

## Agenda – Petitions Committee

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Meeting Venue: Remote

For further information contact:

Meeting date: 11 July 2022

**Gareth Price** – Committee Clerk

Meeting time: 14.00

0300 200 6565

[Petitions@senedd.wales](mailto:Petitions@senedd.wales)

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### 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(Pages 1 – 14)

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

(Pages 15 – 22)

Professor Abigail Marks (Professor of the Future of Work), Newcastle University

Will Stronge (Director of Research), Autonomy

Louisa Neale (People and Culture Change Maker Lead), Future Generations Commissioner

Cheney Hamilton (CEO and Founder), Find Your Flex

### 3 New Petitions

#### 3.1 P-06-1281 Urgently stop raw sewage discharges into Barry's Old Harbour and Watchtower Bays

(Pages 23 – 29)

### 4 Updates to previous petitions



- 4.1 P-05-924 Ensure that every school in Wales has Wellbeing Ambassadors  
(Pages 30 – 34)
- 4.2 P-06-1251 Secure the Right to Remote Access for Disabled and Neurodivergent People  
(Pages 35 – 39)
- 4.3 P-06-1268 Review the process for pre-assessed status for onshore turbines, which unfairly disadvantages individuals  
(Pages 40 – 52)
- 4.4 P-06-1277 Save A&E. Withybush General Hospital must retain 24 hour, 7 days a week, Consultant Led urgent care  
(Pages 53 – 64)
- 4.5 P-05-1086 Create a National Museum for Welsh Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic History and Heritage  
(Pages 65 – 68)

### **Paper to note**

- 4.6 P-06-1275 Call on the Government to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the Llanbedr bypass scheme  
(Pages 69 – 70)
- 5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting**
- 6 Draft report – P-06-1212 Mark Allen's Law – we want throwline stations around all open water sites in Wales**  
(Pages 71 – 91)
- 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**

**8 Ways of working**

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# P-06-1281 Urgently stop raw sewage discharges into Barry's Old Harbour and Watchtower Bays

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 11 Gorffennaf 2022  
Petitions Committee | 11 July 2022

Reference: SR22/2946-3

Petition Number: P-06-1281

Petition title: Urgently stop raw sewage discharges into Barry's Old Harbour and Watchtower Bays

Text of petition:

We call on the Welsh Government to help stop raw sewage discharges into Barry's Old Harbour and Watchtower Bays. These discharges originate from combined sewer overflows and are discharging increasing amounts of sewage due to the increasing number of heavy rainfall events due to climate change.

This bay has recently been identified as an area which is supporting important wildlife and watchtower bay is regularly used by many cold water swimming groups and paddle-boarders and kayakers.

Additional information:

We fully realise that untreated waste being released from combined sewer overflows is a national issue and will require large amounts of money to be invested into our struggling sewage network.

But we also believe that the Welsh public are increasingly becoming aware of this appalling pollution and want action to resolve this issue.



Alas vast amounts of untreated sewage is being increasingly released into the sea and frustratingly, there are no monitoring points in the bay (yet there are monitoring points at Jacksons, Whitmore and the Knap bays).

We therefore call for it to be urgently added to Natural Resources Wales list of bathing water quality sampling points.

The Old Harbour and Watchtower bays are supporting both wildlife and people so should become a priority for Welsh Water investment.

## 1. Background

A recent [Senedd Research briefing](#) provides the legislative context for storm overflows in Wales. It also looks at how storm overflows are being managed, how well they're understood, and how they're impacting water quality.

In short, combined sewers collect **both sewage and run-off** from drains and gutters. This wastewater is taken to a treatment works where it is cleaned and returned to the environment.

Each sewer system has a maximum amount of wastewater it can accept. During heavy rainfall, if there is more water than the system can cope with, it is released at points called '[Storm Overflows](#)' often referred to as 'Combined Sewer Overflows' or 'Combined Storm Overflows' (CSO).

A [2021 Water Quality Report](#) (UK wide) from [Surfers Against Sewage](#) found:

In 2020 sewage was pumped into rivers and seas nationwide over 400,000 times, totalling over **3.1 million hours of pollution**.

CSOs in Wales are [permitted by NRW](#). These require CSOs to comply with design and water quality standards and cause no deterioration to the existing quality of the receiving water.

[Dŵr Cymru states](#) it's invested £10.5 million in improving the monitoring of CSOs since 2015, and has Event Duration Monitors (EDM) on almost 99% of CSOs to record the number and duration of spills.

EDM data is shared annually with NRW and is publicly available from [Dŵr Cymru](#). It's unclear which particular CSOs the petitioner is referring to. However

the [EDM data for the Valleys and South East Wales](#) shows a number of releases in and around the Barry area.

[Dŵr Cymru says](#) it's investing £42m across Wales in the Storm Overflow Assessment Framework (SOAF):

Over the next 5 years (2020-2025) this programme will use data from the EDM sites to prioritise wastewater assets for investigation, with the aim to reduce both the number and volume of storm water discharges to the environment. This will improve both watercourse amenity value and water quality overall. Using data from the EDM sites a further £15m is being spent around Wales on reducing the number of coastal discharges near to bathing and shellfish waters.

## Bathing water quality sampling

There are [105 bathing waters in Wales](#), designated under the [Bathing Water Regulations 2013](#). NRW is responsible for monitoring designated bathing waters and communicating the results to the public.

In response to this petition, the Welsh Government clarifies:

In Barry, Cold Knapp, Whitmore Bay and Jackson's Bay are designated as bathing waters, and the water quality at these beaches is classified as Excellent, Good and Sufficient respectively. However, Watch House Bay or Barry Old Harbour is not a designated bathing waters and is not monitored by NRW.

It is open to anyone to suggest a beach or inland site for designation as a bathing water. For example [Lantwit Major beach](#) has recently become a designated bathing location following an application and [Welsh Government consultation](#). It is now subject to routine monitoring and sampling by NRW.

The formal application should normally come from the local authority for the area or should have its support, as it will have specific responsibilities to fulfil under the Bathing Water Regulations.

[Welsh Government guidance](#) sets out how to apply for designation of bathing waters.



## 2. Welsh Government action

In her response to this petition, the Minister for Climate Change says she has met with Dŵr Cymru to discuss “concerns raised by some members of the local community regarding pollution in Watchtower Bay”:

My officials have since contacted DCWW and I understand local residents accepted DCWW’s explanation that the brown ‘slick’ is a naturally occurring marine algae bloom known as Phaeocystis. Nevertheless, DCWW agreed with the group to explore the possibility of making real-time alerts of discharges from two emergency overflows (Cold Knapp and Barry Town) available via the ‘Surfers Against Sewage’ app.

The Minister also highlights the Better River Quality Taskforce, “established to drive a rapid change and improvement” to CSO management and regulation. Representatives include NRW, the Welsh Government, Ofwat, Dŵr Cymru, Hafren Dyfrdwy, Afonydd Cymru and Consumer Council for Water.

The taskforce has identified a number of areas for change and improvement, and will publish a ‘storm overflows roadmap for Wales’ in July.

## 3. Welsh Parliament action

The Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee recently undertook a short piece of work on water quality and sewage discharges.

The Committee published its Report on storm overflows in Wales on 15 March 2022, which made a number of recommendations to the Welsh Government and NRW. The Welsh Government responded on 9 May 2022.

A debate was held in Plenary on 15 June 2022 on the Committee’s report.

A previous Plenary debate took place in March 2022 on a Member’s legislative proposal on the impact of storm overflows. The motion was agreed.

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-06-1281  
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/01036/22

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
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28 June 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 6 May, regarding petition P-06-1281 which calls on the Welsh Government to urgently stop raw sewage discharges into Barry's Old Harbour and Watchtower Bays.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) works closely with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to monitor bathing water quality around Barry. The classification of bathing water quality is determined by using sample results over the last four years. In Barry, Cold Knapp, Whitmore Bay and Jackson's Bay are designated as bathing waters, and the water quality at these beaches is classified as Excellent, Good and Sufficient respectively. However, Watch House Bay or Barry Old Harbour is not a designated bathing waters and is not monitored by NRW.

I understand that Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) is aware of concerns raised by some members of the local community regarding pollution in Watchtower Bay and have met with them to discuss the situation. My officials have since contacted DCWW and I understand local residents accepted DCWW's explanation that the brown 'slick' is a naturally occurring marine algae bloom known as Phaeocystis. Nevertheless, DCWW agreed with the group to explore the possibility of making real-time alerts of discharges from two emergency overflows (Cold Knapp and Barry Town) available via the 'Surfers Against Sewage' app.

More generally, the Better River Quality Taskforce has been established to drive a rapid change and improvement to the way in which combined storm overflows (CSOs) are managed and regulated in Wales. A roadmap will be published in July outlining the key deliverables for reducing the impact of storm overflows. Further information is available on NRW's website: [Natural Resources Wales / Storm Overflows in Wales](#).

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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[Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales](mailto: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.

It is only by working together and taking a 'Team Wales' approach that we can tackle the risks impacting our waterbodies. I therefore welcome this engagement from citizens and organisations outlining their concern for water quality in Old Harbour and Watchtower Bay.

Such support will be necessary in driving the cross sectoral interventions required to deliver the desired improvements in water quality.

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  
Yours sincerely

# Agenda Item 4.1

## **P-05-924 Ensure that every school in Wales has Wellbeing Ambassadors**

This petition was submitted by Dŵr Y Felin School Wellbeing Ambassadors having collected a total of 297 signatures on paper.

### **Text of Petition**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to ensure that every school in Wales introduces trained Wellbeing Ambassadors, so that every child has an opportunity to receive peer support from role model students who have been trained to be a buddy to pupils who are vulnerable at break and lunchtimes, who will report issues of bullying and just be there as a friend to pupils who maybe feel lonely at specific times throughout the day. We hope the Wellbeing Ambassadors' Roles will develop/evolve to run initiatives in schools, within county and nationally, to ensure that a clear message of zero tolerance to bullying is campaigned and that the well being of all pupils is placed at the highest of importance at each school, to further support the rights of the child. We hope that this initiative will go to further support reducing the amount of bullying witnessed in school across Wales, to ensure every child feels safe and happy at schools throughout Wales.

### **Additional Information**

In 2016, we were chosen to represent Wales as part of the ENABLE project, a UK initiative to pilot lessons on anti-bullying. Part of the initiative involved training pupils to peer support others. However, we decided to take this a step further by training pupils to become anti-bullying ambassadors. After much discussion with our Senedd Ysgol, we evolved the ambassador scheme, changing its name to wellbeing ambassadors. We wanted to move away from using the word bullying too often as we felt pupils didn't understand the difference between conflict and bullying. We also wanted pupils to know that at the forefront, wellbeing is our priority. Pupils who are part of the scheme surf areas around the school, spotting pupils who are alone or if they see bullying happening they report to the closest adult that they find, from Headteacher to dinner supervisors.

We meet once a month as a group and every year we evolve the scheme further. Currently we are looking at buddy benches so pupils who do feel alone can take a seat and a wellbeing ambassador will be there to support

them. Many of our ambassadors also sit on the Junior Safeguarding Board as a result.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Neath
- South Wales West

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-924  
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/01203/22

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
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23 June 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 7 June regarding Petition (P-05-924) regarding school wellbeing ambassadors. I note this petition was originally submitted in 2019 and at the time the previous Minister for Education wrote to you outlining our plans to support wellbeing and tackle bullying. Following your meeting on 23 May, you are now seeking an update on this activity and specifically whether the anti-bullying guidance and the whole school approach framework is in place.

In relation to tackling bullying, the Welsh Government's suite of guidance '[Rights, respect, equality](#)' provides statutory guidance for both governing bodies of maintained schools, and local authorities to help address and prevent bullying and harassment in education settings. This is supported by training for school leaders, practitioners and governors focussed on anti-bullying, and which implements our anti-bullying guidance and is delivered by two leading anti-bullying charities – the Anti-Bullying Alliance and Kidscape. We have also committed to update our anti-bullying guidance by the beginning of the next academic year, we will build on this guidance further by working with the Children's Commissioner for Wales over the next few months, to engage with the lived experiences of children and young people, as well as our teachers and education practitioners.

As for our whole school approach. In March 2021, the Welsh Government published the [Framework on embedding a whole school approach to emotional and mental well-being](#). The framework is statutory guidance and ensures consistent approaches for schools to review their wellbeing needs; put in place strategies to build on their strengths and address gaps; and review activity. The framework complements the new curriculum which, from September 2022, includes the Health and Well-being Area of Learning and Experience, ensuring the new curriculum's focus on the health and wellbeing of learners.

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

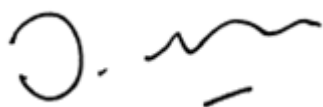
**Back Page 32**  
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

To ensure the Whole School Approach Framework is effectively implemented I, together with the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, have agreed to make available £12.2m this year, part of a total investment of over £43m over the next three years, specifically to support wellbeing in schools. Part of the funding is being used to support implementation coordinators, supported by Public Health Wales and embedded within the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes, who will support schools in embedding the Framework. Funding is also being used to improve and extend the provision of school counselling; provide universal and targeted wellbeing interventions; train teachers and other school staff on children's wellbeing; and roll out across Wales the CAMHS school in-reach service, which sees dedicated mental health practitioners in schools providing consultation, liaison, advice and training to school staff.

At the heart of the Framework is co-construction and ensuring that children and young people are fully engaged in developing school wellbeing strategies. I believe wellbeing ambassadors and peer mentors are already established in many schools and are a valuable part of supporting our learners. Such initiatives should form part of the school's assessment of its wellbeing needs and support needed, as required by our Framework.

I would be pleased to provide you with further updates as activity progresses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a circular mark followed by a wavy line and a short horizontal stroke.

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



**P-05-924 Ensure that every school in Wales has Wellbeing Ambassadors,  
Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 30.06.22**

Good afternoon, I think it is lovely that the Minister is looking into improving the anti-bullying strategies from a WG and whole school perspective. After having spoken to my student groups we agree that whilst this is a big step forward, policies are not as effective if not put into practice and schools made accountable. Our research showed that many pupils prefer to talk about bullying and wellbeing to their peers rather than staff, so our petition is to train students to support not just teachers and governors.

# Agenda Item 4.2

## **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

17 May 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**

We submitted to you, on 26 April 2022, a response to your request for information on how HEFCW has supported universities and colleges to make as many courses as possible accessible through remote access. Your letter requested information on what discussions there have been with universities and colleges about these matters.

To provide a comprehensive update, we submitted an initial response on 26 April setting 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, provided here, is informed by up-to-date information from the eight universities and two colleges we regulate, plus the Open University in Wales.

In the academic year 2020/21 there were 6,030 full-time, UK domiciled, undergraduates students in receipt of the Disabled Students Allowance in higher education in Wales according to [Higher Education Statistics Agency data](#).

Institutions confirmed that they offer a variety of higher education provision ranging from completely in-person teaching to fully distance learning on a full- and part-time basis. Part-time study provides flexible learning opportunities enabling students to balance study with other commitments, including their health needs. Most institutions confirmed that a face-to-face learning experience was their core business, apart from the Open University in Wales. We provide further information about the Open University in Wales below.

Institutions' responses on remote learning took account of recent actions to support all students, including students with protected characteristics, during the pandemic when all teaching and learning moved to remote delivery. Institutions' responses varied according to their student demographic as many mature students returning to learning

Mr Rob Humphreys  
Cadeirydd | Chair

Dr David Blaney  
Prif Weithredwr | Chief Executive



for example often choose to study with local institutions to benefit from high levels of on-campus, face to face learning. In every case institutions confirmed that, before the pandemic and on an ongoing basis, they are making reasonable adjustment to learning and teaching to support students with disabilities.

Where we report practice by one institution below, we are not implying that other institutions do not have similar policies, resources, and/or processes.

### **The accessibility of as many courses as possible through remote learning**

All institutions confirmed that there had been significant shifts in modes of learning and teaching as a result of the pandemic. Informed by Welsh Government Covid-19 guidance for 2020/21 and most of 2021/22, all institutions implemented 'study from home' protocols for the majority of students and courses. Remote teaching and learning required additional and different resources and institutions rapidly invested in additional resources including:

- IT infrastructure and online platforms;
- more remote library access and enhanced digital library resources, including improved digital access to core texts through extended 'ebook' provision and subscription to products which simplify access to library journals for remote users;
- provision of laptops on a loan system;
- training, webinars, and online resources and tools to equip teaching and support staff to fully embrace the hybrid learning community
- classrooms with hybrid learning facilities to support students with remote access to learning opportunities.

New ways of working during the pandemic and their successes and challenges are still being considered. All institutions are actively reviewing the lessons learned. All institutions are considering learning and teaching delivery modes from 2022/23 to include flexible, hybrid and digitally enhanced learning. Institutions referred to their digital strategies which underpin increased digital learning opportunities. Therefore, many more modules and courses will be accessible remotely. Learning and teaching methods will include:

- recorded teaching sessions to enable flexibility for students who are unable to attend, for example because of illness or caring responsibilities;
- continuing online assessments, including online examinations;
- a review of examinations as an assessment method where new methods are working well;
- teaching sessions timetabled over four days which will remain consistent over the academic year to enable students to plan in the long-term and arrange other commitments around this pattern.

In considering ways of learning and teaching and the potential for fully remote learning, institutions have taken account of a number of factors, including:

- students' and staff views;
- the regulations on funding of campus-based and distance learning courses;
- the requirements of [professional, statutory and regulatory bodies](#) which accredit, recognise and approve higher education programmes that lead to a professional or vocational qualification or exemption from a professional examination. These bodies often require practical experiential delivery, performance or case work as core study components and relate to subjects including medicine and health related subjects;
- the use of specific facilities such as for creative and performing arts and sports science, including access to specialised workshops or laboratory facilities.

Institutions raised concerns that remote learning can in some instances have negative impacts on students' well-being and health, contributing to isolation, loneliness and a less positive student experience, including exacerbating mental ill-health. The declared mental ill-health condition of students is a rapidly increasing category of disability in UK higher education. One institution reported that increased remote learning appeared to increase students' disengagement with learning, affecting retention, well-being, learning success and positive graduate outcomes. Several institutions identified that a sense of belonging through physical engagement with the institution and its facilities contributed to higher levels of retention and contributed to building a university community. To support a positive campus experience for students with disabilities, dedicated facilities such as safe learning spaces and quiet spaces are provided and there have been reviews of the pacing of lectures and practical adjustments for laboratory work and group activities.

### **The Open University in Wales**

As set out above, all institutions in Wales offer partial or wholly remote learning opportunities on a full or part-time basis. The Open University in Wales as a dedicated provider of distance learning widens the opportunities available for students to study remotely, and creates a focus for expertise in this area, helping to maximise the value of public investment. The Open University in Wales is the largest provider of part-time higher education that is entirely distance learning. The Open University in Wales offers all its provision from open access, non-accredited short courses to postgraduate and professional development qualifications through online, flexible learning. In 2020/21, the Open University UK supported over 28,000 students with disabilities and additional needs and over 3,000 of these are Welsh students studying with the Open University in Wales. The Open University in Wales' total student enrolments have increased in recent years from 6,905 in 2017/18 to 14,280 in 2020/21. The Open University in Wales works with a range of statutory and non-statutory organisations to support students with disabilities, including [Remploy](#), a disability specialist delivering employment and skills support and with professional organisations such as the [National Association of Disability Practitioners](#) (NADAP) and [Diversity and Ability](#).

### **Reasonable Adjustment for disabled students under the Equality Act 2010**

Higher education institutions have a legal duty to try to remove the barriers to education because of students' disabilities and make 'reasonable adjustment'. A summary of the

Equality Act (2010) section 7 as it relates to disabled students in higher education is available on the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education website ([OIAHE](#)).

All institutions in Wales have reasonable adjustment policies and processes to support students with disabilities and promote services delivered by student services. Colleges' support for students with disabilities takes account of the [Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal \(Wales\) Act](#). Under the Equality Act Wales all institutions must equality impact assess their policies to assess the impact on people with protected characteristics and to actively mitigate negative impacts.

For all modules and programmes provided, reasonable adjustments are made for disabled students on an individual basis on all programmes with the default position being that the more accessible and inclusive teaching and assessment is from the outset, the fewer adjustments need to be made for individual students. Reasonable adjustment requirements are discussed with prospective students at the point of application to an institution, where they declare a disability that may need additional support. Universities provide educational diagnostic assessments and referral to disability needs assessments where students consider they may have an undiagnosed disability. The provision of non-medical helper academic support, including access to specialist staff and expertise, can be made available as required. Students with fluctuating health conditions are able to request mitigating circumstances procedures should they need to, or use self-certification to request additional time to complete an assessment. For timed/fixed date assessments, institutions can provide extra time, quiet rooms, scribes or access to assistive technology. Therefore, reasonable adjustments can include, but are not limited to, remote learning.

We hope this further information provided in addition to our 26 April 2022 submission to you provides a full and up-to-date response to your request for information on how HEFCW has supported universities and colleges, and discussions we have had about making as many courses as possible accessible through remote access.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Rob Humphreys', followed by a period.

**Rob Humphreys**

# Agenda Item 4.3

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

This petition was submitted by Non Davies, having collected a total of 515 signatures.

### **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.

### **Additional 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!

### **Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Clwyd West
- North Wales

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/01267/22

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

30 June 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 27 May 2022 concerning the petition on pre-assessed areas for wind energy which your committee is considering.

Future Wales says that '*further guidance on the development of on-shore wind will be produced to assist in the development process*'. I can confirm that work to prepare this guidance has commenced and I have asked the Design Commission for Wales to update their publication '[Designing Wind Farms in Wales](#)'.

This updated guidance will set out the key considerations for the sensitive development of large-scale wind farms. It will support local planning authorities, communities, stakeholders and developers by setting out the key issues, up to date policy requirements, signposting to important existing guidance and explaining the wider process.

The timetable for the publication of this guidance is by the end of 2022. I would encourage anyone interested in the preparation of this guidance to contact the Design Commission for Wales and express their interest in getting involved. They can be contacted through their [website](#).

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

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

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



I would take the opportunity to highlight that there has been no delay in the publication of this guidance. The focus following the publication of Future Wales in 2021 was on supporting the introduction of a new national tier to the development plan in Wales. The introduction of Future Wales represented a very significant change to the plan-led system and it was important that the initial focus was on supporting this change. Having done this and as intended the preparation of the guidance referred to above has now commenced.

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

Yours sincerely,

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

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

**P-06-1268 Review the process for pre-assessed status for onshore turbines, which unfairly disadvantages individuals, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 06.07.22**



**P-06-1268**

Non Davies - Response for Petitions Committee 13 July 2022

**PLEASE SEE MOELFRE LEAFLET – SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO SIZE GRAPHIC ON BACK PAGE**

1. The 'Report on Draft National Development Framework' Dec. 2019 p.31 criticises the methodology used and questions whether the pre-assessed areas are fit for purpose to accommodate the large-scale developments envisaged. The Future Wales Plan 2040 fails to address and reconcile any of these criticisms.
2. There is no evidence of 'assessment' in the designation of the 'pre-assessed' areas across Wales. In respect of Area 1 (Conwy Berfeddwlad – Heartland) it appears that it was merely a desk top exercise avoiding Bryniau Clwyd to the East and Eryri to the West.
3. Despite the claim that there was extensive consultation with those affected including community and county councils we have evidence to demonstrate that this did not take place. The 'Consultation' timescale included the period of Covid 19 restrictions which severely restricted individual and organisational capacity and normality. This placed a severe restriction on fair and equitable consultation processes. We would still be unaware of the designation and unaware of the specific Moelfre proposal but for neighbours receiving 'Noise Agreements' to sign by the developers. Is this the open and transparent business model that you wish to promote? Clear Guidance would have set out the conduct and business model expected of the industry. As it is the developers' understanding appears to be that they now, via Future Wales Plan 2040, have 'presumed consent' to place 250-metre-high turbines within 700 metres of homes across Wales.
4. A FOI request for information about the absent Guidance **06.09.2021 - ATISN 15399 – Wind Energy Strategy and Future Wales:**
  - a. 4. The Report on the Draft National Development Framework (December 2019) refers to guidance that is being developed to inform Wind Energy Developments - can I have a copy of this Guidance please?

Elicited the following **Response**:

‘This guidance has not been produced yet’.

And did not set out the process for furnishing the Guidance,

**It is clear to me that the delay in developing and producing the ‘Guidance’ is functional and that it will be written to fit the numerous specific proposed industrial turbine sites already established across Wales, some of them already within the 12 month pre-application period, rather than any proposals being submitted within the context of the Guidance. This clearly affords developers priority and disadvantages those most affected.**

**This reinforces my view that this is a done deal across Wales and explains the confidence and arrogance of the developer who advised me that the Future Wales Plan 2040 afforded him ‘presumed consent’ to place 250-metre-high turbines within 700 metres of our home. This developer was very well informed about the development and ‘consultation’ undertaken in respect of the Future Wales Plan 2040. Another representative of the developer confirmed that the developer had been in negotiations with local landowners since September 2020 (again during Covid 19 restrictions). The Future Wales Plan 2040 was published in February 2021.**

**5. The 2012 Guidance is not fit for purpose to describe what is envisaged and indeed promoted by the Future Wales Plan.**

**- Size of Turbines - 2012 Guidance p.12 :**

‘Currently wind turbines consists of 60 -100 meters high towers with blades of 40-50 meters or more, so their overall height to blade tip is typically 100 -150 meters’. This will have a significant impact within 800 metres of homes. Turbines of 100-150m height will have significant impact on dwellings within 1.2 km

**The Future Wales Plan 2040 enables the siting of 250-metre-high turbines within 700 metres of homes.**

- **Impact on Health** – more is now known about the impact on existing and future health conditions e.g infrasound and low frequency noise (which cannot be determined by measuring audible noise which is the current practice). **Research does not envisage turbines of the size and scale envisaged in the FW Plan 2040.**
- **Impact of increased turbine height (100% +) on safety risks; flooding; ecology; habitat and wildlife has not been assessed nor addressed.**

**6. There is other more detailed and robust Guidance already in existence for example Scottish Power and Local Authority documents. None of these envisage turbines of over 100 metres high:**

- **SP Manweb: Planning Inspectorate Reference No. EN020014 Document reference: SPM NWWFC PHSIPD4 Appendix**

**Author: Gillespies LLP**

## Guidance on the Application of Separation Distances from Residential Properties (May 2014) - Full Report

Residential Visual Amenity Assessment Trigger Distance (Potential 'Very Large' Scale of Visual Impact) notes that 100 metre-high turbines will have a significant impact on homes within 800 metres of homes. **The Future Wales Plan 2040 enables turbines of 250 metres high with no current Guidance. Is this fair and equitable without the 'rules of the game'.**

7. We are working with groups affected across Wales:

Letter Published Jointly Western Mail 26 November 2021 & Daily Post 29 November 2021

### Future Wales renewable energy policies

When the Welsh Government introduced policies on renewable energy to the final draft of the National Development Framework, now enacted as Future Wales, they did so without subjecting those policies to analysis using the mandatory H M Treasury guidance known as the Green Book. Although an Integrated Sustainability Assessment was performed for the whole of Future Wales, no policy level analysis was performed, and some key features of the Green Book approach missed out.

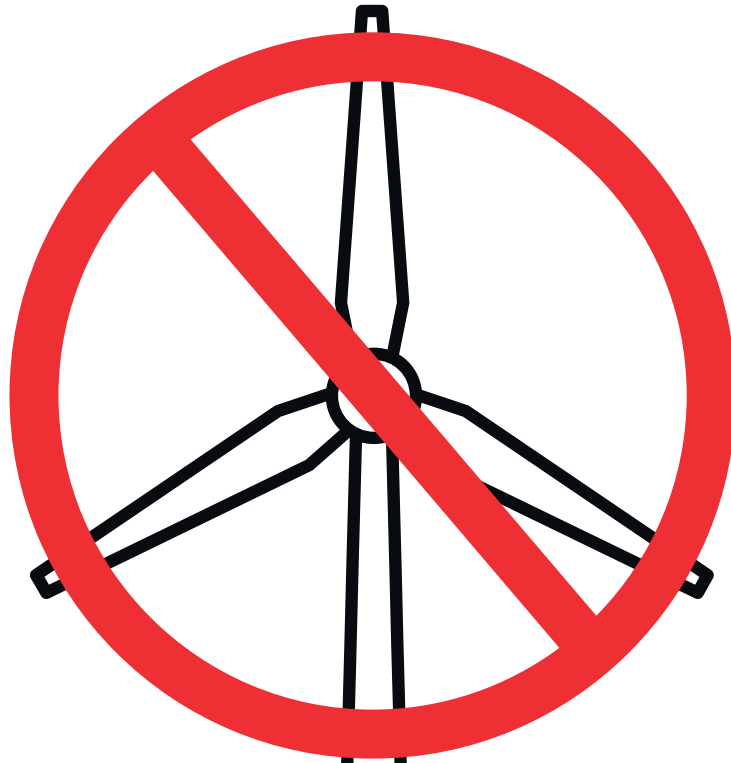
The Green Book requires effects on the value of "natural capital" to be included - this is the value society gives to less tangible assets such as landscapes, habitats and environments. While never as precise as estimating infrastructure costs or revenue streams, it crucially translates impacts on landscape etc into quantitative terms to weigh up against more tangible costs and benefits. Environmental assessments are usually qualitative, but often money wins, and descriptions, and landscapes, loose.

Also missing from Future Wales are the renewable energy guidelines on acceptability, promised during the public consultation - essentially the "rules of the game" for both developers and impacted stakeholders. We understand from the minister there is no deadline for these to be produced, although proposals under these policies will be submitted soon.

We strongly believe that the guidelines, including the need to assess the impact on "natural capital" value, should be available before the first application under these policies is submitted in the first half of next year. With the right "rules" then maybe the right decisions will be made, for the right reasons, about such Developments of National Significance like Y Bryn Onshore Windfarm and numerous other wind and solar developments. We believe that the renewable energy policies, and any emerging unintended consequences on communities across Wales, should be reviewed.

Yours sincerely,  
Non Davies

# MOELFRE



**YNNI GLÂN?  
TA HEN DRO SÂL?  
CYMDOGION DA  
DYDWCH NA! (PLÎS)**

**CLEAN ENERGY?  
FAIR PLAY?  
GOOD NEIGHBOURS  
PLEASE SAY NO!**

**250m**



**14m**

**ebost: moelfre2022@gmail.com**

**email: moelfre2022@gmail.com**

**CRAITH AR Y TIR AC AR EICH CYMUNED YN DOD YN FUAN!  
LLANGERNYW- BETWS YN RHOS-LLANFAIR TH  
BLOT ON THE LANDSCAPE AND COMMUNITY  
COMING SOON NEAR TO YOU!**

**Size and Scale** – approx. 20 Turbines up to 250 metres high with a 160m rotor diameter - unprecedented onshore. Turbines of this size and scale were not envisaged in any research on the adverse impacts on health, wellbeing, ecology, flooding etc. They are proposed in the Moelfre Uchaf area as close as 700 metres from residential properties. Solar Next?

**Benefits** – will be limited to those who gain financially, to the direct detriment of others who are concerned about loss of wellbeing, health, homes and livelihoods.

**Community Fund** from the developer is nothing more than a 'carrot' to the villages' residents, millions promised but over the lifespan when operating/producing power & only certain projects qualify. Not compulsory & possibly not honoured if/when the operation is transferred/sold on?

**Litigation and Landowners** – increasing litigation against developers, true extent unknown as many cases settled out of court eg UK Davis case. Landowners cannot be guaranteed indemnity especially if projects are 'sold on'.

**Safety** – The wind industry does not share its database with the Health & Safety Executive, the known rate of 222 annual accidents (SAS 2011) is an underestimate. Increased turbine size leads to increased risks.

**Health and Wellbeing** – concern about the impact on existing and future health conditions. Growing body of research about the impact of 'noise pollution', 'Low Frequency Noise'/LFN & 'Amplitude Modulation'/AM, lighting, turbine flicker etc, on people and animals, especially in tranquil areas.

**Construction** - displacement of soil by thousands of tonnes of concrete and steel for the enormous underground permanent turbine bases and required infrastructure, compounds and access roads. Each turbine construction site/pad is approx the size of a football pitch.

**Impact on Landscape** – this will be an industrial site with significant landscape change and adverse impact on not only the site itself but also the neighbouring designated 'Special Landscape Area' & viewed from many miles around with compulsory lighting disrupting the dark skies.

**Wildlife and Ecology** – significant impact on birds, bats & insects through collision, disruption and loss of habitat.

**Future Wales – 2040 Plan** – published (February 2021) and differs from the findings of the preceding National Development Frameworks & Local Development Plans. Evidence of assessment other than a desk top exercise to avoid, locally Snowdonia & Clwydian Range, all National Parks, AONBs & World Heritage Sites, is still awaited.

**Lack of Guidance** – promised guidance providing the 'rules of the game' for everyone, developers, public & planning inspectorate alike is awaited. How can applications be considered - and challenged without a clear basis and shared understanding?

#### **Consultation – FW2040**

Pre Assessed Areas – 10 areas for large industrial scale wind turbine development, with landscape able to accommodate change & with a 'presumption in favour'. No evidence of direct consultation with those affected most - local residents, relevant community councils and county councillors.

**Were you aware &/or consulted.....we weren't.**

**Human Rights** – Our rights to object have been curtailed.

The developers have all the power and resources whereas we have limited access to free or affordable help and advice.

**Grid Network** – shared with other energy sources, the current infrastructure has inadequate capacity to accept and store any excess energy. Until this is resolved aren't we putting the cart before the horse?

**Constraint Payments** – over the last decade electricity customers have paid a billion £s (yes £1,000,000,000 - nine zeros) via their electricity bills to developers in constraints payment i.e. to switch them off when the grid's at full capacity.

**Green Energy?** –Sourcing and manufacturing of the required materials - concrete, steel, copper, aluminium, rare minerals produces vast amounts of CO2 and has an adverse impact on the poorest countries. Turbine blades are not generally recycled & shed micro plastics/BPA pollution.

**Net Zero?** - with increasing energy costs, growing concern that governments are hitting targets but missing the point. Wind Turbine energy can never achieve net zero as it is reliant on other expensive unproven backup energy sources to supplement it. What it can achieve is vast profit for developers.

#### **Bute Moelfre Energy Park**

We would still be unaware of Bute's proposal if neighbours had not disclosed that they had received a letter asking them to sign a 'Noise Agreement' with an annual financial incentive.

**Flooding Risk** – Significant flooding at Llanfairtalhaiarn 3 times in the last decade, most recent (Storm Ciara February 2020) resulting in NRW Flood Risk Management Strategy (2020). Increased risk due to felling trees and the turbines' concrete bases creating more water runoff.

**Democracy?** – as a Development of National Significance (DNS) the application will bypass local decision making and be submitted directly to the planning inspectorate to decide whether any adverse impact from the development is acceptable or not. But a single Welsh Minister can overrule the inspector's decision "in the greater public interest", "due to the increased climate emergency" &/or as it's "only being for the duration of the lifetime of the development's operation".....which can be up to 50yrs & extended!! This overrides FW2040's safeguard Policies 17 & 18 leaving the most affected individuals unprotected, 'collateral damage' & with no compensation.

**First of Many** – This proposal will not be the last. If approved our whole 'pre-assessed area' could be targeted by developers as has happened in Scotland. There have been no large-scale wind farms in England since 2016 legislation limiting them with English planning law giving local authorities/communities the final say. It appears to us that Scotland and Wales are destined to provide England's energy needs, with the backing of their governments, to the detriment of their people, country and communities. Targets are set unnecessarily high, possibly to cater for exporting the surplus energy, good for the economy but not for the environment or rural landscapes.

**Next Steps – This development will scar the landscape and our community. Is it worth it? We need your support, you may be affected by the next application. If you have any questions or comments or need more information, ie: links to helpful websites, references used in above, please get in touch via our email:**

**Moelfre2022@gmail.com**

**Maint a Graddfa** – tua 20 tyrbein hyd at 250 metr o uchder gyda llafn diamedr 160m – digynsail ar y tir. Nid oes ymchwil ar yr effeithiau andwyol ar iechyd, llesiant, ecoleg, llifogydd ayb wedi rhagweld y maint yma. Maent i'w codi yn ardal Moelfre Uchaf, o fewn 700m i'n cartrefi. Solar Nesaf?

**Buddion** – wedi eu cyfyngu i'r rhai sydd yn elwa'n ariannol ar draul eraill sydd yn poeni am golli llesiant, iechyd, cartrefi a bywoliaeth.

**Cronfa Cymuned** – llwyed o fêl efo'r ffisig gan y datblygwr, addewid nad yw'n caei ei gwireddu yn llawn, gyda meini prawf caeth ac yn ddibynnol ar elw. Nid oes modd gorfodi'r taliadau na'u gwarantu os gwerthir y cynllun.

**Tirfeddianwyr ac Atebolrwydd Cyfreithiol** – mwy a mwy o achosion cyfreithiol yn erbyn datblygwr a thirfeddianwyr, y rhan fwyaf yn cael eu setlo tu allan i'r llys e.e. achos Davis UK. Nid oes modd gwarantu indemniad i'r tirfeddianwyr yn enwedig os ydy'r safle yn cael ei werthu mlaen.

**Diogelwch** – Nid yw'r diwydiant gwynt yn rhannu gwybodaeth gyda'r Gweithgor Iechyd & Diogelwch, mae'r 222 damwain blynyddol sy'n cael ei nodi (SAS 2011) yn llawer uwch na hynny mewn gwirionedd. Mwyaf po maint y tyrbein, mwyaf ydy'r risg.

**Iechyd a Llesiant** – effeithiau ar gyflyrau iechyd presennol ac yn y dyfodol. Mwy a mwy o ymchwil ar effeithiau 'llygredd swm amledd isel' & 'Modiwlleiddio Osgled'; goleuadau hedfan; crynodod; 'flicker'; ar bobl / anifeiliad ac ar ardaloedd heddychlon.

**Adeiladu** - dadleoli miloedd o dunnelli o bridd gan concrit a dur ar gyfer sylfeini'r tyrbeini (maint cae peldroed ar gyfer pob un), ffyrdd mynediad, isadeiledd a compounds.

**Effaith ar Dirlun** – safle diwydiannol gydag newid tirlun arwyddocaol ac effaith andwyol gan gynnwys ar 'Ardal Tirwedd Arbennig' fydd hwn, yn amlwg am filltiroedd lawer gyda'r goleuadau parhaol yn tarfu ar yr awyr dywyll.

**Bywyd Gwyllt ac Ecoleg** – effeithiau arwyddocaol ar adar, ystlumod, pryfaid ayb drwy darfu, golli cynefin neu wrthdrawiad.

**Cynllun Cymru'r Dyfodol 2040** – (cyhoeddwyd Chwefror 2021) sydd yn gwyro oddi wrth y Fframweithiau Datblygu Cenedlaethol a Chynlluniau Datblygu Lleol blaenorol. Ymddengys yn asesiad 'desg' yn unig er mwyn osgoi'r parciau cenedlaethol megis Eryri, Bryniau Clwyd, ardaloedd hyfrydwch neilltuol a safleoedd treftadaeth.

**Diffyg Canllawiau** – rydym yn dal i aros am y canllawiau neu 'rheolau'r gêm' i bawb - datblygwr, arolygiaeth, cyhoedd ayb. Sut mae modd ystyried ceisiadau - neu eu herio - heb feini prawf clir?

### **Ymgynghori**

Ardaloedd wedi eu 'asesu' – 10 ardal ar gyfer datblygiad ynni gwynt diwydiannol, newid tirlun arwyddocaol a 'rhagdybiaeth o blaid'. Does dim prawf o ymgynghoriad uniongyrchol gyda'r rhai sy'n cael eu heffeithio fwyaf - preswylwyr lleol, cynghorwyr cymuned a sirol perthnasol.

**Oeddech chi'n ymwybodol? Doeddau ni ddim.**

**Rhwydwaith Grid** – fe rhennir hwn gyda ffynhonnellau egni eraill, nid oes gan y seilwaith presennol allu digonol i dderbyn a storio ynni dros ben. Nes fydd y diffyg hwn wedi ei ddatrys onid rhoi'r drôl o flaen y ceffyl ydy hyn?

**Taliadau Cyfyngu** – mae Biliwn o bunnoedd mewn taliadau cyfyngu (h.y. i droi'r tyrbeini ffwrdd pan fo'r grid yn llawn) wedi eu rhoi i ddatblygwyr dros y degawd olaf, trwy filiau trydan cwsmeriaid.

**Ynni Glan?** – mae cyrchu'r deunyddiau sydd eu hangen - concrit, dur, copr, alwminiwm, mwynau prin yn cynhyrchu symiau helaeth o CO2 ac yn cael effaith andwyol ar y gwledydd tlotaf. Nid oes modd yn gyffredinol i ailgylchu'r llafnau a maent yn gollwng microblastigau a llygredd BPA.

**Net Zero?** - gyda chynnydd prisiau ynni mae pryder fod llywodraethau yn llygadu'r targed ond yn methu'r pwynt. Ni all ynni Tyrbein gwynt wireddu net sero gan ei fod yn dibynnu ar ffynonellau ynni wrth gefn. Yr hyn y gall ei wireddu ydy elw enfawr i ddatblygwyr.

### **Maes Ynni Moelfre Bute**

Byddem dal heb fod yn ymwybodol o gynllun Bute pe na bai cymdogion wedi datgelu eu bod wedi cael cais i lofnodi 'Cytundeb Swm' gyda chymhelliant ariannol blynyddol.

**Llifogydd** – Cafwyd llifogydd difrifol deirgwaith yn y degawd diwethaf, gyda Storm Ciara (Chwefror 2020) yn arwain at Strategaeth Perygl Llifogydd CNC (Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural resources Wales). Mae mwy o risg gyda thorri coed a sylfeini concrit yn achosi rhediad dwr.

**Democratiaeth?** – Fel Datblygiad o Arwyddocâd Cenedlaethol fe fydd y cais yn osgoi democratiaeth leol ac yn mynd yn syth at yr arolygiaeth cynllunio i benderfynu os ydy'r effaith yn dderbyniol ai peidio. Fe all un Gweinidog Senedd wrthdroi'r penderfyniad 'er budd y cyhoedd', oherwydd yr argyfwng hinsawdd neu ei ganiatau dros gyfnod penodol gall fod yn hanner canrif neu fwy. Mae hyn yn disodli Polisiau 17 & 18 gan adael y rhai sydd yn cael eu heffeithio fwyaf heb amddiffyniad nag iawndâl.

**Iawnderau Dynol** – Mae ein hawliau ni i wrthwynebu wedi eu cwtogi. Mae gan y datblygwyr rymoedd ac adnoddau dibendraw lle nad oes gennym ni fynediad i gymorth a chngor fforddiadwy.

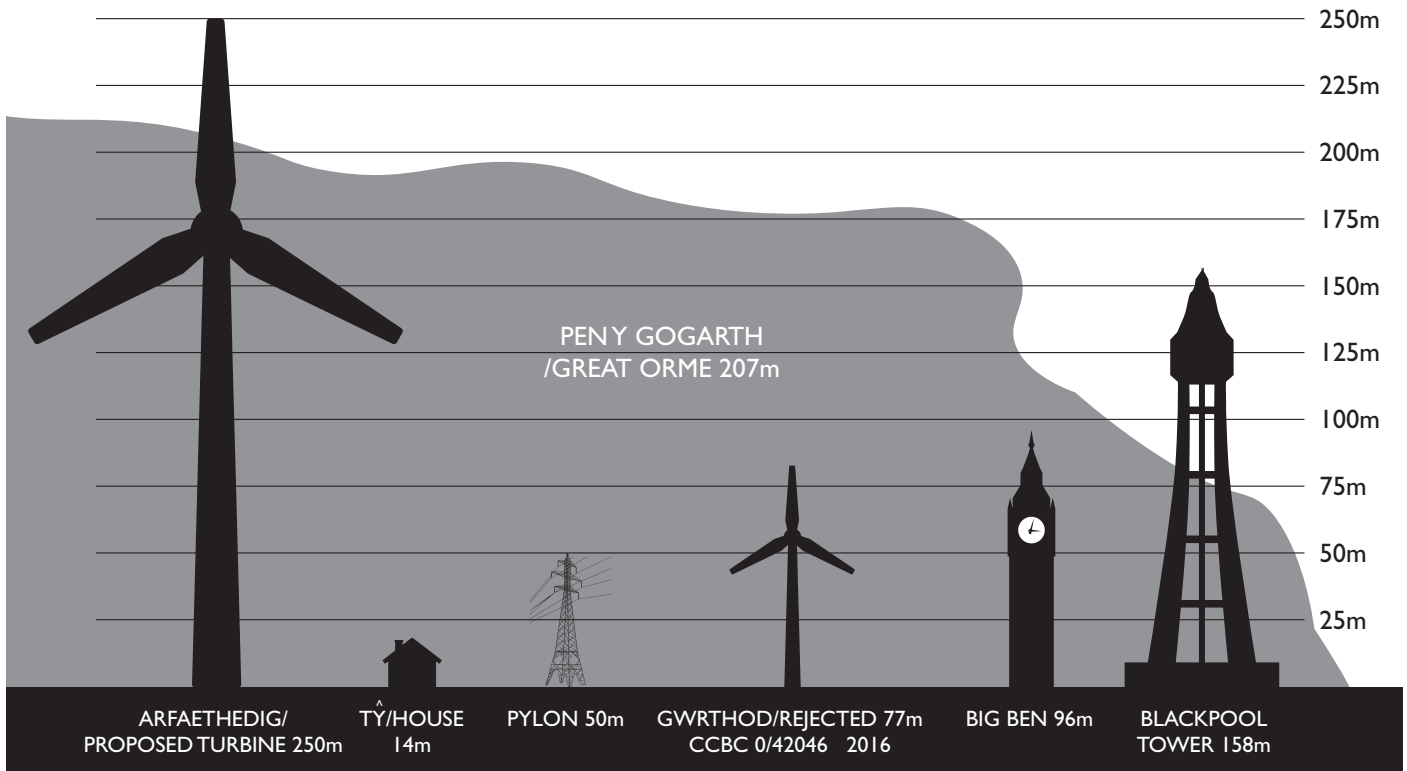
**Cyntaf o Amryw** – Nid hwn fydd y cynllun olaf. Fe fydd datblygwyr yn targedu'r ardal 'ddynodedig' gyfan fel sydd wedi digwydd yn yr Alban. Does dim datblygiadau o'r fath wedi bod yn Lloegr ers 2016 gan fod rhaid cael cefnogaeth leol. Mae'n debyg fod Cymru a'r Alban am ddarparu ynni Lloegr gyda chefnogaeth Llywodraeth Cymru, ar draul ei phobl, ei gwlad a'i chymunedau.

Mae'r targedau a osodir yn cynnwys ynni Lloegr, mae hyn yn fanteisiol i'r datblygwyr ond nid yr amgylchedd na thirluniau gwledig.

**Camau Nesaf – Fe fydd y datblygiad yma yn creithio ein tirlun a'n cymuned. Ydy o werth o? Mae angen eich cefnogaeth arnom, efallai mai chi fydd yn cael eich effeithio nesaf. Os oes cwestiynau gennych neu angen fwy o wybodaeth e.e. cyfeiriadau ayb cysylltwch â ni drwy ebost. Diolch am ddarllen. [Moelfre2022@gmail.com](mailto:Moelfre2022@gmail.com)**



## SIZE COMPARISON / CYMHARIAETH MAINT

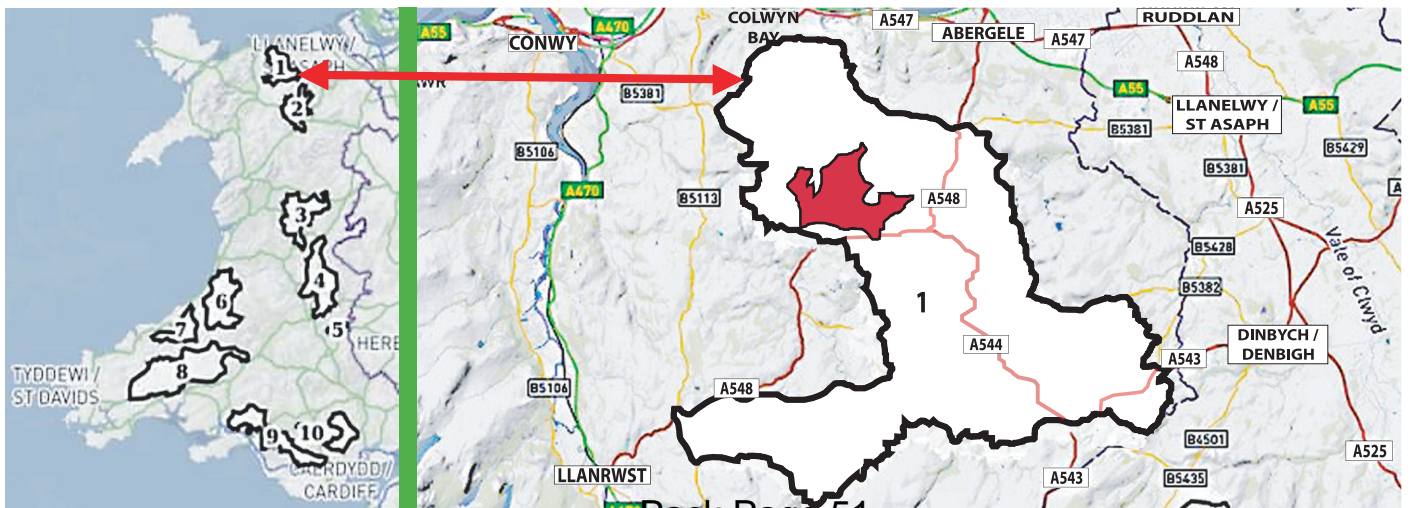


## MWYNHEWCH TRA GALLWCH! / ENJOY WHILE YOU CAN!



'Llwybr Olygfaol' Llangernyw A548 'Scenic Route'

## SAFLE MOELFRE O FEWN ARDAL I 'A ASESWYD YMLAEN LLAW' (CYNLLUN CD 2040) MOELFRE SITE WITHIN 'PRE-ASSESSED AREA' I (FUTURE WALES PLAN 2040)



**P-06-1268 Review the process for pre-assessed status for onshore turbines, which unfairly disadvantages individuals, Correspondence – Interested Third Party to Committee, 03.07.22**

Dear Mam/Sir,

I support this petition.

Wind turbine application process in Wales is currently unfit and unfair. Areas suitable for wind farms are assessed by multinational companies that have NEVER even visited the areas. During the application process local people and their knowledge is completely ignored and this makes the process completely inadequate and improper. It feels like lots of these assessments and applications are done in secrecy and come as a complete surprise and shock to local communities. Our areas of outstanding beauty and rich wildlife are potentially destroyed for ever and the local tourism industry will have a massive negative impact.

We need a fairer and more appropriate process.

Kind regards,

# Agenda Item 4.4

## **P-06-1277 Save A&E. Withybush General Hospital must retain 24 hour, 7 days a week, Consultant Led urgent care**

This petition was submitted by Jacqueline Doig, having collected 10,678 signatures online and 490 signatures on paper, a total of 11,168 signatures.

### **Text of Petition:**

Moving care out of county puts adults & children at risk of poor outcomes or even death. It wastes crucial time, when time is not on our side.

-We have 125,000 residents & millions of tourists. By implementing the downgrades, HDUHB, will be knowingly putting their lives at risk. We re-iterate, we are a rural, widespread county, with poor roads and public transport network. Refinery, gas plant, ferry ports, firing range, extreme sports, plus one of the most dangerous professions: farming.

### **Additional Information:**

HDUHB may infer that the "Golden Hour" is no longer relevant, with better equipped ambulances & higher trained staff, but that is dependent on an ambulance being available to help & give that immediate care. That is increasingly not the case, as ambulances fail to attend, as they are being sent out of county, unable to offload and unable to return to county, to give the help needed.

-It is an awful feeling to know that if our relatives or our children have a life threatening asthma attack, epileptic episode, or other time critical issue, within the new plans, they are unlikely to get to help & survive.

-HDUHB have said they will make no guarantee that Urgent Care would remain in Withybush General Hospital until (and if), a new build is up and running!!! That is unacceptable.

-HDUHB should commit to rigorous recruitment policies, to keep WGH Urgent Care fully staffed.

-We have lost faith & trust in HDUHB and do not believe that they are working in the best interests of Pembrokeshire.

### **Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire
- Mid and West Wales

**Petition P-06-1277: 'Save A&E. Withybush General Hospital must retain 24 hour, 7 days a week, Consultant Led urgent care'**

**Further evidence for petitions committee to consider on 11th July**

**Introduction and context**

Our campaign is made up of community members concerned about how access to vital services will be impacted under HDUHB plans. We feel that our concerns are not being properly addressed but instead, are being dismissed. For example, the First Minister suggested we are against change:

‘Opportunities have come and gone in South West Wales because of people’s attachment to the status quo prevented them [HDUHB] from being willing to move forward with plans that would have resulted in major investment in those services.’ (FMQ March 1st)

And the Health Minister, in her contribution to the debate regarding our petition on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022, brushed our concerns under the carpet with her focus solely being upon the investment of new services coming to West Wales:

‘Let me tell you that West Wales has not been forgotten. If plans to develop a new hospital were to proceed, this would represent the largest public sector investment ever to happen in West Wales.’

The first consultation report regarding the proposals for change, undertaken for Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDUHB) in 2018, reported that:

‘A recent WAO Report into Primary Care in Wales presented a compelling case for change and suggested that there needed to be more publicity that change is going to happen whether people like it or not (CHC meeting)’. (p.10)

Of course we are not against modernisation or change, and we welcome investment within our region, although we do not know to which “Opportunities” the First Minister referred. However, we feel that there is a hidden cost to the proposed changes that is not currently being addressed or discussed seriously.

This additional evidence has been compiled with some help from volunteer researchers working with the newly launched campaign group ‘Our NHS: Born in Wales’, which has been set up by People’s Assembly Wales. However, we are still a community led, and based campaign group, and as such are having to negotiate complex policy and strategy documents and political processes within which we are not professionals or experts. This evidence document builds upon the briefing paper we have circulated to all MS’s and attached for the Petitions Committee reference.

### **Concern number 1: A lack of Co-production throughout the engagement process**

Public engagement began in 2018 with the consultation 'our big NHS change'. We cannot find a copy of the original consultation document, but the findings report documents how people responded in relation to being presented with planned changes to community hub health services and a choice of proposal A, proposal B and proposal C in relation to hospital and emergency care health services. This style of consultation presents respondents with a multiple choice of 3 options that have already been decided by the Health Board. None of the 3 options included keeping Withybush hospital as a general hospital or for consultant led emergency care and all options included building a new urgent care hospital; with 2 proposals combining the new urgent care hospital with planned care. Respondents had no choice but to agree to a new hospital and the downgrading of Withybush or request 'an alternative' to be devised. This style of consultation does not account for nuances between populations and certainly does not allow for dissent from the proposals on offer. The Well-Being Future Generations Act 2015 states that statutory organisations, including health boards, should make decisions through co-production. According to the Care Council for Wales' paper 'Planning, commissioning and co-production: Getting in on the Act' 2017, Welsh Government describes co-production as:

'the concept of genuinely involving people and communities in the design and delivery of public services, appreciating their strengths and tailoring approaches accordingly... (it) is fundamentally about doing things 'with' rather than 'to' people .' (p.2)

The business case for a new hospital has now been published, 'A healthier Mid and West Wales: Our Future Generations Living Well- Programme Business Case' Jan. 2022 and an appraisal group that includes citizens from each county area deciding the site of a new hospital in preparation for changing health services across Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire (last meeting May 25<sup>th</sup> 2022). This appraisal group includes 11 citizens from Pembrokeshire.

Whilst the HDUHB consultation process was held up by the Health Minister to be 'exemplar' (plenary debate 29/6/2022); this consultation, and the subsequent engagement, was not co-production and, as evidenced below, the concerns originally raised within the 2018 consultation have not been addressed or discussed. Additionally, there has been no effort made to specifically involve the populations most affected by the proposed changes. It is not that HDUHB need to repeat the consultation; but more that they need to ask different questions in a completely different way. For example; people in Pembrokeshire and north east Carmarthenshire overwhelmingly rejected proposals A, B and C. The Health Board therefore needs to go back to those populations and ask them why and what would be preferable instead and develop further conversations, thereby undertaking co-production.

## Concern 2: Selected interpretation of the evidence from the 2018 consultation

The interpretation of the results from the 2018, 'Our Big NHS Changes' appears to be selective. Firstly, whilst 1,300 people are estimated to have participated within focus groups and community drop in meetings the exact characteristics of participants was not recorded. This means there is no way of knowing their gender, age, protected characteristics and other vital identities regarding if they would be most affected by the proposed changes and there are no demographics reported within the findings. This means that people without access to a car, those on very low incomes, elderly and disabled people (ie those who are most likely to be affected by the proposals) are not having their opinions disaggregated from the wider population of respondents.

However, the report is clear regarding opinion to the different proposals. Whilst there was undeniable agreement for change from both residents and staff within the consultation report, agreement was not clear cut with regards to the actual proposals being made. The report states that

'59% of NHS employees agreed with the proposed services [for community hubs] to be provided at each community hub and 55% agreed with the proposed locations (i.e. 32% and 35% disagreed respectively).' (p.11)

However, the plans for community hubs were not well received from non- NHS employees. The report states:

'over half (51%) of other respondents to the open questionnaire disagreed with the proposed services and 53% disagreed with the proposed locations ... Feedback from the workshop surveys identified a relatively even balance between residents that agreed with the proposed locations (46%) and those who disagreed (41%).'

This was particularly the case for residents of Pembrokeshire, rather than Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire. This divide between populations was even more pronounced within the report in relation to the 3 proposals suggested for general hospital provision. Our researchers have studied the map provided and come to the conclusion that residents of each local authority area chose proposals that enabled them to have the *closest* general hospital provision; with the majority of residents in Pembrokeshire and north east Carmarthenshire requesting 'an alternative' to the 3 proposals; mainly because each option left them without straightforward access to a general hospital or urgent emergency care. (maps on p.16 of 'our big NHS changes' 2018).

Given these results, we question how the plans for a new hospital in the Narberth- St Clear's area have continued, because the 2018 consultation showed *no clear support for it* within Pembrokeshire. The nature of the consultation has pitched communities and local authority areas against each other, and continuing with pre-determined plans is ignoring Pembrokeshire's residents' clear opinion that there needed to be an alternative to the 3 proposals.

### Concern 3: Confusing unclear information

The 2018 public consultation states that:

‘There was a general lack of clarity and understanding about the specific proposals for community hubs and hospitals. Many questions were raised about how the proposals differed from the existing situation...’ (p.11)

This confusion has continued through subsequent publicly available information and there is no clarity on what is and isn’t being proposed to us, in three main areas:

a. The status of A and E care services during transition to the new plans

The Health minister in her response to our petition on June 29th stated:

‘Let me make it absolutely clear that A&E will remain in Withybush until a new hospital is built. We’ve got a long, long way to go and lots of hoops to jump through before we get to that point.’

However, HDUHB FAQ’s website page states:

‘We are facing unprecedented pressures, including our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact this has on our staffing and how we can deliver care safely. Our clinicians and managers will continue to make operational decisions and react to changing circumstances every day to ensure we can safely treat our patients. In this context absolute guarantees are very hard to make but it is our intention to keep the existing A&Es open ahead of the new hospital.’

Similar messages regarding “no guarantees” have been given in press releases and other information pages. Even prior to covid, during a Q&A session, HDUHB said it could give no guarantees A and E would remain at WGH during any transition period.

b. What is meant within the different levels of accident and emergency care

Different words and descriptions are used to describe the different levels of A and E care. For example, accident and emergency departments have 24/7 Consultant led urgent care. An urgent care centre only provides this for adults (the current status of Withybush hospital). The proposals vary with Withybush being described as becoming a “Hub” and now a community hospital and /or containing 24/7 GP-led urgent care centre dealing with minor injuries.

c. what is meant by minor injuries and where to take patients

The description for using minor injuries units are hard to understand as a non-medical, lay person since there is an inbuilt assumption of being able to tell what is a major or minor injury:

‘minor wounds, minor burns or scalds, insect bites, potential broken bones if not badly misshaped, minor head or face injuries, or foreign bodies in the nose or ear.’ (HDUHB website guidance for taking children to different tiers of emergency care and use of minor injuries clinics)

Additionally, different hospitals have different levels of minor injuries care and are open at different times and on different days. (<https://hduhb.nhs.wales/healthcare/hospitals-and-centres/minor-injuries-units/>). We are not clear on how the plans affect our access to these units.

#### **Concern 4: Other background reasons for the planned changes**

a. Financial problems

Prior to March 2020, HDUHB was within targeted intervention measures for a range of failing services. Since March 2020, the health Board has continued to be within enhanced monitoring arrangements; due to difficulties with financial control. There is therefore a question as to whether the decisions to implement the 'Healthier West and mid Wales' strategy is being made due to financial considerations rather than health need. Additionally, given the large sums needed to build new hospitals and improve services; there is also speculation as to the motivation for the plans. Of course we understand the need to provide cost effective services; but have concerns that financial difficulties have taken precedence over Pembrokeshire's population health need.

b. Recruitment

Difficulties in recruitment have been cited by both the Health Minister and HDUHB as one of the drivers for the proposed changes. The health Board's website does not contain particular jobs but rather "attraction" videos and information on working in the Hywel Dda UHB region. There are 6 consultants and speciality doctor posts advertised upon nhs.jobs.uk; half of which are permanent. However; there is a question that we have not yet had time to research, regarding what recruitment processes have been undertaken in the past and the fact that Withybush is highly likely to be an unpopular location for work given the level of uncertainty that has surrounded health services within the hospital for so long. This was cited in the 2018 report 'our Big NHS changes' in staff focus groups:

'people won't come to work here because there has been so much uncertainty around the hospital over recent years' (p.10)

Five years on, there is still uncertainty and flux, so it is highly likely to be hard to attract staff. Recruitment at Withybush did not seem to be such an issue prior to the plans being put forward, they were more of a concern at Glangwili.

We also wonder why it is hard to recruit to Pembrokeshire given the number of new residents in the county in post covid times.

We acknowledge that there is a recruitment crisis within the NHS in Wales with £12.8 million having been given back in underspend due to capacity issues and a significant care backlog (Auditor General for Wales 'Tackling the planned Care backlog in Wales May 2022) . However, the recruitment and planned care backlog crisis should not be grounds for making decisions regarding a population's access to emergency health services and the prolonged period of uncertainty regarding the regions health care is potentially a contributing factor to the recruitment problems being faced.



## Concern 5: poor infrastructure and unequal access to urgent emergency care

In the 2018 consultation report, it is clearly stated that:

‘Less than a quarter of individual respondents to the consultation questionnaire agreed that the new hospital should be built at a location between Narberth and St Clears (23%). Two thirds of respondents disagreed (66%); and of these two thirds, over half (53%) strongly disagreed with a new hospital in this location.... This represents the highest levels of disagreement to any of the proposals from individual respondents, workshop residents and NHS staff.’

However, this proposal is the one that has been carried forward. One of the main reasons for this disagreement was accessibility to the sites and poor infrastructure. The problems regarding infrastructure were raised in the 2018 consultation and have not disappeared; regardless of the Health minister’s assertion that:

‘as someone who is based in St Davids with a 90-year-old mother, I know that I would rather travel an extra few miles to see an expert quicker than spending hours on end in A&E’.

Firstly, if an elderly mother needs A and E care they may still need to wait for treatment regardless of where the hospital is. Secondly, a few extra miles to receive specialist hospital treatment may be easy for a health minister on a decent salary with access to a car.

Our research on bus times is that it is two bus journeys, from different bus companies, to get from Fishguard to Narberth (the NEAREST of the 5 sites being proposed). The T5 from Fishguard to Haverfordwest takes 26 minutes which costs £2- £4 and goes every hour. The patient then needs to get on the 381 or 322 to Narberth, cost unknown, and takes 23 minutes and runs every 2 hours or 3 a day respectively. By train it could take a patient 1 hour and 40 minutes, at a cost of between £20 and £30. Without significant focus upon infrastructure the health minister’s claim of ‘state of the art services’ and ‘being happy to travel a few extra miles’ may well be true, but not for those who do not have access to a car or family that can drive them.

There have been a number of statistics cited by HDUHB regarding getting to the proposed A and E department of the new hospital:

‘Detailed analysis undertaken by the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST) identified that by placing a new hospital in the identified location: 98% of 999 calls would be able to reach the hospital within an hour, 93% of the population would be within one hour of an A&E, by car; and 91% of the population would be within one hour of a planned inpatient care hospital by car.’

However the 98% figure is contradicted within HDUHB own “Accessibility Report”, which states:

‘The ambulance travel time analysis shows that 91%, 89% and 89% of incidents **may** be accessible by an ambulance within a one hour travel time from Whitland, Narberth and St Clears, respectively.’ (p. 11 of the Accessibility Report)

However, this places a huge pressure on an already stretched ambulance service which is well documented within WAST performance statistics. We were unable to find the statistics regarding the number of people who arrive at A and E by private transport compared to those who arrive by ambulance, but our feeling is that it will be a significant enough number to warrant calling into question HDUHB assertions regarding travel times. Additionally, their assessment of travel time does not include waiting times for ambulances and extra pressure that will be placed upon the ambulance service due to longer journeys. Lastly their assessment of 93 % of the population reaching A and E services by car is questionable given that RAC statistics state that only 82% of the Pembrokeshire population have access to a car (2011 census data, cited in RAC Foundation car ownership per local authority in England and Wales. no more recent statistics appear available). Additionally, the cost of living crisis is most affecting those on low incomes and having an impact upon people's ability to pay for fuel and transport, this was not a current issue and therefore was not accounted for in 2018.

We appreciate that the proposals include the assertion that pressure on A and E services will be reduced due to more effective preventative health measures and the role of community hub health care centres.

The 2018 consultation report states that issues of unequal access to community hub health care centres were raised by Pembrokeshire residents due to a lack of consideration of local locations in the rural area:

'Respondents recurrently suggested a number of locations which they believed that the Health Board should consider providing additional hubs. Many of these additional locations were in Pembrokeshire, where there was greatest disagreement that the Health Board's proposed locations would provide fair access to all local communities. They included Milford Haven/Neyland, Fishguard/Goodwick and Crymych. In addition, many respondents suggested that additional community hubs should be considered in both Llandysul and Lampeter'

Issues of accessibility are discussed within the 2018 report: ' Issues about access to the proposed location were raised at drop-in sessions, meetings and workshops, as well as in written submissions from some residents.'

In addition to general concerns regarding accessibility, there are certain pressure points within Pembrokeshire which exacerbate the accessibility and infrastructure issue:

- Population fluctuation due to tourism. In addition to 125,000 residents, the population increases by approximately 7 million tourists annually ("Visit Pembrokeshire" report 2017-2019). Residents and tourists alike are encouraged to partake in potentially hazardous sports: such as coasteering, climbing, riding, water sports, cycling and quad biking. Pembrokeshire hosts a number of national and international sports events, which bring 1000's of extra cyclists onto our roads. whilst HDUHB have asserted that tourists do not use A and E services significantly; there is the consideration that some of them will need to use it sometimes and this level of additional population places further strain upon roads and transport systems.

- Farming population. Pembrokeshire is a farming county and “farming is amongst the most hazardous occupations...”(Safety and Health Practitioner report). “We know that farmers face a myriad of potential hazards, from contact with machinery and vehicles, chemicals, and livestock, to working at a height, and the demanding, solitary and relentless work associated with agriculture heightens farmers’ exposure to risk.”(‘Wales Farmer’ online). A and e services need to be easily accessible for those in dangerous agricultural jobs.
- Industrial and hazardous centres within the county. There is the Valero oil refinery, 2 gas terminals, MOD firing range and 2 ferry terminals. Three of these centres are classified as COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) Tier 2 sites. Accepting that some very acute casualties may be flown out of county, an A and E within county is vital given the potential for accidents within the county. We are not convinced that the suggested plans for a major accident at the Valero plant are realistic or achievable particularly given the stretched nature of existing services.

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## Conclusions

We want modernisations and can understand the community model being proposed within Welsh Government’s ‘Healthier Wales’ strategy. However, with regards to acute services, centralisation cannot work due to the speed needed to reach appropriate medical intervention. Whilst the ‘Healthier Wales’ strategy suggests that there will be less demand for acute services once community based hubs and tiers are in place; this does not negate the problems we have outlined for those who need emergency, acute care. By their very nature, one cannot mitigate against unforeseen accidents and emergencies. Additionally, even the plans for the community hub health centres were not agreed to by the Pembrokeshire population according to the 2018 consultation. Even if the vision is that less people will need A and E; those who **do** need A and E will need to **access it**. There are undoubtedly large challenges facing HDUHB. However, the 2018 report states:

‘There were very low levels of agreement that any of the three proposed options would successfully meet the challenges.’

and we feel that the concerns we have outlined are being passed over due to over enthusiasm for the proposals, without due attention being paid to the difficulties they create, and a proper co production process to work these difficulties through. This petition, plus one of over 40,000+ signatures in 2018 to keep A&E, signifies clearly the public strength of feeling. We are also alarmed at suggestions that we are ‘attached to the status quo’ and that ‘It’s more of a historical thing for the people of Pembrokeshire’ (p.18 our Big NHS Change 2018). We are clearly concerned about our communities’ access to acute health services and it is patronising to suggest our concerns are ‘historical’ or ‘resistant’.

The following appendix offers examples of residents’ experiences of using Withybush and highlights the urgency of getting quickly to a hospital for acute care.

## APPENDIX: RESIDENTS EXPERIENCES OF QUICK ACCESSING TO A AND E DUE TO WITHYBUSH HOSPITAL'S LOCATION

- "...a friend of mine would not be here now if we hadn't been in Hwest when she had a heart attack. Luckily I was able to get her to Withybush within minutes but even getting her to Narberth would have resulted in her death. There must be many, many stories like this." (Helen)

- "...my 17 year old son had a cardiac arrest playing rugby at Haverfordwest rugby club. His coach performed cpr we are blessed he brought him back. The ambulance and police arrived promptly. He was shocked 3 times in ambulance and rushed to Withybush where they worked tirelessly to stabilise my son. He eventually went to Morryston where he had a Defib fitted. Without Withybush my son would not be here today. He got married last year and last week had his first child. That is why we need Withybush... He wouldn't have made it to Glangwilli, or Whitland or St Clears." (Vivienne)

- "...without the full services that have been needed for my husband in Withybush Hospital, he would have died 2003 and many times afterwards.

At one point, whilst in A&E, having stabilized having gone through 27 mild and other full blown seizures one after the other in just over an hour, he was resting in A&E, when he opened his eyes and then immediately stopped breathing. Luckily I was with him and called staff who immediately resuscitated him by "zapping" him as they called it, after my exiting the A&E.

The problem we are now faced with is, if an Ambulance does not arrive fast when these seizures eventually break through, I cannot keep doing CPR as it is so strenuous, that as I get older, I in turn get less strong. If there is no complete hospital system in Withybush General Hospital, I do not think my husband would survive." (Audrey)

- "This is very sad and close to my heart... I have tried to take my own life several times. I've been close to it on more than 1 occasion. One particularly is when the heddlu found me and I had taken that much of a overdose that the ambulance came and had to resus me. They blue lighted me all the way to withybush from Lower town Fishguard and within half an hour they got my heart started and saved my life. .... If for example withybush is removed from our area, and I tried again to take my own life, ..., I don't honestly think I will survive next time if this precious life saving facility is gone. (There hopefully won't be a next time).

Another story is of my father. He's 76 and struggles walking, breathing. If it wasn't for withybush a&e, my father wouldn't be here today. Thank you withybush for saving my life and that of my father's." (Sarah)

- "I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for the wonderful staff at withybush. I had meningitis and sepsis shock all organs shut down they said if I'd had to be transferred to Carmarthen I wouldn't of made it." (Sheila)

- "I have asthma which is severely complicated by chest infections. I have to make visits to A and E when this becomes severely compromising to receive emergency treatment. I'm not sure what the outcome would be if I had to travel further to receive alleviating life saving treatment.....and I don't wish to test it!" (Penny)

- "My father's life was saved when he was mauled on farm by a savage bull." (Katie)

- "A&E saved my life when I was crushed on the farm by a cow" (Jo)

- "Thanks to Withybush,,Hospital ,they saved my life,,after having,Legionnaires ....Disease, and other complications ,,good job Withybush,,was there ,,further to go I wouldn't of made it,,, thank you Staff of Withybush Hospital..." (Joan)

- "...my son made a full recovery after about 2 weeks and is a healthy 18 yr old today thanx to the staff at withybush hospital and if it wasnt for living within 8 miles to withybush hospital this would of been a complete different story as a delay in treatment while traveling to a hospital further away would of most likely meant my son would not be here today, if it wasnt for withybush hospital as it was that touch and go." (Donna)

- "Withybush Hospital A&E department saved my life, and my Dad's life, too. My Dad has had 3 heart attacks, and I was resuscitated due to Swine Flu and pneumonia. Here is a text I just sent him - "Have joined the Save Withybush group on Facebook, because if it weren't for the A&E dept there, I wouldn't be here writing this, and you wouldn't be there reading this." (Simon)

- "Withybush A&E saved my dad's life in February last year. He took a massive stroke but was given a clot-buster drug and walked out with no ill effects. My doctor friends in London were amazed, this would only have been offered at the major trauma centres and my dad would have died or been paralysed. We need to keep this vital local resource!" (Anne-Marie Thomas)

- "i know without A&E at withybush I wouldn't be here after having 3 strokes" (Jan)

- "My husband would have died on three occasions had he not been fast tracked through A and E at Withybush" (Gillie)

- "...but my son is only alive today because we had a fully supported A&E, including 24-hour paediatrics when he needed it." (Heather)

- "Wednesday evening my best friends son got rushed to A&E he's nearly 17....the quick actions of the A & E staff possibly saved his life or the other outcome would of been he would of ended up with life changing complications had he had to wait any longer for medical intervention" (Caroline)

- "Withybush has also helped save my daughter's life. She had a ruptured appendix and peritonitis when she was 5 years old (2 years ago). A GP had misdiagnosed her but I took her to A&E where a lovely doctor suspected appendicitis." (Donna)

- "Just wanted to say thank you to the staff working in withybush hospital. I was taking to A&E last week with blood clots to lungs. I spent the night in A&E had the loveliest male nurse John who looked after me throughout the night, Demetrius my doctor was fab explained what was happening to me and made it less scary." (Anji)

- "Just over 3 years ago on 3 January my son took me to Withybush A&E. I was in septic shock and suffering from severe pneumonia. Within 30 mins I was receiving treatment which saved my life. Glangwilli is an hour away. I would not have survived if I had had to go to glangwilli. I owe my life to the kind and caring staff at Withybush." (Moir)

- *"Withybush A&E team doctors nurses receptionists I give you my utmost respect  
You have been so busy today but still found time to treat people with the care they deserve  
We could not survive without these people  
Thank you" (Christine)*

# Agenda Item 4.5

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

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

### **Text of Petition:**

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

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

### **Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central



**Tiger Bay and the World**  
THE HERITAGE & CULTURAL EXCHANGE

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

29 June 2022

Dear Mr Sargeant MS

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

Thank you for your correspondence to The Heritage & Cultural Exchange [HCE] during which you asked for an update on discussions for a permanent home for the Tiger Bay collection, and any related issues to this.

As far as I am aware there have been no further discussions aimed at creating a National Museum for Welsh Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic History and Heritage, which I think was the substance of the petition. I can only guess that, like most organisations, the disruption and increased pressures brought by the Covid pandemic caused a re-ordering of priorities and a focus on delivering dedicated services.

On the specific point of rehousing the Tiger Bay collection/archive within a more Accessible location for the public. HCE currently rents a room at Butetown Community Centre, from which we work. We would like more space and the ability to welcome members of the public, but this is all that we can afford.

In terms of HCE and the Tiger Bay collection, we have made slow but good progress and worked throughout the pandemic from our homes. The “we” mentioned is a small group of volunteers and trustees. HCE currently has no staff.

The bulk of the collection has been formally received by Glamorgan Archive and we have signed a deposit agreement. This agreement will allow Glamorgan Archive staff to work on the collection as well as continuing the work with HCE volunteers, the

staff will provide any access, explanation or conservation work to researchers and is as always open to the public who are able to access any part of the collection.

It is hoped that this will also give access to funding restricted to professional bodies. Part of the collection, books, artefacts etc., not housed at Glamorgan Archive because of their professional policies and procedures, are stored in various other places.

The oral histories have been digitised by the National Library of Wales and returned to HCE where we are working out how to give copies to families, as promised and develop methods by which those stories can be turned into learning resources and made available to researchers and teachers.

With the organisation of the collection almost complete the stories, images, artefacts etc. can be used to help inform people of the benefits of migration and how it played a major role in the development of Wales and the UK. The archive can be used to produce teaching materials which are needed by schools to meet the needs of the new curriculum. Our collection tells the story before the Windrush ensuring Black and Minority Ethnic people are seen as part of Welsh history and its population.

To return to the issue of a National Museum for Welsh Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic History and Heritage.

It is the view of The Heritage & Cultural Exchange that Wales would benefit from a National Museum for Welsh Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic History and Heritage. Such a museum would make amends and restitution for the omissions and misleading recording of history that is about the Black and minority ethnic population of Wales. That includes the stories of migration, immigration and the growth and experience of multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, communities, such as Tiger Bay. Such a museum could act as catalyst for scholars and researchers and attract tourists from across the world, thereby increasing the economic base of Wales.

The Heritage & Cultural Exchange supports the concept of creating a National Museum for Welsh Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic History and Heritage but one that is well resourced and supported on an ongoing basis by the Government of Wales.

HCE is much sort after by organisations with a focus on history and identity and are very often approached by the media. In fact, the small group that comprises HCE are very busy. Yet, we at HCE struggle to maintain the organisation and I as chair spend a disproportionate time fundraising rather than growing the organisations and have suspended effort to bring BAME professionals together. HCE is reliant on charitable funds or income generated through the sales of goods or services.

If the Government of Wales cannot provide support for a small organisation such as HCE with its valuable collection, what hope is there of major financial support for a National Museum for Welsh Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic History and Heritage.



In the understanding of the severe economic pressures the Welsh Government face, we sincerely hope that in the not too distanced future a National museum will be established, which HCE can become part of if not affiliated to.

Yours sincerely

*Gaynor Legall*

Gaynor Legall  
Chair  
The Heritage & Cultural Exchange

# Agenda Item 4.6

## **P-06-1275 Call on the Government to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the Llanbedr bypass scheme – Councillor Robin Ward to the Committee, 09.06.22**

Sirs

You debated this petition at your meeting on 23/5/22 and decided to defer a decision. You have received an email from our County Councillor, Annwen Hughes who presented the petition and which has been copied to me, regarding the Government response to the petition. Cllr Hughes was the instigator of the current bypass project around 9 years ago.

I actually live in the centre of Llanbedr on the main A496 and have done so for 34 years. I thought it worth drawing to your attention some salient points which may be at odds with Cllr Hughes' account.

It is true that there are occasional traffic hold-ups in the village. However these only occur during the peak holiday season and only ever during a time window of about 2-3 hours either side of lunchtime. The cause is invariably poorly parked vehicles in the village preventing traffic flow, especially over the bridge which has a junction at either end (one coming from the Shell Island holiday complex, supposedly the largest campsite in Europe). Hold ups are generally for no more than 5-10 minutes and can and do occur at many other locations on the A496 along the Arduwy coast. The same is true for emergency vehicles where a road closure anywhere on the A496 would make for difficulties (there is actually a single lane mountain road that runs most of the length but this would not be suitable for large vehicles).

There are few pavements through the village which together with off street car parking and a 20mph speed limit are the priorities to improve road safety. There also needs to be greater emphasis on encouraging tourists and locals onto public transport. These issues are recognised in Lynn Sloman's report but were conveniently bypassed (!) in the Gwynedd WelTAG reports.

There are alternatives to access the airfield should it be needed, noting that the present management has been there for 14 years, the last 10 of which have been as an Enterprise Zone, with the number of employees at the site currently counted on one hand, despite much public money having been invested. These alternatives were never properly considered by Gwynedd Council.

My main concern is that by pursuing the dead bypass plan rather than seeking positive alternatives, our local politicians are in danger of ensuring we have no improvements at all.

As you declared at your meeting I too look forward to Lee Waters' rural transport initiative and trust that your committee will support the Government's environmental agenda by rejecting this petition.

Yours

Robin Ward, Llanbedr Community Councillor.

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# Agenda Item 8

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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