

# Petitions Committee

## PET(3)-06-09 Paper 2 : 31 March 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) 06-09 Paper 2A.

#### (i) P-03-063 Banning plastic bags

##### Petition wording

We, the undersigned, declare that we support the banning of plastic, disposable carrier bags in Wales.

We therefore call on the National Assembly for Wales to ban plastic, disposable carrier bags.

**Link to petition:** <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-063.htm>

**Petition raised by:** Neil Evans

**Number of signatures:** 10

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 6 December 2007 and 20 November 2008.

**Update:** The Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing laid a [written response](#) to [the Sustainability Committee's report on this petition](#) on 04 February 2009. She has accepted the Sustainability Committee's recommendations in principle. A plenary debate on the report was held on [11 February 2009](#).

A copy of the Minister's written response is available; please [click here](#) to view a copy.

#### (ii) P-03-081 Student Loan regulations

##### Petition wording

We, the undersigned, call upon the National Assembly for Wales to extend the aforementioned exemption to include any undergraduate degree course which is a mandatory legal prerequisite for qualification and registration in a given profession.

Examples of such courses include:

BSc/Op for registration as an Optometrist

MPharmacy for registration as a Pharmacist

We strongly urge the National Assembly for Wales to implement these changes as a matter of priority, retrospectively enacting these changes if permissible.

The motivation for this petition is to ensure that mature students, particularly those from less affluent backgrounds, are not excluded from admittance into professions which are not included in the current regulations, and which have no other route of registration.

In addition, we would ask that the National Assembly for Wales give due consideration to the possibility of the provision of student loans for part-payment of fees for such qualifications.

**Link to petition:** <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-081.htm>

**Petition raised by:** Mr Deri Burgess

**Number of signatures:** 16

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 6 December 2007, 10 April 2008, 22 May 2008, 2 October 2008 and 27 January 2009.

**Update:** An update from the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills has been received and is attached as part of PET(3) 06-09 Paper 2A.

#### (iii) P-03-085 Surgeries in Flintshire

##### Petition wording

We, the doctors at the Laurels Surgery, Eyton Place Surgery and Allt Goch Medical Centre are frustrated (as we are sure you are) by our difficulties in offering enough appointments for our patients.

As you will be aware, we are totally constrained by the size of our building and desperately need to move to larger premises — preferably in a new Primary Care Centre.

Progress towards this has stopped following the recent appointment of the new Health Minister and we wish to bring our concerns to her notice.

We would ask that you sign this petition to support our efforts to have this process speeded up;

"As a patient at a GP Surgery in Flint, we would ask that our Assembly Member, Mrs Sandy Mewies, applies pressure at the Welsh Assembly Government for the development of a new Primary Care Centre as a matter of urgency."

**Link to petition:** <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-085.htm>

**Petition raised by:** Gillian Robinson

**Number of signatures:** 412

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 21 February 2008, 10 April 2008, 22 May 2008 and 27 January 2009.

**Update:** An update from the Minister for Health and Social Services has been received and is attached as part of PET(3) 06-09 Paper 2A.

#### **(iv) P-03-099 Multi user pathway at Talybont-on-Usk**

##### **Petition wording**

We the undersigned ask the National Assembly for Wales to provide a non-motorised multi-user track alongside the A40 between the picnic lay by at Bwlch to the new junction at Talybont-on-Usk, thus creating a safe link between the Black Mountains and the Brecon Beacons Rights of Way network.

**Link to petition:** <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-99.htm>

**Petition raised by:** 18

**Number of signatures:** Lucienne Bennett

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 21 February 2008 and 8 May 2008

**Update:** This petition has been dormant and the Committee may wish to take further action in relation to it.

#### **(v) P-03-107 Welsh language daily newspaper**

##### **Petition wording**

We call on the Welsh Assembly Government to take urgent steps to implement its promise to establish a Welsh language daily newspaper as included in the One Wales Coalition Agreement:

'We will expand the funding and support for Welsh medium magazines and newspapers, including the establishment of a Welsh language daily newspaper.

We call on the Government to make a new announcement that sufficient funding is to be made available to establish a national independent daily newspaper in Welsh, in accordance with the research carried out by experienced organisations in the field.

**Link to petition:** <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-107.htm>

**Petition raised by:** Cymdeithas yr Iaith

**Number of signatures:** 1,000+

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 10 April 2008, 11 June 2008, 23 July 2008, 2 October 2008, 4 December 2008, 27 January 2009 and 2 March 2009

**Update:** An update has been received from Dyddiol Cyf and is attached as part of PET(3) 06-09 Paper 2A.

#### **(vi) P-03-122 Hafod Quarry**

##### **Petition wording**

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.

**Link to petition:** <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-122.htm>

**Petition raised by:** Pauline Smout

**Number of signatures:** 1 organisation

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 16 October 2008, 13 January 2009 and 10 February 2009.

**Update:** An update from the petitioner has been received and is attached as part of PET(3) 06-09 Paper 2A.

### **(vii) P-03-124 Cysgliad**

#### **Petition wording**

We the undersigned call upon the National Assembly for Wales to request that the Welsh Assembly Government makes available, for free download, the Windows version of the Cysglaid Welsh dictionary/thesaurus.

**Link to petition:** <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-124.htm>

**Petition raised by:** Alun Evans

**Number of signatures:** 11

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 11 June 2008, 2 October 2008, 20 November 2008.

**Update:** This petition has been dormant and the Committee may wish to take further action in relation to it.

### **(viii) P-03-143 Ysgol Penmaes**

#### **Petition wording**

We the undersigned request that the National Assembly for Wales urge the Welsh Assembly Government to invest in better transport links in rural areas like Powys.

**Link to petition:** <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-143.htm>

**Petition raised by:** Catherine Lewis

**Number of signatures:** 15

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 23 July 2008 and 20 November 2008.

**Update:** The Welsh government has provided a [written response](#) to the [Rural Development Sub-Committee's report on rural deprivation](#).

A copy of the Minister's written response is available; please [click here](#) to view a copy.

A copy of this response is also attached as part of PET(3) 06-09 Paper 2A.

### **(ix) P-03-144 Guide Dogs for the Blind**

#### **Petition wording**

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

**Link to petition:** <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-144.htm>

**Petition raised by:** Guide Dogs for the Blind

**Number of signatures:** 10

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 25 June 2008, 2 October 2008, 4 December 2008 and 27 January 2009.

**Update:** An update has been received from the Deputy First Minister and is attached as part of PET(3) 06-09 Paper 2A.

### **(x) P-03-145 Fuel Prices**

#### **Petition wording**

We the undersigned call upon the National Assembly for Wales to recognise the crippling financial impact of rising fuel prices on Welsh Haulage businesses and ask the National Assembly for Wales to instigate a review / inquiry into the competitiveness and future sustainability of the Welsh Road Haulage industry. The outcome from any inquiry should then be used to shape supportive measures for the Road Haulage Industry here in Wales and to lobby the National U.K. Government where any measures fall outside the National

Assembly for Wales's remit.

**Link to petition:** <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-145.htm>

**Petition raised by:** Martin Palmer

**Number of signatures:** 35 road haulage companies

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 25 June 2008, 2 November 2008 and 4 December 2008.

**Update:** The Welsh government has responded to the Enterprise and Learning Committee's report on this petition. A copy of this response is attached as part of PET(3) 06-09 Paper 2A.

#### **(xi) P-03-150 National Cancer Standards**

##### **Petition wording**

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.

**Link to petition:** <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-150.htm>

**Petition raised by:** Rhondda Breast Friends

**Number of signatures:** The 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.

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 9 July 2008, 6 November 2008, 13 January 2009 and 10 February 2009.

**Update:** An update has been received from the Minister for Health and Social Services and is attached as part of PET(3) 06-09 Paper 2A.

#### **(xii) P-03-153 Body piercing**

##### **Petition wording**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to place restrictions on the age at which a minor can have body piercing. The age for body piercings, other than the ears and nose, should be regulated up to the age of 16 years.

**Link to petition:** <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-153.htm>

**Petition raised by:** Cllr. Russell Down

**Number of signatures:** 14

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 10 February 2009

**Update:** An update has been received from the National Assembly for Wales's legal service.

#### **(xiii) P-03-156 Sleep Apnoea**

##### **Petition wording**

That Wales should have an effective, cohesive, well-funded policy for all patients with sleep disorders. This would include the provision of Constant Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machines for diagnosed sufferers of Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA).

**Link to petition:** <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-156.htm>

**Petition raised by:** Welsh Sleep Apnoea Society

**Number of signatures:** 1 organisation

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 16 October 2008, 6 November 2008, 13 January 2009 and 2 March 2009.

**Update:** An update has been received from the Minister for Health and Social Services and is attached as part of PET(3) 06-09 Paper 2A.

#### **(xiv) P-03-163 Improvements to the A487**

##### **Petition wording**

'To: The Welsh Assembly Government

Due to the increasing number of accidents occurring on the A487 between Bryn Hendre (top of Penglais Hill) and Rhydtir railway bridge,

and most recently a multi-vehicle accident involving children at Dorglwyd corner junction, Comins Coch, Aberystwyth, this petition contains the signatures of nearby residents and concerned parents and users of the A487 who demand that the following measures are taken in the interest of public safety before another fatality occurs.

That a roundabout is introduced at Dorglwyd corner (A487), Comins Coch, Aberystwyth without delay.

That the pavement at Bryn Hendre (A487) Waun Fawr, Aberystwyth is extended up to the property known as "Peniarth".

That extra lighting columns are added to Bryn Hendre (A487) to address residents' safety.

That a 40mph speed limit is extended from Maeshendre junction (A487), Waun Fawr to Rhydtir railway bridge.

That safer crossing points are erected for students at the top of Penglais hill (A487) which are well illuminated.'

**Link to petition:** <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-163.htm>

**Petition raised by:** Cllr. John Roberts

**Number of signatures:** 821

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 6 November 2008 and 16 January 2009.

**Update:** An update from the petitioner has been received and is attached as part of PET(3) 06-09 Paper 2A.

#### **(xv) P-03-166 Abertillery Hospital**

##### **Petition wording**

'We the undersigned call upon our National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Assembly Government to look into and address the proposed closure of Abertillery and District Hospital by the local health board.'

**Link to petition:** <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-166.htm>

**Petition raised by:** Martha Lowman

**Number of signatures:** 12

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 16 October 2008, 20 November 2008, 27 January 2009 and 2 March 2009.

**Update:** An update from the petitioner has been received and is attached as part of PET(3) 06-09 Paper 2A.

#### **(xvi) P-03-172 Swansea-Cork Ferry**

##### **Petition wording**

'We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to encourage, in every way possible, the early restoration of the Swansea/Cork Ferry. We believe it will have tangible economic and social benefits to both economies.'

**Link to petition:** <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-172.htm>

**Petition raised by:** John Hosford

**Number of signatures:** This petition was raised by John Hosford and collected 29 signatures. In excess of 1,500 signatures and statements of support have been collected on the petitioner's website calling for the restoration of this ferry route.

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 16 October 2008, 6 December 2008 and 27 January 2009.

**Update:** An update has been received from the Deputy First Minister and is attached as part of PET(3) 06-09 Paper 2A.

#### **(xvii) P-03-184 Concessionary bus fares**

##### **Petition wording**

'We the undersigned, hereby petition the Welsh Assembly Government, to urgently review the concessionary fare policy with regard to the funding of rural routes.

The current policy means that long distance rural routes receive a funding that's based on the depot average, which can be low due to the predominance of urban routes.

We the undersigned, strongly oppose the imminent closure of the 333 bus route between Pembroke Dock and Carmarthen due to the concessionary fares policy.

This route is predominantly used by concessionary fare pass holders in order to access services at Glangwili Hospital, dental services as

well as shops.

Since the closure of the National Health Service dentist in Tenby, all the patients were automatically transferred to Carmarthen.

Furthermore a substantial number of clinics are run at Glangwili Hospital and therefore, this bus route is vital in providing easy and equitable access to services that everyone is entitled to.

**Link to petition:** <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-184.htm>

**Petition raised by:** Anne Price

**Number of signatures:** 756

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 4 December 2008 and 27 January 2009

**Update:** An update from the petitioner has been received and is attached as part of PET(3) 06-09 Paper 2A.

### **(xiii) P-03-190 No Ely Valley Airport Road**

#### **Petition wording**

'We call upon the Welsh Assembly Government to consider the serious deficiencies in their study and public consultation exercise 'Cardiff International Airport and Culverhouse Cross Access Improvements' before making any decision as to road improvements or developments, other than those to reduce congestion at Culverhouse Cross.'

**Link to petition:** <http://217.140.43.190/gethome/e-petitions-old/dogfennau-busnes-deisebau/p-03-190.htmP-03-190%20-%20NEVAR>

**Petition raised by:** NEVAR

**Number of signatures:** 1 organisation

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 4 December 2008, 13 January 2009 and 27 January 2009.

**Update:** The Committee has received a paper from the Members' Research Service.

### **(xix) P-03-194 Rhymney Valley bus service**

#### **Petition wording**

'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.'

**Link to the petition:** <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-194.htm>

**Petition raised by:** Penelope Cody

**Number of signatures:** 335

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 13 January 2009 and 10 February 2009.

**Update:** An update has been received from Caerphilly County Borough Council and is attached as part of PET(3) 06-09 Paper 2A.

#### **Committee Service**

**March 2009**