Dear Dr Bevan

Thank you for your letter of 27 May on behalf of environmental and health organisations, calling for a UK ban on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) chemicals.

The Welsh Government recognises the widespread concerns that exist around this family of highly persistent substances. Together with the other UK REACH appropriate authorities, we initiated a regulatory management options analysis (RMOA) for PFAS as a priority action under the first UK REACH work programme following EU exit. You will be aware that the HSE, working with the Environment Agency, has run a call for evidence to inform this work. I trust that you and your partner organisations took the opportunity to feed into the findings and proposals, which are due to be submitted to government shortly.

I understand the RMOA report is due to be published in the next few months. Officials in the Welsh, Scottish and UK Governments will closely review its findings and proposals before advising Ministers on the options for regulatory action across Great Britain.

I realise that representatives of non-governmental organisations are in close regular contact with officials in all three GB administrations in relation to the UK REACH work programme, potential improvements to UK REACH itself, and the development of a wider UK Chemicals Strategy. I would like to see this working relationship maintained and strengthened as post-EU chemicals regulation in Great Britain takes shape over the coming years.

Yours sincerely

Julie James
AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change

28 June 2022