

Agenda – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue: REMOTE

For further information contact:

Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Gareth Price – Committee Clerk

Meeting date: 9 May 2022

0300 200 6565

Meeting time: 14.00

Petitions@senedd.wales

1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

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2 New Petitions

2.1 P-06-1250 Open a full hospital facility, including an A&E department in mid Wales

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2.2 P-06-1262 Welsh Government to hold a public inquiry into decisions taken by them before & during the pandemic

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- 3.3 P-06-1173 Give legal protection to designated Special Landscape Areas in Wales
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Open a full hospital facility, including an A&E department in mid Wales

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 09 May 2022
Petitio
Petitions Committee | 25 April 2022

Reference: SR22/2201-5

Petition Number: P-06-1250

Petition title: Open a full hospital facility, including an A&E department in mid Wales

Text of petition:

The public of mid Wales currently must travel between 30 and 50 to get to the nearest hospital facility.

We are relying on English hospitals and English out of hours service (shropdoc - www.shropdoc.org.uk) to care for our people.

Recently ambulance times in the mid Wales area have taken up to 5 hours to reach patients who are obviously in difficulty, sometimes in life threatening circumstances.

Our basic medical facilities in the area are struggling to cope.



1. Background

1.1. Current health services for the population of Powys

Powys Teaching Health Board (THB) provides health services for 133,000 people living in Powys - a large rural county of 2000 square miles, approximately a quarter of the land mass of Wales.

The THB itself provides care for their residents within Powys through nine community hospitals as well as other health and care centres and clinics. However, Powys has a complex set of healthcare pathways spanning England and Wales, and the THB states that:

The very rural nature of Powys means that the majority of local services are provided locally, through GPs and other primary care services, community hospitals and community services. But with such a sparsely populated area we do not have the critical mass of people locally to provide a District General Hospital within Powys. Therefore, we pay for Powys residents to receive specialist hospital services in hospitals outside of the county in both England and Wales.

We are always striving to bring as many services back into Powys as possible, including assessments and follow ups after treatment.

The THBs' Integrated Medium Term Plan 2020-21 to 2022-23 also sets out:

The residents of Powys form part of the catchment areas for Accident and Emergency Department provision at several of the bordering District General Hospitals including the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, Hereford Hospital, Bronglais Hospital in Aberystwyth, Wrexham Maelor Hospital, Morriston Hospital in Swansea, Glangwili Hospital in Carmarthen, Nevill Hall Hospital in Abergavenny and Prince Charles Hospital in Merthyr Tydfil. An even wider range of bordering providers in England and Wales are used by Powys residents for other planned and urgent care referrals and specialist care.

Primary Care out of hours services in Powys are currently provided by Shropdoc, who have primary care centres located in community hospitals in Brecon, Llandrindod Wells, Newtown and Welshpool.

1.2. Service standards

The THB has a responsibility to ensure its population has timely access to safe, sustainable, high-quality healthcare in the most appropriate setting. When looking at the case for a full acute District General Hospital (DGH) there are clinical and professional guidelines and recommendations which the THB would need to take account of, including around ensuring the availability of sufficient staffing and clinical workload. These include:

- In 2019 The Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) published its recommendations on consultant staffing in emergency departments (ED). The College defined for the first time there should be a **minimum of 1 WTE Consultant to between 3,600-4,000 new attendances annually**, depending upon complexity of workload and associated clinical services for which an ED is responsible. The consultant would also require the support of non-consultant medical staff. The most recent published data for emergency departments (May 2021) shows a monthly attendance of 942 across all hospitals in Powys.
- RCEM does not recommend specific population sizes or densities for each ED. Provision of emergency care should be configured around local population needs. However, it should be noted that to yield maximal operational efficiency and the best use of the resources required to establish an ED, **the ED should see approximately 45,000 patients or more per year.**
- In 2012, The Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care's 2012 publication The Best Configuration of Hospital Services for Wales: A Review of the Evidence – Quality and Safety set out that:

The Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Surgeons have stated that high-quality emergency medicine and surgery services need a critical mass of medical consultants and a minimum amount of immediately available diagnostic equipment and treatment facilities. The Royal College of Surgeons recommends that a safe major Accident and Emergency department should service a **population of no fewer than 300,000** (Royal College of Surgeons, 2008).
- In 2006, The Royal College of Surgeons of England (and Wales) published an initial report on reconfiguration of services, Delivering high-quality surgical services for the future. This maintained that for an acute or district general hospital providing the full range of facilities, specialist staff and expertise for both elective and emergency medical and surgical care **requires a population of between 450,000–500,000 residents**. However, where feasible, **smaller hospitals should merge to achieve a catchment population of least 300,000**, although the report identified the difficulty

of developing effective clinical networks across too many separate hospital sites.

- The same report also stated that a fully functioning 24/7 A&E service (ie a centre that accepts all emergencies) requires a critical population mass in order to provide efficient and effective services, alongside a range of clinical support services;

1.3. Ambulance response times

The responsibility for providing ambulance services lies with the [Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust](#) (WAST). Senedd Research has published information on [Ambulance Response targets](#). There is an **all-Wales target for 65 per cent of red calls** (Immediately life-threatening) to have a response within 8 minutes. For Powys, the most recently available published figures are set out in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Performance on Ambulance Red Calls, Powys and all-Wales, August 2021-February 2022

Date	% of red calls seen within 8 minutes	
	Powys	Wales
2022		
February	52.9	55.0
January	42.1	52.5
2021		
December	43.0	51.1
November	41.8	53.0
October	44.5	50.0
September	56.5	52.3
August	47.5	57.6

Source: [StatsWales](#)

A broader range of Ambulance Service Quality Indicators, including response times to amber calls, are also published by [StatsWales](#) and the [NHS Wales Emergency Ambulance Services Committee](#).

2. Welsh Government response to the petition

2.1. Health services

On 31 March 2022 the Minister for Health and Social Services wrote to the Chair of the Petitions Committee. The letter echoes the position of the THB and states that:

Due to the size of the population and the rurality, it is not considered viable for there to be a district general hospital in Powys. The very rural nature of Powys means that the majority of local services are provided locally, through GPs and other primary care services, community hospitals and community services. The health board is looking at repatriating a number of outpatient services and bringing them closer to home and are using in-reach services, which means that patients don't have to travel. It also carries out a number of day case procedures locally, and it is generally only inpatient treatments where patients need to travel to a general hospital. However, the health board continues to explore how it can further develop these services.

2.2. Ambulance response times

The Minister's response states that:

...the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST) recognises the historic challenges of delivering equity of service across all parts of Wales, particularly in rural areas where it is difficult to predict the focus of demand and road networks can impact on the speed of response.

...the Trust began the process of undertaking a national roster review in April 2021, to ensure its staff and resources are best placed geographically to deliver a responsive and equitable emergency ambulance service across all parts of Wales.

The response also notes that a rural impact assessment has also been undertaken, which demonstrates that all counties designated as rural by Welsh Government – including Powys - will receive an increase in staff numbers to support timely ambulance response in those areas and that:

The new rosters for all stations in Wales will begin to be implemented from September 2022 and I expect the Trust to keep rosters under ongoing review to ensure there is equity of service across all parts of Wales and no adverse impact on responsiveness, staff and patient experience, or clinical outcomes.

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-06-1250
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/00366/22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

31 March 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 20 January on behalf of Andrew Wallace regarding a petition to open a district general hospital with A&E facilities in mid Wales.

The Welsh Government sets the strategic direction for health services in Wales, with Powys teaching Health Board being responsible for the planning and delivery of healthcare services which meets the needs of the population they serve. I would of course expect the health board to ensure its population has timely access to safe, sustainable, high-quality healthcare in the most appropriate setting.

Due to the size of the population and the rurality, it is not considered viable for there to be a district general hospital in Powys. The very rural nature of Powys means that the majority of local services are provided locally, through GPs and other primary care services, community hospitals and community services. The health board is looking at repatriating a number of outpatient services and bringing them closer to home and are using in-reach services, which means that patients don't have to travel. It also carries out a number of day case procedures locally, and it is generally only inpatient treatments where patients need to travel to a general hospital. However, the health board continues to explore how it can further develop these services.

In terms of the provision of ambulance services, the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST) recognises the historic challenges of delivering equity of service across all parts of Wales, particularly in rural areas where it is difficult to predict the focus of demand and road networks can impact on the speed of response.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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.

In 2018, the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust and the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (EASC) jointly commissioned an independent demand and capacity review to inform future configuration of resources and staffing across Wales. Informed by the recommendations from this review, the Trust began the process of undertaking a national roster review in April 2021, to ensure its staff and resources are best placed geographically to deliver a responsive and equitable emergency ambulance service across all parts of Wales.

The roster review is part of a suite of improvement actions informed by the demand and capacity review which are being implemented by the Trust in collaboration with health boards and other partners, all of which impact significantly on the service provided to patients. These include:

- Increased investment;
- Increased capacity, including recruitment of frontline staff;
- Improved internal processes;
- Increased focus on reducing handover delays; and
- Increased clinical pathways.

In a recent stakeholder briefing issued to all Members of the Senedd, the Trust's chief executive provides assurance that every area of Wales will benefit from increased resources following the review, though the make-up of vehicles (i.e. emergency ambulances, rapid response vehicles (RRVs)) operating in those areas may change in line with the review's recommendations, and resources may operate at different times and from different ambulance stations than currently.

A rural impact assessment has also been undertaken, which demonstrates that all counties designated as rural by Welsh Government (Anglesey, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Conwy, Denbighshire, Gwynedd, Monmouthshire, Pembrokeshire and Powys) will receive investment; i.e. an increase in staff numbers to support timely ambulance response in those areas.

The new rosters for all stations in Wales will begin to be implemented from September 2022 and I expect the Trust to keep rosters under ongoing review to ensure there is equity of service across all parts of Wales and no adverse impact on responsiveness, staff and patient experience, or clinical outcomes.

Should changing circumstances within Powys, such as an exponential growth in population suggest the future need to establish a full district hospital, it would be for the health board to consider in the first instance.

I hope this information is helpful for you and your petitioners.

Yours sincerely,



Eluned Morgan AS/MS

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

P-06-1250 Open a full hospital facility, including an A&E department in mid Wales, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 31.03.22

Dear Sir,

I am replying regarding your recent email and attached document, relating to my petition for a general hospital with A&E facilities within the mid wales area.

Thank you for the reply and the opportunity for this to be heard.

With regard to the attached document, yes powys is a very rural community, however that should not mean that the local communities who live there should have 2nd class medical facilities.

At present, member of the powys community from Newtown have to travel a 100 mile round journey to Telford, due to cut back's in the Shrewsbury hospital for many routine hospital facilities and small procedures.

The nearest A&E department is a 60 mile round trip to Shrewsbury.

Finally with regard to the ambulance coverage In the mid wales area, the ambulance service is stretched to its limits, doing everything they can, however this still leaves instances of people waiting up to 8 hours for an ambulance, often then arriving too late to save the patient as there is another 30 mile trip to Shrewsbury, or a 50 mile trip to Telford hospital.

Why should we have to rely on England's NHS ?

I also wish to highlight you to the fact we have to use the Shropshire "out of hours" doctors service, Shropshire, as there are no out of hours doctors facilities in the area.

We are basically a second class nation within our own country.

Please consider the upgrade of medical services, and the possibility of a general hospital in mid wales.

Welsh Government to hold a public inquiry into decisions taken by them before and during the pandemic

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 09 Mai 2022
Petitions Committee | 09 May 2022

Reference: SR22-2618-5

Petition Number: P-06-1262

Petition title: Welsh Government to hold a public inquiry into decisions taken by them before and during the pandemic.

Text of petition: Many loved-ones acquired Covid-19 in hospitals & care homes in Wales. PPE was lacking, staff not tested unless symptomatic, ventilation poor, Covid patients put on non-Covid wards. Many sent home without being retested; spreading infection in the community and subsequently dying. Many had DNRs placed without consultation. Communication was poor or non-existent. Lessons most definitely have not been learnt. Decisions taken in Wales which affected the people of Wales should be scrutinised in Wales.



1. Background

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry

The UK Government has **commissioned a statutory inquiry** into the response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In December, it **announced the former Court of Appeal judge Baroness Heather Hallett as chair**. The **chair is now consulting on draft terms of reference for the inquiry**. The draft terms of reference say that the UK inquiry will consider reserved and devolved matters across the UK.

Senedd Research published an article on 29 March 2022 ‘**The UK Covid-19 inquiry: how will it examine the response to the pandemic in Wales**’, which looks at what the UK inquiry is planning to do and how it might approach its work to examine the response to the pandemic in Wales.

Public inquiries

Public inquiries are independent investigations set up by government ministers. They can be set up following major accidents, disasters or public failures to examine what happened and why, what went wrong, and what can be learned.

The **Inquiries Act 2005** provides the legal basis for statutory inquiries. It enables Ministers in both the UK and devolved governments to set up statutory inquiries. When a UK Minister wants the terms of reference for an inquiry to cover Welsh matters, that Minister must first consult the Welsh Ministers.

The Scottish Government has commissioned a separate statutory inquiry on the devolved response to the pandemic, chaired by senior judge Lady (Anna) Poole. The **Scottish Government consulted** on and set the **terms of reference** for this inquiry in 2021. The inquiry was formally set up in February and is **expected to begin its work** this summer.

2. Welsh Government action

The First Minister has said that “a UK-wide Covid inquiry is the best option” for scrutinising decisions made in Wales, because Welsh Government decision-making “has been inextricably linked to consideration of the wider UK science and policy landscape”.

In September 2021, the First Minister wrote to the UK Government to set out his views that Wales should not be “an after-thought or footnote” to the UK inquiry, saying that:

- the inquiry team should come to Wales to take evidence;
- the inquiry should have Welsh-specific expertise available to it; and
- there should be a chapter or chapters on Wales in the inquiry report.

The Senedd narrowly voted against a motion calling for the Welsh Government to commission an inquiry in December 2021.

In March 2022, the First Minister confirmed that he had been consulted on the draft terms of reference before publication, and that he also intended to respond formally to the consultation “to ensure the experiences of people in Wales are properly heard”.

3. Welsh Parliament Action

There have been longstanding calls for a separate inquiry into the devolved response to the pandemic in Wales, including from the Welsh Conservatives, Plaid Cymru, the Older People’s Commissioner, and the Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice (Cymru) group. Proponents have argued that a Welsh inquiry could more effectively hold Welsh Ministers accountable for their decisions, ensure understanding of decision-making in the devolved context, and be accessible for people across Wales.

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-06-1262
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/01046/22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

14 April 2022

Dear Jack,

I am writing in response to your letter on 3 March concerning the petition from the Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice (Cymru) calling for a Wales-only public inquiry into the Covid-19 pandemic.

The First Minister has set out his strong commitment to an independent inquiry into the Covid-19 pandemic and the reasons for Wales being part of the UK-wide inquiry.

In December, Baroness Hallett was announced as chair and brings extensive experience of dealing with high-profile, sensitive and complex inquiries, including within a devolved context. This understanding of devolution is important to fully scrutinise the decisions and actions taken by the Welsh Government and other Welsh public services. She has been clear about the importance of putting people at the heart of the inquiry and in a recent statement has been very clear about undertaking the inquiry in a timely way. She has met with bereaved families, including members of the Bereaved Families for Justice (Cymru) group to discuss matters relating to the inquiry.

The draft terms of reference for the Covid-19 public inquiry were published for [consultation](#) on 10 March. The items outlined in the petition are covered by the draft terms of reference and are matters which will be included in the independent investigation by Baroness Hallett. The terms of reference are also clear that actions and decisions in Wales will be properly considered and will not be a 'footnote'.

The First Minister was consulted on the terms of reference prior to their publication. He met with the Bereaved Families for Justice (Cymru) group and included their feedback in his response to the Prime Minister.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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.

In advance of their publication, the Welsh Government has made concerted representations to the Prime Minister to ensure the experiences of people in Wales will be properly and thoroughly reflected in the inquiry and that the decisions made by the Welsh Government and other Welsh public services are properly scrutinised by the inquiry team.

The Welsh Government will further respond to this latest public phase of consultation to ensure the experiences of people in Wales are properly heard by the inquiry and have further conversations planned with the Bereaved Families for Justice (Cymru) group.

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-06-1262 Welsh Government to hold a public inquiry into decisions taken by them before & during the pandemic, Correspondence – Petitioners to Committee, 04.05.22

The Welsh Assembly was established on 12 May 1999 and was based on "a more inclusive and consensual style of politics, and prioritised public access to its work". The Senedd building was opened in 2006 and "embodies in physical form the values that underpinned the National Assembly, including environmental sustainability, transparency, and openness."

We believe that on principle, the Welsh Government should be accountable to the people of Wales. A reliance on a UK based Covid Inquiry conflicts with the very values that a devolved Wales was established upon.

Scotland are having their own Inquiry and are working closely with the UK Inquiry Chair to avoid any duplication and/or gaps. Northern Ireland are likely to follow suit. Wales will be the outlier.

There is strong public desire for a Covid Inquiry to be held in Wales. Not just from us but other key stakeholders too. In fact, had the Llywydd been allowed to vote for a Covid Inquiry then we would be having one. Welsh Labour MS's should not be whipped into voting against. Many have privately told us that they do support calls for a Wales Covid Inquiry. In principle, it is the right thing to do.

The Chair of the UK inquiry told us she "can only do her best to scrutinise Wales" in the UK Inquiry as she acknowledged how complex it will be to cover all the different policy areas plus these policy areas in each territory.

The Prime Minister in his letter to the First Minister states "Wales will be covered where possible in the UK inquiry".

We keep being assured by the First Minister that it's an independent inquiry but the UK Prime Minister is the sponsor, appoints the chair, sets the terms of reference (& can change them) and working practices. Whilst the FM has been invited to feed back on the terms he was not consulted on the chair and the working practices have not been shared. We therefore have no guarantees that Wales will be scrutinised in a UK inquiry whereas we would have in a Wales specific one.

In light of the recent UK High Court case which found that discharge to care homes in England was unlawful. Logically as Wales did the same it would be unlawful in Wales too. Yet the FM has distanced himself from this ruling & wants the UK public inquiry to investigate this - we believe a Wales specific inquiry is needed now more than ever.

There have been no investigations in Wales into any Covid deaths over the last 2 years ago and this is a shameful position for Wales. We find ourselves in a similar position to those who

lost loved ones at Hillsborough. We hoped that a Welsh Labour Government would be there to support us.

So, we ask again that you consider the very foundation stones that Welsh devolved powers were built upon. Transparency, openness and accountability.

Additional Points:

1. Ultimately the ToR of the UK inquiry will be decided by the UK PM - it is therefore a UK Conservative political decision about the way in which the actions of a Labour-led Welsh Government are then scrutinised in light of this
2. Wales has no say and/or control of the inquiry and relies upon the integrity of the UK PM to make an even-handed decision.
3. The evidence for such a fair decision has itself been called into question by the WG in its concern over human rights and needing a Welsh HR Bill so why not a Wales inquiry?
4. The Health Minister asserts that she has confidence that Wales will not be a footnote - when that is a substantial and very real risk given the above as they have no control.
5. Devolved decisions mean that each of the four nations is free to go its own way on health and social care - hence without a specific Wales inquiry - Welsh decisions risk not be understood by the UK-wide inquiry, no matter what the assurances given. If there was no devolution there would be no need for a country-specific inquiry.
6. The set up of care homes in Wales (family run) is completely different to those in England (corporate chain run) and the hospitals are run by a separate NHS (NHS Wales) - there is a substantial risk of Wales not being properly understood because of this
7. Wales decisions were made by a Welsh Health Minister consulting with the CEO of NHS Wales and the Welsh CMO - any England advice was adopted, adapted or set aside

P-06-1263 Control pollution from agriculture in the parts of the Wye and Severn River located in Wales

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 9 Mai 2022
Petitions Committee | 9 May 2022

Reference: SR22/2498-3

Petition Number: P-06-1263

Petition title: Control pollution from agriculture in the parts of the Wye and Severn River located in Wales

Text of petition:

1. Introduce an immediate moratorium of any new intensive poultry units in the Wye and Severn catchment areas located in Wales.
2. Strictly control manure spreading according to the phosphate load in the ground
3. Monitor phosphate levels
4. Take legal action against any breaches of pollution legislation.

Additional Information:

Water quality and biodiversity has declined in both rivers in recent years because of high levels of nitrates and phosphates leading algae blooms. This has led to a significant loss in biodiversity. Pollution from agricultural run off in particular that from intensive poultry units (IPUs) is the single most important cause of the increased pollution in these river systems. Stringent control of pollution from farms is urgently needed to prevent an ecological catastrophe.



1. Background

The rivers Severn and Wye rise in the Cambrian mountains and flow eastwards through Powys into England, before reaching the sea in the Bristol Channel. They are the UK's longest and fourth longest river respectively and meander through productive agricultural land for much of their course.

1.1. Welsh poultry sector

The poultry sector is relatively small, making up about 7% of Welsh agricultural production, and is characterised by a large number of birds being kept by a relatively small number of large producers.

The number of birds kept in Wales has increased in the last 50 years with intensive poultry units (IPUs) being established to produce both meat and eggs.

The latest Welsh Government figures show 10.4 million poultry birds in Wales in June 2020, most of which were chickens kept for meat (6.5 million birds) and for eggs (3.1 million birds).

1.2. Environmental concerns

60% of Welsh surface and ground water bodies fail to achieve good ecological status under the Water Framework Directive. The State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) (2020) identifies agricultural pollution as one of the major causes.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) data (2016 to 2021) shows that the agriculture and the water industry are the two biggest contributors to substantiated pollution incidents impacting surface waters.

Agricultural pollution can result in increased nutrients (such as nitrogen and phosphorous) entering water bodies, reducing water quality and harming aquatic life.

Wales Environment Link (WEL) called for a moratorium on IPUs in September 2020, saying:

... Agricultural pollution is currently one of most significant contributors to the poor health of Welsh rivers and is the most significant source of diffuse water pollution. Intensive livestock rearing and inefficient storage

and spreading of manures, slurries, digestate and other fertilisers are the main causes of this pollution. ...

1.3. Intensive poultry units in Powys

There's been a significant increase in IPU's in Powys in recent years.

WEL states that Powys County Council planners approved 156 IPU's in the five years to 2020, with a further 28 applications still to be determined at that time. It says since April 2017, Powys had received five times as many planning applications for IPU's as the rest of Wales.

The Brecon and Radnor Branch of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales maintains a map of planning applications for poultry sheds in Powys (last updated on 11 March 2021) and submitted a similar petition of its own in 2018: P-05-815 Control Rapidly Expanding Intensive Poultry Industry in Wales.

The Fifth Senedd's Petitions Committee closed that petition in July 2020, noting work ongoing to strengthen planning requirements (see below) and concluded there was little further it could achieve at that time.

1.4. Regulation

There are two main aspects to the regulation of new poultry units - the planning system (the responsibility of the local planning authority), and the environmental permitting system (NRW's responsibility).

Broadly speaking, new poultry units require planning permission and above certain thresholds also require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). An environmental permit is also required above a certain threshold.

Further detail on both of these aspects can be found in the Senedd Research briefing prepared for the 2018 petition.

2. Welsh Government action

The previous Welsh Government committed to developing a new planning Technical Advice Note (TAN) to provide guidance to local planning authorities when dealing with applications for intensive agriculture developments.

Senedd Research understands that a working group including local planning authorities, farming unions, environmental groups, Public Health Wales, NRW and Welsh Government officials has met a number of times to discuss development of the TAN. However, the rate of progress is unclear and the Rural Affairs Minister, Lesley Griffiths, doesn't refer to this work in her letter to you.

The Minister's letter says that poor practice and pollution is not restricted to one area or farm type, and agricultural pollution is one of the main reasons waterbodies fail to meet good status requirements. She responds to the four points raised by the petitioner:

2.1. Immediate moratorium

The Minister draws attention to NRW's planning position statement on the Wye river Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and phosphates. The statement recommends that any proposed new development which could result in increased phosphate within the Wye SAC must demonstrate phosphate neutrality or betterment.

NRW published a compliance assessment of Welsh river SACs against phosphorus targets in January 2021. The assessment was triggered by changes to Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) guidance where phosphorous targets are "substantially tightened".

The assessment reviewed water quality data from 2017 to 2019 against the new phosphorus targets and showed that of the nine river SACs in Wales, 61% of the 107 waterbodies (section of river) assessed were failing to meet their phosphate target.

As a result, NRW published advice to planning authorities for planning applications affecting phosphorus sensitive river SACs. This requires developments within river SAC water body catchments, and non-SAC tributaries flowing into them, to assess their potential impact on phosphorus levels.

Note the Severn in Wales is not designated as a river SAC.

2.2. Controlling manure spreading according to the phosphate load in the ground

The Minister highlights the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021 which phase in limits on the amount of nutrients, including nitrogen and phosphorus, that can be applied to land.

She emphasises it's an offence to cause or knowingly permit discharge of polluting matter or solid waste matter into controlled waters without NRW's permission.

The regulations have been controversial. Farmers have said they're "draconian" and "punitive", but environmentalists argue they're long overdue and will help stop "catastrophic" environmental damage.

The Senedd voted to review the regulations in June 2020 and the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs (ETRA) Committee is currently undertaking that review (see below).

NFU Cymru brought a legal challenge against the regulations. Four grounds of challenge were relied upon but were dismissed by the Court. This included that the Welsh Ministers acted unreasonably and unlawfully by failing to take account of all relevant evidence, and took account of irrelevant evidence before taking a final decision to introduce the regulations.

This Senedd Research article provides further background to the regulations.

2.3. Monitoring phosphate levels

The Minister notes that NRW monitors phosphate levels in river SACs and refers to the compliance assessment referenced above. She says that in response to the assessment, the Welsh Government established a SAC Rivers Oversight Group to provide guidance on reducing phosphorus levels in river SACs.

2.4. Taking legal action against breaches

NRW is responsible for enforcing pollution legislation. The Minister highlights NRW's response to an incident is based on an incident categorisation and prioritisation process.

She also notes that 'Verifiable Standards' are enforced by Rural Inspectorate Wales via cross compliance for participants of funded schemes, such as the Basic Payment Scheme. Verifiable Standards are the rules farmers must follow when applying for payments.

Further detail on the Minister's response to the Petitioner's four points can be found in her letter to you.

3. Welsh Parliament action

The ETRA Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry into the agricultural pollution regulations, as a result of the Senedd vote to review them. The Committee heard from NRW in September 2021 and farming unions and environmental organisations in November 2021, following an open consultation in the summer. The Committee expects to take evidence from the Minister as soon as possible in the summer term.

The Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee has also recently undertaken a water quality related inquiry, but this focused on sewage discharges.

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-06-1263
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00138/22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee

1 April 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 3 March, regarding the petition P-06-1263 and the control of pollution from agriculture in parts of the rivers Wye and Severn.

Agricultural pollution is detrimental to the environment and to public health. It affects water quality across the whole of Wales. Evidence of poor practice and pollution is not restricted to one area or farm type and agricultural pollution is one of the main reasons waterbodies fail to meet good status requirements.

In January 2021, I introduced the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021 to help tackle this issue across Wales. The Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee are currently undertaking a review of the regulations and have received evidence from external stakeholders. I will also be providing evidence at the appropriate time when the ongoing judicial review of those regulations has concluded.

To address the individual points of the petition text in order:

1. *Introduce an immediate moratorium of any new intensive poultry units in the Wye and Severn catchment areas located in Wales.*

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has provided a planning position statement which recommends any proposed new development which might otherwise result in increasing the amount of phosphate within the Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC), either by direct or indirect discharges, must be able to demonstrate phosphate neutrality or betterment.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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

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

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

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

This process ensures livestock units which require planning permission have mitigating measures to ensure they are phosphate neutral.

2. *Strictly control manure spreading according to the phosphate load in the ground.*

The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021 limit the spreading of livestock manures to 170kg of Nitrogen per hectare annually, averaged across the holding. This limit applies to all farms in Wales from 1 January 2023 and restricts the level of phosphate able to be applied to land from livestock manures.

Nutrients should not be applied to land where there is not a crop requirement. It is an offence to cause or knowingly permit a discharge of polluting matter or solid waste matter into controlled waters, including groundwater and surface waters, without proper authority from Natural Resources Wales.

3. *Monitor phosphate levels.*

Monitoring of phosphate levels within rivers is undertaken as part of the Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) process designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), this monitoring is undertaken by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). In January 2021 NRW published a report which presented an assessment of compliance against recently tightened phosphorus water quality targets for SAC rivers.

In response to NRW's findings, the Welsh Government has established a SAC Rivers Oversight Group. The aim of the group is to maintain and enhance the resilience of Wales' riverine Special Areas of Conservation, to protect ecosystems and the environmental, social and economic benefits they provide. Specifically, the Group will provide strategic direction and guidance to the Welsh Government, regulators and delivery organisations to support in the identification of potential solutions and delivery of measures to reduce phosphorus levels in river SAC catchments.

4. *Take legal action against any breaches of pollution legislation.*

The enforcement of pollution legislation is the responsibility of NRW. Officials meet regularly with representatives of NRW regarding agricultural pollution and the reporting of and response to incidents is regularly discussed, to ensure our regulatory enforcement approach is appropriate. NRW's response to an incident based upon an established incident categorisation and prioritisation process. It is important incidents are reported and they are subsequently investigated and recorded so the true impact of agricultural pollution can be assessed and where appropriate enforcement action undertaken. Verifiable Standards are also enforced by Rural Inspectorate Wales (RIW) via cross compliance for participants of funded schemes, such as the Basic Payment Scheme.

I hope the information supplied is helpful to the committee's deliberations. Welsh farming must embrace its future to build on its environmental credentials and we must act to protect our waterways for today and for future generations. The Welsh Government remains committed to supporting farmers to produce quality produce with high environmental and animal welfare credentials.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

P-06-1268 Review the process for pre-assessed status for onshore turbines, which unfairly disadvantages individuals

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 9 Mai 2022
Petitions Committee | 9 May 2022

Reference: SR22/2618-4

Petition Number: P-06-1268

Petition title: Review the process for pre-assessed status for onshore turbines, which unfairly disadvantages individuals

Text of petition:

The current system unfairly favours developers who have access to legal, planning and financial expertise. Individuals / communities don't have the equivalent support and resources. Decisions regarding wind energy turbines can devastate livelihoods and communities. The process must change to ensure all those potentially affected are informed at the outset of initial discussions, and are provided with free professional planning and legal advice and supported to be able to influence decisions.

Further information:

We feel bullied and intimidated. We understand that developers have already been negotiating for months with landowners with the intention of installing 250-metre-high turbines 700 metres from our door. We had not been informed of this and have learnt about this via a neighbour asked to sign a noise agreement.

Neither the Community Councils, county councillors nor regional politicians, whom we have contacted, were aware of the pre-assessed status given to this area, therefore paving the way for turbines to be installed. The planning process in relation to 'Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy' shown in Future



Wales: The National Plan 2040 has removed local decision making from within the planning process, therefore losing an important understanding of the local landscape, economy, cultural, linguistic and personal impact on a local community. Our livelihood, a glamping business which we have worked hard to develop over two lifetimes would be decimated and this is already negatively affecting our well-being as a family.

Shabby treatment – play fair!

1. Background

1.1. What are Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy?

'Future Wales: the national plan 2040' identifies a number of Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy.

In these areas, the Welsh Government has already modelled the likely impact on the landscape and found them capable of accommodating development in an acceptable way.

This doesn't mean consent has automatically been granted, but there's a presumption in favour of large-scale wind energy development (including repowering) in these areas. This is set out in policy 17 of Future Wales. Any potential development would be subject to several criteria, set out in policy 18 of Future Wales.

1.2. What is Future Wales?

Future Wales is the Welsh Government's 'National Development Framework' (NDF); a 20-year national strategy setting out the government's policies on development and land use in a spatial context. It was published in February 2021.

Future Wales has 'development plan' status. This means planning decisions must be made in accordance with it. The plans that sit below it - regional Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) (which have yet to come forward) and Local Development Plans (LDPs) - must also be consistent with it.

Future Wales sits at the top of the planning policy hierarchy alongside [Planning Policy Wales \(PPW\)](#), which is the Welsh Government's national planning policy

An NDF for Wales (i.e. Future Wales) is required under the *Planning (Wales) Act 2015* (the Act) and must be reviewed at least every five years.

1.3. How were the Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy identified and consulted upon?

The Welsh Government published a [summary of public involvement document](#) which provides an overview of how it consulted. There are also several documents [summarising individual engagement events](#). The major open consultations ran [from April 2018 to July 2018](#) and [from August 2019 to November 2019](#).

Alongside Future Wales, the Welsh Government published the detailed [assessment used to identify these areas](#). The [executive summary explains](#) the assessment methodology. The assessment took place in two stages between August 2018 and July 2019. The first stage involved consultants developing an interactive tool in collaboration with the Welsh Government and stakeholders to identify initial broad priority areas for refinement. The second stage involved further analysis of these areas to refine them against detailed criteria.

Details of the assessment is provided in these documents:

- [Stage 1: development of priority areas for wind and solar energy](#) and
- [Stage 2: refinement of priority areas for wind and solar energy](#).

As part of the process, Future Wales was subject to a habitats regulations assessment (HRA) and integrated sustainability appraisal (ISA) (which is an assessment of the economic, environmental, cultural and social effects of a plan). Both the HRA and ISA are [on the Welsh Government website](#).

1.4. What's the process for consenting large scale win projects?

Large scale wind projects in Wales are consented by the Welsh Ministers via the Developments of National Significance (DNS) process. Applications are determined in accordance with the Welsh Government's national planning polices (set out in PPW and Future Wales).

1.5. How can individuals and communities have their say on proposed developments?

The DNS process requires the developer to carry out a pre-application consultation. Applications are managed by [Planning and Environment Decisions Wales \(PEDW\)](#) (formerly Planning Inspectorate Wales) and there's a further statutory consultation period once PEDW has received the final application.

A [suite of DNS guidance documents](#) on the Welsh Government website includes documents specifically for the [pre-application stage](#) and the later [consultation stage](#). There's also an [introduction](#), giving an overview of the process, and a [guide for communities](#).

1.6. What support is there for individuals and communities?

[Planning Aid Wales](#) is a charity, funded by the Welsh Government, that can help [eligible](#) individuals and communities participate more effectively in the planning system. It provides advisory services, including a helpline.

2. Welsh Government action

In her letter to you, the Minister for Climate Change, Julie James, disagrees with the core premise of the petition. She says:

... all those potentially affected are informed at the outset of initial discussions, and are provided with free professional planning and legal advice and supported to be able to influence decisions.

This Minister argues:

- 1.** The Welsh Government funds Planning Aid Wales so there's already a mechanism in place for providing free impartial advice to those who need it.
- 2.** Applications via the DNS process in the Pre-Assessed Areas will be subject to "extensive and rigorous public examination" and considered against the criteria in policy 18 of Future Wales. She says the DNS process enables Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to make their views known via a Local Impact Report. She concludes:

It is not the case therefore that sites within the Pre-Assessed Areas can be automatically developed and there are further opportunities for people to participate in the process of determining whether schemes should go ahead.

3. The Minister is “fully satisfied” Future Wales was developed with extensive engagement and consultation (see above) with appropriate opportunities for people to participate.
4. The Minister draws attention to Future Wales’ 60-day Senedd ‘consideration period’ (see below) saying all Senedd Members were made aware of progress and given the opportunity to scrutinise Future Wales.
5. Future Wales is prepared at the national scale, considers issues such as energy from a national perspective and provides a framework for future decisions. The Minister doesn’t believe it would be possible to prepare such a national plan on the basis sought by the petition.
6. The Minister says LPAs were consulted and given the opportunity to be involved in every stage of the preparation of Future Wales across a five-year process.

Further detail on the Minister’s response can be found in her letter to you.

3. Welsh Parliament action

The Act requires the Welsh Government to lay the draft Future Wales before the Senedd for a 60-day consideration period. The draft must be accompanied by a report summarising issues raised during consultation and how the Welsh Government has taken them into account. The consultation period took place during the 2020 autumn term.

The Senedd doesn’t ‘approve’ Future Wales. Rather, the Welsh Government must take account of any resolution or recommendations made by the Senedd, or any of its committees, in deciding whether to amend the draft Future Wales. It must publish a statement alongside the final Future Wales outlining how it has considered the Senedd’s resolutions or recommendations.

During the consideration period, the draft Future Wales was scrutinised primarily by the Fifth Senedd’s Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs (CCERA)

Committee. There were two Senedd debates on the final draft – on 29 September and 25 November 2020.

An earlier draft (2019) was also subject to Senedd scrutiny. The CCERA Committee heard concerns from renewable sector stakeholders about the methodology used to identify what were to become the Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy. They suggested that less than 10% of the area is suitable for onshore wind, and only 5% is actually available. These concerns are summarised in the Committee's report (from page 31) but the Committee didn't draw a conclusion in this area.

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-06-1268
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/00568/22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

25 March 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 9th March 2022 regarding a petition seeking a review of the process for preparing the Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy in Future Wales.

I note the issues the petitioner has raised and do appreciate given its scale and complexity, that there can be a perception that the planning system is a difficult process to engage with. For these reasons we have ensured that the process of preparing Future Wales, in line with the Well-being and Future Generations Act ways of working, provides extensive opportunities for the public and stakeholders to be involved in its preparation.

The petition is seeking a change so that the process of preparing Future Wales ensures:-

'...all those potentially affected are informed at the outset of initial discussions, and are provided with free professional planning and legal advice and supported to be able to influence decisions.'

I do not agree that this change is appropriate for the following reasons:-

1. The Welsh Government provides the core funding for [Planning Aid Wales](#). Part of their role is to provide free information, advice and support on the planning process. There is therefore already in place a mechanism for people who require advice on the planning system to receive free impartial advice.
2. A crucial point in relation to the Pre-Assessed Areas is that Future Wales accepts the principle of landscape change in these areas and provides a presumption in favour of wind energy development. It does not, however, provide consent for schemes to proceed and was developed in the context that any Development of National Significance (DNS) proposal in the Pre-Assessed Areas will be subject to extensive and rigorous public examination. [Future Wales policy 18](#) sets out the criteria against

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.James@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.

which proposals must be considered. There are important opportunities for Local Planning Authorities (LPA), the public and other stakeholders to become involved in the DNS determination process when individual applications are made to Welsh Ministers, which includes a Local Impact Report where the LPA would set out its view on any proposal. It is not the case therefore that sites within the Pre-Assessed Areas can be automatically developed and there are further opportunities for people to participate in the process of determining whether schemes should go ahead.

3. Future Wales was developed with extensive [engagement](#) and [consultation](#). I am fully satisfied that the breadth and range of activities undertaken reflected the scope and role of Future Wales, and that appropriate opportunities were provided for people to be aware of and participate in the process.
4. A key feature of the Future Wales process was a [60-day Senedd scrutiny period](#). All Members of the Senedd were made aware of the progress of Future Wales and were given the opportunity to scrutinise the plan. In addition to the 60 day period, the Senedd [considered the emerging Future Wales](#) at all key stages.
5. Future Wales is prepared at the national scale. It considers issues such as energy from a national perspective and provides a framework for future decisions. It covers a broad range of policy areas including housing, flooding, biodiversity, town centres, telecoms, transport and rural issues. I do not believe it would be possible to prepare such a national plan on the basis sought by the petition. I do not believe it would be possible to identify all potentially affected parties and even if this could be done, it would be entirely unrealistic to require the Welsh Government to provide everyone with free professional planning and legal advice. We do however very much recognise the importance of supporting people to participate, and fund the work of the aforementioned Planning Aid Wales.
6. LPAs were consulted and given the opportunity to be involved in every stage of the preparation of Future Wales across a [5 year process](#). LPAs will have reviewed, considered and commented on Future Wales at all key stages and helped ensure it was fully informed by local issues where appropriate. I believe this is one of the best and most effective way of engaging on local issues across a range of policy areas on a national scaled plan.

I trust this response is helpful and will be happy to provide any further information that will assist you.

Yours sincerely,



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

P-06-1268 Review the process for pre-assessed status for onshore turbines, which unfairly disadvantages individuals, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 02.05.22

Bore da

rwyf wedi cael trafferthion technegol bore yma, hyderaf y byddwch yn caniatáu derbyn yr ebost isod ychydig yn hwyr oherwydd diffyg y wê.

Tystiolaeth i gydfynd â'r ddeiseb:

Rwyf wedi gwneud ymholiadau ac ymchwil helaeth yn ystod y misoedd diwethaf, oherwydd diffyg ymddiriedaeth ym mhrosesau Llywodraeth Cymru nid wyf am gyflwyno manylion oherwydd fe fyddaf yn eu defnyddio mewn fforymau eraill. Fodd bynnag nodaf y canlynol sydd yn atgyfnerthu sail y Ddeiseb:

- Canlyniad Cwyn Swyddogol i LI C ac i'r Ombwdsmon yn cryfhau sail y Ddeiseb - honni fod datrysiad cyfreithiol sef Arolwg Barnwrol ar gael i herio LI C - hyn yn amlygu nad oes mynediad cyfartal at ddatrysiad a barn cyfreithiol. Nid wyf mewn sefyllfa ariannol i ymgymeryd ag Arolwg Barnwrol.
- Tystiolaeth ysgrifenedig nad oes ymgynghori wedi bod gyda chynghorai cymuned na chynghorwyr sir wrth ddatblygu polisi Cymru'r Dyfodol 2040
- Er addewid i'w gyhoeddi yn fuan, nid yw'r Canllawiau i gydfynd a'r Polisi wedi ei gyhoeddi. Sut oes modd cyfiawnhau penderfyniadau i osod tyrbeini 250 metr o uchder o fewn 700 metr i'n cartref heb i'r canllawiau parthed pellter o gartrefi ayb gael ei gyhoeddi?

hapus iawn i ddarparu mwy o wybodaeth ar lafar neu yn ysgrifenedig

yn gywir

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 3.1

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

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-937
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00199/22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff
CF99 1SN s

Dear Jack,

26 April 2022

Thank you for your letter of 4 April, regarding Petition P-05-937 Stop Boiling Crustaceans Alive (lobsters, crabs, crayfish, prawns etc).

Since our previous correspondence, the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill ('the Bill') has been agreed by both Houses of Parliament. At the time of writing, a date for Royal Assent, has yet to be scheduled. We have followed the progress of the Bill with interest. As you are aware, this is a UK Government Bill and its provisions do not apply to Wales.

I have no further update for you at this time with regards consequential amendments to the Animal Welfare Act 2006, beyond confirming officials are engaging with Defra on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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

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

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

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

Agenda Item 3.2

P-06-1251 Secure the Right to Remote Access for Disabled and Neurodivergent People

This petition was submitted by Caley Crahart, having collected a total of 158 signatures.

Text of Petition:

I am a student with fibromyalgia and C-PTSD. Having the ability to access my course remotely greatly benefitted both my physical and mental health. Other disabled and neurodivergent people have had similar experiences and would like the option to continue accessing their courses in this manner. The Senedd should ensure the right to remote access to education, and further should enshrine in law the responsibility of educational institutions to dedicate complete commitment to creating an accessible, inclusive environment. Refusal of this robs disabled and neurodivergent people of the life and liberty we deserve.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff Central
- South Wales Central

26 April 2022

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

Dear Mr Sargeant

Petition P-06-1251: Secure the Right to Remote Access for Disabled and Neurodivergent People

Thank you for your letter of 25 March 2022 requesting information on how HEFCW has supported universities and colleges and what discussions there have been about making as many courses as possible accessible through remote access.

To provide a comprehensive update and meet your submission date, we are responding in two parts. The first part, provided in this letter, sets out the guidance and funding HEFCW provides to universities and some colleges to support students with disabilities, including neurodivergent students. The second part of our response will be informed by information from universities and some colleges we regulate on their current position. Given the Easter break, institutions will respond to us in early May and we will report to you in mid-May.

HEFCW's role

HEFCW has some regulatory responsibilities under the Higher Education (Wales) Act (2015) in relation to universities in Wales and two regulated colleges: Grŵp Llandrillo Menai and Neath Port Talbot Group of Colleges. We directly fund limited higher education provision at Gower College.

In this context, we have a statutory responsibility to ensure higher education provision is adequate to meet the reasonable needs of students and we have responsibilities around the quality of provision. We discharge our duties through liaison with institutions, monitoring and analysis of data and intelligence. We provide assurance on quality matters to our Council through advice from our statutory Quality Assurance Committee. Our Council is advised by a Student Achievement and Opportunities Committee on matters relating to how higher education meets the needs and expectations of learners and other stakeholders, including as this relates to widening access, equality and diversity, student health and well-being, including mental health. NUS Wales is

Mr Rob Humphreys
Cadeirydd | Chair

Dr David Blaney
Prif Weithredwr | Chief Executive



represented on all these committees. In meeting our statutory duties, we recognise that universities are autonomous institutions, including as this relates to curriculum design and delivery. Further information can be found on our [website](#).

HEFCW is not the regulator for the Equality Act 2010 or the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011. The Act and Regulations are regulated by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) on behalf of the Welsh Government. As we have no statutory powers in this regard, HEFCW's role in securing equality, diversity and inclusion in higher education is through guidance, challenge, funding and performance monitoring.

How HEFCW supports institutions through enhancement and guidance

We grant fund UK organisations with relevant expertise to advise on the development of different modes of teaching and learning, and to support higher education providers to articulate to applicants and students the range of digital offers available to them. There is a wide range and volume of digital teaching and learning available, which has increased significantly since the pandemic and continues to evolve.

We grant fund the [Quality Assurance Agency](#) to support higher education providers to maintain and enhance quality and standards, including undertaking external reviews of providers, providing advice and guidance, supporting the development of blended learning, and ensuring it is of appropriate quality. The Quality Assurance Agency is a UK-wide membership body which publishes guidance, from which higher education in Wales benefits. Relevant publications include:

- [Building a Taxonomy for Digital Learning](#)
- [How UK higher education providers managed the shift to digital delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Similarly, our continued grant funding of [Jisc](#) has enabled universities to make progress on using technology for accessibility and developing the digital skills of staff and students. Jisc has published a range of toolkits, and guides on inclusive assessment and inclusive practice. The pandemic accelerated digital developments and their integration across higher education provision. This has resulted in greater accessibility of provision, for example, the majority of lectures are now recorded and hosted on a virtual learning environment, enabling increased remote access to provision. NUS Wales tell us that this has had great benefits for students with a range of disabilities. HEFCW, in partnership with Universities Wales, funded Jisc to produce a synthesis of experiences and practices, adopted by universities across Wales during the pandemic to share practice and lessons learned. The synthesis highlighted areas that could be further enhanced, including on a sector-wide basis. Recent publication include:

- [Getting started with accessibility and inclusion](#)
- [Digital inclusion](#)
- [Inclusive assessment](#)
- [Inclusive digital practice and digital wellbeing](#)
- [Blended learning: a synthesis of change](#)

During 2020/21, in the context of the pandemic, HEFCW published guidance to higher education on:

- [Covid-19 impact on higher education providers: information on consumer protection, student expectations and quality;](#)
- [Covid-19 impact on higher education providers: information on equality, diversity and inclusion.](#)

The first circular provided an update on actions we were taking on quality, standards and the student experience, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, together with information for institutions on matters which they should consider. The second circular encouraged universities to consider the potential for an increase in staff and students experiencing some adverse well-being due to Covid-19 including those experiencing digital poverty issues (hardware, software and broadband related exclusion). We recommended that the education and other support needs of students with specific disabilities be taken into account in new ways of living and studying. We reaffirmed that detailed impact assessments remained essential to ensure that decisions were evidence-informed and compliant with equality and employment legislation. We suggested that, when revising policies and processes affecting staff and students, universities should involve people with diverse backgrounds, including those with relevant lived experiences from across the organisation. Such practices should increase confidence in, and reduce any anxiety arising from, new ways of working or learning.

In addition, we liaise extensively with NUS Wales and students' unions, and we did so throughout the pandemic, to identify issues impacting on the student experience, and how these could be addressed. We engaged regularly with universities on their provision, from the start of the pandemic, to obtain assurance regarding the quality of provision.

How HEFCW supports institutions through funding

We provide a range of funding to enable institutions to digital learning, students with disabilities and students' well-being and health, including mental health. The following are the most recent allocations:

- We allocated, through circular [W21/04HE Covid-19 further financial support for higher education students](#), an additional funding of £40m from Welsh Government to universities to respond to the challenges of the Covid-19 operating context. Our expectations for the use of this funding included addressing student hardship included digital poverty among students, and to enable better access to online learning. Universities were asked to take account of the needs of students with protected characteristics, including acting within the spirit of the socio-economic duty of the Equality Act. In considering those most likely to be impacted by Covid-19, universities were asked to take account of their equality impact assessment findings.
- We allocated, through circular [W21/08HE Higher Education Investment and Recovery Fund Outcomes](#), £27m, to support the HE sector in mitigating the

effects of the pandemic and support the wider economic recovery. Funded proposals supported activity across Welsh higher education, including: investing in digital infrastructure and learning technologies, developing digital education and flexible and accessible provision and strengthening support for blended learning.

- As part of our core funding, we provide teaching funding annually to the Open University in Wales to support part-time undergraduate and postgraduate provision (see circular [W21/15HE HEFCW's Funding Allocations 2021/22](#)). HEFCW's total allocation in 2021/22 to the Open University in Wales is £18.5m. Our funding of the Open University in Wales ensuring that a specialist, part-time higher education provider offers its online courses and student support throughout Wales. Further information about the Open University in Wales's provision will be included in the second part of our response to you.
- Through core funding, we provide annually to universities and some colleges, a £2m student disability premium (see circular [W21/15HE HEFCW's Funding Allocations 2021/22](#)). The premium takes account of study at all modes and levels of study and contributes to supporting institutions' strategic equality planning, improving the student experience, and enabling them to contribute to our well-being and health policy developments.
- We continued to fund, through circular [W21/22HE Well-being and health strategy funding 2021/22](#), with £2m, universities' well-being and health strategy implementation plans. We have committed to fund these strategies in the long-term, subject to HEFCW budgets and the creation of the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research recognising that well-being and health, including mental health support requires strategic, sustained interventions across the whole institution.
- With additional funding from Welsh Government, we provided through circular [W21/39HE Covid-19 Well-being and health additional financial support for higher education students](#), an additional £1.3m for universities and those colleges we regulate, to work with their Students' Unions to support student well-being and health given disrupted learning experiences. We encouraged this funding to be used to support those students whose well-being and health, including mental health, has been particularly impacted by Covid-19 changes to living and learning, and supporting well-being and health that was inclusive, regardless of domicile or mode or level of study, including with partner higher education providers.

Additional information to support our response

As indicated above, we will provide further information to you, following receipt of up to date information from our universities and those colleges we regulate by mid-May.

We hope our two-part response will provide you with sufficient information and assurance of our actions, and the actions of universities and colleges, to provide and continue to develop digital teaching and learning opportunities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink, reading "Rob Humphreys", followed by a period.

Rob Humphreys

Agenda Item 3.3

P-06-1173 Give legal protection to designated Special Landscape Areas in Wales

This petition was submitted by Vale Communities For Future Generations, having collected a total of 416 signatures.

Text of Petition:

In response to our Climate Emergency we ask the Welsh Government to safeguard Special Landscape Areas for future generations.

SLAs are areas of high landscape importance for environmental, physical, visual, cultural or historical value and may be unique, exceptional or distinctive but they are NOT PROTECTED.

Their ancient woodlands, rare species, special areas of habitat or the setting in which they exist are vulnerable to new roads, business parks or other damaging developments.

Additional Information:

An example of an SLA at risk is in and around the conservation village of Pendoylan in the Ely Valley through which the Vale of Glamorgan Council propose building a new freight road. This road will destroy ancient woodland and endangered wildlife habitat as well pollute the air and water courses on which this SLA depends.

Sadly, being a Special Landscape Area carries no protection so planners and developers are at liberty to develop whatever schemes they wish.

We call on the Welsh Government to be mindful of their commitment to environmental and climate change policies and of their responsibilities to the Wellbeing of the Future Generations Act.

The unique areas of Wales that have already been identified as Special Landscape Areas need urgent legal protection.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1173
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/11832/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN
Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

25 March 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 22 October outlining the concern of the Petitions Committee with the current influence of Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) and their request to explore a way of strengthening them. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I have considered the Committee's request and I wish to offer the following observations. The SLA policy framework (as detailed in my response to the Committee dated 16 September) is a sound and mature policy mechanism. It is based on robust evidence and it offers a valuable layer of additional protection for our sensitive landscapes. Indeed, this 'additionality' is a key feature of the policy; it is an 'over and above' policy response, available to local planning authorities where there is good reason to believe that normal planning policies cannot provide the necessary protection (see paragraph 6.3.13 of Planning Policy Wales).

I recognise that there are small number of planning authorities that do not have SLA policies in place. Often this is because the landscape quality across an authority is of such a high standard that adoption of a SLA policy would mean that the whole authority area is designated and thereby counteracting against the special landscape features, characteristics and qualities of local significance. These authorities usually opt to pursue a criterion-based policy approach to local landscape protection.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.James@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.

Taken as a whole I am confident that the strength of protection for valued local landscapes is available to local planning authorities.

The current influence of SLA policy is appropriate and it is meeting its policy objectives, I do not consider that there is a need, at this point, to strengthen the policy.

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

Agenda Item 3.4

P-06-1201 Ban the shooting of critically endangered birds...give them the protection they so desperately need

This petition was submitted by Robert Curtis, having collected a total of 122 signatures.

Text of Petition:

It is absolutely shocking that some of our most endangered birds, including Woodcock, Pochard, Black Grouse and Snipe are still allowed to be shot in Wales.

These species are currently on the RED and AMBER list of birds of conservation concern 4. That means that they are currently of the highest conservation priority in the UK.

We fully understand that shooting may not be the main cause of their decline, but at the moment when they need maximum protection allowing them to be shot is madness.

Additional Information:

We are calling for a complete ban on the shooting of all birds on the red and amber list of conservation concern 4.

Experts are collating ecological and scientific evidence on the health of a species, but the law and gun lobby choose to ignore the facts.

There are around only 200 Black Grouse surviving in Wales. This Red listed species exposes the hypocrisy of spending large amounts of money on trying to conserve this vulnerable species yet allowing them to be shot at the same time.

With its beautiful plumage and camouflage, the Woodcock is another Red listed species currently being targeted by shoots, even though they are experiencing dramatic population decline.

Although game shooting in the UK is controlled by having an open and closed season, which restricts the time of year birds may be shot, we are calling for a total ban on the shooting of these endangered birds. Whilst many call these shoots a tradition, it is time for a change in the law to protect our struggling wildlife.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Vale Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1201
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/00553/22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

31 March 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 2 March regarding a petition about the shooting of birds on RSPB's 'red list'.

Effective regulation is key to ensuring we are able to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity and help tackle the nature emergency we all face. As we look to establish mechanisms to meet the post 2020 international biodiversity targets we will need to review the current regulatory landscape which operates at both a UK level and within Wales. I recognise some of this legislation is outdated and even contradictory, requiring some streamlining to make it fit for purpose for our needs today.

Any regulatory changes though need to be evidence based and not done in a piecemeal fashion. Regulatory changes also need to be developed in the context of other tools that may be available to achieve the same objectives.

With regard Petitions Committee emergency measures, I do not feel introducing statutory monitoring of birds shot would be appropriate or practical as it would duplicate existing work. Existing voluntary approaches would be more effective and something I would support together with following current guidelines and best practice. The Welsh Ornithological Society (WOS) recently presented Welsh Government with the latest edition of their report "The Birds of Wales". This comprehensive analysis of many factors affecting the conservation status of wild birds includes contributions from experts, volunteers and organisations concerned about the wellbeing and conservation status of wild birds.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales

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

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

The report contains wide-ranging data on all aspects of wild birds, including the impacts of shooting and related practices on numbers, behaviour and their use of the landscape. These expert and dedicated advocates for the wellbeing of wild birds give no indication of a need for additional data of the kind described, or for short-term emergency measures.

I would of course reiterate the point I made to you last year that I would welcome any emerging evidence presented to the Committee in support of the petition to help inform our evidence base.

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

Agenda Item 3.5

P-06-1218 Notify all 18 year olds who have been under social care the right to request their personal information

This petition was submitted by Victoria Pritchard, having collected a total of 260 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Everyone who has been in the care of social services should be told of their right to request their personal information by social services when they turn 18. Reviewing papers years and years after the event can have a significant detrimental effect on a person's well being and families.

Every person has human rights and should be informed about the right to view their file.

Additional Information:

Because I was so passionate about helping other children I chose to study youth & community work degree and during a discussion with my lecturer, as they knew I had been in care during previous conversations, they asked if I had asked for my data protection file which I had no idea what it was or what they were referring too. They told me what to do, I followed the procedure and was handed the file. The man looked at me with empathy as he had read it. I was a bit shocked and confused by the empathy he was showing me. I went home with this file quite interested at this point to have a read especially due to the man's expression on his face knowing he had read the file also, low and behold I had no idea what was ahead of me, I was exposed to all the childhood trauma and neglect that I had experienced and it was such a shock to me that I had to be seen by a psychiatrist due to revisiting past trauma. I'm not blaming social services for the way my parents treated me that's not their fault.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
- Mid and West Wales

Julie Morgan AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: JMSS/10656/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

5 January 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 4 December concerning the petition (P-06-1218) to 'Notify all 18 year olds who have been under social care the right to request their personal information'.

I recognise how important it is for young people to understand their personal journey through the care system and why certain decisions were made. As part of our existing statutory framework, our Part 6 Code of Practice (Looked After and Accommodated Children) under the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014, sets out that local authorities must appoint a Personal Adviser (PA) to provide support for their care leavers. This states that as part of their role, young people should be offered assistance so they are able to have easy access to their case files.

As such, I feel the existing statutory framework is sufficiently robust and clear in placing the onus on personal advisers to help care experienced young people access their case files of their time in care.

I recognise there is more that can be done to raise awareness of this responsibility placed upon personal advisers and I propose to write to all local authority Leaving Care Managers to highlight this requirement.

The petitioner has raised an important issue and I hope you have found my reply helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Morgan AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Julie.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.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.

Back Page 74
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Agenda Item 3.6

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

This petition was submitted by Robert Curtis, having collected a total of 223 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Each year supermarkets and online stores promote the sale of thousands of cheap disposable barbecues 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.

Additional Information:

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!

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

P-06-1222 Ban disposable barbecues from our National Parks, National Nature Reserves and Welsh beaches!- Correspondence from Natural Resources Wales to the Committee, 18 February 2022

By e-mail to Jack Sergeant MS, Chair of the Petitions Committee

18th February, 2022

Briefing for Petitions Committee request for Disposable BBQ Position Statement.

At its meeting on 10th January, the Petitions Committee of the Welsh Parliament considered Petition P-06-1222, [Ban disposable barbecues from our National Parks, National Nature Reserves and Welsh beaches] alongside correspondence from the Minister for Climate Change. At the meeting members agreed to write to NRW in order to seek our position on disposable BBQ's in Wales.

Thank you for the opportunity to explain our position as regards the use of disposable barbecues in National Park, National Nature Reserves and on Welsh beaches.

As an important land manager in Wales, we are stewards of Welsh Government's Woodland Estate and some National Nature Reserves on behalf of WG for the people of Wales and we welcome thousands of visitors every year to these sites. NRW bylaws clearly state that starting a fire is not permitted on the NRW Estate. Our experience is that on the whole the vast majority of visitors are sensible and our controls and information provision to visitors reduces risks significantly.

Disposable BBQs are permitted in designated areas on some of our sites. In these places metal racks are fixed to the picnic tables provided, enabling safe use. We also provide hot ash bins in these places to enable safe disposal of hot ash. Where BBQs are not permitted signs clearly state the risk of fires. I have attached two versions of the warning signs aimed at grassland and forestry. Our land managers continuously monitor visitor behaviour as part of our routine work to provide advice and guidance. Where anti-social behaviour is identified we enforce wherever practicable. Our guidance and information provided at our sites for visitors also includes reference to the Countryside Code.

We work closely with Fire and Rescue Services across Wales as members of PSBs. We collaborate with them regarding efficient and effective incident response on the one hand. We also work closely in partnership on projects like healthy hillsides in the S Wales area; aimed at reframing the relationship between communities and adjoining upland areas to optimise the benefits they realise and enabling preventative and long-term interventions. As a partner we have ongoing conversations with fire service wildfire leads. Most concern has been around deliberate setting of fires being in the south Wales valleys and there is not much

evidence to report on the impact from disposable BBQs, They support designating BBQ areas which can be easily controlled and used tactically to raise awareness via things like communications on Fire Severity index communications. Equally they advise that blanket bans across all of our estate are hard to but are more practical be easily managed and controlled in designated areas.

2

By e-mail to Jack Sergeant MS, Chair of the Petitions Committee

18th February, 2022

NRW have a statutory duty to give advice about responsible recreation under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000), the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and the Countryside and National Park Act (1949). Further, our work on outdoor recreational activities includes working with partners, stakeholders and governing bodies to develop codes of conduct and best practice encouraging responsible recreation. Natural Resources Wales produces and publish the [Countryside Code](#). This is a set of guidelines and advice for the public to ensure respect and enjoyment in the countryside. Its aim is to allow and encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits that nature offers, while respecting the people who live and work in the countryside and protecting the environment. The three main sections that form the basis of the code are - Respect everyone , Protect the Environment and Enjoy the outdoors.

The code is not silent on the matter of BBQ's and open fires. The code specifically states that you should not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can. Furthermore, the code advises people visiting the countryside to:

- Be careful with naked flames and cigarettes,
- To only use BBQs where signs state they are allowed.
- Always put your BBQ out, make sure the ashes are cold and dispose of them responsibly.

The code further advises its readers of the detrimental effect of fires to wildlife, habitats, people and property.

At the last review of the Code in 2021, messages about risks from fires and BBQs was carefully considered with land managers and stakeholders throughout this recent refresh. As a result, the position reflected the most appropriate position at the time of publishing (March 2021).

We communicate the messages of the code through various media channels and seek to share good practice advice with our partners and their networks as far as possible. NRW have a series of responsible recreation animations to help educate about specific activities that may have an affect on the environment, including a message about the responsible use of BBQs and taking care with cigarettes in the countryside. Link: [Be careful with BBQs, fires and cigarettes - YouTube](#).

The countryside code can help people enjoy the countryside in a safe and respectful way and we encourage people to read the code, so they know what to expect before they head outdoors. NRW are working closely with Natural England, as shared owners of the code, to better communicate the countryside code and land manager code messages. This will be achieved by collaboratively delivering targeted campaign work to raise the profile of the code's and exploring the development of updated educative material to learners.

3

By e-mail to Jack Sergeant MS, Chair of the Petitions Committee

18th February, 2022

Wider than the issues specifically on the estate and National Nature Reserves and coast are aware that cooking on single use disposable BBQ's are a single use product made of aluminium, steel and charcoal, all of which have a large embedded energy and carbon footprint, that it is a very carbon intensive and resource inefficient method of cooking, and that risks of wildfires contribute significantly to climate and nature emergency risks which is why we have management actions in place to manage the risks of fires.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Jenkins

Head of Natural Resource Management Policy



P-06-1222 Ban disposable barbecues from our National Parks, National Nature Reserves and Welsh beaches! - Correspondence from North Wales Fire and Rescue Services to the Committee, 21 March 2022

21 March 2022

Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament
CARDIFF

Sent via email to:
petitions@senedd.wales

Dear Mr Sargeant

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon the above petition.

Undoubtedly, the misuse of disposable barbecues can cause grassland fires with the consequences being significant damage to the environment and wildlife. However, North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority cannot provide statistical evidence that the use of such equipment has resulted in a significant number of grassland fires in the North Wales area.

The ambition of the Petition is similar to the public space protection orders (PSPOs) in England. I am familiar with the ones put into force on the moors above Oldham and Tameside in November 2019 which banned the lighting of fires and barbecues or the setting off of fireworks and sky lanterns. People breaching the order could be fined up to £100. This was welcomed by Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service at the time, because it sent a clear strong message to the public.

Lastly, although I wholeheartedly approve of the desire to make our countryside in Wales safer from fires, I am also conscious of the challenges of enforcing such a ban across the whole of Wales and I am unsure as to what an extent this ban would prove to be a deterrent.

Yours sincerely

Dawn Docx
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

P-06-1222 Ban disposable barbecues from our National Parks, National Nature Reserves and Welsh beaches!- Correspondence from Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Services to Committee, 24 March 2022

On behalf on the All Wales Fire & Rescue Service Community Risk Reduction Committee, there has been very limited impact of disposable BBQ;s causing fires. Those that have been the cause of ignition tend to be on or near beaches.

Kind regards

Peter Greenslade

Rheolwr Ardal

Area Manager

Pennaeth Corfforaeth Atal a Diogelwch / Corporate Head of Prevention & Protection

Gwasanaeth Tan ac Achub Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru / Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service

Agenda Item 3.7

P-06-1161 Routine collection and publication of data of how many babies/children return to their care experienced parents care at the end of a Parent and Child Placement

This petition was submitted by Nicola Jones, having collected a total of 60 signatures.

Text of Petition:

We believe that many care leavers walk out of their placements because little thought is given to their previous experiences or to their mental wellbeing even though a baby has the right to stay with its parent/s if it is safe to do so.

Additional Information:

Many care leavers have social services intervention, when they give birth. This is often due to their history and/or lack of their own parental guidance. These care leavers will undoubtedly have experienced trauma in their childhoods and often suffer from anxiety into their adult lives. They have often never felt safe in their homes as a child and having their own space has been their only safe haven where they are totally relaxed. Currently, if there is any concern, a parent is taken away from their home, family and friends then placed in a foster home or residential home to be assessed with little thought to the parents triggers and mental wellbeing. We believe that this often causes a roller coaster of emotions and parents then walk away from placements only to forever regret a rash decision made in a moment of anxiety that wouldn't have happened if the situation had been dealt with more empathically. We want to fact find to see if a better solution for parent and child is needed.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

Julie Morgan AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-06-1161
Ein cyf/Our ref: JMSS/00360/22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

26 April 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 30 March to Nigel Brown, Chief Executive of Cafcass Cymru, inviting comments on the petition P-06-1161 - 'Routine collection and publication of data of how many babies/children return to their care experienced parents care at the end of a Parent and Child Placement'. Considering the nature of the query I have chosen to reply.

I welcome the Committee's exploration of this issue. Unfortunately, specific data about the outcomes from Parent and Child Placements is not collected by Cafcass Cymru, nor as part of Welsh Government's official statistics. Local authorities are responsible for the delivery and use of Parent and Child placements and are best place to provide information about the number of the placements and their effectiveness, particular for care experienced parents. My understanding is the utilisation of these placements are relatively small. The Committee therefore may wish to contact local authorities to undertake a trawl of relevant data as part of its inquiry, or consider some bespoke research.

I will be interested to read the inquiry findings about whether improvements can be made to better support care experienced parents and/or improve processes around Parent and Child Placements. As you will be aware, through our Programme for Government, I am taking forward action to radically reform services for children looked after and care leavers, with a clear focus on keeping families together.

I hope you have found my reply helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Morgan AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Julie.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.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-06-1161 Routine collection and publication of data of how many babies/children return to their care experienced parents care at the end of a Parent and Child Placement, Correspondence – Director of Social Services at Vale of Glamorgan Council to Committee, 06.04.22

Here is our response:

- Whether your LA has specific services / offer for CLA or care leavers who become parents, and a description of that
 - Cwtch – care leavers and young parents with mental health issues (have to be involved with perinatal midwife) – put together hampers for when baby is born, clothing available as the child gets older, prams cots (practical stuff)
 - Elan midwives (previously had CLA midwife but not replaced)
 - Baby Basics – provides starter pack near due date, moses basket, nappies, clothing (gender specific if they know) baby toiletries
 - Families First parenting support
 - Referred to Advocacy as soon as confirmed pregnancy
 - Action for Children parenting support

- Brief case studies about positive outcomes for CLA / care leavers who became parent, and are those young people known to voices from care or an advocacy provider ?
 - 20yr old female, leading up to pregnancy concerning behaviours of self-harm, alcohol use, in a DV relationship and a chaotic lifestyle. Referred during pregnancy, PLO, no removal, placed in mother and baby foster placement voluntarily, completely placed the babies needs before her own and those of the babies' father, attended practical parenting sessions, maintained supported from her YPA and health visitor, successfully transitioned back to her own accommodation, no involvement from Children's Services with the baby, baby is now almost 2 – known to Advocacy
 - 19 yr old female, historical issues of drugs/alcohol and chaotic lifestyle. Pregnancy monitored, no referral for services made. Successfully parenting, child now almost 5 – known to Advocacy

- Any info about whether your LA uses parent-child placements ?
Yes use parent and child foster placements and parent and child residential placements

- Whether your LA has signed up to the Charter / or plans to do so
Yes

Kind Regards

Lance Carver
Director of Social Services / Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Vale of Glamorgan Council / Cyngor Bro Morgannwg



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1000 & P-05-1080
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/00710/22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru

25 April 2022

Dear Jack,

Petition P-05-1000 Make it compulsory for Black and POC UK histories to be taught in the Welsh education curriculum

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

Thank you for your letter of 30 March in relation to the Committee's consideration of the petitions and requesting an update on the progress in implementing the recommendations contained within the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities, Contributions and Cynefin in the New Curriculum Working Group report.

The Welsh Government accepted all the recommendations contained in Professor Charlotte Williams OBE report in March 2021 and, to reflect the importance we place on taking this work forward, addressing the report's recommendations is one of the Welsh Government's Programme for Government Commitments.

I am proud that Wales is leading the way by becoming the first part of the UK to make it mandatory to teach Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic histories and experiences in the curriculum. This will ensure our young people develop an understanding of theirs and each other's identities and make connections with people, places and histories elsewhere in Wales and across the world. It will reinforce the importance of teaching past and present experiences and contributions of ethnic minority peoples as part of the story of Wales across the curriculum.

In autumn 2021, the statements of what matters for [Humanities within the Curriculum for Wales](#) were strengthened, following consultation to ensure the study of Welsh history in all its diversity and complexity is both explicit and compulsory for schools and settings. They now state:

“Through consistent exposure to the story of their locality and the story of Wales, as well as to the story of the wider world, learners can develop an understanding of the complex, *pluralistic* and diverse nature of societies, past and present. These stories are diverse, spanning different communities as well as in particular the stories of Black, Asian and

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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.

Minority Ethnic people. This also enables learners to develop a common understanding of the diverse history, cultural heritage, ethnic diversity, identities, experiences and perspectives of their local area, Wales and the wider world.”

I will be publishing an update on the progress we have made in addressing these recommendations in early summer and would be happy to write to the Committee once that has been published to allow the update to be shared with the Petitioners.

Key achievements to date include the announcement of the [new category](#) of Professional Teaching Awards Cymru named “The Betty Campbell MBE award for promoting the contributions and perspectives of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities”. This new award promotes and celebrates inclusion and recognises excellent awareness of the importance of an inclusive education as part of a society that confronts and addresses racism in all forms. The winner will be announced on 10 July.

In October 2021 we published our [plan](#) to increase recruitment of more people who are from ethnic minority backgrounds into Initial Teacher Education. This plan will be the first step in a wider strategy to recruit and retain more people from ethnic minority backgrounds into the Education workforce. Later this year, we will also be introducing, for the first time, financial incentives to help recruit more ethnic minority teachers.

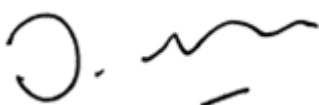
By using wider curriculum implementation tools such as the National Network conversations, we are also ensuring that discussions in this important area of work continue and that the outputs from the report are embedded in schools. The current conversation is focused on supporting teachers to teach Welsh, Black and Asian Minority Ethnic histories and will aim to draw out positive case studies, identify barriers and gain an understanding of what further support might be required by teachers.

Professor Williams continues to play a pivotal role in supporting the Welsh Government in taking forward the recommendations. Professor Williams has also been assisting Qualifications Wales in their “Qualified for the Future” academic advisory group, identifying the need to think about diversity and multiculturalism across all subjects. Work is continuing in this area to develop the framework and guidance required to support the development of qualifications that fully reflect a genuine and authentic approach to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic perspectives.

Moving forward, good progress has been made on professional learning, mentoring and resources, through strong stakeholder engagement and partnerships, and my priority now is to continue to make further progress in these areas this year.

I hope this update reassures you that this important element of work continues to be driven forward at pace.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg

Minister for Education and Welsh Language

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