

## Agenda – Petitions Committee

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Meeting Venue:

**Committee Room 1 – Senedd**

Meeting date: 13 June 2017

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

**Graeme Francis** – Committee Clerk

**Kath Thomas** – Deputy Clerk

0300 200 6565

[SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales)

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Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales

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# Agenda Item 2.1

## **P-05-754 Lack of support for children with disabilities at crisis (there is a crisis team but do not support children with disabilities)**

This petition was submitted by Rebecca Weale having collected 200 signatures.

### **Text of the Petition**

I am trying to highlight the need for the Cwm Taf children's crisis team to recognise there is a vital need for children with disabilities to be supported through crisis and have the right to be treated as any other child would.

I am a mother of four children, my middle son Tom has numerous needs, severe learning difficulties, autism, a mood disorder as well as other additional health issues. Tom hits a crisis point every now and again. Which involves increase in aggression, shouting louder than usual, hurting himself as well as others, as well as many other changes in behaviour. Tom has extremely limited communication skills and is unable to tell us what is wrong or what we can do to help. We have been at crisis point with Tom who is now 15yrs old and on high doses of medications, many times over the years and it's astonishing how things have not progressed with regards to support for children with disabilities while at crisis. Tom is currently at a crisis point and has been for some time. We as a family have had very little if any support to help him through this difficult period. I have been made aware there is a children's crisis team however they do not support children with disabilities! Surely a child at crisis no matter if they have disabilities or not, is still a child at crisis. In fact I may be wrong but in some cases may need more crisis support. I can not believe at this day in age this divide is still acceptable. I am trying to highlight the need for the Cwm Taf children's crisis team to recognise there is a vital need for children with disabilities to be supported through crisis and have the right to be treated as any other child would.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region.**

- Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney
- South Wales East

## Briefing for the Petitions Committee

Petition number: [P-05-0754](#)

Petition title: **Lack of support for children with disabilities at crisis**

I am trying to highlight the need for the Cwm Taf children's crisis team to recognise there is a vital need for children with disabilities to be supported through crisis and have the right to be treated as any other child would.

I am a mother of four children, my middle son Tom has numerous needs, severe learning difficulties, autism, a mood disorder as well as other additional health issues. Tom hits a crisis point every now and again. Which involves increase in aggression, shouting louder than usual, hurting himself as well as others, as well as many other changes in behaviour. Tom has extremely limited communication skills and is unable to tell us what is wrong or what we can do to help. We have been at crisis point with Tom who is now 15yrs old and on high doses of medications, many times over the years and it's astonishing how things have not progressed with regards to support for children with disabilities while at crisis. Tom is currently at a crisis point and has been for some time. We as a family have had very little if any support to help him through this difficult period. I have been made aware there is a children's crisis team however they do not support children with disabilities! Surely a child at crisis no matter if they have disabilities or not, is still a child at crisis. In fact I may be wrong but in some cases may need more crisis support. I can not believe at this day in age this divide is still acceptable. I am trying to highlight the need for the Cwm Taf children's crisis team to recognise there is a vital need for children with disabilities to be supported through crisis and have the right to be treated as any other child would.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport's response to the petition describes how the Welsh Government has been investing in mental health services for children and young people. He refers to the Together for Children and Young People Programme, which has as one of its priorities the improvement of neurodevelopment services for children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and autism. The Cabinet Secretary also highlights that:

- under the Together for Children and Young People Programme, £2.7 million funding is being used to establish crisis care teams in CAMHS (child and adolescent mental health services);
- a new, national Integrated Autism Service (IAS), designed to provide extra support for children, adults and families to help them avoid crisis, is being rolled out across Wales (by 2018).

## CAMHS

As described in the Royal College of Psychiatrists' guidance document [Building and sustaining specialist CAMHS to improve outcomes for children and young people](#), 'CAMHS' is a broad concept embracing all services that contribute to the mental healthcare of children and young people, whether provided by health, education or social services, or other agencies. It includes those services whose primary function is not to provide specialist mental healthcare, but who have a general role in meeting the emotional and mental health needs of children and young people (for example general practice, schools or universal services). Specialist CAMHS are services with a core remit and responsibility to provide specialist mental healthcare.

A child's or young person's journey may involve movement through tiers/levels of service in a stepped care approach, as their condition is recognised as more complex or as and when conditions are ameliorated. Some children and young people will receive services from more than one of the tiers at the same time.

In 2014, the Fourth Assembly's Children, Young People and Education Committee carried out an [inquiry into specialist CAMHS](#). The Committee noted the Welsh Government's position that this is a specialist medical service and is not intended to be 'the whole of the answer' to meeting the needs of young people who are experiencing emotional or mental health difficulties. The Committee's view however was that:

- the level of CAMHS provision is not sufficient to meet the needs of young people in Wales who do need a specialist medical service, and;
- the absence of services for those children and young people who do not meet the 'medical model' criteria for CAMHS may mean that there is a significant level of unmet need.

Before the Committee's report was published, the then Minister for Health and Social Services announced a review of CAMHS. This work is being taken forward as the Together for Children and Young People Programme.

### Together for Children and Young People Programme

[Together for Children and Young People](#) (T4CYP) was launched in 26th February 2015 to consider ways to modernise and redesign mental health services for children and young

people in Wales. It is a multi-agency service improvement programme, led by NHS Wales and funded by the Welsh Government. The Programme's priority workstreams are:

- early years, resilience and well-being;
- early intervention and enhanced support;
- neuro-developmental and co-morbid mental health/learning disabilities;
- specialist CAMHS.

The Programme's [framework for action](#) states:

The ability to identify early on where there may be additional need for support is critical and will require increased focus to prevent young people needing the services of specialist CAMHS.

### **Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan**

The Welsh Government published its refreshed [Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan](#) in 2016. A key development is the establishment of a National Integrated Autism Service, which aims to support the improvements in children's diagnosis, treatment and support services being delivered through the Together for Children and Young People Programme.

The Strategic Action Plan also highlights that a specific chapter about learning disabilities and autism is now included in the Mental Health Act 1983 [code of practice for Wales](#) (revised 2016). This is based on the principle that the least restrictive options should be used and for the least period of time, and the expectation that positive approaches will be used to help manage challenging behaviour. It also includes recommendations about appropriate training for staff.

### **Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014**

Under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, health boards and local authorities have a duty to assess the levels of need for care and support services in their areas, and the types of services required to meet them. One of the core themes of these population assessments is learning disability/autism.

Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils with Cwm Taf University Health Board have been developing a [Learning Disability Joint Statement of Strategic Intent](#). Set within the context of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act, the vision is that children, young people and adults with a learning disability (including those people with autism and complex needs) will be able to access efficient and effective services that enable person-centred outcomes and minimise escalation of need and risk through the promotion of early intervention, prevention, greater independence and access to opportunities. This, the document states, will be achieved through:

- maximising the use of universal services;
- increasing early intervention, prevention, information, advice and assistance;

- building community support and developing people's independence;
- sustaining people in their own homes;
- enabling people to live full lives and achieve their potential;
- keeping people safe;
- making best use of our resources.

Further information about the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, including codes of practice and briefings on relevant parts of the Act (such as assessing the needs of individuals and meeting needs) can be accessed via the [Social Care Wales](#) website.



Vaughan Gething AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon  
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-05-754  
Ein cyf/Our ref VG/01046/17

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

10 May 2017

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 27 March about the petition received from Rebecca Weale about support for children with disabilities at crisis.

The Welsh Government has invested almost £8 million additional annual funding to improve mental health services for children and young people and to ensure appropriate resources are available to help them achieve the right outcomes in a timely manner. The Together for Children and Young People Programme is an NHS led, Welsh Government funded initiative which is examining, with partners, the role of child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) and others in meeting the emotional and mental health needs of children and young people. One of the priorities for this programme is improving neurodevelopment services for children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and autism. £2 million of the funding is being used to develop service improvements. The programme has also established CAMHS crisis care teams and £2.7 million of the £8 million funding is being used specifically for this. These teams work in the evenings and at weekends, to ensure young people presenting with mental health conditions, in crisis e.g., at accident and emergency units or to the police, are able to have appropriate support.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

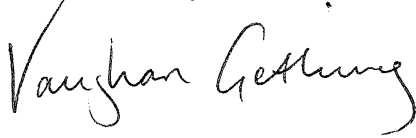
[Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales)

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.

Last November we published our Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan. This set out a number of key actions, some of which will be delivered through a new national Integrated Autism Service (IAS). The IAS is designed to provide extra support for children, adults and families, to help them avoid crisis and the need for more intensive support. There will be new specialist team in every region providing support for families and carers. The first phase of implementation of the IAS is now underway and being rolled out across Cardiff and the Vale, Cwm Taf, Gwent and Powys. Recruitment to these four regional teams should be completed this month with services coming on stream in July. The IAS will be rolled out across Wales by 2018. As we develop the service we will be seeking the views of people with autism and parents and carers to ensure the services are developed to provide them with the support they need.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Vaughan Gething'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large 'V' and 'G'.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon  
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport

**P-05-754 Lack of support for children with disabilities at crisis – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 31.05.17**

Hi,

Thanks for replying to me with regards to the petition.

There are a few points I would like to add;

1) CAMHS have been as supportive as possible. However they have had extremely limited resources and availability within this service has been hard to access. Dr [REDACTED] has limited appointments and time due to being so stretched with the amount of work load she has and covering such a large area.

2) Thankfully Thomas has an amazing Social Worker, this has not always been the case. Toms social worker [REDACTED] again can only do so much, she has done more than her job description. All she has come to is dead ends as we have with regards to medical support. Social workers are not medically trained. [REDACTED] contacted everyone possible throughout this crisis point and again hit dead ends, whilst only to be put down by those professionals I spoke to.

3) The problem comes down to there not being enough support for children with learning difficulties and mental health issues, not just in the area specified , but throughout Wales. The Merthyr Tydfil area has a crisis team available, but will not allow children with learning difficulties to access that service. I understand as a staff nurse myself the lack of funding, the situation with services developing and so on and funds becoming available (in time), but that hasn't helped my son ( and us as a family). Surely the crucial needs of a crisis team should be set up first and then the less vital parts parts added on as funding is available. To me and others it does come across as a form of discrimination.

4) Since setting up the petition I have become aware that CAMHS have received a bit more support and have had a little more availability to see Tom throughout this crisis (4 months ongoing) but it's still limited and most of the time unhelpful, at no fault of the CAHMS team.

I will continue to stress the lack of support to those who truly need it.

I do apologise that I have not limited the contents of my points, however I would like to think that you would understand my outrage, stress, upset and disappointment of this situation.

Kind regards,

Rebecca Weale

# Agenda Item 2.2

## **P-05-758 Statue to Honour Billy Boston**

This petition was submitted by CIAC's RFC having collected 151 signatures.

### **Petition text:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to honour British & Welsh sporting legend Billy Boston with a statue in Cardiff Bay.

He was born & raised in the docks area of Cardiff and it is about time that his sporting achievements were recognised by his home town & country.

At the beginning of his rugby career he was ignored by his home town club Cardiff RFC and as a result he never achieved his dream of playing at the arms. Cardiff & Wales loss was Wigan's gain as Billy went on to score 478 tries in 487 appearances for the club, some of the other highlights of his career are:

- Three Challenge Cups and an RFL Championship title in 1960
- 24 tries in 31 appearances for Great Britain and he was a member of the team that won the 1960 World Cup

Wigan have recently honoured him with a statue and there is also a statue at Wembley stadium highlighting his impact and status within rugby league.

CIAC's RFC (Billy's first club) are willing to help in way we can with fundraising etc., and we have a current player who is a sculptor who would be more than happy to be involved in the project.

It is time previous wrongs are put right and Billy is given the respect and honour he deserves from Cardiff and Wales, and what better to do that than with a statue in the area of Cardiff where he was born and raised.

**Assembly Constituency and Region.**

- Cardiff North
- South Wales Central

## Statue to Honour Billy Boston

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 13 Mehefin 2017

Petitions Committee | 13 June 2017

### Research Briefing:

Petition number: P-05-758

Petition title: Statue to honour Billy Boston

Text of petition:

“We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to honour British & Welsh sporting legend Billy Boston with a statue in Cardiff Bay.

He was born & raised in the docks area of Cardiff and it is about time that his sporting achievements were recognised by his home town & country.

At the beginning of his rugby career he was ignored by his home town club Cardiff RFC and as a result he never achieved his dream of playing at the arms. Cardiff & Wales loss was Wigan's gain as Billy went on to score 478 tries in 487 appearances for the club, some of the other highlights of his career are:

Three Challenge Cups and an RFL Championship title in 1960; 24 tries in 31 appearances for Great Britain; and he was a member of the team that won the 1960 World Cup.

Wigan have recently honoured him with a statue and there is also a statue at Wembley stadium highlighting his impact and status within rugby league.

CIAC's RFC (Billy's first club) are willing to help in way we can with fundraising etc., and we have a current player who is a sculptor who would be more than happy to be involved in the project.

It is time previous wrongs are put right and Billy is given the respect and honour he deserves from Cardiff and Wales, and what better to do that than with a statue in the area of Cardiff where he was born and raised.”

## Background

A number of sources of funding could be pursued for a statue such as this. The Research Service has produced a number of guides for constituents, signposting sources of funding and advice. The following may be relevant to this petition:

- [Community buildings, places of workshop and faith groups – a guide for constituents](#)
- [Assistance for the arts – a guide for constituents](#)

In addition, Welsh Government tourism funding may be relevant to this proposal, as mentioned below.

## Welsh Government action

The Welsh Government has previously provided funding for statues. In 2012 the then Minister for Culture and Sport (Huw Lewis AM) provided £5,000 to help build a statue of former Cardiff City player Fred Keenor, who captained the team to win the FA Cup in 1927.

The Welsh Government provides funding for proposals that will develop tourism through its Tourism Product Innovation Fund. Further information, including eligibility criteria, is available on the Welsh Government's Business Wales website [here](#).

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.



Ein cyf/Our ref KS/01558/17

Mike Hedges AM  
government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

26 May 2017

Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter regarding a petition for a statue to honour former rugby league player Billy Boston. In principle, I would have no objection to a statue being erected in Billy's honour.

Should the Petitions Committee wish to support the request, my officials responsible for the Tourism Product Innovation Fund have stated that although no firm guarantees can be made they would be willing to discuss the project with the CIACS. Below is a web link which contains advice, including the appropriate contact details of the relevant officials:-

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/dmwales/sites/dmwales/files/documents/Tourism%20Product%20Innovation%20Fund-Guidance%202017-2019%20pdf.pdf>

The First Minister has previously responded to a similar request from a different source and his advice suggested the correspondents should contact the Arts Council of Wales (ACW) to discuss the matter. Working within the strategic framework that the Welsh Government sets, the ACW are best placed to provide support and advice to artists and make direct grants to individuals (normally from its National Lottery programmes) as well as to arts organisations.

The contact details for ACW are:

Arts Council of Wales,  
Bute Place,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 5AL  
Tel: 0845 8734 900  
[www.arts.wales](http://www.arts.wales)  
[www.arts.wales/what-we-do/funding/apply](http://www.arts.wales/what-we-do/funding/apply)

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

[Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales)

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.



ACW's website also contains information on other sources of funding.

I trust you will find this information helpful.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken', with a stylized flourish above the 'n'.

**Ken Skates AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure

## Agenda Item 2.3

### **P-05-759 Re-open the Cwmcarn Forest Drive at Easter 2018**

This petition was submitted by The Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive having collected 1450 signatures – 353 on paper and 1097 on-line.

#### **Petition text:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to provide the necessary means to allow Natural Resources Wales to fully re-open the Cwmcarn Forest Drive to private cars at Easter 2017.

#### **Additional information:**

In the summer of 2014 Natural Resources Wales stated that the Cwmcarn Forest Drive, also known as the Scenic Drive, would be closed for a minimum of two years from November 2014 and that this was necessary because of the infection of the Japanese larch in the Cwmcarn valley and surrounding hillsides. The removal of the larch is now almost complete and NRW are beginning to reinstate the cycle tracks and footpaths, however there does not appear to be a plan to reinstate the scenic drive, even though the vast majority of the route is undamaged. To single out private car users of the drive is unfair and unnecessary when other users will face only temporary disruption. Many of those who access the Drive via private car do so because they have limited mobility, some are families with small children, many are elderly, disabled or from our ethnic minority and immigrant communities. Failing to provide a facility for these people is discriminatory especially when there are plans, and funds available, to provide further facilities for other users. The lack of a fully accessible scenic drive deprives those people who are our most culturally and materially deprived of their main facility for health and well-being. Our organisation, the Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive wants equality of access for all users of the scenic drive and calls for the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales to provide the means to make this possible.

#### **Assembly Constituency and Region.**

- Islwyn
- South Wales East

## Petition: P-05-759 Re-open the Cwmcarn Forest Drive at Easter 2018

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 13 Mehefin 2017  
Petitions Committee | 13 June 2017

### Research Briefing:

Petition number: P-05-759

Petition title: **Re-open the Cwmcarn Forest Drive at Easter 2018**

Petition text:

**We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to provide the necessary means to allow Natural Resources Wales to fully re-open the Cwmcarn Forest Drive to private cars at Easter 2018.**

In the summer of 2014 Natural Resources Wales stated that the Cwmcarn Forest Drive, also known as the Scenic Drive, would be closed for a minimum of two years from November 2014 and that this was necessary because of the infection of the Japanese larch in the Cwmcarn valley and surrounding hillsides. The removal of the larch is now almost complete and NRW are beginning to reinstate the cycle tracks and footpaths, however there does not appear to be a plan to reinstate the scenic drive, even though the vast majority of the route is undamaged. To single out private car users of the drive is unfair and unnecessary when other users will face only temporary disruption. Many of those who access the Drive via private car do so because they have limited mobility, some are families with small children, many are elderly, disabled or from our ethnic minority and immigrant communities. Failing to provide a facility for these people is discriminatory especially when there are plans, and funds available, to provide further facilities for other users. The lack of a fully accessible scenic drive deprives those people who are our most culturally and materially deprived of their main facility for health and well-being. Our organisation, the Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive wants equality of access for all users of the scenic drive and calls for the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales to provide the means to make this possible.

## Background

The Forest Drive is one of a number of facilities provided by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Caerphilly County Borough Council in the Cwmcarn valley. These facilities also include a visitor centre with a café and a gift shop, walking and mountain biking trails, and fishing and camping facilities.

The Forest Drive closed in November 2014 to allow NRW to undertake a large-scale felling operation of larch trees infected with *Phytophthora ramorum* (larch disease). 78% of the trees along the drive were larch trees infected by the disease. This approach is part of NRW's Wales-wide strategy to reduce the risk of larch disease spreading further.

In April 2015, NRW gave the following [reasons for closing the Forest Drive \(PDF 189KB\)](#):

- The safety of the public is the number one priority;
- The Forest Drive road is a single track, one-way road system for most of its length;
- The road will be used to site harvesting equipment during operations;
- Timber will be stored directly on or adjacent to the road and loaded onto lorries;
- Large haulage lorries will be travelling along the road at regular intervals; and
- Given that the road is not built to highway standards, it is highly likely to be damaged by the 40 tonne timber trucks and harvesting machinery. It would therefore be unsafe for public motorists to use the road during operations.

In January 2016, NRW told the Research Service:

Closing the drive for felling has inevitably led us to ask some hard questions about whether or not we open the drive again. Like other public bodies, we are having to think about how best to use our limited resources. We haven't yet reached any conclusions, but we need to be realistic about the challenges we face at Cwmcarn. In particular:-

- There will be some significant up-front costs associated with re-instating the roads and recreational facilities.
- We also know that any investment or re-opening would require a rationalisation and re-fresh of the facilities we offer, and that this would also be an additional cost.
- The way in which we have been managing the drive is not sustainable, and we need to find a more efficient model for managing the facility. It's currently running at a net loss.

We need to consider all of these factors, as well as looking at potential sources of funding over the next few months. Whilst we can't make any commitment that the drive will definitely open, we do recognise the value of the drive to the health and wellbeing of local communities, and will be doing everything we can to make sure an opportunity is not lost here.

## Welsh Government action

Lesley Griffiths AM, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs, wrote to the Committee on 8 May 2017. Her letter states the following:

- The Forest Drive was closed to ensure the large-scale harvesting operations remain on schedule and any risks to public safety are managed properly. This remains a high priority for NRW.
- Engineering surveys of the Forest Drive have indicated that substantial investment is required to keep it open.
- NRW has maintained regular contact with the Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive over the past 18 months, including providing updates at public meetings.
- The future of the Forest Drive “has not been concluded and nothing has been decided.” NRW has “always been clear that they cannot commit to re-opening the Drive until the funding to support the work associated with it can be identified”.
- A study into the commercial feasibility and management options at Cwmcarn will commence this year. Options for the future of the Forest Drive will be included in this study. NRW hopes to review the findings from the study in early 2018.
- The petitioners should be encouraged to continue to work with NRW to develop a plan to secure the long term future of the Forest Drive.

## National Assembly for Wales action

The closure of Cwmcarn Forest Drive has been the subject of a number of oral and written questions in the Assembly over the past two years, including the following.

On [3 February 2016](#) William Powell AM asked:

... the Cwmcarn Forest Drive has now been closed to cars since November 2014 to allow the felling of over 150,000 infected larch. There's been considerable uncertainty amongst the public, both in terms of the long-term future of that particular attraction and also with regard to the rights of way that are still open to walkers and to mountain bikers. The Cwmcarn Forest visitor centre is set, I understand, to record at least a 10 per cent drop in visitors. This is believed, in part, to be down to a misunderstanding as to the current status of the footpath network. I know that my colleague, Jocelyn Davies, has recently written on this topic in the local media. In this regard, also, Rob Southall, chairman of the friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive, has brought a petition to the Petitions Committee. Given the importance of the forest drive, what more can the Welsh Government do to support NRW in addressing the concerns of the local community and to ensure that it does open again and as soon as possible?

Carl Sargeant AM, the then Minister for Natural Resources, responded:

I know that NRW are working extremely hard in the area to try and resolve these issues, but biological security for that area and for the rest of Wales is extremely important. I believe that they're

handling the situation very well. Of course, we'd like to see the Cwmcarn Forest Drive open, but it's a matter of making sure that we can deal with the phytophthora ramorum infection that is under way in that particular region.

On [22 June 2016](#) Rhianon Passmore AM asked:

... Natural Resources Wales has stated, regarding the tree felling on the seven-mile Cwmcarn forest scenic drive, which temporarily closed in November 2014, that this is a long-term operation that could take between three and four years to complete. Will the Cabinet Secretary reiterate the Welsh Government's absolute, unequivocal determination that one of the natural wonders of the Welsh environment will be a priority for the Welsh Government, with priority put on ensuring that the drive will once again become available to the public?

Lesley Griffiths AM, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs, responded:

The Welsh Government is very aware of the value of the Cwmcarn forest drive to the local communities and to visitors. Both Natural Resources Wales and Caerphilly County Borough Council have set up a working group to look at the long-term opportunities there, including how walking and cycling routes, and campsites, can be sustainably funded in future.

On [5 July 2016](#) Rhianon Passmore AM asked:

... tourism hubs within the city region's connectivity agenda are absolutely essential in terms of releasing the potential of our beautiful landscapes within the Valleys communities and, so, would the Minister agree with me in terms of how important it is, for instance, that the Cwmcarn scenic drive in my constituency is actually regenerated and rejuvenated as a true vision of what we can do with Valleys communities, and what we can do in terms of regeneration of our Valleys communities?

Alun Davies AM, Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language, responded:

I absolutely agree. I think the Cwmcarn forest drive is a fantastic resource for all of us, and not just for those of us who live in the Valleys. I know the Cabinet Secretary is in her place and has heard the points that you've made. And, certainly, the work that I believe that NRW has been involved with will ensure that Cwmcarn scenic drive is available for people in the future. It's a very good example of how the environment and the geography and the landscape of the Valleys are something that can provide, not simply enjoyment and pleasure for those of us who live there, but also can ensure that we have an economic impact, and one that we need to harness and use for the future.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-759  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00818/17

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

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8 May 2017

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 24 April regarding a petition to re-open the Cwmcarn Forest Drive at Easter 2018. The day to day management of the Welsh Government woodland estate is delegated to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and this includes responsibility for the Forest Drive at Cwmcarn. The Forest Drive was closed in order to ensure the large-scale harvesting operations remain on schedule and any risks to the public's safety are managed properly. This remains to be a high priority for NRW.

Regardless of the *Phytophthora ramorum* felling, engineering surveys of the Drive have indicated that substantial investment is required to keep it open. There are also significant costs associated with restructuring the forest to remove larch trees, replant them with a more diverse and resilient range of species and to reduce the impact on recreation and tourism. The ongoing and future costs (to NRW) of running the scenic drive must all be considered.

NRW has maintained regular contact with the Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive and they have given periodic updates at their public meetings over the past 18 Months. Whilst re-opening the Drive is the main focus of the Group, they have also been reassured by the enormous efforts currently going into managing the large scale felling operations whilst protecting the environment and keeping public access open. Additionally, NRW is focusing a lot of attention on restocking the woodland with native species and encouraging the restoration of the ancient woodland through natural regeneration. Over 50 hectares have already been restocked and a further 170,000 trees will be planted this winter.

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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.

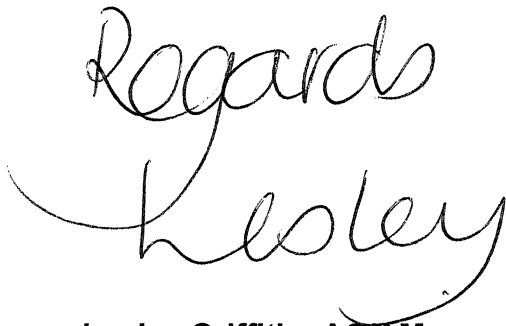
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I am advised by NRW that the future of the Drive has not been concluded and nothing has been decided, however, they have always been clear in that they cannot commit to re-opening the Drive until the funding to support the work associated with it can be identified.

Caerphilly County Borough Council and NRW are working together to explore how working in a more collaborative and opportunistic way could enable them to maximise the benefits from the existing recreational infrastructure, capital assets and natural resources in the Cwmcarn Valley. By jointly developing a new model of management, they hope to unlock the enormous potential for community regeneration at Cwmcarn whilst maintaining it's intrinsic natural value and existing customer base. A study into the commercial feasibility and management options at Cwmcarn will commence this year. Options for the future of the forest drive will be included in this study. NRW hopes to be in a position to review the findings from the study in early 2018.

I am aware of the value of the Drive to communities and visitors but the ongoing cost implications of its re-establishment mean that NRW have to consider as many options as possible in order to assess the impact of this on their budget. I would expect that NRW will consider equality and diversity issues as they take this forward.

The Petitioners should be encouraged to continue to work with NRW in order to work through the possible options available in order to develop a plan to secure the long term future of the Drive.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Regards' on the first line and 'Lesley' on the second line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs





24 Mount Pleasant Terrace, Pontywaun, Crosskeys, NP11 7GH

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair – Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales,  
Ty Hywel,  
Cardiff Bay,  
Cardiff,  
CF99 1NA

robertsouthall@outlook.com

Wednesday 31 May 2017

Dear Mike

Thank you very much for instructing committee clerks to forward Lesley Griffith AM, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs, letter of 8th May. I am a little concerned that the Minister's letter does not seem to be a response to our current petition (which is asking the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to provide the necessary means to allow Natural Resources Wales to fully re-open the Cwmcarn Forest Drive to private cars at Easter 2018) rather it seems to be responding to our previous petition which asked the National Assembly urge the Welsh Government to reverse the decision of Natural Resources Wales to close the Cwmcarn Forest Drive indefinitely on 2nd November 2014. Perhaps the Minister could clarify this?

What we would like to see in this instance is for the Welsh Government to assist NRW in seeking and securing funding to re-open the drive. While I understand that the Welsh Government delegates responsibility for the management of state woodland in Wales to NRW the influence of the Welsh government has been strong throughout this sorry affair - in initially signing off the closure in the Spring of 2014, in failing to provide a fund to re-establish the Drive and also, and most significantly, in reducing the annual grant to NRW which means that they currently lack the resources to re-open the Drive. Senior managers of NRW have themselves admitted that they would like to re-open the Drive but lack the resources to do so.

Our society is particularly concerned that while no Welsh Government resources have been provided to re-open the drive that yet another mountain bike track is being planned in the Cwmcarn valley and our group have assumed that funding must have been provided for the planning and construction of this. We have to ask ourselves whether the needs of the majority, i.e. those who wish to access the drive in their cars perhaps because of limited mobility, are being overlooked in favour of

the needs of a relatively small number of mountain bikers who are usually young, fit and affluent males, often from outside of Wales.

As a politics lecturer who has recently contributed a chapter on pressure groups in Wales to a new University of Edinburgh publication on the Government & Politics of Wales (Deacon, Denton & Southall) which is due for publication later this year I have become deeply concerned about the extent of corporatism within the Welsh Governmental system. Cycling charities and mountain biking organisations are being prioritised here and one particular charity whose aim is to promote walking and cycling, but who concentrate almost entirely on catering for the needs of cyclists, seems to have had an undue influence. The Welsh Government must consider the needs and wishes of the silent majority rather than simply pandering to the demands of organised interests which, through their insider status, not only influence Welsh Government policy but to some extent direct it.

We do not feel that this is an unfair accusation as far the NRW facilities in the Cwmcarn valley are concerned as there appears to be ample evidence for this - with NRW having a designated cycling warden (but no one with a responsibility to promote walking), with the cycling routes being prioritised over footpaths, not just in these being cleared and opened sooner but also in the rather dangerous practice of diverting downhill mountain bikes onto public footpaths (so much for the safety of the public!) , and lastly in the continued use of the Drive roadway by the mountain bikers uplift service, i.e. minibus and trailer, while the general public is being told that the drive is no longer in a fit state for private car use. Over the past few months I have walked the entire seven mile route of the drive on several occasions and I am pleased to report that apart from some areas where the road surface needs replacing, that the actual road is in better condition than many back roads in the county borough of Caerphilly. We are constantly being told by NRW and CCBC that the Forest Drive was losing money, that the cyclists bring in much needed cash and yet people actually paid to use the Drive whereas the cyclists are not charged for the use of the cycle tracks or the general upkeep of the forest area. They are only charged for parking (£3.00 per day) and for the use of the privately owned uplift service so how can it be that be the whole truth of the financial situation? There is an obvious conflict here between NRW's provision for the needs of the many and the demands of the few and I am sure that the Welsh Government do not need reminding that they, and other public bodies they fund, should focus their limited resources on the former rather than the latter.

In response to other points raised in the Minister's letter. Our group is concerned that the longer the Drive remains closed the greater the likelihood that it will never be reopened thus permanently excluding a large number of former users. We have been extremely patient and built up a close and cordial relationship with NRW, while at the same time being largely ignored by the local authority (CCBC). We were assured by Carl Sergeant, the previous Minister for Natural Resources, in correspondence with Lynne Neagle AM (see attached 24.09.14) and in a letter received from Amanda Thomas, the Welsh Government's Access and Outdoor Recreation Officer (see attached 16.9.14) that there is no intention to close the Drive permanently and that after a two year closure that planning for the re-opening would commence.

However the Drive has now been closed for over two and a half years and we have seen no hard evidence that the re-opening is being planned for, other than rather vague allusions to yet another feasibility study looking at the management and commercial value of the drive in the long term rather than planning for its re-opening

to the public in the near future. The Cwmcarn Forest Drive is a publically owned facility held in trust by the Welsh Government which should cater for the needs of the general public and not simply those of commercial investors or unaccountable government bureaucrats. We have to ask the NAFW whether spending several thousand pounds on this feasibility study is good use of the public purse. Wouldn't the money be put to better use if used to repair the damage to the Drive's road surface?

We understand that NRW requires the forest roads to complete the felling and to restock the affected areas but we feel that we have a real grievance in the fact that the promise to plan for the re-opening just isn't happening. In addition the Welsh Governments spending of over nine million pounds on a privately owned facility in the Heads of the Valleys which may or may not happen (of which several hundred thousand pounds were used to purchase a company that later went into liquidation) is galling to our members and supporters. Wouldn't have been put to better use if used to provide facilities that everyone young and old, able bodied or disabled, rich or poor can access? The fifteen hundred people who have signed our latest petition certainly think that this is the case and we sincerely hope that both the NAFW and the Welsh Government can take their wishes in consideration and provide a positive response to our request that they help to resolve the matter of the continued closure of the Drive.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Southall', written in a cursive style.

Robert Southall  
Chair, Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref LN/CP/020  
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/05080/14

Lynne Neagle AM  
Assembly Member for Torfaen  
73 Upper Trosnant Street  
Pontypool  
Torfaen  
NP4 8AU  
Lynne.neagle@wales.gov.uk

20 September 2014

Dear Lynne

Thank you for your letter highlighting your constituents' concerns regarding the closure of Cwmcam Forest drive.

Officials are in contact with Natural Resources Wales on this matter and have been assured that there is no intention to permanently close the route. I understand that the route will be closed for approximately two years to allow for the safe and efficient felling and extraction of the infected trees. This work is vital to help eradicate the spread of *Phytophthora ramorum* (larch disease).

I understand that NRW officers responsible for the forest planning work are making arrangements to meet with Mr Southall in order to help allay his concerns and to explain in more details the work that will be carried out.

I enclose a detailed breakdown on the situation provided by NRW for your attention. I trust this will help you to answer the concerns of your constituents.

Yours sincerely

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

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CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref TO/JG/01197/14

Robert Southall  
Founder  
Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society

rob@robsouthall.plus.com

16/09/2014

Dear Mr Southall

Thank you for copying in the then Minister for Natural resources, Culture and Sport to your e-mail to the First Minister regarding the closure of Cwmcarn Drive. I have been asked to reply.

Officials are in contact with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on this matter and have been assured that there is no intention to permanently close the route. I understand that the route will be closed for approximately two years to allow for the safe and efficient felling and extraction of the infected trees. This work is vital to help eradicate the spread of *Phytophthora ramorum* (larch disease).

I understand that NRW intend to seek a meeting with you on this matter. I hope you will take the opportunity to discuss your concerns and to allow NRW to explain the actions taken.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Thomas  
**Access and Outdoor Recreation Officer**  
**Landscapes and Outdoor Recreation Branch**

TO/JG/01197/14

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400

# Agenda Item 2.4

## **P-05-760 Stop Compulsory Welsh Language GCSE**

This petition was submitted by Emma Williams having collected 128 signatures.

### **Petition text:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to change their policy and allow children to drop the Welsh language at GCSE (Key stage 4). Give our children back their choice, do not make the Welsh Language compulsory.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region.**

- Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire
- Mid and West Wales



## Briefing for the Petitions Committee

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 13 Mehefin 2017

Petitions Committee | 13 June 2017

### Research Briefing: Compulsory Welsh at GCSE

Petition number: P-05-760

Petition title: Stop compulsory Welsh Language GCSE

Text of petition: We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to change their policy and allow children to drop the Welsh language at GCSE (Key Stage 4). Give our children back their choice, do not make the Welsh Language compulsory.

#### Background

It is the Welsh Government's policy that all pupils aged 3–16 should study Welsh, either first or second language. This briefing draws on information available in the Research Service publication, [Welsh-medium education and Welsh as a subject](#) (August 2016).

Following the introduction of the [Education Reform Act 1988](#), Welsh was phased in as a compulsory subject for pupils in Wales aged 5–14 (Key Stages 1, 2 and 3) from 1990. From September 1999 onwards, Welsh was also made compulsory for pupils aged 14–16 (Key Stage 4). The [Foundation Phase](#), introduced in 2001, requires Welsh or Welsh Language Development to be taught to all 3–7 year olds.

#### The National Curriculum in Wales

The National Curriculum in Wales consists of core and foundation subjects. These are listed in the [Education Act 2002](#).

The **core subjects** for **Key Stages 1–3** are Mathematics; Science; English and **Welsh first language** (in relation to Welsh-speaking schools, as stated in the *Education Act 2002*). The foundation subjects are Technology; Physical Education; History; Geography; Art; Music; **Welsh second language** (if the school is not a Welsh-speaking school, as stated in the *Education Act 2002*); and for Key Stage 3, a Modern foreign language.

The **core subjects** at **Key Stage 4** are **Welsh first language**; Mathematics; English; and Science. The **foundation subjects** are Physical Education; and **Welsh second language**.

There are no prescribed hours for specific subjects. The amount of time allocated to studying each subject, including Welsh, is decided locally by schools.

## GCSE Welsh

One of the recommendations of the Welsh Government's report [\*One Language for All: Review of Welsh Second Language at Key Stages 3 and 4\*](#) (2013) was that Welsh second language continues to be a statutory subject within the National Curriculum, and continues to be a compulsory subject for all pupils in Wales until the end of Key Stage 4. **Professor Donaldson's [\*Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales – Successful Futures\*](#)** (PDF 1.58MB) **recommended that Welsh remains compulsory in all schools up to the age of 16.** The then Minister for Education and Skills, Huw Lewis, confirmed the Welsh Government acceptance of the recommendation in a [written statement \(on 15 October 2015\)](#).

*One language for All* also stated that although Welsh is a compulsory subject in the national curriculum, it is not compulsory to enter pupils to sit a GCSE examination or any other qualification. The decision regarding the appropriate qualification for learners to follow is a matter for schools, and is made at a local level. Currently, at Key Stage 4, schools register pupils for either **Welsh first language GCSE, Welsh second language GCSE (full course), Welsh second language (short course)** or for no qualification at all.

## A revised GCSE Welsh second language

Following the recommendations of *One Language for All*, the Welsh Government, in collaboration with the WJEC, Qualifications Wales and other stakeholders, have developed a **revised model for GCSE Welsh second language (full course)** to be introduced in September 2017. The GCSE Welsh second language short course will be withdrawn once the revised full course is introduced, with the last assessment opportunity for the short course in summer 2018.

## Arguments for Welsh as a subject at GCSE

### Continuity

In her letter to the Petitions Committee, the Cabinet Secretary for Education argues the need for continuity and progression in learning. She says she has **no plans to change established Welsh Government policy** which is that Welsh is a compulsory subject at both ages 5–14 (Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3) and 14–16 (Key Stage 4). **Linguistic progression** is a key element of the [\*Welsh-medium Education Strategy\*](#).

Developing language skills is a process that happens over a period of time. It is important that children and young people are able to build on their competence as they mature. Ensuring that there are opportunities for suitable linguistic progression is one of the cornerstones of the Strategy.



## Part of culture

The Welsh language is part of the culture of Wales. In its 2014 policy statement regarding its Welsh language strategy, [\*A living language: a language for living – moving forward\*](#), the Welsh Government stated:

The Welsh language is a valuable part of our identity and culture, and it is important for all learners in Wales – whether they attend Welsh-medium or English-medium schools – to be supported to speak Welsh confidently.

## Demand from workforce for Welsh language skills

The Cabinet Secretary for Education also refers to the growth in demand for Welsh language skills from the workforce and the need to ensure young people are equipped with the skills they need. One of the six strategic areas of the **Welsh language strategy**, [\*A living language: a language for living\*](#), is the Workplace, and the Welsh Government aims to increase the use of Welsh at work. In the 2014 policy statement, the Welsh Government states that the implementation of Welsh Language Standards:

will be an important catalyst for improving how organisations consider the development of Welsh language skills within their workforce.

## Advantages of bilingualism

The advantages that bilingualism can bring are well documented.

The Welsh-medium Education Strategy refers to:

the direct advantages of being able to use particular languages (for example to communicate with family members and wider social networks or to enhance career opportunities)

and

the more general advantages of promoting cognitive skills, increasing mental agility and broadening speakers' range of cultural experiences.

The Strategy refers to research in Canada, which reveals that bilingualism [\*enhances attention and cognitive control in children and older adults\*](#) (PDF 128KB) and shows the impact of bilingualism on [\*delaying the onset of dementia symptoms\*](#). It also refers to [\*research published by the University of Edinburgh\*](#) in 2009, which showed that speakers of two languages found it easier to focus on a range of tasks, blocking out potential distractions.

## Role of education in increasing the number of Welsh speakers

Reports frequently acknowledge the role of the education sector in increasing the number of Welsh speakers. In the [\*Welsh-medium Education Strategy: next steps\*](#), the Welsh Government stated:

There is no question that the education system has a vitally important role in securing the future of the language. It is the **provision of Welsh-medium education that has generated the greatest gains** in the number of young people fluent in their Welsh language skills.

It is also important in the context of the Welsh Government's target of [one million Welsh speakers by 2050](#), launched in August 2016. The Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee published a report in May 2017 on the [Inquiry into the Welsh Government's new Welsh Language Strategy](#) (627KB). The report emphasises the **importance of education in achieving the aim of a million Welsh speakers** and welcomes the changes to Welsh second language GCSE to be introduced from September 2017.

### Attainment

Although the petition appears to relate to Welsh GCSE in English medium schools, it may be useful to note that data shows that studying through the medium of Welsh does not affect proficiency in English. The Welsh-medium Education Strategy states:

Developing skills in Welsh and English are not mutually exclusive. Learners in Welsh-medium settings achieve comparable outcomes in both Welsh and English first language, which suggests the success of the sector in developing natural bilingualism. Assessment data at the end of Year 6 show that 98.5% of learners in Welsh-medium schools achieve a level in English at age 11 that is the same as, or within one level of, their performance in Welsh.

## Arguments against Welsh as a subject at GCSE

### Restricting choice

Compulsory Welsh GCSE can restrict learners from taking another subject at Key Stage 4, narrowing their options.

### Attainment

A Freedom for Information request, as [reported by the BBC](#) in 2014, indicated that primary school children from English speaking homes, and who attend Welsh medium only schools, are less likely to perform well in maths, science and English than their counterparts in English-medium schools. The attainment of 25,000 11 year old pupils was compared.

### Public opinion

A [poll for ITV News](#) in 2015, based on a sample of 1,151 people, found that nearly two-thirds of people oppose the current position of compulsory Welsh up until the age of 16.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.



Eich cyf/Your ref: P-05-760  
Ein cyf/Our ref: KW/00696/17

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
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CF99 1NA

[government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

9 May 2017

Dear Mike

I am replying to your letter of 26 April regarding a petition received by the Petitions Committee, which is seeking support to ask the Welsh Government to stop the compulsory study of the Welsh Language at Key Stage 4.

Our education system has contained requirements in terms of learners' study at Key Stage 4 for some time. For example, Welsh was phased in as a compulsory subject for pupils aged 5–14 from 1990, and has been compulsory at ages 14-16 for over 17 years. This is established Welsh Government policy and I have no plans to change this position.

Schools must continue to ensure continuity and progression in learning and that all learners have access to the whole programme of study for whichever course they are studying. However, there is no Welsh Government requirement that learners be entered for a particular qualification, rather an expectation that schools will enter learners for qualifications appropriate to the course being followed at the end of Key Stage 4. It is a matter for schools to determine which qualifications they make available to their learners, provided they are approved for use in Wales.

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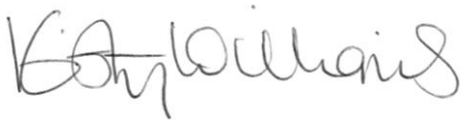
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

There are clear benefits to learners in developing the ability to use the Welsh language, not least through the growth in demand for Welsh language skills by employers. Our education system needs to ensure our young people are equipped with the skills they need to take up such opportunities.

The process of education reform on which we are embarked will ensure young people have a better, more meaningful experience of the language. That is my priority going forward.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education

# Agenda Item 3.1

## **P-04-648 Amendment to Unconventional Oil and Gas Direction 2015**

### **Petition wording:**

We the undersigned call upon the Minister for Natural Resources to amend the THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (NOTIFICATION) (UNCONVENTIONAL OIL AND GAS) (WALES) DIRECTION 2015 to call in all Planning Applications for Unconventional Oil and Gas development including exploratory drilling for Shale Gas, Coal Bed Methane and Underground Coal Gasification, to the Minister

### **Additional Information**

At present the Direction only relates to applications involving certain unconventional extraction techniques where the Local Planning Authority is inclined to approve the application.

The current Direction does not apply to Underground Coal Gasification, the impacts of which would be equally damaging to the environment and communities. Nor does it apply to exploratory drilling or test drilling. There are growing concerns about the impact of exploratory drilling, particularly around noise, traffic, disturbance of water courses, the potential for seismic disturbance, industrialisation of the countryside and the impact on house prices.

If there is an effective moratorium on extraction, then what is the purpose of exploration? Allowing exploration to proceed when, at present, extraction will be prohibited is perverse and illogical

**Petition raised by:** Councillor Arfon Jones

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 22 September 2015

**Number of signatures:** 1,254 Online signatures and 293 paper signatures. A further 415 signatures have been handed in after the petition was closed.

## Agenda Item 3.2

### **P-05-750 For single use items: introduce a Deposit Return System for drink containers and make fast food containers and utensils compostable**

This petition was submitted by Marine Conservation Society having collected 1,993 signatures.

#### **Petition text**

The Marine Conservation Society calls on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to act upon the globally responsible Wales goal within the Well Being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015. Build on the excellent results achieved by the carrier bag charge, by implementing two further actions that would help Wales to achieve a zero waste, circular economy. Namely:

1. Introduce a deposit return system in Wales for all single use beverage containers such as glass and plastic bottles and aluminium cans.
2. Legislate that all fast food containers and utensils, as well as take-away cups and lids, if not reusable or refillable or collected for recycling in store, are fully compostable.

Deposit return systems are already in operation in over 40 countries around the world and have been proven to reduce litter, increase recycling by creating a more certain supply of affordable, high-quality materials, reduce costs for Local Authorities and create jobs.

Fast food wrappers and takeaway cups are a common litter item on our streets and making them refillable/reusable, easily recyclable or compostable would reduce litter.

Manufacturing new drinks containers and fast food containers and cups use up huge amounts of energy, which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. The more we recycle, and the less we litter, the better for our environment and our economy.

#### **Assembly Constituency and Region.**

- Ross-on-Wye
- Herefordshire

**REF: P-05-750**

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair – Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

[SeneddPetitions@Assembly.Wales](mailto:SeneddPetitions@Assembly.Wales)

6<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**Dear Mike Hedges AM,**

We would like to thank the Committee for taking the time, at your meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> May, to debate the Marine Conservation Society's petition P-05-750: *For single use items - introduce a Deposit Return System for drinks containers and make fast food containers and utensils compostable.*

We are pleased that the Committee has received direct correspondence (letter reference: LG/00640/17) from the Cabinet Secretary for the Environment and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths, outlining her plans to commission a study looking at the feasibility of increasing waste reduction in Wales through Extending Producer Responsibility schemes. We are also looking forward to seeing the review of the Wales Waste Strategy: Towards Zero Waste, which has been undertaken and will be reported on in the summer.

We note that the Welsh Government will be spending time between summer 2017 and summer 2018 evaluating evidence presented within these reviews, with a view to holding a formal consultation on a refresh of the Wales Waste Strategy in summer 2018.

We would be grateful if the Committee could seek further clarification from the Cabinet Secretary that:

- 1) The review of Zero Waste Wales and study into EPR will focus on 'cradle to cradle' solutions to ensure Wales move towards a circular economy;
- 2) These reviews include an evaluation of the prospects of introducing a Deposit Return System in Wales, and an assessment of the necessary legislation required;
- 3) Any cost benefit analysis on new waste prevention measures takes into account the Wellbeing Goals, in particular a Resilient Wales and a Globally Responsible Wales, ensuring that any short term economic costs do not unduly influence long term, preventative action on waste.
- 4) That all interested stakeholders will be able to meaningfully engage with the Welsh Government in their evaluation of evidence from these reviews, between now and summer 2018, prior to formal public consultation\*.

\*We are keen for the Welsh Government to embrace the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act five Wellbeing Ways of Working, which promote involvement and collaboration between the public and public bodies. In this regard, we seek assurance from the Cabinet Secretary that there is a willingness to involve



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and collaborate with stakeholders with an interest in waste reduction in Wales, at an early stage in this evaluation process.

Yours Sincerely,

*Gill Bell*

**Gill Bell**

**Head of Conservation, Wales**

**Marine Conservation Society**





## Agenda Item 3.3

### **P-04-442 : Guarantee good support close to home for disabled children and their families**

#### **Petition wording:**

We, the undersigned, call on the Welsh Government to guarantee good support close to home for disabled children and their families.

In order to achieve this, we call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to make sure the new Educational (Wales) Bill includes a 'Provide Local' principle in the Bill that will:

- ensure inclusive and accessible services in the local area, and
- put a duty on local agencies to introduce new inclusive and accessible services if they don't exist, through better planning, partnership and the involvement of local parents.

**Petition raised by:** Scope Cymru

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 4 December 2012

**Number of signatures:** 2,606

## Agenda Item 3.4

### 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. An associated petition collected 3,670 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)*

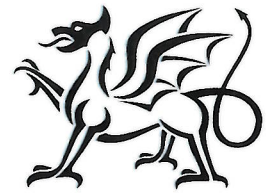
*A petition campaigning for this change across the UK is currently collecting signatures on [Change.org](http://Change.org):*

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

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Cardiff North
- South Wales Central

Vaughan Gething AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon  
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref DC/VG/00565/17

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair of the Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

8 March 2017

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 22 February regarding a meeting with the petitioners (Petition P-04-682 Routine Screening for Type 1 Diabetes in Children and Young People).

Unfortunately, I am unable to meet with the petitioners at this time. I would like to thank them for their work to raise awareness of the symptoms of type 1 diabetes. I would draw the petitioners' attention to our recently refreshed diabetes delivery plan, which sets out the Welsh Government's vision for services in Wales and action by health boards to improve the detection of diabetes. The plan can be found at:

<http://gov.wales/topics/health/nhswales/plans/diabetes/?lang=en>

Yours sincerely,

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon  
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

[Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales)

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.

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

Pwyllgor Deisebau | 13 Mehefin 2017

Petitions Committee | 13 June 2017

### Research Briefing:

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In February 2017, the Committee agreed to write to all health boards for information on their diagnosis and referral pathways for type 1 diabetes in children and young people. At the time of writing, a response from Hywel Dda Health Board is still outstanding. Key points from the responses received to date are summarised below:

GPs and other clinicians are expected to adhere to **national, evidence-based guidance** on the diagnosis and management of type 1 diabetes, such as that issued by [NICE](#) (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence).

In line with NICE guidance, a child/young person with suspected type 1 diabetes should be **referred immediately (same day)** to a multidisciplinary paediatric diabetes team able to confirm diagnosis and provide immediate care.

Two health boards (Abertawe Bro Morgannwg and Aneurin Bevan) noted that in cases of late diagnosis/referral, such as when a child presents in DKA, it would be routine for the GP concerned to undertake a **case review** to identify any learning points.

Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board highlighted the need to ensure GPs are alert to the possibility of type 1 diabetes and diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), noting that type 1 diabetes is a **relatively uncommon** illness and individual GPs may not come across many cases.

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg, Aneurin Bevan and Betsi Cadwaladr highlighted that action is being taken within their areas to **raise awareness** of type 1 diabetes in primary care and community settings. Aneurin Bevan provided examples of this including:

- regular teaching sessions with junior doctors (including GP trainees) to promote awareness of diabetes symptoms and the need for appropriate testing;
- awareness raising via Neighbourhood Care Networks<sup>1</sup>, and;

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<sup>1</sup> Known in other health board areas as primary care clusters, these are groups of GPs working with other health and care professionals to plan and provide services locally.

- development of an online learning module.

Cwm Taf Health Board emphasised the **importance of education**, suggesting this could be targeted at the public generally and in schools. It also referred to the Children and Young People's Wales Diabetes Network's [letter](#) to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee. This highlighted Cardiff University's recent Early Detection of Type 1 Diabetes in Youth (EDDY) study, which looked at the feasibility of delivering a community educational intervention, aimed at raising awareness of the symptoms of type 1 diabetes among parents, teachers, and primary care health professionals. The Network's letter (dated November 2016) stated that funding was being sought to extend the study in order to demonstrate whether such an intervention has an impact on DKA rates at diagnosis.

Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board highlighted the importance of a **partnership approach** to raise awareness and improve the early detection of diabetes, with a role for community pharmacy, Public Health Wales and voluntary sector organisations such as Diabetes UK.

The petition is predominantly concerned with the early identification of type 1 diabetes, rather than its management following diagnosis. Responses from the health boards did note that, once patients are admitted for treatment, the relevant all-Wales pathways and professional standards should be followed.

The health boards' responses varied in level of detail, and it's not therefore clear how consistent the approaches to promoting early diagnosis of Type 1 diabetes are across all health boards, or whether there is scope for further work in the following areas:

- Identification and sharing of good practice (within and across all health boards) to raise awareness and support the early identification of type 1 diabetes by frontline health professionals;
- Awareness and implementation of NICE guidance on the diagnosis and management of type 1 diabetes;
- A consistent and robust approach to case reviews where patients present in diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA);
- The development of ways of raising awareness of type 1 diabetes symptoms among the general public, health professionals, and in educational establishments.

## Further information

The Welsh Government's [diabetes delivery plan for Wales 2016–2020](#) has been published since the Committee last considered this issue. This highlights the need for prompt diagnosis of type 1 diabetes to reduce the harm associated with DKA.



This is imperative for children with possible type 1 diabetes; any child who is unwell and has any features of diabetes should have an urgent capillary blood glucose check and should be referred urgently (to be seen the same day) to specialist services if diabetes is suspected.

Key service actions (set out in the delivery plan) include:

- Health boards to ensure all key staff members have the knowledge to identify the risk factors and clinical features of diabetes and to undertake the appropriate diagnostic tests.
- The Diabetes Implementation Group to develop educational tools for healthcare professionals to support the detection and classification of diabetes.
- The Diabetes Implementation Group, in partnership with Diabetes UK, to develop an awareness campaign to facilitate the early diagnosis of type 1 diabetes in children.

‘Emergency admissions for hypoglycaemia and DKA’ is identified as one of the key service performance indicators in relation to children and young people.



Ref: AL/sj

8<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair Petitions Committee  
The National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Hedges

**Re: Petition P-04-682 Routine Screening for Type 2 Diabetes in Children and Young People**

Thank you for your letter regarding Petition p-04-682 'Routine Screening for Type 1 diabetes in Children and Young People'.

Firstly I would like to say how sorry I am to hear of the death of Master Peter Baldwin, and to convey my condolences to his family and friends. I can understand how concerned they must be to ensure that the risks and management of diabetes in children and young people is as comprehensive and as safe as possible.

In Powys, specialist services for children and young people with Type 1 diabetes are commissioned from one of six NHS providers. There is therefore some limited variation in the diagnosis and referral pathway as a consequence.

The service that patients access depends on where in the Powys they live. For example in North Powys, specialist paediatric diabetes services are provided by Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals Trust, and by Hywel Dda Health Board. (To this extent the answers that you will receive from Welsh Health Boards, will also include a cohort of patients from Powys.)

All of our secondary care providers are required to work to the standards for specialist paediatric services whether they are based in Wales, or part of NHS England. Initial diagnosis may be made in General Practice, in a Paediatric Inpatient Unit or in the Emergency Department of the particular hospital where the patient presents. Powys Teaching Health Board also commissions

specialist Paediatric Nurses from our neighbouring Health Boards and NHS Trusts to provide support to children with diabetes on an 'in-reach' basis.

It would be helpful to understand the evidence as to whether a screening programme for children and young people presenting in General Practice with the symptoms indicated would be effective in reducing the risk of late or misdiagnosis of some patients with Type 1 diabetes. This is not currently the approach recommended by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence, nor is it a recommendation from the Welsh Diabetes Planning and Delivery Group. It may be useful to ask these bodies to consider the question raised by this petition.

I hope this reply is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Andrew Cresswell, Powys Diabetes Planning & Delivery Group Chair, Newtown Hospital, Llanfair Road, Newtown, Powys, SY16 2DW if it would be helpful to have further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Lawrie', with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

Alan Lawrie

Deputy CEO/Director Primary Community Care and Mental Health



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg  
University Health Board

Our Ref: AH/SHG/MD/pp  
Date: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017

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

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

01639 683302  
WHTN: 1787 3302

Dear Mr Hedges

**PETITION P-04-682 ROUTINE SCREENING FOR TYPE 1 DIABETES IN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Further to your letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017, I am writing to confirm the position on behalf of ABM University Health Board, following advice from the Health Board's Diabetes Planning & Delivery Group (DPDG).

In your letter, you request information in relation to the Health Boards diagnosis and referral pathways for Type 1 Diabetes and Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA) in children and young people, and I hope the following information will address that request.

I can confirm that GPs are expected to follow the NICE guidelines, and refer children and young people with suspected type 1 diabetes immediately (on the same day) to a multidisciplinary paediatric diabetes team with the competencies needed to confirm diagnosis and to provide immediate care. The NICE guidelines specify the following:

Be aware that the characteristics of type 1 diabetes in children and young people include:

- Hyperglycaemia (random plasma glucose more than 11 mmol/litre)
- Polyuria
- Polydipsia
- Weight loss
- Excessive tiredness

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Chairman/Cadeirydd: Andrew Davies

Chief Executive/ Prif Weithredydd: Paul Roberts

ABM Headquarters/ Pencadlys ABM, One Talbot Gateway, Seaway Parade, Baglan Energy Park, Port Talbot. SA12 7BR.

Telephone: 01639 683344 Ffôn 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](http://www.abm.wales.nhs.uk)

2.

Whilst there are no separate/additional primary care referral guidelines specifically for ABMU Health Board, steps are taken to raise awareness within Primary Care. Arrangements do vary across the Health Board, however when delayed diagnosis or delayed referrals are received this is communicated back to GPs, and they are asked to reflect on those cases and discuss them to ensure lessons are learnt.

Once admitted, the all Wales DKA integrated care pathway is followed (if the patient is in DKA) or the all Wales new diagnosis of type 1 diabetes guidelines for all new patients in both the Princess of Wales Hospital and Morriston Hospital.

Yours sincerely



**ALEXANDRA HOWELLS**  
**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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\* Chairman/Cadeirydd: **Andrew Davies**

\* Chief Executive/ Prif Weithredydd: **Paul Roberts**

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ABM University Health Board is the operational name of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Local Health Board

[www.abm.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.abm.wales.nhs.uk)



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Aneurin Bevan  
University Health Board

Our Ref: JP/RB

Direct Line: 01633 435958

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017

Mike Hedges AC/AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

[SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales)

Dear Mr Hedges

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

Thank you for your recent letter with regard to the above petition and your request for information on diagnosis and referral pathways for Type 1 Diabetes and also Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA) in children and young people. I should be grateful if you would find below some outline information from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board in response to your request. On review of this information, if you require any further detail or wish to discuss this with lead clinicians within the Health Board, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Whilst the Health Board does not have any formal pathway for identifying and treating Type 1 Diabetes in children and young people (which appears to be the position for NHS organisations generally in Wales and the UK), we are nonetheless very active in promoting awareness and training our clinicians in primary/community settings and also in hospital based care. We have regular teaching sessions with our junior doctors, including GP trainees, to emphasise the importance of thinking about diabetes, the common presentations and the need to carry out a finger test glucose/or urine test.

**Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan**

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Ffordd Y Lodj  
Caerllion  
Casnewydd  
De Cymru NP18 3XQ  
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**Aneurin Bevan University Health Board**

Headquarters  
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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



Information is provided on this to GP trainee days that are carried out via consultants and consultants also liaise closely with the Health Board's Neighbourhood Care Networks (GP Clusters) to raise further awareness. For instance, if any child who presents in DKA, and the Health Board knows the child has presented to a GP in the week or so prior to diagnosis, we also routinely write to ask the GP concerned to review the case to determine if there are any learning points.

It is our expectation that any child or young person that is considered to have Type 1 diabetes, are referred to our Children's Assessment Unit (CAU) and are seen on the same day. All our junior doctors and wider staff groups are made aware of this and this is included in our best practice guidelines, which is a key source of reference for them. These guidelines are available on line through the Health Board's intranet and electronic systems and have been circulated to primary care colleagues. These include criteria for referral to secondary care, which includes guidance for all (newly diagnosed) Type 1 Diabetes patients to be referred to secondary care and also include information on the management of DKA. The Health Board emphasises the importance of awareness of the 4 Ts for diabetes (Toilet, Thirst, Tiredness and Thinner). These signs and symptoms are emphasised to seek to ensure that children and young people get a quick diagnosis and early treatment and through this we seek to avoid them becoming seriously ill with DKA.

The Health Board is also supporting Diabetes UK with their awareness campaign for DKA. In partnership with Diabetes UK we are producing a pocket video for clinical staff and one of our GPs is featuring in this video. We are also developing an on-line learning module to promote further awareness and ensure there is further consistency of message across the organisation.

I hope the above information is helpful to you. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



**Judith Paget**  
**Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive**



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

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:  
Ein cyf/Our ref: SH-ns-03-6062  
Welsh Health Telephone Network:  
Direct Line/Llinell uniongychol: 02920 745681

**Dr Sharon Hopkins**  
**Interim Chief Executive**

24 March 2017

Mr Mike Hedges AM  
Chair of the Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Hedges

**Re: Petition P-04-682 Routine Screening for Type 1 Diabetes in Children and Young People**

Many thanks for asking Cardiff and Vale UHB to respond to this petition which has 'called the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to introduce routine screening for Type 1 Diabetes in children and young people'.

I note that this was discussed at your meeting on 14 February 2017 and the Committee agreed to write to us to request information on our diagnosis and referral pathway for Type 1 Diabetes and Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA) in children and young people.

This is the response to this question provided by Dr Justin Warner who is the Consultant Clinical Lead for Cardiff and Vale UHB diabetes service for children and young people:

The Children's and Young Peoples Diabetes Network for Wales has also been consulted about this petition and the possibility of routine screening for Type 1 diabetes. A network response has already been provided on behalf of the network by the Chair Dr Christopher Bidder (attached).

The pathway of referral in Cardiff and Vale UHB is that any child who sees their GP or any other healthcare professional where a potential diagnosis of Type 1 diabetes is considered should be referred immediately to the Children's Admission Unit based at the Children's Hospital for Wales, Cardiff. The admissions unit have a protocol for the assessment of a child with potential Type 1 diabetes and the diagnosis is made immediately.



There are pathways for children that present with pre-existing DKA (~25%) and for those who don't. Every child is admitted to a paediatric ward where the DKA is treated, if necessary, using an all Wales integrated pathway or started on subcutaneous insulin also using an all Wales pathway. Most children would stay in hospital for 3 days where a package of structured education is delivered using the recently established SEREN programme (Network Structured Education Programme for Children with Diabetes in Wales). The programme is delivered by expert doctors, nurses, dietitians and psychologists who are all part of a paediatric diabetes MDT. Following discharge support is provided by the specialist MDT and an initial follow up appointment within 2 weeks for a specialised clinic and 3 monthly thereafter according to NICE guidance.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Sharon Hopkins**  
**Interim Chief Executive**

Enc



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:

DRW/Diabetes April 2017  
7 April 2017  
01443 744800  
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[Robert.Williams@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Robert.Williams@wales.nhs.uk)  
Corporate Services

**Mr M Hedges AM**

Petitions Committee Chair  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff.  
**CF99 1NA**

Dear Mr Hedges,

**Petition P-04-682 Routine Screening for Type 1 Diabetes in Children & Young People**

Thank you for your letter dated 23 February 2017, to Mrs A Williams Chief Executive, who has asked me to respond on behalf of the Health Board, as Executive Director lead for Diabetes. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I note your letter was specifically requesting information on our diagnosis and referral pathways for Type 1 Diabetes and Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA) in children and young people. I am grateful to Dr L Millar-Jones, Consultant Paediatrician and Clinical Director, who has provided the related information to help inform my response.

I am also aware that you have already received related correspondence from the Children and Young People's Wales Diabetes Network (& Brecon Group) on this subject matter and its important to note that Paediatric Consultants within Cwm Taf University Health Board are members.

Please find attached the newly diagnosed Type 1 admission pack which outlines the pathway to be following in the categories outlined above. This was implemented across Cwm Taf from last month and this is in addition to the All Wales DKA Pathway, which is in use within Cwm Taf UHB.

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**Return Address:**

Ynysmeurig House, Navigation Park, Abercynon, CF45 4SN

Chair/Cadeirydd: Dr C D V Jones, CBE

Chief Executive/Prif Weithredydd: Mrs Allison Williams

Cwm Taf University Health Board is the operational name of Cwm Taf University Local Health Board / Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Cwm Taf yw enw gweithredol Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Cwm Taf

As a Clinical Network of multi disciplinary professional involved in the clinical diagnosis and management of Diabetes, the Health Board strongly recommends that all NHS staff adhere to NICE guidelines, which state that the characteristics' of type 1 diabetes in children and young people, including polyuria, polydipsia, weight loss and tiredness, that children and young people suspected of type 1 diabetes, should be referred immediately (on the same day) to the Paediatric Diabetes team.

You will already be aware that there is not universal support for some of the recommendations made by the petitioners, e.g. 'a mandatory duty for all GPs and healthcare professionals in a primary care setting to carry out finger prick blood tests for all children who present to them with illness that could be masking Type 1', as mainly the evidence base of research is not supportive of such an approach. However, many of the recommendations made in the petition are already a key feature of the work of clinicians involved in diabetes services and the Health Board is also committed to taking them forward. The importance of education cannot be understated and this could be usefully targeted generally at the public and also in schools via school nurses and teachers.

I hope you find the attached helpful in the context of the work of the Committee on this specific petition.

Yours sincerely



**Robert Williams**  
**Director of Corporate Services & Governance / Board**  
**Secretary**

**CC** Chief Executive  
Dr L Millar-Jones, Consultant Paediatrician and  
Clinical Director

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**Return Address:**

Ynysmeurig House, Navigation Park, Abercynon, CF45 4SN

Chair/Cadeirydd: Dr C D V Jones, CBE

Chief Executive/Prif Weithredydd: Mrs Allison Williams

**P-04-682 Routine Screening for Type 1 Diabetes in Children and Young People – Correspondence – Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board**

**Response to P-04-682 Correspondence from the Chair of the Petitions Committee**

Dear Mr Mike Hedges,

**Re: Response to 3828 – P-04-682 Correspondence from the Chair of the Petitions Committee**

Thank you for your request for information on our diagnosis and referral pathways for Type 1 Diabetes and Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA) in children and young people. You asked for any information that we could provide which would help the committee in future discussions about the petition submitted by Anthony Cook.

The main issue is the recognition and diagnosis of diabetes in primary care. The pathway following diagnosis is straightforward and is an immediate referral directly to the local acute hospital paediatric team. At present we always admit patients directly to a children's ward if they have a suspected diagnosis of diabetes, whether they present as 'well' or in established Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA).

There is an All Wales Guideline (copy attached) used by all three area teams in North Wales for the assessment and initial management of a newly diagnosed patient and also an All Wales Clinical Pathway (copy attached) used for the management of those patients who are in established DKA. These two clinical processes are initiated immediately at the point of diagnosis by the acute team. Following on from these initial actions, there is the early involvement of the children's diabetes specialist team, who then take over the child's on-going care.

Within Primary Care services the main challenge is considering the possibility of diabetes, or DKA in a child presenting with generalised symptoms. The GP then needs to take prompt action by referring the child, as an emergency, to the local acute hospital paediatric team. There is a need for regular education and updates for GPs about possible presentations of new-onset diabetes. This can be done by the specialist children's diabetes team. Despite the recognised rising numbers of children and young people with type 1 diabetes, the actual number in total remains low, meaning that individual GPs do not see a child with possible diabetes very often.

This year the All Wales Diabetes Delivery Plan Refresh 2016 – 2020 has given Health Boards actions to review and implement wherever possible, which includes the early detection of diabetes. Currently our BCU Diabetes Planning and Delivery Group (DPDG), through our three local area delivery groups, are considering the necessary actions that are required to improve the early detection of diabetes. To achieve the actions, health boards will require support, not only of their own specialist diabetes staff and GPs, but also of community pharmacies, Public Health Wales and other organisations such as Diabetes UK. An awareness campaign is required to facilitate early diagnosis and to encourage timely presentations. We will also need to improve the knowledge of key staff to be able to identify risk factors, as well as the clinical features of diabetes and to be able to undertake diagnostic tests in a controlled and safe environment.

I hope that the above information is helpful. I can assure you that at all times our diabetes staff in BCU work closely with the Children and Young People's Wales Diabetes Network and the All Wales Implementation Group in order to advance diabetes services for our children and young people and their families. It is one of the areas of service delivery that we have significantly invested in for this current financial year.

**Petition submission P-04-682 – Petitioner to Committee**  
Anthony Cook/ Beth and Stuart Baldwin

Chair of the Petitions Committee Mike Hedges  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

6<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Dear Chair,

**Re: National Assembly for Wales: Petition submission P-04-682 (Campaign to prevent late diagnosis of Type 1 diabetes)**

We would like to thank the Committee for conducting research into pathways and processes of the diagnosis of Type 1 Diabetes from the Health boards across Wales.

We would like to respond to the recent evidence provided to the Committee by the Health Minister Vaughan Gething and the responses from the health boards.

Response to the Health Minister –

We are very upset and distressed by the Minister's response that he is unable to meet with us at this time. The response rebuffs NICE guidelines and the refreshed diabetes delivery plan (which makes no extra recommendations for primary care focus of detection Type 1) falls short of what we would hope to see to prevent another case like ours. If NICE guidelines (not mandatory, just guidelines) had been followed, Peter would've had a 24 hour head start on fighting his onset of Type 1 Diabetes. Peter's life mattered, his tragic death could've been prevented, and we feel this deserves a meeting with and a commitment from the Minister. We have some very simple suggestions and aims alongside further hopes for future development in research into Type 1. Wales can really lead the way with the great framework that already exists, we're asking for tweaks, not reinventing the wheel!

Response to the 7 Health Boards –

We thank the health boards for their responses and appreciate the information given. The policies, pathways and processes presented should form the basis for the development of a standardised approach in Wales. The Committee is well-placed to further review and investigate the responses with the assistance and expertise of stakeholders. Perhaps the Committee could provide recommendations

to Welsh Government following this evidence-gathering? We note that a similar exercise was carried out by the Committee to improve detection of ovarian cancer.

As previously noted, we accept that a screening programme for Type 1 diabetes may not be feasible across a large population at present. **We re-emphasise the aim of our campaign is for detection of Type 1 to take place as early as possible in PRIMARY CARE settings.** Whilst the information from health boards in Wales is useful (and is now gathered in one place for the first time), there remains a requirement to investigate primary care procedures, pathways and processes. Would this be something that the Committee could include in any potential future investigation?

As advised by Diabetes UK Cymru's evidence to the Petitions Committee, approximately 1,500 children and young people have Type 1 diabetes in Wales. Up to 20% will have been diagnosed late in the life-threatening stage of DKA, or diabetic ketoacidosis. In the under 5s age group, this increases to 24%.

With regards to this point, as pleased as we were to receive the responses from the health boards, we would reiterate our focus on **Primary Care and GPs/ Health care professionals** who are most often the first to see a child who is unwell, it is at this time that Type 1 is missed due to being masked by other common illness (chest infection/ virus/ flu) it's critical that GPs/HCPs ask the questions to consider/ discount Type 1 diabetes. (The common signs are known as the 4T's Toilet / Thirsty/ Tired/ Thinner)

**If our GP had followed NICE guidelines, Peter may still be with us.**

We await your response and thank you for your time.

Yours faithfully,

The Baldwin family



# Agenda Item 3.5

## **P-05-732 Unacceptable Waiting Times for NHS patients in A & E Wreccsam/Wrexham Maelor Hospital.**

This petition was submitted by Charles Dodman, which collected 14 signatures.

### **Text of the Petition**

I am petitioning the Welsh Assembly to debate and discuss and implement measures to resolve unacceptable waiting times for the Welsh people at A & E Wreccsam/Wrexham Maelor Hospital. Welsh people look undermined and demoralised by this unacceptable situation.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region.**

- Wrexham
- North Wales



**P-05-732 Unacceptable Waiting Times for NHS patients in A & E  
Wreccsam/Wrexham Maelor Hospital – Correspondence from the Petitioner to  
the Committee, 07.06.17**

Thank you for your correspondence. My first reaction to this was that the problem is in hand and at long last you are doing something about it. But the reality is different. Only just today I heard even more stories about horrendous waiting times in A and E and people giving up after waiting several hours. It appears to me nothing has changed. I think a truly Independent Study needs to be carried out of what is truthfully happening at Wrexham Maelor.

Wrexham People deserve better.

I wish my Petition to continue.

Charles Dodman B.Sc. A.C.A.



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Betsi Cadwaladr  
University Health Board

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

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF991 NA

**Ein cyf / Our ref:** GD/NL/2894/649

**Eich cyf / Your ref:**

**☎:** 01745 448788 ext 6364

**Gofynnwch am / Ask for:** Renné Evans

**E-bost / Email:** [Renné.Evans@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Renné.Evans@wales.nhs.uk)

**Dyddiad / Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

Dear Mr Hedges,

**Re: P-05-732 Unacceptable Waiting Times for NHS patients in A&E  
Wrecsam/Wrexham Maelor Hospital**

Thank you for your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017 regarding the Waiting times in the A&E department at Wrexham Maelor Hospital. The Health Board is very aware that, in line with all other Emergency departments in Wales, the waiting times at Wrexham are unacceptably below the 95% target for patients waiting more than 4 hours in the Emergency Department (ED) and we share your concerns.

With reference to the performance in Wrexham in particular, whilst still well below where we would like the performance to be, there has been a steady and continued improvement in the last 6 months. It is worth noting that the performance in January 2017 saw a 10% improvement on the performance for the same month in 2016. However, improvements in the urgent care performance cannot be achieved solely by focusing on the ED itself; any improvements have to be part of the whole Health and Social Care System and we will only succeed by working closely and in partnership with our Community and Local Authority Partners.

A number of factors are contributing to the under achievement of the 95% target in Wrexham, including: challenges with medical and nursing staffing; the acuity of patients (i.e. the number of patients with serious conditions); and the challenges with discharging patients from Hospital in a timely manner (whether due to constraints in community, care home beds or Home Care support available in the Wrexham and Flintshire areas.

The Hospital has been working with colleagues in Community Services and Local Authorities across the region to make the improvements that have been seen and continue to make ongoing improvements. Some of the actions that have been taken and are in planning are:

- Successful recruitment in 2016 to 4 of the 6 Senior Doctor vacancies with further appointments expected to be made in the next 3 months.



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Betsi Cadwaladr  
University Health Board

- Successful recruitment in 2016 to the vacant Junior Doctor posts with 2 additional appointments made to temporarily add to the Workforce.
- Improving position in the number of Nurse vacancies filled.
- Development of a Rapid Assessment Unit with the recruitment of an additional Acute Physician (this unit focuses on avoidance of up to 5 admissions a day and reduces attendance of patients with some conditions to ED.
- Weekly full review with Local Authority and Community Teams on patients who have delayed discharges. This has reduced the number of 'Delayed Transfer of Care' patients in both the Acute and Community Hospitals.
- Development of care pathways with Welsh Ambulance Service Trust and Community colleagues to avoid patients being admitted to hospital eg admissions for blocked catheters and patients who have had a fall.
- Development of a communications hub with community colleagues and WAST to support the redirection of G.P. admissions where appropriate as an alternative to admission to Hospital.
- Increase in the District Nursing Service to provide a 24 hour Service and enable more patients to be cared for at home where appropriate.

Whilst we acknowledge that there is much to do, the signs of improvement are encouraging and the work done by the clinical teams, in both the hospital and wider health and social care system, is having a positive effect. The Health Board is committed to maintaining the strong focus on effective care for patients and their families, and we will continue to strive with Local Authority colleagues to further improve performance in the Wrexham Maelor hospital as well as the other sites at Ysbyty Glan Clywd and Ysbyty Gwynedd.

Yours sincerely

**Gary Doherty**  
**Prif Weithredwr**  
**Chief Executive**

Cc: Nesta Lloyd-Jones, The Welsh NHS Confederation

# Agenda Item 3.6

## **P-05-701 Road Safety Improvements Along the A487 Trunk Road between Cardigan and Aberystwyth, to Include Passing Places**

This petition was submitted by Maldwyn Lewis, having collected 93 signatures online and 750 paper signatures.

### Text of the Petition

Following numerous incidents along the A487 Trunk Road particularly between Cardigan and Aberystwyth, I petition the Welsh Assembly to make improvements along this coastal road, including passing places at various locations, in order to alleviate the build up of traffic behind slower moving vehicles. I'm of the opinion that having strategically located passing places would reduce driver frustration and risk taking when attempting to overtake.

When this Fishguard to Holyhead Trunk road is closed due to an incident, the alternative diversion route is along minor roads which can be a nightmare especially when Heavy Goods Vehicles, buses and coaches meet each other in opposite directions.

### Assembly Constituency and Region

- Mid and West Wales
- Ceredigion



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-701  
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/00729/17

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

2 March 2017

*Dear Mike,*

Thank you for your letter of 4 October 2016, that I received on 21 February regarding Petition P-05-701 Road Safety Improvements Along the A487 Trunk Road between Cardigan and Aberystwyth, to Include Passing Places.

We regularly review collision data to establish the need for road safety improvements. A part time speed limit is being put in place outside Ysgol Llanfarian. We are currently progressing with the installation of the sign infrastructure and the traffic order is likely to come into force early in the new financial year.

Following a recent meeting with Ceredigion County Council, my officials will be investigating further potential improvement measures at Llanfarian, Blaenplwyf to Llanddeiniol, Chancery and Nant Yr Arian on the A487 as well as at other locations around Aberystwyth. We will also be undertaking a further Speed Limit Review across Wales during the summer.

Our investigations surrounding congestion and safe overtaking opportunities on the trunk road network in Mid Wales are still in the early stages and several types of survey are required to establish which locations along the A487 route can be engineered with the minimum of environmental impact, within our financial resources and without prejudice to road safety.

I have passed the additional comments from the principal petitioner to my officials so they can be considered as part of our ongoing work.



I remain confident that subject to the availability of funding, the programme of improvements identified will go towards addressing some of the concerns expressed by the petitioners.

*Yours ever,*



**Ken Skates AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure

**P-05-701 Road Safety Improvements along the A487 Trunk Road between Cardigan and Aberystwyth, to include passing places – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 06.06.17**

Bore da,

My apologies for not responding sooner,

I appreciate the fact that my petition for road improvements along the A487 is still being discussed.

I fully understand that all necessary improvements cannot be carried out in one 'hit', however there are places which do warrant priority, these being:-

The junction at Synod Inn where the Llandysul to New Quay intersects with the Cardigan to Aberystwyth Road.

The village of Blaenplwyf, where residents have shown concern about the lack of a dedicated 'crossing' within this village for pedestrians, which include primary and secondary school children having to cross the busy A487 to board and alight their school bus.

A pedestrian crossing here would also help with traffic calming measures on a wider scope of the A487.

North of Llanarth (Pencroescastell) where the visibility to negotiate this junction from the Oakford junction is very, very poor.

On the aspect of places to overtake, and being balanced in my opinion, it would as a starting point be ideal to have room to overtake north of Aberaeron; south of Blaenplwyf allowing North and South bound traffic an opportunity to overtake and therefore reduce the frustration of motorists following slow moving vehicles for miles and ultimately taking risks.

I firmly believe that scheduled and phased improvements would not only benefit road safety within Ceredigion but would also improve trading and benefit businesses within our rural communities.

I would be more than welcome to meet with you face to face to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely

Maldwyn Lewis

# Agenda Item 3.7

## **P-05-714 Include a Mynachdy and Talybont Station as Part of the Cardiff Metro Proposal**

This petition was submitted by Dr Ashley Wood, having collected 137 paper signatures.

### **Text of the Petition**

We, the undersigned, call on Cardiff Council and the Welsh Government to bring forward plans to include a Mynachdy and Talybont station as part of any Cardiff Metro proposal.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Cardiff North
- South Wales Central





All Assembly Members

26 April 2017

Dear Assembly Members,

I am writing to update you on the process for prioritising proposals for new railway stations in Wales and the prioritised list of stations which will be taken forward for further development.

Proposals for new stations have come forward from a range of sources including the National Transport Finance Plan (2015), which also included a commitment to develop assessment criteria (NTFP Reference RI10) and using those criteria, develop a prioritised list.

A methodology has been developed for assessing proposals for new railway stations which can be applied in a cost effective and proportionate way. The assessment methodology follows a three-stage approach. This will mean that the more costly work on producing detailed cost estimates for a new station and timetable modelling is only carried out on the highest priorities.

The first stage has been undertaken. This has involved an initial assessment of the 46 new station proposals using the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG) criteria and consideration of the Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 goals. This is an on-going and iterative process. As a result, the following stations will be taken forward as priorities for stage two assessment:

- South East Wales: Ely Mill/Victoria Park, Llanwern, Newport Road/Rover Way and St Mellons.
- South West Wales: Cockett, Landore, St Clears.
- North Wales: Deeside Industrial Park/Northern Gateway, North Wrexham, South Wrexham, Llangefni.
- Mid Wales: Bow Street.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

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[Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales)

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 stage two assessment will look in more detail at the strength of the financial and economic case for a new railway station, including advice from Network Rail on deliverability.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke above the letters.

**Ken Skates AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/KS/1968/17

06 June 2017

Dear Assembly Members

I am writing in response to a question raised during First Minister's Questions on Tuesday 16 May regarding the process for assessing proposals for new railway stations in Wales.

As outlined in my letter to Assembly Members on 26 April, a methodology has been developed for assessing proposals for new rail stations which can be applied in a cost effective and proportionate way. The assessment methodology follows a three stage approach. This will mean that the more costly work on producing detailed cost estimates for a new station and timetable modelling is only carried out on the highest priorities:

The first stage in this work programme has now been undertaken. The regional stations identified for further assessment were the ones that scored the highest across all the criteria tested.

I have enclosed a copy of the Stage 1 Assessment Report on New Rail Stations Prioritisation which includes the transport case assessment criteria (at Annex A).

The stage two assessment will look in more detail at the strength of the financial and economic case for a new railway station, including advice from Network Rail on deliverability. This is an on-going and iterative process and once the assessment of the priority list is completed there will be an opportunity to then consider the next group of regional stations.

Despite the Welsh Government's call for the devolution of funding for rail infrastructure, the responsibility for its funding remains with the UK Government. By undertaking this work we are increasing the ability of station proposals to be in a position to benefit from funding calls and I will keep Members updated on the proposals as they progress.

Yours sincerely

**Ken Skates AC/AM**  
**Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith**  
**Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure**

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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[Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales)

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.

## **New Rail Stations Prioritisation – Stage 1 Assessment Report**

### **Issue**

1. This reports sets out the process for identifying new rail station schemes, proposed assessment and prioritisation process.

### **Background**

2. Despite the Welsh Government's call for the devolution of funding for rail infrastructure, the responsibility for its funding remains with the UK Government.
3. From time to time the UK Government makes funding available for new stations through specific funding calls. Stations where there is an existing developed business case are at an advantage in such calls. We have therefore developed a methodology to accelerate the development work that is needed and develop a project pipeline so that, when UK funding opportunities occur, there are Welsh projects at an appropriate stage of development that can be submitted for consideration and stand the best possible chance to secure funding.
4. It should be noted that any proposal is only likely to be successful in securing funding with a sound business case. By undertaking this work we are increasing the ability of station proposals to be in a position to benefit from funding calls.

### **Station identification**

5. Proposals for new stations have come forward from a range of sources. Following a public consultation exercise, a list of potential locations was published in the National Transport Finance Plan, 2015 along with a commitment to develop assessment criteria (NTPF Reference RI10) and, using those criteria, develop a prioritised list.
6. The National Transport Finance Plan stated:

*RI10 - Develop assessment criteria and using those criteria, a prioritised list of new station proposals for further consideration (in relation to securing funding from the rail industry).The following stations will be assessed as part of this process:*

- *South East Wales: Roath Park/Wedal Road, Crwys Road, Gabalfa, Ely Mill/Victoria Park, Caerleon, Llanwern, Newport West (on Ebbw Line), Crumlin, St Mellons, Newport Road/Rover Way, Brackla, St Fagans, Magor.*
- *South West Wales: Templeton, St Clears, Cockett, Landore.*
- *Mid Wales: Bow Street, Carno, Howey, Abermule.*

- *North Wales: Broughton, North Wrexham, Deeside Industrial Park/Northern Gateway (as alternative to upgraded Hawarden Bridge Station), South Wrexham, Llangefni.*
7. The proposals for new stations have been identified by a number of reports and studies including Cardiff Capital Region Metro proposals, SWWITCH Rail Strategy (November 2013) and report of the North East Wales Integrated Transport Task Force (June 2013). Some further locations have also been identified through correspondence with the Welsh Government from interested parties and through work on the South East Wales Metro. These have been added to the stations identified in the National Transport Finance Plan to give a list of 46 stations for consideration:
- South-East Wales: Abertillery, Brackla, Bridgend College, Cardiff Airport, Carleon, Coedkernew, Crumlin, Crwys Road, Cwmbach North, Ely Mill/Victoria Park, Gabalfa, Glyncoch, Herbert Street Bridge, Hirwaun, Llanwern, Loudon Square, Magor, Maindy, Mamhilad, Miskin, M4 J34, Nantgarw, Newport Road/Rover Way, Newport West, Roath Park/Wedal Road, Sarn Park, Sebastopol, Splott, St Athan, St Fagans, St Mellons, Upper Boat, New line through Llantrisant, Talbot Green, Beddau.
  - South-West Wales: Cockett, Landore, St Clears, Templeton.
  - Mid Wales: Bow Street, Carno, Howey, Abermule
  - North Wales: Broughton, Deeside Industrial Park/Northern Gateway, North Wrexham, South Wrexham, Llangefni.

## **Methodology**

8. A methodology has been developed for assessing early stage proposals for new rail stations to identify which stations should be initially prioritised for further work.
9. The assessment methodology follows a three-stage approach. This means that the more costly work on producing detailed cost estimates for a new stations and timetable modelling is carried out in a focused manner. The assessment criteria is set out in Appendix 1.
10. The Stage 1 assessment involves an initial sift of the stations identified using the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG) criteria and consideration of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 goals.
11. Stations prioritised from the Stage 1 assessment will be taken forward to Stage 2. This will involved the application of a standard assessment model to assess the anticipated demand, a preliminary assessment of the strength of the financial and economic case for a new station and advice from Network Rail on deliverability. This stage will be done using in-house resources and some technical assistance may be required.

12. Stations prioritised from Stage 2, will then be taken forward to Stage 3. This will involve development and assessment of the highest priorities, including a WeITAG Stage One Report, business case and Network Rail's Governance for Railway Investment Projects (GRIP) process.

### **Stage 1 Assessment**

13. The Stage 1 assessment has been undertaken using the 'transport case' criteria (Appendix 1). Stations have been selected to be taken forward on a regional basis. The regional stations identified for further assessment were the ones that scored the highest across all the 'transport case' criteria tested.
14. Based on this initial sift, it is proposed that the following stations are taken forward for further assessment:
- South East Wales: Ely Mill/Victoria Park, Llanwern, Newport Road/Rover Way and St Mellons.
  - South West Wales: Cockett, Landore, St Clears.
  - North Wales: Deeside Industrial Park/Northern Gateway, North Wrexham, South Wrexham, Llangefni.
  - Mid Wales: Bow Street.

### **Next Steps – Stage 2 Assessment**

15. The stations prioritised from the Stage 1 assessment will be taken forward to Stage 2, and following this, they will be developed further in Stage 3. It is anticipated that Stage 2 will take around 6 months to complete. Once the assessment of the priority list is completed there will be an opportunity to then consider the next "batch" of regional stations, if appropriate.

## Appendix 1 – Assessment Criteria

			Criteria
STRATEGIC CASE - the case for change and the fit with other policies	A prosperous Wales	TRANSPORT CASE - the social, environmental and economic impacts of the change	Accessing major ports, airports and rail terminals
			Linking main centres of population and economic activity
			Links areas of high economic inactivity to employment sites
			Benefit to Cost Ratio
	A resilient Wales		Forecast Passenger Numbers
	A healthier Wales		Improved access to services
	A more equal Wales		Reduces cost of public transport services
			Improves access in areas with no bus transport alternative
	A Wales of cohesive communities		Improves access in areas with poor access to services
	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language		Ensuring end to end connectivity
A globally responsible Wales	Improved access to tourist sites and cultural attractions		
	Air Quality Improvement		
		Noise Reduction	

	Criteria
<b>FINANCIAL CASE - is the proposed spend affordable?</b>	<b>Scheme Cost</b>
	<b>Match Funding</b>
<b>DELIVERY CASE - Can the scheme be delivered?</b>	<b>Land Ownership</b>
	<b>Environmentally sensitive area</b>
	<b>Physical geometry/topography</b>
	<b>Design/Build Complexity</b>
	<b>Network Rail/TOC Support</b>
	<b>Delivery Stage</b>

**Consider constraints e.g. Environmental (SSSI, SAC), Physical (Geometry of scheme), Technical (see complexity - approvals required, specialisms)**



# Agenda Item 3.8

## **P-05-738 Public Petition for the Dinas Powys By-Pass**

This petition was submitted by V P Driscoll, A R Robertson and R T Harrod, having collected 3,305 signatures – 2,572 on paper and 733 on-line.

### **Text of the Petition**

We the undersigned, call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to provide the necessary funding and support for the construction of a Dinas Powys By-Pass.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region.**

- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/01466/17

Mike Hedges AM

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

2 May 2017

Dear

*Mike,*

Thank you for your further letter of 13 April regarding petition P-05-738 on the Dinas Powys Bypass.

In December, my officials met with Council officers to talk about transport in the Vale of Glamorgan, including transport issues in Dinas Powys.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council are undertaking a stage 1 WeITAG (Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance) investigation to establish the transport issues and opportunities in the village. This is being jointly funded by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Welsh Government.

A public engagement session was held on 13th March. Around 120 people attended throughout the day and a lot of feedback was received and will be digested.

In March 2017, the Welsh Government awarded the Vale of Glamorgan Council with £60,000 of further funding to progress findings from this work.

*Yours ever,*

*Ken*

**Ken Skates AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure

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[Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales)

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.

**P-05-738 Public Petition for the Dinas Powys By-Pass – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 31.05.17**

Dear Ms Driscoll,

**P-05-738– Pwyllgor Deisebau 13.06.17 / Petitions Committee 13.06.17**

Thank you for your communication of 24<sup>th</sup> May and to everyone involved in agreeing to postpone our response until this upcoming meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> June.

We note the content of the letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> May addressed to your Chair, Mike Hedges A.M., from Ken Skates AC/AM, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure. We accept much of its content was historic and contained in our initial documentation.

It was interesting to learn that a further tranche of £60,000 (making a total £75,000) had been allocated by the Welsh Government to the Vale Council (and from them to consultants, Arcadis) to progress findings on their Stage 1 Study into the transport corridor through Dinas Powys. Their report is expected to be received by the Vale Cabinet within days. However, Emma Reed pointed out that this Study would be the first of what could be up to five studies into the process. It is the first Study of several carried out in the last five years to include a By-Pass as an option.

Surprisingly, it is taking place after the completion of the Deposit Local Development Plan (LDP). It's important to note the Arcadis brief is solely on the transport corridor through Dinas Powys and is unlikely to take in the effect any improvement might have on neighbouring settlements and the knock-on affects to other routes.

A telephone conference took place yesterday (30<sup>th</sup> May) between:

**Cllr Geoff Cox**, Vale Cabinet Councillor for Neighbourhood Services and Transport,  
**Emma Reed**, Director of Visible Services and Transport,  
**Roger Pattenden** BSc MICE from the Dinas Powys By-Pass Steering Group  
**Rod Harrod** (myself – Chair of the Group)

Ms Reed informed that the LDP Report was expected from the Welsh Government Inspector within the next 6 – 8 weeks. It was acknowledged that the LDP is primarily a 'plan' and projects can take place outside its parameters. If the Deposit LDP is adopted, it's also due to be reviewed every few years during the remaining nine years of its life.

Cllr Cox emphasised that the new Cabinet would oppose inappropriate housing development. The recently published (March) Welsh Government's Household Projections report indicated the Vale 10,000 house allocation might have flaws of up to 60%. Emma Reed stated that the development figures were based on numerous other factors not just the needs listed within this report.

Of greatest implication to our Petition content is the 230 house development proposed on the former St Cyres Lower School site at the top of the Murch that does impeach on the original line on which the by-pass has been mapped for over 50 years. But it does not preclude room for the by-pass.

The only indicated access for the new housing estate would place 900 extra vehicle trips daily onto Murch Road and the traffic lights at the A4055 Cardiff Road. Planning has not yet been applied. The alternative would be to create an access onto our proposed by-pass. But, to do this, the by-pass would need to be built first.

The new Leader of the Vale Council, Cllr John Thomas has said the initial focus of the Council will be on the Vale's transport network. A thorough review and reappraisal of the county's infrastructure will take place shortly, with close attention paid to the eastern Vale (that includes the Dinas Powys transport corridor).

On Wednesday next, 7<sup>th</sup> June, representatives of our Steering Group will make a presentation to Vale Council Leader Cllr John Thomas, Cllr Geoff Cox, Emma Reed and possibly other members of the Cabinet whom Vale Managing Director Rob Thomas considers it could advantage.

The main purpose of our presentation is to propose to Cabinet several by-pass route suggestions. We will list the pros and cons not just to Dinas Powys but adjoining new developments stretching from Llandough, Penarth, Cosmeston and Sully right through to the 4,000 new homes being completed at the Barry Waterfront.

We would seek to report back to the Petitions Committee on this presentation for inclusion in a later meeting.

We consider the continued support of the Committee of paramount importance. We hope you can ensure the process continues to run in a positive direction and that the Welsh Government becomes aware of the support being given and the

importance now being placed on achieving an outcome beneficial to the economic, employment and social advancement of the region.

Sincere regards,

Rod Harrod

Co-petitioner – with Cllr Vince Driscoll and Cllr Andy Robertson

## **P-04-519 Abolition of Park Homes Sales Commission**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly For Wales to urge the Welsh Government to remove from Legislation the right of Park Owners to demand commission on the private sale of park homes now that they are no longer involved in the selling process.

**Petition raised by:** Caerwnon Park Residents Association

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 10 December 2013

**P-04-519 Abolition of Park Homes Sales Commission, Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 31.05.17**

Dear Graham,

sorry to be a bit tardy in replying, my Husband and I have been away on a short break.

Bob and I have a few comments to make:

Firstly we are pleased with the focus that the questionnaire puts onto the park owners to provide financial evidence and transparency.

We are concerned however with page 7 of the the forward to the questionnaire, under the heading "Where are we now?" which in para: 3 states that "Park owners may seek to replace the lost income by increasing the pitch fees" and the statement " There is also a risk that the park owner may decide to close the park entirely. This would result in residents having to find alternative parks to relocate their homes on, or potentially put them at risk of homelessness. Hence it is important to understand the implications of any change to the commission rate on all parties before taking action"

We feel that this inclusion is unnecessary and misguided and may scare many residents influencing their responses. This would not be allowed, a park cannot just be closed down. If the local authority granted change of use of that land the residents would have to be housed in equivalent accomodation and no local authority would do this. If for any reason a park owner decided to close the park the Local authority would then take over the responsibility which would earn them additional welcome income.

We can only reiterate the comments that we have previously sent to you but we would like to add that the removal of the commission charge should have a positive effect in that it would encourage more prospective park home buyers and therefore benefit the park owner in the long run. Many prospective buyers are put off when they realise that they have to lose 10% of the value if they sell their property, this may also help ease the problem of housing availability.

Yours sincerely

Sue and Bob

Caerwnon Park Residents Association