

Minutes – Business Committee

Meeting Venue: Online

Meeting date: 7 May 2024

Meeting time: 09.03 – 09.15

Remote / Private

Attendance

Category	Names
Committee Members:	Elin Jones MS, Llywydd (Chair) Heledd Fychan MS Jane Hutt MS Darren Millar MS
Committee Staff:	Graeme Francis (Clerk) Yan Thomas (Deputy Clerk)
Others in attendance	David Rees MS, Deputy Presiding Officer Manon Antoniazzi, Chief Executive and Clerk Bethan Davies, Head of Chamber and Committee Service Julian Luke, Head of Policy and Legislation Committee Service Siân Wilkins, Head of Procedures and Parliamentary Skills Helen Carey, Welsh Government

1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

The Llywydd welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Jane Dodds.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed for publication.

3 Organisation of Business

3.1 This week's business

Tuesday

The Trefnydd informed Business Managers of the following change:

- Motion to suspend Standing Orders (5 mins)
- Voting Time will take place as the last item of business.
- Plenary is unlikely to run past 6.10pm

Wednesday

- Voting Time will take place before the Short Debate.
- Plenary is unlikely to run past 7.40pm

The Llywydd and the Trefnydd confirmed that the vote on Stage 4 of the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill will take place at Voting Time.

3.2 Three week timetable of Government Business

The Trefnydd informed Business Managers of the following change to the Three Week Timetable of Government Business:

Tuesday 21 May 2024

- The Mandatory Use of Closed Circuit Television in Slaughterhouses (Wales) Regulations 2024 (15 mins)

3.3 Three week timetable of Senedd Business

The following changes were agreed to the Three Week Timetable of Senedd Business:

Wednesday 5 June 2024 –

- Debate on the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee report – Annual scrutiny of the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales: 2023 (30 mins)
- Time allocated to the Welsh Conservatives (60 mins)
- Time allocated to Plaid Cymru (60 mins)
- Short Debate: Laura Anne Jones MS (South Wales East) (30 mins)

3.4 Member Debates: Selection of Motion for Debate

Business Committee considered the proposed motions for debate and agreed to schedule the following proposal on 15 May:

Mabon ap Gwynfor

NNDM8571

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes that:

- a) smoking kills 5,600 people a year in Wales and places a huge burden on the Welsh NHS of more than £300 million each year;
- b) smoking is the leading cause of preventable ill health and premature death in Wales, causing 3,100 cases of cancer each year;
- c) Wales is experiencing a marked increase in the reports of young people vaping, coupled with a sharp increase in the number of retailers selling nicotine products;
- d) an increase in nicotine dependency among younger people will demand additional nicotine cessation support in Wales; and
- e) the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies in Wales to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.

2. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

- a) commit to the full implementation of chapters 2, 3 and 4 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 which would enable the:

- i) establishment of a national register of retailers of tobacco and nicotine products;
 - ii) adding of offences which contribute to a restricted premises order in Wales, enabling enforcement officers to prohibit a retailer from selling tobacco or nicotine products for up to a year; and
 - iii) prohibition of the handing over of tobacco and nicotine products to a person under the age of 18;
- b) ensure that the Tobacco Control Strategic Board makes the implementation of a tobacco and nicotine retail register a priority action in the second phase of the tobacco control action plan for Wales 2024–2026;
- c) commit to a fully-funded communications campaign to support the implementation and subsequent regulatory and legislative changes; and
- d) establish a working group to;
- i) oversee the timely implementation of the retail register;
 - ii) explore how the retail register could provide a pathway to a licensing scheme and/or tools for additional enforcement; and
 - iii) present the data gathered from the register to help target smoking cessation and public protection efforts.

4 Legislation

4.1 Response from the Health and Social Care Committee on the Health and Social Care (Wales) Bill timetable

Business Committee considered a response from the Health and Social Care Committee and agreed the proposed timetable for the Health and Social Care (Wales) Bill. Business Committee noted the comments made by the Committee in relation to a potential timetable for scrutiny of the anticipated LCM on the Tobacco and Vapes Bill.

4.2 Paper to note: Letter from the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care regarding the Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Tobacco and Vapes Bill

Business Committee noted the letter and concerns raised by the Committee regarding a delay in the laying of the LCM.

