



William Powell AM

William.powell@wales.gov.uk

23 January 2013

Dear William,

Re: Research on the impact of sky lantern and helium balloon releases.

I can confirm that the Welsh Government and Defra have jointly commissioned an independent research project to establish a substantial body of dependable evidence on the impact of sky lanterns and helium balloons on livestock, plants and the environment. The research will provide us with an evidence base to inform actions to mitigate the impact of balloon and sky lantern litter. It will report by the end of March this year.

The research study will include input from local authorities in England and Wales; veterinary and farming groups; Fire Services and HM Coastguard; Charities, for example the Keep Wales Tidy and Marine Conservation Society; Sky lantern manufacturers; local authorities and other EU Member States.

The desired outcomes from the investigation include:

- an assessment of the impacts of the various types of sky lanterns and helium balloons,
- an assessment of the numbers and types of incidences reported,
- a comparison between fireworks and sky lanterns in terms of the number of human accidents caused over the last couple of years,
- an assessment of measures that have already been taken by local authorities in England and Wales and in other EU Member States; and their effectiveness in addressing the impacts of sky lanterns and helium balloons,
- an evaluation of the current value of the market for sky lanterns and helium balloons in England and Wales and any trade implications.

The research study will be funded by Defra with a contribution from Welsh Government. The contract has been awarded to ADAS UK Ltd. ADAS is the UK's largest independent provider of science-based environmental and rural consultancy and contracting services to organisations in the private and public sectors.

**John Griffiths AC / AM**  
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy  
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

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*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

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