

Agenda – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 22 January 2025

Meeting time: 13.30

255(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 Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

[Rhun ap Iorwerth \(Ynys Môn\)](#): Will the First Minister make a statement on the steps the Government will take to support the humanitarian campaign in response to the ceasefire in Gaza?



4 90 Second Statements

(5 mins)

5 Debate – Natural Resources Wales's 'Case for Change'

(60 mins)

NDM8756 [Mabon ap Gwynfor \(Dwyfor Meirionnydd\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes:

- a) Natural Resources Wales's 'Case for Change' agenda;
- b) that 120 staff members are directly impacted by the changes proposed under 'Case for Change'; and
- c) that services provided by NRW will be reduced.

2. Regrets:

- a) Natural Resources Wales's decision to approve the 'Case for Change' proposals; and
- b) the decision to close catering and retail operations at Coed y Brenin, Nant yr Arian and Ynyslas.

3. Believes that these closures will have a detrimental impact on the mid-Wales economy.

4. Calls on Natural Resources Wales to proactively engage with communities and organisations to expedite the process in order to avoid temporary closure of the centres.

Co-submitters

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

[Sam Rowlands \(North Wales\)](#)

The following amendment was tabled:

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

Delete all after sub-point 1 (a) and replace with:

the economic difficulties caused by 14 years of Conservative UK Government and subsequent pressure on all public bodies, including Natural Resources Wales (NRW);

that NRW continues to support staff members directly impacted by the 'Case for Change'; and

that reshaping the organisation will allow NRW to focus on the delivery of its core functions and statutory duties.

Acknowledges:

a) the 'Case for Change' includes NRW ceasing its own delivery of catering and retail operations at Coed y Brenin, Nant yr Arian and Ynyslas;

b) the visitor centres sites remain open for walking, biking, car parking and toilet provision; and

c) this allows opportunities for social and community groups and local businesses to provide these services.

Calls on Natural Resources Wales to continue proactively engaging with local community groups and businesses, therefore expediting the process in seeking partners which are better placed to provide these retail and catering services.

6 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Cancer services

(60 mins)

NDM8794 [Paul Davies \(Preseli Pembrokeshire\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes the January 2025 “Cancer Services in Wales” report by Audit Wales.

2. Regrets that the Welsh Labour Government has:

a) consistently failed to hit the 75 per cent target for cancer patients starting treatment within 62 days since August 2020;

b) caused confusion, undermining its own Cancer Improvement Plan by providing insufficient clarity to the NHS and third sector bodies; and

c) provided neither strong nor clear national leadership to help drive necessary improvements to cancer diagnosis and treatment.

3. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

- a) set a clear timeframe to meet the 75 per cent target for cancer patients starting treatment within 62 days;
- b) publicly clarify the statuses of each of their cancer improvement plans and their interactions with each other;
- c) utilise cross-sector, cross-community and cross-border capacity to drive down the longest waits for cancer treatment; and
- d) implement Audit Wales's 10 recommendations from the January 2025 "Cancer Services in Wales" report.

[Audit Wales: Cancer Services in Wales](#)

[A Cancer Improvement Plan for NHS Wales 2023–2026](#)

The following amendments were tabled:

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

Delete all after point 1 and replace with:

Recognises, as set out in the Audit Wales Cancer Services in Wales report:

- a) real terms spending on cancer services has increased to almost £720 million, considerably higher than the real-terms growth in NHS Wales spending; and
- b) five-year cancer survival rates have improved for people diagnosed with cancer between 2002–06 and 2016–22.

Calls on the Welsh Government to:

- a) support NHS Wales organisations to improve cancer waiting time performance;
- b) update the Quality Statement for Cancer to clarify roles, responsibilities and system metrics; and
- c) introduce a National Cancer Steering Group to improve coordination of the NHS effort to improve cancer services.

[The quality statement for cancer | GOV.WALES](#)

If amendment 1 is agreed, amendments 2 and 3 will be de-selected.

Amendment 2 [Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

Add as new point after point 2 and renumber accordingly:

Regrets that the Less Survivable Cancers Taskforce analysis shows that Wales, compared with 33 similar countries is in position 32 for stomach cancer, 31 for pancreatic and lung cancer, 21 for liver and oesophageal cancer and 12 for brain cancer.

Amendment 3 [Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

In point 3, delete sub-point (c) and replace with:

strengthen structures for regional co-operation in order to better identify capacity and address the postcode lottery in relation to quality and timeliness of care;

Amendment 4 [Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Notes that the recommendations of the Audit Wales report correspond with those outlined in the Plaid Cymru report, published in November, on reforming the NHS governance structure, and calls upon Welsh Government to implement the recommendations on reforming governance in accordance with those noted in the Plaid Cymru report.

[The Welsh Health System: Accountability, Performance and Culture](#)

7 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Speech and language therapists

(60 mins)

NDM8795 [Paul Davies \(Preseli Pembrokeshire\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists' 80th anniversary this month.
2. Recognises the crucial role that speech and language therapists carry out in providing treatment, support and care for people with additional communication needs.
3. Regrets that in Wales there are fewer speech and language therapists per head of the population, than in any other part of the UK.
4. Understands that according to the Youth Justice Board, 71 per cent of sentenced children have speech, language or communication needs.

5. Supports calls from the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists to increase the number of speech and language therapists in Wales and improve workforce planning for the profession.

6. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

a) establish a clear, sustainable funding model for speech and language therapists within youth justice teams across Wales; and

b) work with the UK Government to mandate the presence of a speech and language therapist in all youth justice teams as a statutory requirement.

[Youth Justice Board report – 'Assessing the needs of sentenced children in the Youth Justice System 2019–20'](#)

[The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists State of the Nation report – 'The Speech and Language Therapy Workforce in Wales'](#)

The following amendment was tabled:

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

Delete all after point 2 and replace with:

Notes:

a) the Welsh Government's decision to continue to fund and commission speech and language therapist education in Wales, including a new bilingual programme in Wrexham; and

b) the number of speech and language therapist education places in Wales has increased since 2023.

Calls on the Welsh Government to work with the UK Government to increase access to speech and language therapy in youth justice teams.

8 Voting Time

9 Short Debate

(30 mins)

NDM8787 [Mick Antoniw \(Pontypridd\)](#)

Reaching a tipping point? Wales's littering and fly-tipping epidemic.

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 28 January 2025

Agenda Item 1

Oral Questions tabled on 15/01/2025 for answer on 22/01/2025

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

CABINET SECRETARY FOR HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Llyr Gruffydd *North Wales*

1 OQ62184 (w)

Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on local council budgets in the next financial year?

Heledd Fychan *South Wales Central*

2 OQ62151 (w)

How does the Welsh Government ensure that communities of elderly or vulnerable people feel safe living on social housing estates which were historically reserved for the purpose of old-age accommodation, but which are now open to anyone without vetting for suitability?

Mark Isherwood *North Wales*

3 OQ62143 (e)

What action is the Welsh Government taking to support homeless people?

Mick Antoniw *Pontypridd*

4 OQ62154 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on the Help to Buy - Wales scheme?

Cefin Campbell *Mid and West Wales*

5 OQ62174 (e)

How does the Welsh Government ensure that the Warm Homes programme meets the needs of households in rural Wales?

Gareth Davies *Vale of Clwyd*

6 OQ62150 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on Welsh Government funding support for local authorities in north Wales?

Peter Fox *Monmouth*

7 OQ62169 (e)

What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the impact of the rise in employer national insurance contributions on local authority budgets?

Luke Fletcher *South Wales West*

8 OQ62168 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on the evidence base underlying the Government's position on rent controls?

Hannah Blythyn *Delyn*

9 OQ62161 (e)

What action is the Welsh Government taking to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of local authorities?

Tom Giffard *South Wales West*

10 OQ62172 (e)

How is the Welsh Government supporting local authorities across South Wales West to meet their housing targets?

Delyth Jewell *South Wales East*

11 OQ62166 (e)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with councils in South Wales East to enhance the participation of local people in decision making?

Jenny Rathbone *Cardiff Central*

12 OQ62171 (e)

What assessment has Welsh Government made of the adequacy of tenancy deposit protection schemes?

CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION

Delyth Jewell *South Wales East*

1 OQ62165 (w)

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

Mark Isherwood *North Wales*

2 OQ62141 (e)

How does the Welsh Government support children with additional learning needs?

Sioned Williams *South Wales West*

3 OQ62156 (w)

How is the Government supporting and future-proofing the universities of Wales?

Natasha Asghar *South Wales East*

4 OQ62162 (e)

What steps is the Welsh Government taking to improve the retention and recruitment of teachers?

John Griffiths *Newport East*

5 OQ62177 (e)

What progress is the Welsh Government making in improving school attendance?

Cefin Campbell *Mid and West Wales*

6 OQ62173 (e)

Will the Welsh Government provide an update on its plans for junior apprenticeship programmes?

Joyce Watson *Mid and West Wales*

7 OQ62155 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the sustainable communities for learning programme?

Darren Millar *Clwyd West*

8 OQ62181 (e)

How is the Welsh Government supporting pupils with additional learning needs?

James Evans *Brecon and Radnorshire*

9 OQ62146 (e)

What is the Welsh Government doing to improve educational performance in Brecon and Radnorshire?

Sian Gwenllian *Arfon*

10 OQ62160 (w) *Withdrawn*

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on establishing the history of Wales as a statutory element of the school curriculum?

Altaf Hussain *South Wales West*

11

OQ62157 (e)

What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the impact on the Welsh curriculum of the UK Government's AI Opportunities Action Plan?

Laura Anne Jones *South Wales East*

12

OQ62163 (e)

What action is the Welsh Government taking to implement mandatory additional learning needs training for school staff?