

Hannah Blythyn AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd
Minister for Environment



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref HB/00906/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff Bay
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06 November 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 25 September, regarding a petition to create water fountains in the centre of cities and towns to eliminate plastic waste. The Welsh Government is currently in the process of rolling out the Refill scheme across Wales in partnership with City to Sea.

Public water fountains are required to meet stringent requirements regarding their connection and construction, and they must meet and maintain drinking water quality standards as set by regulations. This would require ongoing investment, and means that any water fountain providing a supply of drinking water must have an owner responsible for meeting the drinking water standards. Any fountain without an owner would be switched off or potentially become a risk to public health. In practice this can be costly and unreliable.

The Refill model is based on it being free for all users, and its approach is to encourage businesses and organisations to offer free refilling facilities to members of the public. In return for signing up to become a Refill location, businesses are able to boost their green credentials and receive free publicity through the Refill App and social media. To date there are over 600 Refill points across Wales which are accessible to all members of the public.

The intention behind rolling out Refill across Wales is to trigger a behaviour change, with consumers seeing tap water as a premium product in itself. The two main water companies in Wales, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water and Hafren Dyfrdwy, are also supporting this initiative.

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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 to the Refill scheme Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water are looking to support this initiative by working with developers to assist them in providing suitable connection points for water fountains in new developments allowing easier maintenance should they be installed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hannah Blythyn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small mark at the end.

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