

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee room 1

Meeting date: Monday, 10 June 2024

Meeting time: 14.00 – 14.55

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/13943>

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Rhys ab Owen MS Peter Fox MS Peredur Owen Griffiths MS Rhianon Passmore MS
Witnesses:	
Committee Staff:	Gareth Price (Clerk) Mared Llwyd (Second Clerk) Kayleigh Imperato (Deputy Clerk)

1 Motion to elect a temporary Chair under Standing Order 17.22 for this Committee meeting and the next meeting on 24 June 2024

Rhianon Passmore was elected as temporary Chair for this meeting and the meeting on 24 June.

2 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

Temporary Chair Rhianon Passmore MS invited everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from the Chair, Jack Sargeant.

3 New Petitions

3.1 P-06-1409 Cease all further planning for road charging in Wales

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to:

- seek further clarification from the Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport regarding the wider implications on local authorities; and
- write to the Welsh Local Government Association to ask for further information on road charging across Local Authorities.

3.2 P-06-1420 Make this a condition of employment for MSs – they must use only public transport for all travel

The Committee considered the petition and agreed that due to the current public transport provision in Wales it is not practical to enforce the changes that the petition is calling for. In light of this Members agreed to close the petition and thanked the petitioner.

3.3 P-06-1424 Senedd Reform Bill to be amended to include provisions for constituency approval of MS pay increases

The Committee considered the petition and noted the Counsel General's clear response stating that it wouldn't be appropriate for the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill to include provisions for constituency approval of MS pay increases. The pay, pension and allowances of Members of the Senedd are set by the Independent Remuneration Board. Therefore Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

3.4 P-06-1433 Stop the ban on GB News in the Senedd

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to the Llywydd to seek clarity on the current position.

3.5 P-06-1434 First Minister to intervene & save Welsh Duolingo

The Committee considered the petition and noted that the Welsh Government and the National Centre for Learning Welsh have taken action and engaged with Duolingo.

In light of this, and the subject has now been raised in the Senedd on several occasions, Members agreed to close the petition and congratulate the petitioner for his passion and commitment to increase opportunities for Welsh learners.

4 Updates to previous petitions

4.1 P-06-1350 Re-open Dyfi Ward at Tywyn Hospital now

The Committee considered the petition and noted that the action requested in the petition, and which all parties are trying to achieve, has still not happened.

Members agreed to write a further letter to the health board asking when we can expect to receive a date for the reopening of the ward.

4.2 P-06-1365 Re-open railway lines to connect the north and south of Wales

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for clarification about when the feasibility study of the route between Bangor and Afonwen will be published.

Once the feasibility study is published Members agreed to write to the Business Committee to request a debate in the Senedd. However, should the feasibility study take too long, the agreed approach was to review the position and proceed to request a debate.

4.3 P-06-1369 Use only Welsh names for places in Wales

The Committee considered the petition and noted the Minister's correspondence explaining the position. In light of this it is unclear how the Committee can take the issue further. Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

4.4 P-06-1380 Make Blue badge Applications Lifelong for individuals who have a lifelong diagnosis

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to the Local Government Association to ask them to raise the concerns highlighted by this petition and seek clarity about the delivery of the blue badge scheme.

4.5 P-06-1396 Introduce a vape licence for dedicated vape shops

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to keep it open until the new UK Government introduces its legislative programme.

5 P-06-1291 Hold an enquiry into the corporate takeover of the veterinary profession in Wales

The papers were note.