

Agenda – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: 13 November 2018

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

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1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

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2 New petitions

2.1 P-05-839 Adopt WHO Guidelines and Introduce a Clean Air Act for Wales

(Pages 34 – 50)

2.2 P-05-846 Save our Hospital at Prince Philip Llanelli

(Pages 51 – 58)

2.3 P-05-848 Let Welsh Students have the opportunity to choose the best study option for them

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3 Updates to previous petitions

Economy and Transport

3.1 P-04-667 Roundabout for the A477/ A4075 Junction

(Pages 65 – 67)

3.2 P-05-731 Land & Access Lane Sale at Abercwmboi

(Pages 68 – 70)

3.3 P-05-770 Reopen Crumlin Railway Station

(Pages 71 – 73)

Environment



Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales

The following two petitions will be considered together

3.4 P-04-399 Slaughter Practices

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3.5 P-04-433 CCTV in Slaughterhouses

(Pages 76 – 82)

3.6 P-05-743 End the Exotic Pet Trade in Wales

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3.7 P-05-783 Ensuring Equality of Curriculum for Welsh Medium Schools e.g.
GCSE Psychology

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3.8 P-05-799 Change the National Curriculum and teach Welsh history, from a
Welsh perspective, in our Primary, Secondary and Sixth form Schools

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3.9 P-05-805 Fair Deal For Supply Teachers

(Pages 98 – 101)

3.10 P-05-832 To Amend the School Admissions Code Relating to Summer-Born
Children

(Pages 102 – 119)

Leader of the House

3.11 P-05-798 Male domestic violence victim support services to be
independently run & funded

(Pages 120 – 125)

3.12 P-05-836 Gender Pay Gap Reporting

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3.13 P-05-819 Welsh Place Names – Protection & Promotion Bill

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3.14 P-05-830 Reopen St David's Medical Centre, Pentwyn Full Time

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4 Evidence Session – P-05-801 Save the trees and ground in Roath Mill and Roath Brook Gardens before it's too late

(9:45–10:30)

(Pages 137 – 145)

Lee Fisher

Sarah Jones

Nick Clifton

Friends of Roath Brook

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public for item 6

6 Discussion of Previous Evidence Session – P-05-801 Save the trees and ground in Roath Mill and Roath Brook Gardens before it's too late

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 2.1

P-05-839 Adopt WHO guidelines for air pollution into Welsh law and introduce a new Clean Air Act for Wales

This petition was submitted by the British Heart Foundation Cymru, having collected 688 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to adopt WHO guidelines for air pollution into Welsh law, and to introduce a new Clean Air Act for Wales.

Current legal air quality limits for Wales do not protect health. The EU limits which are observed by UK and Welsh Governments are the same as the World Health Organisation's recommended upper guideline limits for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), but are less stringent than the WHO's threshold for other health-harmful pollutants such as fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}).

British Heart Foundation Cymru is calling on the Welsh Government to adopt WHO guidelines into Welsh law, introducing a new Clean Air Act for Wales which will tackle the major sources of air pollution and ensure that everyone from government and local government, to business and the general public are working together to tackle this urgent health crisis.

Additional Information

BHF funded research first proved that short and long-term exposure to poor air quality can aggravate and cause serious cardiovascular problems. Our research established a clear link between cardiovascular disease and exposure to PM_{2.5} and ultrafine particles; and that inhalation of fine particles can increase the risk of a heart attack or stroke in vulnerable groups within 24 hours.

Public Health Wales estimated that, in 2017, air pollution contributed to 2,000 early deaths in Wales. Whilst the Welsh Government has been ordered to tackle illegal levels of nitrogen dioxide, there is still no plan to tackle particulate matter and very little detail on how the Government will improve monitoring of pollutants across Wales.

A new Clean Air Act for Wales will:

- Ensure that WHO guidelines on air pollution are observed by Welsh law;
- Introduce charging Clean Air Zones in areas which are in breach or close to the limits for nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter and ring-fence the funds for further improvements to air quality;
- Ensure that infrastructure and technology is in place to facilitate increased uptake of Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles and public transport;
- Invest in improved monitoring of pollution across Wales, and ensure that information on the risks to health is available to vulnerable groups;
- Increase public awareness of the impact of domestic woodburning and the steps which can be taken to minimise this.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff Central
- South Wales Central

P-05-839 Air quality and a Clean Air Act for Wales

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 13 Tachwedd 2018
Petitions Committee | 13 November 2018

Research Briefing:

Petition number: P-05-839

Petition title: Adopt WHO guidelines for air pollution into Welsh law and introduce a new Clean Air Act for Wales.

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- Invest in improved monitoring of pollution across Wales, and ensure that information on the risks to health is available to vulnerable groups;
- Increase public awareness of the impact of domestic woodburning and the steps which can be taken to minimise this.

Background

Wales has some of the worst air quality in the UK. Cardiff and Port Talbot both have [higher particulate matter levels](#) than Birmingham or Manchester and a [road in Caerphilly](#) is the most polluted outside of London. It has been suggested that air pollution contributes to around [2,000 deaths per year in Wales](#). It has been described by Public Health Wales as an [urgent public health crisis](#), second only to smoking. Some areas in Wales have breached EU regulations for several years, culminating in the Welsh Government being [taken to court](#) for its lack of action.

Unlike Scotland, which has its own [Air Quality Strategy](#) and lower pollution limits, air quality strategy in Wales has mostly been determined by EU regulations, and delivered by Local Authorities.

The primary air pollutants that impact health are nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃) and other small, particulate matter (PM). There are two types of PM: PM₁₀ is matter up to 10 micrometre (µm) in size and PM_{2.5} for matter up to 2.5 µm. These pollutants come from a range of sources, but the vast majority arise from the burning of fuels. This makes road transport the primary mobile source of emissions, and industrial combustion or production processes the main static sources.

NO₂ and PM pollution levels are worse in areas close to these sources. PM typically reaches high levels near industrial sites, and NO₂ is measured at dangerous levels near busy and congested roads. Most NO₂ is emitted directly, making it a primary pollutant. PM can be emitted directly as a primary pollutant, but also forms from the reaction of other pollutants in the atmosphere (secondary pollutant).

In comparison, ozone can travel long distances and reach high concentrations in areas far from sources. As a result, dealing with ozone levels requires a higher level approach, typically national or even international, compared to the Local Authority driven approach for reducing local spikes in NO₂ and PM. This is compounded by the fact that ozone is a secondary pollutant, making sources more difficult to identify.

Air quality management in Wales mainly takes place at a Local Authority level. Local Authorities are required to produce progress reports annually, and were previously required to carry out an Updating and Screening Assessment every three years. Local Authorities are required to identify areas where air pollution limits exceedance is likely and implement an [Air Quality Management Area \(AQMA\)](#). This system was changed with [updated guidance](#) on Local Air Quality Management in 2017.

All 22 Local Authorities in Wales also participate in the [Welsh Air Quality Forum \(WAQF\)](#). It comprises representatives from Local Authorities, the Welsh Government, Public Health Wales, Natural Resources Wales and several academic institutions. WAQF members direct the operation of the Welsh Air Quality Website and Database, the collection, quality assurance and quality control and dissemination of all data, and the provision of support and training to Local Authorities. The WAQF provides expertise and guidance to ensure that Local Air Quality Management statutory requirements are met, and air quality in Wales is reported in an accurate, transparent and timely manner.

Legislation and limits

There is extensive legislation regarding air quality in Wales. This includes a number of EU Directives, UK Acts and Welsh regulations which provide the framework for the [UK Air Quality Strategy](#) and Local Air Quality Management in Wales:

- [Directive 2008/50/EC](#): on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (CAFE): replaces five previous acts including NO₂ and PM limits;
- [Directive 2004/107/EC](#): (the 4th Daughter Directive): creates targets for the concentration of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and benzo(a)pyrene in ambient air. The aim is to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects of these substances on human health and the environment;
- [The Environment Act 1995](#): establishes the framework for Air Quality Management Areas;
- [The Clean Air Act 1993](#): aims to protect public health from smoke emissions;
- [Air Quality Standards \(Wales\) Regulations 2010](#): brings into law in Wales the limits set out in the EU Directives on air quality (Table 71 below); and
- [The Air Quality \(Wales\) Regulations 2000](#), as amended by the *Air Quality (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2002*: brings into law in Wales earlier EU directives.

The table below sets out EU (and by transposition, Welsh) and [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#) air quality limit values.

Table 1: Air pollution limits from EU Directives and WHO Guidelines

Pollutant	EU Limit	WHO Limit	Averaging Period	Permitted number of exceedances (EU)
NO₂	200 µg / m ⁻³	200 µg / m ⁻³	1 hour	18
	40 µg / m ⁻³	40 µg / m ⁻³	Annual	-
PM₁₀	50 µg / m ⁻³	50 µg / m ⁻³	24-hours	35
	40 µg / m ⁻³	20 µg / m ⁻³	Annual	-
PM_{2.5}	25 µg / m ⁻³	10 µg / m ⁻³	Annual	-
	(20 µg / m ⁻³ by 2020)	25 µg / m ⁻³	24-hours	-
Ozone	120 µg / m ⁻³ (target)	100 µg / m ⁻³	8 hour running or hourly	25 days averaged over three years

The [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) lays out goals including those for a healthier and more-equal Wales. Levels of NO₂ pollution in the air was included as one of the [national indicators](#) accompanying the Act. The levels are taken as a national average, weighted by population.

Welsh Government action

On 24 April, the Minister for Environment, Hannah Blythyn, made a [Plenary statement on air quality](#). She said that delivering clean air in Wales is one of her key priorities. She outlined a number of actions the Welsh Government is taking to improve air quality. The Minister said she will introduce the **Clean Air Wales Programme** to consider evidence, develop and implement actions required across Welsh Government departments and sectors to ensure clean air. The immediate aim of the programme will be to achieve compliance with existing air quality obligations. She said its wider purpose goes beyond legal compliance, and that it will aim to reduce the burden of poor air quality on human health and the environment. The Minister also said that ‘If the programme identifies gaps in the necessary levers to make required air quality improvements, I will seek to develop new legislation to address this’.

The **Clean Air Plan** will be a core component of the Clean Air Wales Programme. The Minister said the plan will be published for consultation by the end of 2018. She said it will:

- Set out in greater detail how Welsh Government will action improvements in air quality that will make a significant contribution to the well-being goals;

- Identify cross-Government and sectoral actions required to achieve clean air;
- Set out the communication, engagement and education measures needed to encourage behavioural change; and
- Include actions for strengthening the regulation of emissions from different sectors of industry.

Additionally, also on 24 April, the Minister introduced a [package of measures aiming to help improve air quality in Wales](#).

The Welsh Government has also recently [consulted on a Clean Air Zone Framework for Wales](#). The proposed Framework provides guidance to local authorities who are considering options to address local air quality issues. The Framework describes what a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) is, under what circumstances it may be applied, and the key considerations for Local Authorities that wish to establish one. The consultation asks a range of questions about the suitability of a CAZ approach in Wales, suggested acceptable emissions levels, and a potential charging structure.

National Assembly for Wales action

In January 2018 the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs (CCERA) Committee undertook a [short inquiry into Air Quality in Wales](#). The Committee heard evidence from the Chair of Wales Air Quality Forum, Natural Resources Wales, Ricardo Energy and Environment and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee about the issues affecting air quality in Wales. The Committee also heard evidence from the British Lung Foundation and Public Health Wales about the effects of air quality on public health in Wales. In February 2018, the Committee received a [private presentation on air quality](#) from the British Lung Foundation, Friends of the Earth Cymru and Professor Paul Lewis from Swansea University.

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 HB/00978/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

22 October 2018

David,

Thank you for your letter of 15 August to the Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs regarding Petition P-05-839, in which British Heart Foundation Cymru is calling for the adoption of World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines into Welsh law and the introduction of a new Clean Air Act for Wales. I am responding as this matter falls within my Ministerial portfolio.

Improving air quality is a key priority in the Welsh Government's 'national strategy: Prosperity for All' and it is, likewise, a key portfolio priority for me. Outdoor air quality in Wales has, on the whole, improved over recent decades. This has been largely due to controls on emissions of pollutants from power stations, industry, including agriculture, transport and domestic sources. However, problems persist and pose considerable risks to public health in parts of Wales.

This summer the Welsh Government established a Clean Air Programme. The aim of the Programme is to reduce the burden of poor air on human health and the natural environment, and also the requirement to comply with European and domestic legislative obligations. The Programme will develop and co-ordinate actions across all Government Departments and sectors to reduce emissions and deliver improvements in air quality. Detail of action to improve air quality in Wales, will be included in a Clean Air Plan for Wales, which we intend to publish for consultation next year. We already have access to a wide range of levers to take forward action needed to improve air quality. These include planning, infrastructure, legislation, regulation and communication measures. If the Programme identifies gaps, I will develop new legislation where appropriate to fix this.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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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.

My views on the specific proposals for a new Clean Air Act for Wales are set out below.

- *Ensure that WHO guidelines on air pollution are observed by Welsh law.*

Protecting public health is a key commitment for me. One of the main objectives of the new National Emission Ceilings Directive is to narrow the gap between current levels of air pollution and WHO guideline levels by reducing emissions of 5 important air pollutants. The pollutants include ammonia, nitrogen oxides, non-methane volatile organic compounds, fine particulate matter and sulphur dioxide. Since 2011, the UK has met all European Union (EU) and international emission reduction commitments. The Welsh Government will set out its plans to help achieve the UK's future emission reduction commitments for the 5 pollutants within the UK National Air Pollution Control Programme which will be published before 1 April 2019.

In addition, the Clean Air Programme recognises that while compliance with relevant standards is the immediate priority, air quality improvement in Wales must reach beyond this in order to protect and improve health and wellbeing in the longer-term. My officials are assessing practical aspects, such as the economic, technical, political and social impacts, of adopting and attaining the WHO guidelines for air pollution in Wales. Any future targets need to be underpinned by evidence to ensure they deliver the most effective change, supporting the delivery of our well-being goals.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) recently consulted on a new independent statutory body to hold government to account on environmental objectives once the UK has left the EU. My officials are working with Defra to understand the potential implications of this approach in relation to future policy and legislative developments in Wales.

- *Introduce charging Clean Air Zones in areas which are in breach or close to the limits for nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter and ring-fence the funds for further improvements to air quality.*

I recognise the potential for Clean Air Zones to bring about real improvements in air quality, raising the profile of air quality issues and acting as an impetus to behaviour-change. Clean Air Zones can provide a range of responses to meet the challenge of improving air quality in areas where evidence shows that urgent and concerted action is required to meet legislative requirements on pollutant limits and our wider aspirations for sustainable development and the well-being of future generations.

Earlier this year we consulted on a draft Clean Air Zone Framework for Wales. The Framework set Welsh policy in this area in the context of public health, setting out that Clean Air Zones should provide for co-ordinated action to deliver a significant reduction in public and environmental exposure to harmful airborne pollutants from all sources. We intend to publish the Framework by the end of 2018.

Any local authority in Wales may introduce a Clean Air Zone in order to address local air quality issues, whether as a result of identified legal exceedences or as part of a health improvement programme to address poor air quality. Currently there is no specific legal requirement for local authorities to introduce a Clean Air Zone. Local knowledge is vital to finding air quality solutions that are suited to local areas and the communities and businesses affected. Local characteristics can affect local levels of pollution and national modelling will not pick up all of the necessary local detail. The size of the exceedance can also vary according to local circumstances. A leading role for local authorities responsible for roads which are non-compliant is essential.

Where statutory nitrogen dioxide limit values are being exceeded, we require local authorities to develop innovative plans to address this.

In Wales, Caerphilly County Borough Council and Cardiff Council are responsible for addressing the exceedance of limit values at a number of locations in their respective authority areas. These exceedances are projected to continue for several years unless action is taken. I have directed both authorities to undertake feasibility studies to identify the option that will deliver urgent compliance. Unless Cardiff City Council identifies an alternative measure (or measures) which would bring the roads for which they are responsible into compliance with statutory limits at least as quickly as a charging Clean Air Zone, I will require, by Direction, Cardiff City Council to introduce a charging Clean Air Zone. The timescales that I have set the authorities are extremely demanding, and my officials are providing support to ensure that this work progresses efficiently. The Welsh Government has allocated over £20 million for an Air Quality Fund through to 2021 to help accelerate compliance with nitrogen dioxide limits and improve air quality in Wales.

As part of our work to develop a Clean Air Plan for Wales, we are working with relevant stakeholders to consider the opportunities presented by the implementation of Clean Air Zones and how they should be integrated with wider Government policies.

- *Ensure that infrastructure and technology is in place to facilitate increased uptake of Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles and public transport.*

The Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport recently provided (11 October 2018) a written statement on the deployment of £2 million funding for electric charging points.

The funding will be used to help create a publicly accessible national network of rapid charging points, enabling electric vehicles to undertake longer journeys. The focus will be on locations on or near our strategic road network, with a particular emphasis on North-South and East-West journeys. This work will complement the funding packages implemented by the Office for Low Emission Vehicles for the On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme, Workplace Charging Scheme, and Electric vehicle Homecharge scheme.

Part of the funding will support scoping work to ensure that the charging infrastructure is deployed in the most effective and cost efficient manner. This will include establishing network specifications, power availability and opportunities for utilising local renewable energy.

- *Invest in improved monitoring of pollution across Wales, and ensure that information on the risks to health is available to vulnerable groups.*

Local authorities are responsible for managing air pollution in their areas as part of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) regime, established under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. The Welsh Government has issued extensive statutory guidance setting out what is expected of local authorities in fulfilling their LAQM duties. This includes monitoring and annual reporting on air quality in their area. Annual reports use a template designed by the Welsh Government, in consultation with local authorities and Public Health Wales. The template is intended to inform members of the public about air pollution in their area, the actions that are being taken to improve it and what they can do to contribute.

With regards to air quality monitoring, local authorities must take a risk-based approach to the assessment and monitoring of local air quality, focusing on locations where members of the public are likely to be exposed to excessive levels of air pollution. Some of the monitors used by local authorities for LAQM purposes offer real-time reporting which ensures information on levels of pollution are immediately available, allowing people to take action to avoid it where possible. This can be accessed, along with information from National and UK-wide monitoring networks on the Air Quality in Wales website. The website also provides an air pollution forecast tool and related public health advice

Our LAQM guidance for local authorities also recognises schools, care homes, hospitals, nurseries and active travel routes, amongst others, as “sensitive receptor locations”. For example, highlighting the significant contribution made by the ‘school run’ to levels of air pollution and traffic congestion on roads and the potential for schools to help educate children and parents on the issues around air quality and explore potential solutions.

As part of the work required to underpin the Clean Air Programme and future Government policy, we are working with partners to provide the right evidence bases in Wales. To take this work forward, the Welsh Government has developed an Evidence, Innovation and Improvements Project. The project aims to complement existing evidence on airborne pollution with timely and more local evidence where it is needed, to enable better targeted actions and policies in Wales. This will involve assessing priority areas for action, including at sensitive receptor locations such as schools and hospitals, and collecting new evidence where it is necessary. The work will aim to enhance collaboration between stakeholders to help drive and evaluate air pollution reduction interventions, enabling a culture of prevention rather than mitigation.

I welcome innovative solutions to improve the assessment of air quality across Wales. As new technologies evolve, applications will arise which bring new insight to air pollution issues and we will review this through the Evidence, Innovation and Improvements project.

With regards to ensuring information on the risk to health is available to vulnerable groups, we are currently developing awareness raising and behavioural change communications, as part of the wider Clean Air Plan for Wales. This will be underpinned by evidence, which raises awareness of the issues and encourages a model shift for people using their cars where there are viable alternatives. Emphasis will be placed on those interventions that address interconnected problems and can deliver multiple benefits, such as promoting and facilitating active travel. As part of the Clean Air Plan we will be reviewing the current LAQM regime to determine whether it can be improved.

- *Increase public awareness of the impact of domestic wood burning and the steps which can be taken to minimise this.*

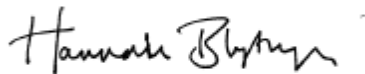
Work on domestic combustion policy is an integral part of the Clean Air Programme. A multifaceted approach is required to ensure the use of the cleanest domestic appliances and fuels used to burn and the ongoing maintenance requirements of such appliances. Success in this area can only be achieved by raising awareness of the associated issues so as to change how and what people burn.

We are developing an evidence base to understand the specific circumstances in Wales with respect to domestic solid fuel combustion. Importantly, we need to better understand the specific position in Wales with respect to the types of appliances and fuels being used and the introduction of future product standards to inform the most effective behaviours and interventions. We are working with all relevant stakeholders

including HETAS, an organisation working for consumers to promote the safe and effective use of solid fuels, and the Stove Industry Alliance, an association of stove manufacturers and wood fuel suppliers, to underpin this work.

I believe work we are developing through the Clean Air Programme should reassure the committee a wide range of cross-Government actions are being developed to ensure sustained air quality and health improvements.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Hannah Blythyn'.

Hannah Blythyn AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd
Minister for Environment



British Heart Foundation Cymru Petition

Response to Minister's Letter to the Petitions Committee

1. British Heart Foundation Cymru thanks the Minister and her officials for the response to our petition. We would like to take the opportunity to respond to those comments and update the members of the committee on our position to the future policy measures outlined by the Minister for Environment.
2. We were disappointed to note that fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) was not focused on more in the Minister's response. BHF Cymru is concerned about the focus that has only been placed on NO₂ due to the court cases against the UK and Welsh Governments is not addressing measures which might reduce PM. It is possible that time and money spent on addressing the exceedances of NO₂ without considering tackling PM at the same time may not produce the overall desired improved air quality. It is likely that measures to tackle NO₂ are going to be costly, and it is important that feasibility studies do not take one pollutant in isolation as it is possible this may produce unintended consequences.
3. Since submitting the petition for responses, the COMEAP report into air pollution and cardiovascular disease has been published, showing the real risk posed by fine particulate matter. We would urge the Minister and her officials, and this committee to take note of the conclusions of the report.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/air-pollution-and-cardiovascular-disease-mechanistic-evidence>
4. The report reinforces the need to tackle fine particulate matter with relation to heart and circulatory diseases. "In each of the areas we reviewed we found clear evidence that exposure to air pollutants, primarily fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), affected a range of physiological and patho-physiological variables and effects. These included indices of inflammatory and oxidative status, reduced heart rate variability (HRV), arrhythmias, endothelial dysfunction, raised blood pressure, progression of atherosclerotic disease and promotion of thrombosis (blood clotting)." (p.58)
5. We are pleased to hear about the Clean Air Programme and Evidence, Innovation and Improvements project and hope to be able to feed into these with the Minister's officials where appropriate.

Ensuring WHO guidelines are observed by Welsh law

6. We feel that WHO guidelines are the right solution for Wales. The World Health Organization is an important and internationally recognised body which has done extensive modelling and evidence gathering to understand the impacts of polluted air on public health.

7. The EU annual mean limits for PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ (25µg/m³, 40µg/m³ respectively)¹ are currently double the WHO guidelines for these pollutants (10µg/m³ and 20µg/m³²).
8. It is encouraging to note that the Minister believes that air quality improvement needs to reach beyond compliance with the current EU limits made clear by the court case; BHF Cymru would urge Welsh Government to show their commitment to ensuring better public health by adopting WHO guidelines which are more stringent than EU limits.
9. Whilst we recognise Government's commitment to the goals for wellbeing of future generations, we would urge Government to focus on the evidence which has already been gathered around the world and to ensure that these limits are adopted without delay.
10. The WHO data published in May 2018 for the year 2015 showed that Swansea, Chepstow, Port Talbot and Cardiff were very close to the WHO limits of 20µg/m but none of them were actually in breach of this standard. However for PM_{2.5}, both Chepstow (12µg/m) and Swansea (13µg/m) were in breach of the WHO standard of 10µg/m. Port Talbot (18µg/m, later revised to 10) Cardiff (10µg/m) and Newport (10µg/m) are at the limit. Neither Chepstow or Swansea have been required to undertake a feasibility study into a CAZ, and Swansea has not been required to undertake any work to reduce air pollution because it will be compliant under the EU limits (for NO₂), which is a requirement of the court case against Welsh Government.

Clean Air Zones

11. It is disappointing that the Welsh Government is not willing to take a leading role in directing local authorities to introduce charging clean air zones unless the area is exceeding European limits for NO₂.
12. Unless a national approach is taken, with Government leading the change, local authorities are unlikely to introduce charging clean air zones. When Cardiff Council's recent green paper "*Changing how we move around a growing city*" was published, the national news site Walesonline and its accompanying publication the Western Mail immediately led on the potential of a "congestion charge" which received a lot of public attention and comment which could be dissuasive to a council introducing a charging zone.
<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/congestion-charge-being-seriously-considered-14442071> (18 March 2018)
13. The Minister's response makes no reference to the importance of *charging* clean air zones. Without introducing a charge for heavy polluting vehicles, it is unlikely that a local authority would be able to make improvements to public

¹ EU Air Quality Standards <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/quality/standards.htm> [accessed 18 June 2018]

² World Health Organisation Ambient (outdoor) air quality and health fact sheet (Updated 2 May 2018) <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs313/en/> [accessed 18 June 2018]

transport, which is the modal shift required to ensure that people can travel effectively without further polluting the air.

14. Furthermore, there is still no mention of particulate matter within the response to clean air zones. Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) can be generated by braking and exhaust dust, something which of course would be alleviated enormously by clean air zones.

ULEV funding

15. We welcome the Minister further detailing what the £2 million funding for electric charging points will be used for. This is one point towards an important modal shift towards cleaner transportation.
16. BHF Cymru supports the calls of the Economy, Science and Transport Committee for the Welsh Government to invest £20 per head in active travel options which will help to support this modal shift further.

Air quality monitoring

17. We recognise the Minister's points on the responsibilities of Local Authorities and LAQM monitors, however we feel strongly about the lack of public knowledge regarding where and how they can access the monitoring information.
18. Whilst we recognise that local knowledge is important when it comes to the placing of monitors, it is important to note that without monitoring an area, it is not certain that the air quality is safe.
19. We know from analysis done on air quality monitors, there are times of day when air quality becomes very dangerous for people living with certain conditions. Hafodyrynys Road reaches very unsafe particulate matter levels first thing in the morning. Local information such as this could be provided as a matter of urgency to people living in the area with heart and circulatory conditions.
20. We also know from analysis of air quality monitors that other areas close by to Hafodyrynys and other roads across Wales that they reach similar unsafe levels of air pollution at certain times of day and yet these are not subject to the same scrutiny. It is for this reason, that BHF Cymru urges the Welsh Government to seriously consider how a national approach can be taken to monitor air across the country.

Domestic woodburning

21. BHF recently responded to DEFRA's consultation on cleaner domestic burning of solid fuels and wood.
22. We hope the Welsh Government will bring forward proposals on reducing PM_{2.5} and SO₂ through restrictions on wet wood burning as soon as possible. Whilst we

recognise the Clean Air Programme will build an evidence base, it is clear that UK Government have already moved forward on this issue and it is imperative to use the evidence that is already available to reduce this harmful source of pollution.

23. Given the known health harms attributable to air pollutants, restrictions on the sale of all wet wood and the most polluting solid fuels must be brought into force as soon as possible.
24. A BHF-run focus group held with nine patient representatives from across the UK highlighted that patients did not know enough about the impact of wood burning on both levels of air pollution and heart and circulatory health to know whether it should be tackled. Upon finding out that domestic wood and coal burning constitutes 38% of ambient PM_{2.5} emissions³, there was general agreement that providing more information to the public about the impact of domestic burning was the most important first step. Our panel also noted that people will only change their behaviour if they understand how an issue affects them personally; hence information on the health effects of air pollution must be provided alongside any practical advice.
25. Given the number of homes which are still off-grid in Wales along with a high proportion of fuel poverty, not only information but the ability for people to access alternative fuels must be considered immediately.

We thank the Committee for their consideration of the petition and the Minister for her response.

Emma Henwood
Policy and Public Affairs Manager
BHF Cymru

³ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, *Air quality: draft Clean Air Strategy 2018*, May 2018.

Agenda Item 2.2

P-05-846 Save our Hospital at Prince Philip Llanelli

This petition was submitted by Sosppan. The petition has collected 12,745 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to save our hospital at Prince Philip, Llanelli.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Llanelli
- Mid and West Wales

P-05-846 Save our Hospital at Prince Philip Llanelli

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 13 Tachwedd 2018

Petitions Committee | 13 November 2018

Research Briefing:

Petition number: P-05-846

Petition title: Save our Hospital at Prince Philip Llanelli

Text of petition: We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to save our hospital at Prince Philip, Llanelli.

Background

There have been concerns about proposed changes to services at Prince Philip Hospital in Llanelli in 2013 and more recently in 2018.

In January 2013, Hywel Dda University Health Board published their final proposals for health service reconfiguration in West Wales. Following the formal consultation, the Hywel Dda Community Health Council (CHC) raised some concerns about the proposals with the Health Board. Although some issues were resolved, some matters of concern to the CHC remained – namely, **A&E services at Prince Philip Hospital, Llanelli**, and neonatal services (specifically in relation to Glangwili and Withybush Hospitals). The then Minister for Health and Social Services, Mark Drakeford, established an independent Scrutiny Panel to examine all relevant documentation and consider the issues.

In September 2013 the Panel submitted its [report](#) which strongly supported the case for replacement of A&E services at Prince Philip Hospital, and which proposed that an emergency nurse practitioner unit supported by general practitioners should form the future model of care at the Hospital. In a September 2013 [statement](#), the Minister confirmed that he had accepted the Panel's recommendation.

I have therefore determined that this form of service will be implemented. I am pleased to report that the health board and the CHC have already been working together on the detail of this type of service model for Prince Philip Hospital.

In 2011–12, the emergency department of that hospital saw 33,000 patients, of whom 6,500 were regarded as emergency cases. Four hundred and twenty two of these needed to be transferred to another hospital. The remaining 80% of patients were treated at Prince Philip, and the decision that I have made today means that this position will be maintained into the future.

Hywel Dda Health Board's [website](#) provides further detail about the work to develop the emergency care service at Prince Philip Hospital following the Minister's statement.

The procedures undertaken by Hywel Dda Health Board relating to these changes were subject to [judicial review](#) in summer 2014 but were upheld as fair and lawful by a High Court judge.

Service changes at Prince Philip Hospital have been the subject of a number of petitions submitted to the Assembly's Petitions Committee; these were closed by the Committee in April 2017. Regarding petition [P-04-394 Save our Services – Prince Philip Hospital](#) the Petitions Committee noted that 'The campaign group that submitted it has now disbanded. The petitioner states that the health board has improved its approach in relation to consultation and that current service provision at Prince Philip Hospital appears to be working satisfactorily.'

There were renewed concerns about possible changes to services at Prince Philip following the publication of Hywel Dda Health Board's consultation [Our big NHS change](#) in April 2018. Proposal A in the consultation would have seen Prince Philip downgraded to a community hospital. The [outcome of the consultation](#) was announced 26 September 2018. Prince Philip will not be repurposed as a community hospital and will retain its status as a local general hospital. Headline decisions included:

- more investment will be made in the integration of social care with health and well-being across the seven localities (north and south Ceredigion, north and south Pembrokeshire, Taf/Tywi, Amman/Gwendraeth and Llanelli);
- a hospital model will be adopted and includes:
 - a business case to be made for a new hospital in the south of Hywel Dda (somewhere between Narberth and St Clears) to provide specialist urgent and emergency care services and planned care;
 - hospital services to be retained and developed at Bronglais Hospital, Aberystwyth, in-line with the Mid Wales Joint Health & Social Care Committee recognising importance of hospital in delivery of services to populations of Ceredigion, Powys and South Gwynedd;
 - acute medicine to be retained at Prince Philip Hospital, Llanelli, following recent modernisation of services developed with the local community and serving a densely populated area;

- re-purposing Glangwili (Carmarthen) and Withybush (Haverfordwest) hospitals to support community health needs including overnight beds, day case procedures, out-patient and walk-in services such as minor injuries and much more.

The Welsh Government's response

In his response to the Petitions Committee (15 October 2018), the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services referred to Hywel Dda Health Board's recent announcement. He stated:

The next step will be for clinicians and staff to work with the public and other organisations, to bring the additional detail together into a draft 20 year health strategy. It anticipates that this will be considered at the Board's public meeting on 29 November.

At this stage, the proposals remain a matter for the health board to determine, using well-established procedures. It is possible that Welsh Ministers may be called upon to take final decisions on the plans, if agreement cannot be reached locally.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-846
Ein cyf/Our ref VG/03113/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

15 October 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 24 September regarding Petition P-05-846 Save Our Hospital at Prince Philip Llanelli.

At its public Board meeting on 26 September Hywel Dda University Health Board received the closing report from the public consultation on its Transforming Clinical Services programme, and considered recommendations on the way forward.

At the meeting, eleven recommendations from doctors, nurses and a range of healthcare professionals such as health scientists and therapists were approved by the Board. Some key decisions were made, although the health board now wants to investigate some of the insightful feedback which it received from people during the consultation.

The next step will be for clinicians and staff to work with the public and other organisations, to bring the additional detail together into a draft 20 year health strategy. It anticipates that this will be considered at the Board's public meeting on 29 November.

At this stage, the proposals remain a matter for the health board to determine, using well-established procedures. It is possible that Welsh Ministers may be called upon to take final decisions on the plans, if agreement cannot be reached locally.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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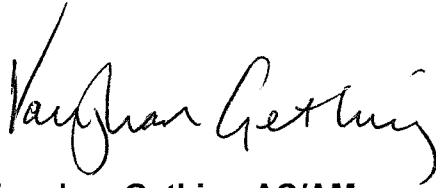
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Pack Page 55

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 hope you will therefore appreciate that I am unable to comment on the proposals, as doing so may prejudice any future role I might have to play in the process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Vaughan Gething'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Vaughan' being more prominent than the last name 'Gething'.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services

P-05-846 Save our Hospital at Prince Philip Llanelli – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 5.11.18

Thank you for agreeing to discuss our petition and we appreciate your time and assistance.

Since presenting the petition we have met with the health board and answered a number of questions and concerns we have.

I have been asked by the committee of SOSPPAN to make you aware of a number of facts they would like you to consider.

Llanelli has a number of deprived wards including two of the bottom three wards in the whole of Wales. Travelling over forty miles to a new hospital is not practical without a car and it's not uncommon for discharge to happen in the middle of the night. (only last week I collected a mother and her 14 month old baby from outside Glangwili Hospital at 12.00 at night on their discharge. The mother does not own a car and was faced with a 20 mile taxi ride, as a single mother on benefits this would have had a devastating effect on her financial situation.

We worry that a risk and or Quality Impact Assessment has been carried out on ambulance services in the Hywel Dda area and effects the new hospital will have on the people of Llanelli. We worry people will present to Moriston Hospital and this will cause significant problems for them.

We have been told mental health services will be moved from PPH and we are concerned what will happen too patients in the Llanelli area, there are severe Mental health problems in our region and moving the treatment centre over 40 miles away is not going to be positive or help.

We welcome the news the health board is considering a MLU unit in PPH but again have concerns if there are sufficient ambulance provisions .

With over a third of the Hywel Dda catchment living in the Llanelli area we wonder how much consideration has been given to residents. We hear a lot about kindness and service and the wellness of the patient being

paramount. With family and friends living over 40 miles away with really poor road and public transport links we wonder how this is for their benefit.

Yours sincerely

John Prosser

SOSPPAN

Save our Services Prince Phillip Hospital Action Network

Agenda Item 2.3

P-05-848 Let Welsh students have the opportunity to choose the best study option for them

This petition was submitted by Sharon Ellis, having collected 127 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that the same funding arrangements are available to students wherever they choose to study and that the funding options are also available to students who have already commenced their studies.

Students currently have the option to study within the UK and Ireland with some study in Europe but why can they not study for a recognised degree throughout the world if the chosen programme best suits their overall career objectives.

In 2017 Georgia Ellis was accepted to the Doctorate of Physiotherapy course at Quinnipiac University in the USA. The bachelor's degree is a liberal arts degree which encompasses a variety of subjects as standard including Public Speaking and as part of gaining her undergraduate degree she will minor in another elective, in her case Business Studies. Although these are fabulous benefits Georgia chose this study option as her ambition is to become a physiotherapist for a sporting team and because of the exposure to sports teams she would gain in the university's purpose-built training health centre.

Why can't students be able to utilise the same funding arrangements they would have here in the UK towards funding alternative study options. Georgia's story is just one example of the fine calibre of UK students but there are many more.

Please sign this petition to support the options available to current and future students.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Alyn and Deeside
- North Wales

Briefing for the Petitions Committee

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 13 November 2018

Petitions Committee | 13 November 2018

Research Briefing:

Petition number: **P-05-848**

Petition title: **Let Welsh Students have the opportunity to choose the best study option for them**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that the same funding arrangements are available to students wherever they choose to study and that the funding options are also available to students who have already commenced their studies.

Students currently have the option to study within the UK and Ireland with some study in Europe but why can they not study for a recognised degree throughout the world if the chosen programme best suits their overall career objectives.

In 2017 Georgia Ellis was accepted to the Doctorate of Physiotherapy course at Quinnipiac University in the USA. The bachelor's degree is a liberal arts degree which encompasses a variety of subjects as standard including Public Speaking and as part of gaining her undergraduate degree she will minor in another elective, in her case Business Studies.

Although these are fabulous benefits Georgia chose this study option as her ambition is to become a physiotherapist for a sporting team and because of the exposure to sports teams she would gain in the university's purpose-built training health centre.

Why can't students be able to utilise the same funding arrangements they would have here in the UK towards funding alternative study options. Georgia's story is just one example of the fine calibre of UK students but there are many more.

1. Current student support in Wales

1.1 Introduction

The student support system in Wales is being reformed as a result of the recommendations of Professor Diamond's [Review of higher education funding and student finance arrangements](#) in Wales (the Diamond Review), which was published in September 2016. However, what has

remained unchanged is that **students must be studying at a publicly funded higher education institution or college located in the UK**, or on a specifically approved course in a private institution.

1.2 Overview of the reforms

Amongst other matters, the Diamond Review recommended changing the focus of the support system from tuition fee grants to increased support for living costs. However the reforms have not changed the basic eligibility criteria, **so potential students still have to be studying in a UK based institution**, on a course specifically approved by Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government accepted the Diamond Review recommendations and as a result, from September 2018, eligible students from Wales will be able to receive:

- A tuition fee loan of £9,000 per year if studying in Wales, £9,250 if studying in England, Northern Ireland or Scotland or £6,165 if studying at a private university or college in the UK on a course designated by the Welsh Government; and
- A maximum of £7,650 if living at home, £9,000 if studying away from home outside of London or £11,250 if studying in London, in repayable loans and/or non-repayable grants to cover living costs. The level of support in the form of a loan or grant depends on the household income of the applicant, with those from the poorest households (an annual income of £18,370 or less) will receive most of the support as a grant; and
- A non-means tested, non-repayable grant of £1000.

The Welsh Government describes this new system as the 'most generous student support package in the UK'. The Research Service has produced a guide which provides more [information on the new student support system](#).

In general, to be eligible for this support students must:

- be a UK national or have 'settled status' (no restrictions on how long you can stay in the UK); and
- normally live in Wales; and
- have been living in the UK for 3 years before starting the course.

Broadly speaking eligibility is also dependent on all of the following criteria:

- the course must lead to a recognised qualification (it doesn't have to be a traditional First Degree such as a BA or BSc. Criteria include HNDs, HNCs, Foundation Degrees and others);
- **the higher education institution or college must be publicly funded and located in the UK**; or if studying in a private institution the course has to have been specifically approved by the Welsh Government;
- To receive the Maintenance Loan, the applicant has to be under 60 when at the start of the course, but no limit applies for the Tuition Fee Loan or the Grants.

2. The Welsh Government's view

The Welsh Government highlights that its 'current financial arrangement' with the UK Government means that it is 'unable to offer any tuition fee or maintenance loans to students who chose to study outside the UK'.

However, the Diamond Review recommended that, subject to the necessary regulation:

The Welsh Government explore the possibility of running a pilot scheme to establish whether it is possible or desirable to extend the student support package beyond the UK and EU – for Welsh domiciled students that choose to study further afield for the whole of their degree programme. (The proposed pilot would be study at not-for-profit organisations with a recognised track record of quality provision).

The Welsh Government's paper notes that it is 'supportive of the principle' of supporting Welsh students to undertake international study. It has commissioned research into the possibility of such a scheme: [Overseas Study Pilot: Scoping study](#), which was published in July 2018. The Welsh Government reports that this research found:

[...] low levels of latent demand, difficulty in establishing demand for full portability and limited stakeholder support for providing a maintenance grant/loan to study a full degree abroad.

The Welsh Government has 'considered the report's findings' and will 'confirm the position in a statement to the Senedd later in the year'. But it notes that any future pilots will:

[...] not be able to support students to study a full degree at an overseas university and will instead focus on shorter periods of study in order to allow the greatest number of students to take up this opportunity.



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-848
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/02170/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

overnment.Committee.Business@gov.wales

8 October 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 25 September regarding a petition submitted by Mrs Sharon Ellis asking the Welsh Government to provide student support to Welsh students who wish to study overseas, similar to Mrs Ellis' daughter.

I have received several pieces of correspondence from Mrs Ellis since January 2017 via her Member of Parliament and Assembly Member on this subject. My responses have made clear how the current student support system works.

The current student support system in Wales is designed to provide support to eligible students who are primarily undertaking a designated higher education course at publicly funded institutions or specifically designated courses at private institutions based in the UK. There is also support for periods of study spent in European institutions (for example, Erasmus funding) and for students who undertake a module of study overseas as part of their UK course (such as medical students who may choose to study 'tropical medicine'). There are also reciprocal arrangements with other EU member states regarding tuition fee support. Similar criteria are applied by the other UK administrations.

Following the comprehensive independent review of higher education funding and student finance arrangements in Wales (the Diamond Review), I introduced a new package of support for students starting their course from academic year (AY) 2018/19 onwards. Eligible Welsh students will be entitled to the most generous student support package in the UK. Most students will receive maintenance support equivalent to the National living wage and will be able to access support to cover the cost of tuition fees.

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Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@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.

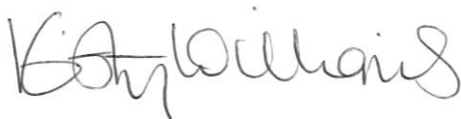
Currently, if a student decides to complete a degree at a university outside the UK, they are not eligible to apply for student support. The Diamond Review recommended that the Welsh Government should explore the possibility of running a pilot scheme to establish whether it is possible to extend the student support package for Welsh domiciled students that choose to study outside the UK for the whole of their degree programme.

I am supportive of the principle that talented Welsh students should have the opportunity and funding to study abroad. In January 2018, the Welsh Government appointed OB3 Research, in conjunction with the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods (WISERD), to undertake a scoping study with the key aim of providing evidence to support the development of an overseas study pilot. The final report was published in July 2018 and is available here: <https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/overseas-study-pilot/?lang=en>.

The OB3 report points to low levels of latent demand, difficulty in establishing demand for full portability and limited stakeholder support for providing a maintenance grant/loan to study a full degree abroad.

I have considered the report's findings and options for developing an overseas pilot and I expect to be able to confirm the position in a statement to the Senedd later in the year. However, I can confirm that under the current financial agreement with HMT, I would be unable to offer any tuition fee or maintenance loans to students who chose to study outside the UK. It is therefore important to note that the pilot will not be able to support students to study a full degree at an overseas university and will instead focus on shorter periods of study in order to allow the greatest number of students to take up this opportunity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education

Agenda Item 3.1

P-04-667 A Roundabout for the A477/A4075 Junction

This petition was submitted by Pembroke Town Council and was first considered by the Committee in January 2016, having collected 597 signatures (115 online and 482 on paper).

Text of the Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to replace the Fingerpost Junction on the A477/A4075 with a roundabout – The current road configuration has not resolved the problems on this dangerous stretch of road.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire
- Mid and West Wales

P-05-667 Roundabout for the A477/ A4075 Junction, 23.10.18

Good Morning Kayleigh

Please find attached a copy of a letter signed by concerned HGV Drivers, from Collins Bros Haulage Company. I am also awaiting a letter from Valero, which I will send as soon as I receive it.

Please can you make the Committee aware, that once again there has been a few serious accidents in the vicinity of this junction, since this has been discussed and something must be done before a fatality happens.

I will send you the correspondence from Valero hopefully later in the day.

Kind Regards

Suzie Thomas

Town Clerk – Pembroke



PEMBS LTD Reg. No. 5022918

The Light Plant Specialists

Pembroke Town Council,
Main Street,
PEMBROKE,
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PEMBROKE
PEMBROKESHIRE SA71 5NJ

TEL/FAX: (01646) 682809
EMAIL: cbros2004@gmail.com
www.collinsbrosplant.co.uk

10th October, 2018

We the undersigned as HGV drivers wish it to be known that the junction at The Fingerpost, Nash, Pembroke is considered very dangerous and totally unsuitable for the purpose of crossing the main A477 road due to the lack of visibility from a lorry whilst trying to join the A477.

We are greatly concerned that when we are trying to manoeuvre our lorries across the carriageway there is insufficient visibility for anyone to see traffic travelling from the Pembroke Dock direction.

This is a major accident waiting to happen.

Yours sincerely

B.J. Collins *B. Collins*
H.D. Collins *H. Collins*
K. Lomas *K. Lomas*
J. McCaffrey *J. McCaffrey*
M. Smith *M. Smith*
M Hibbert *M Hibbert*
N Kelly *N Kelly*
D Sinclair-Jones *D Sinclair-Jones*

Agenda Item 3.2

P-05-731 Land & Access Lane Sale at Abercwmboi.

This petition was submitted by Sue Waterson and was first considered in January 2017 having collected 66 paper signatures.

Text of the Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to halt their sale of the land and access road to the rear of properties numbered 1 to 67 Park View Terrace, Abercwmboi until representations from the local community have been heard and other options are explored. This sale is being negotiated without prior consultation or notification to parties who will be affected by such a sale.

Assembly constituency and Region.

- Cynon Valley
- South Wales Central

P-05-731 Land & Access Lane Sale at Abercwmboi, 19.10.18

Dear Kayleigh,

Thank you for contacting me.

My most recent information, March 2018, is from [name removed] the Dept of Economy & Infrastructure, he says that negotiations with RCT are ongoing. RCT will be purchasing a strip of the land in question to give access to the proposed development on the old Phurnacite Site. Until these are complete the land to the rear of Park View Terrace will not be sold, but it is not in dispute that it is the intention of the Department of Economy & Infrastructure to sell the land. There is anecdotal evidence that the land in question is contaminated by waste from the Phurnacite Company which was illicitly dumped on this land, therefore I have repeatedly asked the Department to include a binding covenant in the sale that the land cannot be used by animals that could enter the food chain. This has been ignored.

Several of my neighbours have informed me that some residents have been approached by family members of the person interested in purchasing the land. They have been offered an allocation of parking space to the rear of their houses in return for their support leading to the successful purchase of this land. This would be achieved by selective fencing boundaries. Originally, in 2016, the interested party had alerted residents, inadvertently, to the potential sale of the land by talking extensively about gating access to the rear lane (since debunked) & fencing the land to the curbside of the lane which would prevent residents parking &/or accessing their garages because the lane has insufficient width. On road parking in the vicinity is already at a premium. Lack of parking at the rear of our properties coupled with inaccessibility to garages will be detrimental to the value of our homes.

The Petition asked solely for consultation with residents directly affected by the sale of the land. I cannot understand why it is so difficult for the Government to agree to this. Instead they have continually stalled. Assuming that the Petitions Committee meetings, administrative back up & ancillary support is not free, the cost of dealing with this petition alone has been a drain on the public purse & we are no further forward.

I have been in intermittent contact with our AM, Vikki Howells, RCT, [Welsh Government official] & others since the beginning of 2017. During my discussions with [Welsh Government official] I was informed that the land is of little monetary value which begs the question why sell it at all?

I thank the Committee for their ongoing consideration of this matter.

Regards

Sue Waterson

P-05-770 Reopen Crumlin Railway Station

This petition was submitted by Michael Davies and was first considered by the Committee in September 2017, having collected 208 signatures online.

Petition text:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to reopen Crumlin railway station. We believe Crumlin could be a significant public transport hub. Its key location would provide the main multi-modal interchange point between the enhanced Ebbw line rail services and the main mid-valley Regional Bus Rapid Transport route. The site for the station has good access to the main highway network, a substantial car park and space for buses. Long distance walking and cycling routes are accessible from the site. We note that Crumlin has a street with the poorest air pollution outside London and that improving public transport links is necessary to improve public health. We urge the Welsh Government to assess the case for reopening a railway station in Crumlin and to consider adding it to the next priority list of proposals for new stations in Wales.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Islwyn
- South Wales East

25/10/2018

Cllr. Mike Davies
63 Treowen Road
Newbridge
Newport
NP11 3DN

Mr David Rowlands
Chair of the Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Rowlands,

Re-opening Crumlin Railway Station.

Thank you for sending me the Welsh Government Matrix for assessing rail projects and for inviting further comments from me. Firstly, I am not a transport professional and therefore am not qualified to comment on the appropriateness of the methodology utilized by the Welsh Government. However, it is not clear to me that the methodology abides by obligations under the Future Generations Act or achieves the Welsh Government's latest well-being goals. Secondly, I'd reiterate my previous comments about the Crumlin site, in that: -

- it is located near to the street with the highest recorded pollution outside of London.
- It is located amongst the country's poorest communities
- The size of the site presents the rare opportunity to develop a strategically important transport interchange that could potentially lead to modal shift to public transport.
- The site is a large disused industrial site previously in the ownership of the National Coal Board and currently under the management and control of a locally run charitable trust and the development of the station would provide a catalyst for the regeneration of the entire site for the benefit of the community.
- The site is of national importance and remains the best preserved colliery complex in the valleys. It is one of the first built with brick and is a complex containing eleven Grade 2 and Grade 2* buildings, including two winding engine houses, a fan house, a magnificent chimney, a pumping house, workshops and an art deco bath house.

In conclusion, I would respectfully repeat my previous invitation to you to see and experience the Navigation Site yourselves as my attempt to set the case down on paper does not do it the justice it deserves.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Davies

Agenda Item 3.4

P-04-399 Slaughter Practices

This petition was submitted by Royce Clifford and was first considered in June 2012 having collected 400 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call upon the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to ban the practise of slaughtering animals without pre-stunning them.

P-04-399 Slaughter Practices, 26.10.18

Dear Mr Rowland,

As you are aware, my Petition Ban all Non-Stunned Slaughter, has been before your Committee since 2012, although many letters have been sent and received from ministers, it is not moved on, I hope the Petition for CCTV in all Slaughterhouses is implemented without further delay.

As for mine, I will have to wait, God willing, UKIP will be in Westminster and the WAG, then as your Policy, To Ban Halal Slaughter can be carried out.

Kind Regards

Royce Clifford

Agenda Item 3.5

P-04-433 CCTV in Slaughterhouses

This petition was submitted by Animal Aid and was first considered in November 2012 having collected 1,066 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to introduce mandatory CCTV in slaughterhouses to help vets with better regulation and monitoring, to provide footage for training and retraining, to deter some of the animal welfare abuses filmed by Animal Aid, and to provide evidence for prosecutions should they be necessary.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LG/01996/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA
Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

17 October 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 10 October, regarding the Petitions Committee questions about CCTV in slaughterhouses.

I note the Committee's view that the Welsh Government should make CCTV mandatory in Welsh slaughterhouses. I have stated my intention to continue to consider the option of legislation and the uptake of the grant scheme will be a factor in my decision making.

The support scheme (FBIS Slaughterhouse) launched an Expression of Interest window at the end of September and in due course will be followed by an application window. Successful applicants will then have a period of time to complete their investments. Like all grant schemes the successful applicants will be reviewed some time after completion. I will not be reporting on the scheme until I am in possession of all review information.

I do not have a definitive list of all slaughterhouses in Wales without CCTV in place.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@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-04-433 CCTV in Slaughterhouses, 31.10.18

Dear Mr Rowlands and Members of the Petitions Committee

I have been pleased to see the response of the Petitions Committee to date in pressing the Cabinet Secretary for compulsory installation of CCTV in all Welsh slaughterhouses. I have followed up with Ms Griffiths to ask a number of questions around the issue and the Government's current approach which relies on a voluntary grant scheme. The results of the FOI (attached) are not encouraging, and I hope will be of interest to Petition Committee Members in considering the issue further.

Briefly,

- 14 of the 26 slaughterhouses in Wales do not have CCTV installed
- the Government has no idea for those slaughterhouses where it is installed, where it is provided or how comprehensive the coverage is. The industry 'Task and Finish Group' which reported last year to WG on CCTV with a highly self-serving report, failed even to establish where and how CCTV was being used (!). There are no regulations or requirements in Wales currently specifying how CCTV should be used/sited etc.
- the Government says it has no idea how many animals in Wales are currently slaughtered without pre-stunning – it should have.
- for the Government funding now being made available on application to slaughterhouses for a range of purposes (including potentially update/installation of CCTV) there are no specifications or requirements about how/where CCTV is to be used, or regarding access (eg by Official Veterinarians to footage). This grant scheme is entirely voluntary and may be used for a range of purposes other than CCTV/animal welfare.

You will note also that the Welsh Government, which appeals to current official controls as a basis for not requiring compulsory installation of CCTV, has signally and consistently failed to properly fund the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to enable them to properly apply such controls. Providing only c.£30,000 over the last three years, and £20,000 currently (for 26 slaughterhouses). Along with DEFRA the current total funding for these

controls in both England and Wales is a paltry £170,000 – ie to effect animal welfare controls for the c.250 slaughterhouses. The FSA (in its recent Board Minutes) has stated it needs a minimum of £1 million Government funding p.a. in England and Wales to properly execute these functions.

In short, while the Welsh Government pays lip service to animal welfare at the time of slaughter, in practice it appears to care hardly a jot, and has not taken anything like sufficient action to protect the welfare of animals at slaughter.

Thank you for your attention.

I should be most grateful for an acknowledgement of receipt of this email. Perhaps the Clerk to the Committee would do so.

Thank you for your attention.

David Grimsell

Constituent

Ceredigion



31 October 2018

Dear ,

ATISN 12673 – Animal Slaughter in Wales

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 4th October. You have requested the following:

1. How many slaughterhouses in Wales currently do not have CCTV installed to monitor animal welfare?
2. How many animals does the Welsh Government estimate are currently slaughtered annually in slaughterhouses in Wales that do not use CCTV to monitor animal welfare (eg for the calendar year 2017 for example or relevant annual period).
3. For those slaughterhouses in Wales that do currently use CCTV what data does the Welsh Government have on where this is sited? e.g. how many have CCTV in each of lairage, stunning areas, cutting areas and other areas.
4. What regulations currently apply in Wales to the siting and use of CCTV in Welsh slaughterhouses?
5. The Cabinet Secretary has recently announced funding for small and medium abattoirs that may be used for the implementation of CCTV. What requirements are being placed on abattoirs taking advantage of this funding? e.g. what requirements are being made by the Welsh Government with respect to the siting of CCTV, length of time over which CCTV footage is to be retained, and access by officials or independent monitors to CCTV recordings.

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.



6. For the last three years (eg each of 2015, 2016, 2017 or relevant annual period) what funding (e.g. amounts) has been provided by the Welsh Government directly to the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to enable it to undertake welfare controls (eg in Welsh slaughterhouses)
7. What funding is the Welsh Government providing/intending to provide to the FSA for welfare controls in the current and next year (eg 2018 and 2019 or relevant annual period).

We hold some information that is captured by your requests.

With respect to request 1, there are currently 14 slaughterhouses in Wales that do not have CCTV.

With respect to request 2 and 3 the Welsh Government does not hold this information.

With respect to request 4, there are no specific regulations for siting and use of CCTV in Welsh slaughterhouses beyond the general provisions set out in the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

With respect to request 5, there are no requirements regarding the placing and number of cameras, length of time for the footage to be retained and access to recordings. I have attached a link for the Terms and Conditions of the Food Business Investment Scheme which you may find of use. <https://beta.gov.wales/food-business-investment-scheme-guidance>

With respect to request 6, the funding from Welsh Government to the FSA for the last three years totals £33,627.77.

With respect to request 7, Welsh Government will be providing FSA for 2018/19 £20,187.00.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

P-05-743 End the Exotic Pet Trade in Wales

This petition was submitted by David Sedley and was first considered in March 2017 having collected 222 signatures.

Text of the Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to take action against the trade in exotic animals captured and bred for the pet trade in Wales, and to forbid the licensing of all businesses involved in this destructive, cruel and unethical trade, with clear exemptions for rescue centres and licensed rescue centres. We further urge the Welsh Government to follow the example of the Scottish Government which committed to a review of the trade and importation of exotic animals for the pet trade in Scotland in February 2015, led by The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment. For Wales to be taken seriously in the global conservation community, we maintain that we cannot be seen to be allowing this trade – which elicits the concerns of the British Veterinary Association (BVA), The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) and the RSPCA – to continue in our own country.

Additional Information

Animals such as monkeys, meerkats, reptiles and turtles are wild animals who belong in their natural habitat, not in cages and glass tanks in somebody's home. Over 1000 species of mammals, birds, invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and fish are bred and captured for the exotic pet trade, and it is our argument that the complex social, physical and behavioural needs of these animals cannot be met other than in their natural habitats. Furthermore, there is strong evidence linking the trade in exotic animals with habitat destruction and the extinction of species in the wild. In tandem with the suffering of such animals in transit – including many documented deaths – young animals can grow into dangerous adults which can become unmanageable in domestic environments not conducive to satisfying their welfare needs for increased space and food.

Assembly Constituency and Region.

- Swansea West
- South Wales West

P-05-743 End the Exotic Pet Trade in Wales – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 22.10.18

Dear Kayleigh,

Thank you so much for your recent correspondence inviting me to further add to the debate on the trade in Exotic Pets in Wales. I would therefore like the Petitions Committee to consider the following.

Please see this recent article from The Independent, April 19, 2018, which supports the evidence of illegal poaching for the supply of the Exotic Pet Trade. My contention is that the Wales Government should in the first instance guarantee the effectiveness and compliance of its existing sovereign and UK wide legislation apropos the regulation of the keeping of Exotic Animals kept as Pets in Wales, and secondly, consider the total banning of the keeping of Wild Animals as Pets in Wales due to the difficulty in guaranteeing the former, in that the existing legislation and the policing of it are inadequate to prevent the current suffering of Wild Animals kept in Unnatural domestic environments (including fish tanks and cages), so that, accordingly, the Trade in Exotic Pets does not meet the welfare standards of a progressive country like Wales and should therefore be banned.

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/long_reads/illegal-exotic-pet-trade-captive-bred-wild-born-snakes-a8298086.html

You will no doubt be aware that the UK Government hosted an international conference on the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) in London 11–12 October 2018. Please see the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/london-conference-on-the-illegal-wildlife-trade-2018>

The following are quotes from the Government's press release for the conference, and from the Government report of the conference itself:

The illegal wildlife trade, too often seen only as an environmental issue, is conducted on an industrial and transnational scale.

The illegal wildlife trade (IWT) not only endangers some of our most iconic species of wildlife, but is a serious organised crime and damages the livelihoods of some of the world's poorest communities.

The illegal wildlife trade is an urgent global issue, which not only threatens some of the world's most iconic species with extinction, but also damages sustainable economic growth and the livelihoods of vulnerable people in rural communities. It's worth up to £17 billion per year and is the fourth most lucrative transnational crime after drugs, weapons and human trafficking. The criminals who run this trade do more than damage wildlife – they use networks of corrupt officials and agencies to undermine sustainable development and the rule of law, damaging the livelihood and growth of local communities.

Urgent, united action by the international community is vital to tackle illegal trade and end wildlife crime.

Tackling the illegal wildlife trade remains an urgent global issue. It contributes to dramatic declines in the populations of many protected species, found across all continents, increasing the number of endangered species. Demand for illegal flora and fauna products spans multiple species and market drivers, and these pressures on wildlife populations are additional to, but not limited to, other pressures such as increasing human populations, change of land-use, pollution and changing environmental conditions. The illegal wildlife trade is often a highly organised, sophisticated criminal activity that is taking place on an industrial scale. (From the Declaration)

The illegal wildlife trade is also a great threat to national and regional security, resulting in cross-border incursions with networks that support it often being the same as those that enable money-laundering, weapons, drugs and human trafficking including modern slavery.

The illegal trade in wildlife is severely impacting many species that are already threatened with extinction, as well as pushing other species into the endangered category. It fuels corruption which creates insecurity and undermines the rule of law, hampering opportunities for economic growth. Sustainable management of natural resources can contribute to the conservation of vital habitat and maintain the integrity of ecosystems, whilst engaging local communities, generating decent jobs and serving to combat the illegal wildlife trade. (From Declaration)

We recognise the need for involvement and action of Government Ministries and agencies as well as sub-national authorities beyond those focused on the environment or nature conservation in order to address the systemic and criminal factors facilitating and benefiting from the illegal wildlife trade.

We recognise the need to address demand for illegal wildlife products. Until now, the resource and effort spent globally on reducing demand for illegally traded

wildlife and wildlife products has been small in comparison to other types of intervention.

To end the illegal wildlife trade, it is imperative that any steps taken to tackle the demand for these products are based on evidence and built on best practice. We recognise the importance of research to understand market drivers so that effectiveness can be increased. We also recognise the need to tailor research to the specific drivers of illegal use of a species or product. Similarly, we recognise the need for greater investment in tools, data analysis and funding. We welcome steps taken by countries and organisations to understand and target specific drivers in demand reduction campaigns and commit to learning from these examples, sharing best practice and evaluating impact. We recognise the powerful impact of government-led behaviour change campaigns, and welcome efforts by countries to increase these campaigns in order to reduce demand for illegally traded wildlife and wildlife products.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/declaration-london-conference-on-the-illegal-wildlife-trade-2018>

THUS, IT IS BEHOLDEN ON THE WALES GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE TRADE IN EXOTIC PETS IN WALES, AS IT IS AMORAL AND HAS NO PLACE IN A SOCIETY GOVERNED BY THE RULE OF LAW AND PROGRESSIVE VALUES.

Please see below examples of Exotic Pets for sale in Wales. Please remember that there is no guarantee that these Wild Animals were bred in captivity, a business itself which should cause great concern for all the reasons stated above.

<https://www.freeads.co.uk/wales/buy-sell/pets/other-pets/#.W8dYDWhKjIU>

<https://www.freeads.co.uk/uk/buy-sell/pets/other-pets/35009988/royal-python-/view#.W8dYaWhKjIU>

<https://www.freeads.co.uk/uk/buy-sell/pets/other-pets/34884115/2-frilled-dragons-male-and-female-pair/view#.W8dYvWhKjIU>

<https://www.gumtree.com/exotics/wales>

<https://www.gumtree.com/p/reptiles/giant-cuban-knight-anoles-x2/1317581767>

Thank you for this valuable opportunity to air these concerns about the Trade in Exotic (Wild) animals as Pets. I look forward to your further consideration of the issues therein.

Best regards

David Sedley

Agenda Item 3.7

P-05-783 Ensuring Equality of Curriculum for Welsh Medium Schools e.g. GCSE Psychology

This petition was submitted by Chris Evans and was first considered by the Committee in November 2017, having collected 652 signatures online.

Text of Petition

I call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to prevent Qualifications Wales (QW) from continuing to discriminate against Welsh-medium learners, and ensure linguistic equality in terms of school curriculum.

In 2015, the WJEC decided to drop GCSE Psychology because candidate numbers were relatively small (37 centres – 5 of which were Welsh medium with 144 Welsh medium applicants each year). Because of this, an invitation was extended by Qualifications Wales to the English Awarding Bodies; AQA, OCR, Pearson-Edexcel, to offer this subject, and others e.g. Economics, in Wales.

Unfortunately, and astoundingly, there was no pressure to offer these subjects in Welsh. Qualifications Wales' response to this is to say that the English Boards would refuse to offer subjects in Wales altogether if they were forced to offer a Welsh language option, and that they seek to ensure 'the widest choice of subjects to learners in Wales' (QW Newsletter, December 2016).

'The widest choice of subjects to learners in Wales' unless you are following a Welsh medium education! In September, there will be no year 10 Psychology GCSE course running in my school for the first time since 2009, while the English-medium school a few miles away, start a new GCSE Psychology course in English through AQA. The only reason that I can't offer this subject is because we teach through Welsh. There are four other Welsh centres in the same position.

Psychologists need to be able discuss their subject in Welsh. By depriving Welsh medium pupils of the opportunity to study Psychology GCSE through Welsh, we will lose 144 students per year who would have had the potential of contributing to Psychology – as a teacher, lecturer, therapist, researcher etc. in Welsh with confidence because the relevant terminology familiar to them.

Additional information:

144 candidates sat the unit 2 Psychology WJEC GCSE paper in Welsh to finish the course in 2015, with 5 centres teaching it, so there is the potential for significant numbers, not just a handful. I have arranged that three experienced Psychology examiners are available to work for any English Board, so that translation of candidate's scripts (solutions) would not be needed, just the translation of the paper itself.

The only English Board that even considered the application to provide a Welsh paper (from myself, not QW), was Pearson, but in the end they refused, saying it 'would require Welsh speakers at every level of the production of the papers'. This is nonsense because that doesn't even happen in the WJEC, where the Chief Examiner and the Subject Officer don't speak Welsh!

I don't blame the English Boards, because why should they go to the trouble when they don't have to? Qualifications Wales is to blame for their limp policy, which does not protect the rights of Welsh-medium learners. Surely it would have been possible to create an element of competition between the English Boards by giving priority to those open to the idea of offering a Welsh option, but they did not attempt to do this at all.

This is totally unacceptable in the modern Wales. If English Awarding Bodies are allowed to offer subjects in Wales, it must be made clear that they need to offer a Welsh paper when there is a reasonable request to do so.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Wrexham
- North Wales



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-783
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/02323/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

23 October 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 11 October about the petition for action to ensure the equality of Curriculum for Welsh Medium schools; as you note in your letter, we have corresponded previously on this matter.

Turning to your specific questions, the Welsh Government's expectations of Qualifications Wales are set out in the Qualifications Wales Act 2015. Arrangements for the approval and designation of qualifications, such as the designation of GCSE Psychology, are a matter for Qualifications Wales and they must when considering what is appropriate, have regard to matters including the "desirability of promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh language, including through the availability of assessment arrangements that provide for assessment through the medium of Welsh language, and of qualifications that otherwise promote or facilitate the use of the Welsh language". Qualifications Wales work with awarding bodies to encourage them to offer Welsh medium and bilingual provisions and make grants available to awarding bodies to help them to meet the cost of offering bilingual qualifications.

The Welsh Government currently invests around £2.6m annually on resources to support the teaching and learning of Welsh, and other subjects and qualifications through the medium of Welsh. These are resources which are not available through a commercial market for financial viability reasons.

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Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales

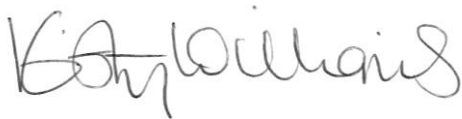
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

Looking to the future and the new Curriculum for Wales, Qualifications Wales advises me that one of its priorities is to secure equal availability of Welsh and English-medium provision from the outset.

I trust that you will find this information useful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Kirsty' and the last name 'Williams' clearly distinguishable.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education

Agenda Item 3.8

P-05-799 Change the National Curriculum and teach Welsh history, from a Welsh perspective, in our Primary, Secondary and Sixth form Schools.

This petition was submitted by Elfed Wyn Jones and was first considered by the Committee in February 2018, having collected 5,133 signatures online and 661 on paper – a total of 5,794 signatures.

Text of Petition

We are calling on the National Assembly for Wales to change the Curriculum and teach Welsh history, from a Welsh perspective, in our Primary, Secondary and Sixth form Schools.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Dwyfor Meirionnydd
- Mid and West Wales



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-799
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/02361/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

24 October 2018

Dear David

P-05-799 Change the National Curriculum and teach Welsh history, from a Welsh perspective, in our Primary, Secondary and Sixth form Schools

Thank you for your letter of 16 October about Welsh History.

In relation to the first point in your letter, please find attached at annex A, the list of schools who are working on the development of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE). All of these schools are working to develop the Humanities AoLE as a whole rather than working specifically on history (or any of the other disciplines upon which this AoLE draws - namely geography, RE, business and social studies).

Secondly, you ask how the new curriculum could strike an appropriate balance between providing discretion for schools and teachers on the content of lessons, and ensuring that pupils in Wales are taught about national and local history.

Professor Donaldson recommends that each of the AoLEs should include both a Welsh dimension and an international perspective in line with the recommendations of the independent review of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig. To support the embedding of these aspects [high level principles](#) were developed and these principles are being embedded across the curriculum including the Humanities AoLE of which History is a part. You will note from the latest version of these that there is a clear expectation that aspects relating to the locality and Wales as well as their relationship with Wales, UK and the wider world are embedded in the school curriculum at a local and national level. This includes local and Welsh history within the humanities context.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@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.

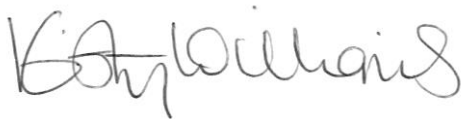
One of the four purposes states that learners should become– ethical, informed citizens who ...'are knowledgeable about their culture, community, society and the world now and in the past'. The four purposes are central to all decisions made in respect of the new curriculum and these are reflected in the What Matters statements and the Knowledge, Skills and Experiences and achievement outcomes that are integral to the AoLEs.

For AoLEs that provide substantial opportunity to engage with Wales as subject-matter in itself, learners should have a wealth of opportunities to study Wales-specific context to their learning (e.g. the diverse traditions and forms of Welsh culture, writing, economics, politics and society, past and present). The Humanities AoLE will provide key opportunities for Welsh History to be embedded in learning and links with Welsh history within other AoLEs will also be made where appropriate.

Successful Futures has challenged us to re-think our approach to the curriculum. It makes it clear that a high degree of prescription and detail at a national level inhibits “the flow and progression in children and young people’s learning”. As such, we need to ensure that the new curriculum does not provide a comprehensive list of detailed content which would quickly become complicated and overcrowded. The curriculum must allow professionals the flexibility to choose the specific content which meets the needs of their learners in their specific context.

Throughout the process we are testing with practitioners to ensure the right balance between flexibility at school level and clarity at national level. The draft curriculum will be available for wider engagement in April 2019. The final publication in January 2020 will include exemplars to support teachers delivering Humanities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education

**Ysgolion yn gweithio ar y Maes Dysgu a Phrofiad, 'Dyniaethau'.
Schools working on the 'Humanities' Area of Learning and Experience**

Ysgol // School	Consortia Rhanbarthol // Regional Consortia
Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Yr Esgob Hedley Bishop Hedley Catholic High School	CCD/CSC
Ysgol Gynradd Parc Darran Park Primary School	CCD/CSC
Ysgol Gyfun Maesteg Comprehensive School	CCD/CSC
Ysgol Gyfun Pontardulais Comprehensive School	ERW
Ysgol Gynradd Rhydypenau Primary School	CCD/CSC
Ysgol Gynradd Trellech Primary School	GCA/EAS
Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern	GWE
Ysgol y Preseli	ERW
Ysgol Gyfun Bryntawe (<i>partnered with Ysgol Gyfun Gwyr</i>)	ERW
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Lôn Las (<i>;partnered with Ysgol Bryniago</i>)	ERW
Ysgol Bro Sannan Ysgol Gynradd Cwmbran Ysgol Gyfun Caldicot Comprehensive School	GCA/EAS
Ysgol Uwchradd Penfro / Pembroke High School	ERW
Ysgol Gynradd Gatholig Rufeinig San Joseff St Joseph's RC Primary, Penarth	CCD/CSC
Ysgol David Hughes	GWE
Ysgol Penboyr, Llandysul	ERW
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin	ERW

Agenda Item 3.9

P-05-805 Fair Deal For Supply Teachers

This petition was submitted by Sheila Jones and was first considered by the Committee in May 2018, having collected 1,425 signatures (997 online and 428 on paper).

Text of Petition

We, the undersigned, request that all supply teachers be paid fairly and have full access to training opportunities and other terms and conditions. There should be a qualified teacher in every classroom and taxpayers' money should be going directly into education and not into the pockets of private agencies.

Supply teachers are being exploited and teachers are leaving the profession as they cannot afford to be supply teachers.

Agencies reduce teachers' pay by forty to sixty percent and teachers lose their pensions, this is public money going into the private sector for profit. Lessons are being covered by unqualified staff.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Caerphilly
- South Wales East



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-805
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/02302/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

19 October 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your further letter of 10 October in relation to the Fair Deal for Supply Group's petition.

The responsibility for teachers' pay and conditions transferred to Welsh Ministers on 30 September 2018. The annual cycle and mechanism for determining the future pay and conditions for all teachers and school leaders from September 2019 now falls to the Welsh Government. On 18 July, following public consultation, I announced a new national model for agreeing our approach to determining teachers' pay and conditions in Wales moving forward. A copy of my written statement of 18 July can be found here:

<https://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2018/teacherspayconditions/?lang=en>

While that model will address the mechanism for how we will determine teachers' pay I commissioned Professor Mick Waters last December to undertake an independent review of the structure of school teachers' pay and conditions. Professor Waters and his panel published their report and recommendations in September. A copy of that report *Teaching – A valued profession an independent review* can be found here:

<https://beta.gov.wales/independent-review-teachers-pay-and-conditions>

While a copy of my accompanying Written Statement of 21 September can be accessed here:

<https://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2018/futureteacherspayconditions/?lang=en>. We are carefully considering the report and recommendations, including those that affect supply teaching, and a formal response will issue in due course.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@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 National Procurement Service (NPS) is currently revising the tender specification for the managed service framework for agency workers. Policy officials and colleagues responsible for the Code of Practice: Ethical Employment in Supply Chains are also working closely with the NPS to ensure that arrangements support our national mission policy priorities, address future needs and abide by our Fair Work principles. The changes will aim to provide positive outcomes for our schools and learners whilst providing fairness to staff placed within Welsh schools via commercial supply agencies. It is my understanding that the NPS are on track to introduce the revised framework arrangements in April 2019 which will apply from academic year 2019/20.

Planned changes will include the contract being let on a geographical lot basis, include minimum pay rates for supply teachers along with a requirement that there is transparency in terms of the fees that can be charged by commercial agencies, including temporary to permanent fees. We are also examining proposals to introduce statutory quality assurance standards which agencies wishing to supply temporary teachers to maintained schools would need to meet. Although this work is at a very early stage of development it will complement the work being undertaken by the NPS to ensure that our temporary workforce is treated and rewarded fairly however they are employed.

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

P-05-805 Fair Deal For Supply Teachers, 30.10.18

Dear Mr Rowlands

I would like to thank the Cabinet Secretary for Education for her response and ask that you undertake the following :

At the meeting on 25th September Mike Hedges AM proposed that Welsh Government be asked to consider that a public sector solution be found. This was agreed on by members of the Committee . I agree wholeheartedly with that view and would be grateful if you would ask the Cabinet Secretary this.

If we are paid directly by LAs to scale, as we were years ago, we will also be able to access Teachers' Pension Scheme which has had no mention in the planned changes by the Cabinet Secretary of Education . These are centred around making some improvements to the framework agreement.

Supply teachers need to be remunerated according to their qualifications and experience if they are to be valued as part of the "temporary workforce". There are other public sector workers who, paid previously via agencies, have now been taken back "inhouse". Northern Ireland and Scotland have their own models whereby their supply teachers are paid to scale. We should use our devolved powers to provide supply teachers with equity with other countries of the UK.

Thank for you kind attention.

Sheila Jones

Agenda Item 3.10

P-05-832 To Amend the School Admissions Code Relating to Summer-Born Children

This petition was submitted by Flexible Admissions Wales Group and was first considered in September 2019, having collected 241 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to consider amending the School Admissions Code where it relates to admission outside the normal age group, in respect of summer-born children(1 April – 31 August).

Owing to the timing of school entry points, summer-born children are put at a significant disadvantage compared to their peers. They may suffer adverse emotional and educational impacts as they start their formal education at a much younger age. As such, parents may choose to defer their summer-born child's entry into school until they reach compulsory school age, as is their legal right. However, most find that their child is put straight into Year 1, missing the crucial Reception year, which research shows to be the most important year in education.

Most parents prefer their child to enter the Reception year at compulsory school age rather than Year 1. Under the School Admissions Code, this is theoretically possible. In principle, the Code gives parents the ability to request that their summer-born be educated outside their normal age group. In practice, the wording of the Code has proven to be extremely problematic: case studies have shown that the provision is inconsistently applied by Local Education Authorities and requests have rarely been granted.

The following amendments should be considered by the Welsh Government:

- (1) As the first option, requests to defer children with birthdays in summer months should be automatically approved (as is the case in Scotland);
- (2) Alternatively, the wording of the existing provision should be amended to strengthen the rights of parents to choose when their child enters Reception class, also emphasising that Local Education Authorities must fully consider requests and issuing Governmental guidance to this end;

(3) In either case, provision should be made for children educated outside their age group to remain with their adopted cohort throughout their school life.

Additional Information

A recent study conducted by the Department for Education aimed to show that delaying entry to primary school has little impact on attainment. This study should be consulted by the Welsh Government with caution. This study was very limited, measuring ONLY academic attainment and excluding all children with special or additional needs. Academic attainment is very unlikely to be the main reason that parents choose to decelerate their child's entry into primary education.

School readiness is not about a child's academic ability, but about emotional and social maturity. It is these skills that will help a child to make friends, to deal with their emotions, to follow instructions and concentrate and to foster good mental health. The attainment of these skills cannot be measured with a phonics test.

The Foundation Phase curriculum in Wales will not meet the needs of every child in Wales; it cannot. This must not be given as a reason for refusing such requests. A more flexible admissions policy is needed to take children's individual needs and their best interests into consideration. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) emphasises that the education of the child shall be directed to the development of the child's personality, talents and physical abilities to their fullest abilities (Article 29(1)(a)). By putting summer-born children at a disadvantage, this School Admissions Code does not achieve that.

Other devolved countries within the UK are already ahead of Wales in this respect. Nick Gibb, Minister of State for School Standards, has made a commitment to amend the School Admissions Code for England to reflect this parental choice. In Scotland, children of equivalent age are automatically granted a deferral if their parents request it and will not miss any school years in doing so.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-832
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/02303/18

David J Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA
SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

18 October 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter dated 10 October requesting further information in relation to the scope and intended timescales for the review of the *School admissions code*.

The current Code has now been in place for over five years and as such a routine review is timely. We are in the planning process of the review and have yet to develop a clear timeline. However, I expect the review to commence in November, initially focussing on feedback received and lessons learnt over the period of the Code's operation.

In respect of admissions outside the normal age group as stated in my previous response the Code already offers flexibility to admission authorities in considering such requests from parents. The Code is clear that decisions should be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case, in consultation with the parents and the school, and specifically in relation to what is most beneficial to each individual child. I have made clear to admission authorities that I expect the Code to be applied conscientiously. The petition suggests that implementation is inconsistent across local authorities and this is something I wish to explore with admission authorities prior to undertaking more formal consultation on the Code.

This initial period of engagement set out above will inform a subsequent 12 week formal consultation, which will commence in the Spring Term. This will be published on the Welsh Government website and will provide all those with an interest to make their views known.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

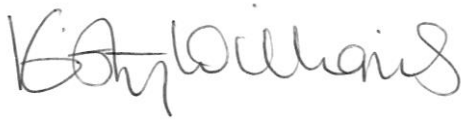
Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales

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.

I hope to be in a position to publish a consultation report in the 2019 summer or autumn term and for the new Code to be in place before the end of the year.

Yours sincerely

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

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education

P-05-832 To Amend the School Admissions Code Relating to Summer-Born Children – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 6.11.18

Dear Committee,

Thank you for your correspondence. We wish to make the following points, in response:

- * We are pleased to see that the current Admissions Code will be updated.
- * Whilst the Cabinet Minister states that the Code already offers the chance to allow parents to request deceleration to the term after a child's 5th birthday, the experience of the parents seeking this option indicates that in all but three cases, a blanket approach is being applied, taking no account of the individual child's circumstances and best interests. The Minister has been made aware of this fact many times previously.
- * We would sincerely hope that the findings of the consultation are known as soon as possible; Summer term 2019 would be preferable to Autumn 2019, for obvious reasons.

We would request the detailed report sent to the Petitions Committee in September 2018, by the Flexible Admissions Wales Group, be referred to in all discussions; this highlights the urgency of the issue to many parents in Wales, who feel helpless in their quest. It also aids understanding of the key facts around the issue; the group felt the brief 'discussion' that took place by the Committee in the initial hearing of our petition, witnessed on Senedd.tv, indicated a complete lack of knowledge and understanding regarding this issue and served to trivialise it, which was hugely disappointing.

Warm regards,

Flexible Admissions Wales.

P-05-832 To Amend the School Admissions Code Relating to Summer-Born Children – Correspondence – Petitioner to the Committee, 18.09.18

To the Members of the Committee,

We are grateful to you for considering our petition, and wish to submit the following supplementary information to highlight some of the key points.

1. Necessity of Flexible School Admissions

Currently in Wales, the age at which a child should legally be in formal education is the term after their fifth birthday. However, generally, children start formal education in Reception at age four. Reception has been argued to be the most important school year (Ofsted, 2017), where the basics of literacy, rules, new routines and socialising take place. If children enjoy this important transition into education and are given the opportunity to thrive, this sets them on a positive journey for the years to follow. If this is not the case, children can disengage with the learning process, which has long-term impacts for them.

Owing to the timing of school admissions, summer-born children are put at a significant disadvantage compared to their peers. When applying for a full-time Reception place, many parents must do so for children who are still only three years of age, some of which who will not, for various reasons, be ready for such a big transition, e.g. premature birth, developmental delays and late summer-born children. In such cases, delaying a child's start would allow their problem(s) to improve or be resolved over the additional year. Such children would then start Reception rather than Year 1 at compulsory school age. It is noted that there is no advantage to be gained from deferred entry to later in the 'expected' cohort year (Crawford, Dearden & Meghir 2010).

The debate on flexible school admissions for summer-born children thus far has been erroneously focussed on attainment, with Government responses centring on how the Early Year Foundation Phase (EYFP) is flexible enough for every child to achieve such attainment. However, parents' real concerns at this stage are their child's physical, cognitive, emotional, and social readiness for school: e.g. making friends, communicating needs, toileting, ability to be attentive, self-care, and their child's current and future mental wellbeing. A number of studies have shown that starting formal education at an older age is of great benefit to children, particularly in terms of inattention, hyperactivity and emotional wellbeing. The concern of attainment comes later, where many younger children will struggle in comparison

with their older peers (almost a year older), particularly in tests from Year 2 National Assessments to GCSEs and A-Levels.

2. Reasoning for Amending the Code

Although, as the Cabinet Secretary for Education identifies in her letter, the responsibility for admissions for the vast majority of schools in Wales sits with local authorities, they must act in accordance with the School Admissions Code (2013). Currently, the Code provides that (emphasis added),

3.30 Although most children will be admitted to a school with their own chronological age group, from time to time parents seek places outside their normal age group for gifted and talented children, or those who have experienced problems or missed part of a year, often due to ill health. While it would not normally be appropriate for a child to be placed in a year group that is not concurrent with their chronological age, admission authorities **should** consider these requests carefully and make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in consultation with the parents and the school, and specifically in relation to what is most beneficial to the child. Due regard should be given to the Educational Psychologist's report, where available, and clear reasons ascertainable for such a decision to be made.

Such wording has been interpreted very narrowly by local authorities. Stating that 'it would not normally be appropriate' for a child to be educated out of cohort suggests to an authority that it should be a rare occurrence. References to a psychologist's report and clear reasons for a decision also create a preconception that a delayed start should only be granted for extraordinary reasons, and so parents may not be able to successfully request delayed admission if they simply feel their summer-born child is not ready. Above all, it should be highlighted that the Code does *not* mention summer-born children. This provides that local authorities refer to their 'out of cohort' policies when dealing with such requests, designed to address completely different issues to those of the admission of young children at the *start* of their school journey. In most cases, this results in a blanket 'no' approach to summer-born requests, even discounting relevant medical and developmental information, and resulting in stressful conflict with the authority for parents or having to seek legal counsel. A sample of case studies are provided as an Appendix (1) to this note.

The key aspect of the Code is that the decision is made on the basis of what is most beneficial to the child; this should be at its core. It must be amended to ensure that requests for the delayed admission of summer-born children are met where the parent believes it is in the best interests of the child.

In a June 2018 Open Question session with the Chair of the CYPE, the Cabinet Secretary for Education referred to a recent study relating to the deceleration of summer-born children. This study was extremely limited and flawed. Here is the link to the report highlighting its failings:

<https://summerbornchildren.org/2018/05/18/dfes-new-report-on-summer-born-admissions-excludes-sen-benefits/#more-6924>

3. Comparison with Other Administrations

It is appreciated that other education systems within the UK are different, but it is a reality that Scotland and England are more understanding of the issues facing summer-born children and make express provision for this. So that the Committee may compare admissions procedures:

England (emphasis added where relevant)

2.17 Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of a **summer born child** may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1. Admission authorities **must** make clear in their admission arrangements the process for requesting admission out of the normal age group.

2.17A Admission authorities **must** make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of the parent's views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. They **must** also take into account the views of the head teacher of the school concerned. When informing a parent of their decision on the year group the child should be admitted to, the admission authority **must** set out clearly the reasons for their decision.

Although somewhat better than the Welsh Code, it is still not ideal. However, this has been recognised by Schools Minister Nick Gibb, who has stated the government's intention to change the admissions rules so that summer-born children cannot be forced to go straight into Year 1 if they wait to start school until they turn five. He has written an open letter to encourage local authorities to take immediate action in advance of the proposed changes.

Scotland (summary taken from Scottish Borders Council; note variance in Scottish 'summer-born' dates)

In Scotland almost all children aged between 4 and a half and 5 years old enrol in primary school at the start of the autumn term. However you can delay entry if:

- your child's **5th birthday is in January or February** the same year as they would start school (you will be offered a free part time nursery place for an additional year.)
- your child's **5th birthday is between 1 September and 31 December** of the year before they would start school (a free nursery place is not automatic and is at the discretion of the local authority.)

4. The Early Years Foundation Phase as a Resolution to Summer-Born Concerns

In respect of the Cabinet Secretary's comments on the EYFP, it should be noted that whilst the curriculum may well be theoretically innovative and play-based, its practical application has been shown to be substantially different. The most recent Estyn Annual Report (2016/17) notes that 'where the [EYFP] is applied as intended, pupils make good progress', however, it is identified that only a *quarter* of schools deliver the EYFP well, with headteachers in *three-quarters* of schools *not* understanding the principles and pedagogy of good EYFP practice. Estyn also notes that three-quarters of schools have struggled to adapt their provision for pupils in Year 1 and 2, with many reverting to more formal approaches, particularly following the introduction of national testing for reading and numeracy. In many of these classes, Estyn found that teachers spend most of their time delivering focused teaching to groups of children, only occasionally interacting with children involved in child-initiated tasks. Summer-born children (especially those with developmental delays) would struggle in schools that adopt such a formal learning environment, and undoubtedly fall behind in large classes.

This has been the experience of many parents and teachers, who state that the pressures of formal learning in preparation for the Year 2 National Assessment are evident from Reception onwards. Until the EYFP can be delivered consistently in schools, it cannot be described as meeting the diverse needs of each individual child, and it cannot be viewed as a resolution to the concerns of parents of summer-born children.

5. Desired Outcomes

It is recognised that delayed entry will not be appropriate for every summer-born child, and not every parent will request it. However, the option must be available to children that would benefit from it.

Given this, we ask that the following amendments to the Code be considered:

- (1) As the first option, requests to defer children with birthdays in certain summer months should be automatically approved (following Scotland's example);
- (2) Alternatively, the wording of the existing provision should be amended to strengthen the rights of parents to delay the admission of their summer-born child, emphasising that local authorities must fully consider such requests on an individual basis. Governmental guidance should also be issued to ensure accurate interpretation of the code and the consistency of its application;
- (3) In either case, provision should be made for children educated outside their age group to remain with their adopted cohort throughout their school life (primary and secondary). Any testing should also be done with their adopted cohort, rather than by age.

Yours sincerely,
Flexible School Admissions Group Wales

Appendix 1

Snapshot of Case Studies Around Wales

Please note that no names of councils, schools or individuals are given

1. From one council – 3 experiences within the same academic year of applying for a Reception place at CSA

Child One – a great deal of background is necessary to highlight the issues of this case:

Summer-born by C- Section; difficulties during birth resulting in delays, epilepsy, deafness and feeding issues. Additionally, needed to withdraw from birth mother's alcohol and drugs habit. Placed for adoption at two weeks of age; difficult start to life.

After enjoying the small nursery environment, a house move resulted in a change of setting to a much busier nursery environment, which catered for forty children. It was at this point, Child One regressed. Hearing loss was also diagnosed, speech was limited to vowel sounds, from being fully toileted, the child became incontinent – this June-born child's school start was fast approaching (at four years of age). With all of these factors, Child One's mother sought to delay her child's entry into formal schooling until Compulsory School Age (CSA), believing that being allowed an extra year to develop physically, emotionally and socially would be a huge benefit to her son, but clearly, Child One would need to start school in the all-important Reception; this request was denied, despite the circumstances – the parent was informed that Child One would be fine because Wales's Early Years Foundation Phase caters for every child's individual needs. No additional support was offered, despite supporting medical reports. The mother declined the child's Reception place at four years of age; Child One was placed in a private nursery, the result being an improvement in behaviour, happiness and the child absolutely thrived in this smaller, supportive setting.

Child One's parent started researching options for schooling at CSA. A local head teacher stated that the child could be supported in Reception at age four and if needs be, could repeat Reception. Such was the reassurance, the mother decided to send Child One on a part time basis, three mornings per week. Again, being in a busy setting, Child One found this difficult and behaviour deteriorated. Speech difficulties

made it very difficult socially. At this point, the parent sought support from social services to assist with the difficult behaviour. CAHMS believed that Child One was struggling / reacting due to frustrations and a lack of support at school. The parent was being pressurised to send Child One to school on a full-time basis, this, despite not being of CSA. In light of the difficulties, the parent sought a different school for Child One's entry into school at CSA. The council upheld its view that Child One would not be offered a Reception place at CSA, therefore, the mother became resigned to a Year One start to formal full-time school. A school was found and it offered warmth, recognising the difficulties, but as was the council's ruling, a Year One place.

The current situation is that Child One is half way through term three of Year One. The school is helping the child as much as is practically possible, but there is an obvious gulf between Child One and the other Year One children; Child One has received no meaningful Reception in-put – along with developmental struggles, Child One has been forced to play 'catch up' from day one and the gap between this young child and peers, grows ever greater.

The mother feels strongly that her child has been let down, from before birth; with all of the issues, highlighted earlier in this case study, but most of all from being summer-born and struggling to catch up with children, older, stronger, more physically and socially developed. It is the mother's belief that a delayed start would have afforded Child One the much-needed extra time to mature and grow stronger, to be supported with speech and language, a Radio Aid could have been issued in a less pressurised environment and become a normal 'tool' to support the child's hearing.

It must also be noted that the manner in which the parent was treated by the LEA was referred to the Ombudsman, who investigated the process. This resulted in a payment of £250 because it was deemed that the council failed to follow the appropriate processes including the Appeals Process. The Ombudsman told the council to re-write the policy, as it was unclear. The mother believes that at this point in time, the policy remains the same.

Child Two:

Very late summer-born. Mother requested delayed start for her child, to Reception at CSA; no obvious delays, merely the feeling that the child would benefit from extra time to grow, develop and mature, before the demands of full-time school.

Over several months, the mother met with council officers, had the support of her local Councillor and Assembly Member, both of whom contacted the council and Education Minister on her behalf. Until the final hour – the first week of September, 2016, when child would be expected to start school at, just turned age four, the request for a delayed start was denied. Out of the blue, Child Two's mother received a letter, granting permission for Child Two to start Reception at CSA, citing the reason being related to the Welsh Language; the council believed that because the child was from a non Welsh speaking family, in the event that Child Two started her school journey in Year One, it would be necessary for her to attend an Immersion Unit, which it was believed would be too disruptive for the child. This was a welcome, but shock turnaround, after rejecting the mother's request so vehemently, up until this point. Child Two commenced state Reception at CSA in September, 2017 and is doing very well.

Child Three:

Very late August born and three weeks early. Child Three suffered from a developmental bowel condition and was in nappies / pull-ups until two weeks before fifth birthday and remained under the care of a hospital paediatric team until December 2017. At the point where Child Three had just turned four, (September 2016), the bowel issue was still acute, problematic and distressing. In light of the Intimate Care Policy and the birth date of Child Three, the parents considered that a delay of a year would allow their child more time to overcome the developmental problem, seamlessly and without any added pressure, as was the advice from Wales' Senior Paediatric Gastroenterologist. The child continued to attend a private nursery over three days, where the nappy issue was dealt with, seamlessly.

Appeals for the council to support the parents' request were made over many months by Child Three's local councillor and local Assembly Member and cabinet minister. As the council appeared to be applying a blanket approach, and on advice of the council barrister, legal counsel from an education-specialist lawyer was sought and Child Three was granted a Legal Aid certificate. Weeks of misinformation from the council ensued with a complete failure to provide the lawyer and parents with full and detailed reasoning, why granting a Reception place, at CSA was not in Child Three's best interests, despite the head teacher and governors of the chosen school being supportive of such an application. Despite never meeting Child Three or speaking with the child's nursery and despite medical support for a delay, the council stuck to the line that an out of cohort place would not be in Child Three's best interest and

actually, the reasons for such an application failed to meet the council's criteria for out of cohort applications (this statement was later amended when the lawyer pointed out that this was proof of the council applying a blanket policy, despite being required to look at each case on individual merits). The council felt that missing a whole year of Reception would not be problematic, but offered no support to assist Child Three to catch up on the work that had been missed, merely an Early Years Team, covering a huge area, would keep a check on the child.

Child Three's parents approached a neighbouring council, who applied a similar blanket policy, more appropriate for an out of cohort application, much later in a child's education and wholly inappropriate for early years.

In desperation, Child Three's parents sought availability at three local independent schools. All three agreed to offer Child Three a much-needed Reception place at CSA and were dismayed at the stance held by the council. Child Three's grandfather is paying half of the fees for the infant years, in order to assist his grandchild. The child is now doing well in Reception but it is utterly clear from the teaching staff that both emotionally and academically, the council's stance, to force Child Three straight into Year One would have been hugely problematic, difficult and likely to have been damaging.

Council X

Family currently battling with LEA for child born very prematurely (three months early), at the end of August. On approach to the LEA, regarding the possibility of deceleration of their child to a Reception start at CSA, they were at best, unaware of the summer-born issue, at worst, not at all concerned with the evidence. The family has been advised to provide a developmental report on their child and they are being advised by an education-specialist lawyer.

*Recently granted a Reception place at CSA

Council X

Late August-born child (born three months early) moved to Wales from England aged Four and a half, where a Reception start at CSA had already been agreed. With paediatric consultant support for allowing the child to start full-time formal schooling in the year above, what would be the child's so-called cohort. The LEA declined to make a decision, thus in breach of the Code. The parents approached a local school

directly, who turned down their request. The child's needs were only met when the parents approached a Voluntary Aided school, where the child has now attended for a couple of years and is doing well. The child requires some support with certain aspects of learning. The child's parents are dreading the application to high school. The situation in Wales, as it currently stands means that although CSA is five and parents have a legal right to decelerate their child to the term after their child's fifth birthday, the Wales Admissions Code does not address the situation, where some councils / schools allow an out of cohort application at age five merely, resulting in the likelihood of a battle for out of cohort high school places, depending on the will of the LEA / headteacher at that time, meaning that parents and more importantly, such children, are at the mercy of these people. It cannot be right to expect children to skip a year of learning, in order to be placed with their so-called 'natural cohort' and it most certainly is not in the child's best interests.

The parent of this child has made it known that an Occupational Therapist has stated that premature born children in Wales are not given the same flexibility of school admissions, as their England counterparts and evidence of such children, despite being diagnosed with resultant developmental delays, being forced into school too soon. Often, such children would not need support, given extra time to develop, mature, catch up and grow.

Council X

Despite a very inclusive admissions policy, mentioning summer-born children, the parent of summer-born child, wishing to start child X in Reception at CSA. Outright rejection from the council, citing reasons of such a strategy being "highly intrusive". The same council sent the same letter out to another parent, proving a blanket approach to this issue. In a telephone conversation between the parent and council (which I have been assured can be verified), the council informed the parent that a Reception place at CSA would never be granted, because every other parent of a summer-born child would want it - unprofessional comments and factually incorrect.

The parent of this child has also approached schools regarding the issue of a Reception start at CSA and the possibility of sending the child part-time, from age 4. Again, the parent has been treated with disdain and given factually incorrect information.

Within this council, the group is aware of at least two children who have been granted Reception places, as a last resort by Voluntary Aided schools and are doing well, within their so-called adopted cohort.

Council X

Primary school teacher in Wales of more than ten years. Wishes their summer-born child to start Reception at CSA. This person's experience of summer-born's struggles have been seen first-hand; the general struggles experienced by many summer-born children means that by the end of the Early Years Foundation Phase, such children find the transition to Year 3, more formal learning, the longer days, fewer breaks and higher academic expectations of work and maturity. Whilst teachers differentiate individually, assessments and levelling statements do not. This primary school professional believes that by the end of KS2, many summer-born children are conscious that they are behind the other children, taken out for 'extra activities' which has an impact on their confidence and engagement in learning. This individual also makes the point that when Estyn Inspectors visit schools, one of the requests they make is to see data and evidence of work of the summer-born children.

Council X

Despite a very inclusive admissions policy, this council has expressed an extremely strong stance against Reception at CSA for a child, with some developmental delays. Whilst it has recognised the parent's right to delay the child to CSA, the council stated it would not allow a Reception start, despite a belief that a delay to Reception at CSA would most certainly benefit the child, from experts who know child X, it was clear from all contacts that the council would not support this. Child X was offered special needs support at a specialist unit with the aim of the child moving to Year One after a year in this unit. The parent believes that the child, even at this stage, after several months within the unit, will struggle to cope with Year One from September 2018. The parent is dismayed, but feels powerless and daunted at a challenge with the Council, she feels sure that she will lose.

Council X

Will not allow Reception at CSA, despite medical / developmental reasons. Is allowing at least two children to attend on a part-time basis, from age 4.

Council X

Has taken on board the medical reasons for a child born prematurely, to start Reception at CSA and it has been granted, without any issues.

On a general note, we know that some parents have simply decided to home school their child / children, others on the North Wales border have opted to school their child/ren in West Cheshire Council, for a more supportive approach to meet their child's needs. Others are considering flexi-schooling, which appears to be slowly growing. Others simply give up and reluctantly send their child into the system, one they feel unable to beat!

As a group, we do not feel that an amendment to the Admissions Code would 'open the flood gates', in terms of applications to decelerate, this is mainly due to the socio-economic composition of Wales. However, offering the parents of summer-born children the choice and flexibility would mean giving these children, many of whom are developmentally struggling in some way, a kinder, positive and more supportive start to their school journey, impacting positively on their mental health. It would also mean parents / guardians not having to face months of stressful, time-consuming and deeply unpleasant battles. We recognise that many will argue that there has to be a youngest in every class, of course, we recognise this, but at such a young age, development is so variable, these extra months absolutely do make all the difference to many children, in every aspect of their development and their ability to cope with the physical, mental, emotional and cognitive demands placed upon them by compulsory full-time learning.

Agenda Item 3.11

P-05-798 Male domestic violence victim support services to be independently run & funded

This petition was submitted by FNF Both Parents Matter Cymru and was first considered by the Committee in February 2018, having collected 138 signatures online.

Text of Petition

Male domestic violence victim support services to be independently run & funded separately from Women's Aid Cymru & all associated.

The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is: "Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality."

Domestic Abuse can effect anyone. With more Male victims/survivors seeking help, advice, support & safety than ever before. It is important that Male victims deserve independent support & funding from such gender bias groups as Women's Aid Cymru & all associated.

Male victims/survivors deserve support/help specific to their needs, while still maintaining their dignity, & providing them and their children safety equal & parallel to that which women currently receive.

Additional Information

Current Domestic Abuse statistics across Wales & England, indicate that Domestic Abuse will affect 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men in their lifetime.

Domestic Abuse/Violence is a problem that can effect anyone so surely it should be:

"Putting people & their children first."

There is no greater gap in availability of services & support just based on someone's gender across Wales & UK.

Attitudes need to change because no person (& their children) should continue so publically & shamefully be denied safety & support because of their gender in Wales, in this day & age.

Please support this to help support others.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

Julie James AC/AM
Arweinydd y Tŷ a'r Prif Chwip
Leader of the House and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-798
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/00930/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA
government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

24 October 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 10 October requesting that the Petitions Committee is notified when the analysis of the recent Welsh Government consultation on Regional Commissioning Guidance is published.

The consultation response was published in September 2018 and can be found at the attached link <https://beta.gov.wales/draft-guidance-commissioning-violence-against-women-domestic-abuse-and-sexual-violence-services>

Yours sincerely,

Julie James AC/AM
Arweinydd y Tŷ a'r Prif Chwip
Leader of the House and Chief Whip

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.James@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-05-798 Male domestic violence victim support services to be independently run & funded, 5.11.18

Dear sirs

Please find attached our response for the Committee's consideration at their next meeting on 13th November.

We would be delighted to attend and present oral evidence to the Committee on these significant issues.

regards

Paul



BOTH PARENTS MATTER

**FNF BOTH PARENTS MATTER
61 COWBRIDGE RD EAST
CARDIFF
CF11 9AE**

paul@fnf-bpm.org.uk

5th November 2018

David Rowlands AM
Chair- Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Dear David

Petition P-05-798 – Male domestic violence services

We are grateful to the Committee for sharing the correspondence from the Leader of the House.

I feel that it is important for us to state that we have complete confidence in her good intentions in relation to the recognition of the separate needs of male victims of domestic violence and abuse and the importance of appropriate services being developed for them. We acknowledge that the Summary of Responses and the Key Themes documents do identify the separate needs of male victims of abuse, which we warmly welcome.

We hope that Committee will carefully consider the data that we have previously supplied in relation to the gap in provision for male victims in several areas of Wales – specifically the detailed data from Gwent and North Wales set out in our letter of 18th September to the Committee. The chasm in provision of support in relation to need is clear and obvious.

We are encouraged by the developing trend identified by some Local Authorities in South Wales – notably Cardiff – to seek to commission separate services for male victims of abuse. There is however a worrying trend that is also emerging with feminist organisations seeking to secure additional funding by claiming to provide support to men.

This development is concerning because many of these organisations remain members of Welsh Women's Aid and are being accredited under their National Quality Service Standards. These standards can be accessed here: <http://www.welshwomensaid.org.uk/what-we-do/our-members/standards/>

The Standards specifically provide for a differential approach when dealing with men (rather than women) as victims of abuse, which we understand is unlawful under the Equality Act 2010

– based on detailed correspondence between the Equality & Human Rights Commission, Mark Drakeford AM and our Vice Chair Anne O'Regan. These differential treatment of men is set out mainly under Standard One of the document.

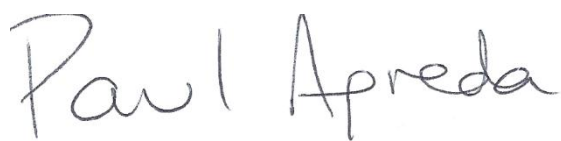
The approach from Welsh Women's Aid and its member and related organisations has clear benefits for the majority of victims / survivors of domestic violence and abuse who are (or identify as) female. In much of their literature – and in particular within the National Standards document – the concept of services 'by and for women' is strongly advanced. We entirely support this model of service development and delivery – as it is grounded in the needs of survivors. We also believe that men require the development of services that too are 'by and for' them rather than to be offered services provided by feminist organisations funded from the public purse. We strongly contend that services for men need to be developed and delivered safely separated from services for women and strongly focused on their needs and wishes by organisations grounded in their own experience rather than a feminist one.

In a recent survey of 728 male victims of abuse by our charity 82.3% of those who responded to this question (n.460) believed it IMPORTANT or ESSENTIAL that services for men be separated from services for women. This strikes at the heart of our petition – the opening line of which is:

'Male domestic violence victim support services to be independently run & funded separately from Women's Aid Cymru & all associated....'

We are now asking the Committee to invite feminist organisations to explain why they believe they are best placed to provide support to men as well as women and more importantly to seek public funding for this work.

Regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Paul Apreda". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Paul" and last name "Apreda" clearly distinguishable.

Paul Apreda

National Manager
FNF Both Parents Matter

Agenda Item 3.12

P-05-836 Gender Pay Gap Reporting

This petition was submitted by Estelle Hart and was first considered by the Committee in October 2018 having collected 56 signatures.

Text of Petition

The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017 has not been applied in Wales meaning devolved public bodies have not been required to publish gender pay gap reports in a central place. We believe that bodies in receipt of public money should publish this information and to ensure transparency in public funding this information should be available in a centralised location and in the same format, using guidelines developed for public sector bodies in England.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Gower
- South Wales West

P-05-836 P-05-836 Gender Pay Gap Reporting – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 5.11.18

Based on the letter from the Minister I have a few comments and covered with the response, namely that whilst they is a stated commitment to publication of data there is a lack of detail as to date of publication, nature of data published and if there are any plans in place to expand the bodies who are expected to comply. This suggests that despite the promises from the Welsh Government about a commitment to tackling the gender pay gap the correspondence from the Minister suggests that for the foreseeable future there will be far less accessible data available regarding Welsh bodies than those in England.

The original petition was focused on making the data accessible and increasing transparency. It strikes me as odd that when a system already exists for gender pay gap reporting, that allows easy comparison between bodies, that this is not mentioned in the Minister's reply instead there's reference to ambitions around data transparency. This is particularly odd as many private companies and third sector organisations who are operating in Wales have already published this data in line with the Equalities Act as well as some publicly funded institutions such as Cardiff University who have actively published their data in line with the guidelines. The letter from the Minister suggests the Welsh Government is looking to be a leader in this area but in reality it's being outstripped.

I'd be happy to provide further comment on indictable points but overall my response is that the letter from the Minister is a set of intentions which fails to address the issues raised in the petition or offer any concrete actions on implementation, and there is a worrying lack of clarity or vision on improving transparency.

Thank you

Estelle Hart

Agenda Item 3.13

P-05-819 Welsh Place Names – Protection & Promotion Bill

This petition was submitted by Dr Dafydd Williams and was first considered by the Committee in June 2018 having collected 431 signatures.

Text of Petition

The Welsh language is one of the main distinguishing features of Wales, and our history and culture is intimately linked with one of the oldest languages in Europe.

Increasingly historic Welsh place names and house names are being replaced by English names. This kills the local culture and one of the elements which makes Wales unique. These old Welsh names are often very descriptive, and connect with the history of a place.

Maintaining our cultural identity and heritage is important to non-Welsh speakers and Welsh speakers alike.

Additional information

Old welsh place names/building names should be protected by law; and new developments should have a mandatory Welsh name in order to preserve our unique culture and language. This would be appreciated by Welsh speakers and those who are learning or don't speak the language alike. It would also aid with the fostering of our unique trademark to the world – something which tourists love to see.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Arfon
- North Wales

P-05-819 Welsh Place Names – Protection & Promotion Bill, 26.10.18

Thank you for your email.

I have indeed received the response, and although it is a detailed response, I don't think these measures go far enough.

We need legislation to ensure that:

- Welsh place names are protected by law, i.e. old house names (e.g. over 50 years old) are not changed
- New developments receive a Welsh only name in keeping with the area as part of the planning process. There are numerous examples of inappropriate place names which give the impression that they are deliberately used to make them feel separate from the local area
- Protection for old place names
- Guidance for public bodies to use the proper welsh names rather than new adopted names e.g. Porth Neigwl rather than Hell's Mouth

The argument that this cannot be policed is a weak one. There are many areas of legislation which are in fact very difficult to police, but are however in effect.

I have CC'd Sian Gwenllian (Local AM) and would like this matter to be considered again.

Kind Regards,

Dr Dafydd Williams

Additional Comments Received on 28 October 2018

I would like to add these to my reply; goes a way to explaining the issue courtesy of the BBC:

<https://www.facebook.com/BBCCymruWales/videos/1848732175188194/>

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1849727975088614&id=156060587793370&_rdr

<https://www.google.co.uk/amp/s/www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/uk-wales-44481950>

<https://www.google.co.uk/amp/s/www.walesonline.co.uk/news/news-opinion/place-names-wales-should-celebrate-14792546.amp>



Eich cyf/Your ref: P-05-819
Ein cyf/Our ref: DET/00323/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair — Petitions Committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA
SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

22 May 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 24 April seeking my views on the issues raised by the petition of Dr Dafydd Williams on historic Welsh place names.

Wales' historic place names are integral elements of our communities and countryside and provide precious evidence about linguistic, social and cultural changes that have shaped our nation. The widespread recognition of the importance of this rich legacy was reflected in the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016, which gave Wales the first statutory list of historic place names in the United Kingdom.

The Welsh Ministers entrusted the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales with the responsibility for creating and maintaining the List of Historic Place Names of Wales (<https://historicplacenames.rcahmw.gov.uk/>). It was launched in May 2017 and is freely available online, through the Welsh historic environment records and as a dataset for local authorities and other public bodies.

The list already contains 350,000 entries and includes the names of topographical features, communities, roads, structures, fields and any other elements of the Welsh landscape that can be identified and mapped in sources that predate the First World War. The list offers map and text searches and records variant forms of names, illustrating the fascinating interplay between linguistic and social changes in Wales over time. It will continue to grow as new sources are added and research identifies further names.

The Royal Commission employs a full-time curator to enhance the list, deal with enquiries and raise awareness of the importance of our historic place names. By educating private

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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.

individuals and public decision makers about the value of these crucial elements of the historic environment, the list will help to safeguard historic place names for the future by encouraging their continued use in daily life.

Statutory guidance requires local and National Park authorities and Natural Resources Wales to take account of the list when their functions involve naming or renaming places. This includes the naming or renaming of streets, properties and other places, either directly or by another party. The intention is that the operation of the list and the statutory guidance together will lead to a reduction in the number of formal changes to historic property names. It will also encourage the use of historic names for new developments. The curator of the list has already assisted a local authority in finding suitable historic Welsh names for a new housing development and is in the process of contacting major developers to make them aware that he can help them to use the list and other sources to identify appropriate historic names.

During 2018, further best-practice guidance on historic place names in Wales will be developed. This will highlight the importance of place names in the cultural, social and linguistic history of our nation and provide further guidance for owners, developers and local authorities on what the list of historic place names has to offer and how it can be used effectively.

However, these measures stop short of providing formal protection for historic place names. Detailed consideration was given to providing statutory protection for historic place names during the development of the 2016 Act, when a number of representations similar to the current petition were made. However a number of significant issues, including enforcement, potential additional burdens on local authorities and human rights, militated against it.

In closing, I should note that as part of its recent inquiry into the historic environment, the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee considered the List of Historic Place Names of Wales. It stated that the Welsh Government should keep the matter under 'active review and should be willing to introduce further protection for historic place names if the current list does not prove effective'.

We have already made a commitment to review the effectiveness of the List of Historic Place Names of Wales and the associated non-statutory measures in encouraging the retention of historic place names. My officials at Cadw are liaising with local authority street naming and numbering officers to establish mechanisms for the regular collection of data on the use of the list in the naming and renaming of properties in accordance with the statutory guidance. It is expected that it will take a least four or five years to collect sufficient evidence to evaluate the impact of these measures.

Yours sincerely



Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Diwylliant, Twristiaeth a Chwaraeon
Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport

Pack Page 132

Agenda Item 3.14

P-05-830 Reopen St David's Medical Centre, Pentwyn Full Time

This petition was submitted by Joe Carter and was first considered by the Committee in September 2018, having collected 380 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge Cardiff and Vale University Health Board to reopen St David's Medical Centre, Pentwyn full time and invest in this well used centre. We call on the health board to conduct an assessment of patient need in East Cardiff in light of recent housing developments.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff Central
- South Wales Central



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: MB-LF-10-7136
Welsh Health Telephone Network:
Direct Line/Llinell uniongychol: 02920 745684

Maria Battle
Chair

30 October 2018

Mr David Rowlands AM
Chair Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Rowlands

Petition P-05-830 Reopen St David's Medical Centre, Pentwyn Full Time

Thank you for your letter of 4 October in relation to St David Medical Centre, Pentwyn. The Health Board has had a number of discussions with Dr Sally Davies and partners, as well as the Community Health Council (CHC), about the request for closure. There have also been discussions and correspondence with local councillors and Assembly Members.

I thought it would be helpful to provide you with some background information. The practice currently operates from two sites, Pontprennau and the St David Medical Centre in Pentwyn. The distance between the two surgeries is just over 1 mile and there are regular buses. Under the General Medical Services' regulations, the practice is responsible for providing suitable premises for delivery of services to patients and for meeting the needs of these patients. The building in Pentwyn is owned by two former partners of the practice, therefore the current partners are tenants and a lease arrangement is required. The current partners own the Pontprennau building.

In May 2018, the practice reduced the opening hours at St David Medical Centre, Pentwyn. The Health Board was provided with assurance that patients would not be affected by these changes, as provision was available from the Pontprennau site and patients were already attending the Pontprennau site for some services.

A formal application to close the branch surgery was received by the Health Board on 16 July 2017, setting in motion the Health Board's formal process to consider such requests. The Health Board met again with the partners and the CHC on 8 August. At this meeting it was agreed that a patient meeting would be held in early September - this would be chaired by the CHC and would provide an opportunity for the partners to discuss issues directly with the patients.

The patient meeting was held on 18 September and the GMS Panel (which is the decision making panel within the Health Board) was postponed to enable the practice and the CHC to consider the issues raised by patients and to provide information to the Health Board to consider as part of the decision making process.

The practice has been allocated improvement grant funding to develop the Pontprennau site and this work has been underway for a number of months. The request for funding was considered positively by the Health Board, particularly in light of the number of additional homes being proposed in the local development plan for this area (North East Cardiff and East of Pontprennau link road expected to have an additional 4500 and 1300 homes respectively). The business case for the improvement work included the provision of extra capacity for an additional 8,000 patients. The Health Board has considered the need for the provision of services to meet the anticipated additional growth – some of which will be provided through the capacity at Pontprennau, as well as from other practices in the surrounding area.

The GMS Panel met on 23 October to consider the request for closure of St David Medical Centre. In considering all the available information, the decision was not to uphold the application to close. However, the panel agreed that support should be provided to enable the practice to fulfil its intention to remain at Pentwyn. Therefore, the Health Board will offering negotiation support and advice from senior staff and specialist estates expertise, to help reach a satisfactory conclusion in relation to the lease arrangements. It was also felt there should be a timeframe within which to conclude this and three months was considered to be appropriate. If a satisfactory resolution cannot be reached in relation to the lease arrangements, the Health Board will work with the practice to explore whether alternative premises are available in Pentwyn.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Maria Battle
Chair

**P-05-830 Reopen St David's Medical Centre, Pentwyn Full Time –
Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 5.11.18**

Dear Kathryn,

Thank you for your email and for sharing this letter.

This is a really positive response and supplements the information I had received from the panel.

Could you pass on my thanks to the committee for their support with this petition? We haven't achieved the original aim of going back to full time hours, but we have saved the health centre so we are grateful for this.

Thank you for your help.

Kind regards

Cllr Joe Carter

Agenda Item 4

P-05-801 Save the trees and ground in Roath Mill and Roath Brook Gardens before it's too late

This petition was submitted by Tamsin Davies and was first considered by the Committee in February 2018, having collected 8,700 signatures on paper and another petition website.

Text of Petition

As local residents, we believe that the planned flood works in Roath Mill Gardens and Roath Brook Gardens in Penylan, Cardiff are unnecessarily destructive.

We have seen the devastation of Waterloo Gardens and oppose Phase 3 of Natural Resources Wales' Roath Flood Scheme, which will widen the brook in Roath Mill and Roath Brook Gardens and see the felling of over 30 trees in an area where there has never been any flooding in the past.

We want to save the trees and ground in Roath Mill Gardens and Roath Brook Gardens in order to preserve the character of the area, minimise ecological damage and protect the habitats of our local wildlife.

We believe that Natural Resources Wales have not properly considered all options available, have misled the public with inaccurate figures during their consultation period and that it is, in fact unnecessary to bulldoze park grounds in order to widen the channel of the brook and remove mature trees in the process.

We call on the Welsh Government to urge National Resources Wales to stop work at Roath Mill and Roath Brook Gardens and consider the other viable options available to mitigate the perceived flood risk to this area.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff Central
- South Wales Central

Document is Restricted