

# Votes and Proceedings – Plenary

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Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 28 June 2023

Meeting time: 13.30

This meeting can be viewed  
on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/13384>

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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 Economy

The item started at 13.30

The first 8 questions were asked. Question 3 was answered by the Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism. The Presiding Officer invited party spokespeople to ask questions to the Minister after question 2.

### 2 Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

The item started at 14.19

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 15.12

#### Answered by the Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip

[Cefin Campbell \(Mid and West Wales\)](#): What assessments are the Welsh Government undertaking of the predicted redundancies at the Stradey Park Hotel, Llanelli?



## Answered by the Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism

[Tom Giffard \(South Wales West\)](#): Will the Minister make a statement on the recently announced establishment of a fund for a reporter to cover the proceedings of the Senedd?

At 15.39, Tom Giffard raised a Point of Order to state that the Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism had misrepresented comments he had made during his earlier Topical Question. The Deputy Presiding Officer indicated that he would review the Record and return to the matter.

At 19.37, the Deputy Presiding Officer stated that he had reviewed the Record and would write to the Members involved.

### **4 90 Second Statements**

The item started at 15.12

**Carolyn Thomas** made a statement on – National Meadows Day (1 July).

**Vikki Howells** made a statement on – The 2024 National Eisteddfod Proclamation Ceremony held in Aberdare (24 June)

**James Evans** made a statement on – Wales winning at the World Shearing Championships (25 June).

**Altaf Hussein** made a statement on – Eid al-Adha (festival of Sacrifice) and its importance to Muslims in Wales and beyond (28 June)

### **Motion to elect a Member to a committee**

The item started at 15.46

**NNDM8313** [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Heledd Fychan (Plaid Cymru) as a member of the Business Committee in place of Siân Gwenllïan (Plaid Cymru).

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

## 5 Debate on a Member's Legislative Proposal – A civic duty to vote Bill

The item started at 15.47

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

**NDM8293** [Adam Price \(Carmarthen East and Dinefwr\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes a proposal for a Bill on the introduction of a civic duty to vote.
2. Notes that the purpose of this Bill would be to:
  - a) to seek to emulate the success of other democracies that have introduced a civic duty to vote in increasing levels of voter turnout at elections and thereby improving the level of engagement and representativeness across all ages, classes and communities;
  - b) to introduce a civic duty for all those eligible to vote to participate in Senedd and county council elections;
  - c) to allow those wishing to indicate their dissatisfaction with a candidate, party or politics more broadly to do so by means of a positive abstention option on the ballot paper;
  - d) to allow for the introduction of an appropriate sanction for non-compliance with the civic obligation to vote or positively abstain, with legitimate exemptions; and
  - e) to provide for the introduction of a pilot phase for the introduction of the duty on an age-specific basis.

### Supporters

[Rhys ab Owen \(South Wales Central\)](#)

The result was as follows:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
20	20	12	52

The motion was agreed.

## **6 Debate on the Equality and Social Justice Committee report – 60% – Giving them a voice: Speech, language and communication needs in the youth justice system**

The item started at 16.14

**NDM8304** [Jenny Rathbone \(Cardiff Central\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the Equality and Social Justice Committee report, '60% – Giving them a voice: Speech, language and communication needs in the youth justice system', [laid](#) on 19 April 2023.

Note: The response of the Welsh Government to the report was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 21 June 2023.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

## **7 Debate on petition P-06-1340 – Stop the change of speed limits to 20mph on 17th September**

The item started at 17.01

**NDM8306** [Jack Sargeant \(Alyn and Deeside\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the petition '[P-06-1340 Stop the change of speed limits to 20mph on 17th September](#)' which received 21,920 signatures.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

## **8 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Rural communities**

The item started at 18.09

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

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

**NDM8307** [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes the importance of the rural economy and the role that small businesses play in rural communities across Wales.
2. Recognises the valuable contribution of Welsh farming to the rural economy.
3. Acknowledges the benefits of events such as the Royal Welsh Show, the National Eisteddfod and others in supporting rural communities and promoting the Welsh language and culture.
4. Calls on the Welsh Government to:
  - a) create an infrastructure strategy to address the challenges facing rural communities; and
  - b) redouble efforts to tackle poor public transport connectivity across rural Wales.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
14	0	38	52

**The motion without amendment was not agreed.**

The following amendment was tabled:

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

Add new points at the end of motion:

Regrets the removal of hundreds of millions of pounds of funding from the Welsh rural economy by the Conservative UK Government.

Regrets the lack of long-term funding certainty for farm support since the UK has left the European Union.

A vote was taken on amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
38	0	14	52

**Amendment 1 was agreed.**

**A vote was taken on the motion as amended:**

**NDM8307 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)**

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes the importance of the rural economy and the role that small businesses play in rural communities across Wales.
2. Recognises the valuable contribution of Welsh farming to the rural economy.
3. Acknowledges the benefits of events such as the Royal Welsh Show, the National Eisteddfod and others in supporting rural communities and promoting the Welsh language and culture.
4. Calls on the Welsh Government to:
  - a) create an infrastructure strategy to address the challenges facing rural communities; and
  - b) redouble efforts to tackle poor public transport connectivity across rural Wales.
5. Regrets the removal of hundreds of millions of pounds of funding from the Welsh rural economy by the Conservative UK Government.
6. Regrets the lack of long-term funding certainty for farm support since the UK has left the European Union.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
38	0	14	52

**The motion as amended was agreed.**

## 9 Voting Time

The item started at 19.17

## 10 Short Debate

The item started at 19.21

**NDM8305** [Mabon ap Gwynfor \(Dwyfor Meirionnydd\)](#)

Vulnerable older homeowners living in homes unfit for human habitation.

The meeting concluded at 19.37

**The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 4 July 2023**