

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee room 5

Meeting date: Monday, 14 July 2025

Meeting time: 14.00 – 14.50

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/15174>

Hybrid

Attendance

| Category | Names |
|------------------------|--|
| Members of the Senedd: | Carolyn Thomas MS (Chair) Rhys ab Owen MS Luke Fletcher MS Joel James MS |
| Witnesses: | |
| Committee Staff: | Gareth Price (Clerk) Lara Date (Second Clerk) Kayleigh Imperato (Deputy Clerk) |

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from Vaughan Gething, there was no substitute.

There were no declarations of interest at the start of the meeting. Luke Fletcher MS declared a relevant interest in relation to item 3.1 on the agenda, as he had been working with Epilepsy Action Cymru for some time.



2 New Petitions

2.1 P-06-1505 Review the Carr Hill Formula in Wales – the funding system for primary care

Members noted the matter is under active scrutiny by the Health and Social Care Committee (HSC) who are looking in-depth at GP services. It was agreed to highlight the correspondence on this petition with that Committee and ask for an update on the likely timescales for that inquiry work. The letter would be copied to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care for awareness of the Committee's action, and the petition would be kept open pending a response from the HSC Committee.

2.2 P-06-1506 We call for an end to further public funding for cycle paths and cycle Infrastructure in Wales

Active travel has been the subject of detailed scrutiny in the Senedd and by Audit Wales and so it was agreed there was not much more the Petitions Committee could do. It was agreed to highlight the petition with the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee and the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee, to thank the petitioner and close the petition.

2.3 P-06-1513 Appeal: Wales Autism Bill 2019 (For the Few, Not the Many)

Although Members had every sympathy with the petitioner, the Welsh Government had made its position clear that it would not be taking this Bill forward, and there was little more the Committee could do but encourage the petitioner to engage with the Welsh Government's work to revise the Code of Practice on Delivery of Autism Services. The Committee thanked the petitioner and closed the petition.

2.4 P-06-1529 Adjourn the implementation of the 36 extra members of the Senedd until 2030

The Committee discussed the petition and acknowledged some would support the petitioner's views on Senedd reform. However, the legislation had been passed by

super-majority and to reverse that decision would require primary legislation to be passed. The Committee thanked the petitioner and closed the petition.

2.5 P-06-1530 Save Childcare Provision in Wales – Demand Fair Funding and a Fair Process for Providers and Parent

It was noted that the Equality and Social Justice Committee had conducted a lot of work on this issue and the petitioner's views would be highlighted with that Committee for awareness. The Committee also agreed to write to the Minister for Children and Social Care to highlight the petitioner's comments and seek a response. The petition to be kept open pending the Minister's response.

3 Updates to previous petitions

3.1 P-06-1240 Improve health services for people with epilepsy living in Wales

Luke Fletcher MS declared a relevant interest as he had been working with Epilepsy Action Cymru for some time now. The Committee noted the five key actions being requested by Epilepsy Action Cymru and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care to ask what exactly was being done to address those issues regarding epilepsy service provision. The petition would be kept open pending the Cabinet Secretary's response.

3.2 P-06-1288 Deliver Magor and Undy Walkway Station, part of the Burns Delivery Programme, as a quick win

The Committee noted the petitioners' disappointment and the uncertainty about delivery of the new stations recommended by the South East Wales Transport Commission (the Burns Commission). It was agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport to ask for clarity on the specific timeline for opening those stations and about his discussions with the UK Government on the matter. The petition would be kept open pending the Cabinet Secretary's response.

3.3 P-06-1365 Re-open railway lines to connect the north and south of Wales

The Committee noted that the debate featured a high level of engagement from Members, and had highlighted the feasibility studies and the arguments around the issue. They agreed to thank the petitioner and close the petition.

3.4 P-06-1389 Introduce a 30mph limit on the trunk road through the villages of Eglwys Fach and Ffwrnais

The Committee felt it was important to note the positive progress that had been made, but that there was not much more the Petitions Committee could now do. It was agreed to thank the petitioner and close the petition.

3.5 P-06-1391 Introduce regulation of the dog grooming sector, to protect the welfare of dogs and rights of owners

It was agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to seek more clarification on the timeline for the work. The clerking team would also contact the petitioner to clarify if he was seeking a meeting with the Committee Chair to discuss his petition or with the Welsh Government that was delivering the work, noting that the Cabinet Secretary's diary commitments might make it difficult for him to meet with the petitioner. After writing to the Cabinet Secretary about the timeline, Members agreed that the petition would be closed.

3.6 P-06-1476 1000 meter mandatory buffer zone for all new and existing quarries

Members noted the strength of feeling on the issue and the unhappiness about the Cabinet Secretary's response to the debate. After discussion the Committee agreed a final step before closing the petition. It was agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning to seek clarity on what evidence would be needed in order to review the relevant Technical Advice Note, MTAN1, as Members had already been provided with much audio, photographic and other physical evidence relating to

the quarry. It was also noted that other mothballed quarries in Wales could become active again in the future and so it was a national issue. The petition would remain open pending that response.

3.7 P-06-1482 Ban smartphones in all schools in Wales (with exemptions for exceptional circumstances)

The five recommendations in the Committee's report had been accepted by the Cabinet Secretary for Education, and further active work was being conducted to inform what future policy the Welsh Government would pursue. This was considered quite a positive result for the petition. The petitioner would be thanked and the petition closed.

4 Papers to note

4.1 P-06-1488 Establish a 'Care Society' to Tackle the Long COVID Crisis in Wales

Members noted the papers.

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the remainder of today's business:

The procedural motion was agreed.

5.1 Review of Standing Order 23 and Petitions Process

The Committee considered a decision paper on actions to take as part of reviewing the public petitions process in advance of the Seventh Senedd. It was agreed that a targeted consultation would be undertaken over the summer recess, to seek the views of key organisations and representative bodies in Wales who are regularly called on to respond to petitions.