

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref HB/00175/20

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
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1 April 2020

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your letter of 9 March on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales' Petitions Committee and St Aidan's Church of Wales VA School regarding the use of plastic milk bottles in schools. I have been asked to reply as I have responsibility for waste and recycling.

I welcome the interest in and challenge from young people on the materials we use and how we can keep resources in use for as long as possible. We are currently consulting on our new circular economy strategy '*Beyond Recycling*' which sets out our aim to move to a circular economy in Wales, where waste is avoided and resources are kept in use. A range of documents are available on our website including an easy read version and a downloadable presentation.

We have been speaking to children and young people from across Wales as part of the consultation and the issue of how we use plastic is an important theme that has arisen across the country.

One of the headline actions in the strategy is to phase out single use plastic and we also want to make Wales the first country to send zero plastic to landfill. Following a consultation last year, we are also pressing ahead with game-changing reforms which will change how we use, collect and reuse plastic by introducing Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging, a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers, and applying bans or restrictions to phase out the use of unnecessary, highly littered, single use plastic.

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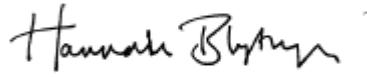
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

In terms of making a change to the use of plastic milk bottles in schools, we have worked with Wrap Cymru on a research study specifically looking at this issue. The details of the work can be found [here](#). St Aidan's Church of Wales VA School may also wish to raise their concerns about milk bottles with Pembrokeshire County Council, who are responsible for deciding how services in their area are delivered.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hannah Blythyn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small mark at the end.

Hannah Blythyn AC/AM

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