

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/06248/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair – Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

13 August 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 17 July asking for my views regarding a petition the committee has received calling for a ban on A board advertising in Wales.

In Wales there is legislation that local authorities can use to remove obstructions to the highway. For example, under Section 130 of the Highways Act it is the duty of the highway authority (which all local authorities are in Wales) to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of any highway. Also, under Section 137 of the Act, it is an offence to wilfully obstruct the free passage of the highway.

I am not convinced that there is sufficient evidence to suggest a need for specific and further action at a national level. In cases where A boards are being deployed irresponsibly, then there is capacity to deal with these at a local level and through the enforcement of existing regulations.

Disability Wales has been awarded grant funding of £537k over the 3 years 2017-20 from the Equality and Inclusion Grant to act as the representative body for disabled people and their organisations in Wales. This includes working with the Welsh Government and other public bodies to ensure the views of disabled people are heard. Disability Wales sit on a large number of our stakeholder groups and are frequently asked to advise on WG consultation documents.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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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.

The Disability Equality Forum, of which the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip is the Chair, will consider this issue at the next meeting in the autumn.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AC/AM

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Minister for Housing and Local Government