

Agenda – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: 8 March 2016

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

Steve George – Committee Clerk

Kath Thomas – Deputy Clerk

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1 Introduction, apologies and substitutions

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Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales

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Agenda Item 2.1

P-04-681 Allow Public Recording of Local Government Meetings

In Wales

This petition was submitted by Michael John Powell, having collected 186 signatures.

Text of the Petition

We the undersigned ask that the Welsh Government gives the people and electors of Wales the same ability to record their Local Government meetings as their English counterparts have.

Additional Information:

The detailed provisions are contained in the secondary legislation made under the 2000 Act, that is the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. The regulations were enacted in September 2012 and announced on the Department for Communities and Local Government website.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Pontypridd
- South Wales Central



Eich cyf/Your ref P—04-681
Ein cyf/Our ref LA -/00033/16

William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
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26 January 2016

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 19 January regarding a petition from Councillor Mike John Powell calling for the public recording of Local Government meetings in Wales.

I encourage all Local Authorities to allow, when possible, access to their proceedings and I am pleased to see that broadcasting of council meetings is now a regular practice in many Local Authorities. I consider the public should also have a right to report live from these meetings through live blogging or using social media.

Our plans to reform broadcasting and engagement are set out in the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill 2016, which was published for consultation in November. The Draft Bill contains proposals to make it compulsory for Local Authorities to make arrangements to broadcast their full council and executive meetings and giving the public a right to report live from council proceedings. These provisions are designed to promote democracy and transparency, and make council meetings more accessible to the public.

Yours sincerely,


Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus
Minister for Public Services

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Pack Page 22

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Agenda Item 2.2

P-04-682 Routine Screening for Type 1 Diabetes in Children and Young People

This petition was submitted by Anthony Cook, having collected 2,570 signatures.

Text of the Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to introduce routine screening for Type 1 Diabetes in children and young people.

In January of this year we tragically lost our beloved 13-year-old grandson, Peter Baldwin, to Type 1 diabetes that had been undetected until it was too late to save him. Peter was a well-loved and highly respected pupil at Whitchurch High School in Cardiff where he is greatly missed but for his family the hurt is unimaginable.

Our daughter Beth was recently presented with an award from The Pride of Britain for her fundraising efforts and for raising awareness of this terrible illness but with your help, and that of your friends and family we can really make a difference.

Please spare a couple of minutes to sign our petition calling on the Welsh Government to introduce a screening programme and to raise the profile of the need to check for Type 1 Diabetes in anyone presented to a health care professional with unexplained flu-like symptoms or general feeling of being unwell. The test involved is merely a finger prick or urine sample and takes less time than you have spent reading this paragraph; it also only

costs pennies. It is our intention to make this test as routine within GP surgeries and clinics as temperature and blood pressure checks presently are.

Your signature on this petition really could help save lives and prevent further terrible loss within families.

Additional Information:

The ideal standard would be for screening of all youngsters in order to catch this stealthy condition in the early stages. Many parts of the world are seeing the benefit of this screening and are now introducing it, the most recent being North Carolina in the U.S. Below is a link to the North Carolina implementation.

<http://insulinnation.com/living/reegans-rule-passes-north-carolina/>

The devolved Scottish Parliament is ahead of the rest of the U.K. and is already committed to debate the issue and appear very likely to implement screening. We want this for our children in Wales and are calling on the Welsh Government to introduce screening at the earliest opportunity.

PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION AND SHARE IT FAR AND WIDE

(now give yourself a pat on the back, you may have saved a child's life)

A petition campaigning for this change across the UK is currently collecting signatures on Change.org:

<https://www.change.org/p/craig-williams-mp-screen-children-for-type-1-diabetes>

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff North
- South Wales Central



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-682
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/00196/16

William Powell AM
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12 February 2016

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter dated 19 January regarding petition P-04-682.

The loss of a child is heart-breaking and I share the Cook and Baldwin families' ambition to ensure future cases of type 1 diabetes in children and young people are identified at an early stage.

Our diabetes delivery plan was launched in 2013 and outlines our approach to diagnosing and treating diabetes. The plan aims to ensure GPs, practice nurses and school nurses are aware of type 1 diabetes and can identify its signs and symptoms. This action is being taken forward by health board diabetes delivery plans and the national diabetes implementation group, which is considering an awareness campaign for the coming year.

In respect of introducing routine screening for the condition, the UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) provides independent, expert advice to all UK Ministers about national population screening. All population-based, pre-symptomatic screening programmes are developed and delivered using the best available evidence and are subject to regular review. Population screening programmes should only be offered where there is robust, high-quality evidence that screening will do more good than harm and be cost effective within the overall NHS budget. Sufficient evidence is required for conditions to be reviewed against the agreed criteria for the development of national screening programmes.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The UK NSC has not made any recommendations in relation to screening for type 1 diabetes at any age, because unlike type 2 diabetes, the onset can be swift and is not therefore suitable to be detected by intermittent testing of individuals with no symptoms.

Prompt diagnosis once an individual shows signs of type 1 diabetes is a more effective approach. I have asked my officials to liaise with the all-Wales paediatric diabetes network in order to ensure all appropriate steps are being taken to ensure early diagnosis of type 1 diabetes in children and young people.

I will write to you again once this advice has been received.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Mark".

Mark Drakeford AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Welsh Assembly Petition submission P-04-682

(Anthony Cook/ Beth & Stuart Baldwin)



Campaign to prevent late diagnosis of Type 1 diabetes

Peter's Story

Peter Baldwin turned 13 on 10th December 2014; he loved life, school and his friends. He was a fit, healthy teenager who had the world at his feet. As Christmas approached Peter got a winter cold which seemed to be worsening so we called the GP for advice and got an appointment on 31st December as by this time Peter was very unwell. The GP diagnosed a chest infection and gave us antibiotics. No finger prick blood test was offered or discussed. I explained that Peter was sleeping and drinking lots. We now know that these are two of the four symptoms of Type 1 diabetes.

24 hours later, at 4.30pm on New Year's Day, we called the out of hours GP and explained we were very concerned about Peter who seemed to be deteriorating, with laboured breathing and a delirium. After insisting this was VERY URGENT we were transferred to 999 which was engaged for a short time. I, Beth Peter's mum then asked for an ambulance, which I had to be very direct about, the operator kept asking if I deemed it necessary and was it that much of an emergency. Thank goodness I stuck to my guns (many at this point would've given in and thought they were wasting the callers time) the rapid response paramedic arrived shortly and the very first thing he did after giving Peter some oxygen was prick his finger. He diagnosed Peter on the spot with Type 1 Diabetes; it took less than 30 seconds. The paramedic called an ambulance immediately and within less than 15 minutes we were in the resuscitation department in UHW and Peter was being given the right care.

Had the GP pricked Peter's finger we would have had a 24 hour head start & Peter's body would have had more chance to recover from the life-threatening state of diabetic ketoacidosis.

Please make GP/Healthcare professional testing for Type 1 Diabetes (finger prick) mandatory when presented with a child who has an illness that could be masking the symptoms of Type 1.

Yours in hope,

Beth, Stuart & Lia Baldwin

The outcome for our family can't change but we can change the outcome for another family with your support.

We are calling for mandatory testing in primary care by GPs and other healthcare professionals for Type 1 diabetes when a child presents with unexplained flu-like symptoms or a general feeling of being unwell. The finger prick blood test provides an instant result and is incredibly low-cost.

Viruses and infections can mask the symptoms of Type 1 diabetes, exacerbating the condition with potentially fatal consequences. The symptoms are embodied in Diabetes UK's campaign, the 4Ts (toilet/thirsty/tired/thinner). Identification of the symptoms is time critical and so we propose that healthcare professionals test in the following scenarios:

- IF ANY of the 4T'S are present (on their own, in combination or all together).
- IF the child is lethargic and has shallow breathing.
- If the child has a fever/chest infection/cold/ flu/virus or ANY common ailment.

Background

1 in 400 children has Type 1 diabetes (approximately 1,500 in Wales). Of those who are diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, 16% will be in the fatal stage of having diabetic ketoacidosis. This rises to 24% in the under 5s age category.

We understand that many GPs will carry out the finger prick blood test, but this not standardised in GP procedures and can lead to misdiagnosis/non-diagnosis or a diagnosis when it is too late, as in Peter's case.

Current guidance/protocol: NICE Guidance (2015)

Recently updated NICE Guidance in this area suggests that healthcare professionals should measure capillary blood glucose at presentation in children and young people **without** known diabetes who have increased thirst, polyuria (increased frequency of passing urine), recent unexplained weight loss or excessive tiredness **and** any of the following:

- nausea or vomiting
- abdominal pain
- hyperventilation
- dehydration
- reduced level of consciousness.

If the plasma glucose level is above 11 mmol/litre in a child or young person without known diabetes, and they have symptoms that suggest diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), suspect DKA and immediately send them to a hospital with acute paediatric facilities.

What do we want to achieve-

To reduce the number of children presenting with diabetic ketoacidosis (currently 500 per annum in the UK)

In light of recently updated NICE guidance, we are calling for a **mandatory** duty for all GPs and healthcare professionals in a primary care setting to carry out the finger prick blood test for all children who present to them with an illness that could be masking Type 1.

Short term Goals-

- Make Type 1 testing mandatory
- GP and health care professional training on the dangers of misdiagnosis
- Aim for 100% participation in the National Diabetes Audit response to monitor Type 1 testing
- Public health campaign on awareness & dangers

Long term Goals:

The ideal standard would be to screen all babies from birth to see if they carry the antibodies which can increase their risk of type 1 diabetes onset.

Response to the Minister for Health & Social Services, Mark Drakeford AM's letter

The letter raises some key activities being carried out by the Welsh Government, which I would like to respond to in turn below:

1. Together for Health: A Diabetes Delivery Plan (2013)

Point 7.3 *Detecting Diabetes Quickly* states that the Welsh Government will

‘Work with primary care and allied healthcare professionals to raise their awareness of the risks and symptoms of diabetes and explore innovative approaches for early detection’.

Whilst we welcome this key point, I do not see a commitment/procedure to test for Type 1 outlined or mentioned in the plan.

2. The Health Board Diabetes Delivery Plans

The individual, localised health board diabetes delivery plans do not include information on how this is being achieved either (as stated by the Minister). We would hope to see an all-Wales approach to this issue to avoid variability and to ensure that each child receives the same service wherever they live in Wales.

3. All Wales Diabetes Implementation Group

The Minister states also that the All Wales Diabetes Implementation Group is carrying this work forward. I have checked with Diabetes UK and they have advised that the Group will measure the awareness levels of

GP, practice nurses and school nurses who are aware of the symptoms of Type 1. This is positive news and I would like to know more about how this will be done to support the proposal of testing in primary care.

4. Children & Young People's Wales Diabetes Network

We appreciate the work undertaken by this network and look forward to the response that the Minister receives from them in how they plan to ensure early diagnosis of Type 1 diabetes in children and young people.

5. National Screening Committee (UK NSC)

We accept the information received about the current feasibility of national screening and hope this is an option for the future. At present, we are aware that the screening test used in research purposes does not provide accurate enough results to be deemed feasible, though it is hoped in the not too distant future that screening will be a more viable option. We are following this research closely.

Why do we believe this is achievable?

We believe this petition can have immediate results. The National Assembly for Wales has powers to make/change laws to the devolved Health sector. We want Wales to lead the way and make Type 1 testing mandatory.

It has cost saving benefits, public awareness benefits and ultimately can prevent 500 children per year in the UK being diagnosed before the condition becomes life-threatening.

What has already been done?

We are working closely with Diabetes UK Cymru to develop an awareness campaign to reach out to primary care and education audiences.

Professor Lesley Lowes, Professor John Gregory and their teams developed the EDDY study (Early Diabetes Detection Young). This involved the production of a blue, reusable bag displaying the symptoms of Type 1 diabetes. The campaign reached over 105,000 school children in the Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend areas.

We thank you for your time and consideration in memory of Peter, who we speak for today.

Agenda Item 2.3

P-04-683 Trees in Towns

This petition was submitted by Coed Cadw Woodland Trust, having collected 2,258 paper signatures.

Text of the Petition

- *I support the aspiration that every city, town and village in Wales should benefit from at least 20% tree canopy cover, matching the leafy suburbs of the best places to live*
- *I call on the Welsh Government to support this by establishing a challenge fund for tree planting to improve the environment where people live*
- *This should particularly support the planting of native trees, that can provide a habitat and nectar source for pollinators, and also fruit trees, that will provide a sustainable source of food.*

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff South and Penarth
- South Wales Central



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-683
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/00245/16

William Powell AM
Assembly Member for Mid & West Wales
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 February 2016

Dear William Powell AM,

Thank you for your letter dated 26 January. The importance of urban trees in delivering a range of benefits to communities is reflected in the Welsh Government's Woodland Strategy and in the refreshed 'Woodlands for Wales' Action Plan, which will include an action to increase and safeguard existing tree cover in towns and cities and to support sustainable urban tree management. The Plan will be published on the Welsh Government website shortly.

The Welsh Government is providing funding to Natural Resources Wales to manage a project which will provide up-to-date evidence on the status of canopy cover within communities and towns in Wales. A similar study of urban trees was previously undertaken in 2009 and comparing the new data against that found in the previous study will help to monitor change over time to Wales's urban trees and will identify any tree loss (notably our most beneficial large, long-lived trees). Evidence will further build the case for targeted action areas that are particularly low in tree cover. Once completed, this study will be available online.

The study will be of interest to local authorities who will be able to draw on tree cover data to make decisions in respect of their delivery against the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Wales is the first country in the world to assess the tree cover of all its urban areas. To assist local authorities to examine the benefits of urban green infrastructure, Natural Resources Wales have worked with Forest Research to calculate the value of the urban tree cover in a selection of Welsh local authorities. The studies have quantified the benefits that trees provide for Wrexham, Bridgend and Swansea. For example in Wrexham these are valued at £1.2m per year.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

In respect of funding, Glastir Woodland Creation grants are available to any landowner who wants to plant trees providing they meet the rules of the scheme. It is not restricted to farmers. There are some limitations on funding available on publicly owned land but with the right ownership structure, being given support through knowledge and experience, even on public land funding can be made available.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a statutory duty on the public bodies listed in the Act to pursue a set of national well-being goals according to the principles of sustainable development. Therefore this is an ideal opportunity for Coed Cadw to work with those listed in order to develop proposals to increase the levels of urban tree cover as they suggest, where it is appropriate and practicable to do.

I therefore agree with their support for urban trees and I strongly recommend that Coed Cadw contacts all of the local authorities in Wales so that they can work together to develop their points regarding the benefits of urban and community tree planting and, where applicable, to help them to put forward applications for funding for this purpose.

Yours sincerely,



Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol
Minister for Natural Resources

Agenda Item 2.4

P-04-684 We Demand Better more Effective Welsh HMO Planning Laws and a New Use Classes Order.

This petition was submitted by Nortridge Perrott, having collected 11 paper signatures.

Text of the Petition

Bring forward a new use classes order –A C5 ORDER– to specifically capture HMO's–Houses in Multiple Occupation in Wales who meet the definition of a HMO specified in Part 7 Housing Act 2004 in conjunction with Schedule 14 Housing Act 2004.

We also call for a density threshold to be enacted by means of allowing Planning Authorities to remove permitted development rights in Areas of Wales operating an Additional Licensing scheme–or on a City Wide basis whichever is most appropriate such that a "material change of use " between Use Classes in Wales–would require a Planning consent for Change of Use .

We believe that Welsh Government should actively incentivise HMO landlords who are considering "flipping" their property under both Housing /Planning Act HMO provisions along the lines of a Welsh Houses to Homes scheme such that HMO landlords be allowed to bid for SME grant help to revert the HMO property back to sole domestic use.

Additional Information:

This campaign will run through to the 2016 Assembly election and requires Welsh Government to use its enhanced legislative powers to harmonise the legal definitions under Housing/Planning Law and further enact the ability for Local Planning Authorities to use specific HMO DENSITY criteria applied to a community or City Region to limit HMO proliferation where adverse impacts and consequence are identified or anticipated.

The petition asks for an incentive within Wales to encourage HMO Landlords to revert the properties back to sole domestic use and thus improve the stock of available Affordable Housing.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Swansea West
- South Wales West

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol
Minister for Natural Resources




Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: CS/00342/16

William Powell AM
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 February 2016

Dear William Powell AM,

Thank you for your letter of 3 February regarding a petition about Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) that the Petitions Committee has received from Mr Nortridge Perrot.

I have recently introduced new legislation giving local planning authorities the opportunity to take action to manage the impact of HMOs and I consider that this will address the matters that Mr Perrot raises in his petition in a positive way. This legislation is due to come into force on 25 February.

The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2016 introduces a new use class (C4) for HMOs occupied by not more than six residents, with an HMO being defined as in section 254 of the Housing Act 2004, as Mr Perrot requests. This change to the Use Classes Order will mean that anyone wanting to create an HMO for between three and six unrelated individuals who share basic amenities such as a kitchen or bathroom would have to apply for planning permission. This will allow planning authorities to consider the impact HMOs may have on the local area before deciding whether to approve a planning application for a change to a C4 use.

The position regarding HMOs with seven or more unrelated occupiers remains unchanged; they will continue to be considered 'sui generis' (of its own class). This is because the introduction of a separate use class would give more latitude for intensification of use without needing to obtain planning permission; once planning permission had been granted, the number of persons living at the property could be increased without requiring further planning permission.

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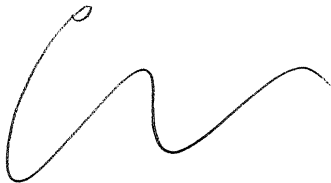
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Regarding the reversion of HMOs to use as a family dwelling, the related Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2016 will enable HMOs under use class C4 to revert to use as a family dwelling (class C3) without requiring planning permission. Planning permission would then be required should the property owner subsequently wish to re-create an HMO.

This new legislation will also enable planning authorities to adopt local policies to control the density and spread of HMOs. Planning applications would then be assessed against these local policies, allowing authorities to have greater control over new HMOs. It will be for individual planning authorities to consider the balance of costs and benefits in their particular area in deciding whether or not to have such local policies to use in assessing relevant planning applications.

In addition, I will be publishing Practice Guidance which highlights good practice from across the UK in the management and control of HMOs and summarises the relevant legislation. The aim of this guidance, which will also issue on 25 February, is to enable local authorities in Wales to make informed decisions on what is best suited to their area, taking into account local circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a series of loops and a final upward stroke.

Carl Sargeant AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol
Minister for Natural Resources

P-04-684 We Demand Better More Effective Welsh HMO Planning Laws and a New Use Classes Order – Correspondence from the petitioner.
02.03.16

This asks the Petitions Committee to ask the WG to fully respond to:

AFFORDABILITY issues to meet Housing Crisis in Wales.

LANDLORDS –extent of partnership working and mixed tenure provision in a Housing Market mixed economy–What WG is doing?

Asked specifically as follows within the petition

We believe that Welsh Government should actively incentivise HMO landlords who are considering "flipping" their property under both Housing /Planning Act HMO provisions along the lines of a Welsh Houses to Homes scheme such that HMO landlords be allowed to bid for SME grant help to revert the HMO property back to sole domestic use.

And similarly

The petition asks for an incentive within Wales to encourage HMO Landlords to revert the properties back to sole domestic use and thus improve the stock of available Affordable Housing.

I ask the committee to pursue the WG to determine what has been done to address the following:

When is the Practice Guidance to be published?

- . A requirement on local councils to monitor equality issues on evictions, work with landlords to ensure energy rating targets are met, and work with students' unions and tenants groups to ensure tenants know their rights.

A Wales Housing Survey for all private rented sector tenants and landlords.

The WG to commission modelling on the impact of the introduction of a Business Rate category for HMOs and landlords who own more than 2 properties, subject to Valuation Office Agency regulations.

N Perrott

Agenda Item 3.1

P-04-660 – The Additional Pressures on Funding for Education Provision Faced by Sparsely Populated Rural Areas

This petition was submitted by Save Powys Schools, having collected 1,049 signatures.

Text of Petition

We, the undersigned, call upon the Welsh Government to recognize the financial challenges of providing an appropriate level of educational provision in sparsely populated rural areas. Spending cuts are adversely affecting school communities to the extent that children are leaving their county of residence (and increasingly, in border counties, such as Powys, leaving Wales) in order to continue their education. Schools and sixth forms are at breaking point, exhausted by continual threat of closure. Our children are forced to travel unsustainable distances on minor roads, breaking up friendship groups and adding up to two hours to the school day. Nursery education is now also under threat, and with continuous cuts to school budgets causing round after round of redundancies, it is impossible to deliver the quality of education that teachers trained for and that our young people deserve. We urge the Welsh Government to immediately investigate the additional challenges to education in sparsely populated rural areas, and to increase the funding to areas such as Powys accordingly. The loss of our schools heralds the death of our communities and our local economies. If a devolved Wales

is to thrive, we need our Government to lead the funding discussions in Westminster. We need you on our side!

Assembly Constituency and Region

- N/A
- N/A



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-660
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/00156/16
William Powell AM
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9 February 2016

Dear William

Thank you for your letter dated 17 January regarding the petition from Save Powys Schools which received its first reading on 8 December, enclosing additional information for comment.

I have noted the information you provided regarding the closure of Beguildy Church in Wales Primary School and *'The Additional Pressures on Funding for Education Provision Faced by Sparsely populated Rural Areas'* and thank you for supplying this.

With regard to the closure of primary schools and its impact on the local community; it is for Local Authorities to develop proposals in the light of local needs and circumstances. Local people have the opportunity to give their views during consultation and objection periods. Opposing views must be taken account of before decisions are made.

Local Authorities are best placed to plan school places, and should keep their school estate under review to ensure that it is providing efficiently and effectively for all learners. In so doing Local Authorities must comply with the School Organisation Code and must consider a range of factors before proposing change. Of prime importance is the impact of proposals on quality and standards in education.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The revenue funding we provide to Local Authorities each year is distributed according to relative need, using a formula which takes account of a wealth of information on the demographic, physical, economic and social characteristics of Authorities. The Local Government distribution formula is kept under a continual programme of review and improvement which is overseen by the Finance Sub Group of the Partnership Council for Wales. This is done in detailed consultation with Local Government through the Distribution Sub Group, whose members include officials from a number of Authorities from across Wales and the WLGA. It also includes independent experts, who ensure there is no evidence of bias either in favour of, or against, the interests of any individual Local Authority.

Parents have the right to express a preference for a place for their child at any school and if there are places available they should normally be admitted. There has long been a relatively low level of pupil movement in both directions between Local Authorities situated on either side of the Wales/England border arising from the exercise of parental preference, and it is reasonable to expect this to continue in the future. The Welsh Government is not aware of any research that has been undertaken in this area and we do not collect or hold the necessary data that would facilitate this form of analysis.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Huw Lewis'.

Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills

P-04-660 – The Additional Pressures on Funding for Education Provision Faced by Sparsely Populated Rural Areas.

Correspondence – Petitioner to the Committee. 29.02.16

Developments since the petition was presented in December, 2015

The announcement by the Welsh Government that the 2016–17 Revenue Support Grant to Powys, the most sparsely populated rural authority, was to be cut by 4.1% (a decrease of £7.147million) against a Welsh average of 1.4% and a 0.1% cut for Cardiff, highlights the funding pressure for all services, including education, in rural authorities.

There appears to be a general acceptance across all councils that the funding formula which underpins the distribution of the RSG is becoming outdated and requires overhaul. Welsh local government is understood to have commissioned a leading academic to chair an Independent Commission for Local Government Finance which is taking evidence on this, along with examining the sustainability of the funding system.

The Welsh Government continues with the assumption that the current formula is fair and appropriate as a means of distributing revenue funding to Local Authorities and this is reiterated in the response from the Minister for Education and Skills to the Petitions Committee. A simple repetition of a statement does not make it any more accurate. The formula is said to be under continual review. It is, however, significant that for a decade Powys has received the lowest settlement and the proposal for the financial year 2016–17 followed this pattern. In earlier years, the ‘floor’ (a mechanism that meant that no council received a settlement below a certain percentage) was implemented to ameliorate the effect of the decrease. This year, a special grant of £1.92 million was necessary in the case of Powys, with similar measures for two other Authorities. If the formula is working as the Government intended it should not be necessary to provide either a ‘floor’ or a grant.

Powys County Council remains more than £5million worse off in 2016–17 as a result of the settlement and, despite a proposed increase of 4.25% in Council Tax, increased service costs and the effect of inflation will require an overall saving of £10.4million for the financial year.

It would be useful to know:

- What is the monetary value of the uplift given to an Authority such as Powys to reflect the cost of delivering education in a sparsely populated area and what are the amounts under the other headings, given that shortfalls there will impact on the education budget?
- What work has been done on the variance between the percentage of revenue received and the actual cost of delivery of the various services in rural as opposed to urban areas?

The ability of Local Authorities to choose how best to serve local needs

The Minister rightly states that, in respect of school provision, 'it is for local Authorities to develop proposals in the light of local needs and circumstances', implying that choices can be made within Local Authorities to meet their particular needs. This choice is, however, an illusion if funding is not available; rather like the statement that 'Justice, like the Ritz, is open to all'. Currently, the Cabinet of Powys Council is considering proposals which, in the longer term, could see Llandrindod Wells, the county town of Powys, and the whole of the old County of Radnor, the shire at the heart of Powys, the Heart of Wales (an area of 1218 sq.km) without a secondary school. It seems unlikely that Powys County Council would be giving consideration to this option if it had real 'choice'.

Economies of scale in the urban areas

The ability of Local Authorities to develop proposals in the light of local needs and circumstances is constrained by the funding available. If rural Authorities such as Powys County Council have a greater spend on delivery of each of their statutory and essential services because each service depends on the service providers travelling greater distances, those Authorities will never match the lower unit cost of delivery in a compact urban area.

Effects of the urban funding model:

It is a simple fact that, in most rural authorities, the population is not grouped in large settlements and, therefore, all of the services required will always be more costly to deliver. The ability to generate financial savings to improve education is limited. Even if all secondary schools and primary schools were to conform to an agreed minimum size, rationalisation, modernisation or transformation of schools can only be taken so far before the further increases in transport costs counterbalance the savings made from school closure.

The detrimental effect on a rural community following the loss of its school was well documented in the case study of Beguildy (enclosed as Correspondence to the Clerking Team 30/11/2015). The impact of the closure of Beguildy Primary School was also featured in an ITV Wales News broadcast on 17th February, 2016

Loss of Welsh pupils across the border to England

Powys, having a long border with England, is particularly familiar with the movement of pupils across the national boundary. The Minister for Education's apparently relaxed attitude to the movement of pupils from Welsh schools must be based on past evidence rather than the current or proposed situations. Does the Minister's confident expectation that the mutual level of pupil movement will continue at the historic low levels take into account what has already happened and is proposed to happen after changes to provision in border catchments such as John Beddoes and Gwernyfed in the Secondary sectors and the closure of small Primary schools such as Beguildy, which were situated on or close to the border?

Removal of provision at any level, right up to Sixth Form, results in parents and students increasingly exercising their preferences not to travel longer distances into Wales when English centres offer the advantages of proximity and also apparent higher levels of funding.

The Welsh Government surely has a duty to initiate research into the acceleration of Welsh pupils choosing to be educated outside Wales. Data should be easily obtainable from the individual schools e.g. a comparison between the numbers of students from John Beddoes School opting to study for their A-levels in Wales in the five year period before being subsumed into Newtown High School and the figures for students in the last academic year.

Is any work being done in the Welsh Government to examine the proposals in England to consider increasing the funding to rural authorities, especially in terms of the Education budgets? Any increased funding for Authorities bordering the long boundary with Powys will, of course, only serve to increase the attractiveness of cross-border schools to Welsh students.

29/02/2016

Agenda Item 3.2

P-04-637 To Protect the Future of Youth Music in Wales

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to protect musical tuition in schools and in particular to:

- Reinstatement of central ring-fencing of budgets for professional instrumental tuition in schools;
- Implement a national strategy to reverse the decline of Youth Music in Wales;
- Offer the children and young people of Wales their right to receive an education that develops their unique personalities, talents and abilities to the full.

Petition raised by: The Friends of Bridgend Youth Music

Date petition first considered by Committee: 16 June 2015

Number of signatures: 1,363 Online signatures and 738 paper signatures
=2,101 signatures



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-637
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/00152/16

William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

9 February 2016

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 27 January on behalf of the Petitions Committee seeking my views on the future of art, music and creativity opportunities for young people. I will answer the points raised in the petitioner's correspondence in the order they were presented.

I am committed to delivering creativity across the curriculum as a tool that teachers can use to open the minds and raise the aspirations of learners, now and into the future. In March 2015 the 'Creative Learning through the Arts – an action plan for Wales', a joint programme between the Welsh Government and the Arts Council of Wales, was published. This is a 5-year plan to enhance creative approaches to teaching and learning and encourage greater collaboration between schools and arts and cultural organisations working with creative practitioners. The Welsh Government has committed £10 million over 5 years to match a further £10 million committed by the Arts Council Wales' lottery funding.

Within the Creative Learning Plan are 2 work streams, the Lead Creative Schools Scheme and the All-Wales Arts and Education Programme.

The Lead Creative Schools Programme enables schools to apply to participate in a two-year programme to improve attainment. In this programme trained creative practitioners, many of whom engage learners through musical activities, work alongside teachers to develop a more creative approach to learning. As the programme centres around delivering professional development for teachers, and not just delivering one off sessions to learners, it is intended that a lasting legacy of using arts, music and creativity in education will be created.

The All-Wales Arts and Education Programme will also increase and improve opportunities for young people to have access to a range of art and cultural activities.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0300 0603300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0300 0604400
Correspondence.Huw.Lewis@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

More information on the Creative Learning Plan can be found at:

<http://www.artscouncilofwales.org.uk/what-we-do/creative-learning>

On 30 June 2015, I announced my support for the development of a new curriculum in Wales by accepting, in full, the recommendations of Professor Donaldson's Successful Futures report. Professor Donaldson challenges us all to re-think our approach to the curriculum and to focus on 4 purposes of education so that we build a curriculum that supports our children and young people to be: ambitious, capable learners; enterprising, creative contributors; ethical, informed citizens and healthy, confident individuals. These four purposes will be at the heart of our curriculum and will be the starting point for all decisions about teaching and learning.

In Successful futures, Professor Donaldson proposes a broad and balanced curriculum from 3-16 structured in six Areas of Learning and Experience, one of which will be "Expressive Arts". Within this area Professor Donaldson acknowledged the role that the arts, including music, play in providing inspiration and motivation for learners, giving them contact with the creative processes, performances and products of others and stimulating their own experimentation and creativity.

The Arts and Creative Learning Plan will contribute to the development of this area of the new curriculum, as well as encouraging teachers to engage with learners in inspiring and exciting new ways.

A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life, which sets out how Professor Donaldson's report will be taken forward was published on 22 October 2015 and is available at the link below:

<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/curriculum-for-wales-curriculum-for-life/?lang=en>

Pioneer Schools, some of which are working in partnerships, have been appointed to work with Welsh and international experts to design and develop the new national curriculum for Wales. During the first phase of development, the focus will be on designing the structure of the new curriculum, before developing the content of the Areas of Learning and Experience. The aim is that the new curriculum will be available to settings and schools by September 2018 and used to support learning and teaching by September 2021.

In January 2015 I established the Music Services Task and Finish Group to consider the provision of music services and to develop proposals to ensure learners across Wales can continue to access high quality services.

Music Services across Wales are the responsibility of local authorities. There are a number of existing delivery models and variations of approach in place and, acknowledging there is also a number of long standing partnership arrangements, I asked the Task and Finish Group to consider alternative methods of service delivery as well as the potential for greater partnership working.

On 2 July 2015 the Task and Finish Group submitted their report and I subsequently accepted all of the recommendations, except one which related to categorisation of schools. The report and the response to the recommendations can be found at:

<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/wagreviews/music-services-task-and-finish-group-report/?lang=en>

The report suggests that whilst the responsibility lies with Local Authorities, authorities should work across boundaries to create a series of music service hubs, thereby reducing the number of standalone services. The report does not prescribe a single model of delivery but refers to current consortia arrangements, hub working, as well as other delivery models such as through charitable trusts or arm's length organisations. I am seeking greater consistency within and across local authority provision and in my response I encourage authorities to work collaboratively to deliver a more consistent offer to learners.

Concerning charges for music tuition and the matter of school funding; in my response to the Task and Finish Group's report I fully agreed that schools and local authorities should be absolutely clear in their communication of charging policies for music tuition. We will encourage local authorities to work in partnership to deliver an open and more consistent offer to ensure that any charges passed on to parents are a fair reflection of the actual costs. Within that offer, I believe the availability of subsidised music tuition for learners facing disadvantage should be a priority for all local authorities.

Protecting resources for frontline schools delivery has been the cornerstone of our approach for major improvements in the education system over the last 5 years. Local authorities have increased their delegation of funding to schools from an average of 75% in 2009-10 to 83% in 2014-15, or 87% if we exclude home to school transport. This represents a significant shift in funding and responsibility for schools. I welcome the efforts made by those schools that have used their school budgets to expand on their existing music services provision over the years. The vision outlined in the Task and Finish Group's report for the role of music services in the music education of our 3 to 19 year olds is one to which I feel we must give our national support as our partners set about implementing the vision locally.

In terms of the local ensembles, a number of actions are being taken to bolster local music services, arising from the recommendations of the music services task group that I have referred to above. One of these actions, which has real potential to protect and develop youth music activity, is to pursue the creation of a national endowment fund for youth music. Clearly this would take time to establish but could, in the longer term, be a more effective way to sustain these services.

I along with the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism established a separate national ensembles task group to investigate ways to place these bodies on a more sustainable financial footing. That group has recently completed its work, see link:

<http://gov.wales/newsroom/cultureandsport/2016/160127-recommendations-to-secure-wales-national-youth-arts-ensembles/?lang=en>

The group has made a number of recommendations including the consideration of a new single structure body to run National Youth Arts Wales (the national ensembles), a full assessment of the potential impacts of higher fees on access to the ensembles by people from deprived and lower income backgrounds' and to develop proposals for bursary schemes to enable young people from deprived and lower income households to participate in the ensembles. Both I and the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism have endorsed these recommendations.

I hope the above reassures the Committee that the Welsh Government is taking a number

of actions to develop sustainable solutions that will ensure that young people can continue to benefit from these important services.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Huw Lewis'.

Huw Lewis AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills



The Petitions Committee
Welsh Government
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

Petition to Protect the Future of Youth Music in Wales

Response to Huw Lewis' letter dated 9th February 2016

Thank you for once again allowing us the chance to comment on the response from the ministers letter, we are grateful that we are able to have a voice that is hopefully being heard by the Assembly.

It is possible to trace back the history of instrumental music for about 7000 years, to the point where instruments being created were able to play tunefully. As music was being created and developed, the musician would pass on their knowledge and experience to those they were teaching, allowing them to take what they had learned and encourage their student to develop their own skills further. This type of mentorship led to the creation of highly regarded and widely recognised compositions still being performed hundreds of years later. This form of teaching is the same used today by the already established music services around Wales. A system that has worked for thousands of years should be protected and expanded on, not dismissed and replaced by the latest, untested educational program ideas - Thus the purpose of our petition!

There are a few points we would like to raise regarding the minister's letter:

1. We believe that the Minister has possibly misconstrued the "raison d'être" for this whole campaign. Music Services are, indeed, the responsibility of LAs. The level of commitment from LAs varies widely with a number showing little support for such services. (Our own parents and children were recently involved in a very prestigious concert which was a result of an ongoing collaboration between four authorities – something which the Minister is keen to develop). Not one Director of Education attended! It seems that Music is becoming the first port of call when authority cuts have to be made. This petition was set up in order to try and stem the haemorrhaging of musicians and protect services and, more importantly, the opportunities for all our young people. This is the one aspect that appears to have been ignored. The main reason that things have survived for so long is down to the dedication of very committed and experienced staff. They are now leaving the profession in droves and most feel totally demoralised. We fail to see that removal of experience is a recipe for driving up standards, although it will fit the austerity agenda.
2. We applaud the setting up of new initiatives that expand on what music services currently provide, but question whether a two year programme is, first of all, the most efficient way to spend such a great financial resource. The amounts mentioned in the Minister's letter suggest more than enough money to run the current system for the whole of Wales for a

number of years. What happens at the end of the two year period? Does it suddenly end? Experience has shown that the removal and reduction in numbers of peripatetic teachers has already decimated levels of provision and attainment. Could that not happen when the so-called experts leave after two years? Will future groups be denied a similar grounding in creative development? Allowing for the fact that part of this initiative is to train others in future delivery, what mechanisms will be in place to ensure that future generations of pupils will have the same standard of delivery and the same opportunities as those pupils targeted over the two year development period? Something needs to be built in to ensure the continuation of high level practice.

3. The remodelling of the management of the national ensembles is, in many ways, a positive move in that it will remove the anomalies which currently exist, possibly reduce unnecessary costs and remove the duplication of roles. Management is not the root of the problem, however, as this undoubtedly stems from the systematic dissolution of provision in schools. The more affluent will always be able to have lessons. The LAs will support the very poorest families. It is the middle ground where no support is offered which suffers the greatest. Instruments and lessons, coupled with fees for membership of ensembles and residential experiences, when appropriate, add up to many hundreds or even thousands of pounds for such families when they have several children involved – quite a common feature. These are the families that have to prioritise and make the decisions as to whether or not to continue with musical activities. These are the pupils who no longer take part. Anecdotal evidence shows a great reduction in the number of pupils taking part in ensemble work in areas where charging has been introduced. This is where the national problems are born. Smaller numbers mean less pupils achieve. We understand the issue of fee charging in principal, although suspect that certain members of the Task and Finish group may not have fully understand the consequences as they have no direct dealings with Music services. Are similar fees payable for sporting activities and other similar projects? It must also be taken into account that at least a third of the marks awarded at GCSE, AS and A level in music come from the work encountered in instrumental lessons. Are there other National Curriculum subjects where charges are made for lessons?
4. Music services in Wales were encouraged or coerced into handing over their previously centrally-held budgets to schools. It is primarily the support from a majority of schools which has kept the system afloat for many years by using that money to buy back the service. The diversion of that funding in some schools into a cheaper provision or even into different subject areas is now becoming more commonplace. The ring-fenced element of our petition was to ensure that this no longer happened. We urgently ask that this still becomes the case.

In closing, as you should be aware, the news over the last couple of weeks has been reporting on the consideration of Swansea County Borough Council to close its music service. As we are nearly a year on from our petition's submission and have been informed of the Welsh Governments various "future" ideas and considerations, with no definitive decisions been made yet, we therefore plead with you to act quickly before we have no instrumental music services left to protect!

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Goss
Chairman of The Friends of Bridgend Youth Music

P-04-522 Asbestos in Schools

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to put measures in place to ensure that parents and guardians of children across Wales can easily access information about the presence and management of asbestos in all school buildings.

Given the health risks associated with the presence of asbestos in public buildings, we believe parents and guardians across Wales have the right;

- to know if asbestos is located in their school;
- to know whether, where asbestos is present, it is being managed in line with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012;
- to access that information easily online

Petition raised by: Cenric Clement-Evans

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 10 December 2013

Number of signatures: 448



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/02220/15
William Powell AM
Assembly Member for mid and west Wales
Chair - Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff
CF99 1NA

22 December 2015

Dear William,

Following my attendance at the Petitions Committee on 24 November, I have been asked to clarify whether asbestos management in schools is included in governor training programmes, and provide further information on the membership of the Working Group for Wales including the draft terms of reference.

Asbestos training is not included in mandatory governor training. However, our Asbestos Management in Schools Guidance, which was published in May 2014, has been produced to ensure that head teachers, governors and other members of the school management team are aware of requirements in respect of asbestos management procedures and legislation.

The guidance includes a section on training requirements, which states that under the Regulations, information, instruction and training is required for anyone whose work could foreseeably expose them to asbestos, and those who supervise them. This includes staff and maintenance people who may become exposed to asbestos while carrying out their normal everyday work. It is also stated that any training needs to be appropriate for the work and the roles undertaken by individuals. On this basis, a Duty Holder may offer training to Governors if applicable to their roles.

I have also attached the draft terms of reference for the Asbestos Management in Wales Working Group. The main objective of the Working Group is to ensure that our guidance on the matter of asbestos in schools remains both current and appropriate; and to review the development of new approaches in England and how they may apply to Wales. The working group comprises representatives from NHS Wales, Public Health Wales, HSE Wales and the Welsh Government.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0300 0604400
Correspondence.Huw.Lewis@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The next meeting of the Working Group has been scheduled for the end of January 2016, at which time the draft terms of reference will be formalised.

I hope you find this clarification helpful.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Huw Lewis', with a small mark above the final 'i'.

Huw Lewis AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN SCHOOLS WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Background

The purpose of the Asbestos Management in Schools Working Group is to ensure that Welsh policy and guidance in this field remains current and appropriate for schools in Wales, and also to review the new approach being implemented in England.

2. Duty and Responsibilities

The Group will ensure that the policy for Asbestos Management in Schools in Wales is regularly reviewed. When necessary the group will update guidance so that it remains robust for schools in Wales. The Group will also periodically review approaches in England and where appropriate, make recommendations for adoption in Wales.

The specific functions of the Group are:

- review the current guidance for Asbestos Management in Schools and update when and if required;
- review and discuss the ongoing work of the English government in the Asbestos Management in Schools field; and
- make recommendations where appropriate for new policy strands in this field.

3. Governance

The Working Group will be chaired by the Programme Director for 21st Century Schools and Education Programme. The Welsh Government reserves the right to deputise other Working Group members where appropriate.

4. Frequency of assessments/meetings

The group will meet regularly (quarterly) to discuss current guidance for Wales and review ongoing work/approaches in the Asbestos Management in Schools field.

5. Working Group Membership

Members of working group will be expected to:

- Offer their views, and those of their representative organisations, on issues relating to all aspects of Asbestos Management in Schools;
- Contribute to discussion on current guidance in Wales, and new approaches in England, along with appropriate recommendations where required; and
- Provide feedback to and from their representative body on the work of the working group, which respect to promotion of current policy and available guidance.

Members will be nominated by their representative organisation based on their ability to represent their organisation. The working group will comprise the following sector representation:

Assessor	Policy Area
HM Principal Inspector of Health and Safety	Operational Policy, HSE Wales
Team leader, Public Administration and Education team	Public Health Unit, HSE Wales
Policy Advisor, Asbestos Policy	Health and Chemicals Division, HSE

and Delivery	Wales
Health Protection Team representative	NHS Wales
Environment Health Senior Policy Official	Welsh Government, Public Health (advisory capacity)
Policy Lead	Welsh Government, 21 st Century Schools and Education Programme
Programme Director	Welsh Government, 21 st Century Schools and Education Programme
Head of Capital Funding	Welsh Government, 21 st Century Schools and Education Programme

Members will have regard for The Seven Principles of Public Life (**The Nolan Principles**):

- **Selflessness**
Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits themselves, their family, or their friends.
- **Integrity**
Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.
- **Objectivity**
In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.
- **Accountability**
Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.
- **Openness**
Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.
- **Honesty**
Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.
- **Leadership**
Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and examples.

6. Termination of Working Group Membership

Membership of the working group is terminable by either party, in appropriate circumstances. A breach of any of the terms of the Constitution, including the Seven Principles of Public Life, will be considered an appropriate circumstance for the termination of membership.

7. Quorum

The Asbestos Management in Schools working group shall be quorate when four members representing all stakeholder groups, are present.

If less than four members are present, the business may still take place. Decisions will only be made subject to the receipt of written assessment of those group members who are not present.

DRAFT

Response to the Petitions Committee re Asbestos in Schools Petition 1st March 2016

Since I gave evidence before the Committee, and in the interests of transparency, I felt that should confirm that I have assumed responsibility for secretarial duties for the Cross Party Group on Asbestos which has now met on the 20th October 2015 and on the 26th January. (I am also an observer member of the Joint Union Asbestos Committee (JUAC)-10 unions working together and aiming to make UK schools and colleges safe from the dangers of asbestos, both for staff and pupils. I am also a member of the Asbestos in Schools Group (AiS) chaired by Rachel Reeves MP.)

I have been asked for my comments on the letter of the Minister for Education and Skills of the 22nd December 2015 together with the terms of reference. I also propose to comment upon the evidence of the Minister to the Petitions Committee on the 24th November 2015.

Enclosures

I am attaching the following documents:-

- Letter of the Minister to Julie Morgan AM (with her permission) 1st February 2016
- Letter of Eluned Parrot AM to the Minister (with her permission) 1st February 2016
- Letter of the Minister to Eluned Parrot AM (with her permission) 17th February 2016
- The asbestos crisis-Why Britain needs an eradication law-All Party Parliamentary Group on Occupational Health –Asbestos Sub-Group
- DfE Terms of Reference for Steering Group on Asbestos in Schools 25 March 2011
- Email Chair of Department for Education Asbestos in Schools Steering Group 19.10.15
- Asbestos management in schools-DfE 25.03.15
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asbestos-management-in-schools--2>
- Asbestos in Schools-A review of Department for Education Policy-March 2015
- Education Funding Agency-"Asbestos in schools data collection-Guidance on completing the online form"
- Email Julie Cook - the Wales TUC 10th February 2016
- Minutes of Cross Party Group on Asbestos 26th January 2016

There are a number of issues arising from both the evidence of the Minister and the subsequent correspondence. They include the question of responsibility and information being available online. They also include the Minister's statement,

"It's worth bearing in mind also that it's not just schools that contain asbestos; right across the public realm and, indeed, the domestic realm, we spent 30 years building this stuff into our buildings, and it's ubiquitous—this stuff is all around us all the time, unless we're spending all our time in very modern buildings."

I would respond that this is not a reason for inaction, and for this reason I have attached a copy of paper "The asbestos crisis-Why Britain needs an eradication law-All Party Parliamentary Group on Occupational Health –Asbestos Sub-Group".

I would add that the reason that schools should be prioritised is that they are special workplaces, in that they contain children. We now know that children are more vulnerable to asbestos risk and the Committee is of course aware of the report of the "Committee on Carcinogenicity" of June 2013.

We are aware that approximately 85% of the Wales' school contain asbestos, which in short means that the vast majority of our nation is affected by the issue of asbestos in schools.

It is in any event heartening to learn of the recent initiative of the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty.

<http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/14290108. Lifesaving action being taken on asbestos/?ref=mr&lp=15>

I shall revert to issue of responsibility for asbestos in schools in Wales below and shall be brief with regard to the issue of online accessibility as I wish to concentrate on the question of a Welsh Steering Group.

I do not agree that local authorities making available information as to asbestos in schools, is adding an additional burden. In the 21st Century, the storing of information electronically, is the way forward in all walks of life. There is a duty in any event under the Control of Asbestos Regulations to ensure that information is kept up to

date and under review. I fail to see how it “*add a tremendous bureaucratic burden onto local authorities*” particularly the issue of reduction of local authorities in Wales is on the agenda for the Welsh Government and ensuring retention of and transfer of information will key in such reorganisation.

I refer to the attached correspondence between Eluned Parrott AM and the Minister particularly with regard to online availability of information for the emergency services in the event of fire and flood.

I would remind that Regulation 4 (9) of the Regulations contains specific duties which I have highlighted with regards to the emergency services.

“(9) The measures to be specified in the plan for managing the risk must include adequate measures for—

(a) monitoring the condition of any asbestos or any substance containing or suspected of containing asbestos; .

(b) ensuring any asbestos or any such substance is properly maintained or where necessary safely removed; and .

*(c) **ensuring that information about the location and condition of any asbestos or any such substance is— .***

(i) provided to every person liable to disturb it, and .

*(ii) **made available to the emergency services.**”*

I would refer to discussion held by the Cross Party Group on Asbestos on the 26th January 2015, which are attached (as they are not yet on the National Assembly website) where support can be found for online access from those trade union representatives present including the FBU.

However as indicated above I shall concentrate on the issue of an Asbestos in Schools Steering Group.

Steering Group on Asbestos in Wales

I was surprised to learn for the first time, when the Minister for Education and Skills gave evidence, that his Department had set up its own working group, which had met seemingly in the summer of 2014 (and I shall return to this below) and that it observed on the English working group.

The Committee will of course recall the Minister's letter to the Chair of the 15th July 2015, when he stated,

"Thank you for your letter of 26 June, where you asked me to expedite my reply to you with respect to asbestos management in schools for the Petitions Committee, and specifically address the key points raised by petitioner Cenric Clement-Evans, which are that:

- a. a Steering Group be set up to assist the Department for Education and Skills to inform policy development;*
- b. there should be easy access to information around asbestos in schools; and*
- c. that the Minister accepts responsibility for asbestos policy in schools.*

I have recently met with my officials to discuss the complex issues around the management of asbestos in schools, and will now address the issues raised in turn: The steering group in England was set up to review the policy of Asbestos Management in Schools in England following the statement of the Committee of Carcinogenicity in 2013. Following the publishing of these review findings we are satisfied that the work carried out by this group of experts will provide sufficient information for Welsh Government to deal with the issue of asbestos at this time. However, I will continue to maintain close contact with the UK Government Department of Education (DfE) as they develop their plan for improving their evidence base, and I will review our policy once these findings are made public"

I find it extraordinary that the Minister failed to mention, in his letter of the 15th July, the fact that he had set up a Working Group in Wales and do wonder if Ms Larnier in her evidence was mistaken when she stated,

“The group had a first meeting back in June or July last year, following the review that came out. We’ve now established it formally as a working group, because we felt it was of value to Wales”

I say this because the DfE Review of policy was not published until March 2015. I would ask if clarification might be sought as to precisely when the Working Group met.

It is in any event surprising that neither the Minister nor Ms Lerner were able to be more precise and provide greater detail in their evidence to the Committee, as the issue of a Steering Group in Wales had become a matter of some importance and indeed was highlighted by the BBC on 30th July 2015 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-33708601>

I turn next to the Minister’s evidence that,

“...we may not be a part of the English steering group, but we have our own working group and we do observe on the English working group.”

I am not sure of the nature of this observation. I attach a copy of the email of the Chair of the Asbestos in Schools Steering Group Mike Green which I read to the Committee during my evidence on the 20th October. Unfortunately the email was not put to the Minister when he came to give evidence.

I set it out the body of the email for ease, although reference should be made to the questions emailed to him initially. It should be recalled that I had made contact with Mr Green in light of the letter of the Minister to the Chair of the 15th July 2015 (to which I have referred above).

“The Department for Education’s remit is for schools in England. As such, the Asbestos in Schools Steering Group, which was set up by the department in 2012, only covers the issue of asbestos management in schools in England.

The remit of the committee means it has not received specific representations on behalf of schools in Wales, though as you suggest references to schools in Wales will have been made in the course of its discussions.

Focussing on schools in England enables the group to consider the specific issues faced by English schools, which exist in a different policy framework to those in Wales. I would therefore suggest it is right that the remit of the Steering Group is to consider schools in England.

Clearly, however, many of the issues that schools encounter with regard to asbestos management in Wales will be similar as those faced by schools in England. We are therefore happy to work with the Welsh Government to share the findings of the group as their work continues.”

It will be noted that there have been no specific representations on behalf of schools in Wales. I am also advised by JUAC and AiS that there have been no representatives from Wales at the meeting of the DfE Steering Group. I conclude therefore, that observing, insofar as Welsh Government is concerned, is limited to the reading of the minutes.

I would ask that the Committee asks the Minister to clarify precisely what steps are being taken to observe on the DfE Asbestos in Schools Steering Group.

I was further disturbed, upon hearing the Minister’s evidence to learn that the working group in Wales consisted of effectively Government Departments (whether Welsh or UK Government), namely “NHS, the Health and Safety Executive, Public Health Wales, and Welsh Government.”

This was in sharp contrast to the nature of the group that I suggested when I called for a Steering Group in Wales when on the 6th May 2015 I wrote to the Petitions Committee calling for a Steering Group on Asbestos in Wales.

“As the Minister is aware the Department for Education Asbestos in Schools Steering Group was established to improve the asbestos management in schools. Its members are drawn from a wide range of disciplines and expertise. It is chaired by a senior civil servant and reports to the Minister. The Group both recommended that an assessment should be made of the asbestos risks to children and also that a review should be carried out of asbestos policy in schools. It then played an active part in the review. I enclose a copy of the Steering Group’s terms of reference which

I hope are useful.

.....I would very much urge the Department for Education and Skills to set up a similar Steering Group, so that when deciding upon policy it benefits from the wisdom and experience of many different voices.

In particular such a group should be led by the Department and include Assembly Members, members representing local authorities, governors, trade unions, health professionals, the HSE and asbestos experts.”

(Upon reflection I now feel that I omitted to include representation on behalf those affected by asbestos).

Further to the letter of the Minister to the Chair of the 22nd December, the Minister also wrote to Julie Morgan AM on the 1st February, wherein he stated,

“The Asbestos Management in Schools Working Group met on 25 January, and I can confirm that at present the group comprises representatives from HSE Wales, Public Health/NHS Wales and the Welsh Government. Following group discussions it was agreed that at guidance and policy decision stages additional key stakeholder groups should be consulted, including the teaching unions.”

This is in sharp contrast with the Department for Education Steering Group where trade unions take an active part throughout and representation is not limited to teaching unions. For confirmation of this, I refer to the terms of reference for the DfE Steering Group dated 22nd February 2011 which sets out the membership

“Membership

3.1. The group is convened by DfE and chaired by a senior civil servant from DfE. The group will report to ministers and make recommendations about ongoing activities, as necessary.

3.2. Membership of the steering group is made up of the following key representatives of organisations and invited stakeholders.

3.3. Annette Brooke, MP for Mid Dorset and Poole, Chair of Asbestos in Schools sub-Committee of The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Occupational Safety and Health

- 3.4. *Teaching union representative, rotated between the unions*
- 3.5. *Non teaching union representative, rotated between the unions*
- 3.6. *Employers' representative, nominated by Local Government Employers (LGE)*
- 3.7. *Asbestos management representative - Chair of Asbestos Testing and Consultants Association (AtaC)*
- 3.8. *A local authority officer with relevant responsibilities,for asbestos management in schools*
- 3.9. *Jim Sheridan, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Safety and Health*
- 3.10. *Michael Lees (representing asbestos victims)*
- 3.11. *Representative from the Independent Schools Bursars Association*
- 3.12. *Representative from the National Association of Head Teachers*
- 3.13. *Representative from the National Governors Association has been invited*
- 3.14. *Co-opted expert members if and when required*
- 3.15. *DfE, HSE and PfS will be invited to meetings as policy leads and technical experts, to update the project board on progress and to respond to issues raised.*
- 3.16. *Representative from the National College for Leadership in Schools and Children's Services when its role as trainer of headteachers and school business managers is on the agenda."*

Additionally I refer to the attached email of Julie Cook National Officer for the Wales TUC dated 10th February 2016,

"The Wales TUC are aware of the above working group and its representatives. I also understand that its been suggested that teaching unions should be included as stakeholders which is fine, however, we feel that representation from the Wales TUC would be helpful as asbestos management in schools doesn't just effect teaching staff."

The terms of reference for the Welsh Group are extremely limited when compared with those of the DfE Steering Group which I have referred to above.

"The specific functions of the Group are:

- *review the current guidance for Asbestos Management in Schools and update when and if required;*
- *review and discuss the ongoing work of the English government in the Asbestos Management in Schools field; and*
- *make recommendations where appropriate for new policy strands in this field”*

This is in again sharp contrast with the DfE Steering Group Terms of Reference which I have set out below so that this is contrast is quite clear.

“2. Terms of Reference

2.1. To consider the risks posed by asbestos in schools and other children’s settings

2.2. To contribute to the development of the DfE/HSE/Partnerships for Schools (PfS) plans to ensure that asbestos is competently managed in schools.

2.3. To review progress against DfE/HSE/PfS plans to promote the effective management of asbestos in schools.

2.4. To ensure that key stakeholders are informed of relevant work that is undertaken to ensure that asbestos is managed effectively in schools.

2.5. To provide input to DfE, PfS and HSE in the preparation of any asbestos guidance that may be drafted specifically for schools and children’s settings.

2.6. To promote good practice in asbestos management in schools by local authorities, dioceses, school governors, bursars and school business managers, parents’ groups and the teaching and support staff unions – in the independent and maintained sectors.

2.7. To share good practice in documentation and systems in place to effectively record and manage the risks from asbestos in schools.

2.8. To provide an input into the development of any common standards, tools or documentation for schools, governors, dioceses and local authorities on asbestos management.”

Finally I have attached the Education Funding Agency-“Asbestos in schools data collection-Guidance on completing the online form” which includes the online survey questions sent to schools in England by the DfE on behalf of Mr Mike Green and which survey closed on the 29th February. This is an important survey collating data for use by DfE in addressing the issues of asbestos in schools in England.

I am unaware of any similar work with regard to schools in Wales. Surely the Committee will agree with me that such data collection is essential also here in Wales, to establish the extent of the asbestos issue in the schools estate and to plan strategically for the future.

Conclusion

It can be seen from the above that there are significant differences between the Steering Group in England and the Working Group here in Wales.

Wales needs either a steering group to mirror that of the DfE or as a very minimum full representation at the DfE Steering Group which leads to action here in Wales.

The issue of responsibility continues to be a vexed one, with neither UK Government nor the Welsh Government taking responsibility for schools in Wales.

If the Welsh Government are correct that it is a matter for UK Government responsibility, then why are they not demanding action from UK Government. I would request of the Committee that it asks the Minister for Education and Skills, in view of its position on responsibility, as to what precisely Welsh Government is doing to ensure that UK Government does take responsibility for the issue of asbestos in schools in Wales.

In the meantime the issue of asbestos in schools in Wales is clearly not receiving the same attention as in schools in England. This cannot be right.

Cenric Clement-Evans

1st March 2016

Agenda Item 3.4

P-04-620 Reintroduce the National Speed Limit on the Cardigan Bypass

Petition Wording:

Reintroduce the national speed limit on the northern section of the A487 Cardigan bypass. From the entrance to Penlan farm to a point 77 metres north east of the U5005 Cae Morgan road. Amend traffic order 201 to reflect this.

Lead petitioner: Cllr Gethin James

First considered by the Committee: 24 March 2015

Number of signatures: (Change.org) 196 signatures



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/00537/16

William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

17 February 2016

Dear William

Thank you for your email of 3 February on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding P-04-620, which relates to the speed limit for Cardigan bypass.

My officials have fully reconsidered the points of objection and have undertaken a review of the proposed speed limit. Officials have written to Councillor Gethin James, the lead objector, inviting him to consider the review and respond by 12 February.

Once I have had the opportunity to consider Cllr Jenkins' response I will be able to reach a final decision on the way forward.

Edwina Hart

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0300 0603300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0300 0604400
Correspondence.edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Agenda Item 3.5

P-04-617 Stop the Wholesale Hiving off of Public Libraries to the Voluntary Sector

Petition wording

We call on the Deputy Minister for Culture to accept, with immediate effect, recommendation III of the Expert Library Review of Public Libraries in Wales 2014 (Proposed changes to public library services should only be progressed following the production of costed options). Furthermore, he should now advise all local authorities in Wales that this requirement will be effective for proposed changes announced after the date of publication of the Expert Review (22 October 2014) as well as proposals announced before that date, but where a period of public consultation ends after 22 October 2014. This action is required to halt the flood of proposals by the Vale of Glamorgan and other local authorities in Wales to hive off our Public Libraries to the voluntary sector, without giving due consideration to alternative options.

Petitioner : Adam Riley – Save Rhoose Library

First considered by the Committee:

Number of Signatures:: 66

P-04-617 Stop the Wholesale Hiving off of Public Libraries to the Voluntary Sector. Correspondence – Petitioner to the Clerking Team. 9.02.16

Dear Kathryn

Thanks for writing. I would like to keep the petition open. Since I submitted this petition the increase in the number of community libraries has continued unabated. Only this week my own authority has voted to turn my local library into a community library.

I would like the government to more actively police the obligations of local authorities in Wales to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service and to take appropriate action against authorities where necessary. The starting point should be for the government to provide clear statutory guidance on the definition of a comprehensive and efficient service in Wales.

Regards

Adam Riley

Agenda Item 3.6

P-04-572 – Grants for Flood Resilience.

Petition Wording

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to approve grants for properties that have recently flooded to fund work to make them more resilient to future flooding.

Petition raised by: Charles Edward Moore

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 15 July 2014

Number of signatures 88

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

Document is Restricted



**National Assembly of Wales Petitions Committee
P-04-572 Grants for Flood Resilience**

Property-level Protection – Resistance and Resilience measures

The insurance industry is supportive of effective resistance and resilience property-level protection measures. These measures can help reduce the devastating impact that flooding can have on a person's property and possessions.

The important factors for insurers considering property level protection measures will be confidence in reducing the risk of damage, competency of installation and ensuring the measures are properly maintained where required.

Insurers will seek to take account of any measures which can be shown to have reduced the flood risk to a property, including measures funded by the Welsh Government and Local Authorities to make properties more resistant to flooding. Many insurers will already use a range of sophisticated data sources and technology to assess the risk of flooding when issuing quotes. An increasing number of insurers are taking a more detailed view of whether a property may flood – down to property-level assessment of risk from fluvial flooding or other types of flooding such as from surface water – which will continue as modelling and mapping improves.

For insurers to be able to increasingly take into account property level protection measures these need to be aggregated and in a format that the systems used by the insurers can readily digest and use. Work is already in development to consider how common standards applied to these measures could act as a guide for insurers as to the level of resilience or protection applied.

Decisions on policy terms and premiums are commercial decisions for individual insurers to make.

Resilient repair as part of the claims process

During the claims process, most insurers will discuss options for resilient repair with flooded customers. If the work is cost-neutral (i.e. it can be built into the cost of reinstatement) and the customer agrees then this can usually be carried out as part of the repair process. Any additional costs, known as 'betterment', would need to be funded by the customer, or by a government grant if available.

Government grants

Following a major flood, insurers and their supply chain will look to raise awareness amongst their customers of any government schemes that are available, such as the 'repair and renew grant' following the winter floods 2013/14 and the most recent resilience grants announced after Storms Desmond and Eva.

P-04-572 Grants for Flood Resilience – Correspondence from the petitioner.
02.03.16

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to the letter from the ABI.

I can only convey to you my personal experiences which I believe are significantly different to the ABI version of the situation as it stands at the moment.

Firstly I entirely agree that flood resistant and resilient measures do reduce the impact that flooding has on properties and potentially reduce the claim amount that is paid out by our insurers. I do not, however, agree that the insurance industry is supportive of these measures at the moment. At my last renewal I specifically asked what difference any flood resilience measures, that I installed in my property, would have on my insurance and the answer was “none.” When our home was being rebuilt after flooding no advice was given to me whatsoever on incorporating resilience measures by the insurance company or their agents; it was all left to me to investigate and implement.

I have just had a quote for household insurance (last week) and was not asked about any property flood protection measures that I had in place, so this seems to contradict the statement that insurers see it as important at this time. I have just tried an online quote from a comparison site and was not asked about any property protection and only 2 companies gave quotes (I suspect neither would cover flooding) 68 would not consider insuring us.

I feel the letter does raise concerns, because of the lack of government grants in Wales, in that if house owners cannot afford individual property protection and the insurance companies do start to take protection measures into account, then the victims of flooding could well be paying a higher premium in Wales than England or even not being able to insure their properties for flood risk.

I have heard the argument before that insurance premiums are a commercial decision. In my experience after flooding I had an increase of premium from £370 to £1550 per year and an increase of excess to £10,000 from £100. Being unable to get insurance anywhere else, I was forced to pay this. My insurance company stated that they thought this to be reasonable. The average increase for the 150 or so homes that flooded in our area at the same time was around £20 to £50. This along with other issues, brings to light in my opinion that there is no effective regulation of the insurance industry.

In summary, I do strongly believe that the flood victims of Wales should have the same access to a "repair and renew grant" as in England to avoid the possibility of creating adverse insurance consequences and, just as importantly, allow us to sleep more comfortably in our own homes after a flooding incident.

Yours Sincerely

C. E. Moore

P-04-595 Foresight Pathway

Petition wording:

We the undersigned , call upon The National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to safeguard the vital future health and wellbeing of the people of Wales by making food security the direct responsibility of an independent person to ensure future overview of food production. He or she must be answerable to the First Minister. The security of food production is of the first order in importance to the people of Wales. Energy already is the First Minister's remit.

Additional Information:

Whilst acknowledging the significance of safeguarding our natural environment, we earnestly believe that food production must be funded by adequate inflation proof measures, to all sectors of Welsh agriculture and included within the First Ministers remit. This would serve to address the serious malaise and lack of confidence in the future of the industry which has afflicted Welsh farming in recent years. We are convinced that making the reliability and sufficiency of food supply a central objective of Welsh Government policy will ensure national survival in the turbulent years ahead.

Petitioner : David Hardwick

First considered by the Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of Signatures: 2 electronic signatures and 89 paper signatures collected.

TO FORESIGHT
PATHWAY AND
FARMING
SECURITY

LL

DEAR SIR/M,

DATE 12-2-2016

FARMING LIVESTOCK IS ONE OF THE HARDEST TASKS POSSIBLE NOW MADE DIFFICULT BY CLIMATE CHANGE THAT HAS INCREASED COSTS DANGEROUSLY, FARM INCOMES FOR GRAZING LIVESTOCK FARMS ARE DANGEROUSLY LOW NOW AND HAS REACHED A STATE OF SIEGE WITH A CUT BACK IN FOOD PRODUCTION INEVITABLE.

ONE OF THE DIRECT EFFECTS OF WRONGLY WITHDRAWING FOOD PRODUCTION DIRECT SUBSIDIES IS THAT FARMS WITHDRAW FROM EMPLOYING WORKERS THAT HELP MANAGE HOUSED LIVESTOCK.

THE UNNECESSARY AND INSURIOUS CUT BACKS TO PILLAR ① OF THE SINGLE FARM PAYMENTS THAT CONSERVATION AND WELSH LABOUR HAVE MADE MUST BE REVERSED BY MEASURES TO ENSURE FOOD SUPPLIES ARE MAINTAINED THERE-BY ENSURING A VARIED BALANCED DIET.

PAYMENTS TO FARMS WITH THE AIM TO HOUSE LIVESTOCK AND FOR LONGER, THIS MUST BE DONE ESPECIALLY SERIOUSLY DISADVANTAGED AREAS TO ALLEVIATE FLOOD WATER RUN OFF (I.E.) FLOODING ALLEVIATION TO MEET THIS EXTREME WEATHER TO ENABLE FARMS TO CONTINUE PRODUCING LAMB AND BEEF FROM GRAZED LIVESTOCK.

THIS REQUIRES A PAYMENT STRUCTURED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE OF 15% AND IT IS THE 15% TAKEN IN WALES FROM PILLAR ONE AND LOST IN TRANSFER TO PILLAR TWO, THIS MONEY MUST BE REDIRECTED FOR THE CONTINUED SURVIVAL OF FOOD SECURITY AS EXPLAINED IN MY PETITION (FORESIGHT PATHWAY)

REINSTATE THE DISCRIMINATION LOSS IN WALES OF A PAYMENT FOR DISADVANTAGED AREAS OF HILL INBY LAND OF £35.00 A HECTAR THIS WILL REQUIRE AN INCREASE IN THE E.U. FARM BUDGET OF 5% PER YEAR FOR 5 YEARS, THIS IS THE OPPOSITE TO CONSERVATIVE WISHES THAT SEES CUTS TO ALL FARM PAYMENTS WITH NO INFLATION LINKED TOP UP.

ONE IMMEDIATE HELPFULL MEASURE THAT WITH E.U. APPROVAL MUST BE IMPLEMENTED IS TO HAVE A SINGLE FARM PAYMENT TOPUP BASED ON CURRENCY RATES ON MARCH 1ST EACH YEAR THIS CAN BE PAID AS A LIFE LINE PAYMENT AND PAID WHEN A CURRENCY RATE DEVALUES BETWEEN 30TH SEPTEMBER AND 1ST MARCH, THIS WOULD AT PRESENT GIVE A PAYMENT OF BETWEEN £300.00 AND £2000.00 A FARM AND ENSURE MORE OF THE COSTS ARE PAID FOR, THUS ENSURING THE SURVIVAL OF MORE RURAL BUSINESSES.

Yours Sincerely,
D.L. [Signature]

Rebecca Evans AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Ffermio a Bwyd
Deputy Minister for Farming and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-595
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/05082/14

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

22 October 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your recent letter to the Minister for Natural Resources, dated 30 September, regarding the petition from David Hardwick. I am responding as food security issues fall under my direct responsibility as Deputy Minister for Farming and Food.

Safeguarding the health and wellbeing of the people of Wales is central to the work of the Welsh Government. The sustainable management of our natural resources is critical to the future success of our economy and essential in creating a future for all our communities.

Wales is well placed to respond to food security challenges. Through '*Towards Sustainable Growth: An Action Plan for the Food and Drink Industry 2014-2020*', it is our intention to work closely with food security and food safety stakeholders in order to achieve a holistic approach to sustaining the food production base in Wales, and to protect consumers as a result. This will be part of the remit of the Food and Drink Wales Industry Board, which will be established shortly.

It is clear that we cannot act alone on these matters. The Welsh Government is already a partner and contributor to the Global Food Security Programme; a multi-agency programme which coordinates food security related research across government administrations in the UK, the UK Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board.

As Food and Farming is one of the Welsh Government's priority sectors, the Rural Development Plan (RDP), as it relates to food, is aligned with '*Towards Sustainable Growth*'. RDP funding will play a key part in supporting food production through the Food Business Investment Scheme, the Supply Chain Development Scheme, and through the provision of advice and knowledge transfer.

I am confident therefore that we are currently well placed to deal with food security challenges which may arise in the future.

Yours,

Rebecca

Rebecca Evans AC / AM

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Ffermio a Bwyd
Deputy Minister for Farming and Food

Rebecca Evans AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Ffermio a Bwyd
Deputy Minister for Farming and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-595
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/05082/14

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

22 Hydref 2014

Annwyl William,

Diolch i chi am eich llythyr diweddar at y Gweinidog dros Adnoddau Naturiol, dyddiedig 30 Medi, ynghylch y ddeiseb oddi wrth David Hardwick. Yr wyf yn ymateb gan fod materion diogelwch bwyd o dan fy nghyfrifoldeb uniongyrchol i fel y Dirprwy Weinidog ar gyfer Ffermio a Bwyd.

Mae diogelu iechyd a lles pobl Cymru yn ganolog i waith Llywodraeth Cymru. Mae rheoli ein hadnoddau naturiol yn gynaliadwy yn hanfodol i lwyddiant ein heconomi yn y dyfodol ac yn hanfodol i greu dyfodol ar gyfer ein holl gymunedau.

Mae Cymru mewn sefyllfa dda i ymateb i heriau diogelwch bwyd. Drwy '*Tuag at Dwf Cynaliadwy: Cynllun Gweithredu ar Gyfer y Diwydiant Bwyd a Diod 2014-2020*', ein bwriad yw gweithio'n agos â rhanddeiliaid diogelwch bwyd er mwyn sicrhau ymagwedd gyfannol at gynnal cynhyrchu bwyd yng Nghymru, gan ddiogelu defnyddwyr o ganlyniad. Bydd hyn yn rhan o waith Bwrdd Diwydiant Bwyd a Diod Cymru, a gaiff ei sefydlu'n fuan.

Mae'n amlwg na allwn weithredu ar ben ein hunain ar y materion hyn. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru eisoes yn bartner ac yn gyfrannwr i'r Rhaglen Diogelwch Bwyd Byd-eang; sef rhaglen aml-asiantaeth yn cydlyn ymchwil diogelwch bwyd ar draws Llywodraethau'r DU, cynghorau ymchwil y DU, a'r Bwrdd Strategaeth Technoleg.

Gan fod Bwyd a Ffermio yn un o sectorau blaenoriaeth Llywodraeth Cymru, mae'r Cynllun Datblygu Gwledig (CDG) fel y mae'n ymwneud â bwyd, yn gyson â '*Tuag at Dwf Cynaliadwy*'. Bydd cyllid CDG yn chwarae rhan allweddol mewn cefnogi cynhyrchu bwyd drwy'r Cynllun Buddsoddi Busnes Bwyd, y Cynllun Datblygu yn y Gadwyn Gyflenwi, a drwy ddarparu cyngor a throsglwyddo gwybodaeth.

Yr wyf yn hyderus felly ein bod ar hyn o bryd, mewn sefyllfa dda i ymdrin â heriau diogelwch bwyd a all godi yn y dyfodol.

*Yn gywir,
Rebecca*

Rebecca Evans AC / AM

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Ffermio a Bwyd
Deputy Minister for Farming and Food

P-04-477 Support for the Control of Dogs (Wales) Bill

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to proceed with the Control of Dogs (Wales) Bill.

We, the undersigned, residents of Wales, call on the Welsh Government to proceed with its Control of Dogs (Wales) Bill in tackling the issue of dangerous and menacing dogs and not rely on the piecemeal proposals of the UK Government set out in its draft Anti-social Behaviour Bill and initially explained in the its White Paper “Putting Victims First, More Effective Responses to Anti-social Behaviour”.

We agree with the Welsh Government’s statement “The clear advantage of a Dog Control Notice (DCN) over all existing legislation is that a court may never become involved thereby reducing the burden on public finance” and we believe that the UK Governments proposals involving 4 different enforcement tools, namely–

- Injunctions to prevent nuisance and annoyance;
- Crime Behaviour Orders
- Dispersal Powers
- Community Protection Notices

two of which – Injunctions and Crime Behaviour Orders – must be initiated by applications to the court, are unduly complicated, cumbersome, bureaucratic and will lead to delay.

We believe the single all-encompassing Dog Control Notice proposed for Wales is by far the superior approach and we urge the Welsh Government to frame a law based on this concept as originally planned. We draw the Welsh Government’s attention to (i) the highly critical conclusions of the House of Commons Select Committee on Environment, Food and Rural Affairs report “Dog Control and Welfare” which called the UK Government’s proposals as

“simplistic” and “woefully inadequate” & recommended DEFRA and the Home Office to introduce Dog Control Notices and (ii) to the fact that the campaign coalition of Unions, Animal Charities, Police, Vets are also unhappy with the proposals.

Petition raised by: Cllr. Dilwar Ali

Date petition first considered by Committee: 30 April 2013

Number of signatures : 1119

**P-04-477 Support for the Control of Dogs (Wales) Bill. Correspondence –
Petitioner to the Chair. 9.02.16**

Dear Petition Committee Chair,

Thank you for your email below, as last year April 2015 Rebecca Evans, the Deputy Minister for Farming and Food asked the RSPCA Cymru to undertake a review of responsible dog ownership in Wales and to provide her with their findings and recommendations after the summer recess. I would therefore like to keep the petition alive until I know what the results and recommendations are from RSPCA Cymru to the Welsh Government.

Regards

Dilwar Ali

Agenda Item 3.9

P-04-532 Improving specialised neuromuscular services in Wales

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that Health Boards implement the investment proposed by the Welsh Neuromuscular Network Vision Document for improving specialised neuromuscular services in Wales.

Additional Information:

The Welsh Neuromuscular Network is recommending the following priority developments: 1. Increase in Family Care Advisors and support. 2. Specialist adult neuromuscular physiotherapists. 3. Appointment of consultant in adult neuromuscular disease. 4. Increase in clinical psychology. 5. An equipment budget to enable minor purchases and lease arrangements.

Petition raised by: Muscular Dystrophy Campaign

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 4 February 2014



GIG
NHS

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
University Health Board

Our Ref: PR/TH/cw

Date: 14th December 2015

ABMU Health Board
Headquarters
One Talbot Gateway, Seaway Parade,
Port Talbot
SA12 7BR

01639 683302
WHTN: 1787 3302

Mr William Powell AC/AM
Chair
National Assembly for Wales
Petitions Committee
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell,

I am writing in response to your letter dated 16th November 2015 and following our response to your original letter dated 1st June 2015.

There are currently approximately 200 patients on the muscle database, each of whom needs to be seen annually. Because of the challenge we have with consultant capacity we are unable to meet this review requirement in a consistent way.

The number of patients above does not include the much larger number of patients who have Charcot-Marie Tooth disease and the considerable numbers with myasthenia and acquired inflammatory neuropathies.

Charcot-Marie Tooth is relatively common with a prevalence of approximately 1:2500 and although many affected people will have very mild disease there are others with very significant disability. With the appointment of a Neuromuscular Care Advisor we have been in a position to run a Charcot Marie Tooth pilot clinic. We are currently in the process of filling the Neuromuscular Care Advisor role which is currently vacant due to secondment. When we fill the post we will be in a position to build on the excellent work that has already started. This pilot clinic has been established from existing resources.

The myasthenic and inflammatory neuropathy cases are seen by two of our consultants who specialise in this field, Dr Marguerite Hill and Dr Nigel Hinds.


Chairman/Cadeirydd: **Professor Andrew Davies**
Chief Executive/ Prif Weithredydd: **Mr Paul Roberts**

ABM Headquarters/ Pencadlys ABM, One Talbot Gateway, Seaway Parade, Baglan Energy Park, Port Talbot. SA12 7BR.
Telephone: 01639 683344 Ffon 01639 683344 FAX: 01639 687675 and 01639 687676
Bwrdd Iechyd ABM yw enw gweithredu Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
ABM University Health Board is the operational name of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Local Health Board
www.abm.wales.nhs.uk

During 16/17 one of our key priorities across all our service areas is to look at how we can deliver improved care and access to our patients within our existing resources. We have already demonstrated successfully that by reconfiguring existing resources differently, we can provide a more focussed service to specific patient groups. Managing demand into our services is another priority for us, so that we can direct our specialists towards providing the right support for those patients who only they can manage.

Whilst expanding our consultant workforce would clearly provide us with a great opportunity to broaden the service we can provide to neuromuscular patients, doing so as part of a successful programme of service improvement and change gives us even more opportunity to have a positive impact on the patients we care for.

Yours sincerely,



PAUL ROBERTS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board

Our Ref: JP/RB/jr

Direct Line: 01633 435905

24 December 2015

Mr William Powell, AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

P-04-532 – Improving Specialised Neuromuscular Services in Wales

Thank you for your letter following consideration at your recent meeting of initial Health Board responses to the above. In your letter you requested a view from the Health Board on how the benefits of providing additional neuromuscular consultant time (as suggested by Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board as part of the original call for evidence) could be realised across Wales.

In relation to this service area, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board works with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and Cwm Taf University Health Board to provide a South East Wales service.

Aneurin Bevan and Cardiff and Vale University Health Boards provide one session each of consultant time for specialist nerve/muscle disorders. These two sessions per week for South East Wales provides a basic service.

The Health Board is currently refreshing its Integrated Medium Term Plan (IMTP) which is the mechanism for reviewing and prioritising service developments. We will seek the advice of the Nuromuscular Network on this

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan

Pencadlys,
Ysbyty Sant Cadog
Ffordd Y Lodd
Caerllion
Casnewydd
De Cymru NP18 3XQ
Ffôn: 01633 436700
E-bost: abhb.enquiries@wales.nhs.uk

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Headquarters
St Cadoc's Hospital
Lodge Road
Caerleon
Newport
South Wales NP18 3XQ
Tel No: 01633 436700
Email: abhb.enquiries@wales.nhs.uk



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan yw enw gweithredol Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board is the operational name of Aneurin Bevan University Local Health Board

issue and raise this matter with colleagues in Cardiff and Vale and Cwm Taf Health Boards to seek their views and agree a way forward.

I hope this information is helpful to you. If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Judith Paget
Chief Executive/Prif Weithredwr

cc Nicola Prygodzicz
Alison Shakeshaft



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board

Block 5, Carlton Court
St Asaph Business Park
St Asaph
Denbighshire
LL17 0JG

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Ein cyf / Our ref: SD/GLP/MLW/258

Eich cyf / Your ref:

☎: 01745 448788 ext 6364

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Dawn Lees

E-bost / Email: Dawn.Lees@wales.nhs.uk

Dyddiad / Date: 15th December 2015

seneddpetitions@assembly.wales

Dear Mr Powell

RE: P-04-532 – Improving Specialised Neuromuscular Services in Wales

Thank you for your letter of 16th November inviting further views on how the benefits of providing additional neuromuscular consultant time can be realised. We provided an initial response in May 2015 and have now considered your follow-up request.

A detailed assessment would need to be undertaken to determine whether or not the appointment of a consultant in adult neuromuscular disease would be the best way forward. However existing Consultants specialising in neuromuscular disease can provide leadership within multidisciplinary teams and focus on education and support for partners as well as leading the development and implementation of care pathways. This approach is seen to have benefits and is supported locally.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute our views.

Yours sincerely

Simon Dean
Interim Chief Executive



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Caerdydd a'r Fro
Cardiff and Vale
University Health Board

Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru
University Hospital of Wales
UHB Headquarters
Heath Park
Cardiff, CF14 4XW

Parc Y Mynydd Bychan
Caerdydd, CF14 4XW

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-532
Ein cyf/Our ref: AC-ns-02-5356
Welsh Health Telephone Network:
Direct Line/Llinell uniongyrchol: 02920 745681

Professor Adam Cairns
Chief Executive

12 February 2016

Mr William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

Re: Improving Specialist Neuromuscular Services in Wales

I write in response to your request via email dated 4 February 2016 to provide information on the current provision of Neuromuscular Services within the South East Wales area which are hosted by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. Unfortunately, it seems that Cardiff and Vale UHB was not included in the original request for this information sent to Health Boards in November 2015 and therefore please accept my apologies that we are unable to provide a more comprehensive response given the limited timeframe available.

Provision of Family Care Advisors

Cardiff and Vale UHB currently employs one Family Care Advisor who works 30 hours per week, 5 hours of which were funded by the Chair of the Neuromuscular Care Group. The post holder provides a service to both adults and children in South East Wales. Recent reviews of the service have deemed this unsustainable both for the individual and the service in general. However, Cardiff and Vale has recently received an additional £60,000 via the Neurological Conditions Delivery Plan funding to support the appointment of additional Family Care Advisors for the region and the Neurosciences Directorate is in the process of taking this forward.

Provision of Adult Specialist Neuromuscular Physiotherapy Services

The involvement of neuromuscular physiotherapists in clinics where adult patients are regularly seen is essential. There are currently no specialist adult neuromuscular physiotherapists for South East Wales but as part of the Neurological Conditions Delivery Plan, 1 WTE physiotherapist has been funded to be split between AMBU and Cardiff and Vale UHB to cover South and Mid Wales. Such roles are considered to be important in surveillance, early intervention and avoidance of admissions particularly linked to respiratory health and maintenance of independence. We also have a transition/palliative physiotherapist who works across AMBU and Cardiff and



Vale UHB who supports transition of neuromuscular patients from paediatric service to adult services and attends consultant clinics.

Provision of Psychology Services

There is currently no service provision for psychology for South East Wales. This has been highlighted in our Neurological Conditions Delivery Plan and a bid was put forward for funding, however this was not prioritised as an area to invest in. This will need to be taken forward via the Health Board's Integrated Medium Term Planning process and will be considered alongside our other priorities.

Medical Staff

There is a part time consultant providing a neuromuscular service in Cardiff. The consultant provides a neuromuscular outpatient clinic and also provides support for patients within the inpatient service.

Equipment

In 2014/15 we received significant one off investment to purchase equipment for neuromuscular patients. This was well received by patients and their families and significantly improved their quality of life.

I trust my response provides you with the information you require but should you need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Professor Adam Cairns
Chief Executive



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf
University Health Board

Your ref/eich

cyf:

Our ref/ein cyf:

Date/Dyddiad:

Tel/ffôn:

Fax/ffacs:

Email/ebost:

Dept/adran:

AJW/KAD

10th February 2016

01443 744803

01443 744888

Allison.williams4@wales.nhs.uk

Chair & Chief Executive

Mr William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

RE: O-04-532 - Improving Specialised Neuromuscular Services in Wales

I refer to your letter requesting views on "how the benefits of providing additional neuromuscular consultant time can be realised across Wales".

The benefit of additional neuromuscular consultant time was one of a number of comments made by ABMU Health Board in its response to the Committee in April 2015.

It is important that the care needs of this particular patient group are planned and delivered in a holistic way. This means that the consultant medical care cannot be considered in isolation from the multi-agency and multi-disciplinary team. Therefore any increase in medical capacity must be considered in the context of the whole service delivery model balancing local access to support with more centralised expert oversight and advice.

Any investment requirements for consultant expansion in this service would need to be considered within the context of the multi-disciplinary model and alongside other priorities for service capacity expansion across the whole of NHS Wales. If this was to be considered a priority for expansion then it would need to be part of a networked service to ensure that the specialist advice and access was available to all Health Boards across Wales. It would not be practical for an additional Consultant to provide local services across multiple Health Boards.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Allison Williams
Chief Executive/Prif Weithredydd

Return Address: Ynysmeurig House, Unit 3, Navigation Park, Abercynon, CF45 4SN



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Hywel Dda
University Health Board

Ein cyf/Our ref: CEO.033a.0116
Gofynnwch am/Please ask for: Nicola Gillies, PA to Chief Executive
Rhif Ffôn /Telephone: 01267 239581
Ffacs/Facsimile: 01267 239579
E-bost/E-mail: nicola.gillies@wales.nhs.uk
Dyddiad/Date: 16 February 2016

Swyddfeydd Corfforaethol, Adeilad Ystwyth
Hafan Derwen, Parc Dewi Sant, Heol Ffynnon Job
Caerfyrddin, Sir Gaerfyrddin, SA31 3BB

Corporate Offices, Ystwyth Building
Hafan Derwen, St Davids Park, Job's Well Road,
Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire, SA31 3BB

William Powell, AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

P-04-532 Improving Specialised Neuromuscular Services in Wales

People living in the Hywel Dda area access neurological services hosted by ABMU. Consequently the ABMU service described is also delivered on behalf of those people with neuromuscular disorders in Hywel Dda.

The Health Board is progressively strengthening its joint working with ABMU and is in discussion regarding improving access to neurology clinics and extending the service already available. As part of this process Hywel Dda will review the number of neuromuscular clinics delivered as a satellite service in its acute hospitals as well as access to the neuromuscular clinics available in ABMU.

Yours sincerely

Steve Moore
Chief Executive

Swyddfeydd Corfforaethol, Adeilad Ystwyth,
Hafan Derwen, Parc Dewi Sant, Heol Ffynnon Job,
Caerfyrddin, Sir Gaerfyrddin, SA31 3BB

Corporate Offices, Ystwyth Building,
Hafan Derwen, St Davids Park, Job's Well Road,
Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire, SA31 3BB

Cadeirydd / Chair
Mrs Bernardine Rees OBE

Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive
Mr Steve Moore

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda yw enw'r bwrdd iechyd lleol Prifysgol Hywel Dda
Hywel Dda University Health Board is the operational name of Hywel Dda University Local Health Board

Mae Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda yn amgylchedd di-fwg Hywel Dda University Health Board operates a smoke free environment

Vivienne Harpwood, Cadeirydd / Chair
Ffon / Phone: 01874 615971
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**Carol Shillabeer, Y Prif Weithredwr /
Chief Executive**
Ffon / Phone: 01874 615980
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**GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES**

**Bwrdd Iechyd
Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board**

Ref: CS/AL/MP/sj

11th January 2016

Mr William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear William

P-04-532 – Improving specialised neuromuscular services in Wales.

Thank you for your letter of 16th November 2016 regarding the above and seeking the views of Powys Teaching Health Board on the benefits of providing additional neuromuscular consultant time across Wales as identified by Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB.

Currently children and adults with neuromuscular conditions access specialist services in Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt (RJA) NHS Trust, Cardiff and Vale UHB or Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB.

Neurology is a commissioned service of which neuromuscular conditions is a sub speciality. We have a service level agreement in place and are invoiced on a per contact basis and it is up to ABMU as a provider to look at skill mix of their specialist neurologists and organise their consultant work plans in order to meet demand in a timely way.

We do not have a local register of people living with neuromuscular conditions, but we are in the process of recruiting a Neurorehabilitation Service Coordinator. One of this person's roles will be to develop a register of people living in Powys with a neurological condition in order to improve communication and coordination of care.

Both Corfforedig (De)
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Aberhonddu, Powys LD3 7HR
Ffôn: 01874 711661



Corporate Hub (South)
Neuadd Brycheiniog, Cambrian Way,
Brecon, Powys LD3 7HR
Tel: 01874 711661

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth Gymraeg
Bwrdd Iechyd Addysgu Powys yw enw gweithred Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol
Addysgu Powys



Pack Page 114

We welcome correspondence in Welsh
Powys Teaching Health Board is the operational name of
Powys Teaching Local Health Board

I hope this letter goes some way to clarifying the current situation regarding the provision of neuromuscular services in Powys but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Shillabeer', with a horizontal line underneath.

PP

Carol Shillabeer
Chief Executive

**Muscular Dystrophy UK comment for the Petitions Committee on Welsh
Neuromuscular Services**

March 2016

Muscular Dystrophy UK acknowledges the correspondence from the Health Boards to the Petitions Committee.

We welcome the recent investment in neuromuscular care advisor and specialist adult neuromuscular physiotherapy support, and we hope that the recruitment process for putting in place this investment is concluded swiftly.

Muscular Dystrophy UK continues to reiterate key priorities for service development, which have been highlighted in some of the correspondence to the committee, including:

- **additional neuromuscular consultant time**
- **specialist neuromuscular psychology support**
- **co-ordinated approach to bringing together the specialist multi-disciplinary elements of care for people with muscle-wasting conditions**

Muscular Dystrophy UK would encourage Health Boards to actively engage with the Welsh Neuromuscular Network so that improvements can be implemented and co-ordinated on a consistent basis across Wales.

We remain particularly concerned by the continued vacancy of the South West Wales Neuromuscular Care Advisor post. Individuals and families have been struggling without this vital source of specialist care and support to turn to over the last few months, and this must be resolved as a matter of urgency.

Muscular Dystrophy UK hopes that neuromuscular services can be considered as topic for a review by the Health and Social Care Committee at the earliest available opportunity.

P-04-436 : Government Expenditure and Revenue Wales

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to put together a Government Expenditure and Revenue Wales report.

In Scotland they have the GERS report, it aims to enhance public understanding of fiscal issues through detailed analysis of official UK and Scottish Government financial statistics. It's time that the Welsh Government published a similar report so that we can truly see the fiscal position of Wales.

Petition raised by: Stuart Evans

Date petition first considered by Committee: 15 January 2013

Number of signatures: 27

Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Busnes y Llywodraeth
Minister for Finance and Government Business



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-436
Ein cyf/Our ref JH/00055/16

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

12 February 2016

Dear William,

The Committee has requested an update on the issues raised in the petition relating to public finance statistics for Wales. There have been a number of developments on revenue and expenditure data for Wales since I last wrote to you regarding this petition.

The Welsh Government already publishes data relating to its own finances and those of local authorities in Wales. As I informed the Finance Committee in response to its inquiry on best practice budget processes, these will be developed to take account of devolved taxes. The UK Government continues to publish estimates of public spending in Wales and UK taxes raised in Wales.

In a separate development, the Office for National Statistics is considering developing public sector finance statistics for UK countries and English regions, a proposition they will consult on later this month. The Wales Governance Centre is also undertaking a project to estimate government revenue and expenditure in Wales.

In summary, there are a number of existing and potential data sources relating to public finance statistics for Wales. The Welsh Government will continue to publish information relating to its own finances and those of local authorities in Wales.

Best wishes,
Jane

Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Busnes y Llywodraeth
Minister for Finance and Government Business

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0300 0603300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0300 0604400
Correspondence: Jane.Hutt@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.