

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue: Committee Room 5
Meeting date: Monday, 11 December
2023
Meeting time: 14.00 – 16.15

This meeting can be viewed
on [Senedd TV](#) at:
<http://senedd.tv/en/13582>

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Jack Sargeant MS (Chair) Rhys ab Owen MS Joel James MS Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Witnesses:	Adam Cooper, Greenbelt Professor Cristina Leston-Bandeira, University of Leeds Colin Thomson, Greenbelt Robin Waddell, Greenbelt
Committee Staff:	Gareth Price (Clerk) Mared Llwyd (Second Clerk) Kayleigh Imperato (Deputy Clerk) Samiwel Davies (Legal Adviser) Masudah Ali (Legal Adviser)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.



Apologies were received from Buffy Williams MS.

2 Session with Professor Cristina Leston-Bandeira

The Committee heard research findings about the barriers to engagement with parliaments from Professor Cristina Leston-Bandeira.

3 P-06-1307 The Welsh Government should commit to the adoption of the maintenance of new housing estates by local authorities

The Committee heard evidence from Robin Waddell, Development Director Greenbelt, Adam Cooper, Group Legal Director Greenbelt and Colin Thomson, Managing Director Greenbelt.

4 New Petitions

4.1 P-06-1377 Decline planning permission for the development planned proposed as Parc Solar Caenewydd

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to keep the petition open pending a decision from the Minister following the conclusion of the Development of National Significance (DNS) process.

4.2 P-06-1378 We want farm subsidies to be extended to small scale and market gardeners

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to keep the petition open pending the outcome of the consultation on the Sustainable Farming Scheme.

4.3 P-06-1379 Ban the sale of single-use vapes

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to keep the petition open and agreed to seek an update on the issue in 12 months' time.

4.4 P-06-1380 Make Blue badge Applications Lifelong for individuals who have a lifelong diagnosis

Jack Sargeant MS declared the following relevant interest under Standing Order 17.24A:

He has met with the petitioner before on a separate issue.

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write back to the Minister, to provide the petitioners comments and to ask for a response to the questions raised.

Members also agreed to ask the research service regarding whether there are plans for blue badges being used as a form of ID to vote in elections.

4.5 P-06-1383 Pause onshore wind & solar projects >10MW until the full potential of off-shore wind is included

The Committee considered the petition and noted that the Ministers' response to the Committee was clear and that they do not support a moratorium. Members concluded that in light of this, the Committee could not take the issue raised in the petition further and agreed to close the petition.

5 Updates to previous petitions

5.1 P-06-1247 We call on the Welsh Government to lead the way by supporting trials of a four-day week in Wales

Jack Sargeant MS and Peredur Owen Griffiths MS declared the following relevant interest under Standing Order 17.24A:

They both know the petitioner.

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS also directed people to his declaration of interests and that he has previously been on a paid four-day working week seminar.

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to wait until the work of the sub-groups has concluded on this issue.

5.2 P-06-1294 Don't leave metastatic breast cancer patients in Wales behind

The Committee considered the petition and thanked Tassia for her continued engagement with the Committee. Members agreed to write back to the Minister in order to seek clarification on the decisions made by the Cancer Network Board and to seek a response to the further comments raised by Tassia.

5.3 P-06-1348 Commission suitable NHS services in Wales for people with EDS or hypermobility spectrum disorders

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to the Minister in order to share the petitioner's further questions and seek a response.

5.4 P-06-1341 Accessible guidance for parents and schools to help develop plans to support children with additional learning needs

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to await the outcome of the Children, Young People and Education Committee's inquiry on equal access to childcare and education for disabled children and young people, and await the Welsh Government's response to the inquiry, before considering whether the issues raised in the petition have been addressed.

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

The Committee considered the petition and expressed their disappointment at the lack of progress since the hospital was closed earlier in the year on 13 April. The Committee agreed to write to the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board in order to ask for a quarterly update on what actions have been taken to recruit staff, and ask for a response to the further questions provided by the petitioner.

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

The Committee considered the petition and noted the positive outcome of the petition. Members put on record their thanks to the petitioner, those that had signed the petition and local campaigners for their support for the petition and agreed to close the petition.

In closing the petition, the Committee wished to remember Ashley Rogers and others who have tragically lost their lives at this junction and passed on their thoughts to their family, friends and loved ones.

5.7 P-06-1359 Offer Welsh working parents the same financial support for childcare as England

The Committee considered this petition along with petition [P-06-1362 Match the new childcare offer in England of 15 hours for 2 year old's from April 2024](#).

The Committee agreed to write to Business Committee in order to request time for a debate in Plenary. In writing to Business Committee, Members agreed that if answers to questions raised surrounding both petitioners are identified in the budget scrutiny, then the request for a debate will be withdrawn.

The Committee also agreed to write to the Children, Young People and Education Committee in order to bring both petitions to their attention and to ask that they consider the issues raised in both petitions in their budget scrutiny.

5.8 P-06-1362 Match the new childcare offer in England of 15 hours for 2 year old's from April 2024

The Committee considered this petition along with petition [P-06-1359 Offer Welsh working parents the same financial support for childcare as England](#).

The Committee agreed to write to Business Committee in order to request time for a debate in Plenary. In writing to Business Committee, Members agreed that if answers to questions raised surrounding both petitioners are identified in the budget scrutiny, then the request for a debate will be withdrawn.

The Committee also agreed to write to the Children, Young People and Education Committee in order to bring both petitions to their attention and to ask that they consider the issues raised in both petitions in their budget scrutiny.

6 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting

The motion was agreed.

7 Discussion of evidence – P-06-1307 The Welsh Government should commit to the adoption of the maintenance of new housing estates by local authorities

The Committee discussed the evidence heard and agreed that it would now publish a report on the evidence heard regarding this petition.