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[The Petitions Committee](#)

06/10/2015

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Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales

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Cofnodir y trafodion yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynddi yn y pwyllgor. Yn ogystal, cynhwysir trawsgrifiad o'r cyfieithu ar y pryd.

The proceedings are reported in the language in which they were spoken in the committee. In addition, a transcription of the simultaneous interpretation is included.

Aelodau'r pwyllgor yn bresennol
Committee members in attendance

Russell George	Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives
Bethan Jenkins	Plaid Cymru The Party of Wales
William Powell	Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor) Welsh Liberal Democrats (Committee Chair)
Joyce Watson	Llafur Labour

Swyddogion Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn bresennol
National Assembly for Wales officials in attendance

Kayleigh Driscoll	Dirprwy Glerc Deputy Clerk
Steve George	Clerc Clerk
Lisa Salkeld	Cynghorydd Cyfreithiol Legal Adviser
Kath Thomas	Dirprwy Glerc Deputy Clerk

Dechreuodd y cyfarfod am 09:02.
The meeting began at 09:02.

Cyflwyniad, Ymddiheuriadau a Dirprwyon
Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

[1] **William Powell:** Bore da, bawb. Good morning, all, and welcome to this meeting of the Petitions Committee. Normal housekeeping arrangements apply. We have no apologies as yet, and I hope that we'll be joined by our colleague, Russell George, shortly.

09:03

Deisebau Newydd New Petitions

[2] **William Powell:** Moving now straight to agenda item 2—new petitions. In 2.1, we have petition P-04-650, ‘Scrap Local Government Councillors’ Salaries’. Now, this petition was submitted by Geraint Williams, and has the support of 82 signatures. The text of the petition reads as follows:

[3] ‘We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to scrap Councillors’ salaries. With cuts to public services and increases in council tax it is right that councillors share the burden by having their salaries scrapped and replaced with payments of reimbursement only, much like magistrates. This will help to make savings in expensive local democracy.’

[4] There’s some additional material that the petitioner has kindly supplied. In the first place, I should declare that I am a member of a local authority and, as such, have an interest in this matter. That’s for the record. Now, a first-consideration letter in relation to this petition was sent to the Minister for Public Services on 12 August and, indeed, we have a response from the Minister, and that’s in the public papers. The petitioner has been informed of the Minister’s response but had not responded at the time that the papers were being finalised. I think that that’s still the case. So, in that context, what would colleagues suggest as the best way forward? Joyce Watson.

[5] **Joyce Watson:** Chair, first of all, I don’t have to declare an interest, but I was a councillor for a very long time. We have got the response here from the Minister. We usually wait for the petitioner to respond, and we usually give a finite time for that to happen. So, I suggest that that’s the way that we take this forward.

[6] **William Powell:** I’m very happy to accept that proposal. Bethan.

[7] **Bethan Jenkins:** Rwy’n credu, **Bethan Jenkins:** I think, perhaps, that efallai, fod y Gweinidog wedi the Minister has misunderstood the camddeall y llythyr cyntaf. Rwy’n first letter. I think he’s responded on credu ei fod yn ymateb wrth ddeall the understanding that councillors na fyddai cynghorwyr yn cael unrhyw would not have any sort of

fath o arian neu gyllideb i wneud eu remuneration or funding for doing
gwaith, ond nid dyna yw sail y their work, but that's not the basis of
ddeiseb. Felly, dylem ysgrifennu yn ôl the petition. So, we need to write
at y Gweinidog, rwy'n credu, i back to the Minister, I think, to
danlinellu'r ffaith y byddai ad- underline the fact that there would
daliadau i gynghorwyr ond mewn be repayments to councillors, but in
ffordd wahanol i gyflog, a gweld a different way to a salary, and then
wedyn beth mae'r Gweinidog yn ei see what the Minister thinks. In my
feddwl. Yn fy marn i, dylai'r ffocws, opinion, the focus should perhaps be
efallai, fod ar brif weithredwyr yn lle on chief executives rather than
cynghorwyr, ond dyna fy marn councillors, but that's my own
bersonol i. personal view.

[8] **William Powell:** Thank you very much for that. I think there would be merit, certainly, in waiting for the response from the petitioner, but given there is an evident misunderstanding or misinterpretation on the part of the Minister in his response, I think it would also make a lot of sense to write just to clarify the terms of the original petition.

[9] Good morning, Russell. Just to confirm that we're on agenda item 2.1, relating to the scrapping of local government councillors' salaries.

[10] **Russell George:** Yes, thank you, Chair. I won't make any comment on it, just to say that I declare an interest as a Powys county councillor.

[11] **William Powell:** Excellent. Okay. Thank you very much for that. So, I think we've agreed a pair of actions to take that forward and, potentially, in the life of this, we'll also be consulting the Welsh Local Government Association, but that can wait, I think, until we've heard from the petitioner.

[12] Agenda item 2.2 is P-04-652, 'Android and iOS, Welsh in the 21st Century?'. This petition was submitted by Merlyn Cooper and collected 75 signatures. The text of the petition reads as follows:

[13] 'We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to work with Google and Apple to develop a Welsh language version of their operating systems.'

[14] We've got some additional material supplied also by the petitioner relating to how much more the Welsh language is represented in recent years in business, education and public services, and he relates that to the

desirability of having it more available in this format. A first-consideration letter was sent to the First Minister, given his overarching responsibility for Welsh language, on 26 August, and we've got a response from the First Minister in our public papers. I think, in some ways, it's quite an encouraging response. Colleagues, I'd appreciate any views you might have on this one. Joyce Watson.

[15] **Joyce Watson:** Thank you, Chair. It is an encouraging response, and I absolutely agree with the petition that people should be able to express themselves in the language of their choice and, in Wales, that very often is Welsh. It is encouraging that the First Minister makes it abundantly clear that he's previously had dialogue with Amazon, when they opened their Kindle store, and that he will continue to have dialogue

[16] 'to try to motivate Apple and Google to offer more for Welsh speakers'.

[17] So, it's encouraging, and it's an interesting petition in that regard.

[18] **William Powell:** I didn't point out earlier that we haven't as yet heard from the petitioner in response to the First Minister's correspondence. So, I think, in accordance with our normal practice, we should await those comments and then hope to take this further forward.

[19] **Bethan Jenkins:** Rwy'n credu ei bod yn galonogol i weld y gwaith sydd wedi cael ei roi i mewn i hwn, ond y cwestiwn sydd gen i yw: mae'r Llywodraeth wedi edrych ar ddarnau o waith ar gyfer iOS ac wedi siarad ag Apple, ond, yng nghyd-destun Android, mae'n dweud y byddai'n darn mawr o waith. Byddwn i'n licio deall gan y Prif Weinidog a oes modd iddo fe gomisiynu unrhyw waith ar hynny hefyd gan un o'r prifysgolion neu gan gwmni bach yng Nghymru, a deall pam nad yw hynny'n bosib, os yw e wedi edrych i mewn i hynny, neu a yw'n bosib gwneud hynny hefyd. Dyna'r unig beth oedd yn fy nharo i

Bethan Jenkins: I think it's been very encouraging to see the work that's been put into this, but the question that I have is: the Government has looked at pieces of work on iOS and has worked with Apple, but, in relation to Android, they say it would be a very big piece of work. I'd like to understand from the First Minister whether there is a way for him to commission any work on that also, maybe from one of the universities or a small company in Wales, and to understand why that isn't possible, if he has already looked into that, or whether it may be possible to do that also. That's the only thing that struck

yn y llythyr, ond rwy'n hapus iawn me from the letter, but I'm very
gyda'r datblygiadau. pleased with the developments.

[20] **William Powell:** Yes, I think that's an avenue that it would be very useful for us to pursue, maybe awaiting the petitioner's views in the first instance and then taking that matter forward. Okay, so that concludes the new petitions for this morning.

09:09

Y Wybodaeth Ddiweddaraf am Ddeisebau Blaenorol Updates to Previous Petitions

[21] **William Powell:** Moving now to agenda item 3, updates to previous petitions, we start with agenda item 3.1, P-04-408, 'Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service'. This petition was submitted by Helen Missen and was first considered on 17 July 2012, having collected 246 signatures. You'll recall that this has been quite a long-standing petition, the text of which we have in front of us. We considered the petition most recently on 22 September, and we agreed to ask the clerking team to explore any recent work that had been undertaken by the cross-party group on eating disorders, chaired by Bethan Jenkins, and also to come back, in her absence at the last meeting, to consider it at this meeting. So, in that context it's absolutely only fair to ask you, Bethan, to comment on the stage where we find ourselves.

[22] **Bethan Jenkins:** Yn amlwg, **Bethan Jenkins:** Clearly, I would have byddai'n rhaid i mi ddatgan to declare an interest. Over the diddordeb yn hynny o beth. Dros yr summer, we've done a lot of work on haf, rydym wedi gwneud lot o waith this. There is a review of the ar hyn. Mae yna adolygiad o'r framework on eating disorders being fframwaith anhwylderau bwyta yn undertaken now, and we have pushed digwydd nawr, ac rydym ni wedi for two public consultations—one in gwthio am ddau ymgynghoriad Cardiff and one in Llandudno. That is cyhoeddus—un yng Nghaerdydd ac something that the cross-party un yn Llandudno. Mae hynny'n group has been able to do. So, I rhywbeth mae'r grŵp trawsbleidiol would encourage Helen and others to wedi gallu ei wneud. Felly, byddwn yn take part in that process and to put annog Helen ac eraill i gymryd rhan these arguments forward. But, what I yn y broses honno i roi'r dadleuon would propose now is that because yma. Ond, beth y byddwn i'n ei the petition has been open for so

gynnig nawr yw, oherwydd bod y ddeiseb wedi bod ar agor am gyhyd a'n bod ni wedi cael cryn sylw gan y Gweinidog ar hyn, i ni dynnu'r syniadau i gyd at ei gilydd mewn i adroddiad i gael dadl yn y Senedd. Ac wedyn, gall Aelodau eraill sydd â diddordeb gymryd rhan. Ac wedyn, fy mwriad i fyddai i hynny gael ei ddanfôn at adolygwyr y fframwaith hefyd iddyn nhw allu gweld beth mae Aelodau Cynulliad eraill yn feddwl am y peth, fel ei fod e'n strategol. Byddwn i'n dweud bod angen i hynny ddigwydd cyn diwedd y flwyddyn os ydym ni am fwydo i mewn i adolygiad y fframwaith. Ond, nid wyf yn credu y gallwn ni nawr barhau a pharhau gyda'r ddeiseb achos, yn amlwg, rydym ni wedi cael nifer fawr o lythyron rhwng y Gweinidog a ni, sy'n bositif i'r pwnc, ond rwy'n credu nawr mae'n amser i ddod â'r ddeiseb i ben. Rwy'n gobeithio y bydd Helen yn iawn gyda hynny.

[23] **William Powell:** I think that's an eminently sensible proposal, particularly since any report and debate would tie in with the other timescales. Any colleagues got any other reflections? Joyce Watson.

[24] **Joyce Watson:** I think we have to move to some completion on this. I see no problem in supporting what Bethan has suggested; I'm quite happy to do that. And I think it would be useful, because the timing is right to do it.

[25] **William Powell:** Excellent; I sense the building consensus there. So, that's exactly what we shall do.

[26] Agenda item 3.2, P-04-492, 'Diagnosis of autism in children'. This petition was submitted by the National Autistic Society Pembrokeshire branch, and was first considered by us on 18 June 2013. At that time, it had the support of 902 signatures. In front of us there's the text of the petition

and a substantial amount of supporting material referencing the difficulties experienced by parents of children on the autistic spectrum in Pembrokeshire gaining a timely diagnosis. We last considered this petition on 10 March 2015 and agreed to write in the terms requested by the petitioners to the task and finish group, to local health boards and to the Minister for Health and Social Services, and also to write to the new chief executive of Hywel Dda Local Health Board, Steve Moore, seeking reassurance on latest trends and diagnosis for autism in Pembrokeshire, which at that time appeared to have slipped again after initial improvement. We've got, in our pack today, a letter from the Minister outlining plans for the task and finish group, and also some useful correspondence from the local health boards. We've also got a response from the petitioner, which is also available in the public papers, which acknowledges much of the progress that's been made. There is reference there, I picked up, to a request from the former chief executive of Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board with regard to a policy steer from Welsh Government in relation to this topic. But, with the exception of that, I think we have made quite significant progress here, as far as I pick up from the other correspondence that we've received. What do colleagues think?

09:15

[27] **Bethan Jenkins:** Rwy'n cytuno bod cryn ddatblygiad wedi bod yn yr ardal yma. A, hefyd, fe wnes i gael brîff gan Fwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Abertawe Bro Morgannwg ar ddydd Gwener. Felly, mae'r arian newydd gan y Llywodraeth yn mynd i fynd mewn i awtistiaeth yn benodol. Felly, rwy'n credu y bydd hynny'n arwain at newid.

Bethan Jenkins: I agree that there has been quite significant development in this area. And, also, I was briefed by Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Local Health Board on Friday. So, the new money from the Government will be put into autism specifically. So, I think that that will lead to a change.

[28] Yn fy marn i, rwy'n meddwl efallai y dylem ni aros tan ein bod ni'n gwybod bod yr adroddiad oddi wrth y grŵp gorchwyl yn dod i ben, i sicrhau ein bod ni'n gallu gwthio i gael hwnnw yn gyhoeddus. Dyna fy ngreddf i, i'w gadw e ar agor nes bod hynny yn digwydd—nid i drafod y

In my opinion, I think perhaps we should wait until we know that the report from the task and finish group has been completed, to ensure that we can push to make that public. That is my instinct, to keep it open until that happens—not to discuss the petition, as such, but to keep it

ddeiseb, yn hynny o beth, ond i'w open, to wait for the report to come chadw ar agor i aros am yr adroddiad back. That is my opinion. i ddod nôl. Dyna fy marn i.

[29] **William Powell:** Yes, I'm open to that view—or could have gone the other way, really. Joyce, on this particular point.

[30] **Joyce Watson:** I'm quite happy; let's wait for the report. There has been excellent progress, and that, to me, proves the value of people bringing petitions, so that—

[31] **William Powell:** Absolutely, and they've been very tenacious petitioners, all the way, through always coming back to us with feedback, and that's absolutely correct. Would it be useful, potentially, to write to the Minister, picking up that point from Professor Purt about a policy steer, which he was seeking at that time?

[32] **Bethan Jenkins:** And to just let us know when they come to a conclusion.

[33] **William Powell:** And, also, to give us, maybe, some sort of a time frame as far as they can, regarding the work of the task and finish group. Okay, agreed.

[34] Agenda item 3.3, P-04-532, 'Improving specialised neuromuscular services in Wales'. This petition was submitted by the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign, and was first considered by us on 4 February 2014. The text of which is before us, as, indeed, is additional information. Now, we last considered this petition on 10 March 2015, and agreed to write to health boards and the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee, asking them to consider the specific actions called for in the petitioners' letter, also to the Minister, asking for an update on the issue, now that an appointment had been made, and, also, to the cross-party group for muscular dystrophy and neuromuscular conditions, so that they were also aware of the latest position.

[35] We've got responses from the health boards, which are in the public papers, and, also, a response from the petitioners, and, again, their comments also are here for us in our public pack today. A number of possible actions here, in terms of pursuing the health boards on the issue of how the benefits of additional neuromuscular consultant time, which has

particularly been emphasised by ABMU, can be realised across Wales. Have colleagues got any thoughts on that, or other ways that we could advance this one?

[36] **Bethan Jenkins:** Mae'n rhaid i fi ddatgan diddordeb fel cadeirydd y grŵp trawsbleidiol. Mae yna broblemau enbyd o hyd, ynglŷn â diffyg ffisiotherapi, diffyg *access* i adnoddau iechyd meddwl, a, hefyd, diffyg staff cynorthwyol i gleifion yn y gymuned. Ac, felly, fe fyddwn i yn awyddus iawn i gefnogi'r hyn y mae Muscular Dystrophy UK yn ei alw amdano, sef ein bod ni'n cael dadl ar y peth. Achos roedd y Thomas *review* cwpwl o flynyddoedd yn ôl, gan Muscular Dystrophy UK, ac mae yna nifer fawr o bethau sydd heb gael eu gwireddu yn unol â'r adroddiad hwnnw.

Bethan Jenkins: I have to declare an interest as chair of the cross-party group. There are severe problems remaining, regarding physiotherapy, a lack of access to mental health resources, and, also, a lack of staff to help patients in the community. And, therefore, I would be very keen to support what Muscular Dystrophy UK is calling for, namely that we have a debate on the issue. Because there was the Thomas review a couple of years ago, by Muscular Dystrophy UK, and there are a number of things that haven't been realised in accordance with that report.

[37] Nid wyf yn siŵr a ydyn nhw'n gofyn i ni gau'r ddeiseb, ond maen nhw'n gofyn am ddadl. Felly, byddwn i eisiau edrych i mewn i'r potensial o gael dadl ar hyn yn y Senedd, ond nid wyf yn siŵr eto—os oes mwy o gwestiynau i ni i'w gofyn i'r byrddau iechyd, a ddylem wneud hynny yn gyntaf, ac wedyn tynnu popeth at ei gilydd?

I'm not sure whether they are asking for us to close the petition, but they are asking for a debate. Therefore, I would want to look into the potential of having a debate on this in the Senedd, but I'm not sure yet—if there are more questions for us to ask the health boards, should we do that first, and then bring everything together?

[38] **William Powell:** Thanks for that. Joyce Watson.

[39] **Joyce Watson:** Bethan's obviously engaged with this, and probably becoming an expert in some of the areas that need examining. We have had suggestions back from the petitioner about some of the areas that might need some further answers. I suggest, as Bethan alluded to, that the first step is to try and find some answers and some clarity to the questions that they've raised, after all the information that we've had.

[40] **William Powell:** I think a debate, maybe, would be slightly premature until we've got—

[41] **Joyce Watson:** At this stage, yes.

[42] **William Powell:** —that additional layer, to flesh out a focused report.

[43] **Joyce Watson:** I don't want to stop a debate, if that's where we end up, but at this stage—and I think Bethan, to be fair, recognised that—that would be my suggestion.

[44] **William Powell:** So, concretely, that we should pursue some of the issues raised by the petitioner in their comments. One other course of action, or maybe just a complementary course of action, would be to flag this up to the Health and Social Care Committee, being the specialist committee in the field. Would that make sense?

[45] **Bethan Jenkins:** We can; I'm just aware of the time for them. So, I wouldn't want to close it and just hand it over, at this stage.

[46] **William Powell:** No, not speculatively, absolutely not.

[47] **Bethan Jenkins:** But, yes; happy to write to them.

[48] **William Powell:** Happy to write to David Rees on that matter and check what the capacity is.

[49] **Bethan Jenkins:** If they want to take it over, great. But, quite often, we have them saying, 'No, we can't do it'.

[50] **William Powell:** They've had real periods of pressure.

[51] **Russell George:** I think it's just making the committee aware of it, isn't it?

[52] **William Powell:** I think we've got some agreement there, which is excellent.

[53] Item 3.4, P-04-640, 'Bring Down the Age of Smears to 18'. This petition was submitted by Julie Bradford and was first considered on 30 June

2015. Five-hundred-and-twenty-five signatures were collected on the Assembly website and in excess of 100,000 signatures have been collected on a separate petition website about the same issue. We recall the poignant meeting with Julie and her daughter Jessica on the occasion that they presented this petition. We've got the text of the petition in front of us and additional information. We last considered the petition on 30 June 2015 and we agreed a series of actions: to write to the UK National Screening Committee, asking for details on the recent public consultation that had informed the Minister's decision to put the age up; also to write to the Minister, asking for the statistical basis upon which the HPV vaccination programme is expected to decrease the number of cancer patients over the next 10 years; and also to await comments from the petitioner on the Minister's response.

[54] We've received a very substantial response from the UK national screening programme, and I'll refer colleagues to the pack that we have in our public papers, which is very, very comprehensive indeed. We've also received a response from the petitioner and those comments are available in the pack, but as a private paper—I think it's worth emphasising that—because some of the contents of what the petitioner has submitted relates to the identities of people, and we can't be clear as to their level of consent and awareness of this. So, I think it's better to take a precautionary approach in that respect. We've also got late correspondence, and I would suggest, in the context, it would be sensible to give colleagues a moment to become familiar with the letter that you've got on your desks, of 5 October. This comes from the Minister.

[55] The Minister, there, flags up the additional information that's available on the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation statement on HPV, and also the minutes of the relevant sub-group there, with a live link that we will be in a position to follow up afterwards, because we haven't got that opportunity just now.

[56] So, this is an emotive and very difficult issue. Clearly, the amount of specialised material that we've received is very considerable and quite demanding to absorb.

[57] **Bethan Jenkins:** A ydy'r **Bethan Jenkins:** Has the petitioner deisebwr wedi gweld y wybodaeth seen the information from Public gan Public Health Wales ynglŷn â'r Health Wales regarding the research? ymchwil?

[58] **William Powell:** Yes.

[59] **Mr George:** Ond mae lot o wybodaeth yna. Nid wyf yn gwybod a ydy hi wedi cael cymaint o amser â hynny i ymdopi â'r wybodaeth i gyd.

Mr George: But there's a lot of information there. I don't know if she's had a lot of time to get her head around that.

[60] **Bethan Jenkins:** Rwy'n dilyn y deisebwr ar Facebook, ac rwyf wedi gweld ei bod hi wedi bod yn derbyn triniaeth, felly nid wyf yn siŵr faint o amser mae hi a'i mam wedi'i gael i edrych dros y ddogfen. Felly, byddwn i'n cynnig, efallai, rhoi bach yn fwy o amser iddyn nhw edrych ar y ddogfen ac edrych ar y cynnwys. Mae'r cynnwys yn dangos eu bod nhw ddim am newid yr oedran i lawr. Yn amlwg, mae hynny'n mynd yn erbyn beth y maen nhw'n gofyn amdano, ac efallai y byddai'n dda clywed oddi wrthyn nhw unwaith eto pam maen nhw'n dal i gredu bod y ddeiseb yn iawn.

Bethan Jenkins: I'm following the petitioner on Facebook, and I've seen that she has been receiving treatment, so I'm not sure how much time she and her mother have had to look over the document. So, I would propose, perhaps, that they should have a little bit more time to consider the document and look at the content. The content shows that they don't want to bring the age down. Clearly, that goes against what they're asking for, so perhaps it would be good to hear from them once again why they still believe that the petition is right.

[61] **Mr George:** Wrth gwrs, nid yw'r deisebwr wedi gweld y llythyr oddi wrth y Gweinidog eto.

Mr George: Of course, the petitioner hasn't seen the letter from the Minister yet.

[62] **Bethan Jenkins:** So, dylwn ni ddanfôn y llythyr atyn nhw hefyd.

Bethan Jenkins: So, perhaps we could send that letter to her.

[63] **William Powell:** Ie. Cytunaf.

William Powell: Yes, I agree.

[64] I think that would be a really good idea, because we've also got the opportunity then to follow up the links, as Steve has indicated. Given the sheer body of information, I think it's important for us on all sides. If you've been pursuing the fact that Jessica's at a particular phase of her treatment, then clearly she has other priorities just at the moment. So, I think, probably, that makes sense all round.

[65] **Joyce Watson:** I agree.

[66] **William Powell:** I sense we're agreed on that. Good; thank you very much indeed.

[67] Agenda item 3.5, P-04-539, 'Save Cardiff Coal Exchange': this petition was submitted by Jon Avent and was first considered by us on 11 March 2014. It had the support of 389 signatures; an associated petition hosted on another website collected 2,680 signatures. We've got the text in front of us and, indeed, some additional information. We last considered this, as I said, on 14 July 2015. At that meeting, we discussed our recent visit to the Coal Exchange and agreed to ask the Minister for her views on Mr Avent's comments and whether, in fact, there is any further progress to report. The Minister has now responded, and we've also received, as had been promised, a copy of the feasibility study prepared by Capita in association with Government officials in the economy, science and transport department and also in Cadw. The ministerial letters and the feasibility study are in the public papers today.

[68] Separately, the Save the Coal Exchange group has sent us, as a committee, an extract from a structural survey of the hall and the foyer of the exchange that had been prepared by the company Mann Williams, which is based very close by. The survey was commissioned by Save the Coal Exchange; this is also, as colleagues will have seen, in the public papers. At the time of finalising the papers, however, we had not heard from Mr Jon Avent himself, as lead petitioner. I just want to check that that remains the case. So, we've still not heard from Mr Avent, and I think that, in order to pursue this as I'm sure we would wish, we need to have his take on these important documents that have reached us. So, I suggest that we come back to that when we've got feedback from Mr Avent. There's a substantial amount of material there again, from, particularly, the Capita report, which I think would repay further study, as indeed would the interesting extract from the Mann Williams structural study, which we've got.

[69] **Bethan Jenkins:** Can I just ask a question?

[70] **William Powell:** Sure, go ahead.

[71] **Bethan Jenkins:** Sorry if it's out of order, but I can't see from the Minister's—. We've got a copy of the Capita report, but are they saying that they're going to be utilising it in any way, or is this just a copy for us to see—

?

[72] **Mr George:** There are two letters from the Minister; there's one that is just a very short covering letter at the beginning.

[73] **William Powell:** Yes, just a three-liner.

[74] **Mr George:** Right at the end—I think it's on page 132—there's a slightly longer letter.

[75] **William Powell:** Okay. Does that set into context where this fits with the planned works and stuff?

[76] **Mr George:** It says:

[77] 'Following further consideration of the initial feasibility work, I hope to write to you again on suggested next steps.'

[78] **Bethan Jenkins:** That's not very—. I suppose we could—. Well, let's wait for the petitioner, and then we can write back, saying, 'You hoped to come back to us; perhaps you could be clearer as to what you're going to do now with the study by Capita'.

[79] **William Powell:** In the meantime, the issue of ownership and responsibility is still a fairly obscure one, isn't it, I think, from our studies, following the insolvency of the previous owners. So, that's something that, potentially, it would also be useful for us to take up with the Minister, because, at the end of the day, nothing is going to happen until that is bottomed out as well. Okay. Good. That's a sensible way forward and, hopefully, we'll hear shortly from Mr Avent with his perspective.

09:30

[80] Agenda item 3.6, P-04-544, 'Ban the Shooting of Greenland White-fronted Geese': this petition was submitted by Aaron Davies and was first considered on 29 April 2014, having collected 240 signatures. We've got substantial or detailed explanation there as to the concerns that motivate the petition and some additional information. We last considered this petition on 12 May 2015, and we agreed to pass Professor Fox's letter on to the Minister for Natural Resources and to seek his views on the content. As you recall, this initially was received under the period of office of the former Minister for

Natural Resources and Food, Alun Davies, so we were keen to establish whether or not there was a difference of emphasis here and also to ask the Minister why the Welsh Government appears to have set its face against statutory protection when other states have done this and, finally, to ask him to reconsider the Welsh Government's position on this matter.

[81] The Minister has now responded. As you can see, he appears to remain wedded to the view that that policy is appropriate at this time, based on the statistics available to him, but he has agreed to keep the position under review and to consider further the statutory prohibition of shooting if new evidence should become available. At the time that the papers were assembled, we hadn't heard from Mr Aaron Davies. So, obviously, we'll be looking to hear from him. Russell, you've indicated.

[82] **Russell George:** Yes. Thank you, Chair. I think this is one of the petitions we receive where it's difficult to see how we can progress it any further at the moment because the petitioner has submitted this petition to us, we've contacted the Minister, and the Minister's been very clear in his decision. So, I can't see how we can progress this any further, and the Minister has said he's discussed it with his statutory advisers, Natural Resources Wales. So, my feeling would be that we should close this petition, but, if the petitioner does contact us back within a reasonable time then, of course, we can consider what the petitioner says. But, if that's not the case, I just think we should agree to close the petition.

[83] **William Powell:** Yes. I tend to agree that it seems to have run its course, but, for consistency, I think we've probably got to give the petitioner that opportunity. Joyce, you've indicated.

[84] **Joyce Watson:** I have, and I want to declare an interest in being—which are all on record—a member of various organisations that would be involved in trying to promote this ban on the shooting of the Greenland white-fronted geese. I think that we need at least to give the petitioner, as we've given every other petitioner, the right to respond before we consider closing it. That's my suggestion.

[85] **William Powell:** Yes. Are we all content with that approach?

[86] **Bethan Jenkins:** Yes.

[87] **William Powell:** Yes. Okay. Good. Moving now to agenda item 3.7, P-

04–632, ‘Mynyddoedd Pawb’: this petition was submitted by Mynyddoedd Pawb, and was first considered on 12 May 2015. It has the support of 1,026 signatures. We recall the three main asks of the petitioners with regard to their wish to see a climate of greater respect and interest in the Welsh language and a greater sense of identity fostered among local communities and also to see that bound into the way in which local heritage is interpreted and how that is also built in for educational and economic benefit. We’ve also got some substantial additional information that they’ve supplied to us. We last considered this on 12 May this year, and we agreed a series of actions: to write to Meri Huws, the Welsh Language Commissioner, seeking her views on the petition, as well as to Visit Wales and the Wales Tourism Alliance—given the petitioners’ aim of using this issue as a means of promoting outdoor tourism ventures—the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and, finally, the Deputy Minister, seeking his views on the petitioners further comments, alongside seeking advice from the Welsh Government in terms of its role, and specifically whether they could take on a more direct role in the process, possibly via the Historic Environment (Wales) Bill on its introduction. We’ve got responses now from the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism, Ken Skates, from the Welsh Language Commissioner, and, indeed, a very interesting response from the chair of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. These responses are all available to us. We still haven’t heard, disappointingly, from either Visit Wales or the Wales Tourism Alliance. I’m conscious that this may have coincided with busy periods for some of their key members, in terms of the summer period. But, nevertheless, I think we should chase in that case. I’d welcome your thoughts and observations on some of the feedback we’ve had.

[88] **Mr George:** Just before we start, the petitioners have asked me to point out that, in the translation of their paper, of their responses—I think it’s on page 155 of your pack—almost at the very bottom, it says

[89] ‘and celebrate this national heritage by means of the Welsh names of our landscape.’

[90] They say that, from the original paper that they submitted in Welsh, it should really have been ‘our national heritage’ rather than ‘this national heritage’.

[91] **William Powell:** Absolutely. That’s down for the record. Thank you very much for that, Steve. Bethan.

[92] **Bethan Jenkins:** Rwy'n hapus i gynnig ein bod ni'n trosglwyddo'r ohebiaeth rydym ni wedi'i chael i'r Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a Llywodraeth Leol, ac i ofyn i'r clerciaid anfon hynny at yr Aelodau Cynulliad sydd ar y pwyllgor, ac efallai i bob Aelod Cynulliad, oherwydd bydd trafodaeth Cyfnod 1 y Bil yn digwydd cyn ein hanner tymor ni ac, felly, rwy'n credu ei bod hi'n bwysig bod llefaryddion y pleidiau yn ymwybodol o'r hyn sydd yn y ddeiseb. Rwy'n credu y byddan nhw'n weddol hapus gyda beth sy'n cael ei gynnig, ond fyddwn i ddim eisiau siarad yn rhy glou am hynny.

[93] Mae hwn yn bwynt bach iawn, ond maen nhw'n gofyn a fyddai Gweinidogion eraill yn gallu gwneud sylw am y ddeiseb. Maen nhw'n sôn am weinidogaethau addysg a chyfoeth naturiol. Mae Ken Skates yn mynd i mewn i'r cwricwlwm Cymreig, ond nid yw e *really* yn trafod y pynciau hynny'n amlwg iawn yn y llythyr. Felly, dylem ofyn i Ken Skates yn benodol a yw e wedi trafod â'r Gweinidog addysg ac â'r Gweinidog amgylchedd botensial y ddeiseb yma a'r syniadau sy'n dod o'r ddeiseb yma.

[94] Rwy'n cytuno hefyd fod angen i ni ofyn i Cadw, ac i bwysu ar Groeso Cymru a Chynghrair Twristiaeth Cymru, am eu hatebion nhw. Yn y pwyllgor, fe wnes i eistedd i mewn ar y dystiolaeth, ac roedd y dystiolaeth

Bethan Jenkins: I'm happy to propose that we pass on the correspondence that we've had to the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee, and to ask the clerks to send that correspondence to the Assembly Members on that committee, and also perhaps to every Assembly Member, because the Stage 1 discussion of the Bill will take place before our half term and, so, I think it's important that party spokespersons are aware of what's in the petition. I think that they would be quite content with what's being proposed, but I wouldn't want to speak too soon on that matter.

This is a very small point, but they ask whether other Ministers could comment on the petition. They refer to the education and the natural resources Ministers. Ken Skates does touch upon the cwricwlwm Cymreig, but he doesn't really discuss those subjects in a very distinct way in the letter. Therefore, we should ask Ken Skates specifically whether he has discussed with the education Minister and the environment Minister the potential of this petition and the ideas that stem from it.

I also agree that we need to ask Cadw, and put pressure on Visit Wales and the Wales Tourism Alliance, for their responses. In the committee, I sat in on the evidence, and it was quite strong evidence

yn weddol gryf fod angen i rywbeth ddigwydd yn y maes yma, a beth sy'n weithredol bosib rwy'n credu dylai'r drafodaeth yng nghyd-destun y Bil ddod i'r amlwg wrth i gyfnodau'r Bil ddatblygu. Felly, rwy'n credu y dylai'r deisebwyr fod yn ymwybodol bod angen lobbïo ar y lefel hynny hefyd, nid jest i'r Pwyllgor Deisebau.

about the need to do something in this field, and what is practically possible I believe the discussion in the context of the Bill will make apparent as the Bill progresses. So, I think that the petitioners should be aware that there is a need to lobby on that level also, and not just with the Petitions Committee.

[95] **William Powell:** Yes, I think it's very timely indeed, really, that we've got this all coming together, and it was very useful to see such substantial responses as we've had, particularly, from the commissioner and with regard to the royal commission on ancient and historical monuments, because that's quite substantial and maybe will help to foster some amendments or some more detailed thinking at this stage of the Bill. Joyce.

[96] **Joyce Watson:** I've got nothing to add.

[97] **William Powell:** Okay. Would it be useful for us, given the nature of the petition, to also draw it to the attention of the First Minister, given his overarching responsibility for Welsh language matters? We didn't do that previously.

[98] **Bethan Jenkins:** What I suggested was that we ask Ken if he'd engaged, I suppose. I don't know—you could write to the First Minister as well. I thought we could write to him and say, 'Have you engaged with the First Minister, with the education Minister and the environment Minister—

[99] **William Powell:** Okay, yes, that would be more of a catch-all, to be fair.

[100] **Bethan Jenkins:** —on all of these things?', as a sort of cross-portfolio discussion, and start with that, and, if we don't believe that we capture all of the arguments, we can write separately to the Minister. I'm just trying to—not save time, but perhaps—

[101] **William Powell:** That's a good way forward and it also ties in with what has been requested by the petitioner, so it makes good sense. Excellent. Okay, so that concludes this section of the agenda.

09:39

**Cynnig o dan Reol Sefydlog 17.42 i Benderfynu Gwahardd y Cyhoedd
o'r Cyfarfod**

**Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to Resolve to Exclude the Public
from the Meeting**

Cynnig:

Motion:

*bod y pwyllgor yn penderfynu that the committee resolves to
gwahardd y cyhoedd o weddill y exclude the public from the
cyfarfod yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog remainder of the meeting in
17.42(ix).*

*accordance with Standing Order
17.42(ix).*

Cynigiwyd y cynnig.

Motion moved.

[102] **William Powell:** I propose a motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following item of business, which is with regard to the ongoing review of the National Assembly for Wales petitions system. I see no objection, so we move into private session.

Daeth rhan gyhoeddus y cyfarfod i ben am 09:40.

The public part of the meeting ended at 09:40.