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/06705/19

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

11 November 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 14 October seeking further information on my view of the proposal that there should be a right for members of the public and the press to record and report on council meetings - in relation to community and town council meetings.

Like local authorities community and town council meetings must be open to the public, the press and public have a right to observe how community councils operate, unless sensitive issues are being discussed such as legal, contractual or personnel matters. The council can agree to exclude the press and public for just those items. Similarly it is a matter for each community or town council to determine the detailed arrangements for these meetings.

Councils are encouraged to set out the format for public participation in its standing orders, but it is a matter for each council, at its discretion, to decide the details of such arrangements, which could take account of any data protection or other security matters that may arise as a consequence.

As the petition has now closed, I look forward to seeing more about the overall level of support it attracted.

Yours sincerely,

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