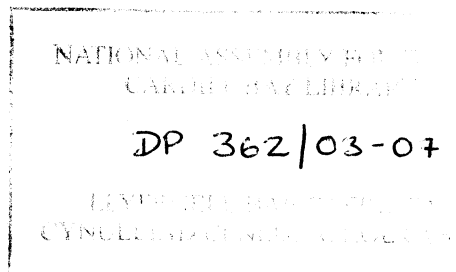


Our ref: WAQ26298, 26300, 26301



Brynle Williams AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

July 2003

Dear Brynle

The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Service's answer to your Welsh Assembly Questions No's 26298, 26300 and 26301 indicated that I would be writing to you as I have responsibility for residential mobile homes, or to use the preferred name, park homes.

The development of park home estates and their physical standards are controlled through planning permission granted for use as a "caravan site" (the legal term) and the site licensing system under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

Your questions raised a number of issues including fees for licences and whether the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 would be updated.

As you may know many of the issues surrounding park homes were very thoroughly considered by the Park Homes Working Party. The Working Party's report in 2000 made a number of recommendations for changes to the licensing arrangements for park home sites. The Government response to the report in 2001 undertook to issue good practice on park homes, which would address a number of the working party's recommendations. It also undertook to consider a number of legislative changes. This approach would apply equally in Wales and is supported by the Assembly Government.

Whilst there are currently no plans to introduce fees for the renewal of holiday/mobile home licences, good practice guidance has now been issued to local authorities in both Wales and England on the licensing of park home estates. This guidance may be equally relevant for holiday caravan sites.

As far as legislative changes are concerned we are working closely with colleagues in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister about the nature, extent and timing of any changes. Further announcements on this will be made in due course.

A copy of this reply will be placed on the intranet/internet.

[Signature]

