

Julie James AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-05-864
Ein cyf/Our ref: JJ/00516/20

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair, Petitions Committee

Dear Janet,

16 April 2020

Thank you for your letter of 31 March, regarding the Petitions Committee's consideration of a petition calling for the ban on the use of hostile architecture in Wales, including the additional evidence you have received from charities working in the sector.

As I stated in my letter of 27 March 2019, I absolutely agree that the issues homeless people have to face should not be compounded by the design of new development and that those involved in designing public spaces should not actively seek to prevent homeless people finding rest or a place of safety. I would, however, repeat my opinion that it is difficult to regulate for a ban on the use of hostile architecture, as these considerations are best considered on a case by case basis by local planning authorities.

Since I last wrote to you on this matter, we have established a Placemaking Wales Partnership and are developing a Placemaking Wales Charter. This is a new collaborative initiative of organisations involved in shaping our built environment coming together to promote better places in Wales. The Placemaking Wales Charter consists of several principles, which the organisations involved will strive to adhere to in the implementation of placemaking. As the initiative develops, we hope it will grow and evolve to address more specific issues, such as hostile architecture, through the provision of training, guidance and the sharing of good practice. Placemaking Wales was due to be officially launched in March, but had to be postponed as a result of the Coronavirus. I hope to progress this work later in the year.

Yours sincerely,

Julie James AC/AM
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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.