

Agenda – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 2 October 2024

Meeting time: 13.30

231(v3)

This meeting will be 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 and Local Government

(45 mins)

The Presiding Officer will call party spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Cabinet Secretary after Question 2.

[View Questions](#)

2 Questions to the Cabinet Secretary for Education

(45 mins)

The Presiding Officer will call party spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Cabinet Secretary after Question 2.

[View Questions](#)

3 Topical Questions

(20 mins)

To ask the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

[James Evans \(Brecon and Radnorshire\)](#): What discussions is the Welsh Government having with the Animal and Plant Health Agency to provide guidance to farmers,



and reduce the spread of bluetongue, in light of the first cases being found in sheep in Wales?

4 90 Second Statements

(5 mins)

5 Member Debate under Standing Order 11.21(iv) – Women's healthcare

(60 mins)

NDM8566 [Delyth Jewell \(South Wales East\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Regrets the normalisation of women's physical and emotional pain in their healthcare, as well as the expectation that pain is a regrettable but unavoidable aspect of women's health.
2. Believes that by consulting with gynaecologists, midwives and women's health groups, health professionals should aim to reduce situations where pain is expected and accepted as normal in NHS healthcare.
3. Calls on the Welsh Government to:
 - a) strengthen the expectations for NHS services in the Quality Statement for women and girls' health;
 - b) establish a legal requirement for healthcare providers to regularly collect feedback from female patients about their experiences and satisfaction with the care they receive, especially in relation to gynaecological appointments, midwifery and postnatal services, perinatal mental health and menopause; and
 - c) introduce statutory obligations for the development, coordination and implementation of the Women's Health Plan developed by the Welsh NHS and consulted on with gynaecologists, midwives and women's health groups, which should include measures to address and counter the normalisation of pain in women's healthcare.

Co-submitters

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

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

[Carolyn Thomas \(North Wales\)](#)

Supporters

[Cefin Campbell \(Mid and West Wales\)](#)

[Gareth Davies \(Vale of Clwyd\)](#)

[Hannah Blythyn \(Delyn\)](#)

[Lee Waters \(Llanelli\)](#)

[Llyr Gruffydd \(North Wales\)](#)

[Mabon ap Gwynfor \(Dwyfor Meirionnydd\)](#)

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

[Rhianon Passmore \(Islwyn\)](#)

[Rhun ap Iorwerth \(Ynys Môn\)](#)

[Rhys ab Owen \(South Wales Central\)](#)

[Russell George \(Montgomeryshire\)](#)

[Samuel Kurtz \(Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire\)](#)

[Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)

[Sioned Williams \(South Wales West\)](#)

6 Debate on the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee report – Natural Resources Wales: Annual Scrutiny 2023–24

(60 mins)

NDM8678 [Llyr Gruffydd \(North Wales\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee report, 'Natural Resources Wales – Annual Scrutiny 2023–24', [laid](#) on 21 May 2024.

Note: The response from the Welsh Government to the report was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 25 September 2024. Natural Resources Wales [responded](#) on 2 July 2024.

7 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Ophthalmology services

(60 mins)

NDM8679 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes:

- a) concerns raised by RNIB Cymru that around 80,000 people who are the highest risk of irreversible sight loss are waiting beyond their target date for an appointment;
- b) that in April 2024, there were over 104,000 patient pathways in Wales waiting for an ophthalmology appointment; and
- c) that the Royal College of Ophthalmologists estimates that demand for eye-care services in Wales is expected to increase by 40 per cent over the next 20 years.

2. Regrets that:

- a) the biggest increase in the number of patient pathways waiting over a year was in ophthalmology;
- b) the ophthalmic workforce has seen a 2 per cent drop in its workforce alongside a 56 per cent increase in referrals in the past decade; and
- c) the electronic patient record and referral system, first launched in 2021, is still not operational across Wales.

3. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

- a) accept the recommendations of the National Clinical Strategy for Ophthalmology and commit to making the investment necessary to prevent the wholesale collapse of eye-care services across Wales;
- b) set out targets and deadlines for improving waiting-list backlogs, ensuring patients waiting receive communication about their clinical risk; and
- c) publish a timetable for the development and rollout of the electronic patient record and referral system.

The following amendment was tabled:

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

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Acknowledges ophthalmology waiting times are not where the Welsh Government or the public wants them to be.
2. Notes the number of ophthalmology pathways waiting more than two years at the end of July 2024 was 44 per cent lower than at the peak in March 2022.
3. Recognises the work being undertaken by the NHS Executive and the ophthalmology clinical network to reform pathways for ophthalmology across primary and secondary care.
4. Welcomes the reforms to optometry, which mean community optometrists are now able to diagnose, treat, and manage more people in primary care, providing faster and easier access.

8 Voting Time

9 Short Debate

(30 mins)

NDM8677 [Julie Morgan \(Cardiff North\)](#)

A fair chance – ensuring blind and partially-sighted people can live the life they choose.

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 8 October 2024

Agenda Item 1

Oral Questions tabled on 25/09/2024 for answer on 02/10/2024

The Presiding Officer will call party spokespeople to ask questions without notice after Question 2.

CABINET SECRETARY FOR HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Jenny Rathbone *Cardiff Central*

1 OQ61604 (e)

What standards of care for tenants does the Welsh Government expect from housing associations?

Rhianon Passmore *Islwyn*

2 OQ61623 (e)

How is the Welsh Government working with local government in Islwyn to ensure that community facilities are protected?

Joyce Watson *Mid and West Wales*

3 OQ61597 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the Welsh housing quality standard?

John Griffiths *Newport East*

4 OQ61611 (e)

How is the Welsh Government working with local authorities to tackle rough sleeping?

James Evans *Brecon and Radnorshire*

5 OQ61595 (e)

What is the Welsh Government doing to protect local authorities from funding cuts?

Mike Hedges *Swansea East*

6 OQ61584 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on remediation works being carried out on privately owned tall residential buildings in Wales following the Grenfell Tower fire?

Lee Waters *Llanelli*

7 OQ61614 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary establish a community of practice for the social housing grant?

Peredur Owen Griffiths *South Wales East*

8 OQ61600 (e)

What support is the Government providing to local authorities to sustain non-statutory functions?

Adam Price *Carmarthen East and Dinefwr*

9 OQ61585 (e) *Withdrawn*

What support is the Welsh Government offering to organisations converting empty commercial properties into residential housing?

Russell George *Montgomeryshire*

10 OQ61608 (e)

What steps are available to the Cabinet Secretary when a local authority fails to follow Welsh Government guidance?

Natasha Asghar *South Wales East*

11 OQ61605 (e)

What is the Welsh Government doing to address the housing crisis?

Alun Davies *Blaenau Gwent*

12 OQ61619 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on closer working between Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen Councils?

CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION

Janet Finch-Saunders *Aberconwy*

1 OQ61603 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on the use of pupil referral units in Aberconwy?

Cefin Campbell *Mid and West Wales*

2 OQ61609 (w)

What action is Welsh Government taking to provide staff in the education sector with professional learning opportunities?

Laura Anne Jones *South Wales East*

3 OQ61587 (e)

What assessment has the Cabinet Secretary made of the contribution that independent schools make to the education of pupils in Wales?

Rhys ab Owen *South Wales Central*

4 OQ61588 (w)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the work of the Welsh medium additional learning needs national steering group?

Rhianon Passmore *Islwyn*

5 OQ61622 (e)

What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the quality of educational provision in Islwyn?

Peter Fox *Monmouth*

6 OQ61615 (e)

What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the impact on schools in Wales of the UK Government's decision to charge VAT on private schools?

Delyth Jewell *South Wales East*

7 OQ61586 (w)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales regarding the impact of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure on pupils in the south-east?

Luke Fletcher *South Wales West*

8 OQ61620 (e) *Withdrawn*

What is the Welsh Government doing to address emotionally-based school avoidance in South Wales West?

John Griffiths *Newport East*

9 OQ61612 (e)

What further steps will the Welsh Government take to improve secondary education?

Sioned Williams *South Wales West*

10 OQ61593 (w)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales about the home-to-school transport provision in South Wales West?

Heledd Fychan *South Wales Central*

11

OQ61617 (w)

How is the Cabinet Secretary working with the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales to ensure access to school transport does not negatively impact learner attendance?

James Evans *Brecon and Radnorshire*

12

OQ61594 (e)

What is the Welsh Government doing to improve access to education?