

# Votes and Proceedings – Plenary

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Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 20 November 2024

Meeting time: 13.30

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/14182>

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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 Transport and North Wales

The item started at 13.30

The first 9 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 Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

The item started at 14.18

Questions 1–4 and 6–9 were asked. Question 5 was withdrawn. The Presiding Officer invited party spokespeople to ask questions to the Cabinet Secretary after question 2.

### 3 Questions to the Senedd Commission

The item started at 15.21

The first 3 questions were asked.



## 4 Topical Questions

The item started at 15.35

### **Answered by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs**

[Janet Finch-Saunders \(Aberconwy\)](#): Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on why the Welsh Government is stepping out of the four-nation approach to the deposit return scheme?

### **Answered by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care**

[Rhun ap Iorwerth \(Ynys Môn\)](#): Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board's announcement to delay the provision of vascular operations at Glan Clwyd Hospital, which will lead to patients having to receive treatments in England?

## 5 90 Second Statements

There were no 90 Second Statements

### **Motions to elect Members to committees**

The item started at 16.06

**The proposal under Standing Order 12.24 and 12.40 to group the following motions for debate and for voting was agreed.**

**NNDM8741** [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Carolyn Thomas (Welsh Labour) in place of Jack Sargeant (Welsh Labour) as a member of the Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister.

**NNDM8742** [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Carolyn Thomas (Welsh Labour) in place of Hefin David (Welsh Labour) as a member of the Children, Young People and Education Committee.

**NNDM8743** [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Mick Antoniw (Welsh Labour) in place of Carolyn Thomas (Welsh Labour) as a member of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee.

The motions were agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

### **Motion to appoint an acting Standards Commissioner**

The item started at 16.07

**NNDM8744** [Hannah Blythyn \(Delyn\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes that the Senedd Commissioner for Standards has notified the Standards of Conduct Committee that he is unable to act in relation to a particular complaint.
2. Appoints, in relation to the complaint referred to in point 1, Melissa McCullough as acting Commissioner, in accordance with Section 4(1) of the National Assembly for Wales Commissioner for Standards Measure 2009, on the following terms:
  - a) the appointment takes effect on 21 November 2024;
  - b) the appointment ends immediately when notice is given to the acting Commissioner by the Clerk of the Senedd;
  - c) the acting Commissioner's remuneration is to be a daily rate of £458.36 (or pro-rata for part of a day) for activities that relate directly to the role and responsibilities of the post plus reasonable expenses; and
  - d) all sums referred to in point 2(c) are to be paid to the acting Commissioner by the Senedd Commission.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

### **6 Debate on a Member's Legislative Proposal – A Bill on the right to adequate housing – Postponed**

This item was postponed

## 7 Motion to approve the Senedd Commission Budget for 2025–26

The item started at 16.09

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

**NDM8729** [Hefin David \(Caerphilly\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd in accordance with Standing Order 20.16:

Agrees the budget of the Senedd Commission for 2025–26, as specified in Table 1 of the Senedd Commission Budget 2025–26, [laid](#) before the Senedd on 13 November 2024, and that it be incorporated in the Annual Budget Motion under Standing Order 20.26(ii).

The result was as follows:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
31	0	13	44

The motion was agreed.

## 8 Debate on the Finance Committee report – Review into the operations, processes and investigations carried out by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

The item started at 16.31

**NDM8730** [Peredur Owen Griffiths \(South Wales East\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the report of the Finance Committee 'Review into the operations, processes and investigations carried out by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales' which was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 8 November 2024.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

## 9 Plaid Cymru Debate – Employer national insurance contributions

The item started at 16.48

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

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

**NDM8732** [Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes the UK Government's decision to increase employer national insurance contributions in the autumn budget.
2. Believes the added cost to public sector employers in Wales should be met in full by the UK Treasury.
3. Notes the OBR's assessment that the increase in employer national insurance contributions is expected to lead to stalled real wage growth at a time when Welsh employment rates are the lowest in the UK.
4. Regrets the lack of clarity on whether the reimbursement from the UK Treasury will include, amongst other sectors, university employers, GPs and third sector organisations.
5. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

- a) press the UK Treasury for the reimbursement of added national insurance contributions costs in the public sector to be based on the Stats Wales and Labour Force Survey definitions of the public sector workforce, which includes amongst other sectors, university employees, GPs and third sector organisations;
- b) provide a comprehensive analysis of the impact that the rise in employer national insurance contributions will have on the jobs market in Wales; and
- c) increase the level of business rates relief in the upcoming Welsh budget to mitigate the impact of national insurance contributions rises within the domestic small medium enterprises sector.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
19	0	25	44

**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. Notes:**

- a) the UK Government's decision to increase employer national insurance contributions in the autumn budget, in order to assist in stabilising the nation's finances;
- b) the OBR's overall assessment that the net effect of UK Government Budget policies will increase growth in the longer term;

- c) the UK Treasury's indication that additional funding will be provided to meet the costs of employer national insurance contributions in the public sector;
- d) the UK Treasury's confirmation that, in doing so, it will follow the ONS classification, as adopted by previous governments; and
- e) as a result of all the measures in the UK Government Budget, 865,000 UK businesses will pay no national insurance contributions at all, and more than half of employers with national insurance contribution liabilities will either see no change or will gain overall next year.

A vote was taken on amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
23	0	21	44

**Amendment 1 was agreed.**

**As amendment 1 was agreed, amendment 2 was de-selected.**

**A vote was taken on the motion as amended:**

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes:

- a) the UK Government's decision to increase employer national insurance contributions in the autumn budget, in order to assist in stabilising the nation's finances;
- b) the OBR's overall assessment that the net effect of UK Government Budget policies will increase growth in the longer term;
- c) the UK Treasury's indication that additional funding will be provided to meet the costs of employer national insurance contributions in the public sector;

d) the UK Treasury's confirmation that, in doing so, it will follow the ONS classification, as adopted by previous governments; and

e) as a result of all the measures in the UK Government Budget, 865,000 UK businesses will pay no national insurance contributions at all, and more than half of employers with national insurance contribution liabilities will either see no change or will gain overall next year.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
23	0	21	44

The motion as amended was agreed.

## 10 Voting Time

The item started at 17.33

## 11 Short Debate

The item started at 17.38

**NDM8731** [Gareth Davies \(Vale of Clwyd\)](#)

Progress or preservation: how should responsible government respond to cultural and societal change in Wales?

The meeting concluded at 18.08

**The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 26 November 2024**