

# Votes and Proceedings – Plenary

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Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 8 November 2023

Meeting time: 13.30

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/13557>

## 169(v3)

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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

The item started at 13.30

Questions 1–3 and 5–9 were asked. Question 4 was withdrawn. The Presiding Officer invited party spokespeople to ask questions to the Minister after question 2.

### 2 Questions to the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

The item started at 14.18

The first 9 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 Health and Social Services

[Russell George \(Montgomeryshire\)](#): Will the Minister provide an update on the University Hospital of Wales issuing a black alert regarding a significant and sustained adverse demand on services?



## Answered by the Minister for Education and the Welsh Language

[Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#): Will the Minister make a statement on the announcement by HSBC that they will be ending their Welsh-language customer telephone service?

### **4 90 Second Statements**

The item started at 15.35

**Jane Dodds** made a statement on – Malcolm Eager, former Citizen of the Year, retires.

**John Griffiths** made a statement on – Living Wage Week (6–12 November).

**Cefin Campbell** made a statement on – 50 years of the Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth (11–12 November).

### **5 Debate on the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee report – Post-EU regional development funding**

The item started at 15.40

**NDM8396** [Paul Davies \(Preseli Pembrokeshire\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs report ‘Post-EU regional development funding’, which was [laid](#) on 12 September 2023.

Note: The response of the Welsh Government to the report was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 31 October 2023. The response from the UK Government was also [published](#) on 31 October 2023.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

### **6 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Water quality**

The item started at 16.42

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

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

**NDM8397** [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes that:

- a) sewage spills into Welsh waters account for 25 per cent of all discharges across Wales and England;
- b) six of the UK's top 20 most polluted rivers across Wales and England are in Wales; and
- c) people in Wales have the second highest water bills out of the 11 water companies in Wales and England.

2. Regrets that the Welsh Government's Storm Overflow Report, published seven months late, contains no recommendations.

3. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

- a) impose legally-binding targets on Dŵr Cymru and Natural Resources Wales to improve overflows;
- b) increase enforcement and ensure fines are used to improve rivers and restore habitats; and
- c) tackle non-permitted sewage pipes and ensure they are up to standard.

[Storm overflows in Wales: report](#)

For	Abstain	Against	Total
16	0	40	56

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. Notes the significant increases in rivers achieving good ecological status in Wales since 1999.
2. Notes the strict legal framework within which water companies and the regulators operate.
3. Opposes the UK Government's policy to remove the nutrient neutrality requirements which would place our fragile rivers at greater risk.
4. Notes that the Welsh Government:
  - a) supports greater surface water separation to reduce pressure on wastewater systems by accelerating deployment of nature-based flood management and sustainable drainage systems.
  - b) will use its powers to ensure all water companies in Wales reduce pollution incidents year on year, aiming for zero, and stop all serious pollution incidents in the short term.

A vote was taken on amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
28	0	29	57

As required by Standing Order 6.20 the Presiding Officer exercised her casting vote by voting against the amendment. Therefore, the amendment was not agreed.

#### **Amendment 2 [Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)**

Add as new sub-points at end of point 3:

ensure that Natural Resources Wales is adequately resourced to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities effectively;

put mechanisms in place to withhold the awarding of executive bonuses in the event of Dŵr Cymru failing to uphold its responsibilities on water quality;

accelerate the implementation of robust environmental governance frameworks in Wales to ensure that future instances of infringements are addressed as swiftly as possible.

A vote was taken on amendment 2:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
28	0	29	57

As required by Standing Order 6.20 the Presiding Officer exercised her casting vote by voting against the amendment. Therefore, the amendment was not agreed.

As the Senedd did not agree the motion without amendment, and did not agree the amendments tabled to the motion, the motion was therefore not agreed.

## 7 Plaid Cymru Debate – Conflict in Israel and Gaza

The item started at 17.28

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

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

**NDM8391** [Rhun ap Iorwerth \(Ynys Môn\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Condemns the horrifying attacks carried out by Hamas against Israeli civilians and calls for the immediate release of hostages.
2. Notes that Israel has a duty to ensure the protection, security and welfare of its citizens and the occupied Palestinian population.
3. Condemns the Israeli Government's indiscriminate attacks on Gaza, resulting in the death of thousands of innocent Palestinian civilians and agrees with the United Nations Secretary-General that collective punishment of the Palestinian people cannot be justified.
4. Calls on the international community to:

- a) unite in seeking an immediate ceasefire to end the human suffering and allow humanitarian organisations to reach those in need;
- b) bring pressure to bear on the Israeli Government to end the siege of Gaza which contravenes international law and the basic human rights of Palestinian civilians; and
- c) do everything within its power to create safe and meaningful aid corridors into the Gaza Strip and enable safe passage out of the region.

5. Stands in solidarity with the Israeli and Palestinian communities in Wales affected by the conflict.

6. Urges the Senedd to support a two-state solution in order to pursue lasting peace in the region.

### **Supporters**

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

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

[Cefin Campbell \(Mid and West Wales\)](#)

[Delyth Jewell \(South Wales East\)](#)

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

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

[John Griffiths \(Newport East\)](#)

[Llyr Gruffydd \(North Wales\)](#)

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

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

[Peredur Owen Griffiths \(South Wales East\)](#)

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

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

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

For	Abstain	Against	Total
24	13	19	56

The motion without amendment was agreed.

## 8 Voting Time

The item started at 18.50

## Votes Summary

## 9 Short Debate

The item started at 18.54

### NDM8392 [Sioned Williams \(South Wales West\)](#)

Can carers afford to care?

The meeting concluded at 19.28

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