

Dyddiad /Date:  
Gofynnwch am/Please ask for:  
Llinell uniongyrchol/Direct line:  
E-bost/Email:

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020  
Tim Peppin



Janet Finch-Saunders AM  
Chari – Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff CF99 1NA

Dear Ms Finch-Saunders,

### **Petition P-05-898 Ban the use of A boards in Wales**

Thank-you for your letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019, addressed to Cllr Wilcox. I apologise on behalf of WLGA for the considerable delay in responding.

The issue of 'A' boards (and other potential obstructions such as street furniture) on the pavements has been a contentious one in most local authority areas for many years. There are two differing sets of views on their use which local authorities have to try and balance.

On the one hand, many traders see them as vital in terms of advertising their businesses and bringing a sense of vibrancy back to town centres. Many of these centres are struggling to retain businesses in the face of out of town and online competition.

On the other hand, a range of interest groups are keen to see pavements kept clear of obstructions in order to provide safe passage for people with visual impairments, wheelchair users, those with children in prams and so on.

Under the Highways Act 1980 traders are required to apply to their council for a licence or permit to use A-boards. Approval is required from both the planning and highways departments and an indemnity can be required. The permits allow traders to use boards so long as they do not create an obstruction. Guidance exists on council websites. A selection with typical examples is included below. In some cases, councils do not licence the use of the pavement for signs but require a minimum footway width to be kept clear – see Powys example below:

Dr Chris Llewelyn  
Prif Weithredwr  
Chief Executive

Cymdeithas Llywodraeth  
Leol Cymru  
Tŷ Llywodraeth Leol  
Rhodfa Drake  
CAERDYDD CF10 4LG  
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Welsh Local Government  
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wlga.cymru  
wlga.wales

@WelshLGA

**Croesawn ohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb i ohebiaeth yn yr un iaith.  
Ni fydd defnyddio'r naill iaith na'r llall yn arwain at oedi.**

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English and will respond to correspondence in the same language.  
Use of either language will not lead to a delay.

Caerphilly:

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Licensing/Conditions-of-Licence-Pavement.aspx>

Cardiff

<https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Business/Licences-and-permits/Roads-and-highways-licences/A-Board-Permits/Documents/A%20Board%20Policy.pdf>

Swansea:

[Swansea - Permission to deposit A-frames / advertising boards / signs on the highway](#)

Wrexham:

[Local Planning Guidance Note No 1 - Advertisements - WCBC](#)

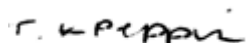
Powys:

[Using the pavement, road, verge or highway - Powys County Council](#)

Where advertising signs do create an obstruction on the pavement then local authorities can indeed take action, including removal. A fine of up to £1,000 can also be imposed. Wherever possible, though, councils will try and resolve such cases by agreement without the need to remove the advertisements or issue fines. If there is continued non-compliance and a flagrant disregard for warnings then signs can be removed, permits rescinded and fines issued.

I hope this response helps to explain the current position and the need to work with all interested parties to achieve compromise solutions.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Peppin

WLGA Director of Regeneration and Sustainable Development

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