

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

[INSERT LOCATION]

Meeting date: Monday, 15 May 2023

Meeting time: 14.00 – 16.30

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/13339>

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Jack Sargeant MS (Chair) Rhys ab Owen MS Luke Fletcher MS Joel James MS Buffy Williams MS
Witnesses:	Neil Kenward, Ofgem Chris O'Shea, Centrica Dhara Vyas, Energy UK Andrew Ward, Scottish Power Retail
Committee Staff:	Gareth Price (Clerk) Mared Llwyd (Second Clerk)

1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions – Petitions Committee

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.



2 Evidence session 1 – P-06-1326 The Senedd should scrutinise the prepayment meter scandal in Wales

The Committee questioned Neil Kenward from Ofgem on the prepayment meter scandal in Wales.

3 Evidence session 2 – P-06-1326 The Senedd should scrutinise the prepayment meter scandal in Wales

The Committee questioned representatives from energy companies on the prepayment meter scandal in Wales.

4 New Petitions

4.1 P-06-1324 BCUHB has failed the people of North Wales and should be disbanded into smaller units

The Committee considered the petition and noted that the Minister is not in favour of breaking up Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. The Committee acknowledged the concern over patient outcomes and noted that this issue has been discussed extensively both in plenary and in the Public Accounts and Public Administration, and Health committees. In light of, this they decided to thank the petitioner and close the petition.

4.2 P-06-1327 Leisure Centre amenities free for children

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to the WLGA to seek a best estimate of the cost of providing free leisure centre services for young people. The Committee decided to consider the impact of the petition across many policy areas such as health and activities for young people.

4.3 P-06-1328 Ensure that all social care workers in Wales are paid the new Real Living Wage (£10.90) immediately

The Committee considered the petition. As the Government is supportive of the idea, and has invested to deliver the real living wage, the Committee decided to congratulate the petitioners and close the petition.

4.4 P-06-1329 Set an ambition and a clear timetable to give every child in the country Welsh-medium education

The Committee considered the petition and decided to await the outcome of the Senedd Culture Committee's WESP report (due to be published later this month) and the Welsh Government's white paper consultation.

4.5 P-06-1330 We call on the Welsh Government to reject their proposals for a council tax revaluation

The Committee considered the petition and noted that there will be a further consultation and full legislative process before any proposal is introduced. The Committee decided to await the publication of the results of the public consultation before closing the petition.

4.6 P-06-1332 Fund vaccine research to protect red squirrels from deadly Squirrelpox virus

The Committee considered the petition and thanked the petitioner. The Committee agreed to seek time from Business Committee for a debate in plenary on this petition.

5 Updates to previous petitions

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

The Committee considered the petition and noted that the Welsh Government has recognised this as an issue and are in the process of trying to address it. The Committee agreed to keep the petition open and welcome the offer of further progress updates from the Deputy Minister.

5.2 P-06-1213 Ban leisure use of Seadoo/jet ski in Cymru. Except in strictly controlled designated areas

The Committee considered the petition and decided that, as the Minister has decided not to legislate in this area, there was nothing more they could do other than thank the petition and close the petition.

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

The Committee considered the petition and noted that there had been a lively debate in the Chamber on this topic the week before. The Committee decided to keep the petition open pending the work of the Workforce Partnership Council and its report anticipated in November.

5.4 P-06-1294 Don't leave metastatic breast cancer patients in Wales behind

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to ask the Minister to respond to the comments and questions received from Tassia and encourage the Minister to meet with Tassia who has campaigned tirelessly on behalf of metastatic breast cancer patients.

5.5 P-06-1303 Create, fund and sustain sufficient affordable nursery and childcare places for all working parents

The Committee noted that an independent review of the 2022 Child Care Sufficiency Assessments is due to be published shortly and agreed to keep the petition open pending that publication.

5.6 P-06-1325 Lower the speed limit on the A5 through Glasfryn

The Committee noted the Minister's commitment to review the speed limit once new guidance has been issued, and agreed there was little else the Committee could do at this point. They closed the petition and thanked the petitioner.

6 Papers to note

The papers were noted.

- 6.1 Paper to note – P-06-1161 Routine collection and publication of data of how many babies/children return to their care experienced parents care at the end of a Parent and Child Placement**
- 6.2 Paper to note – P-06-1272 Ban the use of 'no pet clauses' in tenancy agreements in Wales**
- 6.3 Paper to note – P-06-1297 Stop "Controlled Burning" in Wales**
- 6.4 Paper to note – P-06-1326 The Senedd should scrutinise the prepayment meter scandal in Wales**
- 7 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting**

The motion was agreed.

- 8 Discussion of evidence – P-06-1326 The Senedd should scrutinise the prepayment meter scandal in Wales**

The Committee considered the evidence it had heard and next steps.

- 9 Annual Report: Outline structure**

The Committee noted the proposed structure.