

Agenda – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 15 February 2023

Meeting time: 13.30

122(v3)

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

1 Questions to the Minister for Finance and Local Government (45 mins)

The Presiding Officer will call Party Spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Minister after Question 2.

[View Questions](#)

2 Questions to the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd (45 mins)

The Presiding Officer will call Party Spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Minister after Question 2.

[View Questions](#)

3 Topical Questions (20 mins)

To ask the Deputy Minister for Climate Change

[Delyth Jewell \(South Wales East\)](#): What assurances will the Minister provide that the transition away from Bus Emergency Scheme funding will not lead to the closure of bus routes and render rural bus services unviable?



4 90 Second Statements

(5 mins)

5 Member Debate under Standing Order 11.21(iv) – Education Maintenance Allowance

(60 mins)

NDM8187 [Luke Fletcher \(South Wales West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes:

a) that the Welsh Government retained education maintenance allowance, unlike the UK Government in England;

b) that in Wales, the value of education maintenance allowance has not changed since 2004, and the eligibility thresholds have not changed since 2011;

c) that while education maintenance allowance is an important form of financial support for post-16 learners, it has not kept up with cost-of-living pressures.

2. Calls on the Welsh Government to consider an inflation-linked uplift to the value of education maintenance allowance and a review of the thresholds.

Co-submitters

[Mike Hedges \(Swansea East\)](#)

[Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

[Jane Dodds \(Mid and West Wales\)](#)

[Adam Price \(Carmarthen East and Dinefwr\)](#)

[Carolyn Thomas \(North Wales\)](#)

[Sioned Williams \(South Wales West\)](#)

6 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Invasion of Ukraine and supporting Ukrainian refugees

(60 mins)

NDM8204 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes that this month marks the first anniversary of Vladimir Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine.
2. Condemns the invasion of and continuous aggression against Ukraine, its sovereignty and territorial integrity by the Russian Federation.
3. Applauds the resilience of the Ukrainian people in the face of Russian brutality.
4. Welcomes the military, financial and humanitarian aid provided to Ukraine by the UK and Welsh Governments.
5. Thanks the people of Wales for their response to the conflict, including their generosity and the welcome provided to Ukrainian refugees.
6. Calls on the Welsh Government to publish a long-term plan to support Ukrainian refugees in Wales.

7 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Habilitation training for sight-impaired children

(60 mins)

NDM8205 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes research from Guide Dogs Cymru suggesting that 2,000 sight-impaired children would benefit from habilitation training.
2. Further notes that habilitation training is vital for developing personal mobility, navigation and independent living skills for sight-impaired children.
3. Is disappointed that a number of Welsh local authorities do not offer habilitation training, despite their duty to have due regard to Article 26 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
4. Calls on the Welsh Government to:
 - a) urgently provide a workforce plan on habilitation services; and
 - b) ensure local authorities employ at least one habilitation specialist per 100 children who are visually impaired.

[Article 26 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

The following amendment was tabled:

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

Delete points 3 and 4 and replace with:

3. Calls on all Welsh local authorities to offer habilitation training, in line with their duty to have due regard to Article 26 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

4. Calls on the Welsh Government to engage with relevant stakeholders to help develop an improvement plan for habilitation services for children who are visually impaired, to include consideration of their training needs and how to meet these.

8 Voting Time

9 Short Debate

(30 mins)

NDM8191 [Mike Hedges \(Swansea East\)](#)

The structure of public services in Wales: have we got it right?

10 Short Debate

(30 mins)

NDM8203 [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)

Perinatal mental health services in the north of Wales: presenting the case for improving perinatal health services and provision, including for Welsh-speaking families

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 28 February 2023

Agenda Item 1

Oral Questions tabled on 08/02/2023 for answer on 15/02/2023

The Presiding Officer will call party spokespeople to ask questions without notice after Question 2.

MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Hefin David *Caerphilly*

- 1 OQ59146 (e)
What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the potential impact of increasing the basic rate of income tax in Wales?

Huw Irranca-Davies *Ogmore*

- 2 OQ59129 (e)
What discussions has the Minister had with the Minister for Climate Change and the Minister for Social Justice regarding Welsh Government support to ease the financial pressures on scheduled bus services?

Mabon ap Gwynfor *Dwyfor Meirionnydd*

- 3 OQ59135 (e)
What discussions has the Minister had with the Minister for Climate Change regarding the impact of the Government's draft budget on the future of national parks?

Rhianon Passmore *Islwyn*

- 4 OQ59143 (e)
How is the Welsh Government supporting the future of public libraries in Islwyn?

Peter Fox *Monmouth*

- 5 OQ59139 (e)
How is the Welsh Government working with local authorities to support and fund the continuation of shared services?

Alun Davies *Blaenau Gwent*

- 6 OQ59141 (e)
What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the impact of its draft budget for 2023–24 on local authorities?

Rhun ap Iorwerth *Ynys Môn*

- 7 OQ59132 (w)

Will the Minister make a statement on the Isle of Anglesey County Council's budget?

Luke Fletcher *South Wales West*

8 OQ59131 (e)

What discussions has the Minister had with the Minister for Economy regarding funding for local authorities to promote apprenticeship opportunities for young learners?

James Evans *Brecon and Radnorshire*

9 OQ59121 (e)

What assessment has the Minister made of the number of personnel within local authorities who are paid under the IR35 off-payroll working rules?

Darren Millar *Clwyd West*

10 OQ59126 (e)

What action is the Welsh Government taking to ensure that North Wales receives a fair share of Welsh Government spending?

Peredur Owen Griffiths *South Wales East*

11 OQ59134 (e)

What discussions has the Minister had with the Minister for Climate Change about ensuring enough money is available to local authorities to mitigate the effects of adverse weather?

Paul Davies *Preseli Pembrokeshire*

12 OQ59112 (e) *Withdrawn*

What are the Minister's spending priorities for Preseli Pembrokeshire for the next 12 months?

MINISTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS AND NORTH WALES, AND TREFNYDD

Heledd Fychan *South Wales Central*

1 OQ59118 (w)

How is the Welsh Government supporting communities across South Wales Central to access community green spaces?

Cefin Campbell *Mid and West Wales*

2 OQ59133 (e)

How will the Welsh Government continue to support rural development in Mid and West Wales as EU funding comes to an end?

Laura Anne Jones *South Wales East*

3 OQ59144 (e)

What is the Welsh Government doing to attract young people into careers in farming and agriculture?

Peredur Owen Griffiths *South Wales East*

4 OQ59130 (e)

What is the Minister doing to support the egg industry in South Wales East?

Mabon ap Gwynfor *Dwyfor Meirionnydd*

5 OQ59136 (e)

What discussions has the Minister had with the Minister for Climate Change regarding the impact of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill on the national peatland action programme?

Buffy Williams *Rhondda*

6 OQ59111 (e)

Will the Minister outline what impact the rising cost of living has had on animal welfare?

Jack Sargeant *Alyn and Deeside*

7 OQ59110 (e) Member declared an interest

What consideration has the Welsh Government given to banning greyhound racing?

Natasha Asghar *South Wales East*

8 OQ59114 (e)

What plans does the Minister have to improve the control of dogs?

Mark Isherwood *North Wales*

9 OQ59120 (e)

How is the Minister promoting rural development in North Wales?

Rhys ab Owen *South Wales Central*

10 OQ59124 (w)

Will the Minister make a statement regarding rural development fund spending in South Wales Central?

Altaf Hussain *South Wales West*

11

OQ59138 (e)

What recent discussions has the Minister held with colleagues in local government about the actions they can take to improve animal welfare?

Samuel Kurtz *Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire*

12

OQ59128 (e)

How is the Welsh Government seeking to improve access to urban community green spaces across Wales?