

Votes and Proceedings – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Tuesday, 27 February 2024

Meeting time: 13.30

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/13714>

192

1 Questions to the First Minister

The item started at 13.30

The first 9 questions were asked. The Presiding Officer invited party leaders to ask questions to the First Minister after question 2.

Presiding Officer statement

At 14.30, the Llywydd referenced remarks made during Questions to the First Minister about a Member's social media posts. She requested that Members choose their language carefully and apply caution both when writing or interpreting such posts.

2 Business Statement and Announcement

The item started at 14.30

3 Debate: Budget flexibilities and the operation of the UK Funding Framework – Withdrawn

The item was withdrawn

Motion to suspend Standing Orders

The item started at 14.46



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

NNDM8498 [Lesley Griffiths \(Wrexham\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Orders 33.6 and 33.8:

Suspends Standing Order 12.20(i) and 12.22(i) to allow NNDM8497 to be considered in Plenary on Tuesday, 27 February 2024.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

4 Debate: Budget flexibilities and the operation of the UK Funding Framework

The item started at 14.46

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

NNDM8497 [Lesley Griffiths \(Wrexham\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises that the Welsh Government's fiscal levers are limited.
2. Believes that the budgetary flexibilities available to the Welsh Government are insufficient.
3. Notes the need for greater predictability and certainty of the Welsh Government's funding arrangements to support its budget planning and that of partner organisations.
4. Acknowledges that the Welsh Government Reserve and borrowing limits are the same as when they were set in 2016.
5. Calls upon the UK Government to provide greater fiscal flexibilities for the Welsh Government, in the interests of effective budget management, including immediately:

- a) addressing the impact of inflation on borrowing and reserve limits since 2016;
- b) subjecting borrowing and overall reserve limits to annual review; and
- c) abolishing reserve draw-down limits.

Co-submitters

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

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

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

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 [Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

Add as new point after point 4 and renumber accordingly:

Regrets that Westminster's lack of fair funding and fiscal flexibility has led to billions of money owed from HS2 funding and the inability to invest in local energy production using Crown Estate funds.

A vote was taken on amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
13	0	37	50

Amendment 1 was not agreed.

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

Add as new sub-point at the end of point 5:

replacing the Barnett Formula in order to remedy the inequity across Wales's current fiscal and funding settlement with a new system that moves away from ad-hoc funding

of our public services and towards a framework that provides consistent, transparent and fair funding for Wales;

A vote was taken on amendment 2:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
12	0	38	50

Amendment 2 was not agreed.

Amendment 3 [Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

Add as new sub-point at the end of point 5:

increasing capital borrowing limits;

A vote was taken on amendment 3:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
12	0	38	50

Amendment 3 was not agreed.

Amendment 4 [Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls upon the Welsh Government and the Senedd to jointly explore new ways of analysing the flexibility and fiscal frameworks of the Welsh Government, and their impacts on Wales, for example by establishing a Parliamentary Budget Office.

A vote was taken on amendment 4:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
12	0	38	50

Amendment 4 was not agreed.

Amendment 5 [Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls upon the Welsh Government to formally request powers to set specific income tax bands for Wales.

A vote was taken on amendment 5:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
12	0	39	51

Amendment 5 was not agreed.

A vote was taken on the motion:

NNDM8497 [Lesley Griffiths \(Wrexham\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises that the Welsh Government's fiscal levers are limited.
2. Believes that the budgetary flexibilities available to the Welsh Government are insufficient.
3. Notes the need for greater predictability and certainty of the Welsh Government's funding arrangements to support its budget planning and that of partner organisations.
4. Acknowledges that the Welsh Government Reserve and borrowing limits are the same as when they were set in 2016.
5. Calls upon the UK Government to provide greater fiscal flexibilities for the Welsh Government, in the interests of effective budget management, including immediately:

- a) addressing the impact of inflation on borrowing and reserve limits since 2016;
- b) subjecting borrowing and overall reserve limits to annual review; and
- c) abolishing reserve draw-down limits.

Co-submitters

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

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

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

For	Abstain	Against	Total
51	0	0	51

The motion was agreed.

5 LCM on the Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill

The item started at 15.28

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

NDM8490 [Rebecca Evans \(Gower\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 29.6, agrees that provisions in the Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill, in so far as they fall within the legislative competence of the Senedd, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

A Legislative Consent Memorandum was [laid](#) in Table Office on 8 September 2023 in accordance with Standing Order 29.2.

[Economic Activity of Public Bodies \(Overseas Matters\) Bill](#)

The result was as follows:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
14	0	33	47

The motion was not agreed.

In accordance with Standing Order 12.18, at 15.41 proceedings were suspended until 15.44

6 Statement by the Minister for Economy: Policy Statement on Apprenticeships

The item started at 15.44

7 Statement by the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing: Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping – Postponed

The item has been postponed

8 Statement by the Deputy Minister for Social Partnership: LGBTQ+ History Month

The item started at 16.25

9 Statement by the Minister for Climate Change: Second Homes and Affordability – Postponed until 12 March

The item has been postponed until 12 March

10 Statement by the Deputy Minister for Climate Change: The Welsh Government's Response to the North Wales Transport Commission

The item started at 16.47

11 Statutory Instrument Consent Memorandum – The Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 (Consequential and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2024

The item started at 17.41

NDM8491 [Julie James \(Swansea West\)](#)

To propose that Senedd Cymru agrees, in accordance with Standing Order 30A.10, that the Secretary of State makes The Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 (Consequential and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2024 in accordance with the draft [laid](#) in Table Office on 19 January 2024.

The Statutory Instrument Consent Memorandum was [laid](#) in Table Office on 19 January 2024 in accordance with Standing Order 30A.2.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

12 Voting Time

The item started at 17.47

The meeting concluded at 17.57

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Wednesday, 28 February 2024