

Agenda – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Siambr Hywel – Tŷ Hywel

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 22 October 2025

Meeting time: 13.30

307 (v3)

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

1 Questions to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales (45 mins)

The Presiding Officer has received notification, under Standing Order 12.58, that the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning will answer questions on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales.

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 Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip (45 mins)

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

[View Questions](#)

3 Questions to the Senedd Commission (15 mins)

[View Questions](#)

4 Topical Questions (0 mins)

No Topical Questions have been accepted

5 90 Second Statements

(5 mins)

6 Debate on petition: P-06-1538 Protect full stroke services at Bronglais Hospital; prevent downgrade to Treat and Transfer

(30 mins)

NDM9020 [Carolyn Thomas \(North Wales\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the petition '[P-06-1538 Protect full stroke services at Bronglais Hospital; prevent downgrade to Treat and Transfer](#)' which received 17,883 signatures.

7 Debate on the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee report: Charging for exhibitions

(60 mins)

NDM9021 [Delyth Jewell \(South Wales East\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the report of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee: 'Charging for Exhibitions' which was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 4 June 2025.

Note: The response of the Welsh Government to the report was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 15 October 2025.

8 Welsh Conservatives Debate – education outcomes

(60 mins)

NDM9022 [Paul Davies \(Preseli Pembrokeshire\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Regrets that:

a) the latest Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results show that Wales's performance has fallen to its lowest level ever in maths, reading and science, the lowest of all UK nations for the fifth consecutive time; and

b) physical attacks on teachers and knife attacks in Welsh schools are at their highest ever levels.

2. Calls on the Welsh Government to improve educational outcomes and academic rigour by:

- a) improving accountability via the introduction of more rigorous school inspections;
- b) developing a new accessible Welsh school performance database to promote learner and parental choice;
- c) enabling the establishment of academy schools in Wales to encourage innovation;
- d) restoring discipline and respect in schools via a crackdown on poor behaviour, including the automatic exclusion of learners who bring knives and other weapons into a school;
- e) improving teacher retention and authority by stamping out pupil defiance;
- f) empowering schools to ban mobile phones in Welsh classrooms, and encourage children to safely use AI and technology;
- g) instilling rigour in our education system through the mandatory teaching of phonics; and
- h) ensuring a purpose-driven curriculum which supports the formation of essential life-skills, including mandatory home economics and the importance of personal responsibility, healthy eating, budgeting and independent living.

The following amendments were tabled:

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

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes the findings of Estyn's latest annual reports, which draw attention to the ongoing challenges in literacy, numeracy and digital skills across schools in Wales, alongside serious issues of teacher recruitment and retention in the education profession.

2. Regrets the failures of the Welsh Labour Government, where:

- a) education standards have fallen, leading to the lowest ever PISA results for Wales in reading, mathematics and science in 2022;

- b) teacher recruitment targets have failed in nearly a decade; and
- c) one in every four primary schools lacks access to specific library space.

3. Welcomes Plaid Cymru's commitment to making raising educational standards a national mission in Government by establishing:

- a) a foundational literacy and numeracy plan, including:
 - i) national benchmarks for core skills;
 - ii) early intervention for pupils who fall behind;
 - iii) evidence-based professional development for teachers; and
 - iv) transparent progress tracking and reporting.
- b) a library space in every primary school;
- c) a reading initiative across the curriculum to incorporate literacy in every subject at secondary level; and
- d) a fair and competitive strategy to recruit and retain teachers.

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. Notes that:

- a) the latest national personalised assessments report shows improvement in English and Welsh reading, and numeracy improving for our youngest learners; and
- b) school attendance improved in 2024–25, rising to 89.1 per cent from 88 per cent in the previous year and as part of a positive trajectory reversing the decline seen during the pandemic years.

2. Welcomes the work of the Welsh Government to:

- a) ensure the systematic teaching of phonics in the Curriculum for Wales, supported by establishing a set of nationally consistent literacy, phonics and numeracy professional learning programmes for all schools in Wales, to be taken forward by Dysgu, our new national professional learning and leadership organisation;
- b) provide a clearer set of expectations and information about schools through participation in PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) and TIMSS

(Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study), and developing more granular expectations of literacy and numeracy for schools;

c) progress concerted action following the National Summit on Behaviour in School and Colleges in Wales including new forums on the use of mobile phones in schools and exclusions and detentions, working with schools, local authorities and trade unions in social partnership;

d) fund a range of programmes to support schools positive engagement with their learners, families and communities, including investing £9.5 million in family engagement officers and £2 million in enrichment activities to tackle disaffection;

e) invest over £13 million annually in our whole school approach to emotional and mental health and wellbeing, including funding to support the wellbeing of schools staff;

f) take forward a Strategic Education Workforce Plan to consider the range of different workforce issues in Wales, including recruitment and retention, wellbeing and the issues for teaching assistants and covering absence; and

g) build a new coherent school improvement system which places schools at the centre, aligning with Estyn's more regular inspection cycle.

9 Voting Time

10 Short Debate

(30 mins)

NDM9023 [Laura Anne Jones \(South Wales East\)](#)

Safety, fairness and abiding by the law: The Supreme Court ruling on the meaning of 'sex' in the Equality Act 2010 and its importance for Wales.

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 4 November 2025

Agenda Item 1

Oral Questions tabled on 15/10/2025 for answer on 22/10/2025

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

CABINET SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT AND NORTH WALES

Carolyn Thomas *North Wales*

1 OQ63301 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on plans for a new Network North Wales service between Llandudno and Liverpool?

Gareth Davies *Vale of Clwyd*

2 OQ63277 (e)

What measures is the Welsh Government taking to improve road safety and ease congestion on the A55?

Mick Antoniw *Pontypridd*

3 OQ63272 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on plans to reopen former railways in Wales?

Janet Finch-Saunders *Aberconwy*

4 OQ63270 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on the closure of the Menai Bridge?

Sioned Williams *South Wales West*

5 OQ63307 (e)

What is the Welsh Government doing to safeguard disabled passengers when using rail services?

Heledd Fychan *South Wales Central*

6 OQ63288 (w)

How does the Welsh Government ensure that train stations are accessible to everyone?

Jenny Rathbone *Cardiff Central*

7 OQ63279 (e)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with the UK Government and the armed forces community regarding the potential for the Public Office (Accountability) Bill to provide justice for the Welsh Guards who served on the Sir Galahad during the Falklands War?

Laura Anne Jones *South Wales East*

8

OQ63306 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on planned work to improve safety on the A40 near Raglan?

Llyr Gruffydd *North Wales*

9

OQ63308 (e)

What progress has the Welsh Government's made in reviewing and reforming home-to-school transport arrangements in North Wales?

Darren Millar *Clwyd West*

10

OQ63285 (e)

What action is the Welsh Government taking to improve the transport network in North Wales?

Julie Morgan *Cardiff North*

11

OQ63297 (e)

What is the Welsh Government doing to ensure that train stations are fully accessible?

James Evans *Brecon and Radnorshire*

12

OQ63274 (e)

How the Welsh Government is supporting the armed forces community?

CABINET SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, TREFNYDD AND CHIEF WHIP

Lesley Griffiths *Wrexham*

1

OQ63292 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on discussions with the UK Government regarding the devolution of youth justice?

Peredur Owen Griffiths *South Wales East*

2

OQ63281 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the work of the Welsh Government's community cohesion programme in South Wales East?

Carolyn Thomas *North Wales*

3

OQ63302 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on discussions with the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales regarding the introduction of lifelong blue badges for individuals with lifelong conditions?

Andrew R.T. Davies *South Wales Central*

4

OQ63304 (e)

How will the Cabinet Secretary ensure that the commitments in the Programme for Government that fall within her portfolio will be delivered by the end of this Senedd?

Llyr Gruffydd *North Wales*

5

OQ63309 (e)

What assessment has the Cabinet Secretary made of the impact of rising energy costs on fuel poverty levels ahead of the coming winter?

Rhun ap Iorwerth *Ynys Môn*

6

OQ63313 (w)

How is the Welsh Government helping families through the cost-of-living crisis?

Jenny Rathbone *Cardiff Central*

7

OQ63287 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on progress to open the planned women's residential centre in Swansea?

Luke Fletcher *South Wales West*

8

OQ63294 (e)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with the UK Government regarding the publication of Wales-only prison data?

Rhys ab Owen *South Wales Central*

9

OQ63278 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the timeline for the devolution of probation services to Wales?

Mark Isherwood *North Wales*

10

OQ63282 (e)

How is the Welsh Government reducing barriers to enable disabled people to live independently?

Heledd Fychan *South Wales Central*

11

OQ63290 (w)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to ensure that social justice is promoted by supporting work preparing for, and recovery following, floods in communities with high levels of poverty?

Laura Anne Jones *South Wales East*

12

OQ63311 (e)

What action is the Cabinet Secretary taking to address the underlying causes of child poverty in Wales?

SENEDD COMMISSION

James Evans *Brecon and Radnorshire*

1

OQ63276 (e)

What is the Commission's policy on disposing old or surplus ICT equipment?

Heledd Fychan *South Wales Central*

2

OQ63291 (w)

Will the Commission provide an update on their review of the Senedd's education service, specifically on travel subsidies?

Jenny Rathbone *Cardiff Central*

3

OQ63280 (e)

What analysis has the Commission made of the costs of providing BSL interpretation of Plenary proceedings?