

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

This meeting can be viewed

Video Conference via Zoom

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

Meeting date: Monday, 10 January 2022

<http://senedd.tv/en/12586>

Meeting time: 14.00 – 16.30

Remote

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Jack Sargeant MS (Chair) Luke Fletcher MS Joel James MS Buffy Williams MS
Witnesses:	Chris Cousens, The Royal National Lifeboat Institution Bleddyn Jones, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service Nikki Kemmery, Dŵr Cymru Dominic Robinson, Severn Trent & Hafren Dyfrdwy Paula Steer, United Utilities
Committee Staff:	Gareth Price (Clerk) Mared Llwyd (Second Clerk) Kayleigh Imperato (Deputy Clerk)

1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting. There were no apologies.



2 Evidence session (Panel 1) P-06-1212 Mark Allen's Law – we want throwline stations around all open water sites in Wales

The Committee heard evidence from Chris Cousens, Chair of Water Safety Wales and Bleddyn Jones from South Wales Fire and Rescue Service & Member of Water Safety Wales Steering Group.

3 Evidence session (Panel 2) P-06-1212 Mark Allen's Law – we want throwline stations around all open water sites in Wales

The Committee heard evidence from Nikki Kemmery, Director of Health and Safety, Dŵr Cymru, Paula Steer, Director of Health, Safety & Wellbeing and Estate Services United Utilities and Dominic Robinson, Visitor Experience Lead, Severn Trent & Hafren Dyfrdwy.

4 New Petitions

4.1 P-06-1220 Increase funding available for Women’s Health Services, Education and Awareness

The Committee thanked the petitioner for raising the important issue and agreed to keep a watching brief on the petition over the coming weeks, in light of the work which is currently being undertaken by the Welsh Government.

4.2 P-06-1222 Ban disposable barbecues from our National Parks, National Nature Reserves and Welsh beaches!

The Committee agreed to write to the Fire Service and Natural Resources Wales to seek their position on disposable BBQs.

4.3 P-06-1204 Protect the people of Wales – Take urgent action on the housing crisis now

He is a Senedd Member of the Local Government and Housing Committee.

The Committee acknowledged the serious concerns raised by the petition regarding affordable housing and the negative impact on local communities across Wales. Given the complex nature of these concerns, the Committee welcomed the fact that the Local Government and Housing Committee are undertaking a detailed inquiry in this area and agreed to write to the Chair of the Committee to ask them to include the issues raised in this petition as part of their inquiry.

In doing so, the Committee agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

4.4 P-06-1225 Make Natural Resources Wales undertake and publish annual wildlife surveys before felling woodland

The Chair of the Committee highlighted that the petition was mentioned in the Senedd debate held in Plenary on 8 December on the protection of red squirrels.

Members agreed to write to the Minister requesting an update on timing of the Natural Resources Wales guidance and legislation referred to in plenary on 8 December, and also agreed to close the petition once the letter from the Minister is received and has been shared with the petitioner.

4.5 P-06-1228 Give secondary teachers a bonus for marking and standardizing summer 2021 official assessments

The Committee acknowledged the dedication and hard work of teachers across Wales who worked tirelessly to ensure children continued to access education.

Members noted that the Minister doesn't offer any additional financial recognition and agreed to write to Qualifications Wales to ask about the findings of the survey about the grade setting period.

4.6 P-06-1229 Increase funding for Gender Identity Clinics in Wales

The Committee noted that the petitioner is satisfied with the progress reported and planned for the service in future by the Welsh Government, therefore, Members thanked the petitioner for highlighting such an important issue and closed petition.

4.7 P-06-1230 Every Second Counts: Install a defibrillator at every school in Wales for the public to access

The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Education to ask what the best way forward would be to make the information available to organisations and schools about how to access funds to purchase defibrillators.

5 Updates to previous petitions

5.1 P-05-937 STOP BOILING CRUSTACEANS ALIVE (lobsters, crabs, crayfish, prawns etc) – Update following new research.

The Committee agreed to write to Welsh Government and ask what consideration they have given to the London School of Economics report on sentience in decapods, and also suggest that the definition of animals in the Animal Welfare Act 2006 be extended to include invertebrates.

5.2 P-06-1200 Make horse tethering, with or without shelter, illegal and an act of cruelty in Wales

The Committee agreed to write back to the Welsh Government to share the concerns and suggestions raised by RSPCA Cymru and Blue Cross and seek clarification regarding whether there are any arrangements to financially support enforcement to implement legislation and regulations in this area.

5.3 P-05-1045 To make shared-decision making and monthly mental health care-plan reviews a legal requirement

The Committee noted the priority given to mental health by the Health and Social Committee in its forward work programme and agreed to encourage the petitioner to take up the opportunity to contribute to their consultation.

In doing so, the Committee agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner for raising such an important issue.

5.4 P-06-1178 Free school meals for all pupils in Wales

The Committee warmly congratulated the petitioner on a successful outcome. The Committee warmly congratulated the petitioner on a successful outcome, with the Welsh Government in co-operation with Plaid Cymru making a commitment to provide free school meals for all primary school children. Whilst the petitioner's overarching call is for all school pupils to be provided with free school meals, this is a significant step in achieving that ambition. The Committee agreed to thank the petitioner and close the petition.

5.5 P-06-1205 Invest in flood defences on the Towy in Carmarthen including the Quayside area

The Committee noted that whilst Natural Resources Wales have stated that they are not currently considering a flood scheme for the Towy in Carmarthen, it appears that there is little more the Committee can do on the issue. In light of this, the Committee agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

6 Paper to note – P-05-949 SAVE COWBRIDGE OLD GIRLS' SCHOOL FROM DEMOLITION

The paper was noted.

7 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from item 8 of the meeting.

The motion was approved.

8 Discussion of evidence – P-06-1212 Mark Allen's Law – we want throwline stations around all open water sites in Wales

The Committee considered the evidence received.