

Julie James AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-864
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/05175/19

David J Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions Committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

29 January 2019

Dear David,

Petition P-05-864: Ban the use of 'Hostile Architecture'

Thank you for your letter of 17 January regarding the petition from People Over Profit regarding the use of 'hostile architecture' in developments which deter homeless people from seeking shelter.

The issues that homeless people face should not be compounded by the design of new development. In December we published Edition 10 of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) which puts placemaking at the heart of national planning policy. It requires developers and local planning authorities to think about the well-being of people in the design of their schemes and seeks, through the planning system, to create development which feels safe and inclusive and to create places where people want to be and interact with others.

Whilst, it is for local planning authorities to determine planning applications for development in their areas according to policies in their local development plans, PPW is a material consideration in this process. It should also be used as a guiding document when local authorities design new areas of public realm. However, many 'hostile architecture' features could be installed at the post-construction phase and may not be subject to any planning controls.

We are working to help homeless people to ensure they do not need to seek refuge within or around buildings at all. Tackling all forms of homelessness is a priority for the Welsh Government and we are investing more than £30m over this and the next financial year to help tackle homelessness. This includes both the additional funding awarded to each local authority in Wales to help them support rough sleepers during the winter months as well as the additional revenue support grant to local authorities to help continue to meet their statutory obligations in homelessness prevention and improve their trauma informed practice in Wales.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.James@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.

The legislation we introduced under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 requires local authorities to help everyone who is homeless, or who is at risk of homelessness. Up until September 2018 homelessness had been prevented for 19,600 households as a direct result of Local Authorities implementation of the Act.

We, and local authorities, are funding projects across Wales working with homeless people living on the streets or in other places not intended to provide accommodation - such as in parks, cars, or tents. The aim is to help rough sleepers off the streets, and to help them stay off the streets. Services include Rough Sleepers Intervention Teams (RSIT), which help the most vulnerable and chaotic homeless people on our streets by providing outreach in the form of hot food, advice, referrals and pathways out of homelessness.

Yours sincerely,



Julie James AC/AM

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