

Agenda – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 9 October 2024

Meeting time: 13.30

233(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 Finance and the Welsh Language (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 Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs (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 Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

[Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#): Will the Cabinet Secretary outline what steps the Welsh Government is taking following the publication of the recommendations



of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board’s report on the killing of June Fox–Roberts?

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

[Delyth Jewell \(South Wales East\)](#): What action will the Welsh Government take to ensure Welsh Water’s £24.1 million penalty is accompanied by long–term improvements in reducing pollution and leaks?

4 90 Second Statements

(5 mins)

5 Debate on the Petitions Committee report – Freedom to thrive: Free and accessible public transport for young people

(30 mins)

NDM8683 [Carolyn Thomas \(North Wales\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the report of the Petitions Committee, ‘Freedom to thrive: Free and accessible public transport for young people’, which was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 23 May 2024.

Note: The response of the Welsh Government to the report was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 2 October 2024.

6 Debate on the Equality and Social Justice Committee report – Sound the Alarm: the Governance of Fire and Rescue Services

(60 mins)

NDM8685 [Jenny Rathbone \(Cardiff Central\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the Equality and Social Justice Committee report, “Sound the Alarm: the Governance of Fire and Rescue Services”, [laid](#) on 6 June 2024.

Note: The response from the Welsh Government to the report was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 2 October 2024.

7 Debate on petition P-06-1474 – Stop Natural Resources Wales closing Bwlch Nant yr Arian, Coed y Brenin & Ynyslas visitor centres

(30 mins)

NDM8682 [Carolyn Thomas \(North Wales\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the petition '[Stop Natural Resources Wales closing Bwlch Nant yr Arian, Coed y Brenin & Ynyslas visitor centres](#)' which received 13,247 signatures.

Supporting documents

[Correspondence from Natural Resources Wales to Petitions Committee](#)

8 Plaid Cymru Debate – Education funding

(60 mins)

NDM8686 [Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes the report 'Falling Short: The deepening school funding crisis in Wales' by the NAHT which states that the educational landscape in Wales is currently facing a harrowing funding crisis.

2. Regrets that as a result of Welsh Government mismanagement and underfunding:

a) Wales saw its worst ever PISA results in 2022;

b) it has missed its target for the recruitment of secondary school teachers for the past eight years;

c) outdated and discredited guidelines on teaching reading skills have negatively impacted literacy skills; and

d) the number of vacancies as a result of a skills shortage in Wales reached a peak of 20,630 in 2022.

3. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

a) immediately honour the commitment made by Labour in Wales in their 2024 General Election manifesto to provide additional funding for education;

b) reverse the 6 per cent cut in expenditure per pupil within the education budget, as noted by the NAHT, as a first step in supporting teachers and pupils and raising attainment levels; and

c) define how many more teachers will be funded by Labour in Wales' promise, and when they will start teaching in classrooms.

[Falling Short: The deepening school funding crisis in Wales](#)

The following amendment was tabled:

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

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes the NAHT report 'Falling Short: The deepening school funding crisis in Wales', and recognises the pressures on school and local authority budgets.

2. Thanks Wales's dedicated teachers and school staff for their hard work, and welcomes the Welsh Government's response to the fifth report of the Independent Welsh Pay Review Body, which includes a 5.5 per cent pay rise for teachers.

3. Recognises that, despite the brutal impact of 14 years of Conservative government on Wales's public finances, the Welsh Government has:

a) introduced the new Curriculum for Wales and a new system of supporting learners with additional learning needs, both of which put the learner at the centre of the education system;

b) implemented a whole school approach to support children and young people with their mental health and wellbeing; and

c) protected funding for core public services in 2024–25 through a 3.3 per cent uplift to local authority budgets and maintaining direct grant funding to schools including the Pupil Development Grant which supports learners from low-income households.

4. Supports boosting standards in schools and colleges as a Welsh Government priority, including a focus on improving national consistency and providing more support for literacy and numeracy.

5. Supports targeting teacher recruitment in shortage subject areas such as maths, sciences and modern foreign languages, and Welsh-medium education.

9 Voting Time

10 Short Debate

(30 mins)

NDM8684 [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)

Filling the gaps: the case for training dentists in Bangor

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 15 October 2024

Agenda Item 1

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

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

CABINET SECRETARY FOR FINANCE AND WELSH LANGUAGE

Sioned Williams *South Wales West*

1 OQ61633 (w)

What discussions has the Welsh Government had with the UK Government about securing sufficient funding for Welsh public services?

Hannah Blythyn *Delyn*

2 OQ61658 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on any discussions he has had with the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government regarding the funding of local authorities in north Wales?

Peredur Owen Griffiths *South Wales East*

3 OQ61664 (w)

What support does the Government provide to promote the use of the Welsh language in the South Wales East region?

Peter Fox *Monmouth*

4 OQ61667 (e)

What opportunities for spending efficiencies has the Welsh Government identified ahead of the publication of its draft budget for 2025-26?

Julie Morgan *Cardiff North*

5 OQ61668 (e)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with the UK Government regarding when it will make funding available to pay compensation to people in Wales affected by the infected blood scandal?

Rhys ab Owen *South Wales Central*

6 OQ61642 (w)

What are the Government's plans to increase people's confidence in speaking Welsh?

Jenny Rathbone *Cardiff Central*

7 OQ61663 (e)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care about funding the continued expansion of the neighbourhood district nursing pilots?

Paul Davies *Preseli Pembrokeshire*

8

OQ61635 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on income tax rates in Wales?

John Griffiths *Newport East*

9

OQ61665 (e)

What is the Cabinet Secretary's assessment of progress in developing Welsh language policies in Newport?

Gareth Davies *Vale of Clwyd*

10

OQ61653 (e)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with the UK Government about ensuring that north Wales is represented in the autumn budget?

Andrew R.T. Davies *South Wales Central*

11

OQ61662 (e)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care about financial allocations for NHS Wales to deal with winter pressures?

Cefin Campbell *Mid and West Wales*

12

OQ61641 (e)

How does the Welsh Government's non-domestic rates policy support town centres in Mid and West Wales?

DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND CABINET SECRETARY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Darren Millar *Clwyd West*

1

OQ61639 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the delivery of a new national park in north-east Wales?

Rhianon Passmore *Islwyn*

2

OQ61670 (e)

What assessment has the Welsh Government made of progress towards reaching its biodiversity targets?

Llyr Gruffydd *North Wales*

3

OQ61669 (w)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on grant schemes to support infrastructure on farms to improve slurry stores?

Gareth Davies *Vale of Clwyd*

4

OQ61652 (e)

What assessment has the Cabinet Secretary made of the impact of fly-tipping in Vale of Clwyd?

Jenny Rathbone *Cardiff Central*

5

OQ61666 (e)

What is the Welsh Government doing to get more farmers practicing sustainable farming methods?

Sioned Williams *South Wales West*

6

OQ61645 (w)

What steps is the Welsh Government taking to support the sustainability of farming?

Laura Anne Jones *South Wales East*

7

OQ61651 (e)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with UK Government Ministers about the impact of potential changes to inheritance tax on agricultural businesses in Wales?

Sam Rowlands *North Wales*

8

OQ61657 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the work of Natural Resources Wales?

Joel James *South Wales Central*

9

OQ61644 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on what action the Welsh Government is taking to help restore seagrass in Wales?

Lee Waters *Llanelli*

10

OQ61634 (e)

When will the Government publish its timber industrial strategy?

Mark Isherwood *North Wales*

11

OQ61630 (e)

How is the Welsh Government supporting nature recovery?

Lesley Griffiths *Wrexham*

12

OQ61647 (e) *Withdrawn*

What discussions has the Welsh Government had with the UK Government about strengthening legislation on hunting with dogs in Wales?