

Jayne Bryant AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol, Tai a
Chynllunio
Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Local Government and
Planning



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: WQ 93648-93649

Gareth Davies MS
Member of the Welsh Parliament for Vale of Clwyd
Gareth.L.Davies@senedd.wales

5 September 2024

Dear Gareth,

I recently committed to writing to you to provide a substantive response to your written questions in relation to public toilets (WQ93648 & WQ93649).

Local authorities have the power to provide toilets for public use but not a statutory duty to do so. Local authorities take decisions on services and their budgets in the context of the breadth of their responsibilities and are accountable to their populations for the decisions they take.

The Welsh Government recognises the difficulties local authorities have in maintaining public toilets but also acknowledges that access to safe, clean toilet facilities is important to the public. To deliver a strategic approach to the provision of toilets across Wales, the [Public Health \(Wales\) Act 2017](#) requires each local authority to publish a local toilets strategy for its area.

Comprehensive [statutory guidance](#) has been produced to help local authorities develop their strategies and advises extensive community engagement, including with key deliver partners such as town and community councils, to understand local needs, identify gaps and deliver potential solutions.

Suggested solutions include community asset transfers and empowering town and community councils and social enterprises to take on responsibilities for managing standalone public toilets, if proposals are sustainable. To assist with sustainability, the Welsh Government has worked with the UK Government to ensure that standalone public toilets in Wales now receive 100% relief from business rates.

One of the key aspects of the requirement to develop a local toilet strategy was to encourage local authorities to make better use of existing toilet facilities across both public and private sector buildings, beyond a focus on standalone public toilets given the financial challenges of providing and maintaining this type of facility. In the context of the ongoing challenging financial climate, it is more important than ever to encourage creative solutions

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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.

to better meet the public's need for access to suitable toilet facilities and to have strategies that are built around the principles of co-production.

I would expect local authorities to continue to take every opportunity to talk to the public and representative groups about the challenges they face in accessing local toilet facilities and equally to key delivery partners, such as town and community councils, to listen to concerns and seek views and involvement in identifying and delivering potential sustainable solutions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jayne Bryant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jayne Bryant AS/MS

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