

Votes and Proceedings – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 8 February 2023

Meeting time: 13.30

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/13219>

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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

The item started at 13.30

Questions 1–6 and 8 were asked. Question 7 was not asked. Questions 1 and 8 were answered by the Deputy Minister for Climate Change. The Presiding Officer invited Party Spokespeople to ask questions to the Minister and Deputy Minister after question 2.

2 Questions to the Minister for Education and Welsh Language

The item started at 14.22

The first 8 questions were asked. The Presiding Officer invited Party Spokespeople to ask questions to the Minister after question 2.

3 Topical Questions

The item started at 15.05

Answered by the Minister for Social Justice

[Jack Sargeant \(Alyn and Deeside\)](#): In light of the Ofgem announcement of a halt in the forced installation of prepay meters, what representations has the Minister made to the



UK Government regarding support for those facing disconnection as a result of being forcibly switched already this winter?

Answered by the Minister for Health and Social Services

[Russell George \(Montgomeryshire\)](#): Will the Minister make a statement on the new Welsh Government pay offer put to NHS workers?

4 90 Second Statements

The item started at 15.41

Huw Irranca-Davies made a statement on – Paths to Wellbeing, a pan-Wales project developing walking routes with volunteers, is coming to an end.

Jenny Rathbone made a statement on – 100 years of radio broadcasting in Wales. The anniversary of the first broadcast by the Wireless Orchestra was from a room above a shop in Cardiff on Monday February 13th.

Joel James made a statement on – National Apprenticeship Week 2023 (6–12 February), highlighting two young people in his region who have obtained apprenticeships, one being awarded apprentice of the year.

5 Debate on the Children, Young People and Education Committee's report – Pupil absence

The item started at 15.48

NDM8195 [Jayne Bryant \(Newport West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the report of the Children, Young People and Education Committee, 'Pupil Absence', which was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 14 November 2022.

Note: The response of the Welsh Government to the report was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 6 January 2023.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

6 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Freeports

The item started at 16.34

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

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

NDM8200 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises the opportunities for freeports to energise the Welsh economy, create high quality jobs, promote regeneration and investment.
2. Notes that three bids from Wales have been submitted for consideration by the UK and Welsh Governments.
3. Calls on the Welsh Government to work with the UK Government to deliver two freeports in Wales, recognising the truly exceptional proposals submitted and the transformational benefits they can deliver for the Welsh economy.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
14	0	37	51

The motion without amendment was not agreed.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)

Delete all and replace with:

1. Recognises that ports, harbours, seaside resorts and other coastal communities are being left behind and require investment to secure their long term viability.
2. Further recognises that coastal communities face multiple long-term structural problems, including, but not limited to, poverty and environmental changes.

3. Notes the UK Government's freeports policy and the negotiated changes to UK Government's original offer.

4. Further notes that three bids from Wales have been submitted for consideration by the UK and Welsh Governments and that local authorities and other partners have put together bids that they believe reflect their communities' needs.

5. Believes that the issues facing our coastal communities need a broader response including improvement in infrastructure and measures to tackle poverty.

6. Calls on both the UK and Welsh Governments to significantly increase funding for infrastructure and poverty reduction in our coastal communities to address the problems they face.

A vote was taken on amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
11	0	40	51

Amendment 1 was not agreed.

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

Delete point 3 and replace with:

Notes that the three bids which were submitted are now being assessed by both the Welsh and UK governments, against the criteria published in the Freeport Programme in Wales Prospectus and the outcome of this process will be jointly decided between Welsh and UK Government Ministers as part of an open and transparent process.

[Freeport Programme in Wales: bidding prospectus](#)

A vote was taken on amendment 2:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
27	0	24	51

Amendment 2 was agreed.

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

NDM8200 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises the opportunities for freeports to energise the Welsh economy, create high quality jobs, promote regeneration and investment.
2. Notes that three bids from Wales have been submitted for consideration by the UK and Welsh Governments.
3. Notes that the three bids which were submitted are now being assessed by both the Welsh and UK governments, against the criteria published in the Freeport Programme in Wales Prospectus and the outcome of this process will be jointly decided between Welsh and UK Government Ministers as part of an open and transparent process.

[Freeport Programme in Wales: bidding prospectus](#)

For	Abstain	Against	Total
41	0	10	51

The motion as amended was agreed.

7 Plaid Cymru Debate – Income tax devolution

The item started at 17.33

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

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

NDM8199 [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Believes the present limitations of the Welsh Government's tax-varying powers are an impediment to effective policy-making in Wales, particularly the ability to respond to the current cost-of-living crisis, and the crises facing our public services.
2. Believes that the Senedd should possess the devolved competence to set its own income tax bands, in line with the powers already devolved to the Scottish Parliament under the Scotland Act 2012.
3. Calls on the Welsh Government to initiate the process outlined in the Government of Wales Act 2006 to seek powers currently reserved to Westminster to enable the Senedd to set all rates and bands for Welsh Income Tax.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
11	0	40	51

The motion without amendment was not agreed.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 [Lesley Griffiths \(Wrexham\)](#)

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises the Welsh Government's responsible use of its tax-varying powers to support effective policy-making in Wales during the current cost-of-living crisis.
2. Supports the Welsh Government's approach to tax devolution in line with its tax principles and ambitions for strengthened devolution within the United Kingdom.

A vote was taken on amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
26	0	25	51

Amendment 1 was agreed.

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

NDM8199 [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises the Welsh Government's responsible use of its tax-varying powers to support effective policy-making in Wales during the current cost-of-living crisis.
2. Supports the Welsh Government's approach to tax devolution in line with its tax principles and ambitions for strengthened devolution within the United Kingdom.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
26	0	25	51

The motion as amended was agreed.

8 Voting Time

The item started at 18.25

9 Short Debate

The item started at 18.31

NDM8196 [Russell George \(Montgomeryshire\)](#)

Benefits of medical research in Wales

The meeting concluded at 18.48

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 14 February 2023