

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-839
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/07474/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

November 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 19 November, regarding Petition P-04-839 which asks for adoption of World Health Organisation (WHO) Guidelines and introduction of a Clean Air Act for Wales.

Welsh Government will consult on the Clean Air Plan for Wales this December, with a view to publishing the final Plan in spring 2020. The aim of the Clean Air Plan for Wales is to improve air quality to reduce the burden of poor air on human health, biodiversity, the natural environment and the economy in Wales.

The publication of the Plan was delayed to ensure we had robust evidence to understand the air pollution challenge and remedial actions required to improve air quality in Wales. We have also had to place a focus on managing immediate challenges such as addressing exceedances of nitrogen dioxide in Wales and ensuring preparedness for Brexit.

The Plan will support delivery of the Prosperity for All commitment to reduce emissions and deliver vital improvements in air quality to support healthier communities and better environments. It is also our first step to delivering a Clean Air Act for Wales.

You will be aware, the First Minister identified the development a new Clean Air Act in his leadership Manifesto to ensure our children can go to school, be active and play outside safely without fear of respiratory problems, such as asthma, because of pollution levels in some of our towns and cities.

The Clean Air Plan will provide further detail around our approach to delivering the Clean Air Act. A project is in development to ensure we have an Act which enhances existing legislation and brings forward new legislation to deliver air quality improvements in Wales.

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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.

The aim of the Act will be to deliver the First Ministers' Manifesto commitment and reduce the burden of poor air quality on human health, our economy, biodiversity and the natural environment. The Act may also support wider actions to address the climate emergency and support environmental growth.

We intend to consult on and publish a White Paper before the end of this Assembly Term on legislative proposals to improve air quality in Wales.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the word 'Regards' on the top line and the name 'Lesley' on the bottom line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

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