



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
The National Assembly for Wales**

**Y Pwyllgor Cynaliadwyedd
The Sustainability Committee**

**Dydd Iau, 13 Mawrth 2008
Thursday, 13 March 2008**

Cynnwys
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Cofnodir y trafodion hyn yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynndi yn y pwyllgor. Yn ogystal,
cynhwysir cyfieithiad Saesneg o gyfraniadau yn y Gymraeg.

These proceedings are reported in the language in which they were spoken in the committee.
In addition, an English translation of Welsh speeches is included.

Aelodau'r pwyllgor yn bresennol
Committee members in attendance

Lorraine Barrett	Llafur Labour
Mick Bates	Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor) Welsh Liberal Democrats (Committee Chair)
Jeff Cuthbert	Llafur (yn dirprwyo ar ran Karen Sinclair) Labour (substitute for Karen Sinclair)
Alun Davies	Llafur Labour
Lesley Griffiths	Llafur Labour
Alun Ffred Jones	Plaid Cymru The Party of Wales
Darren Millar	Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives
Leanne Wood	Plaid Cymru The Party of Wales

Swyddogion Gwasanaeth Seneddol y Cynulliad yn bresennol
Assembly Parliamentary Service officials in attendance

Joanne Clinton	Dirprwy Glerc Deputy Clerk
Dr Virginia Hawkins	Clerc Clerk

Dechreuodd y cyfarfod am 9.03 a.m.
The meeting began at 9.03 a.m.

Cyflwyniad, Ymddiheuriadau, Dirprwyon a Datgan Buddiannau
Introduction, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

[1] **Mick Bates:** Good morning, and welcome to this morning's meeting of the Sustainability Committee. We have received apologies from Brynle Williams, as well as from Karen Sinclair; we thank Jeff Cuthbert for substituting for her this morning. Welcome to the committee, Jeff. Although the meeting is scheduled to be short, the topic is very interesting, as I am sure you will agree.

[2] Before we proceed, I need to make the following housekeeping announcements. In the event of a fire alarm, you should leave the room by the marked exits and follow the instructions of the ushers and staff. A test has not been scheduled for today. Please ensure that all mobile phones, pagers and BlackBerrys are switched off, as they interfere with the broadcasting equipment.

[3] The National Assembly for Wales operates through the media of the Welsh and English languages. Headphones are provided, through which instantaneous translation may be received. For those who are hard of hearing, they can also be used to amplify the sound. Interpretation is on channel 1, and the verbatim proceedings are on channel 0.

[4] Please to not touch any of the buttons on the microphones, as doing so can disable the system. Thank you for your attendance.

9.05 a.m.

Ystyried Gohebiaeth ar y Strwythur Prisio Ynni yng Nghymru
Consideration of Correspondence on the Energy Pricing Structure in Wales

[5] **Mick Bates:** The committee, following its last meeting, agreed to take evidence from various organisations involved in the energy pricing structure in Wales. That was on 13 March. The Energy Retail Association, Centrica plc and Energy Watch Wales were invited to attend an evidence session. The Energy Networks Association was also subsequently invited. With the exception of Energy Watch Wales, all the organisations have indicated that they will not attend the evidence session. On the basis that Energy Watch Wales has yet to publish its research findings on the energy pricing structure in Wales, I have declined to accept its invitation at this moment in time. You will have copies of all the correspondence that has been received. Before I invite Members to discuss the issue and where we go with our desire to scrutinise the impact of the pricing structures on fuel poverty, it is as well to point out that the understanding and advice that we received previously on our ability to call organisations and individuals to give evidence is governed by section 37 of the Government of Wales Act 2006, which states quite clearly that we can only call people to give evidence and scrutinise their actions if they are part of one of our Ministers' portfolios. In this case, there is an argument that the energy pricing structure is a function of Westminster and not the Assembly. However, we will go on this morning to discuss this further and to look at what actions we can take.

[6] Also, on 21 February, Ofgem announced that it will be looking at some of the issues connected with the increase in energy prices. With that brief introduction, I will open the floor to Members for comments and suggestions as to where we go from here. I am determined that we will undertake some scrutiny of this issue, and, in particular, with our responsibility for fuel poverty, to continue down that line and to scrutinise the impact of pricing. I also remind you that you will have seen in the correspondence that Energy Watch Wales will publish a report on its investigation into differential pricing in Wales compared with other parts of Britain in two weeks' time.

[7] **Alun Davies:** Thank you for this work. I saw the Centrica plc reply from British Gas, which I think is a pathetic response; it is timid and inadequate. Thousands of people, up and down Wales, are suffering the impact of high energy bills and differential energy bills, which are very different to that which is charged across the border in England. For Centrica plc to say to this committee 'We are not going to be there' is arrogance beyond comparison. I am fed up of these people essentially filling their own pockets at the expense of the poor and deprived in this country. We have a responsibility to ensure that these people are held to account for the impact that they are having on the lives of many ordinary people, and many poor people, in Wales. We have powers under section 37 and I propose that we invoke those powers to compel attendance. You are correct in what you say—that is also my understanding of the legislation—but we have responsibilities under social justice and poverty-related issues, and when there are people in this country acting to create poverty in order to sustain their own profits, we have a responsibility to act. Therefore, I propose that we seek legal advice, and that we accept the report from Energy Watch Wales and ask it to come to a meeting in the new term. I also propose that, following legal advice, we write again, particularly to this pathetic little man from British Gas, to tell him that his response is not what we were expecting, and that we will compel British Gas to attend, using the judiciary to support that.

9.10 a.m.

[8] **Mick Bates:** I will just make one comment on that, because, to be frank, in this meeting, we can do without certain adjectives to describe people. We must deal with the

evidence before us, and I ask Members to be much more cautious in the language that they use to describe other people who also have responsible positions. You may wish to consider your use of the word 'pathetic', Alun.

[9] **Alun Davies:** I accept what you say.

[10] **Mick Bates:** Thank you.

[11] **Darren Millar:** I agree with a great deal of what Alun has just said. We ought to take advice on whether we can use our powers. The Assembly has responsibility for tackling fuel poverty in Wales, and, frankly, I think that the responses are cowardly. I will not describe the individuals, but the responses that we have received from these companies are cowardly. I do not think that it is fair to single out British Gas, or Centrica, in this respect. Other companies have also increased their prices significantly and made a significant profit on the back of the fuel poor in Wales. We must ensure that people come before this committee to give account of that.

[12] Our constituents are badgering us on a regular basis about the price of energy in their homes. They are asking us why it is so high and why these companies are allowed to charge such extraordinary amounts for the gas and electricity that they provide when they are making huge profits. We ought to use any powers available to us, call these people to account and force them to come before the committee so that we can examine them and ask them to justify their actions. I do not think that they can justify them, and that is why we have had such cowardly responses from these companies.

[13] **Mick Bates:** Thank you for that statement, Darren. I remind Members again that section 37 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 states that the Assembly may require a person to attend a committee only on a

[14] 'matter relevant to the exercise by the Welsh Ministers of any of their functions'.

[15] On the basis of this advice note from our legal services, I suggest that the current matter is not relevant to the exercise by Welsh Ministers of any of their functions, as I mentioned earlier with regard to energy pricing. Therefore, the advice is that we can only invite them to attend the committee. Their being under investigation by the regulator would not prevent our inviting them to attend, but there is no power beyond this to require them to attend if they choose to decline the invitation. Therefore, I wish to make it clear that any communication is by invitation only. Did everyone receive a copy of that advice? It seems not.

[16] **Darren Millar:** As a point of information, we have responsibility for tackling fuel poverty in Wales. These matters are pertinent to this committee.

[17] **Mick Bates:** Absolutely. I agree entirely with you, which is why I am so keen to undertake scrutiny of the issue. I will allow Members to continue with statements and comments.

[18] **Lorraine Barrett:** Like everyone else, I am disappointed by the responses that we have received, saying such things as 'We will not be attending'. Some try to pass us on to someone else, who then says that they will not attend. It is a shame that they can hide behind the Government of Wales Act 2006. Regardless of whether we can compel them to come, I feel that they have a moral duty to attend. People expect us to represent them and to scrutinise these companies, but we cannot do so through correspondence alone on some of these issues.

[19] Aside from making the case to these organisations in our own right as a committee in

order to achieve what we want to do, would there be any opportunity in future for scrutiny, say with the Welsh Affairs Committee? I wonder whether our parliamentary colleagues are doing similar things. We could hold a joint session with that committee, inviting these people to attend, so it could be seen that Welsh MPs and Welsh Assembly Members are dealing with this through this committee. I do not want that to mean that we would opt out of trying to engage with these organisations in our own right, but would that be appropriate or possible at some point?

[20] **Mick Bates:** Thank you for that suggestion. I remind Members that we are discussing what actions we will take as a result of this correspondence. Quite rightly, since our Ministers have responsibility for tackling fuel poverty, we have an issue that we can lead into. We will follow up your suggestion and discuss it in more detail in a few moments.

[21] **Leanne Wood:** Did you say that an Ofgem report is due to be published in two weeks' time?

[22] **Mick Bates:** Yes, it announced on 21 February that it would be undertaking an inquiry into the pricing structure. I forget the details of the title, but it was something like that.

[23] **Leanne Wood:** It might be useful to have a presentation from Ofgem after the publication of that report, and from Energywatch, once it has gathered its findings. I agree with a lot of what the previous speakers have said. Fuel poverty is clearly a huge issue in Wales and these companies are making very big profits, so we need to ask them about the differences in pricing in Wales and England. I accept the legal advice that you have been given. Would there be any merit in asking whether there is any way around that legal advice, to try to subpoena those witnesses to appear here? I wonder whether we could link it to our responsibility through the home energy efficiency scheme, because I understand that British Gas delivers some of that scheme. Assuming that we could get its representatives here, how free would we be, as committee members, to scrutinise them on its profits? Would they just claim that it is commercially sensitive information that they did not want to share with the committee? If that were the case, would it not be just a waste of our time?

[24] **Mick Bates:** Taking the last point first, I do not think that its profits are a matter of commercial confidentiality. When the price increases were announced, Centrica plc announced a £500 million increase in profits, and that very fact was one of the driving forces for the injustice that people felt.

[25] On Ofgem, I think that that is a useful suggestion. Lorraine suggested a joint meeting with the Select Committee on Welsh Affairs, and it may be that another outcome of today is that we agree to put our case to the Ofgem inquiry. This committee could present the Welsh case to the inquiry and attach the correspondence that we have received and may receive in the future as an annex.

[26] **Alun Ffred Jones:** Yr wyf yn cefnogi'r hyn y mae Leanne wedi'i ddweud. Mae'n amlwg mai gwendid Deddf Llywodraeth Cymru 2006 yw un broblem, unwaith eto—ac mae dyn yn dod ar draws hyn fwyfwy wrth i'r misoedd fynd yn eu blaenau. Mae cyfyngiadau'r Ddeddf honno yn ei gwneud hi'n anodd iawn i ni weithredu yn effeithiol. A derbyn bod y cyngor yn gywir—a chytunaf â Leanne ei bod hi'n iawn i ni fynd yn ôl a gofyn eto a oes unrhyw ffordd o ddefnyddio'n pwerau yn wahanol—

Alun Ffred Jones: I support what Leanne has said. It is evident that the weakness of the Government of Wales Act 2006 is, once again, a problem—and one comes across this kind of thing increasingly as the months go by. The limitations of that Act make it very difficult for us to function effectively. If we accept that the advice is accurate—and I agree with Leanne that it would be right for us to go back and ask again whether there is any way of using our powers differently—I think that it would be appropriate for us to go

credaf ei bod hi'n iawn i ni fynd yn ôl at y cwmnïau hyn a dweud, 'Mae gennym gyfrifoldebau sy'n ymwneud â lles a thlodi tanwydd'. Dylem ddweud wrthynt fod ganddynt ddyletswydd foesol, bron, i ddod yma ac ateb drostynt eu hunain, yn y pwyllgor hwn. Ai Ofgem neu Energywatch sy'n gwneud yr ymchwil hwn?

back to those companies to say, 'We have responsibilities relating to welfare and fuel poverty'. We should tell them that they have almost a moral responsibility to come here to answer for themselves, before this committee. Is it Ofgem or Energywatch that is undertaking this inquiry?

[27] **Mick Bates:** It is Ofgem in Britain.

[28] **Alun Ffred Jones:** Yr wyf yn awyddus iawn i gael gweld y darlun llawn ar draws Prydain, sut bynnag y gwnawn hynny, oherwydd byddai'n orsymleiddio i gymharu prisiau Cymru â phrisiau Lloegr. Mae'n debygol bod y sefyllfa yn amrywio o fewn Cymru hyd yn oed, felly mae'n bwysig inni gael gweld y darlun hwnnw a'r darlun mewn gwahanol rannau o Loegr neu Brydain. Felly, byddwn yn awyddus iawn i ni gael yr wybodaeth honno o'n blaenau hefyd.

Alun Ffred Jones: I am also concerned that we get to see the full picture across Britain, however we want to do that, because comparing prices in Wales with prices in would be an oversimplification. It is likely that the situation varies even within Wales, and so it is important that we get to see the full picture and the picture in various parts of England or Britain. Therefore, I would also be very keen for us to have that information in front of us.

[29] **Lesley Griffiths:** Alun Ffred has covered the point that I was going to make. Could we have a copy of the legal advice? This is the first time that I have come across this situation, and so is it possible to go back and ask again? If we ask them to look at it again, what are the chances that they will change their minds?

[30] **Mick Bates:** To reiterate, I think that it was at an informal meeting on 13 February that we first pointed out and discussed the possibility that people would not accept invitations. However, as a result of this discussion, we will certainly take further legal advice on our ability to demand that people attend to be scrutinised. At the moment, I am fairly certain of the advice that I have received thus far, which I mentioned in our informal meeting on 13 February, namely that it is only an invitation and we cannot insist. However, we will revisit that.

[31] **Lesley Griffiths:** Thank you.

9.20 a.m.

[32] **Jeff Cuthbert:** I appreciate that I am just substituting today, but I read these letters and the papers with some interest. It is clear that they are not just unwilling to appear before the committee; they seem to be extremely reluctant to come to answer questions. That suggests that there is something that they do not want to discuss—whether that is down to embarrassment, I do not know. Is there merit in pursuing Lorraine's suggestion of a joint committee meeting with the Welsh Affairs Committee, which may have such powers, as a way forward?

[33] **Mick Bates:** Absolutely. Thank you very much for that comment. Unless there are any further comments to add, I will look at where we go from here.

[34] **Darren Millar:** Is it not up to them to contest our subpoena request? Is it not up to them to argue that they do not have to appear before us? Can we not issue the request and then get them to contest it, and to try to explain to us why they feel that it is not appropriate for them to appear before the committee?

[35] **Mick Bates:** I think that what you are suggesting can be put in correspondence. We could express disappointment that they have refused to attend. However, there are many issues to consider here. Alun, do you want to come in before I sum this up?

[36] **Alun Davies:** I want to propose that we go into private session to discuss how we respond to this.

[37] **Darren Millar:** Is that necessary?

[38] **Alun Davies:** Yes.

[39] **Mick Bates:** Let me think about this, as I must admit that I am not sure.

[40] **Alun Ffred Jones:** Could we have an explanation as to why we need to go into private session?

[41] **Alun Davies:** If we are discussing how we respond to this outside of purely policy terms, I do not believe that you can have that discussion on the record.

[42] **Mick Bates:** Personally, I am not convinced that it needs to be done in a private session. Would Members quickly like to offer an indication as to whether they would support the proposal? Is anyone going to support the proposal that we go to a private session? I see that no-one wishes to do that. In that case, I am sorry, Alun, but there is no support for that proposal. We will continue to discuss our actions in response to the correspondence on fuel poverty in public. I am grateful for your suggestions. One of the actions will be to write to the Select Committee on Welsh Affairs.

[43] **Darren Millar:** I am sorry to interrupt, but I would like them to appear before this committee in its own right.

[44] **Mick Bates:** Darren, we are getting there. I am just taking Members' suggestions before I explain the dates and so on that I have already put in place to achieve that end.

[45] I am grateful for that suggestion, and Jeff's support of it. I think that it would be very useful. The letter would say that we have written to companies about the increase in energy prices, that we are deeply concerned about the impact that that has on fuel poverty in Wales, and, furthermore, that we are aware that Energywatch is producing a report on the differential energy pricing structure within Wales and between England and Wales, which will be published in two weeks' time. The letter will also note that we wish to examine the possibility of holding a joint meeting with the Welsh Affairs Committee to discuss these issues. Are there any other points that people would like to be included in that letter? The letter will be circulated, and you may wish to add to it.

[46] **Darren Millar:** I feel that we ought to exhaust all the other options first.

[47] **Mick Bates:** I understand your impatience, but I am dealing with Members' suggestions first.

[48] **Darren Millar:** Lorraine is nodding and agreeing with me that we ought to exhaust the other options prior to writing.

[49] **Mick Bates:** The other possibility that we can explore is to write to Ofgem, which has announced that it is undertaking an investigation. We could provide it with copies of the correspondence and ask it to consider the Welsh dimension. We may then be called to give

evidence on that. So, that is a possibility.

[50] Finally, and most importantly, Darren, to answer your impatience on this—and I understand it, so do not worry—I think that we should revisit our invitations to all energy companies and Energywatch, which was willing to come, to ask them to reconsider their position on two counts, given our disappointment with their responses. The first is the impact of increasing fuel prices on fuel poverty. Secondly, many of these companies invest in advice on energy saving to try to reduce fuel poverty. So, on those grounds, we have another lever that we could use to invite them to come here to give evidence on how they are helping to combat fuel poverty. We also want to make the companies aware that we wish to discuss some of the different prices and the recent increases in energy prices. I think that we can take evidence on that, because it directly impacts on fuel poverty. Fuel poverty is clearly defined, so there is no issue with our understanding of it. An increase in fuel prices directly impacts on fuel poverty. We have discussed this and have set a date of 10 April, if it is at all possible to allocate time at that meeting for a discussion with Energywatch on its report, which should be published by then. The fourth action is to take further legal advice and to circulate it to Members immediately.

[51] **Leanne Wood:** Will you send a letter of invitation? If not, it will be a subpoena.

[52] **Mick Bates:** As far as I understand it, the use of the word ‘subpoena’ suggests that we have a legal or judicial function, which we do not. The advice that I have been given is that we can issue only an invitation, currently. Given the publicity surrounding this, there is moral pressure, and an ethical question to be raised, as someone mentioned. We can apply some moral pressure that would bring these companies here to discuss fuel poverty. As I said previously, many of them are spending a considerable amount on combating fuel poverty.

[53] **Alun Davies:** We must be quite tough on this, Mick. If we just go around the houses, we will not be appreciating the real issues that people in Wales are faced with at the moment. I agree with what Darren and Lorraine have said, and I think that we should follow that. I do not think that we should be timid or that we should use this to expose the weaknesses of the Government of Wales Act 2006; we should be campaigning hard for the people who are affected by fuel poverty in Wales. I am not going to sit here and make political points about that or anything else. I think that we should be working within the powers that we have available to us, and seek to extend those powers wherever possible. Darren and Lorraine said that around 10 minutes ago, and I think that we should have a vote on that proposal and move forward.

[54] **Mick Bates:** What proposal was that? May I just return to the issue? You are using words such as ‘courage’ and ‘timid’, and so on. As a committee, we wish to scrutinise the issues surrounding fuel poverty. That is the point of this, and increased energy prices have an impact on the fuel poverty of the people of Wales. That is the basis for what we want to do. People can go from here and make strong statements if they wish, but the question is whether we, as a committee, are going to make a statement this morning on where we want to go with this, in view of the correspondence that we have received. Coming back to your remarks, Alun Davies, I am not aware that there is a proposal that we need to vote on at this moment.

[55] **Alun Davies:** Lorraine made a proposal.

[56] **Lorraine Barrett:** It was just a suggestion. Without wishing to take anything away from this committee and our pure right, if you like, to deal with this issue and to re-invite these people, on moral grounds if not on legal grounds, which you will pursue, this issue cuts across our responsibilities and those of Parliament, concerning fuel prices and fuel poverty. It might be appropriate to hold a joint session at some point with the Welsh Affairs Committee, if it were minded to do so or if it is considering similar issues. If we have not been able to pull

these people in, that might be the opportunity to do it: in a cross-cutting way with our parliamentary colleagues.

9.30 a.m.

[57] I am not saying that we need to go cap in hand to MPs to get these people around the table, because I think that we have a moral right to have them come to speak to us and they have a moral duty to do so. I am not going to interrogate them, but we want to scrutinise them; we want them to understand the issues that affect people in Wales, given our responsibility. It was just a suggestion; I do not think that we need to vote on it.

[58] **Mick Bates:** Okay. Alun, do you want to come back on this?

[59] **Alun Davies:** I just want progress, Chair.

[60] **Mick Bates:** We all share that view.

[61] **Darren Millar:** I entirely agree with Lorraine that we should use that option as a reserve option, if we are unable to get these individuals to attend the committee. I agree with your suggestion to have a meeting on fuel poverty, on which we clearly have responsibilities, to which we invite them to discuss fuel poverty in Wales, including their price increases and the impact that that has on our constituents across the country. That is important and clearly the legal advice would be that we can force them to attend a meeting on fuel poverty. I do not think that there is a problem with that, but I think that we should delay joint scrutiny until such time as those other avenues have been exhausted. We need to take a tough line on this. I have to agree with Alun—we need to be very firm and we need to flex our muscles to make it clear that these sorts of responses are, frankly, unacceptable.

[62] **Mick Bates:** I do not have a problem with this; I am looking for ways forward for us as a committee.

[63] **Lorraine Barrett:** Even setting aside persuading these people to come to sit around the table, a joint meeting with the Welsh Affairs Committee would not necessarily have to involve these organisations. We could even look at just sharing ideas or asking the Welsh Affairs Committee for its views on the impact of fuel prices, as there is a joint responsibility there.

[64] **Mick Bates:** There is clearly considerable interest in this issue. I understand the Members' frustration with this and the wish to be as strong as possible on it. So, I will sum up with four key actions on this: first, the legal advice will be circulated again and we will look at that. In order of priority, we will issue a strong letter in response to this and a further invitation on the grounds of fuel poverty. I have provisionally set a date of 10 April. Secondly, we will write a letter to Ofgem, which is undertaking an investigation into fuel pricing. Thirdly, we will write to the Welsh Affairs Committee and ask it if it is possible to have a joint meeting on this issue. Is there anything else?

[65] **Lorraine Barrett:** And the UK Energy Minister.

[66] **Mick Bates:** Yes, we will also write to the UK Energy Minister.

[67] **Darren Millar:** I think that we should hold back on the joint scrutiny until we have received responses on those other issues.

[68] **Mick Bates:** Fine; that is a good suggestion.

[69] **Leanne Wood:** You also made a suggestion about—*[Inaudible.]*, which I think is a good idea.

[70] **Mick Bates:** That is the final point. So, are you happy with those key actions? I accept Darren's idea, which I think is a good one, to delay suggesting a joint meeting until such time as we have received a response to our letter. However, I think that we can prepare correspondence to Ofgem now.

[71] Finally, on this issue—

[72] **Alun Ffred Jones:** You suggested 10 April as a possible date for a meeting. What day is that?

[73] **Mick Bates:** It is a Thursday. Looking at the timetable, I want this extra flexibility to scrutinise current issues. So, I am keen that we put a suggested date in our diary now, which has been done.

[74] **Darren Millar:** May I make a further suggestion? If the response to our request for them to attend a session on fuel poverty on 10 April is rejected—if we get a negative response to our invitation—can this committee agree that we will use our powers to force the energy companies to attend?

[75] **Mick Bates:** I will do everything I can to ensure that the companies attend. I am not sure that the word 'force' is applicable. I make that clear, because I understand the legal interpretation. I can invite them, but I am not aware of any further legal powers. I think that we are on safer ground when it comes to the issue of fuel poverty.

[76] **Darren Millar:** So, we can force them to attend if there is a negative response to our further request for attendance.

[77] **Mick Bates:** That is quite logical; we will go with that. I do not wish to open up the discussion again, but I want Members' views on whether, as a result of this discussion, we should issue a statement from this committee today expressing our disappointment—I think that that is the correct word—with the responses. We will then list the actions that we will take as a result of this morning's meeting.

[78] **Leanne Wood:** We can trust you to come up with a strongly worded statement.

[79] **Mick Bates:** Thank you, Leanne; I am grateful for your confidence. So, that letter will be circulated as soon as possible—today or tomorrow.

[80] **Darren Millar:** Could you circulate the statement before it is sent out?

[81] **Mick Bates:** Absolutely. I will do so, along with the letters. The next meeting will be on 10 April, when the committee, apart from, hopefully, scrutinising fuel poverty issues and fuel pricing, will also take evidence on the petition calling for a ban on plastic bags. That concludes our meeting.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 9.36 a.m.
The meeting ended at 9.36 a.m.*