

Votes and Proceedings – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 31 January 2024

Meeting time: 13.30

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/13685>

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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 Social Justice and Chief Whip

The item started at 13.30

The first 8 questions were asked. Questions 3 and 7 were answered by the Deputy Minister for Social Partnership. The Presiding Officer invited party spokespeople to ask questions to the Minister after question 2.

2 Questions to the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution

The item started at 14.29

The first 8 questions were asked. Questions 4, 5 and 6 were grouped together for answer. The Presiding Officer invited party spokespeople to ask questions to the Counsel General after question 2.

3 Questions to the Senedd Commission

The item started at 15.21

Both questions were asked.

4 Topical Questions

The item started at 15.27



Answered by the Minister for Economy

[Joyce Watson \(Mid and West Wales\)](#): Will the Minister provide an update on developments regarding Gilestone Farm following the written statement issued on 29 January 2024?

Answered by the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution

[Alun Davies \(Blaenau Gwent\)](#): Will the Counsel General make a statement on the implications for Wales of the agreement to restore devolved government in Northern Ireland?

5 90 Second Statements

The item started at 15.56

Jayne Bryant made a statement on – Independent Venue Week (29 January to 4 February).

6 Motion under Standing Order 26.17(iii) in relation to the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill

The item started at 15.58

NDM8466 [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 26.17(iii), agrees that Stage 2 proceedings of the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill be considered by a Committee of the Whole Senedd.

[Senedd Cymru \(Members and Elections\) Bill](#)

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

7 Motion to amend Standing Orders – Limited review of Consolidation Bill procedures

The item started at 15.58

NDM8472 [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 33.2:

1. Considers the report of the Business Committee, 'Amending Standing Orders: Limited review of Consolidation Bill procedures', [laid](#) in the Table Office on 24 January 2024.
2. Approves the proposal to amend Standing Order 26C, as set out in Annex A of the Business Committee's report.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

8 Debate on a Member's Legislative Proposal – A Bill to establish structured oversight of NHS managers

The item started at 15.59

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

NDM8434 [Mabon ap Gwynfor \(Dwyfor Meirionnydd\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes a proposal for a Bill to establish structured oversight of NHS managers, in the form of a regulatory body.
2. Notes that the purpose of the Bill would be to:

- a) establish a professional regulatory body for NHS Wales to define the professional standards expected of NHS Wales managers and be a place of recourse for those who feel that those standards have not been met by any one individual NHS Wales manager, and which would have the power to warn, sanction or strike off any NHS Wales manager from its maintained register;
- b) define what an NHS Wales manager is and maintain a register of NHS Wales managers; and
- c) require all NHS managers to be registered with the professional regulatory body.

The result was as follows:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
28	22	0	50

The motion was agreed.

9 Debate on petitions P-06-1359 and P-06-1362 concerning support for childcare costs

The item started at 16.19

NDM8467 [Jack Sargeant \(Alyn and Deeside\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the following the petitions concerning support for childcare costs:

- a) petition '[P-06-1359 Offer Welsh working parents the same financial support for childcare as England](#)', which received 10,820 signatures; and
- b) petition '[P-06-1362 Match the new childcare offer in England of 15 hours for 2 year old's from April 2024](#)', which received 407 signatures.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

10 Debate on the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee report – International Relations: Annual Report 2022–23 – Postponed

This item was postponed

11 Debate on the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee report – Behind the scenes: The creative industries workforce – Rescheduled from 24 January 2024

The item started at 17.11

NDM8458 [Delyth Jewell \(South Wales East\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the report of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee ‘Behind the scenes: The creative industries workforce’, which was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 18 October 2023.

Note: The response of the Welsh Government to the report was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 17 January 2024.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

12 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Business rates relief

The item started at 17.55

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

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

NDM8469 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Regrets that the Welsh Government is slashing business rates relief from 75 per cent to 40 per cent for the retail, hospitality and leisure sector in the 2024–2025 draft budget.
2. Calls on the Welsh Government to reinstate business rates relief to 75 per cent for the retail, hospitality and leisure sector to support businesses and protect jobs.

Supporters

[Joel James \(South Wales Central\)](#)

For	Abstain	Against	Total
14	0	36	50

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. Welcomes that, despite its budget being worth £1.3 billion less in real terms than when it was set in 2021, the Welsh Government's 2024–25 Draft Budget:
 - a) provides a package of support for non-domestic rates worth £384 million;
 - b) limits inflationary growth in the non-domestic rates multiplier to 5 per cent; and

c) provides a fifth successive year of non-domestic rates relief for retail, leisure and hospitality businesses, building on the almost £1 billion of support provided since 2020-21.

A vote was taken on amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
26	0	24	50

Amendment 1 was agreed.

As amendment 1 was agreed, amendment 2 was de-selected.

Amendment 3 [Luke Fletcher \(South Wales West\)](#)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to move away from non-domestic rates, publish a timescale for their work, and ensure a roadmap to transition out of non-domestic rates is provided as well as options for a new system.

A vote was taken on amendment 3:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
26	0	24	50

Amendment 3 was agreed.

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

NDM8469 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Welcomes that, despite its budget being worth £1.3 billion less in real terms than when it was set in 2021, the Welsh Government's 2024–25 Draft Budget:

a) provides a package of support for non-domestic rates worth £384 million;

b) limits inflationary growth in the non-domestic rates multiplier to 5 per cent; and

c) provides a fifth successive year of non-domestic rates relief for retail, leisure and hospitality businesses, building on the almost £1 billion of support provided since 2020–21.

2. Calls on the Welsh Government to move away from non-domestic rates, publish a timescale for their work, and ensure a roadmap to transition out of non-domestic rates is provided as well as options for a new system.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
7	0	43	50

The motion as amended was not agreed.

13 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Six Nations rugby broadcasting

The item started at 18.25

NDM8470 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises the comments made by Sir John Whittingdale MP, Minister of State in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, that the UK Government would look at listed events again if the Welsh Parliament argued very strongly for that.

2. Calls on the UK Government to include Welsh six nations rugby games in the free-to-air category for broadcasting purposes.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

14 Voting Time

The item started at 18.56

15 Short Debate

The item started at 19.01

NDM8468 [Sarah Murphy \(Bridgend\)](#)

Heart Failure – Innovation is saving lives

The meeting concluded at 19.19

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 6 February 2024