility to work with households who may wish to develop private sites.

I am aware many Gypsy and Traveller households would rather live on small family sites and I would encourage Local Authorities to support the development of such viable private sites, which would reduce the overall level of need in the area and have the added benefit of reducing costs to the public purse.

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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 will continue to monitor site provision as the new duties are implemented to ensure we address the shortfall in pitches and I am pleased to see the progress we have already made in the past 12 months through the development of Conwy's first authorised site and major extensions to sites in Neath Port Talbot and Torfaen.

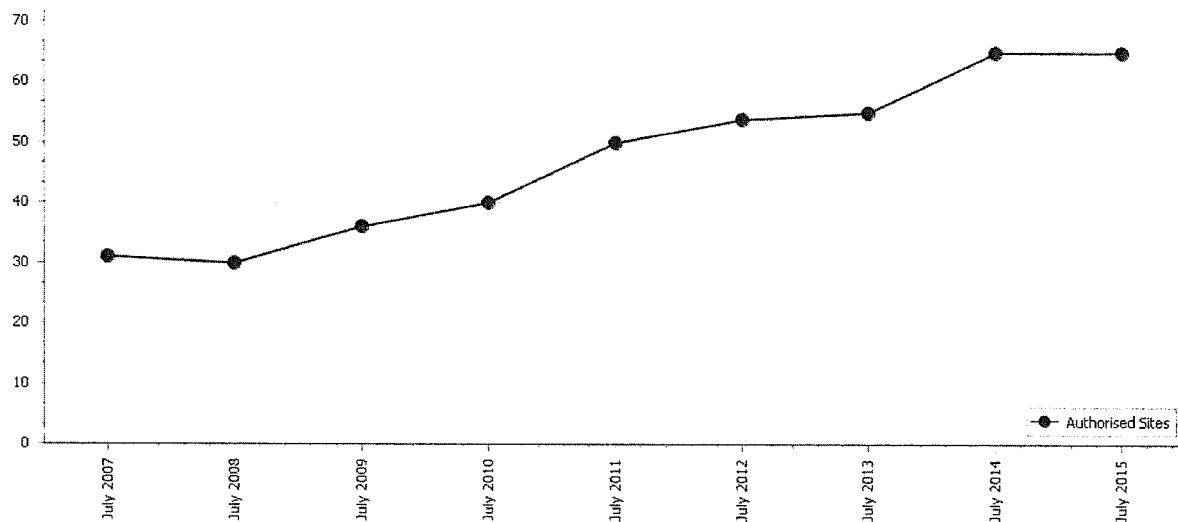
Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchu Tlodi
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty

Appendix A

Table 1 – Number of authorised sites in Wales



Source: StatsWales - <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/v/BGd9>

