

Petitions Committee

PET(3)-05-10 Paper 3 : 27 April 2010

Updates to previous petitions

(i) P-03-065: NHS Dental Charges

Petition wording

We, the undersigned members of Severn Group WI are very disappointed with the current scale of NHS dental charges, in particular the huge difference in cost between the three treatment bands, especially bands 2 and 3 at £39 and £177 respectively.

There certainly cannot be any justification for such a huge price gap between these upper bands. Surely it must be possible to have an intermediate price range to accommodate the huge variety of treatments provided.

With this in mind it is strongly felt therefore that there ought to be a review of the existing scales of NHS dental charges and we ask you to bring this to the attention of the Welsh Assembly on our behalf.

Link to petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-65.htm>

Petition raised by: Severn Group WI

Number of signatures: 1 (submitted by an organisation)

Previously considered by the Committee on: 20 September and 8 November 2007.

Update: The Committee had previously agreed to return to the issue of dental charges at a later date when a review of dental charges might be appropriate.

(ii) 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, 22 May and 02 October 2008, 27 January, 31 March, 5 May and 7 July 2009

Update

: The Committee is awaiting the results of a Task and Finish Group on the issue which was expected to publish its results in Autumn 2009 and a response from the petitioner.

(iii) P-03-085 Surgeries in Flintshire

Petition wording

We, the doctors at the Laurels Surgery, Eyton Place Surgery and Allt Goch Medical Centre are frustrated (as we are sure you are) by our difficulties in offering enough appointments for our patients.

As you will be aware, we are totally constrained by the size of our building and desperately need to move to larger premises — preferably in a new Primary Care Centre.

Progress towards this has stopped following the recent appointment of the new Health Minister and we wish to bring our concerns to her notice.

We would ask that you sign this petition to support our efforts to have this process speeded up;

"As a patient at a GP Surgery in Flint, we would ask that our Assembly Member, Mrs Sandy Mewies, applies pressure at the Welsh Assembly Government for the development of a new Primary Care Centre as a matter of urgency."

Link to petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-085.htm>

Petition raised by: Gillian Robinson

Number of signatures: 412

Previously considered by the Committee on: 21 February 2008, 10 April 2008, 22 May 2008 and 27 January 2009.

Update: The Committee is awaiting a final decision from the Minister for Health and Social Services on development of a Primary Care Resource Centre and a response from the petitioner.

(iv) P-03-148 Railway between Ebbw Vale and Newport

Petition wording

'We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to investigate the feasibility of introducing a direct train service between Ebbw Vale and Newport, calling at intermediate stations, and make recommendations to the appropriate authorities'

Link to petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions/eform-sign-petition/p-03-148.htm>

Petition raised by: Jennifer Morgan

Number of signatures: 37

Previously considered by the Committee on: 16 October 2008

Update: The Committee is awaiting an update from the petitioner.

(v) P-03-150 National Cancer Standards

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to investigate whether Local Health Boards have the necessary strategies and action plans in place to deliver the target to comply with the National Cancer Standards by March 2009 in RCT and throughout Wales, as a matter of urgency.

Link to petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-150.htm>

Petition raised by: Rhondda Breast Friends

Number of signatures: The e-petition collected 43 signatures. In addition Rhondda Breast Friends have developed a charter regarding improvements required to cancer care services, supported by 1,475 signatories.

Previously considered by the Committee on: 9 July 2008, 6 November 2008, 13 January 2009, 10 February 2009, 31 March 2009, 24 November 2009, 19 January 2010 and 23 March.

Update:

The Committee have received an update from the Minister for Health and Social Services which is attached as part of PET(3) 05-10 Paper 3A

(vi) P-03-169 Welsh Olympic Team for 2012

Petition Wording

'We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to ensure that a team from Wales competes in the 2012 Olympic Games, and every subsequent games thereafter.'

Background

This petition was raised by Dr Geraint Tudur. It collected 494 signatures.

Link to petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-169.htm>

Petition raised by: Dr Geraint Tudur

Number of signatures: 494

Previously considered by the Committee on: 20 November 2008

Update: The Committee is awaiting a reply from the International Olympic Committee.

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

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to encourage, in every way possible, the early restoration of the Swansea/Cork Ferry. We believe it will have tangible economic and social benefits to both economies.

Link to petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-172.htm>

Petition raised by: John Hosford

Number of signatures: This petition was raised by John Hosford and collected 29 signatures. In excess of 1,500 signatures and statements of support have been collected on the petitioner's website calling for the restoration of this ferry route.

Previously considered by the Committee on: 16 October 2008, 4 December 2008, 27 January 2009, 31 March 2009, 5 May 2009, 19 June 2009, 22 September 2009 and 20 October 2009

Update:

The Committee has received an update from the Deputy First Minister which is attached as part of PET(3) 05-10 Paper 3A

(viii) P-03-182 European Funding

Petition wording

Through this petition, we the undersigned call upon the National Assembly Enterprise and Learning Committee to launch an investigation into the economic use of the European funding received by Wales since 2000 and into the proposed mechanisms for delivery of the Convergence funds in 2007-14.

In particular we are concerned with conflicting strategies, such as the ability of both WAG and Local Authorities to act as both Judge and Jury, whilst at the same time competing with the private sector for these scarce resources.

Link to petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-182.htm>

Petition raised by: T Wyn Price

Number of signatures: 39 directors of business in West Wales.

Previously considered by the Committee on: 20 November 2008, 13 January 2009, 22 September 2009, 19 January 2010 and 23 March

Update:

The Committee has received an update from the Enterprise and Learning Committee which is attached as part of PET(3) 05-10 Paper 3A

(ix) P-03-219 Pharmacies in Barry

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh government to save our local high street pharmacies. Our intention in submitting this petition is to point out the current anomalies of the present system of 'neighbourhoods' as they stand with regard to

relocating pharmacies in Wales.

No pharmacy is allowed to make a 'minor' relocation as defined by the Pharmacy Regulations 1992 unless it falls within the defined neighbourhood

Link to the petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-219.htm>

Petition raised by: Aneurin Evans Chemists Ltd. and Judith Evans Pharmacies

Number of signatures: 3000+

Previously considered by the Committee on: 23 June 2009, 6 October 2009, 8 December 2009, 1 February 2010 and 23 March

Update:

The Committee has received an update from the Minister for Health and Social Services which is attached as part of PET(3) 05-10 Paper 3A

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

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to adopt The Charter for Grandchildren and to make the Charter mandatory for professional workers who are employed in the welfare of children.

Link to petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-236.htm>

Petition raised by: Grandparents Apart Wales

Number of signatures: 19

Previously considered by the Committee on: 6 October and 8 December 2009

Update:

The Committee has received an update from petitioner which is attached as part of PET(3) 05-10 Paper 3A

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

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to conduct a review of the need for a 50 mph speed limit between Junctions 24 and 28 on the M4. We would like the Welsh Government to present evidence of the need for this speed limit, and to provide details of the impact this speed reduction, and the consequent increase in journey times between South Wales and England, will have on inward investment and tourism.

Link to the petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-246.htm>

Petition raised by: Arfon Hughes

Number of signatures: 53

Previously considered by the Committee on: 24 November 2009

Update:

The Committee has received an update from Traffic Wales and the Deputy First Minister which is attached as part of PET(3) 05-10 Paper 3A

(xii) P-03-251 Banning Sunbeds

Petition wording

Petition to ban unmanned, coin-operated sunbeds in Wales and sunbed use by under 18 year olds.

Link to petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-251.htm>

Petition raised by: Tenovus

Number of signatures: 1500+

Previously considered by the Committee on: 6 October and 24 November 2009

Update:

The Welsh Government has responded to the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government report on the use and regulation of sunbeds in Wales and the issue has been debated in plenary.

The Welsh Government response is attached as part of PET(3) 05-10 Paper 3A**(xiii) P-03-260 The Campaign for Dark Skies****Petition Wording**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Assembly Government to tackle the growing problem of light pollution in Wales. Light pollution is the result of wasted light, which means wasted energy. The Campaign for Dark Skies are calling on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Assembly Government to provide clear guidance to Welsh local authorities regarding light pollution. Such guidance should be aimed at curbing light pollution by setting clear limits for lighting on all planning applications and by placing a statutory duty on local authorities to reduce the amount of wasted light in their area.

Link to petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-260.htm>

Petition raised by: The Campaign for Dark Skies

Number of signatures: 1643

Previously considered by the Committee on: 23 March 2010

Update:

The Committee has received an update from the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing which is attached as part of PET(3) 05-10 Paper 3A

(xiv) P-03-271 Business Rates in Narberth**Petition wording**

We the business ratepayers of Narberth call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Assembly Government to conduct an impact assessment on how businesses in the town will be affected by the changes in rateable values. This assessment should include effect on jobs and business closures.

Link to petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-271.htm>

Petition raised by: Narberth Chamber of Trade

Number of signatures: 91

Previously considered by the Committee on: 19 January and 1 February 2010

Update:

The Committee has received an update from the Welsh Local Government Association which is attached as part of PET(3) 05-10 Paper 3A

(xv) P-03-279 Save Welsh Universities**Petition wording**

We the undersigned call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Assembly Government to fully fund universities in Wales. We further call for:

- the Welsh Government not to follow the example of England by slashing university funding in the March remit letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
- a timetabled commitment from the Assembly Government to close the investment gap between the university sectors in Wales and England;
- Wales to follow the example of France, Germany and the US who have chosen to invest heavily in their universities as a key strategy for economic recovery from the recession.

Background

This petition was raised by the University and College Union, and it collected 907 signatures.

Link to the petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-279.htm>

Petition raised by: University and College Union

Number of signatures: 9,000

Previously considered by the Committee on: 23 March 2010

Update:

The Committee has received updates from the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning and the Enterprise and Learning Committee. These are attached as part of PET(3) 05-10 Paper 3A.

Committee Service

April 2010