

Agenda – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Video Conference – Via Zoom

Meeting date: 12 January 2021

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

Graeme Francis – Committee Clerk

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0300 200 6373

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In accordance with Standing Order 34.19, the Chair has determined that the public are excluded from the Committee's meeting in order to protect public health. This meeting will be broadcast live on www.senedd.tv

- 1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest
(Pages 1 – 38)
- 2 New COVID-19 petitions
 - 2.1 P-05-1050 Require local lockdowns to be subject to a vote of the Senedd for approval before being implemented
(Pages 39 – 45)
 - 2.2 P-05-1052 Give Nurses a pay rise in line with other frontline staff during COVID-19 pandemic
(Pages 46 – 53)
 - 2.3 P-05-1075 Don't impose a 15 person limit on organised indoor activities, such as swimming lessons and fitness classes, after firebreak lockdown
(Pages 54 – 57)
 - 2.4 P-05-1087 Stop the mass isolation of healthy school children!
(Pages 58 – 64)

Other new petitions



- 2.5 P-05-1080 Introduce anti-racist teaching materials to children in schools in Wales to reduce hate crimes
(Pages 65 – 74)

The following two items will be considered together

- 2.6 P-05-1084 Teach Welsh children about Wales' colonisation of Patagonia
(Pages 75 – 83)
- 2.7 P-05-1098 Make Wales' role in British colonial history a compulsory school subject
(Pages 84 – 92)
- 2.8 P-05-1086 Create a National Museum for Welsh Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic History and Heritage
(Pages 93 – 98)
- 2.9 P-05-1081 Ensure owners of second homes & holiday lets in Wales register to vote only at their primary address, in devolved and local elections
(Pages 99 – 108)

3 Updates to previous petitions

Education

- 3.1 P-05-920 School Budgeting for ALN
(Pages 109 – 112)
- 3.2 P-05-972 To provide a minimum of 4 hours a day of live teaching during COVID closures for all school children
(Page 113)
- 3.3 P-05-1033 Abolish Education Workforce Council (EWC) registration fees and completely reform its organisation
(Pages 114 – 126)

Environment and Rural Affairs

3.4 P-05-963 Require supermarkets to donate excess food to charity
(Pages 127 – 129)

3.5 P-05-1010 An independent inquiry into the 2020 flooding in Rhondda Cynon
Taf so that lessons are learned
(Pages 130 – 136)

Health and Social Services

3.6 P-05-964 Extend covid-19 financial support and paid leave to vulnerable
and pregnant NHS wales bank workers
(Pages 137 – 140)

3.7 P-05-1035 Allow birthing partners to be present at scans, the start of
labour, birth and after the birth
(Pages 141 – 142)

Culture, Sport and Tourism

3.8 P-05-1013 Provide financial support for self-employed individuals within the
Welsh live music industry
(Pages 143 – 146)

3.9 P-05-1027 Allow Welsh domestic football clubs to play friendlies and allow
supporters to attend matches
(Pages 147 – 151)

3.10 P-05-1037 Allow children to enter lockdown areas to continue to train with
their existing sports clubs
(Pages 152 – 155)

Covid 19 – Updates to petitions

The following two items will be considered together

- 3.11 P-05-1099 Don't shut the Hospitality Sector (Pubs, Restaurants, Cafes)
without providing scientific evidence
(Pages 156 – 162)
- 3.12 P-05-1100 Allow pubs and restaurants in Wales to serve alcohol & stay open
after 6pm
(Pages 163 – 165)
- 3.13 P-05-1036 Allow support bubbles during lock down
(Page 166)

Petitions with no recent contact from the petitioner

- 3.14 P-05-826 Pembrokeshire says NO!! To the closure of Withybush A&E!
(Pages 167 – 168)
- 3.15 P-05-947 Make GP letters for Students gratis
(Page 169)

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Agenda Item 2.1

P-05-1050 Require local lockdowns to be subject to a vote of the Senedd for approval before being implemented

This petition was submitted by Caleb Harris having collected a total of 127 signatures.

Text of Petition:

In light of the recent amendment in the U.K. Parliament by Sir Graham Brady for further restrictions to require the approval of Parliament, the same requirement should be made for restrictions in Wales. Civil liberties being curtailed should require the democratic consent of the people of Wales through a vote of Senedd members before being implemented. It will help to provide accountability for those areas which are placed under local Coronavirus restrictions.

Additional Information:

The issue of consent is crucial with these regulations. Politicians have a responsibility to uphold people's fundamental freedoms, whilst also protecting people's lives. This is something that is a delicate balancing act in the case of Coronavirus. Especially when decisions could have an enormous impact on the public in many factors. Therefore, the implementation of further restrictions should have to pass by a majority vote of the Senedd.

Please see amendment below as the basis for this petition.

Text of Sir Graham Brady's Amendment: 'provided Ministers ensure as far as is reasonably practicable that in the exercise of their powers to tackle the pandemic under the Coronavirus Act 2020 and other primary legislation, including for example part 2A of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984, Parliament has an opportunity to debate and vote upon any secondary legislation with effect in the whole of England or the whole United Kingdom before it comes into effect.'

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Neath
- South Wales West

Require Senedd vote for 'local lockdowns' before implementation

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 15 Rhagfyr 2020
Petitions Committee | 15 December 2020

Reference: RS20/14570-4

Petition Number: P-05-1050

Petition title: Require local lockdowns to be subject to a vote of the Senedd for approval before being implemented

Text of petition:

In light of the recent amendment in the U.K. Parliament by Sir Graham Brady for further restrictions to require the approval of Parliament, the same requirement should be made for restrictions in Wales. Civil liberties being curtailed should require the democratic consent of the people of Wales through a vote of Senedd members before being implemented. It will help to provide accountability for those areas which are placed under local Coronavirus restrictions.

The issue of consent is crucial with these regulations. Politicians have a responsibility to uphold people's fundamental freedoms, whilst also protecting people's lives. This is something that is a delicate balancing act in the case of Coronavirus. Especially when decisions could have an enormous impact on the public in many factors. Therefore, the implementation of further restrictions should have to pass by a majority vote of the Senedd.

Please see amendment below as the basis for this petition.

Text of Sir Graham Brady's Amendment: 'provided Ministers ensure as far as is reasonably practicable that in the exercise of their powers to tackle the pandemic under the Coronavirus Act 2020 and other primary legislation, including for example part 2A of the Public Health



(Control of Disease) Act 1984, Parliament has an opportunity to debate and vote upon any secondary legislation with effect in the whole of England or the whole United Kingdom before it comes into effect.'

1. Background to 'local lockdowns'

Between the start of the coronavirus pandemic and 8 September 2020, the Welsh Government implemented national measures to control the virus.

On 8 September, the Caerphilly County Borough Council area became the first in Wales to be designated a 'local health protection area' subject to local restrictions. This was colloquially referred to as being under 'local lockdown'. The legal basis for this is discussed below.

By 23 November 2020, 17 local authority areas (or certain parts of local authority areas) were under local lockdown in Wales.

On 23 November 2020, Wales entered a 'Firebreak lockdown' which introduced strict national measures, replacing the existing local lockdown restrictions.

On 30 October 2020, the First Minister confirmed that the system of local lockdowns would not return after the Firebreak lockdown ended on 9 November and would be replaced by a new set of national rules.

2. Legal basis for 'local lockdowns'

In September (when local lockdowns were first introduced), the applicable coronavirus regulations in Wales were The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No.2) (Wales) Regulations 2020 (the "Principal Regulations"). These have subsequently been revoked and superseded.

Local lockdowns were introduced in Wales by amending the Principal Regulation via The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 2) (Wales) (Amendment) (No. 8) (Caerphilly) Regulations 2020 (the "Caerphilly Regulations").

Additional local authority areas were subsequently placed in local lockdown by amendments 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18 to the Principal Regulations (together with the Caerphilly Regulations, the "Amending Regulations")

3. Senedd Procedure

The Amending Regulations were made by the Welsh Ministers under the 'Emergency Procedure' in Section 45R of the *Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984*.

In respect of Wales, an instrument may be made under this procedure without a draft of the regulation having been laid and approved by a resolution of the Senedd if it contains a declaration that the person making it is "of the opinion that, by reason of urgency, it is necessary" to do so. All Amending Regulations contained such a declaration.

However, unless a regulation made under the Emergency Procedure is approved by a resolution of the Senedd (i.e. voted upon and affirmed) within 28 days of being made, it ceases to have effect.

All Amending Regulations were in force before being approved by a resolution of the Senedd.

However, all Amending Regulations were retrospectively affirmed by the Senedd under the Affirmative Resolution Procedure in the Senedd Standing Orders. As the regulations were in force before being affirmed, this is sometimes referred to as the 'made affirmative' procedure, although this term is not contained in the Standing Orders.

In practice, this means that all Amending Regulations were reported upon by the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, debated in Plenary and affirmed by a vote in the Senedd.

4. Brady Amendment

In March, the UK Parliament passed the Coronavirus Act 2020 containing emergency powers to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

On 30 September, as required by the Act, the House of Commons debated a motion on whether the temporary provisions in the Act should expire.

Sir Graham Brady MP, tabled an amendment (the “Brady Amendment”) to the motion which stated:

[...] as far as is reasonably practicable that in the exercise of their powers to tackle the pandemic [...] Parliament has an opportunity to debate and to vote upon any secondary legislation with effect in the whole of England or the whole United Kingdom before it comes into effect.

The Brady Amendment was not selected for debate by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1050
Ein cyf/Our ref FM -/01689/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Seneddpetitions@senedd.wales

11 December 2020

Dear Chair

I am responding to your letter of 19 October. Please accept my apologies for the delayed response.

The regulations, which implemented local lockdowns, were made using powers in the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984. All regulations must be voted on and approved by the Senedd and there are two scrutiny procedures, which can be followed:

- **The draft affirmative procedure** – the regulations are considered and voted on by the Senedd in draft and cannot be signed and come into effect until after a vote by Members to approve them. Procedural requirements mean the draft regulations must lay before the Senedd for 21 non-recess days before they can be debated.
- **The made affirmative procedure** – the regulations are made and can come into effect very quickly after they are signed. They must still be approved by the Senedd within 28 non-recess days, otherwise they will fall.

The urgency of the ongoing public health situation means it has been necessary to make regulations using the made affirmative procedure, so proportionate measures can be taken to quickly respond to the threat to human health from coronavirus.

The Welsh Government has however carefully considered the scheduling of debates on coronavirus regulations, which have followed the made affirmative procedure. We have endeavoured to balance a number of aspects:

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

- Ensuring Members have an opportunity to debate the regulations and vote whether or not to approve them as soon as possible after they have been put in place;
- Ensuring proper scrutiny of the regulations by allowing time for Members to consider the detail in the regulations and a report from the Senedd's Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee;
- The requirements of Senedd Standing Orders.

During the course of the pandemic, we have changed our approach and are scheduling debates earlier in the 28-day window. These are now normally held on the first date available while adhering to the requirements of Standing Orders.

We have also tried to mitigate timing challenges by providing other opportunities to debate restrictions *ahead* of regulations being made. For example, there was a debate in Plenary on the "firebreak" restrictions on 20 October, before the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 3) (Wales) Regulations 2020 were made on 21 October and came into force on 23 October. I also made an oral statement in Plenary on 3 November setting out the proposed post-firebreak regime and was questioned at length by Members. The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 4) (Wales) Regulations 2020 were subsequently finalised and made on 5 November before coming into force on 9 November.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARK DRAKEFORD

Agenda Item 2.2

P-05-1052 Give Nurses a pay rise in line with other frontline staff during COVID-19 pandemic

This petition was submitted by Ffion Rees having collected a total of 2,078 signatures.

Text of Petition:

The Welsh Government has announced it would be awarding doctors and dentists a 2.8% pay rise, stating that the pay rise 'reflects the commitment of the people who make sure our NHS is there for you'

Despite this, nursing staff, many of whom contracted the virus while working, were not included in the pay rise.

As a newly qualified mental health nurse, I am asking the Senedd to reconsider this decision and reflect the dedication of nursing staff by giving them the pay rise they deserve.

Additional Information:

Defence of nursing staff not being included in this pay rise is that we are receiving a 6.2% pay rise over 3 years, a pay rise that we would have received anyway and not in recognition of our hard work during these difficult times.

Two thirds of nurses who contracted Covid-19 are still experiencing the after effects of the virus while continuing to carry out their duty as a nurse (Nursing Times, 2020).

At the time of this petition, over 200 NHS staff, including nurses have died from coronavirus in the UK (The Guardian, 2020). This shows the ultimate sacrifice that nursing staff are willing to make to care for our patients, and yet they are not being given a pay rise along with their hard working colleagues.

In the last data analysis conducted by the UK Government in April 2020 of coronavirus infection rates, 16.2% of those infected were key workers who include nursing staff, accounting for nearly a fifth of confirmed cases (CEBM, 2020).

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Llanelli
- Mid and West Wales

P-05-1052 Give Nurses a pay rise in line with other frontline staff during COVID-19 pandemic

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 12 Ionawr 2021
Petitions Committee | 12 January 2021

Reference: RS20/14570

Introduction

Petition number: P-05-1052

Petition title: Give Nurses a pay rise in line with other frontline staff during COVID-19 pandemic.

Text of petition: The Welsh Government has announced it would be awarding doctors and dentists a 2.8% pay rise, stating that the pay rise 'reflects the commitment of the people who make sure our NHS is there for you'.

Despite this, nursing staff, many of whom contracted the virus while working, were not included in the pay rise.

As a newly qualified mental health nurse, I am asking the Senedd to reconsider this decision and reflect the dedication of nursing staff by giving them the pay rise they deserve.



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Two thirds of nurses who contracted Covid-19 are still experiencing the after effects of the virus while continuing to carry out their duty as a nurse (Nursing Times, 2020).

At the time of this petition, over 200 NHS staff, including nurses have died from coronavirus in the UK (The Guardian, 2020). This shows the ultimate sacrifice that nursing staff are willing to make to care for our patients, and yet they are not being given a pay rise along with their hard working colleagues.

In the last data analysis conducted by the UK Government in April 2020 of coronavirus infection rates, 16.2% of those infected were key workers who include nursing staff, accounting for nearly a fifth of confirmed cases (CEBM, 2020).

Background

Determination of NHS pay is devolved to the devolved administrations, although the NHS Pay Review Body (PRB) makes recommendations to the UK and devolved governments. In terms of increases in NHS pay and conditions during 2020, the position is as follows:

- In July 2020, all groups of doctors and dentists were awarded a 2.8% pay increase. This included consultants, doctors in training, specialty and associate specialist (SAS) doctors, salaried GPs and dentists. This was following on from the recommendations of the Doctors and Dentists Review Body, which the Welsh Government had accepted;
- In September 2020, Welsh Government confirmed that all staff working within GP practices would also receive a 2.8% pay uplift;
- 1 April 2020 began the third year of the NHS Wales three year pay deal for NHS nurses in Wales. The Welsh Government Minister for Health and Social Services has noted that pay award negotiations for nurses run on a separate cycle to doctors and a multi-year agreement has already been made with nurses. This was included in a 6.5% pay-

rise (over 3 years) in 2018 for all NHS Wales staff on Agenda for Change terms and conditions.

- NHS-employed staff were not eligible for the Welsh Government's £500 Social Care Special Workforce Payment.

Welsh Government response

In his letter to the Chair of the Petitions Committee, the Minister for Health and Social Services acknowledges the challenges and immense pressure facing the health workforce in Wales. The Minister's letter explains that:

The current three-year pay agreement sees some of the most important changes to working practices in a decade, which includes a range of pay and non-pay proposals that will benefit staff and patients. Most NHS staff below the top of their pay band will benefit from pay increases through the re-structuring of the pay bands – higher starting pay, removal of overlapping pay points and shorter pay scales. As the three-year deal comes to an end and we enter the pay rounds for April 2021 for all NHS staff, including Agenda for Change staff, we are committed to working with our NHS union and employer partners through the independent pay body review process to ensure the best possible reward package.

The Minister confirms that he has asked for the pay review round to be brought forward to report as soon as possible in 2021, but explains that the ultimate timing of the pay review bodies is set by UK Government. There needs to be UK Government support for the funding of any increased pay settlement for the NHS and all public sector workers to ensure they are rewarded fairly.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/08013/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

15 December 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 19 October regarding Petition No. P-05-1052: pay rise for NHS nurses.

I recognise and appreciate the challenges and immense pressure facing all of our dedicated health workforce in Wales, at all times but particularly during this unprecedented time.

In January 2020, I provided a remit letter for the two health-related independent from Government pay review bodies (the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration and the NHS Pay review body). The annual remit letters are part of the annual cycle for the pay review bodies to provide independent advice and recommendations on the appropriate level of a pay award for staff working in NHS Wales.

The pay award for Doctors and Dentists announced for 2020/21 was as part of the annual pay review body process round.

The NHS Pay Review Body were not asked to make any specific recommendations on pay due to an ongoing pay deal negotiated in partnership between NHS Employers and Trade Union representatives which was approved by the Welsh Government in 2018. The current three-year pay agreement sees some of the most important changes to working practices in a decade, which includes a range of pay and non-pay proposals that will benefit staff and patients. Most NHS staff below the top of their pay band will benefit from pay increases through the re-structuring of the pay bands – higher starting pay, removal of overlapping pay points and shorter pay scales.

As the three-year deal comes to an end and we enter the pay rounds for April 2021 for all NHS staff, including Agenda for Change staff, we are committed to working with our NHS union and employer partners through the independent pay body review process to ensure the best possible reward package. However, I have asked for the pay review round to be brought forward to report as soon as possible in 2021, but the ultimate timing of the pay review bodies is set by UK Government.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

There needs to be UK Government support for the funding of any increased pay settlement for the NHS and all public sector workers to ensure they are rewarded fairly.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in "Gething".

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Agenda Item 2.3

P-05-1075 Don't impose a 15 person limit on organised indoor activities, such as swimming lessons and fitness classes, after firebreak lockdown

This petition was submitted by Sean McCue having collected a total of 2,394 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Activity and sport is part of the solution to Covid. This country is losing the fight with obesity and increasing potential for wider mental health issues in the population and physical activity needs to be classed as an essential service

Limiting numbers causes sessions to be spread out across a normal timetable of venue availability and limits the number of sessions available to an individual

This also has a financial impact on Community Amateur Sports Clubs.

Additional Information:

Even though the Be Active Grants have been accessed, community amateur sports clubs are under severe financial pressures.

After limiting the indoor clubs to 30, reducing this further to 15 may force CASC to remain closed.

Our financial obligations have remained the same like venue costs, coaches salaries and insurances.

None of these have reduced so our costs per head have increased and will inevitably now at least double once again if this 15 persons limit on indoor sports goes ahead.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Vale of Clwyd
- North Wales



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1075
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/03168/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

9 December 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 November regarding petition P-05-1075.

Through the national rules, we are trying to balance the importance of sport and exercise to people's mental and physical wellbeing with the need to keep people safe and protect the NHS.

The current regulations for indoor sport and exercise reflect the Welsh Government's approach to limit the opportunities for people to come into close contact with large groups to reduce the rate of transmission.

Anyone can play sport or exercise in a group of up to 30 people outdoors or 15 people indoors, if this is part of an organised activity managed for example by a gym, a leisure centre or a sports club. Coaches and match officials would generally be regarded as participants so the limit of 30 or 15 should include them. However, anybody who is there to organise or support the activity, if they are working or providing a voluntary service, can also attend and do not need to be considered within the limit of 30 or 15. Children aged under 11 are also excluded from the maximum number in the gathering.

Simultaneous gatherings of groups and individuals are also allowed, both indoors and outdoors, where there is sufficient space to do so safely and independently.

Organisers and those responsible for the premises have a duty to take all reasonable measures to reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus, including ensuring the space allows for social distancing.

There is no limit on the number of children under the age of 18 who can participate in or facilitate an organised sport activity for the development or well-being of children. The activity must be arranged and supervised by a responsible body such as a sports club, a public body, a charity or a gym or leisure centre. The number of children aged under 18 who

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

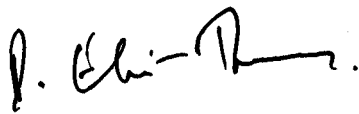
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

can legally participate is constrained only by the boundaries of the setting and the need for sufficient adults to be present to supervise.

We are fully aware of the challenges the sector faces, and in what has been a challenging year for sport we are working with governing bodies to assess what additional support may be required. Earlier in 2020 we announced a £14m Sport and Leisure Recovery Fund to help the sector deal with the pandemic, helping to prepare for a safe and responsible return

As ever, we continue to fully recognise the enormous efforts and sacrifices the Welsh public and businesses have made to keep Wales safe and to save lives. We have continued to take on board feedback from the public, and this is one of the reasons we decided not to include further restrictions on the sports and leisure sector when additional measures come into force on 4 December.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Elis-Thomas'.

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

Agenda Item 2.4

P-05-1087 Stop the mass isolation of healthy school children!

This petition was submitted by Victoria Codling having collected a total of 1,177 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Children isolating for 14 days is so detrimental to their mental and physical well being, it is disproportionate to the risk of their exposure to corona virus in the first place.

Some children are enduring their third period of isolation in as many months! Children with additional needs or from disadvantaged backgrounds are even more adversely affected.

Working (non isolating) parents are suffering with employers not always sympathetic in these tough economic times.

Additional Information:

Solutions:

Introduce instant corona virus testing for school children who have been potentially exposed to the virus. This is being rolled out in our care homes and airports, so why not in our schools?

To reduce the so called risk of a “false negative”, the test could be taken a few days after the potential exposure .

Any reduction in the 14 day isolation period will be a huge benefit to the children.

It should be noted that often the children isolating has never had contact with the infected child (often the case in secondary schools).

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Newport East
- South Wales East

Self-isolation of pupils coming into contact with a person testing positive for COVID-19

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 12 Ionawr 2021
Petitions Committee | 12 January 2021

Reference: RS21/14837-1

Petition Number: [P-05-1087](#)

Petition title: Stop the mass isolation of healthy school children!

Text of petition: Children isolating for 14 days is so detrimental to their mental and physical well being, it is disproportionate to the risk of their exposure to corona virus in the first place.

Some children are enduring their third period of isolation in as many months! Children with additional needs or from disadvantaged backgrounds are even more adversely affected.

Working (non isolating) parents are suffering with employers not always sympathetic in these tough economic times.

Additional information:

Solutions:

Introduce instant corona virus testing for school children who have been potentially exposed to the virus. This is being rolled out in our care homes and airports, so why not in our schools?

To reduce the so called risk of a "false negative", the test could be taken a few days after the potential exposure .

Any reduction in the 14 day isolation period will be a huge benefit to the children.



It should be noted that often the children isolating has never had contact with the infected child (often the case in secondary schools).

1. Summary

The current position, as of writing, is that schools in Wales are delivering **online learning until 18 January 2021** and are only open to children of key workers and vulnerable pupils. The Welsh Government is keeping under review arrangements following that date.

2. The role of ‘bubbles’ in schools and the purpose of pupils’ self-isolation

As the Minister’s letter outlines, the rationale behind the requirement for pupils to self-isolate, should someone in their ‘bubble’ test positive for COVID-19, is to prevent wider transmission of the virus in the community.

The concept of ‘bubbles’ has been developed with the aim of limiting disruption to learners from any positive COVID-19 cases in schools to as few pupils as possible. For primary school pupils and younger year groups in secondary schools, bubbles are more likely to be classes. For older secondary school pupils they are likely to involve whole year groups.

The Welsh Government has issued operational guidance to schools.

3. Developments since the Minister’s response to the petition

Since the Minister’s letter, which was dated 2 December 2020:

- The Welsh Government has **reduced the length of time** that people are required to self-isolate for, having come into close contact with a positive COVID-19 case, **from 14 days to 10 days** (announced 9 December 2020).

- The Minister for Education decided that secondary schools and colleges should cease face to face learning a week early before Christmas, on 11 December 2020, delivering online learning for the final week of the school term (announced 10 December 2020). Most primary schools also moved to online learning several days before the end of term.
- The Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) agreed a common approach for the return to school after Christmas, whereby schools would have flexibility in the first two weeks in how they deliver learning (announced 17 December 2020). The expectation was that schools would provide face to face learning for the majority of their pupils by 11 January 2021, leading to a full return in the days before 18 January 2021 at the latest.
- However, following further deterioration in transmission levels, case numbers and pressure on the NHS, the four UK Chief Medical Officers jointly recommended on 4 January 2021 that the UK Alert Level should move from Level 4 to Level 5.
- The Welsh Government announced on 4 January that **schools, colleges and independent schools should move to online learning until Monday 18 January 2021**. The Welsh Government said it would use this period to **continue to work with local authorities, schools and colleges to plan for the rest of term**. Schools will remain open for children of key workers and vulnerable pupils.
- On 4 January, the UK Government announced for England a move to online learning (other than for children of key workers and vulnerable pupils) until February half term. In Scotland, schools will only open to children of key workers and vulnerable pupils, with others learning online until 29 January 2021,

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Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1087
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/06794/20
Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

2 December 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your correspondence in relation to P-05-1087, which refers to the detrimental effects on children who are required to isolate for 14 days due to Covid-19.

Please let me assure you that I understand the disruption that has been caused to education during the ongoing pandemic. Local authorities and schools are required to work closely to agree and implement measures to make our learning environments COVID-19 secure.

We know that the risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from COVID-19 is very low. However, there remains some on-going uncertainty in transmissibility of the disease by children. Schools are therefore required to implement measures to reduce the risk of transmission, including the concept of 'bubbles', which are designed to ensure any disruption to learning is minimised to as small a group as possible. Our current guidance states any staff member or learner displaying symptoms of COVID-19 must stay at home and arrange a test. Should a learner test positive for coronavirus, the other learners within that bubble may be asked, as part of the Test, Trace and Protect procedure, to self-isolate for fourteen days to prevent wider transmission in the community.

The current medical and scientific advice confirms the self-isolation period is 14 days, this is because it can take up to 14 days for you to develop coronavirus symptoms after you catch the virus and in this time you can pass it on to others. Isolating will reduce the chance of the transmission of coronavirus in Wales and help prevent family, friends and the community from contracting coronavirus, as well as helping to protect the NHS in Wales.

We have been clear that the size of bubbles should be kept as small as possible and that social distancing, reducing the number of contacts and hand hygiene continue to be important measures in reducing transmission. However, every school is different and what works in one setting may not be appropriate in another. Schools should assess their

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

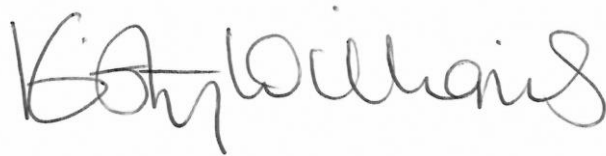
circumstances and if class-sized groups are not compatible with offering a full range of subjects or managing the practical logistics within and around school, they can look to implement a year group (or half-year group) sized contact groups. We are working with schools and local authorities to seek ways to implement the bubble approach as effectively as possible within the circumstances of each school setting. We have also provided schools with additional [resources](#) to help reduce disruption.

In response to the suggestions that are made within the correspondence regarding testing, I can confirm that we are currently working with HEIs across Wales on piloting the asymptomatic testing of students and staff using Lateral Flow Devices, and we are considering wider use for these devices across a range of areas including schools.

It is essential that, when it is safe to do so, we will keep schools open during the pandemic. That is why I am pleased that in the recent update to the testing priorities for Wales, education and childcare staff will be given priority in order to keep schools and settings open.

I appreciate this continues to be difficult time. We are continuously monitoring the situation closely and guidance will be kept current based on the latest medical and scientific advice available to us. Please be assured our overall aim is to keep learners in schools and learning safely and we do not want to disrupt their education unnecessarily whilst balancing the need to protect public health interests.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'.

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

Agenda Item 2.5

P-05-1080 Introduce anti-racist teaching materials to children in schools in Wales to reduce hate crimes

This petition was submitted by Fatima Altaiy having collected a total of 4,053 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Children need to be educated on how to be anti-racist. Although introducing POC and black history into the curriculum will be extremely beneficial, children need to have direct conversations about racism and how to be anti-racist. This will reduce bullying in schools and allow children to grow up in a multi-cultural environment, regardless of whether that have been surrounded by other cultures or not. This way, children will understand other cultures, and defeat stereotypes and discrimination.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff Central
- South Wales Central

Introduce anti-racist teaching materials to children in schools in Wales to reduce hate crimes

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 12 Ionawr 2021
Petitions Committee | 12 January 2021

Reference: RS20/14837

Petition Number: P-05-1080

Petition title: Introduce anti-racist teaching materials to children in schools in Wales to reduce hate crimes

Text of petition: Children need to be educated on how to be anti-racist. Although introducing POC and black history into the curriculum will be extremely beneficial, children need to have direct conversations about racism and how to be anti-racist. This will reduce bullying in schools and allow children to grow up in a multi-cultural environment, regardless of whether that have been surrounded by other cultures or not. This way, children will understand other cultures, and defeat stereotypes and discrimination



1. New curriculum

Subject to the Senedd passing legislation, the new age 3-16 Curriculum for Wales will be introduced in all maintained schools and publicly funded nursery settings from September 2022 on a phased basis. The [Curriculum and Assessment \(Wales\) Bill](#) was introduced to the Senedd on 6 July 2020. The Bill sets out the four purposes of the curriculum:

- To enable pupils and children to develop as ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives;
- To enable pupils and children to develop as enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work;
- To enable pupils and children to develop as ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world;
- To enable pupils and children to develop as healthy, confident individuals, ready to live fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

The Welsh Government has emphasised that the new Curriculum for Wales will be **purpose-driven rather than content-driven**. Specific learning content is not stipulated in the same way as under the current national curriculum.

The Bill sets out six Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs) for the new curriculum and the mandatory elements within them. The AoLEs are:

- Expressive Arts
- Health and Well-being
- Humanities
- Languages, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Science and Technology.

The mandatory elements within the AoLEs will be English; Relationships and Sexuality Education; Religion, Values and Ethics and Welsh.

The Bill provides for a 'What Matters Code' to set out key concepts of learning and experience in each AoLE and that schools' curricula must encompass each of these concepts. The Welsh Government has published 'Statements of What Matters' in the [Curriculum for Wales documentation](#). This is intended to provide the 'national approach' which the [Minister for Education says](#) will ensure consistency for learners.

The Welsh Government's [Guidance to help schools and settings develop their own curriculum](#) (part of the statutory guidance) contains some specific guidance for teachers in designing history in their curriculum. This states that school curriculum design should (amongst other things):

- develop a rich context for exploring the concepts of governance, economy, power, leadership, diversity; culture, ethnicity, equality and inequality, justice, rights, conquest, social, political and economic ideologies, social organisation and structures, trade, agriculture and industry, power and protest, peace, conflict and cooperation, revolution, devolution and empire.

2. Welsh Government action

2.1. Communities, Contributions and Cynefin: BAME Experiences and the New Curriculum Working Group

On [21 July 2020](#), [Kirsty Williams, the Minister for Education](#) announced that Professor Charlotte Williams OBE, would chair a Communities, Contributions and Cynefin: BAME Experiences and the New Curriculum Working Group. The group will review existing resources available to teachers and good practice, and professional learning related to Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities. The [interim report](#) was published on 19 November 2020. The final report is due to be published in early spring. The report said

without a full list of prescribed topics in the new Curriculum for Wales and the autonomy of schools in designing their own curricula within a national framework, there is a risk these themes continue to be ignored or marginalised. While learning about diversity, identity and belonging, justice and equality, rights and social action will be mandatory in schools' curricula, there is no statutory requirement to teach specific topics of central understanding to the histories of racism and diversity, for example, the histories of slavery or the Holocaust. This is of concern.

The report looks at how these themes can be achieved without the content-specific prescription that the Curriculum for Wales does not allow. The report included a recommendation for:

The development of a new suite of bilingual teaching and professional development resources that provide a detailed exploration of diversity in

Wales in the past and present. These background papers, servicing all AoLE, should include: [...]

- a narrative guide to the history of racism and anti-racism in Wales.

2.2. Bullying

In November 2019, the Welsh Government published a new suite of guidance on preventing and tackling bullying. It provides guidance and information on school's anti-bullying strategies and information of the various types of bullying, including that related to prejudice. There is separate guidance for local authorities, schools and children, young people and parents and carers. The guidance states:

One-off lessons or short 'blitz'-type activities are less likely to succeed than work embedded in the curriculum that progressively addresses relationships, positive behaviour and resilience.

It states that there will be opportunities across all six AoLEs in the new curriculum to embed positive behaviour and respect.

3. Show Racism the Red Card

In May 2020, Show Racism the Red Card published a report, Racism in Wales? that highlights key findings of racism within the Welsh education system. Findings included:

- Racism is widespread across Wales' school system and is likely being greatly underestimated by teachers and learning support staff.;
- Racism occurs across different age groups but is perceived to be more widespread at secondary school level;
- 62 per cent of respondents said that anti-racism education is taught at their school;
- 89 per cent of respondents believed that anti-racism education should be embedded in the curriculum. The percentage of respondents who say their school is teaching anti-racism has dipped slightly since 2016 when 66.6% of respondents said anti-racism education was taught in their school.

- Lack of time in the classroom was identified as the biggest challenge in educating pupils about racism. The second biggest challenge is teachers' confidence in the subject.

Show Racism the Red Card recommended that all educators must be made aware of where they can access anti-racism resources.

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Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1080
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/06768/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

18 December 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter dated 27 November relating to Petition P-05-1080 Introduce anti-racist teaching materials to children in schools in Wales to reduce hate crimes.

We are fully committed for learning to be more inclusive and to draw on the experiences, perspectives and cultural heritage of contemporary Wales. As you are aware from 2022, there will be a new [Curriculum for Wales](#), full rollout of which will commence in September 2022.

One of the four purposes at the heart of the new curriculum is that learners should develop as ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world, who **'are knowledgeable about their culture, community, society and the world now and in the past'**, and **'respect the needs and rights of others, as a member of a diverse society'**.

The four purposes are a part of the statutory framework for the Curriculum for Wales. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify that the new curriculum will contain mandatory elements including the statements of What Matters for each Area of Learning and Experience. Every school's curriculum will be required to include learning in each of the statements of what matters. There are 27 statements of what matters in the Framework which are mandatory for schools to teach. These ensure a level of consistency in curriculum design across settings and schools, as within the Bill it is proposed that schools must include learning around all statements in their curriculum. There are statements [of what matters](#) which are explicitly linked to diversity.

These statements will be non-negotiable elements of every school's curriculum, for every learner at every stage. It will simply not be possible to ignore the central and critical role diversity in a school's curriculum. A school or setting's curriculum must therefore encompass this. If it does not, the school or setting will not be fulfilling its duties.

The Curriculum for Wales guidance and Framework published in January 2020 is clear about the importance of school curricula in general reflecting our cultural heritage and

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diversity, our languages and the values, histories and traditions of our communities and all our people.

The Curriculum for Wales Framework is determined nationally and includes both the curriculum requirements, which will be set out in legislation, and a range of supporting guidance. The Framework gives every school in Wales the opportunity to design their own curriculum within a national approach that ensures a level of consistency.

It encourages schools to build their own vision for their learners within the context of the four purposes and the learning defined at a national level. It provides the space for practitioners to be creative and to develop meaningful learning through a range of experiences and contexts that meet the needs of their learners.

[‘Designing Your Curriculum’](#) guidance has been published to support schools in implementing the Curriculum for Wales framework. A defining feature of the Framework is that it requires schools to design their own curriculum and assessment arrangements. Our new approach recognises:

- within the national framework, schools and practitioners are best placed to make decisions about the needs of their specific learners, including choosing topics and activities which will best support their learning;
- The **importance** of meaningful learning. A content-focused curriculum does not guarantee meaningful learning, only that certain topics are covered to varying extents; instead, the Curriculum for Wales guidance articulates what concepts and essence of learning should underpin a range of different topics, learning activities and acquisition of knowledge;
- The **need** for innovation and creativity. Practitioners select content, enabling them to use their professional skills to drive improved learning and outcomes for their learners; and
- The **scope** for practitioners to make greater links between Areas and disciplines. Practitioners will have the licence to use topics and activities to combine meaningful learning from different Areas, disciplines and concepts.

It is for these reasons that the Framework does not try to prescribe a full list of specific topics or activities. That is not to say that the specific topics or activities are unimportant. Instead, the Curriculum for Wales’s guidance sets out the essence of learning which should underpin them. It is for schools and practitioners, drawing on guidance and resources, to decide what specific experiences, knowledge and skills will support their specific learners to realise the four purposes.

Learning about human rights, equity, and diversity are cross-cutting themes which should be embedded within learning across the curriculum. The guidance on cross-cutting themes for the curriculum explains how schools and practitioners should have a methodology for designing a curriculum which incorporates, where appropriate, opportunities which allow learners to consider local, national and international contexts and to develop understanding of relationships and sexuality education, human rights education and diversity, and careers and work-related experiences.

Teachers will have the freedom to teach the many and diverse histories of Wales and the wider world and exploring the stories of the people and communities of Wales should not simply be limited to history lessons. The Curriculum for Wales encourages learners to explore themes across the curriculum; the diverse histories of the people of Wales can be taught not only in areas such as Humanities; Languages, Literacy and Communication, but also Science and Technology.

As you are aware Professor Charlotte Williams OBE was appointed to chair a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities Contributions and Cynefin in the New Curriculum Working Group in the summer. The work of the Group includes, but goes beyond, black history to consider a range of minority ethnicities as part of the story of Wales, and membership comprises experienced practitioners and contributors on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities and Welsh history.

The Group's work is being carried out in phases, which has allowed it to start feeding into teaching for this academic year. In the first phase of the project, the Working Group looked at teaching resources. They have undertaken a review of the resources currently available to support the teaching of themes relating to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities and Cynefin across all parts of the curriculum, which culminated in an [interim report](#) which was published on 19 November. That report identifies initial recommendations, while the final report, due to be published in spring, will address wider issues including professional learning needs.

We've committed to engaging closely with Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities to ensure that we co-produce materials for the new Curriculum of Wales, and in developing the Welsh Government Race Equality Action Plan. Both are part of our work to prioritise the wide-scale cultural, economic, educational and social change required to create an equal and anti-racist Wales.

In the current curriculum in Wales for learners, there are opportunities to study diversity and diverse history, and there are resources on Hwb on subjects including Racism, Slavery and Wales, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Windrush Generation. Also in support of our 'zero tolerance' approach to racism, we have worked with Show Racism the Red Card over a number of years to produce tools and offer training to assist schools in identifying and tackling racism. This includes the development of tools, training and awareness raising conferences for education professionals, and the production of a series of anti-racism factsheets published on Hwb.

The shared expectations set out in *Curriculum for Wales: the journey to 2022*, published in October, reflect that schools will be in different places in designing their curriculum. It aims to guide schools' work regardless of where they are in their journey. It allows schools to move at a pace appropriate to them, allowing them to respond to the challenges of COVID-19 while also supporting them to prepare longer term for reform.

To help make sure schools are ready for the new curriculum, we will publish an implementation plan detailing the support schools can expect from Government and the wider education system in the run-up to curriculum roll-out in September 2022.

As part of the implementation plan, we'll set out our plans for a **national network** to support implementation. This will bring together teachers, experts and other stakeholders, in order to:

- Use co-construction to problem-solve and tackle barriers to implementation;
- Share understanding and expertise across the profession;
- Gather intelligence and bring together views to understand progress; identify issues and inform support; and
- Broker relationships between practitioners and wider stakeholders.

Our approach to resources for the new curriculum is set out in Our national mission is our strategy to improve the school system and an update was published in October which is available at:

<https://gov.wales/our-national-mission-0>

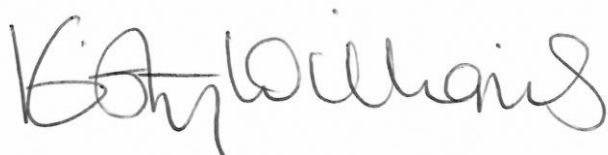
I am confident that the resources, support and guidance being developed to support the new curriculum will empower schools to deliver meaningful learning about Wales and its diverse communities in every area of learning and experience across the curriculum.

Part of the role of the national network will also be to identify gaps in resources for all parts of the new curriculum and to support schools in delivering the new curriculum. We will also need to work closely with a range of organisations who will be critical to ensure ensuring that suitable resources are made available

However, we recognise that access to good quality learning resources will not necessarily be enough by themselves, and that teachers will need to be provided with relevant professional learning and development.

I recognise that we need to continue to support teachers with their professional learning, to help them move forward with identifying resources, topics and connections. In order to allow time and space for practitioners to work together across schools to prepare for the new curriculum, we have heavily invested in professional learning, with £31 million awarded directly to schools. We will continue to build upon these strong professional learning foundations as we move closer towards 2022.

Yours sincerely



Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

Agenda Item 2.6

P-05-1084 Teach Welsh children about Wales' colonisation of Patagonia

This petition was submitted by Jessica Dyer having collected a total of 103 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Wales' colonisation of Patagonia must be introduced into the curriculum. It is taught to be a beautiful unity of two countries worlds apart when in reality it erases civil rights history. It was always taught as a means to keep the Welsh language alive by introducing it to a South American country, when in reality Welsh people were introduced to Patagonia to "civilise" communities which derives from racist ideologies which don't get taught in school.

Additional Information:

Resources:

Welsh in Patagonia, Lucy Taylor

The Welsh in Patagonia, Jeremy Wood

The Welsh Way of Colonisation in Patagonia: The International Politics of Moral Superiority, Lucy Taylor

Patagonia, an Example of Welsh 'Colonialism', Darren Devine

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
- Mid and West Wales

Teach Welsh children about Wales' colonisation of Patagonia

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 12 Ionawr 2021
Petitions Committee | 12 January 2021

Reference: RS20/14837

Petition Number: P-05-1084

Petition title: Teach Welsh children about Wales' colonisation of Patagonia

Text of petition: Wales' colonisation of Patagonia must be introduced into the curriculum. It is taught to be a beautiful unity of two countries worlds apart when in reality it erases civil rights history. It was always taught as a means to keep the Welsh language alive by introducing it to a South American country, when in reality Welsh people were introduced to Patagonia to "civilise" communities which derives from racist ideologies which don't get taught in school.



1. New curriculum

Subject to the Senedd passing legislation, the new age 3-16 Curriculum for Wales will be introduced in all maintained schools and publicly funded nursery settings from September 2022 on a phased basis. The [Curriculum and Assessment \(Wales\) Bill](#) was introduced to the Senedd on 6 July 2020. The Bill sets out the four purposes of the curriculum:

- To enable pupils and children to develop as ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives;
- To enable pupils and children to develop as enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work;
- To enable pupils and children to develop as ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world;
- To enable pupils and children to develop as healthy, confident individuals, ready to live fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

The Welsh Government has emphasised that the new Curriculum for Wales will be **purpose-driven rather than content-driven**. Specific learning content is not stipulated in the same way as under the current national curriculum.

The Bill sets out six Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs) for the new curriculum and the mandatory elements within them. The AoLEs are:

- Expressive Arts
- Health and Well-being
- Humanities
- Languages, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Science and Technology.

The mandatory elements within the AoLEs will be English; Relationships and Sexuality Education; Religion, Values and Ethics and Welsh.

History will be taught within the [Humanities AoLE](#). The Humanities AoLE also encompasses geography, religious education, business studies and social studies. The new curriculum is non-prescriptive and does not include a list of topics that all schools must teach.

The Bill provides for a 'What Matters Code' to set out key concepts of learning and experience in each AoLE (including Humanities) and that schools' curricula must

encompass each of these concepts. The Welsh Government has published 'Statements of What Matters' in the [Curriculum for Wales documentation](#). This is intended to provide the 'national approach' which the [Minister for Education says](#) will ensure consistency for learners.

The [provisional statutory guidance on the Humanities AoLE](#), was published in January 2020.

The Welsh Government's [Guidance to help schools and settings develop their own curriculum](#) (part of the statutory guidance) contains some specific guidance for teachers in designing history in their curriculum. This states that school curriculum design should (amongst other things):

- develop a rich context for exploring the concepts of governance, economy, power, leadership, diversity; culture, ethnicity, equality and inequality, justice, rights, conquest, social, political and economic ideologies, social organisation and structures, trade, agriculture and industry, power and protest, peace, conflict and cooperation, revolution, devolution and empire

2. Welsh Government action

In July 2020 the First Minister appointed a Task and Finish Group to audit public monuments, street and building names in Wales associated with the slave trade and the British Empire and also touching on the historical contributions to Welsh life of people of Black heritage. The objective of the audit was to collect and review the evidence, after which the Group were to identify issues for a possible second stage. The Task and Finish Group comprised independent members led by Gaynor Legall and supported by a project officer and officials in Cadw.

The report, [the Slave Trade and the British Empire](#), published in November 2020 identified 209 monuments, buildings or street names, located in all parts of Wales, which commemorate people who were directly involved with the slavery and the slave trade or opposed its abolition.. The document states that it seeks to capture information, not provide a set of answers.

The First Minister said in a [Written Statement](#) on the publication of the audit:

this is the first stage of a much bigger piece of work, which must now, collectively, consider how we move forward with this information as we seek to honour and celebrate our diverse communities. I will not pre-empt any recommendations that may come from this wider work but

this audit must be the start of an open conversation with our communities.

3. Patagonia

In 1865, a first wave of settlers sailed to Patagonia. Led by the Reverend Michael D Jones they had set out to create a new colony where the Welsh culture, language, and Protestant nonconformist religion could be preserved free from English influence. The Reverend Jones, a nonconformist minister, chose a remote location because he believed that Welsh people who emigrated to English-speaking parts of the world, like the US, were too easily assimilated and lost their customs, language and religion.

A number of recent articles have suggested that despite the friendship between the Welsh settlers and the indigenous people, the impact of the Welsh colony was not entirely benign:

- [The Welsh Way of Colonisation in Patagonia: The International Politics of Moral Superiority \(tandfonline.com\)](#)
- [Not that kind of settlement - Institute of Welsh Affairs](#)

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Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1084
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/06770/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair of the Petitions Committee.
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

15 December 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 27 November relating to Petition P-05-1084 Teach Welsh children about Wales' colonisation of Patagonia.

One of the four purposes in our new curriculum in Wales from 2022 is for all children and young people to develop as ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world, who are knowledgeable about their culture, community, society and the world now and in the past, and also respect the needs and rights of others as a member of a diverse society.

These four purposes, are a part of the statutory framework for the Curriculum for Wales. The Curriculum for Wales framework includes mandatory elements, including statements of What Matters for each Area of Learning and Experiences (AoLE).

One of the statements of What Matters for Humanities, is "Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs". Learners will explore how places, communities and societies evolve over time, experiencing continuity and change that has affected, and continues to affect, their own and other people's lives. This will help learners build an understanding of the causes, consequences and significance of the changes and interrelationships that have shaped societies at different levels of development.

Another statement of What Matters for Humanities is "informed, self-aware citizens engage with the challenges and opportunities that face humanity, and are able to take considered and ethical action". This aspect of the Area encourages learners to explore concepts including citizenship, authority and governance, interconnectedness, justice and equality, enterprise, rights and social action and responsibility.

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The first iteration of the Curriculum for Wales guidance and Framework published in January 2020 is clear about the importance of school curricula in general reflecting our cultural heritage and diversity, our languages and the values, histories and traditions of our communities and all our people. Full rollout of the new curriculum will commence in September 2022.

The Curriculum for Wales Framework is determined nationally and includes both the curriculum requirements, which will be set out in legislation, and a range of supporting guidance. The Framework gives every school in Wales the opportunity to design their own curriculum within a national approach that ensures a level of consistency.

It encourages schools to build their own vision for their learners within the context of the four purposes and the learning defined at a national level. It provides the space for practitioners to be creative and to develop meaningful learning through a range of experiences and contexts that meet the needs of their learners.

It is for schools and practitioners, drawing on guidance and resources, to decide what specific experiences, knowledge and skills will support their specific learners to realise the four purposes.

The new curriculum **will** contain mandatory elements including the statements of What Matters for each Area of Learning and Experience. Every school's curriculum will be **required** to include learning in each of the statements of what matters.

Within the Humanities Area, this must include:

- cultivating a sense of 'Cynefin', a place and sense of belonging;
- an appreciation of identity and heritage;
- a consistent exposure to the story of their locality and the story of Wales, developing an understanding of the complex, pluralistic and diverse nature of societies, past and present; and
- engagement with the past, contemporary and anticipated challenges and opportunities facing them, their communities and Wales.

These will be non-negotiable elements of every school's curriculum, for every learner at every stage. It will simply not be possible to ignore the central and critical role of all histories – our local and national history – in a school's curriculum. A school or setting's curriculum must therefore encompass this. If it does not, the school or setting will not be fulfilling its duties.

Schools will be supported, to engage with heritage professionals, museums and galleries, as well as community and cultural leaders when designing their curriculum, in order to enrich the learning and experiences for all learners. Within the parameters set out in the guidance, teachers will have the flexibility to tailor the content of lessons to allow learners to explore their Cynefin. We believe that this is the best way for them to understand how their local identities, landscapes and histories connect with those on the national and international stage.

Teachers will have the freedom to teach the many and diverse histories of Wales and the wider world and exploring the stories of the people and communities of Wales should not simply be limited to history lessons. The Curriculum for Wales encourages learners to explore themes across the curriculum; the diverse histories of the people of Wales can be

taught not only in areas such as Humanities; Languages, Literacy and Communication, but also Science and Technology.

Learning about human rights, equity, and diversity are cross-cutting themes which should be embedded within learning across the curriculum. The guidance on cross-cutting themes for the curriculum explains how schools and practitioners should have a methodology for designing a curriculum which incorporates, where appropriate, opportunities which allow learners to consider local, national and international contexts and to develop understanding of relationships and sexuality education, human rights education and diversity, and careers and work-related experiences.

As you are aware Professor Charlotte Williams OBE, was appointed to chair a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities (BAME), Contributions and Cynefin in the New Curriculum Working Group in the summer. The work of the Group includes, but goes beyond, black history to consider a range of minority ethnicities as part of the story of Wales, and membership comprises experienced practitioners and contributors to BAME and Welsh history.

The Group's work is being carried out in phases, which has allowed it to start feeding into teaching for this academic year. In the first phase of the project, the Working Group looked at teaching resources. They have undertaken a review of the resources currently available to support the teaching of themes relating to BAME communities and Cynefin across all parts of the curriculum, which culminated in an [interim report](#) which was published on 19 November.

The shared expectations set out in *Curriculum for Wales: the journey to 2022*, published in October, reflect that schools will be in different places in designing their curriculum. It aims to guide schools' work regardless of where they are in their journey. It allows schools to move at a pace appropriate to them, allowing them to respond to the challenges of COVID-19 while also supporting them to prepare longer term for reform.

To help make sure schools are ready for the new curriculum, we will publish an implementation plan detailing the support schools can expect from Government and the wider education system in the run-up to curriculum roll-out in September 2022.

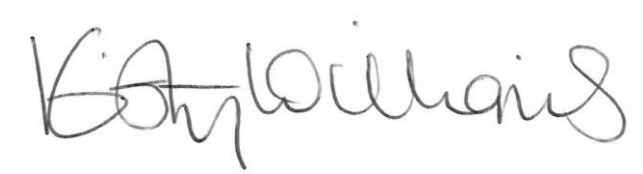
As part of the implementation plan, we'll set out our plans for a **national network** to support implementation. This will bring together teachers, experts and other stakeholders, in order to:

- Use co-construction to problem-solve and tackle barriers to implementation;
- Share understanding and expertise across the profession;
- Gather intelligence and bring together views to understand progress; identify issues and inform support; and
- Broker relationships between practitioners and wider stakeholders.

The resources, support and guidance being developed to support the new curriculum will empower schools to deliver meaningful learning about the histories of Wales and its diverse communities in every area of learning and experience across the curriculum. Part of the role of the national network will also be to identify gaps in resources not only for BAME contributions and experiences and the Histories of Wales, but all parts of the new curriculum and to support schools in delivering the new curriculum. We will also create further resources, which will refer to key events and topics in the histories of Wales and the world. These resources will enable teachers to develop their own curricula.

Estyn will also report to Welsh Government on their review of the teaching of Welsh history and diversity in schools next year. Its findings will help us to commission further resources, which will refer to key events and topics in the histories of Wales and the world to ensure that teachers have the support they need to deliver the new curriculum successfully.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

Kirsty Williams AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Addysg

Minister for Education

Agenda Item 2.7

P-05-1098 Make Wales' role in British colonial history a compulsory school subject

This petition was submitted by Anthony Cusack having collected a total of 50 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Currently the debate around race is very much in the forefront of everybody's mind. As majority white population this it is a fortunate position that we can choose when we think about race. For many in the BAME community this is not a choice but a daily truth. Wales and Welsh people played an active role in British Colonial history. With figures such as Thomas Picton later celebrated with statues.

Additional Information:

This area history is wrought with complexities and many uncomfortable truths that we as a population must address and scrutinise. For many the existence of racism and racial discrimination in society is seen as an issue in other countries but not here. I believe this is strongly linked to a lack of teaching on the colonial history of this country.

There is a similar petition gathering signatures for the UK government to address. I believe we should also address this here as a devolved issue.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

Make Wales' role in British colonial history a compulsory school subject

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 12 Ionawr 2021
Petitions Committee | 12 January 2021

Reference: RS20/14837

Petition Number: P-05-1098

Petition title: Make Wales' role in British colonial history a compulsory school subject

Text of petition: Currently the debate around race is very much in the forefront of everybody's mind. As majority white population this it is a fortunate position that we can choose when we think about race. For many in the BAME community this is not a choice but a daily truth. Wales and Welsh people played an active role in British Colonial history. With figures such as Thomas Picton later celebrated with statues.

This area history is wrought with complexities and many uncomfortable truths that we as a population must address and scrutinise. For many the existence of racism and racial discrimination in society is seen as an issue in other countries but not here. I believe this is strongly linked to a lack of teaching on the colonial history of this country.

There is a similar petition gathering signatures for the UK government to address. I believe we should also address this here as a devolved issue.



1. New curriculum

Subject to the Senedd passing legislation, the new age 3-16 Curriculum for Wales will be introduced in all maintained schools and publicly funded nursery settings from September 2022 on a phased basis. The [Curriculum and Assessment \(Wales\) Bill](#) was introduced to the Senedd on 6 July 2020. The Bill sets out the four purposes of the curriculum:

- To enable pupils and children to develop as ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives;
- To enable pupils and children to develop as enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work;
- To enable pupils and children to develop as ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world;
- To enable pupils and children to develop as healthy, confident individuals, ready to live fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

The Welsh Government has emphasised that the new Curriculum for Wales will be **purpose-driven rather than content-driven**. Specific learning content is not stipulated in the same way as under the current national curriculum.

The Bill sets out six Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs) for the new curriculum and the mandatory elements within them. The AoLEs are:

- Expressive Arts
- Health and Well-being
- Humanities
- Languages, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Science and Technology.

The mandatory elements within the AoLEs will be English; Relationships and Sexuality Education; Religion, Values and Ethics and Welsh.

History will be taught within the [Humanities AoLE](#). The Humanities AoLE also encompasses geography, religious education, business studies and social studies. The new curriculum is non-prescriptive and does not include a list of topics that all schools must teach.

The Bill provides for a 'What Matters Code' to set out key concepts of learning and experience in each AoLE (including Humanities) and that schools' curricula must

encompass each of these concepts. The Welsh Government has published 'Statements of What Matters' in the [Curriculum for Wales documentation](#). This is intended to provide the 'national approach' which the [Minister for Education says](#) will ensure consistency for learners.

The [provisional statutory guidance on the Humanities AoLE](#), was published in January 2020.

The Welsh Government's [Guidance to help schools and settings develop their own curriculum](#) (part of the statutory guidance) contains some specific guidance for teachers in designing history in their curriculum. This states that school curriculum design should (amongst other things):

- develop a rich context for exploring the concepts of governance, economy, power, leadership, diversity; culture, ethnicity, equality and inequality, justice, rights, conquest, social, political and economic ideologies, social organisation and structures, trade, agriculture and industry, power and protest, peace, conflict and cooperation, revolution, devolution and empire

2. Welsh Government action

In July 2020 the First Minister appointed a Task and Finish Group to audit public monuments, street and building names in Wales associated with the slave trade and the British Empire and also touching on the historical contributions to Welsh life of people of Black heritage. The objective of the audit was to collect and review the evidence, after which the Group were to identify issues for a possible second stage. The Task and Finish Group comprised independent members led by Gaynor Legall and supported by a project officer and officials in Cadw.

The report, [the Slave Trade and the British Empire](#), published in November 2020 identified 209 monuments, buildings or street names, located in all parts of Wales, which commemorate people who were directly involved with the slavery and the slave trade or opposed its abolition.. The document states that it seeks to capture information, not provide a set of answers.

The First Minister said in a [Written Statement](#) on the publication of the audit:

this is the first stage of a much bigger piece of work, which must now, collectively, consider how we move forward with this information as we seek to honour and celebrate our diverse communities. I will not pre-empt any recommendations that may come from this wider work but

this audit must be the start of an open conversation with our communities.

On 21 July 2020, Kirsty Williams, the Minister for Education announced that Professor Charlotte Williams OBE, would chair a Communities, Contributions and Cynefin: BAME Experiences and the New Curriculum Working Group. The group will review existing resources available to teachers and good practice, and professional learning related to Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities. The interim report was published on 19 November 2020. The final report is due to be published in early spring. The report said in relation to colonialism:

It is clear from the initial review of resources that there is a need to change the narrative around the teaching of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic themes. Existing resources are disproportionately focused on slavery, colonialism and Empire. This needs to be balanced with resources focusing on the wider histories of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in Wales and on the contributions of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in contemporary society.

It also said:

It was felt that more could be done to monitor the resource content hosted on Hwb, which has resulted in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic resources that are out of date, of various quality, and not appropriately contextualised within the history and development of Wales. [...] There is nothing that offers an overall framework or chronology of the history and development of diversity and race in Wales, acknowledging Welsh migration history, industrial development and involvement in colonisation and imperialism.

One of the recommendations was:

The development of a new suite of bilingual teaching and professional development resources that provide a detailed exploration of diversity in Wales in the past and present. These background papers, servicing all AoLE, should include [...]

- a narrative guide to Wales' role in British colonialism;

3. Welsh Parliament Action

[The Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee](#) is currently undertaking an inquiry, Re-examining public realm commemoration, which is looking at the way historical figures are remembered in Wales' significant public spaces. The First Minister has said that he is keen to see the outcome of the inquiry work before the Welsh Government make any decisions about the next steps.

The Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee has previously undertaken an inquiry into the teaching of history. Its report, [Inquiry into the teaching of Welsh history, culture and heritage](#) [PDF1.2KB] was published in November 2019 and was debated in [Plenary on 15 January 2020](#). The Welsh Government published its [response](#) [PDF 235KB] on 8 January 2020

The Committee made a number of recommendations including that Estyn should undertake a thematic review of the teaching of history including an assessment how diversity is currently taught in schools. The Welsh Government accepted this and the Estyn review will be closely aligned with Professor Williams' work.

4. UK Parliament Petition

A similar petition, [Teach Britain's colonial past as part of the UK's compulsory curriculum](#) closed for signatures on 10 December 2020. The UK Government has responded:

The history curriculum at Key Stage 3 includes the statutory theme "ideas, political power, industry and empire: Britain 1745-1901". Topics within statutory themes are chosen by schools and teachers. Within the history curriculum there is already a statutory theme at Key Stage 3 titled "ideas, political power, industry and empire: Britain, 1745-1901", as such we do not believe there is a need to take this action as the option to teach this topic exists within this compulsory theme.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1098
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/06840/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair of Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

15 December 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 30 November relating to Petition P-05-1098 Make Wales' role in British colonial history a compulsory school subject.

It's important that learners in Wales are aware of the role Wales played in British colonial history including the sometimes uncomfortable truths about our past.

One of the four purposes in our new curriculum in Wales from 2022 is for all children and young people to develop as ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world, who are knowledgeable about their culture, community, society and the world now and in the past, and also respect the needs and rights of others as a member of a diverse society.

These four purposes, are a part of the statutory framework for the Curriculum for Wales. The Curriculum for Wales framework includes mandatory elements, including statements of What Matters for each Area of Learning and Experiences (AoLE).

One of the statements of What Matters for Humanities, is "Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs". Learners will explore how places, communities and societies evolve over time, experiencing continuity and change that has affected, and continues to affect, their own and other people's lives. This will help learners build an understanding of the causes, consequences and significance of the changes and interrelationships that have shaped societies at different levels of development.

Another statement of What Matters for Humanities is "informed, self-aware citizens engage with the challenges and opportunities that face humanity, and are able to take considered and ethical action". This aspect of the Area encourages learners to explore concepts including citizenship, authority and governance, interconnectedness, justice and equality, enterprise, rights and social action and responsibility.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The first iteration of the Curriculum for Wales guidance and Framework published in January 2020 is clear about the importance of school curricula in general reflecting our cultural heritage and diversity, our languages and the values, histories and traditions of our communities and all our people. Full rollout of the new curriculum will commence in September 2022.

The Curriculum for Wales Framework is determined nationally and includes both the curriculum requirements, which will be set out in legislation, and a range of supporting guidance. The Framework gives every school in Wales the opportunity to design their own curriculum within a national approach that ensures a level of consistency.

It encourages schools to build their own vision for their learners within the context of the four purposes and the learning defined at a national level. It provides the space for practitioners to be creative and to develop meaningful learning through a range of experiences and contexts that meet the needs of their learners.

It is for schools and practitioners, drawing on guidance and resources, to decide what specific experiences, knowledge and skills will support their specific learners to realise the four purposes.

The new curriculum **will** contain mandatory elements including the statements of What Matters for each Area of Learning and Experience. Every school's curriculum will be **required** to include learning in each of the statements of what matters.

Within the Humanities Area, this must include:

- cultivating a sense of 'Cynefin', a place and sense of belonging;
- an appreciation of identity and heritage;
- a consistent exposure to the story of their locality and the story of Wales, developing an understanding of the complex, pluralistic and diverse nature of societies, past and present; and
- engagement with the past, contemporary and anticipated challenges and opportunities facing them, their communities and Wales.

These will be non-negotiable elements of every school's curriculum, for every learner at every stage. It will simply not be possible to ignore the central and critical role of all histories – our local and national history – in a school's curriculum. A school or setting's curriculum must therefore encompass this. If it does not, the school or setting will not be fulfilling its duties.

Schools will be supported, to engage with heritage professionals, museums and galleries, as well as community and cultural leaders when designing their curriculum, in order to enrich the learning and experiences for all learners. Within the parameters set out in the guidance, teachers will have the flexibility to tailor the content of lessons to allow learners to explore their Cynefin. We believe that this is the best way for them to understand how their local identities, landscapes and histories connect with those on the national and international stage.

Teachers will have the freedom to teach the many and diverse histories of Wales and the wider world and exploring the stories of the people and communities of Wales should not simply be limited to history lessons. The Curriculum for Wales encourages learners to

explore themes across the curriculum; the diverse histories of the people of Wales can be taught not only in areas such as Humanities; Languages, Literacy and Communication, but also Science and Technology.

Learning about human rights, equity, and diversity are cross-cutting themes which should be embedded within learning across the curriculum. The guidance on cross-cutting themes for the curriculum explains how schools and practitioners should have a methodology for designing a curriculum which incorporates, where appropriate, opportunities which allow learners to consider local, national and international contexts and to develop understanding of relationships and sexuality education, human rights education and diversity, and careers and work-related experiences.

As you are aware Professor Charlotte Williams OBE, was appointed to chair a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities (BAME), Contributions and Cynefin in the New Curriculum Working Group in the summer. The work of the Group includes, but goes beyond, black history to consider a range of minority ethnicities as part of the story of Wales, and membership comprises experienced practitioners and contributors to BAME and Welsh history.

The Group's work is being carried out in phases, which has allowed it to start feeding into teaching for this academic year. In the first phase of the project, the Working Group looked at teaching resources. They have undertaken a review of the resources currently available to support the teaching of themes relating to BAME communities and Cynefin across all parts of the curriculum, which culminated in an [interim report](#) which was published on 19 November.

The shared expectations set out in *Curriculum for Wales: the journey to 2022*, published in October, reflect that schools will be in different places in designing their curriculum. It aims to guide schools' work regardless of where they are in their journey. It allows schools to move at a pace appropriate to them, allowing them to respond to the challenges of COVID-19 while also supporting them to prepare longer term for reform.

To help make sure schools are ready for the new curriculum, we will publish an implementation plan detailing the support schools can expect from Government and the wider education system in the run-up to curriculum roll-out in September 2022.

As part of the implementation plan, we'll set out our plans for a **national network** to support implementation. This will bring together teachers, experts and other stakeholders, in order to:

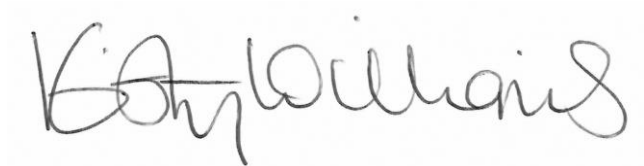
- Use co-construction to problem-solve and tackle barriers to implementation;
- Share understanding and expertise across the profession;
- Gather intelligence and bring together views to understand progress; identify issues and inform support; and
- Broker relationships between practitioners and wider stakeholders.

The resources, support and guidance being developed to support the new curriculum will empower schools to deliver meaningful learning about the histories of Wales and its diverse communities in every area of learning and experience across the curriculum. Part of the role of the national network will also be to identify gaps in resources not only for BAME contributions and experiences and the Histories of Wales, but all parts of the new curriculum and to support schools in delivering the new curriculum. We will also create further

resources, which will refer to key events and topics in the histories of Wales and the world. These resources will enable teachers to develop their own curricula.

Estyn will also report to Welsh Government on their review of the teaching of Welsh history and diversity in schools next year. Its findings will help us to commission further resources, which will refer to key events and topics in the histories of Wales and the world to ensure that teachers have the support they need to deliver the new curriculum successfully.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kirsty Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

Agenda Item 2.8

P-05-1086 Create a National Museum for Welsh Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic History and Heritage

This petition was submitted by Yasmin Begum having collected a total of 490 signatures.

Text of Petition:

We, the undersigned, petition Senedd Cymru to create a museum to celebrate Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Welsh history.

As part of the national establishment, we hope that the rich heritage of Tiger Bay will be preserved and offer a home for the Tiger Bay Archive.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

P-05-1086 Create a National Museum for Welsh Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic History and Heritage

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 12 Ionawr 2021
Petitions Committee | 12 January 2021

Reference: RS20/14837-7

Petition Number: P-05-1086

Petition title: Create a National Museum for Welsh Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic History and Heritage

Text of petition: We, the undersigned, petition Senedd Cymru to create a museum to celebrate Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Welsh history.

As part of the national establishment, we hope that the rich heritage of Tiger Bay will be preserved and offer a home for the Tiger Bay Archive.



1. Welsh Government action

The Welsh Government's response to this petition states:

The history of our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities is an integral part of the story of Wales. Presenting these histories in this essential context requires a collective effort from our cultural heritage bodies at both a national and local level, rather than by a single organisation.

Our focus is currently on ensuring that museums and archives across Wales are able to survive the pandemic. Beyond that, we will work with them and support them to ensure that they have the capability to reflect the richness and diversity of our cultural heritage.

The Tiger Bay archive is currently held safely in Glamorgan Archives, where it is stored in appropriate conditions and in the care of professionally qualified staff.

The Welsh Government has also recently published an **audit of statues, street and building names to address Wales' connections with the slave trade and colonialisation**, led by Gaynor Legal, which can be read [here](#). It is now considering what it does with this information. This report found that there are few Welsh people of Black or Asian heritage commemorated across Wales. The audit says:

It is striking that (pending the Betty Campbell statue in 2021) the only sculpture depicting people of Black heritage is not a monument to named individuals but an anonymous statue group in Cardiff Bay.

Furthermore, it noted other under-represented groups in public commemoration in Wales:

The general absence noted of the commemoration of people of colour is remarkable, as is the lack of commemoration of women, disabled people and significant world figures.

2. National Museum action

Earlier this year the National Museum issued statement on the Black Lives Matter movement, which can be read [here](#). It outlines the following things the Museum is doing:

Title:

- We are working with black communities across Wales to build trust and understanding, asking how to make working in the museum a viable option across the board for potential curators, conservators, designers, technicians, palaeontologists and more.
- We are reviewing colonial and racist collections and interpretation with relevant community groups as an urgent priority.
- We are actively collecting the histories, contemporary histories, material culture and art of black communities in Wales and looking at how we can review these collections to better reflect their true histories.
- We are upskilling and educating our own staff in terms of intersectionality, BLM and black communities, including on the use of language and terminology. This includes Trustees, Friends, Patrons and Volunteers.
- Equality and diversity is one of our top priorities and will remain so; we are committed to this work.

3. Welsh Parliament action

Although not directly related to the petitioners' concerns, the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee is carrying out a piece of work looking at [Who gets remembered in public spaces?](#)

This is not solely about black, Asian and minority ethnic history in Wales, but the issue of public commemoration more broadly. On 3 December 2020 the Committee took evidence from Gaynor Legall, looking at the audit she had recently led for the Welsh Government. The meeting can be watched [here](#).

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1086
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/03342/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

11 December 2020

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 6 November regarding Petition P-05-1086 to create a national museum to celebrate Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Welsh history.

The history of our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities is an integral part of the story of Wales. Presenting these histories in this essential context requires a collective effort from our cultural heritage bodies at both a national and local level, rather than by a single organisation.

Our focus is currently on ensuring that museums and archives across Wales are able to survive the pandemic. Beyond that, we will work with them and support them to ensure that they have the capability to reflect the richness and diversity of our cultural heritage.

The Tiger Bay archive is currently held safely in Glamorgan Archives, where it is stored in appropriate conditions and in the care of professionally qualified staff.

Yours sincerely

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Agenda Item 2.9

P-05-1081 Ensure owners of second homes & holiday lets in Wales register to vote only at their primary address, in devolved and local elections

This petition was submitted by Gorau i Gymru – Best for Wales having collected a total of 4,896 signatures.

Text of Petition:

The Electoral Commission has confirmed there are no systematic checks on whether someone has voted twice. We do not believe that the mere fact that electoral fraud is illegal in itself provides sufficient safeguarding if no systematic checks are made. This is akin to having speeding laws in place but no functioning speed cameras. The serious potential for fraud & the harmful impact of that on our country is immense and should be urgently addressed prior to the 2021 elections.

Additional Information:

Reference:

Email received from the Electoral Commission on 3rd November 2020.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Ynys Môn
- North Wales

Voter Registration for owners of second homes and holiday lets in Wales

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 12 Ionawr 2020
Petitions Committee | 12 January 2020

Reference: RS20/14837/5

Petition Number: P-05-1081

Petition title: Ensure owners of second homes & holiday lets in Wales register to vote only at their primary address, in devolved and local elections.

Text of petition: The Electoral Commission has confirmed there are no systematic checks on whether someone has voted twice. We do not believe that the mere fact that electoral fraud is illegal in itself provides sufficient safeguarding if no systematic checks are made. This is akin to having speeding laws in place but no functioning speed cameras. The serious potential for fraud & the harmful impact of that on our country is immense and should be urgently addressed prior to the 2021 elections.



1. Background: Registering to vote in the UK

The rules governing voter registration entitlement in each part of the UK are set out in Section 4 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (“RPA 1983”).

To register to vote at an address in the UK, a person must be a ‘resident’ at the address.

The Electoral Commission’s [website](#) states that a person is normally resident at an address for electoral purposes ‘if it is their permanent home address’. It also confirms that ‘residence’ has a particular meaning in electoral law and is not equivalent to residence for other purposes, such as income tax or council tax.

Section 5 of the RPA 1983 sets out the specific rules to determine if a person is resident at an address (the “Residency Rules”).

In Wales, every council has an [Electoral Registration Officer](#) (“ERO”) which is responsible for compiling and maintaining the register of electors. EROs apply the Residency Rules to determine a person’s eligibility for voter-registration. This is discussed further below in the context of determining applications for voter-registration at second homes.

2. Registering to vote at more than one address

Some electors may be entitled to register to vote at more than one address in the UK.

However, to do this, the person would need to satisfy the Residency Rules (i.e. establish that they were a ‘resident’) in more than one property in the UK. For example, students may be eligible to register to vote at their home and term time addresses.

In considering applications, the Electoral Commission’s [website states](#) that a ‘person would need to be able to demonstrate their degree of permanency at both addresses’. It also states that EROs ‘must consider each case on its own merit’ and that:

- a person may have more than one home, **but property ownership is not sufficient to establish that someone is resident at an address - it is unlikely that owning a second property which is visited only for recreational purposes would meet the residency qualification;**
- **owning and paying council tax on a property alone is not sufficient to satisfy the residence qualification,** this may give an indication of connection to an address but is not evidence of residence;
- how the second home is used will affect whether or not someone may be considered to be resident at an address;
- **temporary presence at an address does not make a person resident there;** and
- temporary absence does not deprive a person of their residence.

[RS Emphasis]

3. Checking if a person has voted twice

The text of the petition states that *“the Electoral Commission has confirmed there are no systematic checks on whether someone has voted twice.”*

In its response to this petition, the Minister for Housing and local Government, Julie James MS stated:

Whilst, as the Electoral Commission have stated, there are no systematic checks to ensure a person does not vote twice in the same election, there is no evidence to suggest that this routinely occurs, and if it did, action could be taken where an electoral offence had been committed.

4. Electoral Commission Response

Responding to this petition on the North Wales Chronicle’s website, an Electoral Commission spokesperson stated:

People who are registered at two addresses are entitled to vote in local government elections at each of those addresses, provided they are not in the same local government area.

It is an offence under Section 61(2)(a) of the RPA 1983, for an elector to cast more than one vote on their own behalf in a UK Parliamentary general election or at a referendum. This offence carries a penalty of an unlimited fine in England and Wales, or a fine not exceeding £5,000 in Scotland.

Finally, the UK has low levels of proven electoral fraud. However, in our [report](#) on the UK Parliamentary General Election in May 2017, we highlighted concerns raised at that election about double voting.

We said that we wanted to work with the UK Government to explore possible mechanisms to reduce the risk of people voting in more than one constituency.

We also said that the Government should consider other options for reducing this risk, such as requiring people who are lawfully registered to vote in local government elections for more than one local authority area to choose which of those addresses they will vote at for UK Parliamentary general elections.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/03049/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

14 December 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 27 November seeking my views on ensuring owners of second homes and holiday lets in Wales register to vote only at their primary address, in devolved and local elections.

Electoral law in England and Wales allows a person to be entered onto more than one register if they are resident in different local authority areas. This does mean that if a person has registered in two different local authorities they are able to vote in both authorities on the same election day if they meet the residency criteria on election day. For local government elections, an elector may vote in up to two local government areas if they are registered. For Senedd elections an elector may only vote in one constituency.

Simply owning a second home does not mean a person can vote at elections in that constituency automatically. They must prove that they are resident in the area and residency is prescribed in the Representation of the People Act 1983 and is well established in case law.

My view is that provided the well-established residency criteria are met, second home owners should be allowed to vote in devolved elections in Wales. If they do not meet the residency criteria, they should not be voting in such elections, which is what the law already prescribes. Changing this law would cause disparity between English and Welsh voters and I do not wish to see anyone disenfranchised in Wales.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Back Page 104
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Whilst, as the Electoral Commission have stated, there are no systematic checks to ensure a person does not vote twice in the same election, there is no evidence to suggest that this routinely occurs, and if it did, action could be taken where an electoral offence had been committed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Julie James AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government

P-05-1081 Ensure owners of second homes & holiday lets in Wales register to vote only at their primary address, in devolved and local elections, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 06.01.21

Dear Julie James & members of the Senedd Petitions Committee,

We thank you for submitting our petition and for Julie James's response to it. In that response, Ms. James states that in order to register to vote in Wales, second homeowners must prove that they are resident in the area and residency is prescribed in the Representation of the People Act 1983 and is well-established in case law and that there are well-established residency criteria. We have asked our local council what specific criteria they use for this purpose and sadly have not received a clear response. We would appreciate it therefore if you could please specify clearly the meaning of residency as defined by case law and to confirm whether or not all EROs across Wales have been made aware of it and given specific guidelines and criteria that must be met before allowing second homeowners to register to vote here in Wales. If yes, please may we have a copy of it?

We do not believe that second homeowners who spend less time in that constituency than at their primary address, and therefore are unfamiliar with local issues and needs, should be allowed to skew democracy and undermine the views, needs and representation of those who live there throughout the year. There are thousands of second homes in Wales and the figure is increasing at a very worrying rate (although we note that you stated in response to a letter to one of our group members that you are unable to confirm the exact numbers, which is in itself a cause for concern).

Why should anyone be able to register to vote more than once in any election simply by virtue of personal wealth? The issue of second homeowner voter registration has been the subject of debate for many years and is said to be “under review”, yet nothing has changed. On 26 January 2011, Lord Teverson asked the UK Government “what plans they have to regulate the ability of second homeowners to register to vote in more than one constituency?” (illustrating the point that this issue is not just an England v Wales issue as Ms. James appears to imply in her response). Lord Taylor of Holbeach replies that “there are no plans to change the current system but that it will be kept under review”. Lord Teverson goes on to say: “...is it not a principle, just as we have for one person one vote, that for a national election an individual should be able to cast their vote where they really are a resident and a stakeholder in the community? Will the Minister make sure that that is clarified for returning officers, and will the Government take steps to ensure that people are able to vote in national elections only where their main residence is located?” We agree with Lord Teverson and believe that the same should apply to all elections, including our Senedd and Local Government elections. Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall makes an important point: “My Lords, the noble Lord has properly reminded the House that it is illegal to vote twice in the same general election. Will he say, under the present arrangements, how it is possible to police that law; and how many people does he think, or does he know, have actually been prosecuted for doing that?” Note Lord Taylor of Holbeach's response: “I can answer the second question by saying that

we are not aware of any prosecutions. As with so many British institutions, **it depends on trust.**”

And there we have it! It depends on trust, which is thin on the ground currently. Note also that Lord Taylor fails to respond to the question of how that law will be policed.

Ms. James states that “Whilst, as the Electoral Commission have stated, there are no systematic checks to ensure a person does not vote twice in the same election, there is no evidence to suggest that this routinely occurs, and if it did, action could be taken where an electoral offence had been committed.” Isn't that the point? How will you find evidence of fraud if no one is systematically looking for it? Even on the rare occasion where electoral fraud is detected (usually at the polling station rather than at registration according to Electoral Commission data) – there is little or no deterrent. According to the Electoral Commission, 592 cases of alleged electoral fraud were investigated by the police. Of these, three led to a conviction and an individual was given a police caution. Hardly a deterrent!?

For the benefit of those who claim that voter fraud doesn't happen or is not encouraged, please find in the references below an article from the Isle of Wight in 2011, describing: “the letter that Ian Ward sent out from the Isle of Wight Conservative Association encouraging second home owners to register to vote on the Island. It's causing quite a stir.” ... “The letter – sent to those registered for postal votes on the Isle of Wight – encourages voters who have two homes to vote both on the Island and mainland – without stating the limited conditions that would apply.”

Here is a selection of comments from our group members:

Cornwall County Council voted in 2011 to prevent holiday home owners from registering to vote there and two of the county's Members of Parliament publicly supported that. Why can the Welsh Government not be as supportive of the democratic processes in Wales? Why is the Welsh Government repeatedly willing to prioritise the interests of wealthy people with complete ignorance of Wales and its problems and institutions, over and above the well-being of local democracy and the well-being of our permanent communities? On what basis do you wish to adhere to English rules when a council in England (Cornwall) does not feel the same necessity at all? Is this the Welsh Government, or a government for the benefit of wealthy people who are already expressing their disrespect for our country, our people and our language? The Welsh Government's decision will reinforce their view that they are above any law of fairness and that they can continue to treat our country as a playground and treat its people as fools whose only value is to serve and to know their place, i.e. second-class citizens.

We would be grateful if you could let us know your intentions with regard to addressing this situation,

Sincerely,

Gorau I Gymru – Best for Wales.

References:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2011-01-26/debates/11012651000355/ElectionsSecondHomeOwners>

https://onthewight.com/conservatives-urge-second-home-owners-to-register-to-vote-here/?fbclid=IwAR0wxGaC1Z3bpe8iHTwaayrCixdjURwDw0x6_rhU0rNKG7eNeXTnqvU4NuY

https://www.channel4.com/news/cornwall-stops-second-home-owners-from-voting?fbclid=IwAR1O8EMny5OGASzcfO_kqedQqA1-mOv3Ridpr-7BwA_ObI0wWC7vQyd62hQ

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/our-views-and-research/our-research/electoral-fraud-data/2019-electoral-fraud-data>

Agenda Item 3.1

P-05-920 School Budgeting for ALN

This petition was submitted by Iwan Williams having collected a total of 106 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge Welsh Government to allocate an additional budget for schools across Wales, to be able to provide the additional learning needed for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) and achieve the objectives of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018.

Additional Information

Schools lack resources for supporting pupils with additional learning needs to ensure they achieve their potential.

The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 states:

"A person has additional learning needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability (whether the learning difficulty or disability arises from a medical condition or otherwise) which calls for additional learning provision."

Schools do not currently have sufficient resources to be able to offer the additional learning provision that their pupils need.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Aberconwy
- North Wales

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/your ref P-05-920
Ein cyf/our ref KW/06565/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

8 December 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 18 November regarding petition P-05-920 School Budgeting for ALN.

As you will be aware, funding is provided to local authorities by Welsh Government via the Revenue Support Grant (RSG). This funding is un-hypothecated. Once it is distributed, it is the responsibility of individual authorities to set budgets for their schools and the local provision that they support. This approach to funding supports the Welsh Government's view that local authorities are best placed to deliver services. They do this in line with the requirements and circumstances of their population, to whom they are accountable.

The Welsh Government recognise that local government is at the forefront of delivering public services and we remain committed to providing local government with the best possible funding settlement. The current system for funding education, including special educational needs (SEN) provision, will be unchanged following implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (the ALN Act).

The ALN Act and Code do not increase need nor do they require increased provision to be made. The new system is about improving the way that planning to meet the needs of children and young people with ALN is undertaken. It intends to ensure more appropriate making of provision, early identification of needs and early intervention, with a view to preventing long term issues and costly interventions. With regard to NHS services, under the ALN Act if an NHS body identifies a treatment or service that is likely to be of benefit in addressing the ALN of a child or young person then the duty under the Act (and therefore the cost) falls to the NHS body and not the local authority or school.

In order to cover the administrative costs associated with the transition from the existing SEN system to the new one we have invested £20m of extra funding over this Assembly term. This funding is for our ALN Transformation programme which is also supporting

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

the skills development of the education workforce to help build capacity within the system and ensure learners' needs can be met in a range of education settings.

In 2020/21 we allocated an additional £8 million to help local authorities and further education colleges support high-needs learners. The funding was directed towards those areas local authorities and colleges identified as being of most pressing need. This funding allocation was not recurrent and the Senedd's budget for 2021-22 has not yet been agreed.

In the new ALN system the term ALN will replace the terms 'SEN' and 'learning difficulties and/or disabilities'. In the ALN Act section 2 defines ALN. '*A person has additional learning needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability (whether the learning difficulty or disability arises from a medical condition or otherwise) which calls for additional learning provision*'. Section 3 of the Act defines 'additional learning provision' (ALP). The identification of ALN relies on an understanding of the definition of ALN and ALP as set out in sections 2 and 3 of the Act. The ALN Code will provide guidance on the definition of ALN and ALP and on the identification of ALN. The Code will also impose requirements on the governing bodies of maintained schools in Wales, further education institutions in Wales, and on local authorities in Wales, in respect of decisions about whether a child or young person has ALN.

To improve early identification and intervention in relation to ALN and ensure better planning for future provision the ALN Act will mandate a new local authority Early Years ALN Lead Officer role. The role is strategic and responsibilities are expected to include establishing effective collaborative working practices; raising awareness of the ALN system; and helping to ensure the early years workforce has the appropriate skills, mechanisms and tools for preventing the development of ALN and supporting young children with ALN.

The ALN Act also creates a statutory ALN Co-ordinator (ALNCo) role in schools, including pupil referral units, and further education institutions (FEIs). The ALNCo role will replace the non-statutory Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) role currently adopted by most schools and FEIs. ALNCoS will provide a strategic leadership role and will be the first port of call for professional advice and guidance in schools, settings and FEIs.

A significant proportion of the £20 million we are investing in the ALN Transformation Programme funding is being used to support activity to upskill the workforce to better meet the needs of learners with ALN. Working with our ALN Transformation Leads, we are delivering an extensive package of training, core skills development and ongoing professional development for all practitioners. Part of this work involves developing an ALN professional learning offer. This professional learning offer will provide an opportunity for practitioners, particularly ALNCoS, to achieve a deeper skills and knowledge base relevant to the ALN system and assist with the identification of ALN.

For staff in the childcare workforce, we are working with the South East Wales Consortium to develop and pilot a Speech, Language and Communication training pathway. This is aligned with descriptors from the ALN Act and is designed as a tool that childcare practitioners can use to determine their own training needs.

In order to help practitioners make decisions on effective interventions we have published guides which detail effective interventions for learners with autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and sensory impairment, in education settings. We have also funded

the development and roll out of the 'Learning with Autism' programme which raises awareness of autism across the whole school community.

We are also working with the Third Sector Additional Needs Alliance (TSANA) to update the Newly Qualified Teacher Additional Learning Needs training pack. The aim of the pack is to support newly qualified teachers, as well as longstanding teachers in understanding their role and responsibility in relation to children and young people with ALN. The training pack covers several areas, including a section on helping children and young people with specific needs.

The school funding review I announced in October 2019 to assess the different levels of funding required, in different circumstances, has now concluded and the report has been published.

The report concludes that a single minimum cost figure is unlikely to be relevant to most schools across Wales. It is therefore not possible to estimate the minimum cost of educating a learner in Wales in a reliable and robust way, or in a way that could be used in a funding system. The review does include a detailed and informative overview of what the current offer looks like for children in Wales, including where the money comes from, who spends the money, how it's changed over time and what pupils get in terms of actual resources for their education.

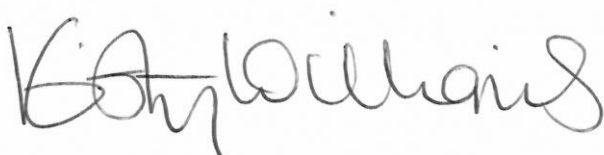
The findings will be used to aid policymakers to determine whether schools in different circumstances have sufficient funding and how to best target any increases in spending both now and in the future to support our education reforms.

The report recommends that the Welsh Government should work with local authorities and other stakeholders to keep the new ALN system under continual review to ensure it is implemented as intended.

The phased rollout of the new ALN system will be monitored and evaluated by Welsh Government. During implementation, the main focus of the work will be to establish the extent to which stakeholders are compliant with the provisions in the Act and to consider the initial effects and impacts of the Act using available data.

The focus of the post-implementation work will be to assess the extent to which the Act has achieved the intended outcomes. This will be achieved through research undertaken with stakeholders, including parents, and using statistics, and will include analyses of costs and numbers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

Agenda Item 3.2

P-05-972 To provide a minimum of 4 hours a day of live teaching during COVID closures for all school children

This petition was submitted by Siobhan King having collected a total of 100 signatures.

Text of Petition

Welsh children have not been in school since March 20th and very few in the state education sector have received any face to face teaching. We the undersigned want a minimum of 4 hours a day face to face live teaching on line

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

Agenda Item 3.3

P-05-1033 Abolish Education Workforce Council (EWC) registration fees and completely reform its organisation

This petition was submitted by Robert Jeffrey Southall having collected a total of 371 signatures.

Text of Petition:

The registration fee is regressive and deducted from our wages on behalf of the EWC and Government. It is the same if you are full time, proportional or part time. It is a tax on education professionals. The EWC is not a representative body, it has failed to provide comprehensive CPD or promised bursaries for career enhancement. It is not accountable to, or representative of, its registrants. It is a regulatory body, accountable only to the Minister, so there should be no registration fee.

Additional Information:

The annual cost of registration is £45 with a reduced fee of £15 for support workers. The fee is the same if you are full time, proportional or part time. The fee is based on a tax year from April to March so those in their first year of teaching or youth work or on short term contracts must pay twice in September and April. There is no partial fee for those on limited contracts. The EWC is not a representative body or a professional association for those it registers. The EWC is not democratically accountable to its registrants and its governing body is not representative of those it registers. Teachers in HE and the private sector are not regulated by the EWC and pay no registration fees and the vast majority of headteachers in schools and managers in FE, the highest paid staff in the sector, do not need to register or pay the fee even if they have constant and lengthy contact with learners. This is plainly unfair and we call for the total abolition of all EWC registration fees.

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Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
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10th December 2020

Dear Janet

Petition P-05-1033 Abolish Education Workforce Council (EWC) registration fees and completely reform its organisation

Thank you for your letter dated 18th November 2020. I provide a response on behalf of the Education Workforce Council (EWC) below.

Background

The EWC was established under the Education (Wales) Act 2014 and came into being on 1st April 2015. Under the Act, the General Teaching Council for Wales (GTCW) was renamed (to become the EWC) and “professional registration” was extended beyond school teachers to six other groups in the education workforce spanning schools, further education, work based learning and youth work settings.

The Act and the secondary legislation which accompanies it was subject to extensive consultation by the Welsh Government and debate by the Senedd, between 2011 and 2017.

The petition

Mr Southall (the petitioner) has been required under the Act to register with the EWC since 2015 in his capacity as an FE lecturer. This requirement is consistent with the many other “regulated” professions that the public legitimately seek assurances about.

Mr Southall has written to the EWC on a number of occasions asking questions about the EWC, including a detailed request for information in August 2019. I am attaching the Council’s response to him in August 2019 as this answers many of the points he has raised with the Committee.

I also understand that Mr Southall created a similar petition in 2017, to which the Minister responded in May of that year.

In addition to the attached, I would also like to draw the Committee’s attention to the following matters covered by Mr Southall in his correspondence with the Committee:

1. The EWC’s support to its registrants
2. Council membership
3. Factual inaccuracies in Mr Southall’s submissions to the Committee

I take each of these points in turn.

The EWC's support to its registrants

Having been formed in April 2015, the Council's priority in its first three years was to establish itself and begin to deliver its statutory responsibilities, in particular extending professional registration and regulation to the wider education workforce, as required under the Act for the **protection of learners, parents, guardians and the general public**. This was undertaken in a phased way, as stipulated in the Act and completed in 2017.

In addition to its regulatory functions, the Council helps to promote the professionalism of the education workforce and assists in raising standards of teaching and learning in a range of other ways. These activities are funded through registration fees but also through grant funding where the Welsh Government asks the EWC to lead specific work streams or initiatives in Wales. Despite the extension of the Register being completed as recently as 2017, the Council is already very active in this area, including in Mr Southall's field of further education. By way of reassurance to the Committee, since Mr Southall's correspondence in 2019 and the work referred to in our response to him at that time, the EWC is now also taking a key role in, for example:

- leading work to promote recruitment and retention within each of the education professions in Wales. This includes launching a national website (funded by the Welsh Government) in February 2021 which will promote careers, house professional learning opportunities and enable employers in Wales to advertise jobs within education at no cost to them. This is supported by a national advisory service to support such careers
- leading initiatives to promote recruitment to the education professions in specific targeted areas such as Welsh language and ethnic minority communities
- leading work nationally to review the professional standards for further education and work based learning practitioners in Wales and to develop a suite of resources and tools to help them use the standards
- working with other stakeholders in Wales as part of a national steering group to establish new arrangements for post-16 professional learning practitioners in Wales
- undertaking a second national education workforce survey in January 2021 in collaboration with UCU trade union, Colleges Wales and Welsh Government. This forms part of wider work to seek to reduce workload for FE lecturers
- leading work to look at the similarities and differences in school teacher and further education qualifications given that school teachers may teach in further education yet further education lecturers are unable to teach in schools
- sitting on a number of new national working groups which focus on key matters such as the establishment on a new Commission for Tertiary Education and Research in Wales
- delivering the Quality Mark in Youth Work in Wales

I wish to reassure the Committee that the Council is successfully delivering all of its statutory requirements, both regulatory and professional. It also continues to receive strong annual "opinions" from Audit Wales which confirm that the organisation is extremely well run.

Further information about the EWC's vision, mission, objectives and performance can be found within the Council's strategic plan and annual report using the link below.

<https://www.ewc.wales/site/index.php/en/about/corporate-documents.html>

The strategic plan is developed in full consultation with board members, registrants and stakeholders annually. All registrants have an opportunity to provide comments on the draft.

Council membership

Mr Southall states that the EWC is not a representative body.

The Education Workforce Council (Membership and Appointment) (Wales) Regulations 2014 sets out the composition of EWC Council and as such the model was determined by Ministers, following both consultation and the opportunity for debate in the Senedd.

The size and composition of the Council is similar to many other professional bodies in professions such as medicine, nursing, the law, social care. It is important to highlight that such bodies operate in the **public interest** and therefore generally have a balance between members of a particular profession and lay members. Indeed, many such bodies have a "lay majority", although legislation requires the EWC Council to have a "registrant majority". Furthermore, there is a full opportunity within the existing appointment model for practitioners such as Mr Southall to be appointed to Council, whether through nomination by their trade union or by direct application. In fact, it is possible for the Council to be entirely made up of registrant members.

I would, however highlight that appointments to EWC Council are "public appointments", made by Welsh Ministers. This is irregular when compared to similar professional bodies that are independent of government and whose core funding is from practitioner registration fees. The EWC considers that such appointments should be more appropriately made by Council itself on behalf of its registrants rather than by the Welsh Government.

Factual inaccuracies in Mr Southall's submission to the Committee

I think it is important for me to point out a number of factual inaccuracies in Mr Southall's correspondence with the Committee:

1. *"It failed to provide comprehensive CPD or promised bursaries for career enhancement"*. These matters are not part of the EWC's remit as set out in Welsh Government legislation and were not promised to registrants.
2. *"The registration fee is a tax on education professionals"*. This is not the case. It is common for professions that the public have a legitimate interest in to be regulated for the protection of the public. The payment of fees by those registered is common practice. The fee is also "tax deductible" as determined by HMRC.
3. *"Teachers in HE and the private sector are not regulated by the EWC"*. There are a number of private settings where education practitioners are required to register with the EWC, for example those working through supply agencies, those employed by companies that provide

specific teaching and learning services to schools and colleges (such as music or sports instruction) and work based learning companies. However, the EWC has highlighted to Ministers and Government that it remains concerned that staff in independent schools and in HE are not required to register with the EWC and this represents an unnecessary safeguarding risk.

4. *"The vast majority of headteachers and managers in FE do not need to register or pay the fee".* All headteachers in maintained schools in Wales must register and pay the fee. Most managers in FE colleges are required to register and pay the fee as they deliver teaching and learning. Those who do not deliver teaching and learning, such as the Principal of a College are not required to register under Welsh Government legislation – these are small in number.
5. *"The EWC is an organisation that is wholly dependent on the Welsh Government for its existence, its direction and its funding aside from the finance it exhorts out of registrants which barely cover the excessive salary and pension benefits of its executive staff".* While the EWC was established under primary legislation, it sets its own direction through its strategic and operational plans. It is not dependent on Welsh Government funding to exist, rather the Welsh Government can invite the EWC to lead particular work activities nationally within its statutory remit but must meet the costs for such work (grant). The EWC does not have to agree to undertake any work that the Welsh Government invites it to lead, but will carefully consider the benefits to its registrants in making a decision to do so.
6. *"The EWC can certainly not be compared to highly regarded and representative associations such as the BMA".* The BMA is a trade union and a professional association. It "represents, supports and negotiates" and also has a remit for "fighting for pay / conditions and for lobbying and campaigning". This is not the purpose of the EWC or similar organisations in teaching and other professions. Trade unions and professional associations already exist and carry out these functions for education practitioners in Wales.
7. *"There are just two serving teachers, no FE lecturers, no WBL teachers / instructors and no youth workers on Council".* In line with the requirement in legislation for a "registrant majority" there are in fact 8 members of Council who were registered on appointment by the Welsh Government. I also re-emphasise that bodies like the EWC regulate in the interests of the public and will usually comprise both practitioners and lay members, with a "lay majority" often the norm.
8. *"There are no currently employed FE interests represented at all on Council".* There are 5 persons on EWC Council with specific expertise in FE and work based learning as well as others with a more general knowledge. Furthermore, as explained above the current appointment system provides a full opportunity for FE practitioners to seek appointment to Council.
9. *"As far as acting as an advocate for rights and improvements to conditions of service of FE practitionersthe EWC does not undertake this role".* Mr Southall is correct in that the EWC does not perform this role. As explained above, this is a function of trade unions and professional associations. The EWC does, however have a statutory ability to provide advice to the Welsh Government and others on matters relating to teaching and learning and does so on a frequent basis through a number of means, for example by sitting on national working groups, responding to national consultations, using its unique data to highlight issues, undertaking national surveys and developing formal advice on behalf of the education workforce.

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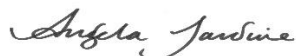


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10. *"The primary role of the EWC is to maintain the register and collect registration fees on behalf of the Welsh Government"*. This is not an accurate statement of the EWC's aims and functions as set out in legislation and illustrated by the Council's strategic plan and annual report.
11. *"FE practitioners are charged the full fee for one month or less before the renewal period"*. This is incorrect, applicants seeking to register in the last month of a fee year do not pay for this period of time at all.
12. *"There is no mechanism to stop duplicate payments for FE practitioners who work in multiple institutions. There is evidence of UCU members being charged twice for registration. Colleagues have found it difficult to reclaim"*. No registrant will be charged twice in the same registration year. The EWC has well established procedures to deal with such matters.
13. *"Additionally the period where the fee is taken is not appropriate to those who work on an annual academic basis"*. The fee is annual, therefore the fact that it is taken on a financial year basis rather than an academic year basis does not mean that some registrants have to pay twice as Mr Southall states.
14. *"There is significant evidence to suggest that the single £45 registration fee for teachers and lecturers and the lack of pro-rata fees is discriminatory to female registrants more likely to be employed in lower pay bands and proportional or part-time contracts"*. Education, like a number of other professions such as nursing and social care is female dominated. Other professions like doctors, engineering and law are male dominated. Like other professions, the fee is the same for all registrants.

I hope the information I have provided is sufficient for the Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact either myself or the Chief Executive, Hayden Llewellyn if we can be of further assistance, through Angela Guarino (Executive Assistant) at angela.guarino@ewc.wales.

Yours sincerely



Angela Jardine
Chair

Telephone: [REDACTED] e-mail:
[REDACTED]

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Pierhead Street
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

2nd January 2021

Dear Janet

Petition P-05-1033 Abolish Education Workforce Council (EWC)
registration fees and completely reform its organisation

Many thanks to you for your email of Friday 12th December and for the inclusion of Angela Jardine's, the Chair of the EWC, responses to my letter to the Petitions Committee of 20th October.

Initially I thought I would respond to Ms Jardine's point where she refers to a similar petition I created in 2017. This was posted on the Change.org website and was actually substantively different in a number of ways from my current petition. It was titled 'Scrap the Welsh Teacher Tax!' and can be found at <https://www.change.org/p/kirsty-williams-am-scrap-the-welsh-teacher-tax>. I have attached a hard copy of that petition as an annex to this correspondence. You will, I am sure, note that this petition was not directed towards the Senedd but directly to Kirsty Williams AM, The Welsh Government's Minister for Education. I decided not to post a petition at that time with the NAFW Petitions Committee as I already had a live petition on the website regarding the reopening of the Cwmcarn Forest Drive. I am delighted to be able to inform you that the Forest Drive will reopen in March of this year – but it actually took two NAFW petitions to pressure NRW into reopening, what I consider to be, one of Wales's most important visitor attractions. Although this first petition did not achieve what I hoped I did receive a personally addressed letter from the Minister which was very much appreciated. Following this first petition it also became apparent that

the EWC has ceased to call itself a representative body which speaks for the teaching profession in Wales –it certainly cannot claim to be, or do, these things –although it has touted itself as a source of professional development and continues to do so contrary to Ms Jardine claims. It does these things but just not very well. If you look at the EWC website you will see a section entitled professional development and also the EWC promotes ‘Professionally Speaking’ events. This year’s ‘Professionally Speaking’ event is with Pasi Sahlberg, an award winning Finnish educator and experienced school teacher, teacher-educator, researcher, and policy advisor to the Finnish Government. Rather tellingly Finland, which has what is generally regarded as the best education system in the World, has no system of teacher registration and no organisation like the EWC.

As I feel that Ms Jardine’s response to your committee is rather disingenuous I would also like to dispute a few other suggestions in her letter.

Firstly as a full time lecturer working in Further Education I do not feel that I am, in anyway, supported in my professional capacity by the EWC and neither do my colleagues. We see the EWC as nothing but a burden on the teaching profession in Wales and an organization which degrades the professional integrity of teachers in the eyes of the public rather than enhancing it. I do not think that there is any evidence whatsoever that the EWC promotes anything other than itself and its executives. I suspect that most Trade unions involved in representing EWC registrants share the same view. As the Secretary-General of a Welsh teaching union recently wrote “*We also agree that its predominant function is ‘disciplinary’, and that the vast majority of these hearings are public, thereby giving the profession the feeling of being brought into disrepute rather than of maintaining public confidence. We have concerns about the level of expense relating to these hearings*”.

It would certainly be worth the Petitions Committee canvassing the views of teachers’ and lecturers’ unions in Wales to find out their views on the EWC. It would be fascinating to see the extent of positive and negative responses from them.

I would also like to point out that the information provided by Ms Jardine, as an annex to her letter, was in response to a Freedom of Information Request. The purpose of this was to provide evidence for a report to last year’s UCU Wales Conference. I undertook this investigation along with two UCU colleagues and the report we produced was very much a joint effort. I presented it to the FE Sector conference and it was fully supported, although due to the current crisis it has not yet been actioned by UCU in Wales.

I would also like to dispute what Ms Jardine refers to as ‘*factual inaccuracies*.’ I concede that “*The vast majority of head teachers and managers in FE do not need to register or pay the fee*” was inaccurate, however this is something that was reported to our UCU investigation and was provided by a teacher in a Gwent secondary school in error. However if you look closely at staff working in FE there are actually many more managers and other staff who do not need to register with the EWC than they have admitted to. The error about head teachers was actually pointed out to me by a teaching union after I had posted the petition on the Senedd website. As far as the other ‘*factual inaccuracies*’ are concerned, Ms

Jardine is clearly trying to hide behind semantics and the legislation which created her flawed organisation.

The point about “*There are just two serving teachers, no FE lecturers, no WBL teachers / instructors and no youth workers on Council*” is factually accurate as those members of the council who represent FE, YW and WBL are not drawn from those teaching staff who are required to register with EWC but from employer, governing body and managerial backgrounds. So they are not representative of registrants.

I would like to point out to the Petitions Committee that in Northern Ireland and Scotland where similar, but very different, organisations to EWC exist that they are representative, more democratic and less generic. This is the current regulatory set-up in Northern Ireland and Scotland and it concerns me that the EWC does not follow this model:

- *The General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland registers anyone who wants to teach in a grant-aided (publically funded) school in Northern Ireland is required to be registered with GTCNI. The annual registration fee is £44. There is a single registration fee payable every year. There is only 1 category of registration – Teachers. The GTCNI has no jurisdiction or authority in relation to other people working in schools or in other educational settings such as FE or WBL. Its council is mainly representative of the teaching profession. The current make up is 14 elected teachers; 5 teachers appointed by the Northern Ireland Teachers’ Council; 10 appointed from key educational stakeholders; and 4 Department of Education ministerial appointments including 1 representative of industry and commerce and 3 reflect the wider public interest.*
- *In Scotland the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) is wholly independent from the Scottish Government, being self-regulating in nature as a professional body. GTCS is not a membership body and instead is a body with which an individual registers, as required by statute. The GTCS currently registers teachers employed in local authority school and, since 2017, those employed in the independent sector. There is an annual registration fee which is currently £65 and this fee is not calculated pro-rata or variable for different categories of member and for those working part-time (hourly paid) and on fractional/proportional contracts. GTCS do not have the statutory basis to regulate any additional register of education professionals such as those in further education or work based learning. At present a college lecturer can voluntarily seek registration on the Register of Teachers under the Further Education section of the Register. However, a cross-organisational working group is developing processes to roll-out registration for all lecturers in the coming years the GTCS’s governing body is wholly representative of the teaching profession employed in the state funded education sector in Scotland*

Likewise the comment I made “*The EWC is an organisation that is wholly dependent on the Welsh Government for its existence, its direction and its funding aside from the finance it exhorts out of registrants which barely cover the excessive salary and pension benefits of its executive staff*” is also accurate as without Welsh Government legislation and continuing financial support the EWC

could not continue to exist and its executives would lose their circa £100,000 salaries (including pension benefits) and civil service pensions. I would suggest that Welsh Government funding is ended, not just the registration fees, and then we could see if the EWC sinks or swims.

Furthermore regarding the statement *“There is no mechanism to stop duplicate payments for FE practitioners who work in multiple institutions. There is evidence of UCU members being charged twice for registration. Colleagues have found it difficult to reclaim”*. This is also correct as I have, as a union rep, first-hand experience of new members of teaching staff being charged twice – they paid as they were unaware that our employer takes the fee out of our wages. I understand from our investigation that this was is an unusual occurrence. Thankfully both young teachers eventually got their duplicate ‘teacher tax’ paid back to them. One of these has since left the teaching profession.

Finally on what Ms Jardine refers to as the *‘factual inaccuracies’* I would like to say that the vast majority of teachers and lecturers do consider that the registration fee levied from our wages on behalf of the EWC is a tax, so to call it the ‘Welsh teacher tax’ is completely valid. As with other taxes it is compulsory contribution taken our salaries over which we have no control.

On the subject of the statement *“FE practitioners are charged the full fee for one month or less before the renewal period”*. I am afraid this was badly phrased by me. What I meant to say was FE practitioners are charged the full fee for any period over one month –so for example if a retired teacher comes back into the classroom to cover a period of maternity, or sickness, and this period is September to June then the temporary member of teaching staff will be required to pay the registration fee on commencement in September and again in the March/April period. I am sure that you are aware that many teaching contracts operate from September until July so the EWC collecting fees at the beginning of the financial year can cause complications.

Further to the above I would like to draw the Petitions Committees attention to the fact that the EWC is actually a very irregular and unusual organisation with no parallels among other regulatory or professional bodies in the UK.

Firstly where MS Jardine writes: *I would, however highlight that appointments to EWC Council are “public appointments”, made by Welsh Ministers. This is **irregular** when compared to similar professional bodies that are independent of government and whose core funding is from practitioner registration fees. The EWC considers that such appointments should be more appropriately made by Council itself on behalf of its registrants rather than by the Welsh Government.*

I have to say that I find this statement troubling because I would like to ask the reason for this irregularity between EWC and other professional bodies? Are education professionals in Wales not good enough to have specialist, democratic and representative bodies regulating them like Northern Ireland and Scotland?

Secondly I am concerned that Ms Jardine believes that, rather than being public appointments made by Welsh Ministers, the Council itself becomes **self-selecting** rather than democratically selected by registrants. On no account

should the Senedd allow the EWC to become the self-serving and self-selecting body it clearly aspires to be.

A colleague has also asked me to respond to Ms Jardine's claim that "*the EWC [helps] to promote the professionalism of the education workforce and assist in raising standards of teaching and learning in a range of other ways*"? She lists one of these ways as undertaking a second workforce survey; "*[forming] part of the wider work to seek to reduce workload for FE.*" The first Education Workforce Survey which was carried out by the EWC on behalf of the Welsh Government between 31 October 2016 and 9 January 2017 and my colleague points out that this was not a success. At UCU Wales Congress in 2018, the Education Minister, Kirsty Williams, spoke about the damning results of the first EWC Survey whereby staff raised concerns about administration, workload and professional development. I have to tell the Petitions Committee that nothing at all has happened in rectifying these problems. My colleague would further like it to be known that teachers and lecturers were on their knees before Covid, and now everything is exacerbated by the pandemic. Clearly she believes the EWC registration fee is not only a tax it is a ticket to a dose of Covid and potentially an early death.

Lastly, on a number of occasions in her letter MS Jardine claims that there are similar bodies to the EWC regulating other professions in the UK. This is not the case. There are no other general regulatory bodies which include as diverse a membership as the EWC. If regulation is necessary school teachers, college lecturers, WBL Instructors and youth workers should all have their own regulatory bodies. The closest parallel to the EWC's claims would be the regulatory bodies within the health and social care sector. However within these sectors there are a number of specialist professional bodies such as: General Chiropractic Council; General Dental Council; General Medical Council; General Optical Council; General Osteopathic Council; Health and Care Professions Council; Nursing and Midwifery Council; Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, and General Pharmaceutical Council. All of these organisations are statutory bodies like the EWC but they are all overseen and regulated by the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care. This is a UK wide body that that regulates health professionals in the United Kingdom and social care in England. There is no such body regulating the EWC so it is accountable to no one but the Welsh Government's Minister for Education.

All of this makes me wonder whether the Welsh Government is planning to roll out general regulatory bodies to other areas of the public sector. The EWC could readily serve as a template for a Local Government Workforce Council, a Civil Service Workforce Council or a Senedd Workforce Council, however I suspect that to create these organisations would not be a vote winner for the Welsh Government, but, given the creeping influence of corporatism within Welsh public life, nothing would surprise me.

I concede that the teaching professions were sitting ducks for this kind of regulation, particularly as the idea for the EWC was originally sold to our unions as a body which would promote professional development and enhance the status of the profession. However the EWC does not do these things and it is plainly a flawed and failing organisation which should not be permitted to levy the 'Welsh Teacher Tax' from teachers in schools, lecturers in FE colleges, support

workers in both, WBL instructors and youth workers in Wales. We all work hard and are professional in our outlook and practice. We certainly do not need an unrepresentative, undemocratic and unaccountable body like the EWC to prove this.

Please pass on my comments to Kirsty Williams AM, the Welsh Government's Minister for Education, as I would like her and her officials to respond to these points.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you, your committee members and officials a very happy, healthy and Covid free New Year.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R J Southall', written in a cursive style.

Robert J Southall

Petitioner

Agenda Item 3.4

P-05-963 Require supermarkets to donate excess food to charity

This petition was submitted by Crosskeys My World My Home Group having collected a total of 84 signatures.

Text of Petition

Throughout the world, one third of all food produced annually is wasted. In the UK, that equates to about 9.5 million tonnes, which represents a huge waste of resources and unnecessary pressure on our environment. Despite this, from 2018 to 2019, Trussell Trust charity had to distribute a record 1.6 million food bank parcels in the UK. We believe that food should not be thrown away when there are people going hungry in this country.

In February 2016, France decided to take action against the food waste problem and mandated that its supermarkets donate all food nearing its sell-by-date to charity – a law that now rescues 46,000 tons of food from being thrown away every year, and has increased food bank donations in France by over 20%.

In 2019, the law was extended to encompass the institutional catering and agro-food industries. We believe that WE CAN DO THE SAME here in Wales by saving edible food and preventing our nation's supermarkets, restaurant chains and food suppliers from sending decent food to landfill. The Welsh Government has already been working with Fare Share Cymru to redistribute the equivalent of over 8 million meals since 2011.

By adopting the solution used in France, we can take a much bigger step towards ending hunger in Wales, as well as the Welsh Government's goal of halving food waste by 2025, which will also put us on the path to becoming Zero Waste by 2050.

Please sign this petition calling on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to pass a law similar to the one in France to take a stand AGAINST food waste and FOR those in need.

Additional Information

For more information see the following materials:

France's food waste law extended to agrifood and catering businesses <https://iegpolicy.agribusinessintelligence.informa.com/PL222646/Frances-food-waste-law-extended-to-agrifood-and-catering-businesses>

Is France's Groundbreaking Food-Waste Law Working? <https://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/frances-groundbreaking-food-waste-law-working>

French law forbids food waste by supermarkets <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/04/french-law-forbids-food-waste-by-supermarkets>

Welsh Government aims to halve food waste by 2025 <https://environmentjournal.online/articles/welsh-government-aims-halve-food-waste-2025/>

The Trussell trust - <https://www.trusselltrust.org/>

Fare Share Cymru - <http://www.fareshare.cymru/en/home/>

WRAP Cymru - <http://www.wrapcymru.org.uk/>

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Islwyn
- South Wales East

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-963
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/02589/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

18 November 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 30 October, regarding the petition seeking that supermarkets are required to donate excess food to charity.

The current Covid-19 pandemic has seen the food supply system come under intense pressure, and the Welsh Government recognises there are people in Wales who are particularly vulnerable, facing financial difficulty and needing urgent support.

Reducing food waste remains a priority for the Welsh Government, and we continue to work with the food supply chain to ensure waste is minimised and surplus stock redistributed as necessary.

The food industry as a whole has responded to the increased pressure faced by food banks in a number of ways, through financial support and donation of excess stock. These voluntary, especially during the current pandemic, are to be commended and supported. Welsh Ministers, under the UK Environment Bill, are seeking the powers to mandate the surplus redistribution of food in Wales should circumstances show that businesses were not fulfilling their social responsibility.

Yours Sincerely,

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Agenda Item 3.5

P-05-1010 An independent inquiry into the 2020 flooding in Rhondda Cynon Taf so that lessons are learned

This petition was submitted by Heledd Fychan having collected 274 signatures on paper and 5,743 online, a total of 6,017 signatures.

Text of Petition:

We, the undersigned, urge the Welsh Government to initiate a full, independent, open and public inquiry into the 2020 flooding of homes and businesses across Rhondda Cynon Taf, and that appropriate steps are taken to rectify any issues so that similar damage can be prevented from reoccurring.

Additional Information

People and businesses across Rhondda Cynon Taf need an inquiry into the flooding that has hit so many of our communities this year, with some affected three times since February. It is time for the voices and experiences of the people and businesses of Pontypridd, Treforest, Taff's Well, Trehafod, Cilfynydd, Rhydyfelin, Nantgarw, Hawthorn, Hirwaun, Abercwmboi, Mountain Ash, Pentre, Treorchy, Treherbert, Maerdy, Porth and others to be heard, so that lessons are learned for the future.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Pontypridd
- South Wales Central

P-05-1010 An independent inquiry into the 2020 flooding in Rhondda Cynon Taf so that lessons are learned, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 02.01.21

2 January 2021

Re Petition Calling for an Independent Inquiry into the 2020 Floods in Rhondda Cynon Taf

It is now nearly a year since my community of Pontypridd, and its surrounding communities, suffered devastating floods. Whilst many residents have been able to move back home, and some businesses have been able to recover and re-open, this is not true for everyone. The after affects can still be seen with physical damage to infrastructure still evident in many areas, as well as the psychological trauma and financial hardship.

Over the Christmas period, Natural Resources Wales issued a number of flood alerts, and the anxiety this created was evident. Many people reported to me not being able to sleep, constantly watching the river with dread that they would again be flooded. They all believe it is just a matter of time before it happens again and have little faith that anything has been done that would reduce the risk to their homes and businesses. They all still support the need for an independent inquiry, and I received countless messages following the recent debate at the Senedd expressing outrage that the Welsh Government is denying this. These messages came from across RCT, not just my own ward of Pontypridd Town.

Personally, I was dismayed and disappointed by the Welsh Government's response during the debate on the petition, which took place on 9 December 2020. Given the scale of the damage, I am at a loss to understand why they themselves do not want such an inquiry to help inform future investment into flood prevention. In fact, my only regret is that the petition confined the inquiry into the floods just to my own local authority area. We should have one for each of the areas flooded and scrutinise all the flooding that took place in Wales in 2020.

In this response, I wish to focus on why there remains a need for an independent inquiry and why it is the only way we will secure justice for those affected and learn lessons for the future.

Limitations of the Statutory Reports

In response to the debate, the Minister stated: *“Local authorities have a legal duty to produce reports that investigate the causes of flooding and bring forward recommendations to further reduce risk, and these reports are public documents and are prepared by teams of highly skilled individuals. It seems from contributions from some Members that they don't have confidence in the professional integrity of those people who will prepare the report and don't have confidence in their own ability and that of communities to scrutinise their findings. But I don't share that view, and I have*

absolute confidence in the professionalism of local authority staff and their commitment to the safety and well-being of the communities they serve. And if Members have evidence that should cast doubt on that belief, then they have a responsibility to present it, but I've not heard any such evidence offered to date.

“All Members of this Senedd have a role in scrutinising those reports closely as soon as they're available and ensuring that the views and interests of their constituents are represented. And this Senedd has a role in ensuring that we do learn the lessons from those reports and apply them in national policy and local operational practice to keep Wales safe. I believe that the professionally prepared and legally required reports from local authorities will allow us to do that.”

In previous correspondence with the committee, I explained why I believe the Statutory Reports are limited in scope. **I did not question the integrity of those preparing the reports.** Rather, I questioned the limitations of what they were legally required to do and expressed concern that no one is bringing together all the evidence from all the different reports being produced to truly understand what happened, and why, and whether anything could have been done differently.

After all, flooding is a complex issue and happened for many different reasons in each area affected. There are a myriad of different organisations, businesses, landowners and individuals whose actions contribute to flooding. To understand what happened, you need to look at the complete picture and you need everyone to be working together if we are to manage floods effectively in the future.

At present, each individual organisation with a responsibility for flooding is looking at its own area of responsibility, trying to understand what happened. To date, no one has asked for the evidence of residents and businesses affected or asked for their input into plans.

In her response, the Minister also made the following point: *“Local elected Members in RCT have gone beyond this to produce their own report, as we heard from Mick Antoniow, who co-authored it with Alex Davies-Jones, the MP. The report makes it clear that residents see a number of specific areas for improvement and solutions that we can consider not only to reduce flood risk, but to help support wider well-being. Contributions of this kind are welcome and clearly show ways in which local residents can scrutinise the issues and put forward creative and constructive solutions that work for them. And I hope that other Members will consider how they can similarly support the communities to be more resilient to climate-related threats and more engaged with issues.”*

Whilst the local MS and MP have produced a report, many of their findings are not supported locally and it does not provide an accurate account of how people are feeling. A similar report was produced by Leanne Wood MS and the Plaid Cymru Councillor group and contains the evidence of residents and businesses, in their own words. But this is similarly limited, as it only provides a snapshot of what happened and why. An independent inquiry is the only way we can truly uncover what support

communities require in order to become more resilient. They cannot achieve this alone.

Natural Resources Wales

In October, NRW published a review and a series of reports in relation to the floods which uncovered some very serious issues, that should be considered by an Independent Inquiry. In their own words – *“The review also found also found our resources could not fully cope with the size of the task at hand for an event of this scale and significance.”*¹

Indeed, they themselves recognise the seriousness of the risk of greater flooding in the future because of climate change and state that a joined up approach is needed: *“But to truly learn the lessons from the February 2020 flood events, there needs to be a fundamental consideration of the choices that we all have to make on how the risks are managed and resourced.*

“Only by bringing together all levels of government, public bodies, businesses, communities, families and individuals to respond to this very real threat can we make Wales stronger in our adaptation to future floods. We at NRW are committed to doing just that.”

Further the review states:

“But no one single solution can solve the problem, and Wales will need a combination of all these measures in order to help communities become more resilient. With that comes the need for further investment in our human resources too. We will need more expert and skilled staff to deal with these complex issues because the resource need is greater in scale and longer in duration than that which we have at our disposal now.

“Delivering key improvements to the service will require adequate support in both funding and resources and those discussions will continue with the Welsh Government. It is roughly estimated that 60-70 additional members of staff are needed over the long term to sustain the overall service and to address the actions set out in our flood review. Additional resources will also be required to address the recommendations made to reduce flood risk as set out in the land management review.

“But to truly learn the lessons from the February 2020 flood events, there needs to be a fundamental consideration of the choices that governments, decision-makers and society have on how the risks can be managed.”

¹ <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/news-and-events/statements/february-2020-floods-in-wales-our-response/?lang=en>

The Minister herself expressed support for this, stating during the debate: *“Their (NRW’s) conclusion was not that the report should be the end of the conversation, but very explicitly that the conversation must continue, continuing to learn the lessons of the devastating flooding in February and consider more broadly how, as a society, we prepare for the changing climate and its impact on our communities in Wales, and that’s a conclusion with which I firmly agree and I hope that the Senedd would also endorse.”*

What better way to achieve this than via an independent inquiry?

There are some crucial questions an inquiry should consider, that have become evident through the NRW report:

- Did lack of investment in NRW from Welsh Government contribute to the floods?
- Had they previously expressed to Welsh Government the need for 60-70 additional staff members, and additional resources, in order to be able to undertake their work adequately?
- How are Welsh Government responding to the review?
- Has Welsh Government funding into flood prevention been adequate?

Conclusion

To conclude, I wish to remind the Petitions Committee of the previous paper submitted which outlined why an Independent Inquiry is essential.² These all remain valid reasons, and again, I’d like to ask the Committee to reflect on the questions I asked then:

1) Will the reports provide adequate answers so as to prevent flooding of this scale from occurring again? To expand on this - how will the individual agencies Section 19 reports provide adequate information about the areas that fall between the remit of individual organisations? To give one example - the suspected causes of pluvial flooding in one area in the Rhondda Valley was a combination of failure of maintenance of a culvert on private land, watercourses running across National Rail land which flooded a highway, pouring water into a natural dip in a village where a combination of local authority drainage system and a 50 year old Welsh Water infrastructure in pumping stations failed to divert the water as it should. It is doubtful that any individual agency’s Section 19 reporting would adequately address the multi stakeholder nature of such a situation. Without an inquiry that considers the interplay between all stakeholders – forming conclusions that will lead to successful measures and recommendations for future will be impossible.

2) Will the reports provide adequate answers to inform a whole Wales plan and approach to flood prevention?

² <https://business.senedd.wales/documents/s105130/21.09.20%20Correspondence%20-%20Petitioner%20to%20the%20Committee.pdf>

3) Will the reports provide an insight into the impact the floods have had on both the physical and mental health of those affected? Further, will the reporting mechanisms that are in place ensure a full analysis of the support services offered to individuals whose health was compromised and outline lessons to be learned to develop our understanding of need and plan for future interventions in this field.

4) Will the reports give confidence to businesses based in the areas affected that every possible measure that could reduce the risk of future flooding has been taken by all stakeholders and agencies. or will businesses relocate because of the uncertainty?

The answer to all four questions remains no, and I ask the committee for their support once again in securing justice for residents and businesses. Serious questions must be answered if we are to truly learn lessons for the future.

Appendix A: Response from a Local Councillor to the debate

Cllr Shelley Rees-Owen, Pentre Ward

Please see the article below dated 23rd Dec. Yvonne and her husband are supporting our calls for an independent inquiry. She is more than happy to be interviewed by an inquiry.

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/local-news/residents-who-suffered-flooding-rct-19428167>

I was contacted by a different resident of Lewis St, Pentre a month ago. They were renting a house and lost all downstairs contents. They were rehoused to Cwmparc and moved back into Lewis st in October after the landlord had finished the repairs . Her anxiety is affecting her life and she is expecting a baby soon. She says that she “is living in fear and everytime it rains I am in bits”. She is trying to negotiate a way out of their tenant agreement in order to move out of the street.

Another resident who lived in Plesant st, Pentre at the time of the flood has been rehoused (along with her children) and will never return to Plesant st. She lost all the downstairs belongings and everynight at bedtime her and the children carry their belongings upstairs in case of flooding during the night. They carry lamps, the Hoover, the television etc upstairs and bring them down in the morning.

She doesn't qualify for a flood gate that a local charity are distributing as they are giving them to the flooded properties rather than families. The council will not issue sandbags as a precaution for her as her new home hasn't been flooded.

The resident has no faith in organisations investigating themselves following the NRW report and will won't sleep properly until they discover how and why the floods happened.

An Independent inquiry would go a long way to regain and repair public trust in the organisations involved. The general perception is that the Council and WG have something to hide by their constant refusal to support an inquiry.

Work is already underway in Pentre on the culverts and drains but without understanding how and why the properties were flooded as they were residents will never feel safe again in their own homes.

Agenda Item 3.6

P-05-964 Extend covid-19 financial support and paid leave to vulnerable and pregnant NHS wales bank workers

This petition was submitted by David Adam Clarke having collected a total of 174 signatures.

Text of Petition

NHS wales bank workers who are vulnerable, require safeguarding or are over 28 weeks pregnant might not be given the same financial support or safeguarding as full time NHS staff by health boards. Some of these NHS wales bank HCA's, Nurses, Midwives et al. have worked for the NHS for years and this is their primary income. The vulnerable and pregnant could be facing working or receiving no pay, and that is subject to them being offered alternative work.

Please support the NHS bank workers

Additional Information

The equality act 2010 protects vulnerabilities (under disability) as well as pregnancy and maternity against discrimination.

The health and safety at work act 1974 along with management of health and safety at work 1999 dictates that risk assessments must be carried out in regards to NHS bank workers in relation to the Covid-19 crisis. Where those nhs bank staff cannot work or be offered alternative work, they may be left without an income.

In these unprecedented times the Welsh Parliament, NHS wales and relevant health boards should ensure financial support and safeguarding to NHS bank workers. Currently NHS bank workers in wales might only have the choice to work or stay at home with no financial support.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/get-help/rcn-advice/bank-workers>

<https://www.rcm.org.uk/media/3896/2020-04-21-occupational-health-advice-for-employers-and-pregnant-women.pdf>

<https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/nhs-southmead-hospital-furlough-coronavirus-4082655>

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Clwyd South
- North Wales

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref VG/05477/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

16 September 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 5 August regarding petition P-05-964.

My officials have been looking into this as Welsh Government understands the situation and constraints that bank workers who have been asked to shield have found themselves in and we have asked Health Boards and Trusts to look again at the circumstances where this has resulted in an adverse impact and to consider whether any specific support can be provided. Therefore we are advising individuals to please contact the Health Board or Trust that they have undertaken bank work for to discuss their situation directly with them.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

P-05-964 Extend covid-19 financial support and paid leave to vulnerable and pregnant NHS wales bank workers, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 04.01.21

I am disappointed with the last response from Vaughan Gething, which did not directly show a clear commitment to supporting medically vulnerable / shielding NHS bank workers throughout Wales. This is greatly relevant at the current time when the second wave of Coronavirus is at its peak and those that received a shielding letter in the first wave, have again been sent shielding letters out again in Wales.

I have already had contact with an NHS bank worker who during the first wave was reportedly left without financial support, and on receiving another shielding letter in the past week, was given the same response by the NHS bank office at their health board as in the first wave. I gave recommendation they recontact their health board again in light of health Secretary Vaughan Gethings response to this petition and am yet to hear back to whether their health board will be offering additional support.

It would be greatly beneficial to medically vulnerable NHS bank workers who returned to work after the first wave of coronavirus to see a universal, clear and concise public commitment from Vaughan Gething and the senedd to support them throughout Wales, if told to shield; rather than a response based on the decisions of individual health boards, that may present inequality in support offered region to region.

I strongly believe this support for public sector NHS bank workers should equate to the same financial support accessible to private sector workers who unlike public sector NHS bank workers are eligible for furlough payments of up to 80% of there wages until March, rather than SSP (maximum £95.85 per week) or ESA (maximum £74.35 per week).

I would appreciate clarity to the actual support offered in Wales for these workers.

Kind Regards,

Agenda Item 3.7

P-05-1035 Allow birthing partners to be present at scans, the start of labour, birth and after the birth.

This petition was submitted by Hannah Albrighton having collected a total of 7,326 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Due to COVID-19 there has been restrictions on birthing partners being present for scans, labour and birth in many hospitals.

There hasn't been many reviews on this topic, if any at all.

It seems unfair, and an insult to new families that they can stand 2m apart from complete strangers down the beach or even in a shop, but they cannot have their partner or birthing partner there to witness first time experiences such as scans, the baby's heart beat, labour and birth.

It needs to change.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Neath
- South Wales West

Post-debate

Plenary debate and updated Welsh Government guidance

The Senedd debated **Support for babies and new parents during Covid-19** on Wednesday 9 December.

You can watch the debate here: <http://www.senedd.tv/Meeting/Archive/a0ebf581-8d41-469d-82a2-0aae3bbc724c?startPos=9923&autostart=True>

Or read the transcript here: <https://record.assembly.wales/Plenary/11042#A62991>

The Welsh Government has also published updated guidance on hospital visits during the coronavirus outbreak, which includes specific information about maternity services: <https://gov.wales/hospital-visiting-during-coronavirus-outbreak-guidance-html#section-56377>

Dadl yn y Cyfarfod Llawn a chanllawiau diweddaraf Llywodraeth Cymru

Bu dadl ar **Gefnogaeth i fabanod a rhieni newydd yn ystod Covid-19** ddydd Mercher 9 Rhagfyr.

Gallwch wyllo'r ddadl yma: <http://www.senedd.tv/Meeting/Archive/ac2561e1-edb4-46a3-ad42-1cbee0d0085a?autostart=True#>

Neu gallwch ddarllen y cofnod yma:

<https://cofnod.cynulliad.cymru/Plenary/11042#A62991>

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru hefyd wedi cyhoeddi canllawiau wedi'u diweddarau ynghylch ymweld ag ysbytai yn ystod y coronafeirws, sy'n cynnwys gwybodaeth benodol am wasanaethau mamolaeth:

<https://llyw.cymru/ymweld-ag-ysbytai-yn-ystod-y-coronafeirws-canllawiau-html#section-56377>

Agenda Item 3.8

P-05-1013 Provide financial support for self-employed individuals within the Welsh live music industry

This petition was submitted by Peter Phillips having collected a total of 189 signatures.

Text of Petition:

The Welsh Government have given no indication as to when live music will be allowed to commence post lockdown. Accordingly, anybody working in the live music industry in Wales is unable to earn a living. The national Self-Employment Income Scheme ends on 17 August. After that date, should the Welsh Government continue to prohibit live music, they should be compelled to provide direct financial support to self-employed individuals in Wales who make their living in that industry.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Bridgend
- South Wales West

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1013
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/03625/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

22 December 2020

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 8 December seeking further information on the Freelancer Fund and further support available for those who are not eligible for the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme.

The Freelancer Fund has been well received by stakeholders and will have supported around 3,500 freelancers across Wales since its launch in October. The fund was delivered through three separate phases and closed on 7 December. The fund was open to freelancers across the cultural and creative sectors, including those whose work relates to events that have been significantly affected by the pandemic. Further information on those in receipt of support through the Cultural Recovery Fund will be published in the New Year.

We continue to press the UK Government to be responsive and responsible in terms of supporting those who continue to fall through the gaps, who have yet to receive support that is absolutely required in order to ensure that their enterprises can survive this pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

P-05-1013 Provide financial support for self-employed individuals within the Welsh live music industry, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 31.12.20

Thank you for the copy of the Deputy Minister's reply to your request for further information in respect of the Freelancer Fund.

In his letter of 22 December the Deputy Minister basically repeats the points made in his letter of 28 October. Accordingly, I have to repeat the points made in my email response of 9 November; notably the Freelancer fund is simply not fit for purpose due to the following reasons:

- The amount of the most recent fund again fell woefully short of the applications received.
- The maximum that successful applicants received fell significantly short of the average loss of income suffered by professionals working within the Welsh live music sector as a result of restrictions placed on the industry by the Welsh Government.
- The qualification criteria for the Freelancer Fund is completely subjective insofar that the applicant's work must have 'direct creative/ cultural outcomes.' I repeat the point I made in my previous response. Would the person or persons considering the application consider Pub Singers as meeting that criteria?

In his letter of 28 October the Deputy Minister stated that the Welsh Government were exploring options to provide further support in the context of competing demands on finance. In his letter of 22 December the Deputy Minister states that the Welsh Government continues to press the UK Government to support those who fall through gaps. As his letter is in response to my original petition, the assumption has to be made that he is referring to professionals working within the Welsh live music industry. As a result of the Welsh Government's Covid restrictions in respect of live music these people were disadvantaged for many months compared to their peers in England. For the Deputy Minister to now be relying on the UK Government to support these Welsh professionals is either naively misguided or an abdication of the problem. Accordingly, returning to my original petition, I would urge the Committee to compel the Welsh Government to provide direct financial support to the self-employed individuals in Wales who make their living in the live music industry.

In addition, given where we are now compared to when I originally launched the petition last August, I would now also urge the Welsh Government to launch some sort of 'bounce back' fund designed to assist the Welsh live music industry as and when Covid restrictions permit this sector to return to work. If they were minded to launch this fund I would further urge them to tailor the money to assist the sub-

sectors in that industry who have tended to be overlooked to date by funding for the arts.

Yours Faithfully

Agenda Item 3.9

P-05-1027 Allow Welsh domestic football clubs to play friendlies and allow supporters to attend matches

This petition was submitted by Callum Howen having collected a total of 2,045 signatures.

Text of Petition:

At the moment, only 'elite' athletes can play football matches in Wales. These games are being played behind closed doors, without spectators.

In England, clubs below the sixth tier are now admitting spectators at a reduced capacity to friendlies, In Scotland, fans are back at PRO14 matches.

Providing clubs meet the guidelines presented, they should be allowed to play friendlies with spectators.

Additional Information:

Last season, only Caernarfon Town had an average attendance of more than 500.

Please allow Welsh clubs to have crowds of 500

<https://www.footballwebpages.co.uk/welsh-premier-league/attendances/2019-2020>

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Ceredigion
- Mid and West Wales



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1027
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/03036/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

16 November 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your correspondence, regarding petition P-05-1027 to allow Welsh domestic football clubs to play friendly matches.

Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your query. We have been dealing with large amounts of correspondence during the lockdown period on various subjects.

New national coronavirus measures came into force from 9 November which allow additional tiers of athletes and teams to return to competition or competitive matches. Sport Wales has been provided with the responsibility to consider further additions to the elite designation where appropriate, to enable more team sports to be played outdoors where the 30 person gathering number has been restrictive. This will be done in a controlled and phased way and only where clear guidance is in place by sport governing bodies to protect all participants.

The Football Association of Wales has been invited to submit their proposals for the minimum number of players that would be required for competitive football to return, and their plans for which teams or leagues might return and when.

It is important to point out that while we are seeking to allow more outdoor team sports to return to play, this must be managed through a phased approach to ensure we do it safely and mitigate any risk to controlling the spread of the virus.

You ask about the science behind the implementation of these measures. The Technical Advisory Cell (TAC) provides coordination of scientific and technical advice to support Welsh Government decision makers during emergencies such as the current Coronavirus

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

pandemic and ensure Welsh Government and Public Health Wales have timely access to the most up-to-date scientific and technical information related to the outbreak, which is published weekly here: <https://gov.wales/advice-coronavirus-technical-advisory-cell>.

The situation in relation to hosting sporting events, I can confirm that my officials maintain regular dialogue with FAW on the issues facing the sector. In addition, a stakeholder group consisting of organisations from the world of sport, arts and other events have been brought together, and will continue to advise on how we can safely and cautiously bring back spectators to events – but **only** when it is safe to do so. We are not yet able to put a date to this, however we continue to monitor the science and trends. Unfortunately, due to the current public health position, the next phase of Test Events has had to be put on hold – this is also the case across the UK. We do not expect test events to resume until February 2021 but we will keep this under review.

The Welsh Government fully appreciates the difficulties many of our sporting clubs and organisations will be facing now, and this is why we have been delivering a substantial £14 million financial support package via sports wales, and discussions are also ongoing for additional funding for our tier 1 and 2 teams via the lottery.

I hope this clarifies the current position.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Elis-Thomas'.

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

Petition P-05-1027

Allow Welsh domestic football clubs to play friendlies and allow supporters to attend matches.

Discussions taking place on your working groups with clubs.

All clubs in Wales (until we enter Alert Level 4) are now allowed by the FAW to play friendlies within their own leagues and/or within their own County Borough. However, the Welsh Government Regulation of a maximum number of 30 participants in an outdoor event must be respected.

This 'Rule of 30' does not allow the full compliment of substitutes or coaching staff to participate in these games and the FAW entrusts the clubs and the match officials to ensure that it is complied with.

Currently 26,000 registered players are not playing football compared with the 2019/20 season as a direct consequence of COVID-19 and it is the FAW's view that the 'Rule of 30' is one of the influencing factors.

The FAW's National Leagues Board has set up a Working Group which meets on a weekly basis to discuss the societal and financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Without supporters and/or significant financial assistance, it remains a possibility that Clubs within our National Leagues in Wales may not complete the season, which would lead to the demise of the hub of many communities throughout Wales.

The FAW strongly supports an increase in the number of people permitted in organised outdoor sport, but also recognizes the severity of the current Public Health situation. The FAW would encourage the Welsh Government to reconsider this Regulation within an Alert Level 2 situation, enabling 50 persons in organised activity, so there is a staggered approach through the four different Tiers.

The FAW communicates to over 800 clubs through circular emails to COVID-officers and through the [FAW COVID-19 webpage](#).

The possibilities of supporters to attend matches safely.

In our regular meetings with the Welsh Government, we have been appraised with the progress of the test events of 100 spectators and we had been in discussions to deliver one of the test events of 500 spectators at a Cymru Premier League match. We have been informed that these test events are now on hold until February and the FAW has submitted an application to be considered for the delivery of test events in February at Cymru Premier League matches.

We note that prior to the Firebreak; bingo halls were permitted to open with 100 customers in an indoor environment, yet the messaging from Welsh Government is that the spread of the virus is significantly greater indoors, than outdoors. We have stadia in the Cymru Premier League like Jenner Park in Barry, with over 2,500 outdoor empty seats, yet 100 people are sat in the adjacent indoor clubhouse watching the match on television. We have worked with our clubs on designing safe capacities for spectators to attend their venues, based on an introductory figure of 15%, leading up to a maximum of 30%, subject to the success at the lower level. We work closely with the Sports Ground Safety Association to ensure the required safety at all of all Cymru Premier League grounds and believe that the principles outlined in the 'Planning for Social Distancing at Sports Grounds' (SG02) document

are also evident in the FAW's 'Return to Spectating Protocols'. We have partnered with the UK's leading ticket agent to produce a digital ticket, which can only be accessed on the matchday following completion of a COVID-19 self-assessment questionnaire and everybody entering the ground will be temperature tested upon arrival. The digital ticket also acts as the Track and Trace mechanism and can identify if the ticket holder is inside the ground or has been inside the ground at all during the match.

We have safely delivered the principle of Red & Amber zones at all CPL matches since September 12th and our organisation has been commended by senior Welsh politicians who've attended CPL games.

We would like Welsh Government to continue with its pilot project of 500 spectators using the FAW and the JD Cymru Premier, as trusted partners to deliver this safely.

Naturally, we would like to see spectators returning to all football matches in Wales but understand that this principle must be conducted in a controlled environment. We therefore fully accept that it will be very difficult and impractical to implement paperless tickets, good signage, controlled access and egress and effective sanitisation points in ground which are not enclosed.

Ongoing financial viability of leagues and clubs.

We have recently announced a partnership programme with the National Lottery worth £750,000 at Tiers 1 & 2 of the domestic game in Wales. However, this still does not fill the void that has been lost by these clubs due to the non-return of spectators.

As confirmed in their annual audited accounts at the last Financial Year End the Cymru Premier League clubs (Tier 1) alone will have lost over £300,000 revenue from the loss of paying customers and an additional commercial income at CPL ground of £745,305. The current financial situation of CPL Member Clubs is therefore perilous due to the impact of Covid-19.

The Tier 2 Leagues (Cymru North & South) have not yet started their 2020/21 season but they have recently been awarded Elite status to commence in January. As there are far fewer professional players plying their trade in the second tier, matchday income is an extremely important revenue stream for these clubs. One typical example of matchday revenue from last season states receipts of £880 which replicated for a whole season by the 32 Member Clubs would denote a loss of income of over £450,000.

Failing to start/complete the playing seasons in the Cymru South/North could also see a further potential loss of £65,000 as League commercial partnerships and contracts would have been breached.

The Tier 3 FAW Affiliated Leagues are impacted on a smaller scale than the Tier 2 clubs but failing to start/complete the playing season in the newly named Ardal Leagues could also see a potential loss of £23,000 due to unfulfilled commercial contracts.

Our clubs are at the heart of their respective communities and an impact study of Bala Town (attached) gives us all an insight into the importance and relevance of our domestic clubs.

Although we take great pride in the development, growth and positive community impact of our domestic leagues, the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted how reliant our respective leagues are on matchday income. We are working with clubs to ensure more viable and streamlined budgets for the coming seasons, but there's no escaping from the fact that our domestic game is currently in a financially perilous position due to the pandemic.

Agenda Item 3.10

P-05-1037 Allow children to enter lockdown areas to continue to train with their existing sports clubs

This petition was submitted by Wendy Brady having collected a total of 9,867 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Child athletes, gymnasts, swimmers, footballers are being prevented from maintaining their training in their chosen sports with their clubs because of the local lockdown boundaries.

Additional Information:

Clubs have introduced Covid safe procedures and children within the county boundaries are permitted to train whereas those outside the areas cannot. This means that sports facilities in Newport, Swansea and Cardiff are only available for the children in the county area, whereas children who live just 5 miles away are prevented from training. We would like the Senedd to permit child members to attend their sports clubs and to make it a “reasonable excuse” for entering a lockdown area so that children can continue to train during the winter months.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Newport East
- South Wales East

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1037
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/03266/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

9 December 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your response regarding the petition on allowing children to enter lockdown areas to continue to train, and for the feedback from the committee.

As you'll be aware there are currently no travel restrictions in place within Wales, however, we are asking everyone to think carefully about the journeys they take and the people they meet. With regard to your specific question about future lockdowns, I cannot give you a definitive answer to this as we simply don't know what the situation might be. However, I can reassure you that we continue to do everything we can to ensure that the phased return of sport can continue for all, including children.

All future decisions will be made based on the data and the science at that time. If we all follow current guidance it is hoped that a further firebreak lockdown will not be required. We continue to monitor the feedback of the public, and when possible these views are part of our decision making.

Yours sincerely,

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

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Correspondence.Dafydd.Elis-Thomas@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

22nd December 2020.

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee.

Dear Ms Finch-Saunders

Re: Petition P-05-1037- Children Lockdown Training

Thank you for your letter asking for my views on the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sports and Tourism's most response to my petition.

I recognise the serious nature of the current situation but I ask that the Petition's committee considers the following points.

As Wales has recently been moved into Tier 4 restrictions unfortunately once again children are not permitted to take part in organised sport activities, even if they are outdoor activities. This differs considerably from the position in England's Tier 4 areas where outdoor sport activities for under 18s and people with disabilities are allowed to continue despite the restrictions.

I note that the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sports and Tourism states that "all future decisions will be made based on the data and the science". From the scientific articles that I have read it seems universally agreed that transmission of the virus (even the new strain) rarely takes place outdoors. Presumably that is why in England the distinction has been made between indoor and outdoor activities.

Many children have had repeated periods of self-isolation during this school term, during which time they have been unable to attend their sporting activities or even exercise outdoors. Now those children face a further indeterminate period of time where they will not be allowed to exercise.

The best defence that we as a nation have over this pandemic and any future pandemic is to be fit and strong with good lung capacity and cardiovascular health, it is therefore imperative that we allow children to continue to train during these winter months.

In my last reply I detailed the mental health benefits of sport that are well-recognised. Again, many of these children have not been socialising for weeks on end and an organised, safe outdoor activity will give them the mental lift that they so desperately need at this time and may save them having to resort to mental health services in the future.

Once again, the position in Wales is that Elite sport can continue, but sport for children cannot. While education is important, the risks of transmission inside a classroom of 30 children is far greater than the risk when taking part in organised, covid safe activities, particularly those that take place outside.

Throughout the pandemic, the Welsh government has distinguished between indoor and outdoor activities and it may make sense to do so with regard to children's activities now, as the UK government has done for Tier 4 areas in England.

I am heartened by the Deputy Minister's words that the Welsh Government "continue to do everything we can to ensure the phased return of sport can continue for all, including children". While I am hopeful that before too long, all activities for children can resume, in the meantime I ask that the

government, if necessary, differentiates between outdoor and indoor activities so that at least some training can continue and that in future, as with school, it is the last activity to be restricted.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs WP Brady LLB(Hons) Dip Solicitor

Agenda Item 3.11

P-05-1099 Don't shut the Hospitality Sector (Pubs, Restaurants, Cafes) without providing scientific evidence

This petition was submitted by Nathan Gill having collected a total of 25,301 signatures.

Text of Petition:

The Welsh hospitality sector has proven that it is able to comply effectively with the strict COVID regulations, with pubs, bars, restaurants, cafés, and many other settings being equipped to deal with social distancing.

Hospitality has already adapted to using PPE, extra hygiene measures, as well as the government's track and trace system.

Additional Information:

Evidence from the government and the Office of National Statistics shows that only between 1% and 3% of new coronavirus infections are transmitted in pubs, bars, and restaurants. Unless the Welsh Government is willing to publish evidence that shows a greater risk of transmission in hospitality settings, then it would be unfair to penalise the industry once again by shutting it down throughout December.

Pubs, and the hospitality industry generally, have been among the hardest-hit sectors during lockdown. More than a third of hospitality firms say they have little or no confidence of surviving the next three months, according to data collected by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) earlier this month.

This year has left the hospitality sector on the verge of collapse, with much of it being closed throughout 2020 due to the pandemic. Christmas trade is essential for businesses to remain open, and prevent many from having to close for good due to a loss of earnings.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Ynys Môn
- North Wales



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1099
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/03421/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

22 December 2020

Dear Janet

Thank you for your correspondence of 2 December on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-05-1099: Don't shut the Hospitality Sector (Pubs, Restaurants, Cafes) without providing scientific evidence.

Since your correspondence was received, you will be aware that the First Minister announced that we have had to take the difficult decision to bring forward the alert level four restrictions for Wales to come into force from midnight on 19 December. This means that hospitality will close along with non-essential retail, close contact services, gyms and leisure centres. Stay-at-home restrictions will also come into effect allowing two households to come together to form a Christmas bubble on Christmas Day only. Throughout the alert level four period, a single person household will be able to join with one other household. While we all want to avoid further disruption to businesses and plans for Christmas, our overriding duty is to protect lives here in Wales.

We are in the midst of a public health crisis and it is clear that we are seeing the prevalence of the virus growing again in communities across Wales. It is essential, therefore, that everyone, individuals, businesses and public organisations take every opportunity to control and contain the spread of the virus. I have noted the comments enclosed from the original petitioner in respect of the impact of the implementation of new national measures to control and ultimately reduce the spread of coronavirus in Wales. However, to protect people's health and prevent more people losing their lives these measures are necessary.

Coronavirus thrives on our normal human behaviour and in the situations where we come into contact with each other for any prolonged amount of time. We also know that as the consumption of alcohol increases, social distancing and the perception of risk decreases. Wherever people mix, there's a risk of coronavirus being passed on. Our national measures have been designed to help protect us in our normal daily lives but particularly in those everyday situations where we are in contact with other people and there is a risk of us catching or spreading coronavirus. We also ask everyone to make small changes to their

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

own lives – above and beyond the regulations – to reduce their contact with others to keep themselves and their families safe.

To strengthen the national measures in Wales, we looked carefully at all the evidence about what interventions work – this is in keeping with the approach we have adopted throughout the pandemic. A recent paper by the UK's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) has analysed all the interventions taken in the UK to see which are the most effective. These are set out in this paper:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/939057/S0905_191120_O_Four_Nations_Autumn_Interventions_V1_.pdf

It concludes the measures in Scotland's level three and England's tier three are effective. Many of these measures are already in place in Wales.

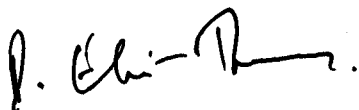
These regulations do not seek to single out a particular sector – this is a strengthening of the overall package national measures, which seeks to protect public health and reduce the incidence of coronavirus in Wales. Our decisions are informed by the latest available scientific evidence – including assessment of Track and Trace data, which is published by the Technical Advisory Group on its [website](#).

The First Minister confirmed in his Press Conference on 11 December that the current measures will remain in place and that an updated version of Wales' Covid-19 control plan will be published. It is available at: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-control-plan-alert-levels-wales>. The plan sets out in detail how national measures will be introduced in a more uniform and predictable way, depending on a range of indicators, including the level of the virus in Wales and the risk of infection.

To support the hospitality, leisure and retail sectors, we are putting in place a £340m support package to help businesses affected by the restrictions through to the New Year. This includes a specific £180m fund for hospitality and leisure businesses and the supply chain – a triage tool will be available on the [Business Wales website](#) by the 11th of December for businesses to check their eligibility for the fund and the fund will open to applications on the week commencing the 11th of January.

Many people have adhered to the rules and regulations and we are grateful to hospitality businesses which have, in the main worked very hard to keep people safe. Whilst the main aim of these measures is to minimize the level of risk, it is ultimately everyone's responsibility (including a personal responsibility) in individual circumstances to consider the most sensible thing to do to avoid the spread of the virus.

Yours sincerely,



Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

P-05-1099 Don't shut the Hospitality Sector (Pubs, Restaurants, Cafes) without providing scientific evidence, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 03.01.21

Thank you for the opportunity to reply.

I note the response from Lord Elis-Thomas.

I note that UKHospitality, the trade body, released a survey on the 26th October, in which it revealed (Click on link for information):

Out of 250 million customer visits, the infection rate was 0.0003% of all customer visits.

<https://www.bighospitality.co.uk/Article/2020/10/26/UKH-Extremely-low-level-of-Coronavirus-transmission-in-hospitality-restrictions-curfew>

UKHospitality also published:

<https://www.bighospitality.co.uk/Article/2020/10/28/Just-1-of-hospitality-venues-linked-to-NHS-Test-and-Trace-incidences-research-finds>

I note that Brains chief executive, Alistair Darby, stated to Wales Online: "Only six incidences of track and trace contacts for possible Covid-19 cases have been recorded in Brains pubs despite more than 600,000 visits by customers since re-opening in August"

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/whats-on/food-drink-news/brains-pubs-coronavirus-lockdown-wales-19132593>

Since that statement, Brains put itself up for sale.

I note that Brains has now been forced to hand over its pub chain in Wales, to Wolverhampton based Marston's in an effort to stay viable.

<https://www.morningadvertiser.co.uk/Article/2020/12/23/Marston-s-takes-on-SA-Brain-pubs>

I also note that the East London Pub Company has had a similar experience, serving 450,000 customers and being unaware of any Covid cases.

<https://www.morningadvertiser.co.uk/Article/2020/12/24/How-has-2020-changed-people-and-pubs-East-London-Pub-Company>

ITV reported that you are more likely to contract Covid-19 in hospital than in a pub:

<https://www.itv.com/news/2020-11-19/covid-supermarkets-revealed-as-place-visitors-and-workers-are-most-likely-to-be-exposed-to-coronavirus>

Proportion of all common locations reported in PHE (Public Health England) data:

- Supermarket - 18.3%
- Secondary school - 12.7%
- Primary school - 10.1%
- Hospital - 3.6%
- Care home - 2.8%
- College - 2.4%
- Warehouse - 2.2%
- Nursery preschool - 1.8%
- Pub or bar - 1.6%
- Hospitality - 1.5%
- University - 1.4%
- Manufacture engineering - 1.4%
- Household fewer than five - 1.2%
- General practice - 1.1%
- Gym - 1.1%
- Restaurant or cafe - 1.0%

And the First Minister himself said "match the actions we take to the source of the problem". "The numbers that are rising are not being caused in hospitality businesses". This was during his press conference on the 9th October 2020.

<https://youtu.be/VP9yy4dLLPg>. Go to 20 Min 29 Sec for his reply regarding shutting down the hospitality sector

Once again, I ask the Welsh Government to publish where the scientific advice came from and on what data it was based, for closing down one of our biggest sectors in Wales, and throwing Brains (and many others) under a bus. On the 9th October he said the evidence did not show a rise in Covid due to the hospitality sector. The least he can do is show why this changed, where the figures came from and what scientific proof he had for making this decision.

I note from Lord Elis-Thomas' letter that money has been made available. How does that trickle down to the operator or each and every business effected? After they have invested so much in their businesses to operate under the guidelines, and with data showing they are

not responsible for any growth in infection figures, the question that needs answering, is what was the scientific advice that has led to the closing down of an entire industry with all of the negative repercussions associated with this move. Was the First Minister just copying other Nations?

Sincerely

Agenda Item 3.12

P-05-1100 Allow pubs and restaurants in Wales to serve alcohol/stay open after 6pm

This petition was submitted by Gwilym Owen having collected a total of 4,619 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Restrictions announced by Mark Drakeford will come into force 6pm, 4th December, which will see the hospitality industry forbidden from selling alcohol, and having to close at 6pm. These new restrictions will be detrimental to the hospitality industry and they need our support.

Additional Information:

Venues still can't run at full capacity which means businesses are struggling through these difficult times. But now what will make things much worse is the fact that from Friday, 4th December onwards, venues are now being told to stop selling alcohol and to close at 6pm, which will have a devastating impact on the industry. Many of which are family run business, who in the coming weeks, rely on what many would consider to be the busiest time of the year, which is essential for their businesses and livelihoods.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Ynys Môn
- North Wales



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1100
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/03620/20

Janet Finch-Saunders AS/MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

22 December 2020

Dear Janet

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 December on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-05-1100: Allow pubs and restaurants in Wales to serve alcohol/stay open after 6pm.

Since your correspondence was received, you will be aware that the First Minister announced that we have had to take the difficult decision to bring forward the alert level four restrictions for Wales to come into force from midnight on 19 December. This means that hospitality will close along with non-essential retail, close contact services, gyms and leisure centres. Stay-at-home restrictions will also come into effect allowing two households to come together to form a Christmas bubble on Christmas Day only. Throughout the alert level four period, a single person household will be able to join with one other household. While we all want to avoid further disruption to businesses and plans for Christmas, our overriding duty is to protect lives here in Wales.

An updated version of Wales' Covid-19 control plan has been published and is available at: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-control-plan-alert-levels-wales>. The plan sets out in detail how national measures will be introduced in a more uniform and predictable way, depending on a range of indicators, including the level of the virus in Wales and the risk of infection.

In response to the Committee and the particular points raised by the Petitioner, we have had to make very difficult decisions taking into account the direct risks of coronavirus harm with economic and social risks that resulted in putting further restrictions on the hospitality industry and on the indoor leisure industry.

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Our national measures have been designed to help protect us in our normal daily lives but particularly in those everyday situations where we are in contact with other people and there is a risk of us catching or spreading coronavirus. Coronavirus thrives on our normal human behaviour and in the situations where we come into contact with each other for any prolonged amount of time there's a risk of coronavirus being passed on. Whilst the majority of hospitality businesses across Wales have worked hard to safely operate in line with guidance, providing safe environments for their customers, TAC (The Technical Advisory Cell) studied evidence: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transmission-risk-in-the-hospitality-sector/transmission-risk-in-the-hospitality-sector> which supports that alcohol consumption still presents a major risk factor in the spread of infectious diseases and helps scientists understand where transmission is occurring. The effect of drinking alcohol – particularly drinking too much alcohol – can make people engage in more risk-taking behaviours. It can also make it harder for people to recall where they have been and who they were in close contact with if they are asked by contact tracing teams in the event someone tests positive. These regulations do not seek to single out a particular sector – this is a strengthening of the overall package national measures, which seeks to protect public health and reduce the incidence of coronavirus in Wales.

To support the hospitality, leisure and retail sectors, we are putting in place a £340m support package to help businesses affected by the restrictions through to the New Year. This includes a specific £180m fund for hospitality and leisure businesses and the supply chain – a triage tool is available on the [Business Wales website](#) for businesses to check their eligible for the fund and the fund will open to applications on the week commencing the 11th of January.

Many people have adhered to the rules and regulations and we are grateful to hospitality businesses which have, in the main worked very hard to keep people safe. Whilst the main aim of these measures is to minimize the level of risk, it is ultimately everyone's responsibility (including a personal responsibility) in individual circumstances to consider the most sensible thing to do to avoid the spread of the virus.

Yours sincerely,



Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

Agenda Item 3.13

P-05-1036 Allow support bubbles during lock down

This petition was submitted by Louise Vaughan having collected a total of 108 signatures.

Text of Petition:

In order to safeguard the mental and emotional well-being of the population, during lockdown, allow single-parents and those who live alone to form a support bubble with another household, and for couples who live apart to visit each other's homes as is permitted in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Ogmore
- South Wales West

Agenda Item 3.14

P-05-826 Pembrokeshire says NO!! To the closure of Withybush A&E!

This petition was submitted by Myles Bamford-Lewis having collected 40,045 signatures.

Text of Petition

We the undersigned are calling on the Welsh Government and Hywel Dda Health Board to reverse their decision to downgrade our county hospital and to remove our A&E.

The Hywel Dda Health Board has proposed drastic changes to how hospital services are provided in West Wales. They propose a downgrading of our county's Withybush general hospital and Carmarthenshire's Glangwili general hospital, both to community hospital standard and a new general hospital to be built around the Whitland area. But this also means that we will no longer have a fully functioning A&E department within our county as it will be replaced by a minor injury unit at the Withybush site. In doing so patients who require emergency care in our county will be faced with traveling for up to an hour, possibly even more if you live in our county's more rural areas just to have that life-saving emergency care in a hospital that will be outside the county. A time scale that not only is putting Pembrokeshire lives at risk but doesn't even factor in that added time of having to wait for an ambulance to get to where a patient may be, stabilising the patient, then transporting that patient to a hospital that is beyond the borders of our county. Crucial minutes lost in a situation where time is already not on your side.

Having no A&E department within our county is completely unacceptable and is all in the name of cutting costs but more importantly cutting corners. Well Pembrokeshire is one corner of Wales that we will not let them cut us off the map!

Please sign and share, we can't let the Welsh Government and the Hywel Dda Health Board take our county's greatest asset away from us. They've already taken our SCBU, our Consultant led maternity and our 24 hour paediatric care away from us.. already putting our babies, children and mothers at great risk! Now they are coming to finish off the rest of our county's hospital services. Please don't let that happen!

Together we will send Steve Moore and Vaughan Gething a message that they can think again if they think Pembrokeshire will go down without a fight while they strip our hospital away from us!

Save Withybush A&E! Save Withybush Hospital!

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Preseli Pembrokeshire
- Mid and West Wales

Agenda Item 3.15

P-05-947 Make GP letters for Students gratis

This petition was submitted by William Bremner having collected a total of 144 signatures.

Text of Petition

Currently when requiring a letter from the GP to back up an extenuating circumstances claim or for evidence for a DSA application the GP will charge the student around £35 (surgery dependent). This means that on top of the difficulty that a student may be having with their health, learning difficulties, and/or disabilities, they will then have to pay to have a document that shows this. This means that many students (especially those from poorer backgrounds) will have trouble with receiving the support that they need to not only complete their degree, but in some cases survive.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff Central
- South Wales Central