

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-06-1453
Ein cyf/Our ref: JMSHSC/11233/24

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru

petitions@senedd.wales

18 February 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter about petition *P-06-1453: Provide funding and support for the adequate provision of accessible and clean public toilets*. As the petitioners acknowledge, the Welsh Government has provided a clear statutory and strategic framework in this area. Local Toilet Strategies are subject to local authorities' existing scrutiny structures and public scrutiny. Any concerns should be raised directly with the local authority in the first instance and, if necessary, complaints can be escalated to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

Our [comprehensive statutory guidance](#) provides a strong foundation and covers in detail the issues raised by the Wales Seniors' Forum. This includes the wider public health impacts of inadequate access to public toilets, the importance of meaningful consultation, ways to engage with the public to identify local need, engagement with potential providers to deliver sustainable solutions and the importance of information and signage in a range of formats. In relation to signage, the National Toilet Logo was designed to meet disability requirements in respect of contrast and colour and the toilet symbol has been drawn from visual vocabulary systems in use for people with learning and cognitive disabilities.

The importance of collaboration with other public bodies is also made clear and this collaboration and sharing best practice can be undertaken through a range of forums. Organisations such as the Welsh Local Government Association and One Voice Wales can also play a key role in this.

While standalone public toilets in Wales receive 100% relief from business rates, there are no plans to provide business rates relief to businesses which make their toilets available to the public. Local authorities could choose to provide their own incentives and have a broad power to grant [discretionary relief](#), if it would be reasonable to do so having regard to the interests of local taxpayers. The cost of any such relief must be borne by the local authority.

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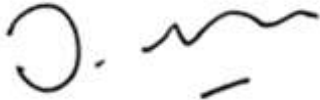
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

Core funding for local government is provided through the local government settlement. As you are aware, public finances have been highly constrained in recent years, but the Welsh Government has consistently prioritised funding for public services in making its budget decisions.

The Draft Budget 2025-26 increased the local government settlement to more than £6.1bn, an increase of 4.3%, compared to 2024-25. Decisions about local services and budgets are the responsibility of each local authority. The Final Budget will be published on 20 February.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

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