

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair, Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru

17 March 2023

Dear Jack,

Petition P-06-1272 Ban the use of 'no pet clauses' in tenancy agreements in Wales

Thank you for your letter in relation to this petition which we considered at our meeting on 16 November. Members decided to ask the Minister for Climate Change about temporary accommodation suitable for people with pets a during a scrutiny session on 7 December 2022 as part of the Committee's inquiry into homelessness (see paragraphs 49 – 60 of the [Record of Proceedings](#)). The Minister told us:

"...a dog or other pets are a real source of companionship and support for people who are homeless, and owning one absolutely should not be a barrier to accessing temporary accommodation at all. And we are really pleased to say that the attitude to pets, and in particular dogs, in emergency accommodation in Wales has changed significantly over recent years, and, in particular, it changed during the pandemic. But we still have—we absolutely still have—a long way to go to ensure that we do not revert back to a position where many are excluded."

The Minister went on to say that local authorities are expected to look closely at the housing available to ensure people who have pets can be accommodated:

"...we expect local authorities to look closely at the range of provision within their area to make sure it's fit for purpose and able to meet the needs of everyone, and that includes people with pets who would otherwise be sleeping rough."

With regards to the private rented sector, the Minister said that following the commencement of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 on 1 December 2022 “a landlord cannot unreasonably withhold a request to have a pet”.

We referred to your letter and the Minister’s evidence in our [report](#) on Homelessness published on 9 March (see paragraph 75).

The Committee has no further plans to look specifically at the use of ‘no pet clauses’ in tenancy agreements. However we will keep you updated if the issue comes up in future inquiries.

Yours sincerely



John Griffiths MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.