

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue: Committee room 5

Meeting date: Monday, 27 June 2022

Meeting time: 14.00 – 15.53

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/12873>

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Jack Sargeant MS (Chair) Luke Fletcher MS Jayne Bryant MS (In place of Buffy Williams MS) Altaf Hussain MS (In place of Joel James MS)
Witnesses:	Mark Hooper, Petitioner Shavanah Taj, TUC Wales Joe O'Connor, Global 4 Day week
Committee Staff:	Gareth Price (Clerk) Mared Llwyd (Second Clerk) Kayleigh Imperato (Deputy Clerk)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Buffy Williams MS.

Jane Bryant MS attended the meeting as substitute for Buffy Williams MS.

Joel James MS attended the first part of the meeting but due to commitments on another committee he sent his apologies for the second half. Altaf Hussain MS joined as substitute from item 3 of the meeting.



Jack Sargeant MS and Luke Fletcher MS both declared that they know Mark Hooper, lead petitioner for P-06-1247 We call on the Welsh Government to lead the way by supporting trials of a four-day week in Wales and Shavanah Taj, who will both be giving evidence during item 2 of today's business.

2 Evidence session – (Panel 1) P-06-1247 We call on the Welsh Government to lead the way by supporting trials of a four-day week in Wales

The Committee heard evidence from Mark Hooper, the lead petitioner and Shavanah Taj, acting General Secretary of Wales Trade Union Congress.

3 New Petitions

3.1 P-06-1282 Create a National Poetry Library of Wales

The Committee considered the petition and given that the petitioner has already met with the Welsh Government and been invited to draft a proposal for the Deputy Minister, Members congratulated the petitioner, expressed their appreciation of the need to preserve and promote Welsh poetry, and agreed to close the petition.

The Chair also reminded Members of the invite to attend the presentation in the Senedd on Welsh Poetry which is scheduled for 28 June.

3.2 P-06-1283 Introduce the mandatory microchipping of cats in Wales

The Committee considered the petition and welcomed the fact that the Welsh Government's Animal Welfare Plan for Wales 2021-26 includes a commitment to consider mandatory microchipping of cats, and that future changes in relation to scanning and databases will be considered as part of ongoing work with the UK

Government. In light of this, Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

3.3 P-06-1284 Keep schools open in Spring term 2022.

Due there being no Covid-19 regulations in place now and schools operating as usual, the Committee agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

3.4 P-06-1285 Immediately lift the restrictions placed on Outdoor sporting events

Due there being no Covid-19 regulations in place now and outdoor sporting events resumed months ago, the Committee agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

4 Updates to previous petitions

4.1 P-06-1257 Reduced Council Tax for private estate properties

The Committee considered the petition and noted the petitioner's frustration with the slow progress of the Welsh Government on this particular issue, however, given that the Welsh Government have committed to implement legislation to improve leaseholders' right, there is little further the Committee can do at present, therefore Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

4.2 P-06-1261 Invest to ensure all schools have high quality, effective internet infrastructure and connectivity

The committee considered the petition and noted that the issue is a work in progress and that there is little further they can do as a Committee. Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

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

The Committee considered the petition and noted that the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee have recently done some detailed work on reviewing the regulations, and made 10 recommendations to Welsh Government. In light of the work that has already been undertaken on the issue, there is little further that the Committee can do. Members agreed to thank the petitioner and close the petition.

5 Evidence session – (Panel 2) P-06-1247 We call on the Welsh Government to lead the way by supporting trials of a four-day week in Wales

The Committee discussed the evidence session and agreed to take further evidence on the petition at the next meeting on 11 July.

6 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting

The motion was agreed.

7 Discussion of evidence – P-06-1247 We call on the Welsh Government to lead the way by supporting trials of a four-day week in Wales

The Committee heard evidence virtually, from Joe OConnor, Chief Executive Officer, Global 4 Day Week.

8 Key issues – P-06-1253 Ban greyhound racing in Wales

The Committee considered the key issues but agreed to resume the discussion at a later date when all Committee Members are present.