

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue: Committee room 5

Meeting date: Monday, 9 January 2023

Meeting time: 14.00 – 14.45

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/13183>

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Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Jack Sargeant MS (Chair) Luke Fletcher MS Joel James MS Buffy Williams MS
Witnesses:	
Committee Staff:	Gareth Price (Clerk) Kayleigh Imperato (Deputy Clerk)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Rhys ab Owen MS.



2 New Petitions

2.1 P-06-1309 The Welsh Government should hold a referendum before expanding the size of the Senedd

The Committee considered the petition and Joel James noted his support for a referendum. Other Members noted that issue has been considered in great detail by a number of Senedd Committees, all recommending the need to increase the number of Members of the Senedd to enable effective scrutiny of the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government will also bring forward a Senedd Reform Bill in the new year which will be a further opportunity for these issues to be debated and scrutinised in the Senedd. In light of this the Committee agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

2.2 P-06-1310 Protect Mynydd Eglwysilan and Cefn Eglwysilan

The Committee considered the petition and noted that if a development of national significance application has been – or is likely to be – submitted, it would be subject to engagement and consultation with stakeholders. In light of this Members agreed that there is little further action they could take as a Committee and closed the petition and thanked the petitioner.

2.3 P-06-1311 Exert Welsh interests and defend international law against EdF–Hinkley fish–kill in Severn Estuary

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to close it given that the Minister has shared the findings of her group with her UK Government counterpart, and that a public inquiry has upheld the requirement for an acoustic fish deterrent (AFD).

2.4 P-06-1312 To help improve water quality in the River Usk by upgrading sewage systems in the Usk valley

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to the incoming Future Generations Commissioner and seek his views on it and the petitioner's most recent correspondence.

2.5 P-06-1313 Allow exemptions to the 182-day occupancy rule to reduce harm to real Welsh self-catering businesses

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to await the results of the recent consultation on exemptions.

The Committee will revisit the petition in three months' time.

2.6 P-06-1314 Insulate all Welsh homes against both the heat and the cold...introduce grants that are open to all!

The Committee considered the petition and noted that they would be holding a round table event on the issue at the end of the public meeting. Members agreed to report back to a future Committee meeting to discuss the next steps to take on the petition.

3 Updates to previous petitions

3.1 P-06-1302 Protect Mid-Wales' unique Cambrian Mountains: designate them an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The Committee considered the petition and noted the recent Senedd debate and thanked the petitioners for raising the important issue and for their most recent comments.

The Chair thanked Members who took part in the debate and closed the petition.

3.2 P-06-1291 Hold an enquiry into the corporate takeover of the veterinary profession in Wales

The Committee considered the petition and requested that officials prepare a scoping paper on how the Committee could support the petitioner's upcoming event in the Senedd on the challenges that the corporate takeover of the veterinary profession in Cymru presents.

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

The motion was agreed.

5 Forward work programme

The committee considered their forward work programme.

6 Round table discussion arising from P-06-1314 Insulate all Welsh homes against both the heat and the cold...introduce grants that are open to all!

The Committee held a round table discussion on the issue with a number of external stakeholders.