

Petitions Committee

PET(3) 05-10 : Minutes

Date: Tuesday 27 April 2010

Time: 09:32-10:55

Venue: Committee Room 1, Y Senedd, Cardiff Bay

Assembly Members in attendance

Christine Chapman AM, Cynon Valley (Chair)

Andrew RT Davies AM, South Wales Central

Mike German AM, South Wales East

Bethan Jenkins AM, South Wales West

Officials

Naomi Stocks, Clerk

Andrew Minnis, Deputy Clerk

Joanest Jackson, Legal Advisor

Presenters

Tica Font, Director, International Catalan Institute for Peace (by video conference)

Pablo Aguiar, International Catalan Institute for Peace (by video conference)

1. Introductions, Apologies and Substitutions

2. Evidence Session : P-03-262 Academi Heddwch Cymru / Wales Peace Institute

The Committee took oral evidence by video conference from Tica Font and Pablo Aguiar representing the International Catalan Institute for Peace

3. Consideration of Evidence

The Committee considered the evidence provided by the Catalan Institute for Peace

Actions

The Committee agreed to:

Await the response from the First Minister, and the briefing from Members Research Service

Request that in preparing their briefing Members Research Service consider:

the split between research and practical action adopted by other similar institutions; and

the split between national and international action adopted by similar institutions

what other sources of funding, other than public funding, might be available

Request that the First Minister considers the issues raised in the MRS brief when responding to the Committee

Contact the Frankfurt Peace Institute to arrange to take evidence by video conference

4. New petitions

(i) P-03-283 NHS Charging for Alcohol Related Incidents

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Actions

The Committee agreed to:

Await the response from the Minister for Health and Social Services and the expected statement on alcohol pricing

(ii) P-03-284 Brynmawr Social Housing Petition

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Actions

The Committee agreed to:

Await the response from the Deputy Minister for Regeneration and Housing

(iii) P-03-286 Ceredigion Business Rates

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Actions

The Committee agreed to:

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

4. Updates to Previous Petitions

(i) P-03-065 NHS Dental Charges

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Health and Social Services asking for an update on the issue of dental charges

Write to the British Dental Association seeking their views on the petition

Write to the petitioners seeking their views on the evidence gathered

(ii) P-03-081 Student Loan Regulations

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Health and Social Services seeking an update on the work of the Modernising Pharmacy Careers work stream

Write to Community Pharmacy Wales notifying them of the petition and seeking their views on possible improvements to career development paths

(iii) P-03-085 Surgeries in Flintshire: A new Primary Care Centre

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Health and Social Services requesting an update on the development of Primary Care Resource Centre

(iv) P-03-148 Introduce direct train service between Ebbw Vale and Newport

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Deputy First Minister to request details of the outcome of the appraisal conducted on the options identified in the Ebbw Valley Gaer Junction Report

Write to the regional and constituency AMs in the petitioner's area asking if they are aware of the petition and if they can help trace the petitioner

Review Committee procedures for dealing with petitions when the petitioner cannot be traced

(v) P-03-150 National Cancer Standards

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Health and Social Services:

Reiterating the request for broad information on the identified areas of improvement needed to ensure compliance with the National Cancer Standards by September 2010

Asking for details of the resources available in LHBs to address the issues, and who will be accountable within each LHB

(vi) P-03-169 Welsh Olympic Team

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) expressing the Committee's disappointment that they have not responded

Write to the British Olympic Association notifying them of the petition, seeking their views, and asking if they are aware of the reasons why the IOC has not responded

Write to the Minister for Heritage to make him aware of the petition and to ask if he has had any discussions on this issue with relevant bodies

(vii) P-03-172 Restore the Swansea-Cork Ferry

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Close the petition and produce a summary closure report

(viii) P-03-182 European Funding

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Await the publication of the Enterprise and Learning Committee's report on the implementation of structural funds

Write to the petitioner once the report is published

(ix) 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 asking for details of the timescale identified by the Strategic Delivery group, in particular when the process is expected to be completed

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

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Commission legal guidance on the rights of grandparents, in particular matching the Charter against the Children's Act to identify any legal obstacles to its adoption

Write to the Deputy Minister for Social Services asking for the Terms of Reference of the Family Justice Board review

Write to the Children's Commissioner seeking his views on the issues raised by the petition

Write to the Chair of the Children and Young People Committee seeking her views on the petition

(xi) P-03-246 Abandon the 50mph speed limit on the M4 at Newport

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to Traffic Wales seeking further detail on travel times, in particular clarifying journey times in peak and off peak periods

(xii) P-03-251 Tenovus

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Close the petition and produce a summary report

(xiii) P-03-260 Campaign for Dark Skies

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the WLGA asking how local authorities are working to control light pollution within their development plans

Write to the Carbon Trust asking whether their guidance to local authorities includes specific guidance on how to reduce light when appropriate, and if they are aware of whether the guidance has had an impact

(xiv) P-03-271 Business Rates in Narberth

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government asking:

What the implications are in Wales of the temporary increase in small business rate relief announced in the recent UK budget and

Ask that the Government undertake a study of the impact on local communities, in terms of local businesses and provision of essential services, and asking how the impact is assessed

Write to the petitioners notifying them of the responses from the Minister and WLGA and seeking their views

(xv) P-03-279 Save Welsh universities

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

Write to the petitioner notifying them of progress and seeking their views

Write to the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning requesting:

Confirmation of when the independent Review of Education Funding and the Review of Higher Education Governance will be completed

That the petition be referred to the group conducting the Review of Higher Education Governance

Further details of how the funding levels in Wales compare to England

That the Minister clarify what is meant by "imaginative and quick" savings

Write to the Chair of the Finance asking for further details on their inquiry into the funding of higher and further education in Wales

Committee Service

April 2010