

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee room 3

Meeting date: Monday, 13 November
2023

Meeting time: 14.00 – 15.31

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/13554>

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Jack Sargeant MS (Chair) Rhys ab Owen MS Joel James MS Peredur Owen Griffiths MS Buffy Williams MS
Witnesses:	David Blackwell, St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, Barry and Chair of the vale of Glamorgan Education Budget Forum Matthew Gilbert, Barry Island Primary School Laurence Matuszczyk, Merthyr Tydfil School Governor Association Dr Martin Price, Vale School Governor Association
Committee Staff:	Mared Llwyd (Second Clerk) Kayleigh Imperato (Deputy Clerk)



- 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**
- 2 Evidence session – P-06-1358 Review the inadequate funding for Schools in Wales**

The Committee heard evidence from Dr Martin Price, Chair of Vale School Governor Association, Laurence Matuszczyk, Chair of Merthyr Tydfil School Governor Association, David Blackwell, Headteacher of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, Barry and Chair of the vale of Glamorgan Education Budget Forum and Matthew Gilbert, Headteacher, Barry Island Primary School.

3 New Petitions

3.1 P-06-1360 Build a simple slip-road between the M48 westbound and M4 eastbound at Rogiet

The Committee considered the correspondence from the Welsh Government and noted that there are no plans to introduce a slip road in this location, and that this particular issue would not meet the criteria for funding for new roads following the Roads Review.

In light of this Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

3.2 P-06-1364 Dentistry crisis in Wales. Ensure all adults and children have access to a dentist

The Committee considered the petition and given that detailed scrutiny has already been undertaken by the Health and Social Care Committee within the last year, and the Welsh Government accepted most of their report recommendations, it is unclear what else the Committee could do at present to add further value.

In light of this Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner for highlighting this important issue.

3.3 P-06-1365 Re-open railway lines to connect the north and south of Wales

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to wait for the Welsh Government's response to the petition before deciding on the next step to take.

3.4 P-06-1366 Reinstate funding for Taf Valley Coaches 351 (Tenby to Pendine) and 352 (Tenby to Kilgetty) services

The Committee considered the petition and welcomed the Deputy Minister's confirmation that these two routes will be considered closely by Transport for Wales as part of their discussions with local authorities. Members agreed to write back to the Minister to request an update is provided on the outcome of the discussion regarding these specific routes.

3.5 P-06-1368 The Welsh Govt should take steps to save the Environmental Information Regulations in relation to Wales

The Committee thanked the students for submitting their petition, and for sharing their detailed, technical analysis which makes a series of recommendations to amend the Environmental Information Regulations in the future.

Members agreed to write to the Welsh Government sharing the petitioners correspondence, and to request answers to the questions outlined in their response.

Additionally, Members agreed to highlight the petition and share the petitioners correspondence with the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee, who are currently monitoring these regulations.

3.6 P-06-1369 Use only Welsh names for places in Wales

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to the Welsh Language Commissioner asking for an update on protecting Welsh names for places in Wales.

Joel James, MS, noted that he doesn't support the crux of the petition.

3.7 P-06-1370 Save overnight minor injuries provision at Nevill Hall Hospital in Abergavenny

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

The petitioner is known to him.

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to raise awareness of the petition, ask them to include it as part of consultation responses and ask what their plans and timescale for decision making following the closure of the public consultation, which has been extended to 1 December.

3.8 P-06-1373 Stop Welsh Government Wasting £4million on Skyline private development Kilvey Hill, Swansea

The Committee considered the petition and noted the strength of feeling and the detailed work by campaigners.

Members agreed to highlight the petition to the local authority and ask for an update on what is being done on the issue

3.9 P-06-1375 Initiate an early senedd election

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to wait for the Welsh Government's response before deciding on the next step to take including consideration of whether to request a debate in plenary.

4 Updates to previous petitions

4.1 P-06-1356 Introduce comprehensive safety measures at the A477 'Fingerpost' junction

The Chair provided an update to the Committee on his recent visit to the A477 'Fingerpost' junction site where he met with the local Senedd Member, Sam Kurtz, along with campaigners, local councillors, and representatives from Simon Hart's office.

Members agreed to await the outcome of the debate which is scheduled to take place on 22 November.

5 Paper to note – P-06-1326 The Senedd should scrutinise the prepayment meter scandal in Wales

The paper was noted.

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

The motion was agreed.

7 Discussion of evidence – P-06-1358 Review the inadequate funding for Schools in Wales

The Committee discussed the evidence heard.