

Agenda – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue: REMOTE

For further information contact:

Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Gareth Price – Committee Clerk

Meeting date: 10 January 2022

0300 200 6565

Meeting time: 14.00

Petitions@senedd.wales

1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

(14.00)

(Pages 1 – 30)

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

(14.00 – 14.40)

(Pages 31 – 34)

Chris Cousens, RNLI & Chair of Water Safety Wales

Bleddyn Jones South Wales Fire and Rescue Service &

Member of Water Safety Wales Steering Group

Short break (14.40 – 14.50)

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

(14.50 – 15.20)

Nikki Kemmery, Director of Health and Safety,

Dŵr Cymru

Paula Steer, Director of Health, Safety & Wellbeing and Estate Services United Utilities

Dominic Robinson, Visitor Experience Lead, Severn Trent & Hafren Dyfrdwy



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

4 New Petitions

(15.20 – 15.45)

- 4.1 P-06-1220 Increase funding available for Women's Health Services, Education and Awareness
(Pages 35 – 41)
- 4.2 P-06-1222 Ban disposable barbecues from our National Parks, National Nature Reserves and Welsh beaches!
(Pages 42 – 46)
- 4.3 P-06-1204 Protect the people of Wales – Take urgent action on the housing crisis now
(Pages 47 – 56)
- 4.4 P-06-1225 Make Natural Resources Wales undertake and publish annual wildlife surveys before felling woodland
(Pages 57 – 65)
- 4.5 P-06-1228 Give secondary teachers a bonus for marking and standardizing summer 2021 official assessments
(Pages 66 – 75)
- 4.6 P-06-1229 Increase funding for Gender Identity Clinics in Wales
(Pages 76 – 80)
- 4.7 P-06-1230 Every Second Counts: Install a defibrillator at every school in Wales for the public to access
(Pages 81 – 86)

5 Updates to previous petitions

- 5.1 P-05-937 STOP BOILING CRUSTACEANS ALIVE (lobsters, crabs, crayfish, prawns etc) – Update following new research.
(Pages 87 – 88)
- 5.2 P-06-1200 Make horse tethering, with or without shelter, illegal and an act of cruelty in Wales
(Pages 89 – 94)

- 5.3 P-05-1045 To make shared-decision making and monthly mental health care-plan reviews a legal requirement
(Pages 95 – 98)
- 5.4 P-06-1178 Free school meals for all pupils in Wales
(Pages 99 – 103)
- 5.5 P-06-1205 Invest in flood defences on the Towy in Carmarthen including the Quayside area
(Pages 104 – 106)
- 6 Paper to note – P-05-949 SAVE COWBRIDGE OLD GIRLS' SCHOOL FROM DEMOLITION**
(Page 107)
- 7 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from item 7 of the meeting.**
(15.45)
- 8 Discussion of evidence – P-06-1212 Mark Allen's Law – we want throwline stations around all open water sites in Wales**
(15.45 – 16.15)

Document is Restricted

P-06-1212 Mark Allen's Law

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 29 Tachwedd 2021
Petitions Committee | 29 November 2021

Reference: SR21/1044-12

Petition Number: P-06-1212

Petition title: Mark Allen's Law - we want throwline stations around all open water sites in Wales

Text of petition: Mark Allen, aged 18, drowned after jumping into a freezing reservoir on a hot day in June 2018. In May 2019 we watched whilst 3 throwlines were installed where he died. Mark could have possibly been saved if they were in place beforehand.

We, Mark's family and friends, feel that it should be law that throwlines like those placed where Mark died should be placed in designated places around every reservoir, lake, canal etc. Speaking to people who work in water safety, e.g. fire services etc., such throwlines have saved many lives. We want to save lives and save people from going through the heartbreak and tragedy of losing someone they love to drowning.

Please help us make a positive difference in Marks memory.

Thank you, Mark's family and friends



1. Background

Around **400 people drown** around the UK every year, and a further 200 take their own lives. For people between the ages of 5 and 24, drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death.

Water Safety Wales was established in 2017, it is a group of 24 member organisations working on water safety and drowning prevention in Wales. It launched Wales' **Drowning Prevention Strategy** in December 2020, and highlights that "on average 45 people lose their lives to drowning every year" in Wales. The then Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths MS **states that the strategy will:**

...give a clear outline on how [the Welsh Government] will work in collaboration with partnership organisations to engage, educate and raise awareness on the dangers of water to the communities which we serve.

As the owner operator of reservoirs in Wales, **Dwr Cymru (Welsh Water)** provides information on the **potential fatal impacts of unauthorised swimming in its reservoirs**. It highlights dangers including:

- **Hidden structures** made of concrete or metal beneath the surface of the water can often operate without warning; and
- Freezing currents can cause even strong swimmers to find themselves in **cold water shock** and unable to swim.

'Cold water shock' is the **effect on the body of entering water 15°C and below** – it can be the precursor to drowning.

The use of throw lines

A 'throw line' or 'throw bag' is a rescue device. It's typically a length of rope stuffed loosely into a bag which will let out when thrown. The **RNLI says that** for someone who has fallen in the water **they are a lifeline**.

Petition considered by UK Parliament

A **Mark Allen's Law petition** was considered and closed on 29 September 2021. In its response the UK Government highlighted that:

...where open access to water is encouraged for leisure purposes controls might, depending on the circumstances, include the provision of throwlines or other rescue devices, as part of a range of measures

Recreational Access to Inland Waters

The Welsh Government is considering introducing legislation to provide for wider access to the countryside for the purposes of recreation. It states that:

There are currently no general statutory public rights of recreational access in or on inland waters in Wales and very little common law.

It has formed an Access Reform Advisory Group (ARAG) to look in detail at a number of the Access proposals within Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR).

National Access Forum Wales Access to Water Sub-Group has been set up to give priority to inland water issues and treat access to water separately.

The National Access Forum Wales (NAFW) has been asked to report the outcomes of its sub-group discussions, and associated conclusions and recommendations by March 2021.

This report cannot be found publicly, however the NAFW meeting summary from 29 June states that "these reports are currently under review with the Minister". It is also noted that the Welsh Government's 'water branch' is working to scope intent to "begin to designate Wales' inland waters for recreation".

2. Welsh Government action

Welsh Government's Water Strategy for Wales highlights the need to take safety into account when "seeking the benefits offered by our water resources for job creation and green growth in tourism and recreation". It also highlights the potential risk of reservoirs in Wales, and the need for effective management, it states that the Welsh Government will

... work with the water companies, other reservoir owners and responders to ensure emergency planning arrangements are in place to manage these risks. We will put in place additional legislation to ensure future reservoir safety in Wales.

In response to this petition the Welsh Government highlights “work being done by [its] delivery partners”, including water company reservoir safety campaigns, and the Drowning Prevention Strategy by Water Safety Wales (detailed above).

3. Welsh Parliament action

During the Third Assembly, the issue of access to inland water was considered by the then [Petitions Committee](#) and [Sustainability Committee](#).

The previous Senedd’s Petitions Committee considered [P-05-868 – Water Safety/Drowning Prevention and the effects of Cold Water Shock to be taught in all Schools in Wales](#)

The particular issue of throw rope provision does not appear to have been considered in the Senedd prior to this petition.

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.

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

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 10 Ionawr 2022
Petitions Committee | 10 January 2022

Reference: SR21/1251-4

Petition Number: [P-06-1220](#)

Petition title: Increase funding available for Women's Health Services, Education and Awareness

Text of petition:

Increase funding available for primary and secondary care relating to women's health issues, as well as research, education and public awareness.

Examples of issues include:

Perinatal issues, birth injuries, prolapse, fibroids, endometrioses, menopause related, period related, and the impact on mental health that couples these issues.

Areas which could benefit (examples, not limited to): Midwifery, GPs, Gynaecology, Women's Health Physiotherapy, Mental health services (eg counselling).



1. Background

In 2018, Chwarae Teg carried out a [review of gender equality](#), commissioned by the then Welsh Government. In relation to **women's health**, the [Roadmap for Wales](#), produced as part of the review, states:

While women live longer, they face more health issues throughout their lives and there is often a lack of understanding of specific health issues experienced by women and girls. This is an issue that affects women at all stages of their lives and can have a notable impact on their ability to engage fully in education, training, and employment and have negative impacts on overall well-being.

The review found that access to specialist services such as midwifery, abortion, miscarriage, and other gynaecological services was a critical concern among stakeholders.

Following the review, the Welsh Government published a cross-portfolio [gender equality action plan](#) in March 2020. This included actions relating to:

- period dignity;
- pregnancy loss clinics;
- health boards' compliance with NICE guidelines on miscarriage and ectopic pregnancy;
- implementing the [five year vision for maternity care in Wales 2019-2024](#).

The lack of a specific 'women and girls' health plan in Wales was highlighted by a number of respondents to the Health, Social Care and Sport's Committee's recent [consultation on priorities](#) for the Sixth Senedd. Stakeholders called for the Committee's support to put women's health-related priorities on the Welsh Government's agenda, including a focus on access to healthcare and health outcomes, and taking a life-course approach to women's health that extends beyond the traditional focus on maternity. Specific issues highlighted include endometriosis, menopause, perinatal mental health, contraception, abortion, miscarriage support, fertility, and cervical screening.

Elsewhere in the UK

Scotland is the first country in the UK to have a [Women's Health Plan](#). The Plan, published in August 2021, aims to raise awareness around women's health,

improve access to health care, and reduce inequalities in health outcomes for girls and women, both for sex-specific conditions and in women's general health.

Earlier this year, the UK Government [consulted on a Women's Health Strategy](#) for England. Responses to the consultation are currently being analysed.

2. Welsh Government response

The Welsh Government's response to the Petition's Committee (16 November 2021) states:

The improvement of health services for women has remained a priority for successive Governments in Wales. It is essential our health services offer advice and care to girls and women across the course of their lives and delivers a model of care that provides support to enable women to remain healthy throughout their lives.

It highlights the role of the ministerially-directed [Women's Health Implementation Group \(WHIG\)](#) in addressing women's health issues. WHIG was originally established in March 2018 to consider a report into the use of synthetic tape and mesh for stress urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse. The Group's remit was subsequently expanded to include consideration of two other reports, on endometriosis and faecal incontinence. The Welsh Government says:

Since its establishment, the WHIG has been allocated £1million per year from Welsh Government. This money has been used to fund the programme manager and to establish a network of pelvic health and well-being coordinators in each health board. More recently it has allowed for the recruitment of a network of specialist endometriosis nurses in each health board as well as a range of other activities.

The Welsh Government's response also includes reference to its work in relation to period dignity, menopause, and perinatal mental health.

It notes the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on gynaecology provision (and in general across the NHS), describing 'substantial disruption' to services and significantly increased waiting times for many women. It refers to its [recovery plan for the NHS in Wales](#) (published March 2021), and states that although gynaecological services are not specifically referenced, there is an expectation that all health services will reflect the changes set out in the plan.

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-06-1220
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/13448/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee

16 November 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 20 October to the Minister for Social Justice regarding a petition to increase funding available for Women's Health Services, Education and Awareness. I am responding as Minister with portfolio which includes Women's Health.

Welsh Government expects all health boards to provide a full range of services to women in accordance with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance. The NHS receives the majority of its funding from the Welsh Government to cover the running costs of health services in Wales. Health Boards and NHS Trusts are expected to develop robust plans to deliver against our priorities and have a duty under the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 to conduct an assessment to ensure delivery of services and provision meet the needs of their populations which must include the needs of women and girls.

The improvement of health services for women has remained a priority for successive Governments in Wales. It is essential our health services offer advice and care to girls and women across the course of their lives and delivers a model of care that provides support to enable women to remain healthy throughout their lives.

The Maternity 5 year Vision for Wales was published in July 2019, stating that 'Pregnancy and childbirth are life changing events for a woman and her family, momentous and eagerly anticipated. Maternity staff have the opportunity to support a woman and her family through this transition ensuring safe, clinically effective care whilst providing a personalised and positive experience'.

Workstreams have been established within the maternity and neonatal network to ensure delivery of the vision which is family centred and addresses individual needs, specifically focusing on a named midwife planning care in coproduction with the pregnant person and her family. Education, support and referral to specialist services are at the core of service provision for the future.

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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.

In recent years, much of our response to addressing issues in women's health has been delivered through the work of the Women's Health Implementation Group (WHIG). The WHIG was established in March 2018 as a ministerially-directed group to consider a report into the use of synthetic tape and mesh sheets for stress urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse. The Group's remit was subsequently expanded to also include consideration of two additional reports on endometriosis and fecal incontinence as it was clear synergies could be realised to address women's pelvic health more broadly.

Since its establishment, the WHIG has been allocated £1million per year from Welsh Government. This money has been used to fund the programme manager and to establish a network of pelvic health and well-being coordinators in each health board. More recently it has allowed for the recruitment of a network of specialist endometriosis nurses in each health board as well as a range of other activities.

Earlier this year, *Bloody Brilliant*, our online resource and educational platform was launched. We know that taboos and lack of education about menstruation have tangible negative effects on girls and women's lives. It can affect future sexual and reproductive health and the lack of knowledge about periods and what counts as 'normal' can lead to the late diagnosis of serious conditions such as endometriosis, polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD), or gynaecological cancers. *Bloody Brilliant* will help break period taboos and empower young women and girls to better understand their menstrual health and to know what is 'normal' and when they should seek help.

The menopause is part of the natural ageing process for women and usually occurs between the ages of 45 and 55. In the UK, the average age is 51, but it can happen much earlier. It is important to recognise that for many reasons; people's individual experiences of the menopause may differ greatly and therefore the clinical response will also vary from person to person.

The NICE guidelines include the requirement to adopt an individualised approach at all stages of diagnosis, investigation and management of menopause and the need to refer women to a healthcare professional with expertise in menopause if treatments do not improve their menopausal symptoms or they have ongoing troublesome side effects.

We have provided an additional £42 million this year for mental health support and our Programme for Government makes it clear that we will continue to prioritise investment in mental health services. Within our refreshed Together for Mental Health delivery plan 2019-2022, our key priority areas includes supporting perinatal mental health and improving access to psychological therapies, and these areas have been supported by increased investment in service improvement funding.

Since 2015, we have invested in specialist perinatal mental health services across Wales, there are now specialist teams in every Health Board area in Wales.

Over the last 12 months the all Wales Perinatal Mental Health Clinical lead and the Perinatal Mental Health Network have developed a pathway of care. The aim of the pathways are to standardise practice, to provide clarity around roles and responsibilities and reflect a preventative, earlier intervention and evidence based approach. As well as providing equity, these pathways should ensure that the right care is provided by the right people and at the right time.

The perinatal mental health clinical lead is working in partnership with the WHIG, which has commissioned a behavioural change organisation, Social Change UK, to develop resources for families and their supporters where physical and mental health and wellbeing will not be seen in isolation. The project will offer support via resources and a subsequent campaign

that gives individuals in Wales the ability to monitor and safeguard their own health and wellbeing during the perinatal period, through a life course approach, improving population health through a focus on prevention and avoiding harm wherever possible. The project is starting with listening to the views of the people of Wales, through the insights gathered evidenced based resources will be created and the campaign will give the people of Wales what they want in the method they would like to receive the information. It is planned to conduct focus groups and stakeholder engagement events early 2022. By working in partnership, WHIG and the Perinatal Mental Health Network can strengthen the impact and value across Wales and lead to greater outcomes for families and individuals throughout the perinatal period.

This work will also complement the Network's approach to further developing an online training offer, to ensure sustainability of training and to extend training to all health and social care staff working with families across Wales during the perinatal period.

Covid-19 has placed unprecedented challenges upon the NHS both in Wales and the UK more broadly. Like many services across our health system, gynaecology provision has faced substantial disruption and waiting times for many women needing access to care have significantly increased.

On 22 March, Welsh Government published a recovery plan for the NHS in Wales. The plan lays down the broad principles of recovery and the high level the approach we will take, building on new ways of working and opportunities to do things differently. Although gynecological services are not specifically referenced, there is an expectation that all health services will reflect the changes set out in the plan.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

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

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

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 10 Ionawr 2022
Petitions Committee | 10 January 2022

Reference: SR21/1251-1

Petition Number: P-06-1222

Petition title: Ban disposable barbecues from our National Parks, National Nature Reserves and Welsh beaches!

Text of petition: Each year supermarkets and online stores promote the sale of thousands of cheap disposable barbeques which are then often used in a careless and irresponsible way leading to the destruction of important delicate wildlife habitats.

Only a total ban on these products will protect our precious Welsh wildlife.

We now realise the importance of our uplands and forests in storing carbon and protecting us from climate change. We also need to prevent marine pollution from damaging our Welsh seas.

Enough is enough..... it's time to ban disposable bbq's from our Welsh beaches, National Parks and Nature Reserves. With the ecological emergency getting worse we cannot afford to ignore this issue.

These fires take long periods of time to bring under control and to extinguish completely, as with moor fires once a part of the fire has been extinguished the fire can travel under ground and reignite in a new location. They bring devastating effects to the local area, destroy wildlife, kill huge areas of natural beauty and not to mention our lives at risk, all of which is completely unnecessary and avoidable.



Many of our most beautiful beaches are trashed each summer with simmering bbq's literally inches below the sand surface, presenting a threat to both wildlife and vulnerable beach users...its time we protected our natural world instead of watching it burn!

1. Background

Wildfires can occur when unextinguished disposable barbecues are disposed of improperly or abandoned. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) highlights that disposable barbecues are a 'common cause of hard to control wildfires in Wales'. Disposable barbecues were also implicated in a wildfire that damaged 190 hectares of land in England in 2020.

Advocates of banning disposable barbecues highlight that their portable design, a tin foil tray filled with charcoal covered by a wire mesh, make them easy to carry to remote areas where they can cause fires.

Others argue that barbecues are a "great way for people to enjoy the Welsh outdoors".

A petition submitted to the UK Parliament, urging the UK Government to ban disposable barbecues, noted that they are easy to carry prior to use but:

almost impossible to carry away for many hours after use whilst they remain hot, meaning they are often left as litter with devastating consequences

In response to the UK Parliament petition, Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Rebecca Pow, stated:

In terms of legal powers, current byelaw legislation allows for local authorities to restrict and enforce the use of disposable barbecues in parks and public spaces.

In summer 2021, supermarket chain, Co-op announced it would no longer sell disposable barbecues in shops near UK National Parks to 'help prevent devastating wildfires'.

A Disposable Barbecues Bill has been introduced into the UK Parliament. Its first reading was on 17 November 2021 and second reading is expected on 14 January 2022. The Bill would prohibit the use of disposable barbecues on open moorland; and give local authorities the power to prohibit the sale of disposable barbecues in their area. The Bill is not publicly available yet and so Senedd Research is unclear on its detail or extent.

The UK Internal Market Act 2020

The UK Internal Market Act 2020 established new rules for the regulation of goods across the UK. The Act established the principles of mutual recognition and non-discrimination, and enshrined them in UK law as Market Access Principles.

Under the mutual recognition principle, if a good complies with the rules relating to its sale in the part of the UK in which it was produced or imported to, then it can be sold in any other part of the UK without having to meet the standards in those other parts, even if they are different.

Under the non-discrimination principle, any rules regulating how goods must be sold in one part of the UK which discriminate directly or indirectly against providers from other parts of the UK do not generally apply.

Banning the sale of barbecues may come within the scope of the Market Access Principles in the *Internal Market Act 2020*. This means that the effect and enforceability of the petition's proposal may be impacted in practice.

2. Welsh Government action

The Welsh Government has previously stated (September 2020) that it has no powers to regulate the use of disposable barbeques.

The Climate Change Minister's letter on this petition states:

We have worked closely with the National Park Authorities on messaging since Covid restrictions began, particularly around responsible recreation.

This included:

Targeted messages, around the risks of disposable barbecues and only lighting fires in designated places.

Regarding the issue of fire damage caused in Welsh National Parks, National Nature Reserves and Welsh Beaches, the Minister stated:

The great majority of fires in grassland and forested areas are started deliberately and maliciously, not by barbecues. We have reduced the number of such fires significantly in recent years through a programme of collaboration between the Fire Service, the Police, Natural Resources Wales and others to deter people from deliberate fire-setting and to respond swiftly to fires that do occur.

3. Welsh Parliament action

In September 2021, Janet Finch-Saunders MS, wrote to supermarkets and other retailers urging them not to stock disposable barbecues next summer.

In response, Sara Jones, head of the Welsh Retail Consortium, said disposable barbecues need to be 'used responsibly' and disposed of 'correctly'.

In September 2020, Llyr Gruffydd MS, submitted a written question to the Welsh Government:

What considerations is the Welsh Government giving to regulating the use of disposable barbecues, specifically given the risk they pose to public land and public safety?

In response, the (then) Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government noted:

The Welsh Government is committed through its Clean Air Plan for Wales to look at the practicalities, advantages and challenges of regulating outdoor appliances and fuels, which would include disposable barbecues.

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Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1222
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/11923/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee

petitions@senedd.wales

18 November 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 20 October regarding, Petition P-06-1222 Ban disposable barbecues from our National Parks, National Nature Reserves and Welsh Beaches.

There have been a number of national and local campaigns around responsible access to the countryside. We have worked closely with the National Park Authorities on messaging since Covid restrictions began, particularly around responsible recreation. This led to a Visit Wales marketing campaign to encourage responsible behaviours in the countryside which reached large numbers of people on buses, motorway services, and on social media. Targeted messages, around the risks of disposable barbecues and only lighting fires in designated places featured prominently.

In regard the issue of fire damage caused to our National Parks, National Nature Reserves and Welsh beaches by misuses of barbecues, the great majority of fires in grassland and forested areas are started deliberately and maliciously, not by barbecues. We have reduced the number of such fires significantly in recent years through a programme of collaboration between the Fire Service, the Police, Natural Resources Wales and others to deter people from deliberate fire-setting and to respond swiftly to fires that do occur. This remains our main focus. While accidental fires, such as those started by barbecues and camping stoves, are also a concern the risks involved are relatively modest.

Yours sincerely,

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change

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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.

Petition: The housing crisis

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 10 Ionawr 2022
Petitions Committee | 10 January 2022

Reference: SR21/1044-5

Petition Number: P-06-1204

Petition title: Protect the people of Wales - Take urgent action on the housing crisis now

Text of petition: Local people are being priced out of their own communities. This is destroying our culture and language. Simply building more houses is not enough.

We call for a fundamental rethink of policy to prioritise the social, cultural and economic needs of the people of Wales in line with Cymraeg 2050 and the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

Give people a say on solving our housing crisis: implement the eight demands of the Housing Justice Charter and set up a Citizens Assembly to drive change.

More details

Covid has shown the need for decisive Welsh Government action to deal with a major crisis. Urgent action is needed now to address our housing crisis, before local cultures and language are lost and an out of control housing market destroys urban and rural Welsh communities.



The Housing Justice Charter group is a non-party political collaboration from across Wales. We researched all the issues and solutions proposed by others and summed them up in eight achievable and positive areas for action.

Implement the Charter's demands; use a Citizens Assembly to drive the change:

1. Declare a housing emergency in Wales
- 2 Create a bill to address housing inequality.
3. Protect our communities; rural and urban.
4. Protect Welsh Language and culture.
5. Reform social housing provision.
- 6 Urgently address the pressing issue of second home ownership.
7. Reform planning laws to respond to local housing needs.
8. Create a citizens assembly on housing.

For more on each demand see siartercartrefi.org

1. Background

This petition raises a broad range of issues relating to housing, communities and the Welsh language.

A number of stakeholders have raised similar concerns to the petitioners, notably in the period leading up to the 2021 Senedd election.

The petitioners reference a bill to address housing inequality. A campaign for a right to adequate housing is being led by Tai Pawb, the Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru and Shelter Cymru. That campaign is calling for the incorporation of the right to adequate housing (as outlined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) into Welsh law.

As part of the next five-year work programme for Cymraeg 2050, the national strategy to reach 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050, the Welsh Government has

said it will “create a Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan and use economic levers to strengthen Welsh speaking communities.”

The Minister for Climate Change has written to the Chair regarding this petition and outlined some of the actions the government is taking.

2. Welsh Government action

2.1. Programme for Government commitments

The Programme for Government was updated on 7 December to incorporate the Co-operation Agreement between the Welsh Government and Plaid. It makes a number of commitments relevant to this petition, including to:

- Build 20,000 new low carbon social homes for rent.
- Establish Unnos, a national construction company, to support councils and social landlords to improve the supply of social and affordable housing.
- Reform housing law and implement the Homelessness Action Group’s recommendation to fundamentally reform homelessness services to focus on prevention and rapid rehousing.
- Publish a White Paper to include proposals for a right to adequate housing including fair rents and new approaches to making homes affordable for those on local incomes.
- Take forward actions to cap the number of second homes, bring more homes into common ownership and licence holiday lets.
- Support cooperative housing, community-led initiatives, and community land trusts.
- Decarbonise more homes through retrofit, delivering quality jobs, training and innovation using local supply chains.
- Reform the current system of building safety, including a second phase of the Welsh Building Safety Fund, so that people feel safe and secure in their homes.
- Explore the feasibility of introducing local authority mortgages.

- Implement the Renting Homes Act to give renters greater security and develop a national scheme restricting rent to local housing allowance levels for families and young people who are homeless or who are at risk of homelessness.
- Create a Welsh language Communities Housing Plan.

2.2. Second homes

The impact of second homes on communities, and holiday homes more generally (including self-catering accommodation) has been the subject of much discussion in the Senedd in recent months.

Second Homes: developing new policies in Wales, by Dr Simon Brooks of Swansea University, was published in March 2021. The report made 12 recommendations for the Welsh Government and local authorities.

Recommendations included controlling the number of second homes, making full use of the powers to levy a council tax premium on second homes and changes to the planning system.

The Minister for Climate Change and the Minister for Education and Welsh Language wrote to Dr Brooks on 6 July 2021 responding to his report and outlined how his recommendations had informed the Welsh Government's proposed approach to this issue.

Also on 6 July 2021, the Minister for Climate Change made a statement to the Senedd on Affordability, Second Homes and the Welsh Language. The statement committed to "developing effective tax, planning and housing measures to ensure that the interests of local people are protected."

The Minister for Climate Change made a statement on second homes and affordability on 23 November 2021. The statement confirmed:

- Starting in January, a **phased pilot scheme** will be run in Dwyfor, Gwynedd to test a number of interventions. Phase 1 will include "a range of practical support to help people access affordable housing"; Phase 2 will look at the planning system;

- A consultation will seek views on whether local planning authorities should be able to require planning permission where a primary home changes to a second home or short-term holiday home;
- The Welsh Government is working with a contractor on the “feasibility and shape of a **statutory licensing or registration scheme** for all holiday accommodation”; it is proposed that a voluntary scheme will be established in the pilot area to inform a statutory scheme;
- Funding will be made available to a number of local authorities so **empty properties** can be purchased for social rent.

Following the Minister for Climate Change’s statement, the Minister for Education and Welsh Language made a statement on the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan. The statement outlined a range of measures that would be consulted on, including:

- support for community-led co-operative and social enterprises, and community-owned social businesses in the tourism sector;
- establishing an Estate Agent Steering Group to consider possible projects and research;
- establishing a voluntary “fair chance” scheme where properties are available to local people only for a limited time; and
- establishing a Commission on Welsh language communities to better understand the challenges facing Welsh-speaking communities.

2.3. Housing supply

The Minister for Climate Change issued a written statement on social housing in on 15 June 2021. The Minister noted that the 20,000 target in the Programme for Government was for affordable social homes for rent. However, the Minister also said “I believe in truly sustainable communities and to achieve this we must ensure communities are mixed tenure.”

Welsh Government housing supply statistics provide a range of estimates for the number of additional affordable and market homes needed each year in Wales.

3. Welsh Parliament action

In March 2021, the Senedd debated a petition that sought to give local authorities powers to control the housing market in rural and coastal areas of Wales.

On 16 June 2021, the newly elected Senedd debated a motion in the name of Sian Gwenllian that called “...on the Welsh Government to act immediately to address the housing crisis.” The motion was agreed by the Senedd without amendments.

The Senedd’s Local Government and Housing Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry into second homes and has issued a call for evidence.

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 Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1204
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/11393/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions Committee
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8 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for notifying me of Petition P-06-1204 – “Protect the people of Wales - Take urgent action on the housing crisis now”.

We recognise the serious challenges in the supply of affordable housing and are indeed taking action across a broad range of areas. This government remains absolutely committed to increasing access to good quality, low carbon and affordable housing in Wales. The case for investing in social housing is as strong as it has ever been. This is why we will deliver 20,000 new low carbon homes for rent within the social sector during this government term; and also why we have allocated £250m to the Social Housing Grant in 2021-22: almost double the budget in 2020-21.

Whilst our target focuses on social housing, we also know there is continued need for support for home ownership in Wales. Programmes including Homebuy Wales, Help to Buy Wales and Self Build Wales, are an important part of the toolkit to ensure people and families have the home that is right for them.

Second Homes

We also remain focused on the issues relating to second homes and ensuring opportunities for people to have affordable options to remain living in their home communities. We are taking forward a range of actions across the Welsh Government, in line with my oral statement:

<https://record.assembly.wales/Plenary/12321#A66334>).

There are, of course, a range of views and it is important that we take communities with us, and hear voices and consider issues from across all interests and sectors. You will be aware of the ongoing consultation on local taxes for second homes and self-catering accommodation, which is open until 17 November; I attach the relevant link: <https://gov.wales/consultation-local-taxes-second-homes-and-self-catering-accommodation-html>.

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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.

We will also consult this autumn on our Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan and the specific actions we can take across housing and more broadly to support the health and sustainability of Welsh as a thriving community language. Our work on a statutory licensing scheme for all holiday accommodation, including short-term lets, is underway and will report in December.

In all of this we remain particularly mindful of the need to avoid unintended consequences as we seek to achieve a practicable, effective, fair and balanced system.

Rental Agreement

Access to good quality and affordable homes is at the heart of our broad approach. As you will be aware, Housing Associations are regulated by the Welsh Government to ensure they are well governed, financially robust and provide high quality services to tenants. In 2019, we agreed a five-year rental agreement which restricts all social landlords increasing their rents by more than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) +1%. CPI plus 1% is the maximum rent increase social landlords can apply, and it is for them to ensure rents are affordable for their tenants.

Private Rented Sector

We are also working on further initiatives to improve the supply of affordable housing, including our Private Rented Sector Leasing Scheme. This scheme encourages owners to lease their property to local authorities. The local authority can then use properties on the scheme to house those at risk of homelessness, or actually homeless, at local housing allowance rates. We anticipate that this scheme will attract a variety of different types of property owners including those who might otherwise contemplate leaving the market. Although the scheme is currently operational in a small number of local authorities it forms a key Programme for Government commitment to extend this scheme across all local authorities in Wales.

As the Committee is aware, we are working to implement the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 during this first year of our legislative programme and have confirmed our commitment to provide at least six months' preparation time for tenants, landlords and others by issuing the key documentation they will need. The implementation of this ambitious Act constitutes a complex whole-system change by transforming the rented sector in Wales.

Planning

The planning system in Wales recognises that we need to build more homes in a way that stabilises and enhances our communities. National planning policy has been redrafted around the development of sustainable places which have access to good quality infrastructure and open spaces. Local Planning Authorities must understand the need for housing in their communities and where they have the evidence can seek to control the occupancy of new homes for local people. We continue to work with local authorities and others to ensure that the needs of local people are reflected in development plans.

Finally, I acknowledge the concerns reflected in this petition and will, of course, continue to work with representative groups as we progress our ambitious and far-reaching agenda and our numerous commitments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change

P-06-1204 Protect the people of Wales - Take urgent action on the housing crisis now, Correspondence – Petitioners to Committee, 12.12.21

We have read the response from Julie James regarding our petition. In this letter she outlines a range of actions some of which will take many years to roll out and in themselves prompt a range of further questions and clarifications.

A growing sense of outrage and despair has to be addressed and we have to have urgent and honest debates which should involve the participation of everyone affected by this crisis. We cannot continue to pretend that the housing crisis is only down to second homes and short term holiday lets, important though these issues are. We have to identify the whole range of causes which are having a fundamental impact on the Welsh housing crisis however difficult and complex these issues may be.

The housing crisis has exposed a deeply dysfunctional housing market and an unfair and unequal access to housing. It has highlighted great disparities in wealth leading to market prices beyond the reach of most local Welsh buyers, but affordable to wealthy people, most of whom are from England. This has an impact on social justice, the cohesiveness of communities and an impact on local services as a result of rapid demographic shifts. Escalating housing costs have led to a sharp increase in child poverty linked as it is to escalating housing costs. We also see a devastating impact on the culture and Welsh language in communities across Wales. In very many places local people are now largely excluded from renting or owning in their own communities.

In Julie James' letter there has been no mention of controlling the housing market despite the fact that this is an idea which is gaining more traction in wider society, and which offers great potential. If we are to meet the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act this approach will need to be part of the debate, both in the Senedd and in wider Welsh society. This system already exists in the UK. The Channel Islands are protected by the 'Jersey model' which we in Wales should be seriously exploring as a tried and tested example to follow.

As a campaign group we respectfully suggest that a full and proper debate on these issues is very necessary and that evidence and solutions should be gathered from the wider community if it is to take place. We are all affected by these issues, we should all be properly engaged, informed and enabled to participate in the solutions. Participatory political tools such as Citizens Assemblies should be urgently employed to work with the wider community. Please initiate this debate in the Senedd as a matter of urgency.

We are grateful for this opportunity to feedback, to be involved, and for the engagement of the petitions committee.

Kind regards,

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

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 10 Ionawr 2022
Petitions Committee | 10 January 2022

Reference: SR21/1251-1

Petition Number: P-06-1225

Petition title: Make Natural Resources Wales undertake and publish annual wildlife surveys before felling woodland

Text of petition: NRW manage state forests but fail to undertake population surveys of protected species before felling woodland. To avoid biodiversity loss they should assess the size of rare species populations present before felling operations are undertaken, so that they ensure habitat loss does not cause decline. The population data should be published before any trees are sold for cutting. Currently they only try and stop rare animals and birds being killed by harvesting machines but this is not enough.

It's not good enough to simply try and avoid killing rare animals when trees are cut down. Birds, bats, dormice, newts need certain types of forest habitat and cutting it down means they can't survive there anymore. Clare Pillman CEO of NRW said 'Mammals like the red squirrel and water vole, birds like the curlew and plants such as the fen orchid squeezed out by loss of habitat loss'.
<https://bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-58641886...>

NRW need to come clean and survey populations before tree felling takes place and publish the data so the public can see if the agency are causing population declines. They should be taking the lead making sure rare species have enough habitat and not just cutting forests down all the time without showing what this has done to bats and dormice.



1. Background

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) manages the Welsh Government Woodland Estates (WGWE). The WGWE accounts for ~40% of the total Welsh Forest Resource and 6% of Wales' total land area. Under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, NRW has a statutory duty to 'seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity' so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of its functions. In its publication, the purpose and role of Welsh Government Woodland Estate, NRW states:

One of the roles of the WGWE is to maintain, conserve and appropriately enhance the biological diversity of Wales' woodland ecosystems

1.1. Woodland certification

The woodlands managed by NRW are dual-certified to the Forest Stewardship Council ® (FSC®) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) certification. These accredited forest certification schemes are based on the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS), an independent certification standard for verifying sustainable woodland management in the UK. The UKWAS sets out the need to take appropriate measures to protect identified priority habitats and species in accordance with plans agreed with nature conservation agencies.

1.2. Forest Resource Plans

NRW details any protected species or priority habitats that could be affected by its operations in a Forest Resource Plan (FRP). This includes operations within the Woodland Management Unit (WMU) or surrounding area, and the impact at a landscape or connectivity scale. FRPs set out long-term objectives and are the basis for 10-year work programmes.

FRPs are updated every ten years, with information gathered from site surveys and the Local Record Centre, which keeps a record of wildlife sightings in the area. The Welsh Government's letter on this petition states:

The redevelopment of FRPs also involves consultation with internal and external stakeholders to provide further information on species and habitat.

1.3. European Protected Species

European Protected Species (EPS) have legal protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. EPS found in Welsh Woodlands include:

- 17 species of bat;
- Dormice;
- Great crested newts; and
- Otters.

NRW provides species specific guidance on how to determine if EPS species are present in a woodland and what to do if they are. Work which will disturb or harm protected species or their habitat requires a protected species license.

The Welsh Government's letter on this petition states:

A Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) is [...] undertaken where necessary in relation to European Protected Species (EPS), detailing the mitigation measures needed during operations. This entails considering the effects that operations could have on protected species and the extent of the habitat required to support that species both within and outside the WMU.

Site surveys are undertaken as part of the coupe [an area of felled trees] planning process within the FRP, to establish if any additional constraints are present. If EPS are in the vicinity of the operational coupe, an EPS Licence is applied for and the appropriate mitigation measures are listed in the coupe plan such as exclusion zones (no operations permitted to protect a required proportion of the habitat) and timing of restrictions. This is also done for other protected species if these are within the vicinity of the coupe.

1.4. Publicly available information

FRPs are placed on NRW's public register to provide further opportunity for external consultees to feedback and comment on the plans.

The Welsh Government's letter on this petition highlights that the survey data collected to inform the FRP, and coupe plans within it, are 'not shared externally due to the sensitivity of the data'.

2. Welsh Government action

The Welsh Government's approach to wildlife surveys connected to felling woodland is outlined in the Background section of this briefing and the Welsh Government's letter on this petition.

3. Welsh Parliament action

On 8 December 2021, the Senedd debated a related petition, P-06-1208, which calls for new laws to protect the habitat of red squirrels.

In the debate, Darren Miller MS, the Wales Environment Link red squirrel species champion in the Senedd, highlighted there is "no obligation whatsoever" to update or refresh FRPs to reflect red squirrel population changes on an annual basis. He advocated for updating 10-year plans more frequently to protect wildlife populations.

In her response, Julie James, Minister for Climate Change, stated the Welsh Government and NRW were discussing "how close to the actual felling operation a resurvey of the site for differing habitat conditions [...] should be". She highlighted that a resurvey would not be done for every site, and that "factors" would be considered when making decisions on the matter.

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Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1225
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/11977/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee

petitions@senedd.wales

23 November 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 4 November regarding Petition P-06-1225 entitled "Make Natural Resources Wales undertake and publish annual wildlife surveys before felling woodland."

The petition raises important issues on the protection of wildlife and their habitat in the planning of felling operations. This is related to the petition P-06-1208 regarding a call for new laws to protect the habitat of red squirrel which the Petition Committee considered recently.

The woodlands that Natural Resources Wales (NRW) manage on behalf of Welsh Ministers are certified to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS). This is an independent certification standard for verifying sustainable woodland management in the UK that is used for both Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) certification. The Standard sets out the need to take appropriate measures to protect identified [priority habitats and species](#) in accordance with plans agreed with nature conservation agencies.

NRW do this through the development of Forest Resource Plans. These set out long-term objectives and are the basis for 10-year programmes of work. A Forest Resource Plan (FRP) details any protected species or priority habitats that could be affected by operations within the Woodland Management Unit (WMU) or surrounding area at a landscape or connectivity scale. This is also done at smaller individual management unit or coupe level within the FRP. This information is gathered as part of the refresh and redevelopment of these plans every 10-years using NRW's Forester GIS system that is constantly updated following site surveys and data obtained through the Local Records Centre. The redevelopment of FRPs also involves consultation with internal and external stakeholders to provide further information on species and habitat.

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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.

A Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) is also undertaken where necessary in relation to European Protected Species (EPS), detailing the mitigation measures needed during operations. This entails considering the effects that operations could have on protected species and the extent of the habitat required to support that species both within and outside the WMU.

Site surveys are undertaken as part of the coupe planning process within the FRP, to establish if any additional constraints are present. If EPS are in the vicinity of the operational coupe, an EPS Licence is applied for and the appropriate mitigation measures are listed in the coupe plan such as exclusion zones (no operations permitted to protect a required proportion of the habitat) and timing of restrictions. This is also done for other protected species if these are within the vicinity of the coupe. The EPS licencing process and guidance, particularly in relation to dormice, takes into account the area of suitable habitat proposed for felling (thinning and clearfell) over multiple years to assess potential cumulative impacts. This can involve the retention of a required extent of habitat to ensure the population is maintained while the surrounding area recovers back to suitable habitat. Proportions and length of protection from operations e.g. 5 years depends on the condition of habitat and species concerned.

Once completed, the FRP is placed on NRW's public register to provide further opportunity for external consultees to feedback comments on the plans. Approval for felling is then granted if the FRP conforms to the UK Forest Standard (UKFS).

Publicly available data is held by the Local Records Centres. Survey data collected to inform the FRP and coupe plans within it is not shared externally due to the sensitivity of the data. Exclusion areas or restricted areas are shown on contract maps but do not include specific locations. Mitigation measures are included within the Timber Sales particulars to ensure purchasers are aware of the measures they are required to adopt during operations. A further site survey is undertaken prior to operations commencing to establish if any new constraints are present. If so, Forester GIS is updated and any additional mitigation measures are conveyed to the contractor.

Yours sincerely,



Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change

P-06-1225 Make Natural Resources Wales undertake and publish annual wildlife surveys before felling woodland, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 02.12.21

Dear Committee

Re: Petition P-06-1225

Thank you for sending me the Minister's response (Ref JJ/11977/21).

My petition sought Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to publish survey data before and after timber operations:

'To avoid biodiversity loss they [NRW] should assess the size of rare species populations present before felling operations are undertaken, so that they ensure habitat loss does not cause decline. The population data should be published before any trees are sold for cutting.'

The petition highlights the need for transparency with regard to the impacts of felling on rare species. To assess impact requires an understanding of abundance before and after operations that quantifies population abundance. Qualifying that a species is present or likely to be present after operations is not the same thing at all. The latter does not allow decline to be identified nor its potential scale predicted.

I feel that the Minister has not addressed the core of the petition directly. In the final paragraph she writes that survey data collected to inform Forest Resource Plans is not shared due to sensitivity. What are the sensitivities? One could imagine a need to redact information if a species was at risk from wildlife crime or accidental disturbance. With regard to great crested newts, bats, dormice and red squirrel this is very unlikely, indeed NRW often highlight species are present at a site.

As we have seen recently with red squirrel on Anglesey, NRW had no population monitoring data: <https://www.thenational.wales/news/19304998.expert-raps-nrw-felling-red-squirrel-habitat/> However this only appears to have been disclosed following local scrutiny. I worked on Anglesey 20 years ago and was very surprised to read this.

If we look at fisheries management, <https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/terrestrial-and-freshwater-species-reports/index-river-monitoring-for-salmon-and-sea-trout-on-the-welsh-dee/?lang=en> NRW are keen not to base population change on whether a river or riparian habitat still exists and

instead quantify population and change. NRW Forestry dept simply is not doing this and rely upon a generic 'habitat approach'.

The Minister mentions UK WAS and NRW Design planning and consultation as delivering conservation. Again this is an oblique habitat approach. Plans last a decade and in the interval between public consultation at draft stage, wildlife populations may have changed dramatically in the face of environmental factors e.g. pathogenic disease, inbreeding depression etc.

Failing to monitor means management is blind to spatial and temporal change in species abundance. This leads to a risk that felling may occur in precisely the worst location e.g. if wider animal populations had succumbed to disease and a residual was in one localised area.

I believe that NRW simply do not always undertake necessary survey to be able to assess felling effects on population viability. By not publishing information before felling occurs, the strength or weakness of the NRW understanding of mammal populations is not made clear. A public body should be taking the lead and publishing assessments would ensure this.

Warm Regards,

Give secondary teachers a bonus for marking summer 2021 official assessments

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 10 Ionawr 2022
Petitions Committee | 10 January 2022

Reference: SR21/1434-4

Petition Number: P-06-1228

Petition title: Give secondary teachers a bonus for marking and standardizing summer 2021 official assessments.

Text of petition: As a result of the pandemic, teachers in Wales are responsible for marking, standardizing and moderating GCSE, AS and A2 assessments instead of examination boards. This is in addition to their usual teaching timetable and marking the work of other learners. Some teachers have only been released for one hour to carry out the work and, inevitably, it has had to be completed after working hours and on weekends. KS4 and 5 teachers in Wales deserve a bonus for their efforts, just like teachers in Scotland.



1. Award of qualifications in Wales in 2021.

A Ministerial direction to Qualifications in November 2020 led to the cancellation of the summer 2021 exams. A Design and Delivery Advisory Group, made up of head teachers and college leaders was established to provide advice on the awarding of grades in summer 2021.

On 20 January 2021, following the closure of schools and colleges for face-to-face teaching, Kirsty Williams, then Minister for Education announced that learners would have their GCSE, AS and A level qualifications awarded through a **Centre Determined Grade** model. This meant that grades would be determined by teachers and lecturers based on their assessment of learners' work.

Schools and colleges (centres) were able to use a range of evidence to determine the grades to be awarded to their learners, including non-examined assessment elements, mock-exams, and classwork. WJEC also offered a set of adapted past papers to allow schools to continue to assess learning within their teaching plans, providing extra support for teachers and learners. Centres were required to provide a sound rationale and evidence base for the award of all Centre Determined Grades so that they could be sure that they had determined the correct grade for a learner and were able to justify the grade awarded should there be a request for a review of the grade or an appeal.

Centres were required by WJEC to implement internal quality assurance processes to promote consistency in grade decisions across the centre (within subjects and across subjects).

Schools and colleges were also the first stage in the appeals process with learners being able to request that their school or college review their provisional Centre Determined Grade if they believe an error had been made in the determination of their grade. Senedd Research published an [article](#) on 9 September 2021 which provides some background and results of the Summer 2021 examinations.

2. Position in Scotland

In 2021, the Scottish Government commissioned the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) to develop an Alternative Certification Model (ACM 2021) for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher for 2021. These are broadly equivalent to GCSEs and A levels. The model is based on teacher judgment, supported by

assessment resources and quality assurance. In 2020, the Deputy First Minister directed SQA to issue grades, primarily on the basis of teacher estimates.

On 8 December 2020, in acknowledgement of the additional workload of national qualifications assessment in the absence of 2021 exams, John Swinney, the then former Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, announced an exceptional one-off payment for teachers and lecturers to support delivery of the Alternative Certification Model (ACM) that replaced National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams (broadly equivalent to GCSEs and A levels) in 2021.

3. Position in England

On 6 January 2021, the UK Government confirmed that in summer 2021, students taking GCSE, AS and A levels regulated by Ofqual, would be awarded grades based on an assessment by their teachers. Similar to the position in Wales, teachers were able to use evidence to determine grades from across the duration of the student's course, including non-exam assessments, past papers or centre devised tasks.

A petition to the UK Parliament, [Fund a £400 bonus for every teacher required to mark externally-set exams](#), which called for a bonus for teachers in England closed on 12 November 2021. It received 3,014 signatures which is below the threshold of 10,000 for a response from the UK Government.

4. Position in Northern Ireland

On 6 January 2021, the Minister of Education, Peter Weir MLA announced the cancellation of all Council for the Curriculum, Examinations & Assessment (the Northern Ireland examination board) GCSE, AS and A2 examinations scheduled for Summer 2021. Similar to Wales, the approach to awarding grades in Summer 2021 was based on Centre Determined Grades.

In July 2021, it was reported that in relation to teachers who had been involved in assessing Centre Determined Grades, the Department for Education had 'no current plans to make a one-off payment to teachers in excess of their normal salary'.

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.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1228
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/11595/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
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18 November 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 5 November drawing my attention to Petition P-06-1228 entitled "Give secondary teachers a bonus for marking and standardizing summer 2021 official assessments".

I recognise, and am extremely grateful for, the ongoing efforts and commitment of all teachers and lecturers across Wales, as they balance competing priorities to ensure the wellbeing of and support for the progression of learners. These collective efforts were vital in supporting the delivery of centre-determined grades and ensuring our learners were ready to confidently transition to their next steps in education, employment or training.

As you know, in response to the challenges of the pandemic, it became necessary to cancel examinations for the summer 2021 exam series and to develop alternative assessment arrangements for award qualifications. The Centre Determined Grade (CDG) model was subsequently developed in partnership with headteachers and college principals, through the Design and Delivery Advisory Group.

As part of the development and subsequent delivery of CDGs a range of support was provided, including detailed guidance, the provision of exemplar materials and templates via both Hwb and WJEC's secure site, professional learning via WJEC and flexibility to utilise the summer term Professional Learning INSET day for the CDG process.

Alongside this, additional funding was made available from the Welsh Government to assist practitioners to engage with professional learning and to support learner progression with the creation of a dedicated package of transition support – this included flexibility to support delivery of the CDG process including administering the appeals process. Steps were also taken to create further capacity within the system by removing some statutory requirements in order to reduce the administrative burden on centres for example, removing the end of key stage assessments and associated moderation requirements.

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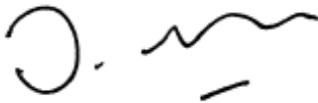
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

In recognition of the enhanced role of schools and colleges in delivery grades this summer, WJEC reduced its fees by 42% which released a further £8 million to schools and colleges. In addition to this, and recognising the extensive work of teachers and lecturers, the Welsh Government contributed an additional £1.6 million to enable an overall reduction to 2021 WJEC fees of 50%. This released an additional £9.6million of funding for schools and colleges, with the flexibility to utilise that funding to best meet their local needs and circumstances. It was my hope that centres would be able to use this additional funding not only to support learner progression but also to support staff and learner wellbeing.

I think it is also important to note that, in contrast to the arrangements elsewhere in the UK, Wales' CDG model and the appeals process in particular, was intentionally designed to enable teachers and lecturers to undertake the vast majority of their role during term time. This was a conscious effort to preserve the summer holidays which we recognise is an important opportunity for Wales' education profession to take a well-earned rest and period of reflection and preparation before the next academic year.

I hope the above recap of the delivery of centre determined grades in 2021 and the wider support that was provided to the education profession is helpful. Thank you again for bringing this petition to my attention. I would like to reiterate my gratitude for the collective efforts of the education sector in supporting learner well-being and including all those who played a role in delivering centre determined grades.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a wavy line and a short horizontal stroke.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

P-05-1228 Talu bonws i athrawon uwchradd am farcio a safoni asesiadau swyddogol haf 2021, Gohebiaeth – Deisebwyr at y Pwyllgor, 14.12.21

DEISEB P-06-1228

Talu bonws athrawon uwchradd am farcio a safoni asesiadau swyddogol haf 2021

- I ymateb i eiriau Jeremy Miles AS Gweinidog Y Gymraeg ac Addysg yn ei lythyr at Jack Sargeant AS, Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Deisebau ar Dachwedd 18fed 2021 bod "*canllawiau manwl, darparu deunydd a thempledi dysgu proffesiynol*", roedd y ddarpariaeth yma yn sicr ar gael ond fy nadl i yw bu'n rhaid i athrawon a darlithwyr ddefnyddio eu hamser prin eu hunain tu fas i oriau gwaith i ymgyswrtu gyda'r holl ddogfennaeth. Nid oedd yr Hyfforddiant Mewn Swydd yn ddigonol o ran amser.
- Er bod asesiadau diwedd Cyfnod Allweddol wedi eu dileu yn swyddogol mewn egwyddor yn ôl y Gweinidog, er mwyn monitro cynnydd disgyblion yn rheolaidd ac adrodd i rieni ac Estyn (trefnwyd ymweliad gan Estyn i fy nghanolfan i yn yr haf) roedd dal disgwyl i athrawon asesu dysgwyr yn ansyddogol, e.e CA3, ar yr un pryd â phennu graddau canolfan ar gyfer CA4 a 5. Roedd y pwysau gwaith yn erchyll.
- Yn ôl y Gweinidog roedd y "*model graddau a'r broses apêl yn galluogi athrawon i wneud y rhan helaeth o'r gwaith yn ystod y tymor*". Bu hyn yn achosi llawer o bwysau ychwanegol mewn cyfnod byr gyda nifer fawr o gyfarfodydd ychwanegol ar ôl ysgol i gyd-safoni, cymedroli a thrafod graddau gyda'r adran, Rheolwr Llinell a'r Uwch Dîm Arwain, yn ddi-dâl. Sylwch ar y geiriau "*y rhan helaeth*" sy'n golygu bod llawer o staff wedi gorfod gwneud rhywfaint o'r gwaith yma tu allan i'r tymor/yn eu gwyliau, eto yn ddi-dâl. Pa broffesiwn arall sy'n cael eu llwytho gyda gwaith ychwanegol am ddim tâl ychwanegol?
- Sonir y Gweinidog bod £9.6 miliwn wedi mynd at ganolfannau a bod "*hyblygrwydd*" ganddynt "*er mwyn helpu ymarferwyr i ymwneud â dysgu proffesiynol*" a "*cefnogi lles staff*". Ni chafodd yr arian yma ei rhaedru yn ddigonol er mwyn cefnogi staff. Yn fy nghanolfan i defnyddiwyd y cyllid er mwyn rhyddhau staff i baratoi, marcio a safoni'r asesiadau. Roedd hyn yn broblem oherwydd prinder athrawon cyflenwi ac ond yn ychwanegu at faich gwaith gan fod staff yn gorfod paratoi a gadael gwaith pwrpasol addas ar gyfer eu dosbarthiadau. Yn bersonol, er fy mod i fel Pennaeth Adran yn gyfrifol am TGAU, UG a Lefel A, yn ystod yr holl broses ges i ond un awr rhydd oddi ar fy amserlen i gwrdd ag aelod arall o'r adran er mwyn cyd-safoni. Yn yr awr honno, ffoniodd y swyddfa i ofyn i fi fynd at un o'r dosbarthiadau gan fod yr athro cyflenwi wedi mynegi pryder bod y plant yn rhy swnlyd. Gwrthodais achos roedd yr awr brin yna mor hanfodol.

- Yn y bôn felly roedd athrawon uwchradd yn gwneud DWY swydd oleiaf - swydd yr athro a swydd yr arholwr/swyddog pwnc CBAC, yn ddi-dâl, yn ogystal â gofalu am les meddyliol dysgwyr yn ystod y pandemig a gorfod wynebu baich dysgu cyfunol yn y dosbarth ac arlein i ddisgyblion absennol. Cafwyd staff NHS fonws gan Lywodraeth Cymru am eu hymdrechion ac ymroddiad yn yr un cyfnod, gyda nifer o'r staff yma yn cuddio oddiwrth y cyhoedd, gan gynnwys nifer o feddygon teulu. Roedd holl weithwyr CBAC hefyd adref yn gweithio, lle maen nhw o hyd heddiw sy'n rhoi halen ar y briw.
- Gwerthfawrogwyd athrawon Yr Alban gan eu llywodraeth - oni ddylai Llywodraeth Cymru dalu yr un deyrnged i athrawon Cymru?
- Mae nifer o athrawon yn ddiweddar wedi cymryd rhan mewn arolwg annibynnol ar ran Cymwysterau Cymru am y cyfnod Pennu Graddau, gan fy nghynnwys i. Edrychaf ymlaen at ddarllen yr adroddiad beirniadol yma yn fuan.
- Rydyn ni fel athrawon (a dysgwyr) yn anffodus yn wynebu yr un sefyllfa a phwysau eleni eto, mewn limbo llwyr, *'Dydy'r gwaith/asesiad yma ddim yn cyfri tuag at y gradd terfynol ond FE ALLAI'*. Mae pwysau y tymor yma wedi bod yn ofnadwy a mae lles athrawon yn dioddef. Rydw i wedi gweld athrawon profiadol pwylllog yn llefain dan y straen ac eisiau gadael eu swyddi. Byddai bonws fel un Yr Alban yn dangos arwydd o werthfawrogiad a pharch tuag at y proffesiwn eithriadol o weithgar yma.

Diolch yn fawr.

Document is Restricted

Increase funding for Gender Identity Clinics in Wales

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 10 Ionawr 2022
Petitions Committee | 10 January 2022

Reference: SR21/1434

Petition Number: P-06-1229

Petition title: Increase funding for Gender Identity Clinics in Wales.

Text of petition: Currently, there is only 1 Gender Identity Clinic (GIC) in Wales. The waiting time for this GIC is between 24-30 months for a first appointment, nevermind the rest of the treatment. Trans people in Wales are struggling already and having a single GIC in Wales with an absurdly high waiting time is extremely damaging, especially to young trans people. We need increased funding.



1. Background

A petition to 'increase funding for Gender Identity Clinics in Wales' has been submitted to the Petitions Committee.

Currently there is **one Gender Identity Clinic based in Wales** and waiting times for someone to be offered an appointment is **24-30 months**.

The Welsh Gender Service was created in 2019 and includes a multidisciplinary administrative and clinical Welsh Gender Team, Local Gender Teams (LGT) and a Directed Enhanced Service to improve support in primary care.

The Welsh Gender Team (WGT) is based at **St David's Hospital in Cardiff**. Local Gender Teams (LGT) are based in each health board and are made up of a doctor who prescribes hormone therapies, and a speech and language therapist.

There is 'no official data on the number of people in Wales who present with a degree of gender variance' and there is considerable variation in estimates therefore it is difficult to assess prevalence or the amount of people who require this service. It is recognised that there has been a 'significant rise in the number of people pursuing treatment options and the increased incidence of expressed need'. The Cardiff Clinic received the 646 referrals in 2020-21, which was an increase of 26 per cent from 2019-20.

2. Welsh Government action

Prior to the creation of the **Welsh Gender Service** patients within Wales with gender dysphoria had been referred to the London Gender Identity Clinic (GIC) for assessment and treatment. In response to increasing demand for gender identity services in Wales, in 2016 the Welsh Government provided funding to the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) to support the development of a gender variance pathway. The service has been developed in collaboration with the all Wales Gender Identity Partnership Group (AWGIPG) which includes representatives from the transgender community and service users.

Umbrella Cymru has been contracted to work in partnership with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (CVUHB) to provide support as part of the Welsh Gender Service (WGS). The Gender Information and Support Team from Umbrella Cymru provide support to anyone on the waiting list who wishes to access it and provides

support such as information about the pathway links to groups, help with name changes and building confidence.

Responding to the petition, the Deputy Minister for Social Services confirmed that the WHSSC is 'working closely with CVUHB to expand the Welsh Gender Service'. The response noted that 'additional funding has been provided to increase capacity, reduce waiting times and increase expertise over 3 years' and 'focuses on the development of a satellite clinic in north Wales'.

Acknowledging that more work is required, the Deputy Minister stated that the waiting list had been reduced by 6 months and the Welsh Gender Service had:

... Successfully recruited professionals with additional expertise, for instance, to undertake surgical assessments which would have previously required a referral to the London based Gender Identity Clinic hosted by The Tavistock & Portman NHS Foundation Trust.

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.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1229
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/13837/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee

2 December 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 5 November on behalf of the Petitions Committee referring to Petition P-06-1229 Increase funding for Gender Identity Clinics in Wales from Rosie Williams seeking my views on the issues it raises.

The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) as the Commissioner of the Welsh Gender Service is working closely with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board to expand the Welsh Gender Service. Additional funding has been provided to the Welsh Gender Service to increase capacity, reduce waiting times and increase expertise over 3 years. The investment also focuses on the development of a satellite clinic in north Wales.

Whilst I recognise there is more work to do, in 2020-21 the Welsh Gender Service reduced the waiting list by 6 months with plans in place to reduce that further over the next few years. The service has also successfully recruited professionals with additional expertise, for instance, to undertake surgical assessments which would have previously required a referral to the London based Gender Identity Clinic hosted by The Tavistock & Portman NHS Foundation Trust.

I hope this provides reassurance that we are making progress in the phased implementation and development of the Wales Gender Service in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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CF99 1SN

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0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@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.

**P-06-1229 Increase funding for Gender Identity Clinics in Wales,
Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 10.12.21**

Thank you for your response. I am very satisfied with the response from Eluned, and trust that the Welsh Gender Service is in good hands, especially with the suggestion of a clinic in North Wales.

With all consideration, I still believe that there is a need for a dramatic increase in funding for the GIC. A waiting time of 2 years for a first appointment to support an extremely vulnerable community is very unsatisfying. I do however appreciate the comment from Eluned that the Welsh Gender Service aims to decrease waiting times further. I also appreciate that this is a relatively new service in Wales.

Thank you again for your consideration of my petition and I truly hope this makes a difference.

Many thanks,

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

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 10 Ionawr 2022
Petitions Committee | 10 January 2022

Reference: SR21/1434-6

Petition Number: P-06-1230

Petition title: Every Second Counts: Install a defibrillator at every school in Wales for the public to access

Text of petition:

A lot of people do not know where their closest defibrillator is.

If a defibrillator is installed outside every school on a perimeter gate/fence/wall then everyone will know that if they need a defibrillator, they only need to look for their closest school to get access.

Access should not be restricted to devices at locations only when the establishment is open. Public access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week is essential.



1. Background

The British Heart Foundation's [Wales factsheet](#) (July 2021) highlights the following:

Cardiac arrest is a critical medical emergency, where the heart stops pumping blood around the body. Unless treated immediately, it leads to death within minutes.

- There are around 2,800 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests in Wales each year.
- Just 1 in 20 survive an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) in Wales.
- Every minute without cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation reduces the chance of survival by up to 10 per cent.
- Performing CPR can more than double the chances of survival in some cases (ventricular fibrillation).
- It's estimated that public-access defibrillators (PADs) are used in less than 10 per cent of OHCA's.

2. Welsh Government action

The Welsh Government published its [Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest plan](#) in June 2017. This states that raising public awareness is paramount in ensuring early recognition and prompt intervention in OHCA. It notes that immediate initiation of bystander CPR can double or quadruple survival from OHCA, while the use of a defibrillator within 3-5 minutes of collapse can significantly improve survival rates.

The plan includes the following key outcomes and actions:

- Defibrillators are readily available and accessible to the public.
- Public are aware defibrillators are easy to use and can do no harm.
- Work collaboratively to ensure all defibrillators are mapped to increase accessibility and availability.
- Ensure clear protocols and procedures are in place so defibrillators are available for operational use at all times.

On 15 October 2021, the Welsh Government issued a [statement on progress](#) in implementing the Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest plan. This notes that

The placement of defibrillators in communities has historically been decided by those who purchase them. The Wales Cardiac Network, in

collaboration with the Welsh Ambulance Service, has plotted the location of all registered defibrillators in Wales. This information, together with data about the location of every out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, indicates that a more strategic view needs to be considered when new defibrillators are purchased.

The statement highlights that:

- The [Save a Life Cymru](#) programme (this brings together organisations across Wales to help develop the public's CPR and defibrillation skills) is recruiting a clinical out-of-hospital cardiac arrest programme manager to develop a framework to oversee the location and management of defibrillators, and is also recruiting seven Save a Life Cymru community coordinators.
- Communities and organisations which already have defibrillators are being encouraged to register them on [The Circuit](#) (this is the national defibrillator network which provides a national overview of defibrillator locations).
- While more than 5,420 defibrillators in Wales are registered, just under 50% of these are registered with guardians to make sure there are regular checks on batteries and pads.
- Further funding of £500,000 was announced on 15 September 2021 to purchase almost 500 more defibrillators. Community groups and organisations will be able to apply to obtain a device from Save a Life Cymru.

The Welsh Government's response to the Petitions Committee also highlights the work of Save a Life Cymru, and emphasises the need for defibrillators to be registered. It highlights an [online mapping tool](#) which can be used to search the locations of defibrillators by postcode or town/city.

Specifically in respect of schools, the Welsh Government response states:

Whilst it could be appropriate for defibrillators to be based outside school buildings, this might not always be the best option and I believe that it is more important that this equipment is based in an area identified locally as the most easily accessible to the public.

3. Welsh Parliament action

On 15 September 2021, there was a Welsh Conservatives [debate on access to defibrillators](#) in Plenary.

In July 2015, the Fourth Assembly published a [report](#) on its consideration of petition P-04-471: Mandatory Welsh legislation to ensure Defibrillators in all public places.

The Welsh Government's [response](#) to this report is also available.

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.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1230
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/11596/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
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Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

18 November 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 5 November and for giving me the opportunity to give my initial views on a petition to install a defibrillator at every school in Wales for the public to access.

I recognise how effective defibrillators can be and the impact they can make in terms of survival in the event of a cardiac arrest. Early Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and prompt use of a defibrillator can increase a person's chance of surviving a cardiac arrest. The Welsh Government wants to see good coverage of defibrillators across the country, as well as more people who feel confident to use them and to undertake CPR. To achieve this, the Welsh Government published our Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Plan and formed the Save a Life Cymru Partnership. We have provided funding to the Save a Life Cymru campaign, which is working with organisations across Wales to raise awareness of the importance of CPR training and the use of defibrillators through the 'Touch Someone's Life' campaign. Part of this work concerns the current and future management of defibrillators; as currently defibrillators are purchased by a range of organisations, including charities and community groups.

Whilst it could be appropriate for defibrillators to be based outside school buildings, this might not always be the best option and I believe that it is more important that this equipment is based in an area identified locally as the most easily accessible to the public.

In addition, mapping of defibrillators is very important to ensure that those who need them can find them quickly. This is why I welcome action to encourage communities and organisations which already have defibrillators to register them on [The Circuit](#) and I am pleased to see that more than 5,420 are registered. Just under 50 per cent of these defibrillators are registered with guardians who make sure they are ready for use with regular checks on batteries and pads. There is an online mapping tool which can be publically accessed here:

<https://111.wales.nhs.uk/LocalServices/default.aspx?s=DefibrillatorLocations&locale=en>.

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

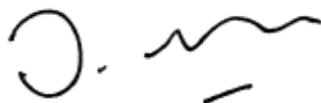
Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales

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.

Finally, I am pleased to note that a further £500,000 is being made available this year for the purchase of more defibrillators across Wales for community groups and organisations. The application process for applying for one of the Welsh Government funded defibrillators is now open and further details can be found at: <https://gov.wales/apply-for-a-community-public-access-defibrillator>.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg

Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Agenda Item 5.1

P-05-937 STOP BOILING CRUSTACEANS ALIVE (lobsters, crabs, crayfish, prawns etc)

This petition was submitted by Cardiff Animal Rights having collected 1,253 signatures online and 505 on paper, a total of 2,008 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to implement greater protection for crustaceans and to ban the cruel practice of boiling lobsters, crabs crayfish, prawns etc alive.

Zoologists have found that, unlike humans, lobsters and other crustaceans DON'T have the ability to go into 'shock,' so when they are plunged into a pot of BOILING water, their suffering is prolonged. When other animals, including humans, experience extreme pain, their nervous system shuts down as a coping mechanism. Scientists have found that it takes lobsters & crabs up to 45 seconds to die when plunged into a pot of BOILING water (something which would be considered completely unacceptable in a vertebrate animal like a cow or a pig). To give this perspective, if they are dismembered their nervous system can still function for up to an hour.

The Animal Welfare Act is designed to protect animals on the understanding that sentient creatures can feel pain and we have a moral duty NOT to cause suffering. The Act makes it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal, both in their keeping and at the time of slaughter. It means that people or organisations who neglect or abuse 'protected' animals can be prosecuted. 'Farmed animals', fish and reptiles are all protected under this Act. However, invertebrates such as crabs and lobsters, crayfish & prawns are not.

Moreover, live crustaceans have been found for sale awaiting their fate on ice trays, packaged and bound tightly in tanks or plastic to be slaughtered at home by the customer. It is considered an act of animal cruelty to boil a lobster alive in Switzerland. The Swiss now need to stun or kill animals before boiling them and lobsters can't be kept alive on ice.

Extend the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to include crustaceans including Lobsters, crabs, prawns & crayfish etc.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff North
- South Wales Central

Agenda Item 5.2

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

This petition was submitted, having collected a total of 4,637 signatures.

Text of Petition:

In Wales it is currently not illegal to tether horses. Everyone must have seen a beautiful horse tethered on a short chain at the side of a road with no shelter from the harsh weather.

RSPCA appear have no power do anything about it! If a dog was tied up on the side of a busy road, there would be outrage. Both animals matter!

Laws must be passed to stop this terrible cruelty to such sensitive creatures! These animals have no quality of life, it's an absolute scandal.

Additional Information:

HorseWorld a welfare charity created a #BreaktheChain campaign with the hopes of changing the law. Despite being dubbed as cruel and dangerous this practice remains legal.

Visit the website www.BreakTheChain.org.uk for further information.

Would be so proud of Wales if they lead the way to finally stop this dreadful practice. The RSPCA is also opposed to the practice as they say compromises animal welfare in so many ways.

Defra Code on practice for horses and the Welsh Government Code of Practice states that horse tethering is not a suitable method of management of an animal. Have to ask why therefore it's not illegal?

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff North
- South Wales Central



Pets change lives
We change theirs

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair
Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Tuesday 30th November 2021

Dear Jack,

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

Blue Cross has concerns over the suitability of tethering being used as a long-term management strategy for horses. We welcome the Welsh Government's [Horse Welfare Code of Practice](#) which provides guidance to horse owners and enforcers on what unsafe and poor tethering looks like and the impact it can have on a horse's health and welfare.

The Welsh Government [Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses](#) defines tethering and notes that it is "not a suitable method of management of an animal, as it restricts that animal's freedom to exercise itself, to find food and water, or to escape from attacks by dogs or the extremes of hot and cold weather. It also risks an animal becoming entangled, or injuring itself, on tethering equipment." The Code notes that tethering may be useful for short-term animal management but only in certain circumstances. Appendix 1 of the Code provides more information on tethering for horse owners to follow.

Blue Cross would welcome proactive measures educating owners who are likely to tether their horses alongside better enforcement. If there are concerns for the welfare of a tethered horse Section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 can be used to intervene. Section 9 stipulates the five welfare needs any owner must provide for animals in their care and long-term tethering conflicts with the welfare needs of a horse.

As with many animal welfare issues, Blue Cross is concerned about the enforcement of the existing laws in place to protect the welfare of horses. Blue Cross would argue that increasing local authority resources and knowledge to apply the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and Control of Horses (Wales) Act 2014 would have positive impact on the welfare of horses along with other animal welfare matters. Too often we see that local authorities do not have the knowledge or resources to identify issues and take action on animal welfare

Blue Cross
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bluecross.org.uk

concerns, horse tethering is one of these. This matter needs to be resolved in order for existing regulations to be effective.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Becky Thwaites
Head of Public Affairs
Blue Cross
bluecross@deryn.co.uk

About

- Blue Cross is a charity that has been helping sick, injured, abandoned and homeless pets since 1897. We help thousands of pets in need every month, providing veterinary care, expert behaviour help, and find them loving homes, as well as advice on education for current or future owners and pet bereavement support. Pets change lives. We change theirs.



Cymdeithas Frenhinol er Atal Creulondeb i Anifeiliaid Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament / Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff
CF99 1NA

3 December, 2021

Dear Jack Sargeant MS,

Thank you for your letter to RSPCA Cymru concerning petition P-06-1200, entitled *'Make horse tethering, with or without shelter, illegal and an act of cruelty in Wales'*.

RSPCA Cymru has long highlighted issues with the practice of securing a horse, pony or donkey via a tether. The welfare problems associated with tethering are complex; shelter such as trees can cause animals to become entangled but open ground offers no protection from inclement weather, the sun or flies. A horse's natural behaviour of walking long distances to graze cannot be reproduced, they cannot escape attack by dogs and people, and they are not able to enjoy the natural company of other horses. As such, the RSPCA opposes tethering as we do not believe it to be a viable, long-term way to keep a horse.

However, while we acknowledge the noble aims of this petition; realistically, an outright ban on tethering is unlikely to be practical. There can be instances where an owner needs to tether a horse for very short periods of time, for example, and for this very short period can provide the rigorous monitoring and checks required, as well as access to food, water, shelter and grazing. Additionally, inappropriate tethering that does not meet the five welfare needs of the horse is already illegal as horse owners already have a duty of care to meet the five welfare needs of their horses at all times under the Animal Welfare Act (2006).

An outright ban could also displace problems related to equine welfare to other situations which are potentially damaging for welfare, including increased instances of fly-grazing or even abandonment. A ban could also result in horse owners leaving their animals free and unattended in inappropriate situations such as next to roads, leading to road traffic problems.

RSPCA Cymru continues to campaign to see a reduction in tethering. This could be achieved through a strengthening of the wording in the Welsh Government's Code of Practice around tethering, or an exploration as to whether a maximum time period on the tether should be introduced alongside existing animal welfare laws; or other legislative or regulatory solutions. We would urge the Welsh Government to acknowledge the strength of feeling on this issue, as highlighted by the response to this petition (P-06-1200) from the public, and to consider acting accordingly.

RSPCA Cymru
6 Cae Gwyrdd
Greenmeadow Springs
Business Park
Cardiff
CF15 7AB

Cruelty Line
0300 1234 999

Elusen a gofrestrwyd yng
Nghymru a Lloegr
Charity registered in
England & Wales
Rhif/No 219099

www.rspca.cymru

Noddwr Ei Mawrhydi
Y Frenhines
Patron HM The Queen



Cymdeithas Frenhinol er Atal Creulondeb i Anifeiliaid Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

However, as outlined in your letter, issues do exist in Wales with regards to practical enforcement - both in relation to inappropriate tethering, as this is already illegal under the Animal Welfare Act, and through the enforcement of other equine-related legislation, such as the Control of Horses (Wales) Act, which provides further powers for councils in Wales to tackle abandoned and fly-grazed equines. A timely review of the Equine Identification (Wales) Regulations 2019 will also be key - ensuring the law is helping to identify inappropriately tethered equines and, crucially, linking them to the people responsible for their care; aiding enforcement.

Local authorities are being tasked with enforcing an increasing number of animal welfare laws - with the UK's Kept Animals Bill, and future Welsh Government plans, set to expand this further. It is vital therefore the Welsh Government considers the financial situation for local authorities, and the importance of consistent enforcement - including in relation to equines, and the capacity of horse wardens.

Within its recently-published Animal Welfare Plan, the Welsh Government references the three-year training programme it has funded, to enhance its support for the training of local authority enforcement officers in relation to legislation on dog breeding establishments - and there is some suggestion this could be expanded to incorporate other areas related to animal regulation. This could include laws relevant to equines; and enforcement of legislation such as the Animal Welfare Act on tethering; the Control of Horses (Wales) Act with regards to abandoned and fly-grazed equines; and the Equine Identification (Wales) Regulations 2019 with regards to identification. While hot spots for some of these activities do exist in Wales - and the RSPCA routinely responds to calls regarding equine welfare in these areas, and liaises with the Council regularly - consistent enforcement across Wales is still key. However, beyond training, financial capacity is also an issue - which is why we continue to call for the Welsh Government to undertake a wholesale review concerning the ability of Local Authorities and other agencies to enforce legislation that impacts the welfare of animals.

If we can provide any further information on this, or other matters pertaining to animal welfare, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We look forward to working closely with you and the Senedd's Petitions Committee in the coming years.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. O'Brien'.

Chris O'Brien
Senior Public Affairs and Media Manager

Agenda Item 5.3

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

This petition was submitted by Tesni Morgan having collected a total of 1,462 signatures.

Text of Petition:

On the 27th of August 2020 our darling Bronwen took her life after a long battle with her mental health.

We as a family truly believe that it could have been prevented. During the last 6 months of her life, Bronwen's mental health deteriorated drastically. She was making multiple attempts to take her life, putting herself in dangerous situations on a regular basis. Bronwen was hopeless, her current care-plan was not fit for purpose and she and the family were begging for something to change.

Additional Information:

We begged to be listened to, so did Bronwen. We were ignored.

We are striving for shared decision making and regular reviews of mental health care and treatment plans. We also call for an opportunity for next of kin to contribute to those reviews. The current NICE guidelines state that shared decision making is essential in order to meet the needs of the patient.

NICE states that shared decision making is important for:

Different choices to be made available to the patient and are discussed openly.

The ultimate decision to be reached together by the health professional and the patient.

To help health and social care professionals to tailor the care or treatment to the needs of the individual.

This in was NOT the case for Bronwen. Shared decision making is ESSENTIAL for patients to receive the best care that is tailored to their individual needs.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff Central
- South Wales Central

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

26 November 2021

Dear Jack

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

Thank you for your letter dated 22 September regarding the above petition, in which you asked the Health and Social Care Committee to consider undertaking work on mental health support during the Sixth Senedd.

As a member of the Health and Social Care Committee, you will be aware that:

- Mental health, including access to support services, was one of the priority areas emerging from our consultation on the Committee's priorities for this Senedd.
- In our strategy for the Sixth Senedd, we have identified mental health as a priority for the first year. The Committee will be considering the potential scope and approach of an initial inquiry into mental health at our meeting on 2 December.

We look forward to working collaboratively with the Petitions Committee on cross-cutting issues which fall within our remit during this Senedd.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell George". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'R' and a horizontal line underneath the name.

Russell George MS

Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Agenda Item 5.4

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

This petition was submitted Adam Johannes, having collected a total of 980 signatures.

Text of Petition:

We call upon Welsh Government to immediately

- Amend the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals so that any child in any family receiving Universal Credit or equivalent benefit is eligible.
- Permanently extend free school meal entitlements to families with no recourse to public funds
- Introduce universal infant free school meals across Wales

As the first step towards implementing universal provision of nutritious free school meals for all school-aged children in Wales.

Additional Information:

Every school-age pupil in Wales deserves the right to nutritious free school meals.

According to Child Poverty Action Group over half of children living below the UK poverty line in Wales (over 70,000) are not currently eligible for free school meals. This is not acceptable.

Free schools meals help struggling families, reduce stigma and inequality, and improve children's health and wellbeing.

We believe the benefits of universal free school meals for all school-aged children in Wales will include

- Reducing poverty and inequality
- Helping family budgets and home life
- Boosting learning and education attainment
- Raising concentration levels of pupils throughout the day

- Creating bonds in the dinner hall through shared meal experiences
- Improving health inequalities among children
- Reducing obesity
- Increasing free school meals uptake by reducing stigma associated with means tested benefits.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff Central
- South Wales Central



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE **Extending Free School Meal entitlement to all primary school children**

DATE **17 December 2021**

BY **Jeremy Miles, Minister for Education and Welsh Language**

Over the summer I updated members on the work underway to review the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals. This work was undertaken in the context of our clear commitment to continue to meet the rise in demand for Free School Meals resulting from the pandemic and to extend entitlement as far as our resources allow.

Since then, and drawing on the learning from the review work undertaken, we have explored with Plaid Cymru a range of policies in which we have common interests. The resulting Co-operation Agreement sets out the outcome of these efforts and the will to work together in delivering them. At the heart of this approach, is a commitment to extend Free School Meals to all primary school pupils over the lifetime of the agreement.

Our ambitions are informed by our understanding that younger children are more likely to be living in relative income poverty and, in taking this action, an additional 196,000 children will become eligible to take up the offer of a Free School Meal in Wales. Our commitment, therefore, represents a transformational intervention and an important further step to reaching our shared ambitions of tackling child poverty and ensuring that no child goes hungry.

Evidence also points toward the wider benefits of Free School Meals, including raising the profile of healthy eating across the whole school, increasing the range of food pupils eat, improving social skills at meal times, as well as improvements to behaviour and attainment. More widely, in rolling out this commitment we will be working with partners to increase the supply of Welsh food onto the school plate. This will shorten supply chains and reduce carbon emissions, support local food producers and distributors, and strengthen the Foundational Economy.

In preparing to deliver this commitment, we have already begun the important work of co-constructing an approach to

partners, including local authorities, schools, food producers and suppliers, and relevant voluntary organisations. This includes efforts to better understand the capacity of the workforce and kitchen and dining facilities that form the backbone of the school meal infrastructure within Wales.

There is also work to be done in meeting our shared ambitions for a Community Food Strategy, and the necessary steps to be taken that will improve food procurement, building in social value, recognising quality as local provenance, and moving away from lowest cost.

We are very keen to make progress at the earliest opportunity. Our early discussions with partners suggest it is likely that the remainder of the 2021/2022 academic year will be necessary to put the delivery arrangements and capacity in place. We are also mindful of the challenges local authorities and schools continue to face in operating during the pandemic.

As the Co-operation Agreement sets out, this joint commitment will be rolled out across the lifetime of the agreement. We are therefore working with partners to develop a staged approach to implementation so that the growth in numbers of pupils eligible for, and taking up their offer of a free school meal can be matched by the capacity of schools to effectively deliver the extended provision. While there is still work to be done to better understand what this looks like in practice, our aim is to begin implementation in September 2022 with our youngest learners in primary receiving free school meals. We would then look to continue the roll-out in September 2023 so that all learners in primary schools can benefit from a free school meal. This will allow sufficient time for planning and preparation of the required infrastructure to best ensure success. I will provide a further update early in 2022 which will set out our detailed plans for implementation of this commitment.

Finally, in delivering this commitment every primary aged learner will be offered a school meal for free. This means that we will no longer be able to use Free School Meal eligibility as a proxy indicator for disadvantage for children in this age group. We know that this indicator has, for many years, informed both local and national policy and the way in which funding is allocated. We therefore need to work closely with partners, and right across government, to consider the impact of this change, and to ensure that we minimise turbulence to both funding allocations and ways of working going forward. Whilst this is very important work, it will not hold up the rolling out of the programme once the practical matters referred to above have been addressed.

Our refreshed Programme for Government, which now incorporates the Co-operation Agreement, remains clear - we will maximise fairness for all and eliminate inequality at every level of society. Wales will be a country where nobody is held back and no one is left behind. In delivering our shared commitment to universal primary Free School Meals we are taking significant strides towards realising these ambitions.

Agenda Item 5.5

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

This petition was submitted by John Aitken, having collected a total of 740 signatures.

Text of Petition:

The Towy floods multiple times a year affecting businesses that sit alongside it. Something needs to be done as a matter of urgency, the public see plenty of meetings but no action.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Llanelli
- Mid and West Wales

Ebost/Email:

[REDACTED]

Ffôn/Phone:

[REDACTED]

Jack Sargent MS
Chair of the Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

By email: petitions@senedd.wales

29 November 2021

Dear Jack Sargeant MS,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 19 November 2021 regarding *Petition P-06-1205 Invest in flood defences on the Towy in Carmarthen including the Quayside area*. Clare Pillman has asked me to respond on her behalf as Head of Operations for South West Wales.

The short answer to your question is that Natural Resources Wales is not currently considering a flood scheme for the Towy in Carmarthen.

This is in part because parts of the town already benefit from flood schemes, whilst other parts, such as The Quay are not a high priority compared to other areas at risk from flooding in Wales.

As you and the committee members will already be aware, Natural Resources Wales, as a Wales wide body, has to prioritise how it uses the Grant in Aid and resources received from the Welsh Government in accordance with the Welsh Government's National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales and also their Grant Memorandum Flood & Coastal Erosion. Both of these documents identify that in carrying out its flood risk management functions, Risk Management Authorities, including Natural Resources Wales, must prioritise investment on a risk basis, with homes being considered a higher priority than businesses.

This is, I believe, the essence of the letter that the Minister for Climate Change sent to the Petitions Committee in which the Minister wrote :

“The Welsh Government does not stipulate which communities our Risk Management Authorities should focus its attention on, but expect them to prioritise areas which primarily reduce risk to homes. Businesses may also benefit where homes are also being protected, or where the Risk Management Authority is able to justify a scheme which only protects businesses.

All schemes which are submitted to the Welsh Government for funding support are then prioritised according to risk, utilising information from Natural Resource Wales' Communities

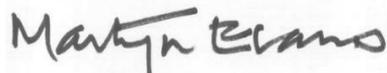
at Risk Register, historic flood events, the number and type of property at risk, costs and wider benefits.

This prioritised approach to flood risk management is set out within our National Strategy for Flooding and Coastal Erosion. It also aligns with our National Planning Policy, which can allow less vulnerable development within areas of increased flood risk”.

The other difficulty in progressing a flood scheme for The Quay, even if it was a high enough priority, is that previous studies of flood schemes at the location have identified that, in accordance with government project appraisal guidance, a scheme will not meet the economic business criteria necessary to allow public funds to be invested.

We will continue to be mindful of the area and should policy relating to prioritisation or other circumstances change that may influence a potential scheme there, we will review accordingly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martyn Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Martyn Evans
Head of Operations South West Wales
Pennaeth Gweithrediadau De Orllewin Cymru

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair of the Petitions Committee

17 December 2021

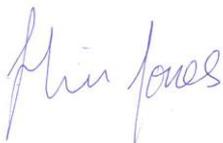
Request for a debate on petition P-05-949 Save Cowbridge Intermediate School for Girls

Dear Jack

Thank you for your letter of 20 November 2021 requesting a debate on the above petition. Business Committee considered the request at our meeting on 30 November.

In light of the time that has elapsed since the petition was created, we agreed to write back to you to ask for further information about the current status of the building and the planning application referred to in the text of the petition. Given the range of competing demands there are on Plenary time we wish to ensure that the subject of the petition remains a live issue before we reach a decision on whether to schedule time for a debate.

Yours sincerely



Elin Jones MS
Y Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.