

Agenda – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 11 December 2024

Meeting time: 13.30

249(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 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 Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary after Question 4.

[View Questions](#)

3 Topical Questions (20 mins)

To ask the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

[Peredur Owen Griffiths \(South Wales East\)](#): Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on the events in Syria over the weekend and what support the Government is providing to Syrian–Welsh Families?



4 90 Second Statements

(5 mins)

5 Motion under Standing Order 16.3 to alter the remit of the Reform Bill Committee

(5 mins)

NDM8761 [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 16.3:

1. Agrees to alter the remit of the Reform Bill Committee so that its remit is to scrutinise matters referred to it by the Business Committee.

2. Agrees that the Committee will be dissolved either:

a) when the Business Committee has decided that no further matters will be referred to the Committee; or

b) when the Senedd so resolves;

whichever is the sooner.

6 Motion to elect a Member to a committee

(5 mins)

NDM8762 [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Alun Davies (Welsh Labour) in place of Sarah Murphy (Welsh Labour) as a member of the Reform Bill Committee.

7 Debate on the Finance Committee report – Fiscal Intergovernmental Relations

(60 mins)

NDM8759 [Peredur Owen Griffiths \(South Wales East\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the report of the Finance Committee 'Fiscal Intergovernmental Relations' [laid](#) in the Table Office on 14 October 2024.

Note: The response of the Welsh Government was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 25 November 2024.

8 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Housing and homelessness

(60 mins)

NDM8764 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises that homelessness is currently at the highest level since 2015.
2. Regrets the failure of the Welsh Government to eradicate homelessness in Wales.
3. Notes concern that the Welsh Government's 20,000 social homes target will be missed.
4. Recognises the importance of a housing first model to end homelessness.
5. Calls on the Welsh Government to:
 - a) implement a housing first model and the right to adequate housing to end homelessness, working with the housing support sector in Wales;
 - b) turn Wales's empty properties back into homes by expanding the Help to Buy scheme to include those in need of renovation;
 - c) speed up the planning process by creating a joint action taskforce of planners to target the slowest performing local planning authorities, fast tracking applications for affordable housing developments; and
 - d) reduce social housing waiting lists by bringing empty homes back into use for social rent and rent-to-buy.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 [Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes:

- a) the latest Welsh Government statistics from 30 September 2024, which show that 11,363 individuals have been housed in temporary accommodation, alongside over 139,000 people on social housing waiting lists;
- b) that the Welsh Government is not on track to achieve its target of providing 20,000 low-carbon homes for social rent by the end of this Senedd term; and
- c) the Local Government and Housing Committee's recommendation that at least 20 per cent of the housing stock should include social housing, and up to a third in the long term, with the Welsh Government to develop a strategy in order to achieve this target.

2. Believes:

- a) that the housing crisis in Wales and across the UK was further exacerbated under Margaret Thatcher's government and the right-to-buy policy, cutting the council housing stock by almost half over the period of the policy; and
- b) that the severe shortage of properties available to rent for low-income households covered by the local housing allowance is pushing people into housing insecurity and homelessness.

3. Regrets:

- a) the increase in homelessness under the Welsh Government and successive UK Conservative Governments; and
- b) the adverse effect of austerity policies followed by the UK Conservative and Labour Governments, which have exacerbated housing inequality.

4. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

- a) increase the social housing grant;
- b) raise the housing support grant;
- c) determine a clear plan for carrying out the Local Government and Housing Committee's recommendation to ensure that at least 20 per cent of the housing stock includes social housing by the next Senedd term, as part of a long-term strategy; and
- d) incorporate the right to adequate housing into Welsh law.

5. Calls on the UK Government to ensure that local housing allowance rates reflect real rents within the private rented sector in Wales.

If amendment 1 is agreed, amendment 2 will be de-selected.

Amendment 2 [Jane Hutt \(Vale of Glamorgan\)](#)

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises the current pressures in the homelessness system and the Welsh Government's £220 million investment in homelessness prevention and support services this year.
2. Welcomes the ambitious and radical reform to homelessness legislation planned this Senedd term and set out in the White Paper on ending homelessness.
3. Recognises the record investment of £1.4 billion in social housing so far this Senedd term.
4. Recognises the role of the empty homes grant in bringing empty homes back into use.
5. Commends the partnership work that supports the delivery of the Welsh Government's Housing First approach.
6. Welcomes the publication of, and encourages responses to, the Welsh Government's White Paper on housing adequacy, fair rents and affordability.

[White Paper on ending homelessness](#)

[Housing First Wales Principles](#)

[White Paper on Housing Adequacy, Fair Rents and Affordability](#)

9 Plaid Cymru Debate – The devolution settlement

(60 mins)

NDM8763 [Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Believes that, in order to build a better future for its people, Wales should have at least the same devolved powers as Scotland.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

Delete all and replace with:

Believes that the Welsh Government is failing to deliver a better future for the people of Wales, and should make better use of the devolved powers available to Wales.

If amendment 1 is agreed, amendment 2 will be de-selected.

Amendment 2 [Jane Hutt \(Vale of Glamorgan\)](#)

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the Welsh Government's acceptance of the conclusions and recommendations of the cross-party Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales, which provide an ambitious and well evidenced agenda of reform, tailored to meet the needs of Wales.

[Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales: final report](#)

10 Voting Time

11 Short Debate

(30 mins)

NDM8760 [Hefin David \(Caerphilly\)](#)

Long COVID: developing an all-Wales approach for tackling a growing health crisis.

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 7 January 2025

Agenda Item 1

Oral Questions tabled on 04/12/2024 for answer on 11/12/2024

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

CABINET SECRETARY FOR FINANCE AND WELSH LANGUAGE

Buffy Williams *Rhondda*

1 OQ62028 (e)

How will the Welsh Government's draft budget help Rhondda residents who are struggling with the cost of living?

John Griffiths *Newport East*

2 OQ62039 (w)

What steps is the Cabinet Secretary taking to develop the use of the Welsh language in eastern areas of Wales?

Rhys ab Owen *South Wales Central*

3 OQ62013 (e)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with Cardiff Council and the Cabinet Secretary for Education to ensure that Welsh-medium education is accessible across the capital city?

Sam Rowlands *North Wales*

4 OQ62026 (e)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care regarding funding for general practice in Wales?

Darren Millar *Clwyd West*

5 OQ62040 (e)

How will the Welsh Government's draft budget deliver for residents in Conwy and Denbighshire?

Altaf Hussain *South Wales West*

6 OQ62031 (e)

How will the Welsh Government's draft budget impact the people of South Wales West?

Russell George *Montgomeryshire*

7 OQ62034 (e)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning to ensure that the Welsh Government's draft budget supports the tourism industry?

Tom Giffard *South Wales West*

8

OQ62015 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the progress of the Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Bill?

Sian Gwenllian *Arfon*

9

OQ62024 (w)

What discussions has the Government had with the UK Government regarding how any money from the shared prosperity fund will be distributed in future?

Mabon ap Gwynfor *Dwyfor Meirionnydd*

10

OQ62033 (w)

Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on the service received by Welsh speakers in the health service?

Lee Waters *Llanelli*

11

OQ62010 (e)

Will the Welsh Government undertake an assessment of the cost of providing free car parking for staff across the public sector?

Sioned Williams *South Wales West*

12

OQ62022 (w)

How is the Government ensuring that it increases the number of Welsh speakers?

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

Rhianon Passmore *Islwyn*

1

OQ62023 (e) *Withdrawn*

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the support available for residents and businesses affected by storm Bert?

Mark Isherwood *North Wales*

2

OQ62030 (e)

What science base does the Welsh Government use when making and applying agricultural regulations?

John Griffiths *Newport East*

3

OQ62038 (e) *Withdrawn*

How is the Welsh Government increasing green spaces in urban areas?

Rhys ab Owen *South Wales Central*

4

OQ62014 (e)

What advice does the Welsh Government provide to local authorities and public bodies about the adequate replanting of trees following the felling of mature trees?

Sian Gwenllian *Arfon*

5

OQ62035 (w)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government about how enabling more people to use low-carbon heating in their homes can contribute to meeting the Government's targets on lowering carbon emissions?

Mabon ap Gwynfor *Dwyfor Meirionnydd*

6

OQ62032 (w)

Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on the outcomes of Natural Resources Wales's 'Case for Change' report?

Adam Price *Carmarthen East and Dinefwr*

7

OQ62027 (w)

What discussions has the Welsh Government had with industry stakeholders about its decision not to take part in the UK's deposit return scheme?

Sioned Williams *South Wales West*

8

OQ62021 (w)

How is the Cabinet Secretary working with Cabinet colleagues to ensure that the Government's plans are responding to the effects of climate change?

Darren Millar *Clwyd West*

9

OQ62041 (e)

What action is the Welsh Government taking to reduce the impact of flooding in Conwy and Denbighshire?

Tom Giffard *South Wales West*

10

OQ62016 (e) Member declared an interest

How is the Welsh Government supporting people and businesses whose properties have been damaged by recent flooding?

Carolyn Thomas *North Wales*

11

OQ62029 (e)

Is the Welsh Government on track to deliver the manifesto commitment of a new national park for Wales?

Janet Finch-Saunders *Aberconwy*

12

OQ62036 (e)

What steps has the Cabinet Secretary taken to enhance early warning sensors along the River Conwy, ensuring more advanced flood warnings for the Conwy Valley and surrounding areas?