



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1040
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00326/21

Janet Finch-Saunders MS

Chair, Petitions Committee

31 March 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your further letter 16 February, regarding Petition “P-05-1040 Introduce a moratorium on the approval any new large scale waste incinerators in Wales”. I apologise for the delay in this reply.

I would draw your attention to the inclusion in *Beyond Recycling*, our circular economy strategy published on 2 March, to the commitment to “place a moratorium on any future large scale energy from waste developments, as the increase in recycling and reduction in waste we have delivered in Wales means we will not need any new infrastructure of this type to deal with the quantity of residual waste we generate”.

Further information on the moratorium and an updated strategic impact assessment are included in my written statement ‘*Taking action to make the circular economy a reality*’ published on 24 March which is available at: <https://gov.wales/written-statement-taking-action-make-circular-economy-reality>.

This is a further development of the commitments we outlined in the consultation on a new circular economy strategy last year and accompanying oral statements, which clearly set out the incineration of waste for heat and power is a transitional step.

Whilst we continue to generate waste which cannot be recycled, having the infrastructure in place to dispose of this material safely, to the highest environmental standards whilst generating electricity and heat, remains an important part of our transition up the waste hierarchy. In particular, as a responsible nation, it is vital we deal effectively with our non-recyclable waste in a way which prevents it from either polluting our own environment, or which sees the problem being exported elsewhere. The long term solution being to move away from those non-recyclable materials like single use plastics. This of course links to the range of action included in the strategy such as the steps we are also taking to ensure the responsibility for the end of life costs of materials is placed on the producers through Extended Producer Responsibility.

A copy of the full strategy can be found at: <https://gov.wales/beyond-recycling-0>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs