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Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff, CF99 1NA

12 July 2019

Dear Chair,

RE: Petition P-05-874 Ban the sale of goods packaged in single use plastics on Transport for Wales services

I write to you in response to your letter of the 30 May 2019 inviting us to respond to petition P-05-0874 "Ban the sale of goods packaged in single use plastics on Transport for Wales services."

Firstly, we recognise the role that we play as Transport for Wales in ensuring that the services we provide have a positive long-term legacy for the people and communities of Wales. Specifically, we are considering our response to the climate change emergency, as well as the emerging issues associated with plastics and the impact they can have on people and our environment. Our plans will help us to mitigate the environmental impact of the services we provide.

To further strengthen our commitment to the environment, we have recently appointed a Sustainable Development Manager who has expert experience of working within the waste sector having worked for the international charity Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP), who provide industry leading advice on resource efficiency and the circular economy. Our Sustainable Development Manager has also previously worked with the sector Packaging Managers at various companies to provide support and evidence for their plastics campaigns.

In response to your specific question regarding whether targets will be set to reduce or eliminate the use of plastics for catering services on board our trains, I can confirm that we have already begun to phase out all single use plastics and we expect that suppliers of our food and other products will start to make quick, positive changes to the packaging that they offer.

Having considered the public commitments made by our supply chain and commitments within the wider food industry, our expectation is that we will have completely phased out single use plastics by 2023. This phase out date for single use plastics is based on the availability of suitable alternatives as at present, packaging labelled as compostable or biodegradable cannot be recycled or composted at large scale in Wales.

Sadly, 'compostables' still require specific conditions to break down; in landfill or the environment, they can last for decades. Therefore, our belief is that a short-term switch to these types of plastic alternatives could create more general waste

to be sent for landfill or incineration. Therefore, it is our belief that 2023 gives us an achievable timescale to make changes that will have a genuinely positive impact on levels of waste production overall.

As well as our own directly retailed products, we will also work with businesses in our supply chain and retailers that operate within our stations as tenants to ensure that they phase out single use plastics. We are currently working with our supply chain to understand the specific date by which we can commit to the elimination of single use plastics on our services through third party retailers.

We welcome the Welsh Government's aim to reduce the use of single use plastic bottles for water and other drinks and we will support this aim by:

- Promoting use of re-useable drinking containers for passengers;
- Provide access to free drinking water available for refill of water bottles through:
 - provision at retail outlets implemented utilising concession contracts;
 - provision of water infrastructure at Hub and Interchange stations where justified by passenger numbers and lack of other suitable provision; and
 - cooperation with other businesses and suppliers in the vicinity of stations;
 - considering the need for such water provision and reduction in use of plastic bottles in the design and implementation of any station refurbishment; and
 - using innovative solutions to reduce the use of plastic bottles for drinks.

In terms of details on other initiatives referred to in your letter, we and our partners have made very strong commitments to reducing our waste overall.

Our Sustainable Development Plan, Station Improvement Vision and our Waste Management Plan, which are due to be published over the summer and early autumn, detail our commitment to reducing and designing out waste.

We will act to minimise the impact of waste by implementing a plan that deals with waste in the following order of priority:

- Prevention of waste;
- Minimisation of waste;
- Re-use of waste;
- Recycling of waste; and
- Disposal of waste

The targets in our Sustainable Development plan and Waste Management Plan are:

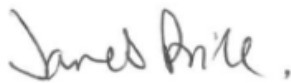
- Divert at least 95% of waste away from landfill by the end of 2020
- Increase recycling rates above 50% by the end of 2021

- Reduce the use of virgin materials by 30% by the end of 2021

We will work with our suppliers, sub-contractors and other companies to find innovative practices to eliminate waste and reuse surplus materials and we will work with other local businesses to lobby for improved services to increase diversion from landfill.

I look forward to updating you in due course as we develop our plans to further reduce the environmental impact of our activities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Price". The signature is written in a cursive style with a trailing flourish.

James Price
Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive
Trafnidiaeth Cymru / Transport for Wales