



Janet Finch-Saunders MS|AS

Aelod Senedd Cymru dros Aberconwy
Member of the Welsh Parliament for Aberconwy



[REDACTED],
Wm Morrison Supermarkets plc,
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Via Email.

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Re: Sale of Disposable BBQs - Concerns

Dear [REDACTED],

I hope that this letter finds you and your team well.

Earlier this summer, firefighters in North Wales were called to three separate incidents caused by disposable barbecues in one day. In a statement, it was made clear that all three incidents occurred after people failed to get rid of their barbecues safely. I am now writing, in my capacity as the Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Member of the Welsh Parliament for Aberconwy, to call on your stores to stop selling such products, given the risk posed to the environment and public health.

The dangers of these disposable modern menaces are well-known - as these BBQs are portable, they may be used in unsuitable locations such as under trees or near long grass, bushes or fences which may easily catch fire. As the bottom of the barbecue can get extremely hot, and with prolonged dry weather over the summer, there is potential to damage the ground. They have been known to spark wildfires, and were found at the blaze that started at Wareham Forest on 18 May 2020 which burned for over six days and destroyed more than 220 hectares of forest and heathland. Likewise, if these products are placed in a bin before they are completely cool, they may set the bin or rubbish bag alight, causing unnecessary callouts for frontline services. This also underlines the fact that they are non-recyclable in an age when we should be prioritising the circular economy.

Similarly, these disposable products are also a potential hazard to human health at a time that our frontline services are facing considerable and prolonged pressures. Indeed, we know that disposable barbecues give off carbon monoxide when being used and continue to do so until they are completely cold. Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless, tasteless gas that, even in small quantities, prevents blood from providing essential oxygen to cells, tissues, and organs.

These dangers can be removed if action is taken to prevent their sale. Therefore, I am writing to your organisation to ask that you take a civic-minded, ecologically friendly leadership position and commit to discontinuing their sale during next year's summer season. Instead, I would like to encourage that customers be pointed towards portable BBQs which are reusable, better designed to protect the surrounding environment and often hold a number of public safety features.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS