

Tuesday, 07 June 2011

Naomi Stocks
Clerk of the Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Naomi

Thank you for your letter dated 5th April 2011 regarding the Campaign for Dark Skies petition (P-03-260).

Regarding the information you have received to date, I remain disappointed by the responses from the Minister for Transport and the WLGA.

The WLGA mention the use of new lighting technology such as LED lanterns and dimming technology which could help local authorities reduce light pollution, however they state that the speed in which these improvements can be made are limited by the availability of funding. I accept that in the current financial climate local authorities have budgetary concerns; however, this issue needs to be considered in light of the long term savings that can be achieved by reducing energy costs.

It is also worth noting that new technologies are not the only answer to the problem, proper lighting design and shielding can also contribute to a reduction in light pollution.

The Minister for Transport states they have no intention of switching off any trunk road street lights. I would like to reiterate that we have never and will never call for the switching off a single necessary street light; however, there is a problem with poorly designed lighting on the trunk road network. The Minister refers to the use of full cut off street lighting; we would like to see this type lighting used as standard by every highways authority across Wales, including the Welsh Government.

'Street Lighting – Invest to Save' by the Institute of Lighting Engineers was mentioned by the Minister for the Environment, we believe this guidance could form the basis of guidance issued to local authorities and public bodies. CfDS have worked with the Institute of Lighting Engineers for many years and their expertise has helped improve lighting design ensuring light is directed to where it is needed.

As members of your committee will see from the correspondence to date, there is a lot of confusion on this issue; this is why we believe the best approach would be to issue national guidance

Thank you once again for your continuing support.

Kind regards,

Mark Major

Campaign for Dark Skies
Cardiff Astronomical Society