

Hannah Blythyn AC/AM  
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd  
Minister for Environment



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref HB/00458/18

Councillor Huw David  
Leader of the Council

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4 June 2018

Dear Councillor Huw David,

Thank you for your email of 8 May regarding reducing the level of single use plastics by retailers and producers in Wales.

Wales has a lot to be proud of. We were the first UK nation to introduce a 5p charge on plastic bags, which has greatly reduced plastic bag waste. We lead the United Kingdom on household recycling and were recently rated third best in the World.

To keep the momentum going, I recently announced an additional £15 million of capital funding to further improve local authority recycling collection systems and infrastructure, including for plastics. Funds will be allocated on a discretionary basis through the Collaborative Change Programme (CCP).

I am advised that on the basis of provisional figures for 2017-18, Bridgend CBC is one of Wales' top performing Local Authorities in terms of municipal recycling. I would like to congratulate your Council for its achievements.

I have plans to consolidate Wales's place as the leading UK nation for recycling and reducing waste and for Wales to be the World's first 'Refill Nation.' I would encourage you to become involved in 'Refill Nation' to improve access to drinking water in public places and cut down on single plastic usage. The Welsh Government will be working work with City to Sea on developing the Refill campaign for Wales, as well as working closely with water companies, businesses, charities and major events. The work will also include a behavioural change campaign to help people see the value of water and make tap water their first choice for hydration.

In January 2017, the Welsh Government commissioned the Eunomia Report on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). The researchers were asked to evaluate a range of methods to increase waste prevention and recycling, and reduce litter. The focus was on six types of food and drink packaging including drinks bottles, cans, and single use coffee cups. The summary report was published recently and provides information on a range of options including deposit return schemes, taxes or charges on single-use cups and changes to current EPR regulations.

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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 are currently considering Wales' involvement in a UK-wide deposit return scheme. Developing approaches on a UK wide basis can be less complicated for consumers and better for businesses who have told us they prefer this approach, particularly as we prepare for the UK's exit from the EU. We are also considering making changes to regulations so that producers and retailers pay a larger share of waste management costs.

Later this year, I will also be consulting on regulations to implement Part 4 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 that will require businesses and public sector bodies to separate different types of waste. This will significantly contribute to recycling rates in Wales.

We continue to work with HM Treasury on a UK single-use plastics tax. The UK Government's Call for Evidence on a potential single use plastics tax is seeking to understand more how best to define single-use plastic and what items might fall into this category to inform potential decisions on suitable taxation measures. The Welsh Government is working with the UK Government to review evidence and proposals following the Call for Evidence, which closed on 18 May.

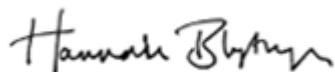
I am also developing legislation to introduce a microbeads ban in Wales by 30 June. The ban will be on both the manufacture and sale of products containing microbeads.

In addition, the Welsh Government has signed up to WRAP's UK plastics pact. This is a collaboration of Governments, businesses, local authorities, non-governmental organisations and consumers who are committed to playing their part in reducing the amount of plastic waste generated in the UK.

WRAP Cymru, funded by the Welsh Government, is producing a plastics recycling route-map for Wales. This will recommend action to increase the use of recycle in plastic manufactured in Wales. The £6.5 million circular economy capital investment fund for 2019-20 will contribute to this goal.

I appreciate all your efforts in looking for new opportunities to recycle and I would like to this opportunity to congratulate Bridgend CBC on the introduction of its separate collection of absorbent hygiene products (AHP). I hope this will be replicated throughout Wales in the coming years.

Yours sincerely,



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