

Hannah Blythyn AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd
Minister for Environment



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref HB/00495/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales

15 June 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 16 May regarding the petition to ban plastic straws (when drinking milk) in schools.

Procurement of school milk and its packaging is the responsibility of each local authority in Wales. However, the National Procurement Service (NPS) is currently working alongside the Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP) and the Future Generations Commissioner's office to develop a range of measures to allow us to identify trends and implement actions to help reduce the use of plastics (including straws) in the future. The NPS will be consulting on these measures with suppliers in June 2018 and will monitor the outcomes as part of its formal contract management.

The Welsh Government will continue to work with councils to help suppliers consider different ways of providing milk to schools and reduce the amount of non-recyclable plastic straws and packaging. Pilot projects are currently underway with several councils to look at the issue of plastic waste reduction in relation to procurement and, following this, guidance can be provided to all councils on how they can improve their processes to help the environment. We will also work with the UK Government on any future action on banning plastic straws.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hannah Blythyn". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd
Minister for Environment

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Hannah.Blythyn@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Hannah.Blythyn@gov.wales

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.