

Agenda – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 22 March 2023

Meeting time: 13.30

129(v3)

This meeting will be held in a hybrid format, with some Members in the Senedd Chamber and others joining by video-conference.

1 Questions to the Minister for Finance and Local Government (45 mins)

The Presiding Officer will call party spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Minister after Question 2.

[View Questions](#)

2 Questions to the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd (45 mins)

The Presiding Officer will call party spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Minister after Question 2.

[View Questions](#)

3 Topical Questions (20 mins)

To ask the Deputy Minister for Climate Change

[Jack Sargeant \(Alyn and Deeside\)](#): What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the impact on Wales of the UK Government's decision to class Northern Powerhouse Rail as an England and Wales project?



4 90 Second Statements

(5 mins)

5 Member Debate under Standing Order 11.21(iv) – Prepayment meters and energy advice services

(60 mins)

NDM8219 [Jack Sargeant \(Alyn and Deeside\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Believes that:

- a) it is a national scandal that 600,000 people were forced onto prepayment meters in 2022 because they could not afford their energy bills;
- b) energy regulator Ofgem has failed to protect vulnerable households by allowing energy suppliers to bypass proper checks;
- c) those forced on to a prepay meter should be properly compensated by energy suppliers and switched back free of charge.

2. Notes that:

- a) 3.2 million people were cut off from energy last year due to running out of credit on their prepay meter;
- b) average household energy bills could rise even further, placing an additional burden on households already struggling due to the cost-of-living crisis.

3. Acknowledges the Welsh Government's 2021–22 in-home energy advice pilot, providing proactive advice and outreach support to people who are, or at risk of being, in fuel poverty.

4. Calls on the Welsh Government to roll out an in-home energy advice service across Wales to ensure all households can access the support and advice they need.

Supporters

[Alun Davies \(Blaenau Gwent\)](#)

[Carolyn Thomas \(North Wales\)](#)

[Delyth Jewell \(South Wales East\)](#)

[Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

[Jane Dodds \(Mid and West Wales\)](#)

[Jayne Bryant \(Newport West\)](#)

[Joyce Watson \(Mid and West Wales\)](#)

[Llyr Gruffydd \(North Wales\)](#)

[Luke Fletcher \(South Wales West\)](#)

[Mike Hedges \(Swansea East\)](#)

[Peredur Owen Griffiths \(South Wales East\)](#)

[Rhianon Passmore \(Islwyn\)](#)

[Rhys ab Owen \(South Wales Central\)](#)

[Sarah Murphy \(Bridgend\)](#)

[Sioned Williams \(South Wales West\)](#)

[Vikki Howells \(Cynon Valley\)](#)

6 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Minister for Health and Social Services

(60 mins)

NDM8231 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Has no confidence in the Welsh Government's Minister for Health and Social Services.

7 Plaid Cymru Debate – Bus emergency scheme

(60 mins)

NDM8229 [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes that the Government's written evidence to Senedd scrutiny committees on allocations within each main expenditure group specified that the £28 million that constituted the bus emergency scheme in 2022–23 would be matched in

2023–24, but that bus operators were then informed that there was no guarantee of any funding from 1 April 2023 for the bus emergency scheme.

2. Notes that the 3–month extension to the bus emergency scheme offers little certainty to bus operators to maintain key services and routes in their area in the long–term.

3. Expresses concern that failing to extend bus emergency scheme funding would result in mass cancellations of services, leaving communities across Wales – primarily rural communities – isolated.

4. Calls on the Welsh Government to extend bus emergency scheme funding for at least 18 months to provide longer–term financial security to bus operators across Wales.

5. Calls on the Welsh Government to bring forward longer–term secure funding options to maintain bus services, as opposed to emergency funding schemes.

[Ministers' written evidence to Senedd scrutiny committees on allocations within each MEG](#)

The following amendment was tabled:

Amendment 1 [Lesley Griffiths \(Wrexham\)](#)

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Acknowledges that the Welsh Government has made over £150m of additional funding available to the bus industry throughout the pandemic and to support its recovery from it.

2. Notes that bus passenger numbers have not recovered to pre–pandemic levels and patterns of usage have changed.

3. Notes that the initial 3–month extension to the bus emergency scheme offers short–term certainty to bus operators to support the development of a base bus network.

4. Supports the Welsh Government’s longer term plans to reform the bus industry through regulation.

5. Supports the Welsh Government's intention to move away from emergency-style funding at the earliest opportunity to a funding package that supports the transition to franchising.

8 Voting Time

9 Short Debate

(30 mins)

NDM8223 [Rhys ab Owen \(South Wales Central\)](#)

Fire safety in high-rise flats: a clear timetable for remediation for residents

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 28 March 2023

Agenda Item 1

Oral Questions tabled on 14/03/2023 for answer on 22/03/2023

The Presiding Officer will call party spokespeople to ask questions without notice after Question 2.

MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Sian Gwenllian *Arfon*

1 OQ59302 (w)

How will the Welsh Government support the successful efforts taking place in Arfon and elsewhere to attract more women to be county councillors?

Russell George *Montgomeryshire*

2 OQ59305 (e)

How is the Welsh Government supporting local authorities to provide access to local crematoriums?

Sarah Murphy *Bridgend*

3 OQ59301 (e)

What steps is the Welsh Government taking to encourage talented people to work in local government given the impact of the cost-of-living crisis?

Jack Sargeant *Alyn and Deeside*

4 OQ59293 (e)

How is the Welsh Government working with local government colleagues to divest public sector pension funds from fossil fuel investments?

Hefin David *Caerphilly*

5 OQ59320 (e)

What assessment has the Minister made of the financial legacy of the use of the private finance initiative in Wales?

Rhun ap Iorwerth *Ynys Môn*

6 OQ59316 (w)

What discussions has the Minister had with the Minister for Economy about additional financial support for Isle of Anglesey County Council following the announcement by the 2 Sisters Food Group regarding the closure of its site in Llangefni?

Darren Millar *Clwyd West*

7 OQ59306 (e)

Will the Minister make a statement on council tax rises in North Wales?

Vikki Howells *Cynon Valley*

8

OQ59287 (e)

What consideration did the Minister give to funding interventions that enable Welsh councils to tackle the impact of poverty in preparing the Government's budget for 2023-24?

Ken Skates *Clwyd South*

9

OQ59298 (e) *Withdrawn*

Will the Minister make a statement on the impact of high inflation on the funding of public services?

Jayne Bryant *Newport West*

10

OQ59321 (e)

What assessment has the Minister made of the impact of the UK Chancellor's spring budget on Wales?

Mike Hedges *Swansea East*

11

OQ59284 (e)

Will the Minister provide an update on the Welsh Government's invest-to-save programme?

Peredur Owen Griffiths *South Wales East*

12

OQ59308 (e)

How does the Government ensure it has the statistics it needs to inform policy?

MINISTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS AND NORTH WALES, AND TREFNYDD

Janet Finch-Saunders *Aberconwy*

1

OQ59294 (e)

What discussions has the Minister had with the Minister for Economy regarding the north Wales growth deal?

Altaf Hussain *South Wales West*

2

OQ59280 (e)

Will the Minister outline the Welsh Government's strategy for the delivery of community green spaces?

Vikki Howells *Cynon Valley*

3 OQ59286 (e)

Will the Minister outline the Welsh Government's priorities for improving the welfare of domestic animals in Cynon Valley?

Peter Fox *Monmouth*

4 OQ59303 (e)

What action is the Welsh Government taking to protect bees?

Hefin David *Caerphilly*

5 OQ59319 (e)

Will the Minister make a statement on the forthcoming consultation on the future of greyhound racing in Wales?

Sian Gwenllian *Arfon*

6 OQ59297 (w)

What discussions has the Minister held with the Minister for Health and Social Services about a mother and baby unit for north Wales that would serve the people of Arfon?

Rhys ab Owen *South Wales Central*

7 OQ59296 (w)

What assessment has the Minister made of the effectiveness of rural development fund spending on the Down to Earth project?

Sarah Murphy *Bridgend*

8 OQ59300 (e)

Does the Minister have any plans to regulate cat breeding?

Llyr Gruffydd *North Wales*

9 OQ59312 (w)

Will the Minister provide an update on the Government's efforts to revive the rural economy?

Peredur Owen Griffiths *South Wales East*

10 OQ59307 (e)

What is the Government doing to promote animal welfare in South Wales East?

Samuel Kurtz *Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire*

11

OQ59292 (e)

Will the Minister provide an update on rural development programme expenditure?

Mabon ap Gwynfor *Dwyfor Meirionnydd*

12

OQ59310 (e)

What steps is the Welsh Government taking to facilitate the microchipping of cats and dogs?