

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref HB/00348/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Petitions@Senedd.Wales

16 June 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 27 May to the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs regarding Petition 05-908 and incinerators. I am replying as I have portfolio responsibility for matters relating to waste.

As a responsible nation, it is vital that we take responsibility for the disposal of the waste that we generate that cannot be recycled. For this reason, we have invested in the infrastructure to extract electricity and heat from this material and dispose of it safely to the highest environmental standards and in line with the waste hierarchy. This not only ensures that we can extract the maximum benefit from this waste, but also prevents it from becoming a problem elsewhere.

The incineration of waste for heat and power is, however, a transitional step. The long-term solution is to keep resources in use for longer and reduce all waste. We have recently consulted on our new circular economy strategy, *Beyond Recycling*, which aims to keep resources in use for as long as possible and continue our progress towards zero waste by 2050. This also plays a key role in our efforts to tackle climate change as research from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation identified that 45% of emissions come from the goods and products we use every day.

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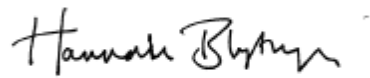
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

We will shortly publish a summary of responses to our consultation as we continue the work on our new circular economy strategy that will set the course towards zero waste and a circular, low carbon economy that builds on Wales' considerable success in this area to date.

Yours sincerely,

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

Hannah Blythyn AS/MS

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