

## Petitions Committee

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Meeting Venue:

**Committee Room 1 – Senedd**

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Meeting date:

**21 October 2014**

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Meeting time:

**09.30**

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Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



For further information please contact:

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Committee Clerk

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### Agenda – Supplementary Documents

The Members' Brief and supplementary documents for items 2.2 and 2.4 are now available.

Please note the documents below are in addition to those published in the main Agenda and Reports pack for this Meeting

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#### **1 Introduction, apologies and substitutions (Pages 1 – 19)**

**P-04-468 Road Safety Concerns A48 Chepstow (Page 20)**

**P-04-522 Asbestos in Schools (Pages 21 – 22)**

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**P-04-468 Road Safety Concerns A48 Chepstow – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 17.10.14.**

Petitions Committee

Thank you so much for keeping us informed regarding the Petitions Committee continued consideration of the petition from pupils of Wyedean School submitted a year ago regarding the request for a 30mph speed limit on the narrow A48 bridge over the River Wye at Chepstow.

The letter of 7 October 2014 received from the Transport Minister, Edwina Hart AM, in response to your letter of 30 April 2014, refers to a feasibility study which has been completed and is being considered by officials.

We are not aware of a study on the safety issue of the A48. There is a study on Air Quality in Chepstow on the route of the A48 up to but not including the A48 bridge. Perhaps the Air Quality Study Report has been extended to cover also the safety issue of the A48. In our response to the Air Quality Study back in October 2013 we did mention our concerns about the A48 bridge being dangerous for pedestrians and particularly school children even though this was not in the brief for the study.

If the report before the Minister does cover the safety issue and covers reducing the 50mph speed limit to 30mph on the A48 bridge we would welcome its speedy implementation as it is now well over a year since the pupils raised the issue.

The Adjustment of the speed limit back to 30mph requires the publication of a notice in the press and the removal of two '50mph' signs. It need take no longer than 2 months to implement.

It does seem that a great deal of time has passed since the pupils' petition but no action has happened yet despite the daily danger to pedestrians and pupils and the lack of any clear reason or advantage in retaining the 50mph limit.

We appreciate your efforts to move this matter forward.

Sandra Bushell

Town Clerk

**P-04-522 Asbestos in Schools – Correspondence from The Joint Union Asbestos Committee to the Clerking Team, 17.10.14.**

Dear Kayleigh

I write on behalf of the Joint Union Asbestos Committee (JUAC) and in support of the Right to Know Petition calling for measures to be introduced to ensure that parents and guardians of children can easily access information about the asbestos in Wales schools and its management.

I am also very concerned that there is a lack of clarity over the issue of who is responsible for Policy for Asbestos Management in Schools in Wales. In England the Department for Education (DfE) accepts its Policy responsibility for Asbestos Management in Schools and is currently engaged in a public consultation through the DfE Steering Group – Asbestos in Schools to enable DfE to review and improve its Policy on this very serious issue.

JUAC has been campaigning now since 2010 for all UK schools to be made safe from the dangers of asbestos. Central to the JUAC campaign is the need for openness and transparency.

Most parents, pupils and indeed school staff are not aware of the presence and dangers of asbestos in schools and what measures should be taken to prevent asbestos fibre release.

It is vital that those likely to disturb asbestos in schools are informed of its presence and know how the asbestos is being managed in the school. Without this information there is increased potential for unnecessary accidental exposure even in a person's normal daily school activities.

JUAC supports the recommendations of the All Party Parliamentary Group that parents, teachers and support staff are annually updated on the presence of asbestos in their schools and the measures that are being taken to manage it.

The link for the APPG Booklet – Asbestos in Schools is below and I would urge your Committee members to read this. It has been sent to all UK MPs.

<https://www.teachers.org.uk/files/appg-booklet-final-17-mar-14-asbestos-in-schools--2-1-.pdf>

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Winn

Chair JUAC

**The Joint Union Asbestos Committee**