

Petitions Committee

PET(3)-11-09 Paper 4: 7 July 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) 11-09 Paper 4A.

(i) P-03-081 Student Loan Regulations

Petition wording

Currently, the Student Support Regulations prohibit mature students who already hold an honours degree from applying for a student loan for living expenses. There is, however, an exemption from this rule for students studying for a degree which ultimately leads to qualification as a medical doctor, dentist, veterinary surgeon, architect, landscape architect, landscape designer, landscape manager, town planner or town and country planner.

No facility exists for any mature student for the provision of student loans to pay for fees.

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: 06 December 2007, 10 April 2008, 22 May 2008, 02 October 2008, 27 January 2009, 31 March 2009 and 5 May 2009

Update: An update from the Minister for Health and Social Services has been received and is attached as part of PET(3) 11-09 Paper 4A.

(ii) 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: Lucienne Bennett

Number of signatures: 18

Previously considered by the Committee on: 21 February 2008, 8 May 2008, 31 March 2009 and 19 May 2009

Update: An update has been received from the Deputy First Minister and is attached as part of PET(3) 11-09 Paper 4A.

(iii) P-03-137 Hypothyroidism in Wales

Petition wording

'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.'

Link to the petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-137.htm>

Petition raised by: Dr Sarah Myhill

Number of signatures: 1433

Previously considered by the Committee on: 16 October 2008, 20 November 2008, 10 February 2009 and 5 May 2009

Update: An update from the Royal College of Physicians has been received, and is attached as part of PET(3)-11-09 Paper 4A.

(iv) 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, 27 January 2009, 31 March 2009, 19 May 2009 and 9 June 2009

Update: An update has been received from the petitioner, and is attached as part of PET(3) 11-09 Paper 4A.

(v) 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 Downe

Number of signatures: 14

Previously considered by the Committee on: 10 February 2009, 31 March 2009 and 19 May 2009

Update: An update has been received from the Minister for Health and Social Services and is attached as part of PET(3) 11-09 Paper 4A.

(vi) P-03-170 MENCAP Cymru

Petition wording

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.

Link to petition: <http://assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-170.htm>

Petition raised by: MENCAP Cymru

Number of signatures: 134

Previously considered by the Committee on: 13 January 2009, 10 February 2009 and 19 May 2009

Update: An update has been received from the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, and is attached as part of PET(3) 11-09 Paper 4A.

(vii) P-03-181 Pernicious Anaemia

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to recognise that the diagnosis and treatment of Pernicious Anaemia does not take into account the individual needs of patients and that the patient experience of managing the condition is often affected detrimentally because of this. We, the undersigned, demand that the diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of Pernicious Anaemia be centered on the needs of the individual in order that the dignity and rights of sufferers of the disease be protected.

Link to petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-181.htm>

Petition raised by: The Pernicious Anaemia Society

Number of signatures: 20

Previously considered by the Committee on: 19 May 2009

Update: An update has been received from the Minister for Health and Social Services, and is attached as part of PET(3) 11-09 Paper 4A.

(viii) P-03-183 Improving rail services in Aberystwyth

Petition wording

'We, the students of Coleg Ceredigion ask the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Assembly Government to improve the rail service in Aberystwyth.'

Link to petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/dogfennau-busnes-deisebau/p-03-183.htm>

Petition raised by: Pupils of Coleg Ceredigion

Number of signatures: 10

Previously considered by the Committee on: 20 November 2008 and 13 January 2009

Update: A video update has been received from the petitioners, which can be viewed at:

(ix) P-03-187 Abolish the Severn Bridge Tolls

Petition wording

'We the undersigned call upon the National Assembly for Wales to do everything possible for the people in Wales to investigate and take such action as necessary to abolish the tolls on the two Severn bridges.'

Link to petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-187.htm>

Petition raised by: John Warman

Number of signatures: 22

Previously considered by the Committee on: 2 March 2009 and 5 May 2009

Update: An update from the Deputy First Minister has been received and is attached as part of PET(3) 11-09 Paper 4A.

(x) P-03-197 Save The Vulcan

Petition wording

Built in 1853, The Vulcan Hotel in Adam Street is one of Cardiff's oldest pubs. It is scheduled for demolition in June 2009 to make way for a multi-storey car park and flats. Please help make the developers incorporate The Vulcan into their designs and stop this unnecessary vandalism of Cardiff culture and history.

There is talk of moving the pub to St Fagan's Museum but The Vulcan doesn't belong in a museum; it belongs where it has been for 155 years - the heart of Cardiff.

We, the undersigned, believe that The Vulcan Hotel is worth more to Cardiff standing than demolished, and worth more where it stands than in a museum. We urge the developers to respect Cardiff's culture and history and preserve this historic building on its present site

We also urge Cardiff Council and the Welsh Assembly Government to use all their power to ensure that The Vulcan remains where it is - at the heart of Cardiff.

Link to petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-197.htm>

Petition raised by: Rachel Thomas

Number of signatures: 5,000

Previously considered by the Committee on: 02 March 2009, 17 March 2009, 5 May 2009, 19 May 2009 and 9 June 2009

Update: An update has been received from the Minister for Heritage and is attached as part of PET(3) 11-09 Paper 4A.

(xi) P-03-207 Support for the unemployed in Monmouth

Petition wording

We, the undersigned urge the Welsh Assembly Government to investigate how to provide support and effective information to people in Wales, who are looking for employment, training or trying to initiate a business enterprise, locally.

Link to the petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-207.htm>

Petition raised by: Monmouth Town Council Community Affairs Committee

Number of signatures: 286

Previously considered by the Committee on: 31 March 2009, 19 May 2009 and 23 June 2009

Update: An update has been received from the petitioner, and is attached as part of PET(3) 11-09 Paper 4A.

(xii) P-03-220 Lower the speed limit on the A40 near Abergavenny

Petition wording

Petition to the Welsh Assembly:

In order for pedestrians to be able to walk in safety, we feel it is imperative that the 40 mph speed limit on the A40 between the Hardwick round-a-bout and Plas Derwen Way be lowered to at least 30 mph.

Link to the petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-220.htm>

Petition raised by: Councillor Maureen Powell

Number of signatures: 220

Previously considered by the Committee on: 19 May 2009

Update: An update has been received from the Deputy First Minister, and is attached as part of PET(3) 11-09 Paper 4A.

Committee Service

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