

# Petitions Committee

## Minutes (PET(3)-17-09)

**Date: Tuesday 8 December 2009**

**Time: 09.30 - 10.40**

**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

Michael German AM, South Wales East

### Officials

Naomi Stocks, Clerk

Andrew Minnis, Deputy Clerk

Joanest Jackson, Legal Advisor

### Item 1: Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

#### Item 2: New Petitions

##### (i) P-03-243 Withdraw from the West Cheshire / North East Wales Sub-Regional Strategy

The Committee considered this petition for the first time and noted the Chair's correspondence with the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government.

#### Action

The Committee agreed to:

Await the response from the Minister for Social justice and Local Government

Take evidence on the issue in North Wales

##### (ii) P-03-265 Include leaving home information and education in the National Curriculum - Shelter Cymru

The Committee considered this petition for the first time and noted the Chair's correspondence with the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning.

#### Action

The Committee agreed to:

Await the reply from the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Write to WLGA to ask for their position on the issue

##### (iii) P-03-268 Accident and Emergency Department at Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan

The Committee considered this petition for the first time and noted the Chair's correspondence with the Minister for Health and Social Services.

#### Action

The Committee agreed to:

Await the reply from the Minister for Health and Social Services

Write a supplementary letter to the Minister for Health and Social Services asking:

How the boundary between the functions of a Minor Injuries unit and an Accident and Emergency unit is drawn. What types of incident can each unit manage

What criteria are used to identify whether a hospital is provided with either type of unit

How the public are made aware of which type of unit they should present themselves to when self-referring

Write to the Local Health Board to request details of how Minor Injury and Accident and Emergency services in the area are managed, given that A&E provision in the area divided between two Trusts. In particular, asking how paramedic teams decide on patient destinations depending on the seriousness of the incident and its geographical location.

### **Item 3: Updates to previous petitions**

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

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

#### **Action**

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Deputy First Minister asking for confirmation of the date on which it is anticipated that the Severn Bridge will revert to public ownership

#### **(ii) P-03-204 Public Accountability and Consultation in Higher Education**

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

#### **Action**

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the petitioner asking for views on the Minister's response, and asking which areas, if any, the petitioner considers require further consideration

#### **(iii) P-03-207 Support for the unemployed in Monmouth**

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

#### **Action**

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the petitioner notifying them of the response from Job Centre Plus

#### **(iv) P-03-215 Prohibition of political events in schools**

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

#### **Action**

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the petitioner enclosing the Minister's reply and asking for his views

#### **(v) P-03-219 Pharmacies in Barry**

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

#### **Action**

The Committee agreed to:

Write to Community Pharmacy Wales seeking clarification of the comment that they do not have a position on the Regulations. In particular, clarifying whether they refer to the current Regulations and whether they have they been consulted by the Pharmacy Task and Finish Group

Write to the Minister requesting details of the Task and Finish Group's final findings and whether, as a result, there are plans to amend the current Regulations

#### **(vi) P-03-220 Lower the speed limit on the A40 near Abergavenny**

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

#### **Action**

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Deputy First Minister asking when the speed limit will be reviewed on this section of the A40

**(vii) P-03-240 Improvements to the A40 in Llanddewi Velfrey**

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

**Action**

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Deputy First Minister seeking his views on the alternative proposals made by the petitioner, emphasising that a firm decision either way, even if only in principle would be beneficial to the petitioner

**(viii) P-03-236 The Charter for Grandchildren**

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

**Action**

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the petitioner seeking their views on the response from the Deputy Minister for Social Services

**(ix) P-03-253 Adoption of private sewers (Carmarthenshire**

**Residents)**

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

**Action**

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Environment Sustainability and Housing enclosing a copy of the summary of issues raised by Assembly Members and seeking her views on the points made, particularly the fact that the adoption process appears unclear

Take legal advice on whether the National Assembly has the power to act under the powers currently devolved, particularly as regards the Flood and Water Management Bill

**(x) P-03-255 Special needs education provision in mainstream schools**

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

**Action**

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills to ask what support is given to local authorities to ensure SEN provision is in place in mainstream schools

Forward a copy of the Enterprise and Learning Committee's report consideration of the recent petition on post 19 students with additional learning needs to the petitioners to inform any future campaign work on SEN provision in Wales.

**(xi) P-03-262 Academi Heddwch Cymru / Wales Peace Institute**

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

**Action**

The Committee agreed to:

Invite the petitioners to give evidence and arrange to take evidence from one or two European peace institutes

Commission a briefing from Members Research Services on the approach taken in other countries and which would consider the approach which might be relevant to Wales

**Item 4: Review of Progress**

**(i) P-03-072 Young Carers Measure**

The Committee reviewed this petition.

**Action**

The Committee agreed to:

Close the petition as the Committee has taken the issue as far as it can

**(ii) P-03-092 A465 Relief Road to Tafarnaubach**

The Committee reviewed this petition.

**Action**

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Deputy First Minister requesting an update and in particular requesting a copy of the final report commissioned by Transport Wales and referred to in the correspondence annexed to the Minister's letter of 25 June 2008

**(iii) P-03-094 Edwardsville Swimming Pool**

The Committee reviewed this petition.

**Action**

The Committee agreed to:

Close the petition as the Committee has taken the petition as far as it can

**(iv) P-03-134 Welsh Honours System**

The Committee reviewed this petition.

**Action**

The Committee agreed to:

Initiate further discussion on the issue via the online forum

Write to the Llywydd notifying him that the Committee intends to revisit and extend the online forum on the issue

**(v) P-03-136 Parking in the Heath and Birchgrove areas of Cardiff**

The Committee reviewed this petition.

**Action**

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Local Health Board requesting a copy of their sustainable travel plan

**Under Standing Order 10.37(vi) the Committee resolved to hold the remainder of the meeting in private session.**

**Item 5 - Draft report on P-03-197 Save the Vulcan**

The Committee considered and approved the draft report on petition P-03-197 Save the Vulcan

**Committee Service**

**December 2009**