



Ein cyf/Our ref WQ81232

Dai Lloyd MS  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

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22 October 2020

Dear Dai,

Thank you for your Written Question WQ81232 of 9 October enquiring what action the Welsh Government is taking to eliminate the export overseas of local authority collected waste.

The Welsh Government set out our commitment to reducing overseas export of waste in Beyond Recycling: Making the circular economy a reality in Wales. Our aim is to be a zero-waste country by 2050 and the strategy sets out how we will take full responsibility for our waste.

Wales is the only country in the UK which mandates local authorities to use Waste Data Flow – a system for local authorities to record the end destination of their waste. The Welsh Government has also funded the provision of a detailed website showing where all of the recyclate recovered from waste collected by Local Authorities is managed, called ‘My Recycling Wales’. The most recent published data on the My Recycling Wales website shows 600,839 tonnes of recyclable material was recovered from waste in 2018-19. 55.7% stayed in Wales and 33.8% was transported to England. Of the 10.5% exported outside England and Wales, 3.7% stayed in the EU and only 6.8% was exported outside of the EU.

Natural Resources Wales are working closely with other UK regulators to ensure that waste exported for recycling is uncontaminated and only sent to overseas facilities that are correctly licensed and able to recycle the waste correctly. In parallel, Local Authorities have improved the collection and treatment of our recycling here in Wales, and are delivering cleaner, higher quality materials. This in turn means that they are better able to be recycled – both within our economy and in terms of improving the quality of the recyclate that is traded abroad.

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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.

In addition, the Circular Economy Fund has awarded £3.7 million to support businesses in Wales to use more of our recycled material as part of our action to grow the market and use more of this material within Wales. Further innovation support on resource efficiency and a more circular economy is available for Welsh businesses through the SMART programme.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'L' and 'G'.

**Lesley Griffiths AS/MS**

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs