

# Petitions Committee

## PET(3)-03-09 Paper 2 : 10 February 2009

### Updates on previous petitions

This paper provides a list of updates received to petitions previously considered by the Committee. Many of these updates have been received as correspondence. Where relevant, copies of correspondence are appended to this paper as PET(3) 03-09 Paper 2A.

<b>(i) P-03-089 Powys Community Schools Action</b>	
<b>Petition wording</b>  'We call upon the Welsh Assembly Government to sustain the communities of Powys, the most rural of Welsh counties, and to halt and reverse the pressure on Powys County Council to close the schools which are the heart of those communities.'	
<b>Petition raised by:</b>	Powys Community Schools Action
<b>Number of signatures:</b>	20
<b>Previously considered by the Committee on:</b>	06 December 2007, 17 January 2008, 21 February 2008 and 10 April 2008
<b>Link to the petition:</b>	<a href="http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-89.htm">http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-89.htm</a>
<b>Update:</b> At its meeting on 10 April 2008, the Committee agreed to ask the Rural Development Sub-Committee to investigate this matter further. The Rural Development Sub-Committee has since conducted a scrutiny inquiry into the reorganisation of rural schools and has published a report of its inquiry.  The Welsh Assembly Government has responded, and a copy of this response is attached as part of PET(3) 03-09 Paper 2A. The report was debated in a plenary session of the National Assembly on 28 February.	

<b>(ii) P-03-109 Anti bullying schemes</b>	
<b>Petition wording</b>  'The pupils at Pembroke School would like the Welsh Assembly Government to fund anti-bullying schemes in schools and the wider community which will be inclusive.'	
<b>Petition raised by:</b>	Maria Van Asshe
<b>Number of signatures:</b>	10
<b>Previously considered by the Committee on:</b>	10 April 2008 and 20 November 2008

<b>Link to the petition:</b>	<a href="http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-109.htm">http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-109.htm</a>
<b>Update:</b> At its meeting on 20 November 2008, the Committee agreed to write to the Children's Commissioner for Wales.  The Children's Commissioner has responded, and his response is attached as part of PET(3) 03-09 Paper 2A.	

<b>(iii) P-03-122 Hafod Quarry</b>	
<b>Petition wording</b>	
'We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to investigate the Welsh Assembly Government's decision not to identify Hafod Quarry as a site of National Importance.'	
<b>Petition raised by:</b>	Hafod Environmental Group
<b>Number of signatures:</b>	1 organisation
<b>Previously considered by the Committee on:</b>	16 October 2008 and 13 January 2009
<b>Link to the petition:</b>	<a href="http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-122.htm">http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-122.htm</a>
<b>Update:</b> At its meeting on 13 January 2009, the Committee agreed to write to the Environment Agency and the Countryside Council for Wales. The Environment Agency has responded, and a copy of its response is attached as part of PET(3) 03-09 Paper 2A.	

<b>(iv) P-03-137 Hypothyroidism</b>	
<b>Petition wording</b>	
'We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to investigate the non-diagnosis and mismanagement of hypothyroidism in Wales with a view to producing recommendations to rectify this situation.'	
<b>Petition raised by:</b>	Dr Sarah Myhill
<b>Number of signatures:</b>	
<b>Previously considered by the Committee on:</b>	16 October 2008 and 20 November 2008.

<b>Link to the petition:</b>	<a href="http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-137.htm">http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-137.htm</a>
<b>Update:</b> At its meeting on 20 November 2008, the Committee agreed to write to the lead petitioner.  The lead petitioner has responded and a copy of her response is attached as part of PET(3) 03-09 Paper 2A.	

<b>(v) P-03-141/149 Llanbedr Airfield</b>	
<p><b>Petition wording</b></p> <p><b>P-03-141 For Llanbedr Airfield:</b></p> <p>'Llanbedr Airfield - Yes, Yes, Yes!</p> <p>'We who have signed below are in favour of developing Llanbedr Airfield in order to bring jobs to the area, increase tourism and boost the local economy.'</p> <p><b>Petition raised by:</b> Gwynli Jones</p> <p><b>Number of signatures:</b> 1,240</p> <p><b>Link to petition:</b> <a href="http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-141.htm">http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-141.htm</a></p>	
<p><b>P-03-149 Against Llanbedr Airfield:</b></p> <p>'We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to note with concern plans to create a centre of commercial aviation in the Snowdonia National Park. This is contrary to the statutory purposes for which National Parks were created. We believe there needs to be a full public examination of all aspects of this proposal.'</p> <p><b>Petition raised by:</b> The Snowdonia Society</p> <p><b>Number of signatures:</b> 156</p> <p><b>Link to petition:</b> <a href="http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-149.htm">http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-149.htm</a></p>	
<b>Previously considered by the Committee on:</b>	23 July 2008, 02 October 2008, 16 October 2008, 20 November 2008 and 13 January 2008
<b>Update:</b> At its meeting on 13 January 2009, the Committee agreed to write to the Deputy First Minister.  The Deputy First Minister has responded and a copy of his response is attached as part of PET(3) 03-09 Paper 2A.	

<b>(vi) P-03-144 Guide Dogs for the Blind</b>	
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<b>Petition wording</b>	
'We, the undersigned representatives, petition the National Assembly for Wales to lay specific responsibility on local authorities to be aware of their duties under the Disability Discrimination Act and Disability Equality Duty, and comply with them by not creating town centres, high streets and residential streets with shared surfaces that discriminate against blind and partially sighted and other disabled people, effectively excluding them from the street environment.'	
<b>Petition raised by:</b>	Guide Dogs for the Blind
<b>Number of signatures:</b>	10 organisations
<b>Previously considered by the Committee on:</b>	25 June 2008, 02 October 2008, 04 December 2008 and 27 January 2009.
<b>Link to the petition:</b>	<a href="http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-144.htm">http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-144.htm</a>
<b>Update:</b> At its meeting on 27 January 2009, the Committee agreed to write to the lead petitioner.  The lead petitioner has responded and a copy of her response is attached as part of PET(3) 03-09 Paper 2A.	

<b>(vii) P-03-150 National Cancer Standards</b>	
<b>Petition wording</b>	
'We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to investigate whether Local Health Boards have the necessary strategies and action plans in place to deliver the target to comply with the National Cancer Standards by March 2009 in RCT and throughout Wales, as a matter of urgency.'	
<b>Petition raised by:</b>	Rhondda Breast Friends
<b>Number of signatures:</b>	This e-petition collected 43 signatures.  In addition Rhondda Breast Friends have developed a charter regarding improvements required to cancer care services, supported by 1,475 signatories.
<b>Previously considered by the Committee on:</b>	09 July 2008, 06 November 2008 and 13 January 2009

<b>Link to the petition:</b>	<a href="http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-150.htm">http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-150.htm</a>
<b>Update:</b> At its meeting on 13 January 2009, the Committee agreed to write to the local health board.  The local health board has responded and a copy of its response is attached as part of PET(3) 03-09 Paper 2A.	

<b>(viii) P-03-170 MENCAP Cymru</b>	
<b>Petition wording</b>  'We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Assembly Commission and the Welsh Assembly Government to take a lead in employing more people with a learning disability, and to encourage other public sector employers, such as the NHS and Local Authorities, to employ more people with a learning disability.  Only 1 in 10 people with a learning disability who want to work are in any form of paid employment. This is unfair.'	
<b>Petition raised by:</b>	Mencap Cymru
<b>Number of signatures:</b>	134
<b>Previously considered by the Committee on:</b>	13 January 2009
<b>Link to the petition:</b>	<a href="http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-170.htm">http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-170.htm</a>
<b>Update:</b> At its meeting on 13 January 2009, the Committee agreed to write to the Welsh Assembly Government, the Assembly Commission and the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government.  The Minister and the Assembly Commission have responded and copies of their responses are attached as part of PET(3) 03-09 Paper 2A.	

<b>(ix) P-03-178 Against a new prison in Cwmbran</b>	
<b>Petition wording</b>  'We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to investigate the Welsh Assembly Government's involvement in the proposed siting of the new prison for Wales, in particular the implications of situating the prison in Greenmeadow, Cwmbran.'	
<b>Petition raised by:</b>	Cllr. Elizabeth Haynes

<b>Number of signatures:</b>	15 (in addition, the petitioner collected 7,000 signatures for an associated petition)
<b>Previously considered by the Committee on:</b>	13 January 2009
<b>Link to the petition:</b>	<a href="http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-178.htm">http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-178.htm</a>
<b>Update:</b> At its meeting on 13 January 2009, the Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government.  The Minister has responded and a copy of his response is attached as part of PET(3) 03-09 Paper 2A.	

<b>(x) P-03-179 Post 19 students with additional learning needs</b>	
<b>Petition wording</b>	
'We the undersigned request that the National Assembly for Wales address the issues that are facing 19+ students who have complex physical and learning disabilities. For students who do not wish to attend residential, there is no appropriate College in Wales for them to attend that can meet their complex needs.'	
<b>Petition raised by:</b>	Julie Prosser
<b>Number of signatures:</b>	10
<b>Previously considered by the Committee on:</b>	06 November 2008 and 13 January 2009
<b>Link to the petition:</b>	<a href="http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-179.htm">http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-179.htm</a>
<b>Update:</b> At its meeting on 13 January 2009, the Committee agreed to write to the Enterprise and Learning Committee.  The Chair of the Committee has responded and a copy of his response is attached as part of PET(3) 03-09 Paper 2A.	

<b>(xi) P-03-188 Special Care Baby Unit</b>	
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<p><b>Petition wording</b></p> <p>'We the undersigned are protesting against the downgrading of the Royal Glamorgan Hospital SCBU from a level 3 intensive care unit to a level 2 High dependency unit.</p> <p>Whilst we understand the need to ensure that staffing levels are adequate and that staff are appropriately qualified in order to ensure patient safety we deplore the lack of investment that has led to this situation.</p> <p>We are therefore seeking assurances that the downgrade will only be temporary and will be for as short a period as possible, and that the Royal Glamorgan SCBU will be reinstated to a full Level 3 Intensive Care Unit.'</p>	
<p><b>Petition raised by:</b></p>	<p>Zoe Walters</p>
<p><b>Number of signatures:</b></p>	<p>2,340</p>
<p><b>Previously considered by the Committee on:</b></p>	<p>20 November 2008 and 13 January 2009</p>
<p><b>Link to the petition:</b></p>	<p><a href="http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-188.htm">http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-188.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Update:</b> At its meeting on 13 January 2009, the Committee agreed to write to Cwm Taff NHS Trust.</p> <p>The Trust has responded and a copy of its response is attached as part of PET(3) 03-09 Paper 2A.</p>	

<p><b>(xii) P-03-194 Rhymney Valley to Cardiff bus service</b></p>	
<p><b>Petition wording</b></p> <p>'We the undersigned, call upon the Welsh Assembly to support the reintroduction of the full Bargoed to Cardiff bus service. The provision of funding via the Welsh Assembly Government's Local Transport Services Grant would enable Rhymney Valley travellers a through bus service to their capital city, Cardiff. Connections at Pontypridd and Cardiff are not properly linked up. Therefore, this cut back in services is putting jobs at risk as well as adding to the waiting times of passengers on all journeys along the X38 route.'</p>	
<p><b>Petition raised by:</b></p>	<p>Penelope Cody</p>
<p><b>Number of signatures:</b></p>	<p>335</p>
<p><b>Previously considered by the Committee on:</b></p>	<p>13 January 2009</p>
<p><b>Link to the petition:</b></p>	<p><a href="http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-194.htm">http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-194.htm</a></p>

<p><b>Update:</b> At its meeting on 13 January 2009, the Committee agreed to write to the bus operator - Stagecoach.</p> <p>Stagecoach has responded and a copy of its response is attached as part of PET(3) 03-09 Paper 2A.</p>	
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<b>(xiii) P-03-196 Sutent</b>	
<p><b>Petition wording</b></p> <p>'Help extend Paul Popham's life and that of all kidney cancer patients currently denied treatment. Paul Popham is only 63 and lives in Morriston, Swansea. He was diagnosed with kidney cancer on October 27th 2008. The treatment Paul's consultant wants to prescribe for him is Sutent which is not funded by Swansea Local Health Board. This is not an isolated case there are approximately 6200 kidney cancer patients diagnosed per year, 3000 of these patients may need funding for cancer drugs. Those who need Sutent have to appeal to their Local Health Board for funding.</p> <p>This is an irrational and cruel situation for cancer patients. Some Local Health Boards accept clinical evidence from senior cancer consultants, but other authorities force desperate, ill patients through a long and complicated exceptional cases/appeals process, then disregard the clinician's opinion and refuse to fund the recommended treatment.</p> <p>It is unacceptable and immoral that British kidney cancer patients, who have no other hope, can be denied these drugs and sentenced to premature death. Please sign below to put pressure on the Welsh Assembly Government to give their personal assurance that they will do everything in their power to make these drugs available to these patients today!'</p>	
<b>Petition raised by:</b>	Joanne Popham
<b>Number of signatures:</b>	7,981
<b>Previously considered by the Committee on:</b>	13 January 2009
<b>Link to the petition:</b>	<a href="http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-196.htm">http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-196.htm</a>
<p><b>Update:</b> At its meeting on 13 January 2009, the Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Health and Social Services.</p> <p>The Minister has responded and a copy of her response is attached as part of PET(3) 03-09 Paper 2A.</p>	

**Committee Service**

**February 2009**