

Agenda – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 17 January 2024

Meeting time: 13.30

183(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 Climate Change

(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 Education and Welsh Language

(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 Minister for Economy

[Rhun ap Iorwerth \(Ynys Môn\)](#): Will the Minister make a statement on any discussions the Welsh Government has had in relation to the future of the Gwynedd Shipping company?

To ask the Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism



[Llyr Gruffydd \(North Wales\)](#): Will the Minister make a statement responding to the unanimous recommendation of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee that the Welsh Government should have a formal role in the process of appointing a new Chairperson for S4C?

4 90 Second Statements

(0 mins)

5 Debate on a Member's Legislative Proposal – A Bill on climate assurance for children and young people

(30 mins)

NDM8370 [Delyth Jewell \(South Wales East\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes a proposal for a Bill on climate assurance for children and young people.
2. Notes that the purpose of this Bill would be to:
 - a) amend the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 to ensure the school curriculum includes an understanding of the severity and urgency of the climate crisis and ecological emergency as a key concept across all areas of learning and experience;
 - b) ensure the curriculum reflects the urgency and necessity of tackling the climate crisis and protecting the ecological environment;
 - c) ensure that such teaching is not confined to traditional subjects that cover this area, but is embedded across all areas of learning and experience;
 - d) recognise the importance of subliminal learning and promote a sustainable environment in which learning can take place; and
 - e) begin to address climate anxiety amongst children and young people.

6 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Healthcare inspection and funding

(60 mins)

NDM8452 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes the Healthcare Inspectorate Wales Annual Report 2022–2023.

2. Regrets that the report:

a) highlighted risks relating to emergency care, staffing concerns, poor patient flow and the accessibility of appointments;

b) states that there are often delays in patient discharges due to shortages in social care staff and social workers to assess discharge needs; and

c) did not find evidence of Welsh Government initiatives making a clear and significant difference to services at the front line.

3. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

a) scrap cuts made to Healthcare Inspectorate Wales in the 2024–2025 draft budget, and expand their remit to investigate complaints;

b) establish a timetable with Healthcare Inspectorate Wales for the inspection of the nearly 60 per cent of healthcare services that have not been inspected in the last 5 years;

c) ensure the full Barnett consequential 20 per cent uplift for health is spent on the Welsh NHS; and

d) bring forward a substantial workforce plan with a tuition fee refund for healthcare workers that stay in Wales for five years after their studies.

[Healthcare Inspectorate Wales Annual Report 2022–2023](#)

The following amendments were tabled:

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

Delete all after sub–point 2b) and replace with:

Appreciates the important work of HIW and notes the challenges identified.

Recognises the challenging financial position across the Welsh Government which continues to prioritise frontline care and staffing requirements in our NHS.

Notes the Welsh Government continues to work with healthcare providers using inspections to learn and improve.

If amendment 1 is agreed, amendments 2 and 3 will be de–selected.

Amendment 2 [Mabon ap Gwynfor \(Dwyfor Meirionnydd\)](#)

In point 3, delete sub–point c), and replace with:

formally request from the UK Government a comprehensive review of the Barnett Formula to ensure fair funding for all budget areas in Wales, including health and social care;

Amendment 3 [Mabon ap Gwynfor \(Dwyfor Meirionnydd\)](#)

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

increase the availability of degree apprenticeships in the healthcare sector to provide greater opportunities for young people to enter the profession and remain in Wales to work.

7 Plaid Cymru Debate – Apprenticeships

(60 mins)

NDM8451 [Luke Fletcher \(South Wales West\)](#)

To propose that this Senedd:

1. Notes:

a) that approximately 80 per cent of small firms in Wales struggled to recruit in the past 12 months due to skills shortages;

b) the skills gap across economic sectors in Wales outlined in recent Employer Skills Surveys; and

c) the Welsh Government's target to create 125,000 all-age apprenticeships by the end of the current Senedd term.

2. Regrets:

a) that over halfway through the current Senedd term, less than a third of the Welsh Government's target has been achieved;

b) the estimated 24.5 per cent reduction in funding for the Welsh Government's apprenticeship programme which will result in 10,000 fewer apprenticeship starts in 2024–25; and

c) that as a result of funding reductions, the Welsh Government is failing its economic mission to back young people to achieve ambitious futures in Wales.

3. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

a) establish a sustainable long-term funding model for apprenticeships;

b) rule out the introduction of tuition fees for degree apprenticeships in Wales;
and

c) commission an independent evaluation of the feasibility of meeting its target for all-age apprenticeships by 2026.

The following amendments were tabled:

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

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes:

a) that small businesses across Wales access a range of Welsh Government-funded employment, skills and business support to meet recruitment challenges in a volatile labour market and low growth UK environment;

b) the skills gap that exists in economic sectors in Wales outlined in recent Employer Skills Surveys; and welcomes the Welsh Government's emphasis on targeted support in those areas, including funding for personal learning accounts;

c) the Welsh Government's target to create 125,000 all-age apprenticeships by the end of the current Senedd term and the impact cuts to the Welsh budget, the loss of European replacement funds and record inflation has on the business and public budgets required to deliver against estimates set prior to the multiple economic shocks which have emerged since 2021; and

d) that cuts to Wales's budget, the loss of promised EU replacement funds and soaring inflation has undermined the Welsh Government's economic mission and the implications this has for young people and their ability to achieve ambitious futures in Wales.

2. Welcomes:

a) that halfway through the current Senedd term, the Welsh Government has committed in excess of £400m in apprenticeships; and

b) the commitment to protecting the quality of apprenticeship delivery at a time of falling budgets and recognises the long term risks associated with reducing quality considerations in order to increase the number of apprenticeships delivered.

3. Notes the Welsh Government will:

- a) continue to prioritise funding for apprenticeships against a backdrop of severe financial pressure;
- b) support degree apprenticeships in Wales; and
- c) work with the apprenticeship network to secure the best possible delivery outcomes.

If amendment 1 is agreed, amendments 2 and 3 will be de-selected.

Amendment 2 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

In point 3, insert new sub-point after sub-point (a) and renumber accordingly:
expand apprenticeships, especially to degree level, to tackle skill shortages in core sectors including healthcare, renewable energy and digital technology;

Amendment 3 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

In point 3, insert as new sub-point after sub-point (a), and renumber accordingly:
allow for flexible entry points for degree apprenticeships, recognising an individual's prior educational attainment;

8 Voting Time

9 Short Debate

(30 mins)

NDM8453 [Gareth Davies \(Vale of Clwyd\)](#)

Structuring a social care system fit for a twenty-first century Wales.

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 23 January 2024

Agenda Item 1

Oral Questions tabled on 10/01/2024 for answer on 17/01/2024

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

MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Jenny Rathbone *Cardiff Central*

1 OQ60521 (e)

What progress has the Minister made in working with local authorities to maximise opportunities to decarbonise homes?

Ken Skates *Clwyd South*

2 OQ60504 (e)

Will the Minister provide an update on plans to improve Ruabon railway station?

Adam Price *Carmarthen East and Dinefwr*

3 OQ60526 (e)

Will the Minister provide an update on the latest review of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure?

Sarah Murphy *Bridgend*

4 OQ60528 (e)

What work has the Welsh Government undertaken to secure adequate housing and fair rent for the people of Bridgend and Porthcawl?

Jayne Bryant *Newport West*

5 OQ60534 (e)

What is the Welsh Government doing to deliver retrofitting in social housing?

Paul Davies *Preseli Pembrokeshire*

6 OQ60499 (e)

What steps is the Welsh Government taking to improve water quality in Preseli Pembrokeshire?

Vikki Howells *Cynon Valley*

7 OQ60497 (e)

What action is the Welsh Government taking to increase the availability of social housing in Cynon Valley?

Mabon ap Gwynfor *Dwyfor Meirionnydd*

8

OQ60517 (w)

Will the Minister make a statement on Traws Cymru bus services?

Samuel Kurtz *Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire*

9

OQ60511 (e)

What action is the Welsh Government taking to support residents affected by flooding in Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire?

Alun Davies *Blaenau Gwent*

10

OQ60535 (e)

What support is available to people in Blaenau Gwent who may be struggling with energy costs this winter to improve the energy efficiency of their homes?

Jane Dodds *Mid and West Wales*

11

OQ60515 (e)

What assessment has the Minister made of the potential for locally-generated and community-owned renewable energy in Mid and West Wales?

Tom Giffard *South Wales West*

12

OQ60531 (e)

What plans does the Welsh Government have to develop public transport links in South Wales West?

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE

Janet Finch-Saunders *Aberconwy*

1

OQ60508 (e)

What steps is the Minister taking to support school students with additional learning needs?

James Evans *Brecon and Radnorshire*

2

OQ60498 (e)

What is the Welsh Government doing to support teaching assistants in schools?

Jayne Bryant *Newport West*

3

OQ60533 (e)

How is the Welsh Government supporting school children to engage in the creative arts?

Rhys ab Owen *South Wales Central*

4 OQ60500 (e)

What steps is the Minister taking to ensure that the education cuts set out in the Government's draft budget don't disproportionately impact the most vulnerable children?

Laura Anne Jones *South Wales East*

5 OQ60525 (e)

What assessment has the Minister made of the impact that cuts to local government budgets will have on education?

Alun Davies *Blaenau Gwent*

6 OQ60518 (e)

Will the Minister make a statement on future financial support for higher and further education students?

Jane Dodds *Mid and West Wales*

7 OQ60516 (e)

What assessment has the Minister made of the financial pressures facing schools in the forthcoming year?

Sam Rowlands *North Wales*

8 OQ60501 (e)

Will the Minister provide an update on plans for changes to school holidays in Wales?

Sioned Williams *South Wales West*

9 OQ60519 (w)

How is the Government supporting post-16 learners with learning disabilities?

Jack Sargeant *Alyn and Deeside*

10 OQ60506 (e)

How is the Welsh Government working with schools to tackle bullying?

Peter Fox *Monmouth*

11 OQ60529 (e)

What assessment has the Minister made of the impact of the Welsh Government's draft budget for 2024-25 on education?

Huw Irranca-Davies *Ogmore*

12

OQ60495 (e)

How does the Welsh Government work with local authorities to tackle social and economic disadvantage in schools in Ogmore?