

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

This meeting can be viewed

Video Conference via Zoom

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

Meeting date: Monday, 7 March 2022

<http://senedd.tv/en/12651>

Meeting time: 14.01 – 15.10

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Jack Sargeant MS (Chair) Luke Fletcher MS Joel James MS Buffy Williams MS
Witnesses:	Eleri James, Welsh Language Commissioner Gwenith Price, Welsh Language Commissioner
Committee Staff:	Gareth Price (Clerk) Mared Llwyd (Second Clerk) Samiwel Davies (Legal Adviser)

1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies.

Luke Fletcher declared that he is a member of Greyhound Rescue Wales.



2 Evidence Session – P-06-1207 Start referring to Welsh cities and towns by their Welsh names

The Committee heard evidence from Gwenith Price, Deputy Welsh Language Commissioner and Eleri James, senior policy, infrastructure and research officer with the Welsh Language Commissioner's office.

3 New Petitions

3.1 P-06-1240 Improve health services for people with epilepsy living in Wales

Jack Sargeant MS declared the following relevant interest under Standing Order 17.24A:

He knows the petitioner and launched the all-Wales adult first seizure and epilepsy management pathway in the Senedd last year.

The Committee noted the response and agreed to write back to the Minister to ask what the plans are to increase the number and spread of epilepsy specialist nurses across Wales.

3.2 P-06-1247 We call on the Welsh Government to lead the way by supporting trials of a four-day week in Wales

Jack Sargeant MS and Luke Fletcher MS declared the following relevant interest under Standing Order 17.24A:

They both know the petitioner.

The Committee considered the petition and agree to undertake a short inquiry and to gather evidence from a diverse range of witnesses.

3.3 P-06-1251 Secure the Right to Remote Access for Disabled and Neurodivergent People

Joel James MS declared the following relevant interest under Standing Order 17.24A:

He knows a family members who has fibromyalgia.

The Committee considered the correspondence received and agreed to write to Higher Education Funding Council for Wales asking how they have supported Universities and colleges and ask what discussions have there been about making as many courses as possible accessible through remote access.

3.4 P-06-1253 Ban greyhound racing in Wales

Luke Fletcher declared the following relevant interest under Standing Order 17.24A:

He is a member of Greyhound Rescue Wales.

The Committee considered the petition and agree to take evidence and hold a short inquiry.

4 Updates to previous petitions

4.1 P-05-1106 Introduce Personal Health Budgets and Personalised Care in Wales

The Committee considered the correspondence received and agreed to

- write to the experts named by the petitioner to seek their views on the petition to shape the letter to the Minister
- write back to the Minister to share the petitioner's disappointment and the analysis from the experts

- seek clarification about whether there will be an expectation for Local Health Boards to provide joint packages and commission Independent User Trusts and what guidance and support will be in place to ensure this happens; and
- Given that the legislation is the barrier, ask why steps are not being taken to amend the flawed legislation.

4.2 P-06-1200 Make horse tethering, with or without shelter, illegal and an act of cruelty in Wales

The Committee noted that the Minister has provided more detail on how they plan to progress with their animal welfare commitments, including improving the training and skills of local authority enforcement officers and that the Welsh Government are working with enforcement agencies, animal welfare organisations and intend to consult on their priorities. The Committee therefore agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

4.3 P-06-1228 Give secondary teachers a bonus for marking and standardizing summer 2021 official assessments

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to:

- ask Qualifications Wales to clarify why the research report on this issue is being delayed until May; and
- wait for the publication of the research report by Qualifications Wales to have a clearer overview of the experiences of teachers across Wales, before deciding what further action can be taken

4.4 P-06-1230 Every Second Counts: Install a defibrillator at every school in Wales for the public to access

Since the Minister has provided a further response regarding access to funding, stating that the potential of further funding is being considered and that the Welsh Government will also consider promoting this through school and colleges networks, the Committee agreed to thank the petitioner and close the petition.

4.5 P-05-949 SAVE COWBRIDGE OLD GIRLS' SCHOOL FROM DEMOLITION

The Committee acknowledges and applauds the tireless campaigning undertaken by the petitioner throughout this process. Following the debate in the Senedd on 16 February members concluded that they have done all that they can to support this petition, and therefore agreed to now close the petition and thank the petitioner.

5 Paper to Note – Letter & report from Children, Young People and Education Committee regarding engagement with children and young people about the Committee's 6 the Senedd priorities

The paper was noted.

6 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from item 7 of the meeting

The Motion was agreed.

7 Discussion of evidence – P-06-1207 Start referring to Welsh cities and towns by their Welsh names

The Committee considered the evidence received and agreed to write to the Welsh Government highlighting the need for clarity regarding place names and their use. The evidence highlighted the complex arrangements in Wales and the lack of statutory powers to implement recommendations. A review of the current picture and all those who contribute is required before recommendations can be made to address this situation and protect and agree on names in Wales. The Committee also agreed to draw this to the attention of the relevant Senedd Committees.