



**UNDEB AMAETHWYR CYMRU**  
**FARMERS' UNION OF WALES**  
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Ein Cyl/Our ref: PAG/LH  
Dyddiad/Date: 29 October 2013

Eich Cyl/Your ref:

**To: All Chief Executives of Local Authorities in Wales**

Dear Sir/Madam

**SKY LANTERNS**

At a recent meeting of the Union's Land Use and Parliamentary Committee, members discussed the issue of Sky lanterns and the impact they have on farming and livestock.

It was agreed to write to you to highlight the considerable dangers Sky lanterns pose to livestock through the ingestion of parts of these lanterns or the fire risk posed to standing arable crops or harvested crops stored in fields or barns.

The Union's policy on Sky lanterns calls for an outright ban to be placed on their manufacture and sale and for their release to be made illegal in the United Kingdom.

Farming is not the only industry to be concerned at the potential risks of Sky lanterns and we are aware that some fire services and coastguard stations have called for Sky lanterns to be banned.

As part of its lobbying for an outright ban, the Union has actively encouraged retailers and the public not to stock or use Sky lanterns, and Committee has welcomed the positive actions of some Authorities, such as Conwy Borough Council, to ban the release of the lanterns from its own land.

Given the risks posed by Sky lanterns, I have been asked to seek clarification on your Authority's position on this issue and to urge you to proactively ban their release on your own land.

I look forward to receiving your reply in due course.

Yours faithfully

**ANDREW GURNEY**  
Policy Officer (Land Use)

