

Petitions Committee

Minutes (PET(3)-13-09)

Date: Tuesday 6 October 2009

Time: 09:30-10:02

Venue: Committee Room 1, Y Senedd, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay

Assembly Members in attendance

Val Lloyd AM, Swansea East (Chair)

Andrew RT Davies AM, South Wales Central

Bethan Jenkins AM, South Wales West

Officials

Alun Davidson, Clerk

Andrew Minnis, Deputy Clerk

Joanest Jackson, Legal Advisor

Item 1: Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

Michael German sent his apologies. No substitute was available.

Item 2: New Petitions

(i)

P-03-208 Historic counties

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government requesting details of the process for review of preserved county boundaries by the Local Government Boundary Commission.

(ii) P-03-216 IVF Treatment

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Health and Social Services requesting details of the Minister's plans for implementing NICE guideline CG11, and in particular whether additional finance can be made available.

(iii) P-03-230 International Conscientious Objectors Day

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Assembly Commission to identify if there is scope for the National Assembly for Wales to mark International Conscientious Objector's Day.

Write to the First Minister to ask if the Welsh Assembly Government had any plans to mark the occasion and, if no such plans exist, for his views on taking steps to do so.

(iv) P-03-236 The Charter for Grandchildren

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills seeking clarification on the current legal status of grandparents and to seek her views on the proposal to make the charter mandatory for professional workers employed in the welfare of children.

Write to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government to ask, in the light of the number of Local Government staff employed in this area, if there are any plans to make the Charter mandatory.

(v) P-03-248 Improved access to public transport for people with disabilities

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economy and Transport to ask for details of any action planned by the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure full accessibility of public transport to people with disabilities.

Write to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government to request clarification of any requirement to provide equal access on public transport in the light of disability and equality legislation.

Write to the Welsh Local Government Association to ask what objectives are in place in relation to accessibility on public transport and what issues or barriers may need to be considered to achieve them.

Write to the Confederation of Passenger Transport to seek their views on making public transport accessible in Wales.

(vi) P-03-251 Banning Sunbeds

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Health and Social Services to notify her of the petition and ask, in the light of her stated intentions, for a timetable for the implementation of legislation.

Write to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Committee to notify them of the petition.

Item 3: Updates to previous petitions

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

The Committee noted an update from the Deputy First Minister indicating that he was awaiting the interim statement of the Highways Agency on this issue.

(ii) P-03-190 No Ely Valley Airport Road (NEVAR)

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Close this petition In the light of the Deputy First Minister's statement that proposals for an airport access road will not be taken forward.#

(iii) P-03-218 Save Wenvoe Village

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Close this petition In the light of the Deputy First Minister's statement that proposals for an airport access road will not be taken forward.

(iv) P-03-205 Keep Abergavenny Livestock Market

The Committee noted communications from both the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government and Monmouthshire County

Council.

(v) P-03-219 Pharmacies in Barry

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Health and Social Services:

Requesting details of the findings of the Task and Finish Group on provision of pharmacy services in Wales as soon as they have reported.

Asking her to notify the Committee of whether she is minded to permit flexibility of pharmacy location and clarification of the rules in the light of correspondence from the Welsh Pharmacy Society of Great Britain: Welsh Pharmacy Board.

Write to Community Pharmacy Wales to seek their views on the present system of neighbourhoods.

(vi) P-03-222 National Osteoporosis Society

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Health and Social Services asking her to:

Provide details of targets for implementation of the NSF standards for falls and fractures.

Provide details of any interim arrangements to manage regional variations in provision of service prior to the completion of the review.

Notify the Committee of the outcome of the meeting with the petitioners and how their views are incorporated in the review process.

Provide details of the outcome of the review once it has been completed in summer 2010.

(vii) P-03-223 Section 6, Welsh Language Act

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Heritage asking if he has given consideration to including Welsh MPs within the list "public bodies", provided under section 6 of the Welsh Language Act 1993, in accordance with the powers provided by the Act.

(viii) P-03-225 Gorseinon College

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to Gorseinon College to inform them of the response from the Deputy Minister for Skills and seek views on the funding options suggested.

Write to the Deputy First Minister asking for confirmation of when the decision on Convergence funding will be reached.

(ix) P-03-232 Ffynone and Cilgwyn Woodland

The Committee noted receipt of further correspondence from the petitioners.