

Votes and Proceedings – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Siambr Hywel – Tŷ Hywel

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 14 May 2025

Meeting time: 13.30

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/15107>

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This meeting was held in a hybrid format, with some Members in Siambr Hywel and others joining by video-conference.

Presiding Officer Statement

The Llywydd made a statement at 13.30 to note the presence in the public gallery of Senator Sue Lines, President of the Australian Senate.

1 Questions to the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

The item started at 13.30

The first 8 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 Education

The item started at 14.26

The first 9 questions were asked. Question 1 was answered by the Minister for Further and Higher Education. The Presiding Officer invited party spokespeople to ask questions to the Cabinet Secretary after question 2.

3 Topical Questions

The item started at 15.19

Answered by the Minister for Children and Social Care

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



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on the potential impact of the UK Government's Immigration White Paper on the social care workforce in Wales?

4 90 Second Statements

The item started at 15.36

Sioned Williams made a statement on – The Urdd's Goodwill and Peace Message 2025.

Gareth Davies made a statement on – Mental Health Awareness Week (12 to 18 May).

Mabon ap Gwynfor made a statement on – Remembering the life of Claire O'Shea.

Darren Millar made a statement on – Day of prayer for victims of sexual abuse – St Winefride's Shrine in Holywell, Flintshire (20 May).

5 Member Debate under Standing Order 11.21(iv): Safeguarding the health of firefighters

The item started at 15.44

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

NDM8812 [Luke Fletcher \(South Wales West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes:

a) that firefighting exposes individuals to carcinogenic effluents, including benzene and toluene, which significantly increases mortality rates among firefighters relative to the general population;

b) the work of the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer and their classification of cancer among firefighters as a Group 1 occupational hazard;

c) that countries such as the United States, Canada, and Australia have officially recognised the link between exposure to toxic effluents and increased incidences of cancers; and

d) the Fire Brigades Union's 'DECON' campaign and its vital efforts to help firefighters reduce harmful exposure to contaminants.

2. Recognises the findings of scientific research led by Professor Anna Stec at the Centre for Fire and Hazards Sciences, University of Central Lancashire, commissioned by the Fire Brigades Union, which reveals that surveyed firefighters aged 35 to 39 faced an age-specific cancer rate up to 323 per cent higher than that of the general population of the same age group.

3. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

a) collaborate with the Fire Brigades Union, fire and rescue services, and leading specialists in fire toxicology to mitigate the effects of carcinogenic effluents on firefighters in Wales;

b) establish a preventative health programme to monitor and record exposures for all firefighters in Wales, including annual cancer screening as a minimum standard; and

c) align Wales with international best practices in safeguarding firefighter health.

Co-submitters

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

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

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

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

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

Supporters

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

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

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

[Joel James \(South Wales Central\)](#)

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

The result was as follows:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
30	15	0	45

The motion was agreed.

6 Debate on the Petitions Committee report: P-06-1482: Ban smartphones in all schools in Wales (with exemptions for exceptional circumstances)

The item started at 16.10

NDM8899 [Carolyn Thomas \(North Wales\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the report of the Petitions Committee, ‘P-06-1482 Ban smartphones in all schools in Wales (with exemptions for exceptional circumstances)’, which was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 12 March 2025.

Note: The response of the Welsh Government to the report was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 7 May 2025.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

7 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Taxation

The item started at 16.54

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

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

NDM8898 [Paul Davies \(Preseli Pembrokeshire\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Regrets that:

- a) Welsh pay packets are the lowest in Great Britain;
- b) business deaths continue to outpace business births; and
- c) if council tax had risen by the same rate in Wales as has been the case in England since 2010, the average Band D household in Wales would be £350 a year better off.

2. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

- a) deliver efficiency savings, outside of health, schools and farming budgets, to deliver a 1 pence cut in the basic rate of income tax;
- b) restore business rate relief to 75 per cent for the retail hospitality and leisure sector;

c) eliminate business rates for small businesses; and

d) ensure local referendums for councils proposing council tax rises by over 5 per cent in a single financial year.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
12	0	33	45

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 average Band D council tax bill in Wales this year is £110 lower than in England and more than 256,000 low-income households in Wales receive support with their bills through the council tax reduction scheme;

b) the business birth rate in 2023 in Wales was higher than in the south-east and south-west regions of England, and higher than in Northern Ireland; and

c) growth in average weekly earnings for full-time adults in Wales has outpaced the UK over the last 10 years.

2. Recognises:

a) ratepayers in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors have received more than £1 billion in additional business rates support over the last six years and almost half of all ratepayers pay no business rates at all.

b) Welsh rates of income tax are forecast to contribute more than £3 billion to the Welsh budget this year; and

c) local authorities are accountable to the people of Wales when setting budgets and council tax, based on the needs of local services.

A vote was taken on amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
23	0	22	45

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 average Band D council tax bill in Wales this year is £110 lower than in England and more than 256,000 low-income households in Wales receive support with their bills through the council tax reduction scheme;

b) the business birth rate in 2023 in Wales was higher than in the south-east and south-west regions of England, and higher than in Northern Ireland; and

c) growth in average weekly earnings for full-time adults in Wales has outpaced the UK over the last 10 years.

2. Recognises:

a) ratepayers in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors have received more than £1 billion in additional business rates support over the last six years and almost half of all ratepayers pay no business rates at all.

b) Welsh rates of income tax are forecast to contribute more than £3 billion to the Welsh budget this year; and

c) local authorities are accountable to the people of Wales when setting budgets and council tax, based on the needs of local services.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
23	9	13	45

The motion as amended was agreed.

8 Voting Time

The item started at 17.45

9 Short Debate

The item started at 17.48

NDM8895 [Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

Poverty isn't inevitable: how the Welsh Government and the UK Government can improve the lives of the people of Wales.

Votes Summary

The meeting concluded at 18.11

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 20 May 2025