

**Adran Amgylchedd
Environment Department**



**Gwasanaeth Cynllunio a Gwarchod y Cyhoedd
Planning and Public Protection Service
Uwch Reolwr/Senior Manager – Gareth Jones**

Gofynnwch am/Ask for: Gareth Jones

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✉cynllunio@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

Ein Cyf / Our Ref:

Eich Cyf / Your Ref:

20 October 2017

Dear Sir / Madam,

RE: 'To Let' Signs in Bangor

We are contacting you on behalf of Bangor City Council, Bangor University, the Students' Union and Gwynedd Council after receiving complaints regarding the substantial number of 'To Let' signs that can be seen in areas within the City of Bangor. These concerns have been expressed by the Assembly Member, Gwynedd Council Local Members, Bangor City Council, the University (including the Students Union, Student Pad and BUSG), and the Police.

These concerns relate to the serious negative visual impact on all areas, as well as the negative impact this has on the image of the City and the University as a place to live, work and study. I draw your attention to the photographs attached, taken recently, which show some of the worst-affected streets in the City. As well as the concerns relating to the negative visual impact, concerns were also voiced that this could lead to a potential increase in crime and affect the safety of the residents of the houses, as well as the security of the property itself.

The relevant regulations for such signage are the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1992 (as amended), and the relevant section for such signage is Class 3 of Schedule 3 and I attach a copy for your convenience. I note that the vast majority of the companies that advertise houses to let, state that they display the signage in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Regulations and I must remind you of the need for you to do this. I must remind you that it is an offence to display signage in breach of the above-mentioned Requirements and that evidence of any breach of the regulations, could lead to prosecution in the Magistrates' Court.

You may be aware that other University towns in England and Wales have taken formal steps through the planning system, in order to control the number and type of 'To Let' signs, for the exact reasons and concerns highlighted in this letter. Adopting similar arrangements that are much stricter than the rights you currently have, could be an option to the Council unless agents who advertise in Bangor are prepared to cooperate, in order to hold discussions to agree on a solution that is acceptable to all. There is a formal option available to the Council to control such a situation by abolishing the rights to display signage without formal planning permission, but it is also possible to establish a 'Voluntary Code'.

To this end, I wish to arrange a meeting with you in order to understand why this has become an increasing problem recently. I would also like to discuss the possible and practical options in order to respond to the above-mentioned concerns, either by establishing formal arrangements or by establishing a 'Voluntary Code' for displaying 'To Let' signs.

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Pwllheli
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Therefore, I would appreciate it if you could provide a response within 14 days of this letter, to confirm a suitable time and date to arrange a meeting, by contacting cynllunio@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

I look forward to be able to discuss the matter further with you in order to improve the appearance and image of the City, as well as avoiding a potential increase in crime and the impact of this on the safety of students and residents.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gareth Jones', written in a cursive style.

Gareth Jones

Senior Manager Planning and Public Protection Service (Gwynedd Council)

On behalf of Bangor City Council, Bangor University, the Students' Union and Gwynedd Council