

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3

Meeting date: Monday, 11 September
2023

Meeting time: 14.00 – 14.50

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/13481>

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Jack Sargeant MS (Chair) Rhys ab Owen MS Joel James MS Peredur Owen Griffiths MS Buffy Williams MS
Witnesses:	
Committee Staff:	Gareth Price (Clerk) Mared Llwyd (Second Clerk) Kayleigh Imperato (Deputy Clerk)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.



2 New Petitions

2.1 P-06-1334 Make the Senedd More Representative of the Welsh Population

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to forward it to the Senedd Reform Bill Committee and keep it open pending the introduction of the Bill to the Senedd.

2.2 P-06-1344 Moderate quality agricultural land (grade 3b) should be used for food security not solar farms

The Committee considered the petition and noted the Welsh Government's response to the petition, and the Minister's offer to share the evidence review with the Committee. In light of this Members agreed to keep the petition open pending the review of evidence.

2.3 P-06-1345 Make conservation management plans compulsory for scheduled monuments at risk such as Ruperra Castle

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to the Business Committee to request a debate on the petition.

2.4 P-06-1346 Provide free and accessible public transport for under 18s in Wales to lower carbon emissions and boost growth

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to keep it open until the Welsh Youth Parliament share their findings on the survey they are currently undertaking on public transport, which is expected later in the Autumn term.

2.5 P-06-1347 Review Additional Learning Needs policies & make compulsory to FULLY train all teachers and TAs in regulation techniques

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to forward it and the correspondence received to the Children and Young People Committee. It will request for the petition to be considered as part of their current inquiry into equal access to education and childcare. Members also agreed to bring it back for consideration following the completion of the inquiry.

2.6 P-06-1349 No '15' or whatever minute Cities or Towns in Wales without holding a public poll

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to close it given that the Minister has stated very clearly there are no such plans to introduce '15 minute cities' in Wales.

2.7 P-06-1350 Re-open Dyfi Ward at Tywyn Hospital now

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to keep the petition open pending an update from the Llais public meeting scheduled later in September.

In addition to this the Committee agreed to forward the petition to Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and ask what is being done on the issue.

2.8 P-06-1351 To bring in availability of heart-screening for all 11-35yr olds who play Sport

The Committee considered the petition and noted the Minister's strong emphasis on the importance of the UK National Screening Committee's guidance and the evidence received from the British Heart Foundation. In light of this the Committee agreed that there is no scope to take the petition forward and agreed to close it. In doing so

Members thanked the petitioner for highlighting this very important issue to the Committee.

2.9 P-06-1352 Approve the construction of the Third bridge over the Menai Strait

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to keep it open pending the Minister's response to the North Wales Transport Commission's proposals for Menai.

2.10 P-06-1354 The Welsh Government should support greyhound racing in Wales

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to keep it open pending the Welsh Government's consultation expected later this year. The Chair also encouraged the petitioner and the petitioner calling to Ban Greyhound Racing to engage with the Welsh Government's consultation.

2.11 P-06-1355 Hold a referendum seeking approval from the people to increase Assembly members by 36

The Committee considered the petition and noted that legislation on this issue is expected shortly, and a Senedd Committee will be established to scrutinise it. In light of this Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

2.12 P-06-1356 Introduce comprehensive safety measures at the A477 'Fingerpost' junction

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to liaise with Samuel Kurtz MS to arrange a visit to the A477 'Fingerpost' junction.

Members also agreed to write to the Business Committee to request a debate on the petition following the site visit.

3 Updates to previous petitions

3.1 P-06-1269 Don't let the plan run out for dying people in Wales

The Committee considered the petition and noted that the petitioners welcome the Minister's response and are pleased that workstreams and expert groups have been established. Whilst the petitioners have further questions on the issue, they recognise that they go beyond the scope of the petition. In light of this Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner for their ongoing engagement.

3.2 P-06-1297 Stop "Controlled Burning" in Wales

The Committee considered the petition and noted that despite highlighting the petitioner's concerns to the Welsh Government, the Minister remains certain that the 2008 Regulations and Code are fit for purpose. In light of this the Committee agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner for highlighting concerns regarding the impact of controlled burning.

3.3 P-06-1327 Leisure Centre amenities free for children

The Committee considered the petition and noted the Welsh Local Government Association's response which highlights the challenges of defining what would be free, and how the cost of delivering it would be met, both in the short and long term. In light of this the Committee closed the petition and thanked the children of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan for engaging with the Petitions Committee.

3.4 P-06-1336 Free Welsh lessons for everyone who wants to learn the language in Wales

The Committee considered the petition and noted the previous response from the Minister which was clear that there are no plans to provide free Welsh Learning provision for everyone, and the recent detailed response from the Centre for Welsh Learning outlining the range of options, specific free support and the range of financial

support available. In light of this Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

3.5 P-06-1338 Extend the bus emergency scheme and develop national bus recovery plan

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to the Older People's Commissioner and Age Cymru to seek their views on the petition.

Additionally Members agreed to write to Carolyn Thomas MS to ask her thoughts on the petition and whether she would be able to assist the Committee with her knowledge on the issue.

3.6 P-06-1340 Stop the change of speed limits to 20mph on 17th September

The Committee noted the debate that took place in plenary on 28 June. Given that the implementation of the 20mph speed limit will come into force on the 17 September Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

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 Paper to note – Petition of the year evaluation

The paper was noted.

6 Forward work programme

The Committee considered its forward work programme.