



Ein cyf/Our ref HB/00391/18

Annwen Daniels

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4 May 2018

Dear Councillor Daniels,

Thank you for your letter dated 9 April regarding taxes on plastic in Wales.

There has been considerable interest in, and support for, a tax on disposable plastics in Wales. The Welsh Government is always looking for ways to improve delivery of our environmental objectives and we announced our continued consideration of a disposable plastics tax in February 2018. This work will be informed by the findings of the current UK Government call for evidence which is examining how charges or changes to the tax system could tackle the problems associated with single-use plastic waste. Given its wide ranging approach, it is anticipated a wide mix of responses will be received. It will be important to think carefully about how we define the parameters of possible options and models, and we look forward to informing decisions on the way forward.

I am pleased the UK Government is considering a single use plastics tax at a UK level, and welcome the Call for Evidence. We have had constructive discussions with the UK Government at both Ministerial and official level. The Welsh Government has secured involvement in this process and has been actively publicising the call for evidence in Wales to encourage contributions to help to ensure that all relevant evidence is considered from a devolved perspective. We will be contributing to the analysis of responses to the call for evidence, while sharing Welsh views on the development of policy options. We look forward to discussing progress at that point and share our views on policy options.

Any review on a standalone disposable plastics tax in Wales will also be informed by the analysis and recommendations provided in a study assessing the cost and benefits of extended producer responsibility (EPR) interventions to increase waste prevention and recycling and reduce litter of key food and drink packaging types.

I have received the final draft of the summary of that report and hope to be able to publish that as soon as is practicably possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hannah Blythyn'.

Hannah Blythyn AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd
Minister for Environment