

# Votes and Proceedings – Plenary

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Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 21 September 2022

Meeting time: 13.30

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/12975>

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This meeting was held in a hybrid format, with some Members in the Senedd Chamber and others joining by video-conference.

### **1 Questions to the Minister for Climate Change – Postponed from 14 September**

The item started at 13.30

Questions 1–2, 4 and 6–10 were asked. Question 3 was withdrawn. Question 5 was not asked. Questions 1, 4, 8 and 10 were answered by Deputy Minister for Climate Change. Questions 2, 6, 7 and 9 were answered by the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd, on behalf of the Minister for Climate Change. The Presiding Officer invited Party Spokespeople to ask questions to the Deputy Minister for Climate Change and the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd, after question 2.

### **2 Questions to the Minister for Education and Welsh Language – Postponed from 14 September**

The item started at 14.16

Questions 1–7, 9 and 11 were asked. Question 8 was withdrawn. Question 10 was not asked. The Presiding Officer invited Party Spokespeople to ask questions to the Minister after question 2.



### **3 Questions to the Minister for Finance and Local Government – Postponed to 28 September**

This item was postponed

### **4 Questions to the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd – Postponed to 28 September**

This item was postponed

### **5 Topical Questions**

The item started at 15.03

#### **Answered by the Minister for Economy**

[Hefin David \(Caerphilly\)](#): Will the Minister make a statement on the recent news that Bearmach Ltd at Pantglas Industrial Estate, Bedwas has gone into administration?

#### **Answered by the Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport**

[Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#): What discussions has the Minister held with local stakeholders and union representatives on the protection of workers' rights following the recent announcement regarding the outsourcing of services at Plas Menai National Outdoor Centre?

### **6 90 Second Statements**

The item started at 15.22

Russell George made a statement on – PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide Charity – 3 fathers who are raising money in memory of their children who have committed suicide.

Natasha Asghar made a statement on – World Alzheimer's Day.

Rhys ab Owen made a statement on – Tony Paris, one of the Cardiff Three wrongly jailed for murder, dies aged 65.

Delyth Jewell made a statement on – Tribute to Eddie Butler.

Elin Jones made a statement on – Tribute to Mavis Nicholson, innovative broadcaster.

**7 Debate on the Equality and Social Justice Committee report – Fuel poverty and the Warm Homes Programme – Postponed from 14 September**

The item started at 15.31

**NDM8072 [Jenny Rathbone \(Cardiff Central\)](#)**

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the Equality and Social Justice Committee report on Fuel poverty and the Warm Homes Programme, [laid](#) on 18 May 2022.

Note: The response of the Welsh Government to the report was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 19 August 2022.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

**8 Debate on the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee report – Renewable energy in Wales – Postponed from 14 September – Withdrawn**

The motion was withdrawn

**9 Motion to approve the Official Languages Scheme for the Sixth Senedd and note the annual report on the Official Languages Scheme for 2021–22 – Postponed to 28 September**

This item was postponed

**10 Debate on the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee report – Review of the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021 – Postponed to 12 October**

This item was postponed

## Motion to suspend Standing Orders

The item started at 16.31

**NNDM8075** [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Orders 33.6 and 33.8:

Suspends Standing Order 12.22(i) to allow amendments to NDM8073 to be considered in Plenary on Wednesday 21 September 2022.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

## 11 Plaid Cymru Debate – Cost of living – Postponed from 14 September

The item started at 16.32

**Voting on the motion and amendments under this item was deferred until Voting Time.**

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

**NDM8073** [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Believes that the current increases in energy bills are unsustainable and that they will cause financial strain and hardship on households, businesses, and community groups, whilst fossil fuel companies are making record profits.
2. Calls on the Welsh Government to immediately implement broader cost-of-living emergency measures, such as:
  - a. halving rail fares and cap bus fares;
  - b. working with local authorities to clear some of the significant council tax arrears that have been built up over the course of the pandemic;
  - c. a rent freeze;
  - d. reinstating measures to ban winter evictions;
  - e. expanding the free school meals scheme to secondary school children;

f. increasing the educational maintenance allowance to £45.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
13	0	39	52

The motion without amendment was not agreed.

The following amendments were tabled:

**Amendment 1** [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

Delete all and replace with:

Notes that the UK Government has introduced an energy profits levy.

Welcomes the action taken by the UK Government to tackle the cost of living, including:

- a) an energy price guarantee, capping energy costs;
- b) cost of living payments for those on low income benefits and tax credits worth £650;
- c) a disability cost of living payment worth £150;
- d) monthly reductions in fuel bills from October worth £400;
- e) an increase in the National Living Wage to £9.50 an hour;
- f) a reduction in the universal credit taper rate;
- g) a freeze on fuel duty;
- h) a two year freeze on the TV licence fee;
- i) extra winter fuel payments.

Calls on the Welsh Government to work with the UK Government to support people, businesses and the third sector to meet the challenges ahead.

A vote was taken on amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
13	0	39	52

**Amendment 1 was not agreed.**

**Amendment 2 [Lesley Griffiths \(Wrexham\)](#)**

Delete all after point 1 and replace with:

Believes the UK Government is failing to grasp the severity of this crisis and that it would allow working people to cover the cost of an energy cap instead of taxing the record profits of gas and oil producers.

Welcomes the £1.6bn invested in targeted cost-of-living support and universal programmes which put money back in people's pockets provided by the Welsh Government this financial year, including:

- a) extending the £200 Winter Fuel Support Payment to 400,000 households this winter;
- b) rolling out universal primary free school meals from September 2022;
- c) investing £51.6m in the Discretionary Assistance Fund to provide an emergency lifeline for people in severe financial crisis;
- d) £4m to fund fuel vouchers to help people on pre-payment meters and a fuel bank for people not on mains gas.

A vote was taken on amendment 2:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
27	0	25	52

**Amendment 2 was agreed.**

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

**NDM8073 [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)**

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Believes that the current increases in energy bills are unsustainable and that they will cause financial strain and hardship on households, businesses, and community groups, whilst fossil fuel companies are making record profits.

2. Believes the UK Government is failing to grasp the severity of this crisis and that it would allow working people to cover the cost of an energy cap instead of taxing the record profits of gas and oil producers.

3. Welcomes the £1.6bn invested in targeted cost-of-living support and universal programmes which put money back in people's pockets provided by the Welsh Government this financial year, including:

a) extending the £200 Winter Fuel Support Payment to 400,000 households this winter;

b) rolling out universal primary free school meals from September 2022;

c) investing £51.6m in the Discretionary Assistance Fund to provide an emergency lifeline for people in severe financial crisis;

d) £4m to fund fuel vouchers to help people on pre-payment meters and a fuel bank for people not on mains gas.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
27	0	25	52

The motion as amended was agreed.

## 12 Time allocated to the Welsh Conservatives – Postponed to 28 September

This item was postponed

## 13 Voting Time

In accordance with Standing Order 12.18, at 17.26 proceedings were suspended to allow a technical break before Voting Time.

The item started at 17.32

## 14 Short Debate – Postponed from 14 September

The item started at 17.36

**NDM8070** [Jenny Rathbone \(Cardiff Central\)](#)

Delivering on universal free school meals: the challenges and opportunities

## **15 Short Debate (Joel James (South Wales Central)) – Postponed to 28 September**

This item was postponed

The meeting concluded at 18.04

**The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 27 September 2022**