

# Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

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Meeting Venue:

Committee room 1

Meeting date: Monday, 4 March 2024

Meeting time: 14.00 – 14.47

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/13739>

## Hybrid

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### Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Jack Sargeant MS (Chair) Rhys ab Owen MS Peredur Owen Griffiths MS Buffy Williams MS Altaf Hussain MS (In place of Joel James MS)
Witnesses:	
Committee Staff:	Gareth Price (Clerk) Mared Llwyd (Second Clerk) Kayleigh Imperato (Deputy Clerk) Lorna Scurlock (Clerk)

### 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Joel James MS.

Altaf Hussain MS attended the meeting as substitute for Joel James MS.



## **2 New Petitions**

### **2.1 P-06-1385 Hold an unbiased survey of the residents who live in the 20mph speed limit pilot scheme areas**

The Committee considered the petition and noted that there is already an extensive monitoring operation in place by Transport for Wales. As part of this data will be collected for up to five years post implementation, which will include qualitative attitude surveys. The final monitoring report for the pilot areas was published on 20th February. In light of this, Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

### **2.2 P-06-1386 Introduce a way for constituents to vote out their MS before the end of their term**

The Committee considered the petition and noted the work of the Reform Bill Committee.

Members agreed to write to the Chair of the Standards of Conduct Committee highlighting this petition and to request it be considered as evidence in its future consideration of recall of Members. In addition to this, Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

### **2.3 P-06-1391 Introduce regulation of the dog grooming**

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to back to the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd and request that this petition and the information provided be considered evidence in the consultation that closed on 1 March 2024, on the licensing of animal welfare establishments.

#### **2.4 P-06-1392 Reform of the additional learning needs Code of Wales 2021**

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to the Business Committee to request a debate in plenary on the issue. There have been several petitions raising concerns about the ALN Code and its implementation, and reference will be made to the other petitions when this petition is debated.

#### **2.5 P-06-1396 Introduce a vape licence for dedicated vape shops**

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write back to the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing asking for further information on the Welsh Government's exploration of a licencing scheme for tobacco and vape retailers. Members agreed to await the Deputy Minister's response before deciding whether to do any further work on the petition.

It was also agreed to ask a separate question about shisha stalls to the Deputy Minister.

#### **2.6 P-06-1401 Ensure that publicly procured foods in Wales are never exclusively vegan or vegetarian**

The Committee considered the petition and in light of the Minister's response it is unclear what else the Committee can do to take the petition forward. Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

#### **2.7 P-06-1402 Amend legislation in Wales to align with England for Excessive Council Tax Increases**

The Committee considered the petition and noted the Minister's response stating that there are no plans to introduce referendums on council tax increases, and that there

are already plans in place to respond to excessive increases if necessary. In light of this Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

### **2.8 P-06-1403 Reconsider cuts to Postgraduate funding and increase Doctoral Loans to match UKRI Stipend**

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write back to the Minister for Education to seek clarification on the petitioner's further points regarding any assessment of the impact of the cuts and whether there is data available on previous students' outcomes which could inform the discussion.

## **3 Updates to previous petitions**

### **3.1 P-06-1294 Don't leave metastatic breast cancer patients in Wales behind**

Members expressed their sadness that Tassia's health had deteriorated significantly and their thoughts were with Tassia and her loved ones during this difficult time.

Members conveyed how inspirational her commitment and dedication to improve cancer care has been. They highlighted the history and success of the petition and what Tassia has achieved through her petition and wider campaigning to improve planning and services for metastatic breast cancer.

Members agreed to close the petition and thank Tassia for being a catalyst for change and a champion for all women with breast cancer who go on to develop metastatic breast cancer in Wales.

### **3.2 P-06-1350 Re-open Dyfi Ward at Tywyn Hospital now**

The Committee considered the petition and noted the correspondence from the Health Board, Community Hospital Association and petitioner.

The Committee agreed to write back to the Health Board raising the petitioner's and the Community Hospital Association's concerns, and specifically ask for:

- a further update on recruitment efforts, including efforts to recruit out of area (within the UK);
- details of the Health Boards decision to withdraw the right for public questions to be asked at general meetings.

### **3.3 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 petitioners on occasions and is very supportive of the premise of the petition.

The Committee considered the petition and noted the recent correspondence received from Mark Isherwood MS.

Members agreed to take time to reflect on the correspondence received and write back to the Deputy Minister for Climate Change with the questions raised from the petitioner and, the letter received from Mark Isherwood MS.

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

The motion was agreed.