

Votes and Proceedings – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 12 June 2024

Meeting time: 13.30

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/13948>

215

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 Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Local Government and Planning

The item started at 13.30

The first 8 questions were asked. The Presiding Officer invited party spokespeople to ask questions to the Cabinet Secretary after question 2.

2 Questions to the Cabinet Secretary for Education

The item started at 14.32

The first 8 questions were asked. The Presiding Officer invited party spokespeople to ask questions to the Cabinet Secretary after question 2.

3 Topical Questions

The item started at 15.17

Answered by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

[Mabon ap Gwynfor \(Dwyfor Meirionnydd\)](#): Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on the Welsh Government's revised pay offer to BMA Cymru?

4 90 Second Statements

The item started at 15.29

Altaf Hussain made a statement on – Carers Week (10–16 June).

Carolyn Thomas made a statement on – 200 years of the RSPCA (16 June).

Motions to elect Members to committees

The item started at 15.33

In accordance with Standing Orders 12.24 and 12.40, the motions to elect members to committees were grouped for debate and for voting.

NNDM8609 [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Luke Fletcher (Plaid Cymru) as a member of the Petitions Committee in place of Peredur Owen Griffiths (Plaid Cymru).

NNDM8610 [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Siân Gwenllian (Plaid Cymru) as a member of the Local Government and Housing Committee in place of Luke Fletcher (Plaid Cymru).

NNDM8611 [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Heledd Fychan (Plaid Cymru) as a member of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee in place of Llyr Gruffydd (Plaid Cymru).

NNDM8612 [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Cefin Campbell (Plaid Cymru) as a member of the Children, Young People and Education Committee in place of Heledd Fychan (Plaid Cymru).

NNDM8613 [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Mabon ap Gwynfor (Plaid Cymru) in place of Adam Price (Plaid Cymru) as a Member of the Wales COVID-19 Inquiry Special Purpose Committee.

The motions were agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

5 Motion under Standing Order 10.5 to appoint the Chair of the Wales Audit Office Board

The item started at 15.34

NNDM8601 [Peredur Owen Griffiths \(South Wales East\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with paragraph 5(1) of Schedule 1 to the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013, and under Standing Order 10.5:

Appoints Dr Ian Rees as Chair of the Wales Audit Office from 12 June 2024 until 11 June 2028.

Note: The Finance Committee's report on the Appointment of the Non-Executive Members and Chair of the Wales Audit Office was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 23 May 2024.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

6 Debate on the Equality and Social Justice Committee report – Actions, not words: towards an Anti-Racist Wales by 2030

The item started at 15.36

NDM8602 [Jenny Rathbone \(Cardiff Central\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the Equality and Social Justice Committee report, 'Action, not words: towards an anti-racist Wales by 2030', which was [laid](#) on Friday 15 March 2024.

Note: The response of the Welsh Government to the report was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 5 June 2024.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

7 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Economic policy

The item started at 16.24

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

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

NDM8606 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Welcomes:

- a) the UK Government's clear plan and bold action to chart a course to a secure future;
- b) the UK Government's action in cutting inflation from 11.1 per cent to 2.3 per cent;
- c) the UK being the fastest growing economy in the G7;
- d) the regional growth deals in every part of Wales, making Wales the only Growth Deal nation in the UK; and
- e) the UK Government's Freeports in North and South Wales, along with investment zones for advanced manufacturing.

2. Regrets that under the Welsh Government, Wales has:

- a) the lowest employment rate;
- b) the lowest median wages; and
- c) and the highest economic inactivity rate in the UK.

3. Calls on the Welsh Government to create an environment for businesses to invest and create jobs by:

- a) levelling-up across Wales with proportionate levels of investment in all parts of the country;
- b) reinstating business rates relief to 75 per cent for the retail, hospitality and leisure sector to support businesses and protect jobs;
- c) abolishing business rates for small business;
- d) enabling micro businesses to grow with a jump start scheme paying the employer national insurance for two employees for two years;
- e) delivering 150,000 new apprenticeships over the next Senedd term; and
- f) creating and fully funding a local business kickstarter scheme to support start-ups.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
14	0	36	50

The motion without amendment was not agreed.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 [Jane Hutt \(Vale of Glamorgan\)](#)

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Welcomes:

- a) the Welsh Government's clear plan set out in the Economic Mission: Priorities for a Stronger Economy;
- b) that wages have risen faster in Wales than England since 2011;
- c) the strength of regional working and partnerships;
- d) the Welsh Government's investment of over £143 million in quality apprenticeships;
- e) the Welsh Government's Young Person's Guarantee which has supported over 27,000 young people;
- f) continued investment through Business Wales and Development Bank of Wales;
- g) the provision of over £140 million small business rates relief which supports ratepayers for around 70,000 properties across Wales every year; and
- h) £78 million to provide a fifth successive year of support for retail, leisure and hospitality businesses with their non-domestic rates bills.

2. Regrets that under the UK Government:

- a) there has been a lack of a clear economic and industrial plan with no detailed spending plans beyond 2024-25, resulting in 14 years of chaos;
- b) there are the most sustained price rises since the Bank of England's independence, with prices 21.3 per cent higher in April than three years prior;
- c) the Welsh Government has a Budget in 2024-25 which is £3 billion lower than if it had grown in line with GDP since 2010; and

d) Wales has almost £1.3 billion less funding in real terms due to the UK Government's failure to honour its commitments and replace EU funds in full.

3. Calls on the current UK Government to recognise:

a) that base rate changes by the Bank of England and falling energy prices are the principal reason for the recent reduction in inflation;

b) that the ONS has confirmed there are issues with the labour force survey, which continue to affect the data quality of labour market statistics and may not give a true picture of the situation in Wales;

c) the significant harm done to the Economy through Liz Truss' disastrous mini budget, which has left people and families in Wales paying higher mortgages and bills; and

d) that Levelling Up and Shared Prosperity Funds have been developed with very little planning and consultation and have actively undermined devolution.

A vote was taken on amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
26	0	24	50

Amendment 1 was agreed.

As amendment 1 was agreed, amendments 2, 3 and 4 were de-selected.

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

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the incoming UK Government to take action to secure Wales's economic future by:

- a) seeking the UK's readmittance to the EU's single market and customs union, with urgency;
- b) scrapping the Barnett formula, and delivering a new fair funding settlement for Wales that accurately reflects Wales's needs; and
- c) ensuring that a fair proportion of UK export finance is delivered to Wales, and that funding to Wales lost as a result of Brexit is restored.

A vote was taken on amendment 5:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
11	0	39	50

Amendment 5 was not agreed.

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Welcomes:

- a) the Welsh Government's clear plan set out in the Economic Mission: Priorities for a Stronger Economy;
- b) that wages have risen faster in Wales than England since 2011;
- c) the strength of regional working and partnerships;
- d) the Welsh Government's investment of over £143 million in quality apprenticeships;
- e) the Welsh Government's Young Person's Guarantee which has supported over 27,000 young people;
- f) continued investment through Business Wales and Development Bank of Wales;

g) the provision of over £140 million small business rates relief which supports ratepayers for around 70,000 properties across Wales every year; and

h) £78 million to provide a fifth successive year of support for retail, leisure and hospitality businesses with their non-domestic rates bills.

2. Regrets that under the UK Government:

a) there has been a lack of a clear economic and industrial plan with no detailed spending plans beyond 2024-25, resulting in 14 years of chaos;

b) there are the most sustained price rises since the Bank of England's independence, with prices 21.3 per cent higher in April than three years prior;

c) the Welsh Government has a Budget in 2024-25 which is £3 billion lower than if it had grown in line with GDP since 2010; and

d) Wales has almost £1.3 billion less funding in real terms due to the UK Government's failure to honour its commitments and replace EU funds in full.

3. Calls on the current UK Government to recognise:

a) that base rate changes by the Bank of England and falling energy prices are the principal reason for the recent reduction in inflation;

b) that the ONS has confirmed there are issues with the labour force survey, which continue to affect the data quality of labour market statistics and may not give a true picture of the situation in Wales;

c) the significant harm done to the Economy through Liz Truss' disastrous mini budget, which has left people and families in Wales paying higher mortgages and bills; and

d) that Levelling Up and Shared Prosperity Funds have been developed with very little planning and consultation and have actively undermined devolution.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
26	0	24	50

The motion as amended was agreed.

8 Plaid Cymru Debate – Mental health and learning disability services at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

The item started at 17.15

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

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

NDM8604 [Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Invited Review Services Report into Mental Health and Learning Disability services at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, which has assessed the progress made by the Board on 84 recommendations featured in four separate reports since 2013.

2. Regrets that of the 84 recommendations, six were categorised red, showing little or no evidence of implementation, and 41 were categorised as amber, showing only some or moderate evidence of implementation, over a decade on after the publication of the final report.

3. Believes that progress made on implementing the recommendations was undermined by the contentious decision to lift Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board out of special measures in November 2020.

4. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

a) provide the required support to ensure that Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board implement the recommendations of the IRS report in full and to set out clear timescales for achieving this; and

b) publish the ministerial advice that led to the decision to lift Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board out of special measures in November 2020 and any other relevant information specifying the implications on mental health provision in North Wales.

[Summary of the key themes arising from the Royal College of Psychiatrist's Invited review of Mental Health and Learning disability services in Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board](#) – Report included from page 32

For	Abstain	Against	Total
25	0	26	51

As required by Standing Order 6.20 the Deputy Presiding Officer exercised his casting vote by voting against the motion. Therefore, the motion was not agreed.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 [Jane Hutt \(Vale of Glamorgan\)](#)

Delete all and replace with:

1. Notes that:

a) the Welsh Government commissioned the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Invited Review Services Report on Mental Health and Learning Disability Services in Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, to provide an independent assessment of the progress made since 2013;

b) of the 84 recommendations made in relation to four previous reports, the Royal College of Psychiatrists found the vast majority had been implemented;

c) Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board has accepted the Royal College of Psychiatrists' report in full and will formally respond to it at its next Board meeting;
and

d) the Welsh Government will continue to support Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to improve mental health and learning disability services in North Wales as part of the special measures intervention.

A vote was taken on amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
25	0	26	51

As required by Standing Order 6.20 the Deputy Presiding Officer exercised his casting vote by voting against the amendment. Therefore, the amendment was not agreed.

Amendment 2 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

Add as new sub-point at the end of point 4:

Issue an apology to people who have lost loved ones and patients who have come to harm as a result of recommendations not being implemented and a failure to deliver improvements.

A vote was taken on amendment 2:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
25	0	26	51

As required by Standing Order 6.20 the Deputy Presiding Officer exercised his casting vote by voting against the amendment. Therefore, the amendment was not agreed.

As the Senedd did not agree the motion without amendment, and did not agree the amendments tabled to the motion, the motion was therefore not agreed.

At 17.37, proceedings were suspended for 4 minutes in accordance with Standing Order 12.18.

9 Plaid Cymru Debate – Planning policy for new power lines

The item started at 17.41

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

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

NDM8605 [Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises the preferred position of the Welsh Government that new power lines should be placed underground where possible.
2. Believes that wherever physically possible the undergrounding of new power lines shall be undertaken by way of cable ploughing in preference to open trenching.
3. Calls on the Welsh Government to update Planning Policy Wales paragraph 5.7.9:
 - a) to remove the existing caveat: ‘however it is recognised that a balanced view must be taken against costs which would render otherwise acceptable projects unviable’; and
 - b) so that the undergrounding of new infrastructure for conveying electricity shall be an absolute rather than a preferred position, the policy should state: ‘New power lines should be laid underground.’

[Planning Policy Wales](#)

For	Abstain	Against	Total
25	0	26	51

As required by Standing Order 6.20 the Deputy Presiding Officer exercised his casting vote by voting against the motion. Therefore, the motion was not agreed.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 [Jane Hutt \(Vale of Glamorgan\)](#)

Delete all after point 1 and replace with:

2. Believes that wherever physically possible the undergrounding of new power lines shall be undertaken in ways which reduce adverse environmental impacts.

A vote was taken on amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
25	0	26	51

As required by Standing Order 6.20 the Deputy Presiding Officer exercised his casting vote by voting against the amendment. Therefore, the amendment was not agreed.

Amendment 2 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that, in accordance with the precautionary principle, proposals for the undergrounding of new power lines should require health impact assessments when their proximity to dwellings raises serious future health concerns.

A vote was taken on amendment 2:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
26	0	24	50

Amendment 2 was agreed.

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises the preferred position of the Welsh Government that new power lines should be placed underground where possible.
2. Believes that wherever physically possible the undergrounding of new power lines shall be undertaken by way of cable ploughing in preference to open trenching.
3. Calls on the Welsh Government to update Planning Policy Wales paragraph 5.7.9:
 - a) to remove the existing caveat: 'however it is recognised that a balanced view must be taken against costs which would render otherwise acceptable projects unviable'; and
 - b) so that the undergrounding of new infrastructure for conveying electricity shall be an absolute rather than a preferred position, the policy should state: 'New power lines should be laid underground.'
4. Calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that, in accordance with the precautionary principle, proposals for the undergrounding of new power lines should require health impact assessments when their proximity to dwellings raises serious future health concerns.

[Planning Policy Wales](#)

For	Abstain	Against	Total
25	0	26	51

As required by Standing Order 6.20 the Deputy Presiding Officer exercised his casting vote by voting against the motion as amended. Therefore, the motion as amended was not agreed.

10 Voting Time

The item started at 18.10

The meeting concluded at 18.21

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 18 June 2024