

## Agenda – Petitions Committee

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Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 4 – Tŷ Hywel

Hybrid

Meeting date: 12 January 2026

Meeting time: 14.00

For further information contact:

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### 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

### 2 New Petitions

2.1 P-06-1532 Early Expert Input and Safeguarding Reform for Children with Additional Learning Needs in Wales

(Pages 1 – 13)

2.2 P-06-1540 Remove The Manipulative Funding System Forcing Students To Do Welsh Baccalaureate

(Pages 14 – 27)

2.3 P-06-1562 Improve breast screening uptake for women in Wales

(Pages 28 – 39)

### 3 Updates to previous petitions

3.1 P-06-1456 I demand a full public enquiry into the closure of Welsh Air Ambulance bases in mid and North Wales

(Pages 40 – 41)

3.2 P-06-1491 We demand a fair deal for residents affected by the Arbed and CESP scheme

(Pages 42 – 48)

3.3 P-06-1515 Urgent installation of CCTV at Porth Train Station and bridge

(Pages 49 – 52)



- 3.4 P-06-1534 End corridor care in Wales  
(Pages 53 – 61)
- 3.5 P-06-1531 Mandate Comprehensive and Specific Food Labelling to Support  
Dietary Needs and Allergies  
(Pages 62 – 66)
- 3.6 P-06-1547 Sea bottom trawling is killing our marine wildlife...Stop  
bulldozing our marine wildlife!  
(Pages 67 – 70)

#### **4 Papers to note**

- 4.1 P-06-1307 The Welsh Government should commit to the adoption of the  
maintenance of new housing estates by local authorities  
(Pages 71 – 72)

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

#### **6 Discussion on the Forward work programme**

# Agenda Item 1

Document is Restricted

# Early Expert Input for ALN

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 12 Ionawr 2026  
Petitions Committee | 12 January 2026

**Reference:** RS25/12417-5

## Introduction

**Petition Number:** [P-06-1532](#)

**Petition title:** Early Expert Input and Safeguarding Reform for Children with Additional Learning Needs in Wales

**Text of petition:** The current ALN Code in Wales is failing children with complex needs like Autism, ADHD, and PDA. Without early expert input or safeguarding assessments, children are entering school unsupported. Our daughter experienced autistic burnout and trauma before age 5. Families are left to battle alone while vital support is delayed or denied due to system flaws and unclear processes.

Despite having a diagnosis before starting school, our daughter received no formal risk assessments, safeguarding plan, or specialist input. Concerns raised pre-transition were dismissed, leading to a total breakdown in education and mental health. Schools lack the expertise to draft legally sound IDPs alone, and LEAs often refuse to step in early enough. Families are forced to privately fund support or face long waitlists while their children deteriorate. We're calling for mandatory Educational Psychology input for all children with complex needs before school entry, clear safeguarding plans based on parent/professional concerns, and early LEA responsibility for complex cases. The IDP system must be proactive, not reactive—our children deserve better.



# 1. Background

The [Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal \(Wales\) Act 2018](#) replaced the previous Special Educational Needs (SEN) system with a new Additional Learning Needs (ALN) system. This new ALN system was introduced on a phased basis over four years (September 2021 to August 2025).

The previous SEN system in Wales was designed to support learners from Reception (age 4–5) to Year 11 (age 15–16), with some support extending into post-16 education (e.g. sixth form or college) up to age 19. The new ALN system is from age 0-25, bringing together the separate school-age SEN system and post-16 system of Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LDD).

## 1.1. The ALN Code and the Early Years Lead Officer

As required by the 2018 Act, the Welsh Government issued an [Additional Learning Needs Code](#), which was approved by the Senedd in March 2021. The ALN Code outlines requirements and guidance for schools, including maintained nursery schools, further education institutions, local authorities, NHS bodies and others on delivering the ALN system. Local authority funded, non-maintained providers of nursery education are required to have regard to relevant guidance in the Code, in accordance with the local authority's funding arrangements.

### 1.1.1. Duty to consider seeking advice from an educational psychologist

Chapter 11 of the Code provides detail on the “Duties on local authorities in relation to children under compulsory school age who are not at a maintained school in Wales”. It includes a sub-section on a local authority's duty to decide whether a child has ALN, of which paragraph 11.6 says:

*Parents' observations of their child are often crucial to early identification. Local authorities and non-maintained nursery providers should be open and responsive to such expressions of concern and take account of any information provided.*

Chapter 11 goes on to say:

*When deciding whether the child has ALN, the local authority must consider whether to seek advice from an educational psychologist.*

*The authority must seek such advice where it considers that the advice is necessary to determine-*

*(a) the extent or nature of the ALN that the child may have, or (b) the ALP called for by the child's ALN. [Bold our emphasis]*

The Code also says that:

*The advice sought must relate to- (a) the educational, psychological or other features of the case which appear to be relevant to the child's educational needs (including the child's likely future needs), (b) how those features could affect the child's educational needs, and (c) the provision which may be appropriate for the child in light of those features, whether by way of ALP or other types of provision, and any matters affecting the delivery of that provision.*

### **1.1.2. Early Years ALN Lead Officers**

All local authorities are required to have Early Years ALN Lead Officers (EYALNLO) to coordinate arrangements in respect of children under compulsory school age who are not yet in a maintained setting. The local authority functions that the EYALNLO is responsible for coordinating in respect of the ALNLO cohort include:

- deciding whether children have ALN;
- the preparation and maintenance of Individual Development Plans (IDPs) including securing the Additional Learning Provision (ALP) specified in the IDP, and the provision of information about IDPs;
- the review and revision of IDPs;
- the review of ALP arrangements.

An [information toolkit](#), which the Welsh Government issued in November 2025 for parents and carers describes the EYALNLO role as follows:

*The role of an EYALNLO is to work with parents, nurseries, schools, children's services and health professionals to raise awareness of ALN and promote early intervention where necessary,*

*Whether your child goes to a flying start setting, private or voluntary nursery, playgroup, or is at home with you, the EYALNLO co-ordinates the local authority's responsibility to children under compulsory school age. They work with schools and other settings to help identify ALN and make sure the right support is in place.*

Chapter 10 of the [Additional Learning Needs Code](#) provides more information and guidance on the role of the EYALNLO.

Of general relevance may be the National Day Nurseries Association's publications: [The Additional Learning Needs System in Wales for nurseries](#) and [Neurodiversity in the Early Years](#).

## 1.2. Estyn thematic report

Estyn, the education inspectorate, has published two reports reviewing the implementation of the ALN reforms. The [first report](#) was published in September 2024. The [second stage of the review](#) (published December 2024) built on the findings from the first report and considered the implementation of the Act in early years settings, pupil referral units and maintained special schools.

In relation to early years, the second report said:

- Most early years settings and EYALNLOs participating in the review noted improvements in joint working across services for children and their families.
- Nearly all local authorities had developed better joint referral processes, ensuring that emerging needs were identified promptly.
- Many EYALNLOs cited the capacity of colleagues in health services as a challenge particularly regarding the diagnoses of neurodivergence.

## 2. Welsh Government action

In October 2024, in response to evidence and concerns that some parts of the ALN legislative framework are complex and unclear, the [Cabinet Secretary for Education announced](#) a review of the ALN legislative framework. The review considered the clarity, ease and consistency of understanding of the legislative framework to inform policy and legislative solutions on areas of the Act, Regulations and Code that were considered complex.

The [Cabinet Secretary for Education made an Oral statement in the Senedd](#) on 14 October 2025 in which she set out five priorities for the next phase of the review:

- clarifying who and how learners with ALN get support
- ensuring national consistency

- improving support for families
- strengthening multi-agency integration
- advancing bilingual and inclusive education

The Welsh Government also published a [summary of the evidence](#) it had received as well as an [Evaluation of the Additional Learning Needs system: survey of parents and carers](#). In relation to ALN in the early years, there were some positive comments about the role of the Early Years ALNLO enabling stronger partnerships and improved relationships with parents and local authority early years teams. Other comments relating to ALN in the early years included:

- There are practical challenges of identifying ALN and ALP and maintaining IDPs for children under compulsory school age. Concerns were expressed about the need to ‘predict’ a child’s future learning need rather than provide for their current need.
- The Code does not acknowledge that children need opportunities to access early intervention and to evidence its impact before ALN can be considered.
- There is a lack of clarity whether intervention from health-based services, before three years of age, constitutes the need for an IDP.
- Confusion was also expressed around what constitutes ‘education’ for children under compulsory school age and how ‘education’ relates to childcare.
- Local authorities reported challenges to ensure that early years settings are equipped to support children with ALN in a complex landscape of small scale, private settings.

Discussing the Welsh Government’s response to the review and the actions it was taking to improve things, in both [Plenary](#) and the [CYPE Committee](#), the Cabinet Secretary said a professional adviser had been recruited who will focus on improving delivery of ALN in early years. She also said the Welsh Government was developing a suite of resources to better communicate the ALN offer in early years.

In the Welsh Government’s response to this Petition, the Cabinet Secretary for Education says:

*Early Years Additional Learning Needs Lead Officers (EYALNLO) are working successfully with parents and settings to ensure timely and beneficial support for young children with emerging or identified ALN.*

Lynne Neagle MS goes on to say:

*In February 2025, the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing announced a £13.7 million extension to the Neurodivergence Improvement Programme, continuing it until March 2027. (...)*

*The programme is addressing immediate pressures while developing integrated, needs-led services and building a skilled, resilient workforce. This includes support for schools and teaching staff, as well as enhanced advice and support for parents and carers through the National Neurodivergence Team.*

### 3. Welsh Parliament action

The Senedd's Children, Young People and Education Committee (CYPE) has been scrutinising the implementation of the ALN reforms (along with other major reforms to the curriculum) throughout this Senedd. It has done this through a series of 'check-ins' and has carried out four of these. The Committee published an interim report in July 2024 and further scrutinised the Cabinet Secretary on the findings of the Welsh Government's review of the ALN reforms on 23 October 2025.

Over the last few years, the Petitions Committee has considered a number of petitions about ALN:

- P-06-1392 Reform of the additional learning needs Code of Wales 2021
- P-06-1341 Accessible guidance for parents and schools to help develop plans to support children with additional learning needs
- P-06-1342 Fund more specialist school places and staff for children with additional learning needs in Wales
- P-06-1347 Review Additional Learning Needs policies & make compulsory to FULLY train all teachers and TAs in regulation techniques

- [P-06-1406 Financial penalties for Local Education Authorities who do not comply with timeframes for ALN](#)

The Committee considered the petitions together and Members noted that the Cabinet Secretary was already working with campaigners to address concerns. They also noted ongoing work in this area by the CYPE Committee, which is due to report again by the end of the Senedd. The petitions were closed and there was a [Plenary debate on 8 May 2024](#) on the petition in relation to the reform of the additional learning needs Code of Wales 2021. Senedd Research published an [article](#) ahead of that debate.

The Committee also considered [P-06-1499 Stop the use of term 'Universal Provision' as a reason to deny ALN](#) in June 2025. The Committee agreed to keep the petition open while awaiting the Cabinet Secretary's statement and, in the meantime, to refer the petition to the CYPE Committee given its ongoing review of the ALN reforms.

See the transcript of the CYPE Committee's meeting of [23 October](#) (paragraphs 116 – 128) for discussion of the ALN reforms in relation to early years, during its scrutiny of the Cabinet Secretary.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

Lynne Neagle AS/MS  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1532  
Ein cyf/Our ref LN/01127/25

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

17 November 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 29 September in relation to Petition P-06-1532 in relation to early expert input and safeguarding reform for Children with additional learning needs (ALN) in Wales. I would like to apologise for the delay in responding.

Demand for Neurodivergence Diagnosis assessment and support has risen very sharply in recent years as the general awareness of neurodivergent conditions has increased. Early intervention and support for children in their early years is essential and a key aim of the ALN reforms which is in place across the age range 0-25.

Flying Start childcare provides an early intervention approach that allows emerging needs to be met with universal and targeted interventions. Flying Start settings support all children with emerging or ALN.

Our Flying Start childcare expansion has increased the numbers of two-year-olds who can access funded quality childcare. This has created opportunities for children to be supported with emerging needs and Additional Learning Needs prior to them starting early years education at aged 3 years.

Early Years Additional Learning Needs Lead Officers (EYALNLO) are working successfully with parents and settings to ensure timely and beneficial support for young children with emerging or identified ALN.

In February 2025, the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing announced a £13.7 million extension to the Neurodivergence Improvement Programme, continuing it until March 2027. This funding is focused on reducing waiting times, improving diagnostic pathways, and ensuring sustainable support for neurodivergent individuals.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

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The programme is addressing immediate pressures while developing integrated, needs-led services and building a skilled, resilient workforce. This includes support for schools and teaching staff, as well as enhanced advice and support for parents and carers through the National Neurodivergence Team.

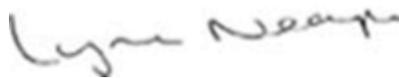
A Neurodivergence Ministerial Advisory Group has been established with representation from education and individuals with lived experience.

In addition to resources already available, work is underway across government to develop a learning programme for the education workforce, covering neurodivergence, child development, and the whole-school approach through modular training.

As I made clear in my Oral Statement to the Senedd of 14 October, I am determined that we have an education system where all learners' needs are understood and responded to with the right support in place. That means clear expectations, confident decision-making, and the right support in place for every learner, in every part of Wales.

I am strengthening national support with new professional advisors to drive quality and consistent delivery in early years, mainstream education and supporting healthcare needs. A new ALN innovation grant will support education settings to strengthen delivery of the ALN system, enhance specialist expertise and share best practice in inclusive education across the mainstream and specialist education sector.

Yours sincerely,



**Lynne Neagle AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education

Dear Members of the Petitions Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Cabinet Secretary's letter dated 17 November 2025 in relation to our petition on Early Expert Input and Safeguarding Reform for Children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) in Wales.

We welcome the Welsh Government's continued engagement with ALN reform. However, we must state clearly and respectfully that neither the Cabinet Secretary's written response, nor the ALN Legislative Framework Review, nor the Oral Statement on the ALN Reforms directly answers the specific safeguarding failure our petition exposes: Children with diagnosed neurodevelopmental conditions can still enter compulsory education with no mandatory Educational Psychology (EP) assessment, no formal safeguarding-based educational risk assessment, and no enforceable professional oversight.

It is important to clarify that our view is that the law is not the problem, but rather the failure lies in how it is applied and the lack of mandatory trigger points to access vital professional input.

The Cabinet Secretary's letter states:

“Early intervention and support for children in their early years is essential and a key aim of the ALN reforms which is in place across the age range 0–25.”

*(Source: Cabinet Secretary for Education – Letter to Chair of the Petitions Committee, 17 November 2025)*

The Welsh Government's Legislative Review also confirms the purpose of the framework:

“The legislative framework aims to improve the planning and delivery of additional learning provision (ALP), through a person-centred approach to identifying needs early, putting in place effective support and monitoring.”

*(Source: Welsh Government – ALN Legislative Framework Review, WG53249, October 2025, Introduction)*

And in the Senedd, the Cabinet Secretary stated:

“That means clear expectations, confident decision-making, and the right support in place for every learner, in every part of Wales.”

*(Source: Cabinet Secretary Oral Statement – Update on the ALN Reforms, Senedd Plenary, Section 4)*

We agree with these principles. Our petition does not argue that the law itself is flawed. It argues that there is no mandatory enforcement point that guarantees these principles are applied when a child with a diagnosed neurodevelopmental condition enters compulsory education.

The Legislative Framework Review explicitly states:

“The definition [of ALN] is open to interpretation leading to variation between settings.”

*(Source: Welsh Government – ALN Legislative Framework Review, WG53249, October 2025, Question a – Definition and Identifying ALN)*

It also confirms:

“Responses also highlighted the challenges of predicting ‘significantly greater difficulty’ for children under compulsory school age.”

*(Source: Welsh Government – ALN Legislative Framework Review, WG53249, October 2025, Question a)*

And further:

“There is a lack of clarity whether intervention from health-based services, before three years of age, constitutes the need for an IDP.”

*(Source: Welsh Government – ALN Legislative Framework Review, WG53249, October 2025, Question g – Children under compulsory school age)*

These admissions confirm exactly what our petition is warning about; that interpretation is currently being used in place of mandatory safeguarding, leaving children with complex profiles at risk of being overlooked.

Under the current framework:

- Early years settings are expected to identify and describe need
- That information is passed to the Local Authority
- The Local Authority **is not** required to assess the child directly
- A decision on whether an IDP is required can be made with no EP input
- A child can then enter school without a statutory educational risk assessment

The Legislative Review explicitly acknowledges:

“One significant issue is the practical challenges of identifying ALN and ALP and maintaining IDPs for children under compulsory school age.”

*(Source: Welsh Government – ALN Legislative Framework Review, WG53249, October 2025, Question g)*

Yet nowhere in the current response is a mandatory expert safeguard introduced nor even recommended, to compensate for this acknowledged limitation. This creates a structural safeguarding gap where children with clinical neurodevelopmental diagnoses have their educational placement decided without input from the only professional qualified to assess educational risk, an Educational Psychologist.

This disproportionately harms Children with Autism and communication disorders as they often:

- Mask distress
- Suppress anxiety
- Appear externally “coping”
- Collapse only once sustained demand is applied

The Legislative Review confirms the system already knows this stage is unreliable:

“Respondents highlighted the challenges of predicting ‘significantly greater difficulty’ for children under compulsory school age.”

*(Source: Welsh Government – ALN Legislative Framework Review, WG53249, October 2025, Question a)*

Yet again, no mandatory expert assessment requirement exists to protect against that known risk. This creates the exact scenario our family experienced; a child who appeared to “manage” in nursery but experienced catastrophic breakdown within weeks of entering a mainstream primary classroom due to undetected educational risk.

The Cabinet Secretary’s letter states:

“Work is underway across government to develop a learning programme for the education workforce, covering neurodivergence, child development, and the whole-school approach through modular training.”

*(Source: Cabinet Secretary for Education – Letter, 17 November 2025)*

“I am strengthening national support with new professional advisors to drive quality and consistent delivery.”

*(Source: Cabinet Secretary for Education – Letter, 17 November 2025)*

While welcome, training **does not** replace statutory expert assessment, and guidance **does not** equal legal safeguarding.

The Legislative Review itself confirms:

“Many respondents highlighted the lack of clarity and consistency between the Code and the Act, leading to confusion among LAs and schools resulting in varying interpretations and inconsistent application of the law.”

*(Source: Welsh Government – ALN Legislative Framework Review, WG53249, October 2025, Observation 1)*

This means that even with training, the system still allows discretionary denial of protection.

If a child **below mandatory school age**, following:

- A Neurodevelopmental diagnosis such as Autism, or
- A diagnosed communication disorder, or
- Any diagnosis of a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial, long-term adverse effect on their ability to do normal day-to-day activities (protected under the Equality Act 2010)

It were mandatory that:

An Educational Psychology assessment must take place before any transition planning to primary education,

Then:

- The child’s true educational risk profile would be identified
- The ALP required would be professionally determined
- The suitability of mainstream vs Learning Resource Base vs Specialist Provision would be objectively assessed
- The school would receive expert guidance instead of relying on parental instruction/generic guidelines
- And misinterpretation based on surface presentation would be removed

This would have prevented our daughter being placed into a mainstream classroom that the school later admitted they were not qualified, experienced, or equipped to make safe determinations about, resulting in autistic burnout, anxiety and school-based trauma less than twelve weeks into Reception.

The Legislative Review reiterates that the ALN framework already requires:

“Early identification, effective support and monitoring.”

*(Source: Welsh Government – ALN Legislative Framework Review, WG53249, October 2025, Introduction)*

The Cabinet Secretary has also committed to:

“Clear expectations, confident decision-making, and the right support in place.”

*(Source: Cabinet Secretary Oral Statement – Update on the ALN Reforms, Senedd Plenary, Section 4)*

Yet without a mandatory EP trigger, these commitments remain aspirational rather than enforceable. At present safeguarding is optional, expert oversight is discretionary and accountability only appears after harm has occurred, through Tribunal, the Ombudsman, or Judicial Review

We are **not** asking for blanket assessments, over-medicalisation or unnecessary intervention. We are asking for one narrow, proportionate safeguard:

**That any child below mandatory school age, with a diagnosed neurodevelopmental condition or disability must receive a mandatory Educational Psychology assessment before transition into compulsory education.**

This is the **minimum** necessary to ensure:

- Decisions are made by suitably qualified professionals
- Complex needs are not filtered through non-clinical interpretation
- Children are protected from avoidable harm and discrimination
- And professionals working with vulnerable children are given the tools and access required to carry out their duties safely and lawfully

The Cabinet Secretary’s letter, the Legislative Framework Review, and the Oral Statement on ALN Reforms:

- All reaffirm the importance of early identification and support
- All acknowledge complexity, inconsistency and confusion in application
- But none introduce a mandatory professional safeguard at the most critical point of risk: transition into compulsory education for children with diagnosed neurodevelopmental conditions or disabilities

We respectfully submit that - If a child has required NHS assessment and diagnosis before the age of five, it is broken logic to suggest that no additional mandatory educational safeguarding or needs assessment is required before determining their first steps into formal education.

Yours faithfully,

**Rachael Walkingshaw-McGuinness**

## Welsh Baccalaureate Funding

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 12 Ionawr 2026  
Petitions Committee | 12 January 2026

**Reference:** RS25/12648

### Introduction

**Petition Number:** P-06-1540

**Petition title:** Remove The Manipulative Funding System Forcing Students To Do Welsh Baccalaureate

**Text of petition:** Ioan Armstrong & Sam Bartlett: We are A-level students at Coleg Sir Gâr, Graig Campus, Llanelli who are starting this petition as a platform for student choice against the forced Welsh Baccalaureate qualification.

Despite claims from the Welsh Government that the qualification isn't compulsory, we discovered a manipulative funding scheme through a FOI Request showing colleges receive £1000+ per student in additional funding through forcing Welsh Baccalaureate onto students.

FOI Request: £3606/student for 3 AS/A Levels without WBQ, £4620/student for 3 AS/A Levels + WBQ.

Senedd Research: "Welsh Bacc is time consuming and students don't see the value of the qualification".

Children's Commissioner for Wales: Criticised the Welsh Government's "target of universal adoption". Making WBQ universal is NOT in the best interests of all young learners.

Further and Higher Education (Governance and Information) (Wales) Act 2014: Ensures quality & accountability in further education, but is undermined due to



funding pressures, and an unclear stance on WBQ being a non-compulsory qualification.

Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Act 2022: Clear legal expectation that institutions deliver education as high-quality as possible. Undermined by colleges being financially punished if students aren't signed up to do WBQ.

WalesOnline have published an article on our campaign.

The text provided above is submitted by the petitioner. The petitions team make every effort to ensure it preserves their authentic voice. This text has not been verified for accuracy, or errors, and may contain unverified opinions or assertions.

Mae'r testun uchod yn cael ei gyflwyno gan y deisebydd. Mae'r tîm deisebau yn gwneud pob ymdrech i sicrhau ei fod yn cadw ei lais dilys. Nid yw'r testun hwn wedi'i wirio am gywirdeb, neu wallau, a gall gynnwys barn neu honiadau heb eu gwirio.

# 1. Background

A [Review of Qualifications for 14-19 year-olds in Wales](#) in 2015 meant the new Welsh BaccaLaureate was introduced for teaching with a policy of ‘universal adoption’. This policy of universal adoption meant the Welsh BaccaLaureate was available to all schools and Further Education (FE) colleges to offer to learners but that it was not compulsory for all learners to study it.

In recent years, a number of changes have been made to the qualification. This includes the Welsh BaccaLaureate, as an aggregated qualification, no longer being available to learners. The last awarding of the Welsh BaccaLaureate will be Summer 2026.

The Welsh Government’s [guidance](#) states that in September 2023, the Advanced Welsh BaccaLaureate was replaced by the Advanced Skills BaccaLaureate Wales which will be awarded from Summer 2025.

However, the Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC) (which was required for those undertaking the Welsh BaccaLaureate) remains as a standalone graded qualification (at GCSE level) and will continue to be available for learners starting Year 10 in September 2025 and September 2026. The SCC will then be replaced by the Skills Suite (as part of the full 14 to 16 qualifications offer) from September 2027.

The Welsh Government’s guidance specifies that the SCC is not compulsory as there are no statutory requirements for learners to undertake any qualification. However, the Welsh Government does suggest the SCC should be offered to all Year 10 learners in schools as it ensures learners have ‘access to a broad and balanced curriculum’ and ‘opportunities to develop their practical skills in real-life situations, ensuring a well-rounded and adaptable skill set’.

Despite wanting all Year 10 learners to be offered the SCC, the Welsh Government acknowledges the SCC may not be the right choice for some learners and therefore schools should be providing opportunities that are in the best interests of their learners and when deciding whether an individual learner can be “exempt from taking the SCC we [the Welsh Government] expect schools to use their professional judgement”.

Similarly, the Welsh Government states:

*The Advanced Skills BaccaLaureate Wales should be offered to all learners aged 16 to 19 on a 2-year course. It will normally be*

*taken alongside other Level 3 qualifications, such as a combination of A levels and (or) vocational qualifications.*

As with the SCC, the Welsh Government states there are no statutory requirements for learners to undertake any qualification and they expect schools and colleges to use professional judgement, giving due consideration to each young person's needs, wellbeing and ability to reach their full potential.

Note, the text of the petition as well as the [WalesOnline](#) article referred to within the petition outlines the petitioners' acknowledgement that the Welsh Government have previously stated the Welsh Baccalaureate is not compulsory.

Instead, the petitioners claim that the Welsh Government effectively makes the Welsh Baccalaureate compulsory due to a "manipulative funding scheme", as per the text of the petition. The petitioners outline information from a Freedom of Information request which they suggest evidences this:

*FOI Request: £3606/student for 3 AS/A Levels without WBQ,  
£4620/student for 3 AS/A Levels + WBQ.*

**This example is not an exact comparison between learners studying the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification and those who do not.** The example provided by the petitioners compares a learner studying for 3 AS/ A levels with a learner studying 3 AS/ A levels as well as the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification (meaning the learner is studying for 4 qualifications). **See Section 2 below for a closer comparison provided by the Cabinet Secretary for Education.**

In relation to the text of this petition, the [WalesOnline](#) article highlighted that the petitioners were informed through this Freedom of Information request that Coleg Sir Gar received more than £360,000 annually for running the Welsh Baccalaureate.

While Welsh Government has stated there are no statutory requirements for learners to undertake any qualification, there are a number of institutions which require participation in the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales or suggest all learners will undertake the qualification. These include:

- [Cardiff and Vale College](#)
- [Coleg Cambria](#)
- [Coleg Gwent](#)
- [Coleg y Cymoedd](#)

- St. Davids's Catholic Sixth Form College

In addition to Further Education colleges making the qualification compulsory to study, a previous research briefing regarding a petition in 2020 noted that some individual schools have made it compulsory for their students.

## 2. Welsh Government action

The Welsh Government's response to this petition states:

*There is no bespoke funding for the Advanced Skills BaccaLaureate Wales (ASBW), and schools and colleges are not financially incentivised to promote uptake of the course...this means that schools and colleges receive the same level of funding for learners studying 3 A levels and the ASBW, as they do for a learner studying 4 A levels.*

This explanation from the Cabinet Secretary for Education provides a closer comparison of a learner studying the qualification compared to a learner without the qualification than that provided within the text of the petition.

Further, the Cabinet Secretary for Education highlighted the Welsh Government is currently developing statutory guidance for the funding and regulatory body, Medr, on 16-19 Local Curricula. It is suggested this guidance will emphasise the importance of students having access to a wide range of courses of study in their post-16 education and will describe the role of the Advanced Skills BaccaLaureate within local curricula.

A Freedom of Information request was previously submitted to the Welsh Government in February 2025 regarding funding given to the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Coleg Sir Gâr/ Coleg Ceredigion in relation to the endorsement of the Advanced Skills BaccaLaureate Wales as a compulsory option in admission to A levels at the college. The Welsh Government suggested it did not hold the information being requested but this may lie with Medr.

## 3. Welsh Parliament action

In April 2019, the Children, Young People and Education (CYPE) Committee published a report of its inquiry on the status of the Welsh BaccaLaureate qualification. The report highlighted concerns surrounding confusion on whether

the Welsh BaccaLaureate was compulsory in addition to the Welsh Government's universal adoption policy.

Specifically, some stakeholders such as Undeb Cenedlaethol Athrawon Cymru reported concerns about inconsistencies in delivering the universal adoption policy citing an example where although the Welsh Government expects universal adoption, it does not itself support it. The Association of College and School Leaders Cymru said:

*We have come across cases of parents who have contacted the Welsh Government and demanded to know why the Welsh Bacc was compulsory, to be told by the Welsh Government officials, 'It's not. [...] And that really cuts the ground under the feet of heads who are trying to do something they think is a really important part of the Welsh education scene.*

In response to the CYPE Committee's report, the Welsh Government accepted a recommendation on providing more guidance on the Welsh BaccaLaureate.

Though this recommendation was accepted in 2019, the term 'universal adoption' no longer appears in the guidance for the Welsh BaccaLaureate, Skills Challenge Certificate and Advanced Skills BaccaLaureate Wales. However, the term is used within the Welsh Government's Integrated Impact Assessment on the 'Delivery of the Skills Challenge Certificate as part of the Welsh BaccaLaureate' (also from 2019).

During the CYPE Committee inquiry, when asked to clarify the Welsh Government's position on universal adoption, the then Minister for Education, Kirsty Williams said that all institutions are expected to be in a position to deliver the Welsh BaccaLaureate as it should be an entitlement to all Welsh students and it should be considered "the norm" to take it. However, she recognised the need for flexibility in the system, suggesting there should be evidence as to why any learner is not studying the Welsh BaccaLaureate.

The Committee's report also highlighted that some stakeholders cited other skills-based training which was potentially preferable to the Welsh BaccaLaureate. The then Chair of ColegauCymru and Chief Executive Officer of Group Llandrillo Menai added that funding drives behaviours:

*...although we always try and put the learner first, funding does drive behaviours, and the Welsh Bacc is fundable; Career Ready isn't. So, yes, there are options out there, but because we're so*

*focussed on qualifications and we will only fund qualifications, that drives certain behaviours.*

More recently, in Plenary on 25 October 2023, when discussing the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales, Jeremy Miles (then Minister for Education and the Welsh Language) stated that the qualification “will be taken by the majority of 16-18 year-old A-level learners”.

The Welsh Baccalaureate has also appeared as the subject of written questions to the Cabinet Secretary for Education. In January 2025, Andrew RT Davies submitted a written question asking how many Russell Group universities recognise the Welsh Baccalaureate. In response, the Cabinet Secretary for Education stated all Russell Group universities value the integral skills that learners develop through the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales though the qualifications that universities include and accept within their offers differ by course and by institution, and will not include the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales in all cases.

The Petitions Committee has considered a number of petitions relating to the Welsh Baccalaureate in recent years:

- Remove compulsory Welsh Bac for students looking to go to University (2020)
  - The petition was closed as part of a review of all petitions currently under consideration at the Petitions Committee’s final meeting of the Fifth Senedd, in light of the upcoming election and the consideration given to this issue to date.
- Make Welsh universities consider the Welsh Baccalaureate as an A Level (2020)
  - In light of the Minister for Education’s position that it is for universities to establish the entry requirements for their courses, and noting the work underway respond to recommendations made previously by the CYPE Committee, the Committee agreed that there is little further that the Committee could achieve. The Committee agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner for raising the issue.
- Remove the compulsory aspect of Welsh Baccalaureate (2019)

- The Committee considered correspondence from the WJEC and agreed to close the petition in light of the removal of the specific exercise referred to in the petition, the scrutiny of the Welsh Baccalaureate very recently carried out by the CYPE Committee, and the Minister's commitment to publish updated guidance on the Baccalaureate and its delivery.
- Remove the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (2016)
  - The committee considered correspondence on the petitions and agreed to close the petition given that it is not possible to identify how to take the petition forward in the absence of contact with the petitioner, and given the categorical commitment to the Welsh Baccalaureate previously communicated by the Welsh Government.

In addition to these petitions, there have been a number of rejected petitions relating to the Welsh Baccalaureate over recent years:

- Welsh Baccalaureate Subject for Higher Education Pupils and how it should be Non-Compulsory (2024) [Rejected as there was already a petition about this issue]
- Allow Welsh Baccalaureate to be an optional course for further education students (2024) [Rejected due to not collecting enough signatures]
- Make Welsh Baccalaureate to be an optional course for further education students (2024) [Rejected due to the petition being covered by Government or Senedd action already]
- Remove the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification from all secondary and higher education schools (2022) [Rejected due to not collecting enough signatures]
- Abolish the compulsory advanced welsh baccalaureate (2021) [Rejected as the Petitions Committee had considered a petition on this issue within the previous year]
- Get rid of Welsh baccalaureate as a compulsory subject (2021) [Rejected as the Petitions Committee had considered a petition on this issue within the previous year]

- Stop the Welsh Baccalaureate A-level from being compulsory in Welsh 6<sup>th</sup> form colleges (2021) [Rejected as the Petitions Committee had considered a petition on this issue within the previous year]

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1540  
Ein cyf/Our ref LN/01187/25

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

11 November 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 6 October, regarding Petition P-06-1540: Remove The Manipulative Funding System Forcing Students To Do Welsh Baccalaureate.

In Wales, there are no statutory requirements for learners to undertake any qualification. The Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales (ASBW) is a Level 3 qualification, equivalent to an A Level, that helps learners to develop and apply key skills that are valued by both universities and employers. We encourage schools and colleges to offer the qualification to all their learners aged 16 to 19 on a 2-year course, alongside other Level 3 qualifications.

Schools and colleges can set their own curriculum offers and should provide opportunities which are in the best interests of their learners. Institutions must use their professional judgement in determining which learners should be undertaking the ASBW, giving due consideration to each young person's needs, wellbeing and future pathways.

Since August 2024, mainstream funding for school sixth forms and colleges has been provided by Medr, the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research. The funding is allocated on the same basis in both schools and colleges, who are provided with the funds required to cover the costs of the learning programmes they offer. There is no bespoke funding for the ASBW, and schools and colleges are not financially incentivised to promote uptake of this course. Within 16-19 programmes of learning, the ASBW is funded within General Education programmes consistent with how A Level or BTEC Vocational subjects are funded, as a direct equivalent. The funding at Programme level is based on all qualifications that learners undertake during the academic year, in recognition of the costs of delivery each of these involve for providers. This means that schools and colleges receive the same level of funding for learners studying 3 A levels and the ASBW, as they do for a learner studying 4 A levels.

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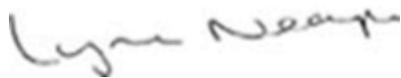
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

In addition to the skills that learners undertaking the ASBW develop, there are also benefits in achieving this qualification when applying for work and for university. The majority of universities attended by Welsh learners accept the ASBW as a direct equivalent to an A Level. Those universities and faculties that have a strict policy of only making entry offers based on A level grades still value the skills and experience the ASBW provides, and which can provide strong evidence within personal statements and interviews.

We are currently developing statutory guidance for Medr on 16-19 Local Curricula. This will continue to emphasise the importance of students having access to a wide range of courses of study in their post-16 education and will describe the role of the ASBW within local curricula.

Yours sincerely,



**Lynne Neagle AS/MS**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education

**P-06-1540 Remove The Manipulative Funding System Forcing Students To Do Welsh Baccalaureate - Petitioner to Committee, 06 December 2025**

Dear Committee,

Thank you for inviting my comments on the Cabinet Secretary for Education's response to my petition, "*Remove The Manipulative Funding System Forcing Students To Do Welsh Baccalaureate*" (P-06-1540).

I am grateful that the Committee is considering this issue seriously. But, I am deeply concerned that the Cabinet Secretary's letter does NOT accurately reflect what is happening in colleges across Wales. Lynne Neagle MS/AS has failed to engage with the evidence and FOI data I have provided, and in several places is directly contradicted by my college's own statements about funding.

My thoughts on the Cabinet Secretary's document, is that I am disappointed. The letter repeats the Welsh Government's public position, but it does not address the central issue of my petition, which is in practice, the funding model creates a powerful financial incentive for colleges to make Welsh Baccalaureate compulsory, even though it is officially "not compulsory". Myself, and thousands of students across Wales can not drop it due to the funding incentive which the Cabinet Secretary is denying, as she says that there is "no bespoke funding for the ASBW, and schools and colleges are not financially incentivised to promote uptake of this course." This is not consistent with FOI data from Coleg Sir Gâr, which shows a clear funding uplift when students are enrolled on Welsh Bacc/ASBW, alongside AS/A levels. We do not have student choice because of the Welsh Government's funding incentive. Whether the qualification is funded as a separate A-level sized qualification, then enrolling learners on that qualification obviously increases funding compared to the 3 A-levels without it. That is a financial incentive, whether Lynne Neagle MS labels it as "bespoke" or not. We can not drop the subject due to the needed funding the college receives.

In other words, the letter answers a question I didn't ask. I never asked if there was some ring-fenced pot of money only labelled ASBW. However, Lynne Neagle MS avoided the question I did ask - which was asking whether the funding formula gives providers more money per learner when they make ASBW compulsory, which they do. The FOI my friend who I made the petition with, literally shows that Coleg Sir Gâr receives £365,040 in additional funding from mandating the qualification. This covers the pay of 7 lecturers, who the college wouldn't be able to afford to pay if the college did not enforce this "non-compulsory" qualification. It's clear why colleges across Wales mandate it. The Welsh Government takes away funding which they so very much need if they decide not to mandate this "optional" subject.

The response does not adequately address the issues I raised, but it has managed to ignore the reality on the ground in my college, address any FOI information, or mention any of my legal/wellbeing concerns I raised. I have been explicitly told by my college that Welsh

Baccalaureate can NOT be made optional due to funding, directly contradicting the Cabinet Secretary's claim that schools and colleges aren't financially incentivised to promote uptake. I want to stress again that my college told me I could only drop Welsh Bacc if I made a representation on medical/exceptional grounds, with evidence, because otherwise the college would lose funding. This isn't hypothetical, it is the real explanation I was given when I tried to exercise the "non-compulsory" status I was told existed. So, the Welsh Government, and the Cabinet Secretary herself has told and is telling learners that the subject is not compulsory and institutions use professional judgement, while institutions tell learners something very different. As the Student Union President for Coleg Sir Gâr and Coleg Ceredigion, being aware of the funding the college receives, puts the college in an impossible position in regards to making the subject impossible. It's unaffordable. The response simply pretends this contradiction doesn't exist. At the very least, the Cabinet Secretary should have acknowledged that the ASBW is funded as a separate A-level-equivalent qualification at post-16 education, therefore there is more funding more a programme of 3 A-levels & ASBW than for 3 A-levels only, and that colleges with tight budgets will understandably feel under financial pressure to maximise that income. Unfortunately, the Cabinet Secretary has not engaged with this logic at all.

All of my legal/wellbeing concerns were ignored and not mentioned in the Cabinet Secretary's letter. There is no mention, let alone explanation of how a funding regime that effectively coerces universal participation in a non-statutory qualification can be reconciled with commitment to learner wellbeing and mental health, the requirement to put learners' interests first, and the right of young people to have their views taken seriously in decisions affecting them. Over 1100 people, the majority of whom being students, signed the petition and shared these concerns. Similarly, it does not address the repeated concerns raised by the Children's Commissioner and Senedd Research about the negative impact on wellbeing and workload when Welsh Baccalaureate is treated as universal.

I am tired of the Welsh Government being able to get away with a poor response in regards to the qualification being optional, while indirectly forcing colleges to mandate it for funding purposes. This view is shared with students across Wales.

I would be very grateful if the Committee could seek clear answers to the following points:

Can Medr and/or the Welsh Government provide a transparent example showing the funding difference for 3 A-levels only, 3 A-levels + ASBW, and 4 A-levels without ASBW?

How can the Cabinet Secretary maintain that there is no financial incentive to maximise the uptake of the ASBW, when FOI data shows Coleg Sir Gâr receives £365,040 in additional funding for mandating the subject, and according other FOI data, Coleg Gwent receives over £600,000 in additional funding from mandating ASBW?

Has the Welsh Government carried out any specific assessment of the mental health and workload impact of effectively mandatory Welsh Bacc / ASBW at post-16, particularly for

students from low-income backgrounds, young carers, and learners with existing mental health conditions? If such an assessment exists, can it be shared with the Committee? If it does not exist, how is this compatible with obligations under the Well-being of Future Generations Act?

In light of the Children's Commissioner's concerns about universal Welsh Bacc and the need to respect learner choice, how does the Welsh Government justify a system where colleges tell learners they cannot drop the qualification because of funding?

I would also like the Committee to be aware that my criticism is not of my college. Coleg Sir Gâr is, in many ways, trying to do the best it can for learners in a very difficult financial environment, and I am grateful of the college's openness with myself over why I, and many other students cannot drop the qualification. My criticism is of a national funding regime which publicly insists Welsh Bacc/ASBW is "not compulsory", and privately makes it financially very risky for providers to treat it as genuinely optional.

FOI data from Coleg Gwent shows that it also claimed a substantial sum of over £600,000 a year from compulsory Welsh Bacc participation. This shows that the pattern at Coleg Sir Gâr is NOT an isolated anomaly, but a symptom of the wider funding model.

The Senedd petition by Sam and myself summarises our FOI findings and describes the system as a "manipulative funding scheme" noting a per-student uplift of over £1000, when Welsh Bacc is enforced at post-16 education.

Thank you again for considering Sam and I's petition. We would be very willing to provide the Committee with copies of relevant FOI responses and correspondence if that would assist your work.

Yours sincerely,  
Ioan Armstrong

# P-06-1562 Improve breast screening uptake for women in Wales

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 12 Ionawr 2026  
Petitions Committee | 12 January 2026

**Reference:** RS25/12881

## Introduction

Petition Number: P-06-1562

Petition title: Improve breast screening uptake for women in Wales

Text of petition:

Breast screening saves lives from breast cancer. Yet targets for women screened in Wales are being missed. In 2022-23, only 69.5% of women invited for screening attended their appointment - below the 70% minimum standard and the 80% target.

If the 80% target was met, 15,871 more women would have been screened and an estimated 154 more breast cancers detected. Welsh Government must support Public Health Wales and Breast Test Wales to improve breast screening uptake, and address inequalities.

Welsh Government should commit to improving breast screening uptake in Wales to consistently achieve the 70% minimum standard for uptake and reach the 80% target.



Welsh Government should also commit to addressing inequalities in access to breast screening, which impact minority ethnic communities, those of socio-economic disadvantage and underserved groups. Public Health Wales' Screening Equity Strategy 2022-25 ends this year.

To improve uptake and address inequalities, Welsh Government should support, resource and enable Breast Test Wales and Public Health Wales to:

- Deliver a breast screening awareness campaign, focusing on low-uptake areas and communities
- Provide more convenient, flexible routes into breast screening services, including multiple options to arrange appointments
- Improve data reporting and accountability by regularly publishing uptake data, including for minority ethnic and underserved groups

These actions should be included in a new Screening Equity Strategy.

The text provided above is submitted by the petitioner. The petitions team make every effort to ensure it preserves their authentic voice. This text has not been verified for accuracy, or errors, and may contain unverified opinions or assertions.

Mae'r testun uchod yn cael ei gyflwyno gan y deisebydd. Mae'r tîm deisebau yn gwneud pob ymdrech i sicrhau ei fod yn cadw ei lais dilys. Nid yw'r testun hwn wedi'i wirio am gywirdeb, neu wallau, a gall gynnwys barn neu honiadau heb eu gwirio.

# 1. Background

Breast Test Wales, run by Public Health Wales (PHW), is the national programme for breast cancer screening. It aims to reduce deaths from breast cancer through early detection.

Screening involves a mammogram (an X-ray of the breasts). If any abnormalities are detected, the person is invited to an assessment clinic for further tests.

- Women aged 50 to 70 who are registered with a GP in Wales are invited for breast screening every three years.
- Those over 70 are not routinely invited but can request an appointment from Breast Test Wales.
- Screening is not offered to people under 50 because evidence shows the programme mainly benefits those over 50. Anyone with symptoms or concerns about their family history should speak to their doctor.

Transgender and non-binary people may also need breast screening. Whether they receive an automatic invitation depends on how their gender is recorded with their GP. If they are not invited, they can ask their GP or contact the screening programme to be included.

Eligible individuals are offered screening at either a local mobile unit or at one of the centres in Llandudno, Wrexham, Swansea, or Cardiff.

## **Screening activity and uptake**

According to the latest Breast Test Wales annual report, the number of screening invitations increased in 2022–23 to address pandemic-related delays. While meeting uptake and coverage standards remained challenging, cancer detection rates showed improvement.

In 2023–24, Breast Test Wales focused on improving timeliness, reducing waits for assessment clinics, and restoring the 36-month screening cycle.

Public Health Wales' inequity report (December 2024) showed that uptake in 2021–22 was 70%, meeting the national standard. However, rates varied by health board - from 68.1% in Cwm Taf Morgannwg to 72.5% in Swansea Bay - and by local authority, with Anglesey as low as 40%. Significant disparities remain, linked to geography and deprivation, despite recovery efforts that restored invitation numbers after COVID.

## 2. Welsh Government action

In its response to the Petitions Committee, the Welsh Government acknowledges concerns about breast screening uptake, which varies by region, age, and socioeconomic background. It cites barriers including lack of awareness, anxiety, cultural and language issues, access challenges, and misinformation.

To improve uptake, the Welsh Government says it is working with PHW on targeted outreach in low-uptake areas, including training community champions, engaging community groups, and delivering awareness campaigns. The response highlights initiatives such as a 'what to expect' video for first-time attendees, social media campaigns, GP information packs, and flexible mobile screening units located in accessible sites. While online booking is not yet available, the Welsh Government indicates this may be considered in future. It also notes that PHW is addressing delays in data reporting and developing the next Screening Equity Strategy, which will include factors such as ethnicity.

## 3. Welsh Parliament action

There was no committee work on breast screening during the Sixth Senedd, although cervical screening was considered in the Health and Social Care Committee's [report on gynaecological cancers](#).

The issue has been raised through several Written Questions, including:

- [WQ95761](#) (February 2025): The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care confirmed that PHW and Breast Test Wales regularly review and implement measures to improve uptake, addressing barriers through its Screening Engagement Team.
- [WQ96723](#) (June 2025): The Cabinet Secretary said that PHW plans to publish a refreshed Screening Equity Strategy in 2025-26 to tackle inequalities, working with health boards and third-sector partners. (At the time of writing, this strategy has not been published).

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1562  
Ein cyf/Our ref JMHSC/02744/25

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair  
Petitions Committee

petitions@senedd.wales

20 November 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 21 October about **Petition P-06-1562 Improve breast screening uptake for women in Wales.**

Recent calls to improve breast screening uptake reflect ongoing concerns about disparities in participation, the impact of the pandemic on screening services, and the need to ensure equitable access and outcomes for all eligible women.

Uptake rates can vary across regions, age groups, and socioeconomic backgrounds. The reasons women choose not to take up the offer of breast screening are complex. Factors may include lack of awareness, fear or anxiety about the screening process and results, cultural and language barriers, access issues, and the impact of misinformation.

We are committed to maximising breast screening uptake across all communities, recognising its vital role in early cancer detection and improved outcomes. However, it is a matter of personal choice whether a woman takes up the offer of screening, and it is important that women are provided with accurate information to support them in making that choice.

The uptake standard for the breast screening programme in Wales is 70%. The uptake for the programme in Wales is currently just under this at 69.6%.

I note the petition specifically asks the Welsh Government to support, resource and enable Breast Test Wales and Public Health Wales (PHW) to deliver a breast screening awareness campaign, focusing on low uptake areas and communities. The Welsh Government works closely with PHW to understand the barriers and opportunities for improving access to screening. Breast screening uptake is lowest in the most deprived communities. The screening programme works to address inequalities in uptake by supporting targeted outreach in communities where participation has historically been lower. This includes

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

training community champions so community leaders can act as trusted voices within their communities to support people taking up their screening offer. The PHW screening engagement team works directly with community groups to identify barriers and provide support and resources to address any concerns.

Uptake is lower in the younger age groups, which aligns to uptake being lower in those who are invited to screening for the first time. To address concerns from participants who are attending screening for the first time and are anxious about what will happen during their appointment, a breast screening pathway video *Breast Screening – What to Expect* has been developed to help people understand what breast screening is and why it is important. PHW has recently delivered a social media campaign for breast screening awareness month, which included targeted communication for first-time invitees. The reach and impact of this will be reviewed to inform other targeted awareness work. The programme is also working closely with GP practices by providing information packs with information and posters to raise awareness and encourage women to take up their screening offer.

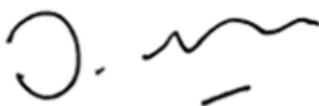
With regards to the provision of more convenient, flexible routes into breast screening services, breast screening in Wales is delivered via 11 mobile units, which rotate across more than 100 locations on a three-year cycle. Site selection is specifically guided by accessibility for the local population, considering travel distance, available facilities, and public transport links. Mobile units are located within easily accessible locations, such as supermarkets or community sites to reduce barriers in attendance. The mobile units have lifts available for accessibility and the service can offer extended appointment times if additional support is needed to attend. Women with communication needs can be supported with interpreters so their appointment can be conducted in their community language. Invitations are sent out via post to the person's registered address, and they can contact the centre to rearrange the appointment if the offered appointment is not suitable. Appointments are offered across the working week, starting as early as 8am on some sites, and some Saturday appointments are provided.

It is not currently possible to offer online appointment booking due to the constraints of the current screening information system, however, there may be opportunity to offer this in the future.

With regards to the point about data reporting, there has been a delay in data reporting across all the screening programmes and PHW is working to ensure data is published on a timelier basis. The Breast Screening Annual Statistical Report 2022-23 has been published and data for the 2023-24 report is in preparation. Scoping work is in progress to include additional determinants of screening uptake, such as ethnicity, within future iterations of the Screening Inequity Report.

As the petition mentions, the current Screening Equity Strategy is coming to an end. PHW is currently developing the next version of the strategy and will be holding a workshop to inform this later this month where input from stakeholders will be welcomed.

Yours sincerely,



**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol  
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

## **Breast Cancer Now response to Cabinet Secretary letter to Senedd Petitions Committee**

### **What are our thoughts on the Cabinet Secretary's response?**

We welcome the response by the Cabinet Secretary, which acknowledges many of the key issues facing breast screening in Wales, along with the actions in place by Public Health Wales and Breast Test Wales to address this. However, the Cabinet Secretary's response highlights that the 70% minimum standard is still not being met in Wales, and actions and future plans need to be more ambitious so Wales can meet this standard and aim for the 80% target. Further clarity is needed from Welsh Government about how it will support BTW and PHW to achieve this.

### **Does the Cabinet Secretary's response adequately address the issues that were raised?**

The response from the Cabinet Secretary addresses many of the issues outlined in the petition, including the work being undertaken by BTW and PHW. However, the Cabinet Secretary's response underscores the need for further work to be undertaken to improve uptake and address inequalities, and for the calls outlined in the petition to be actioned. We believe the Petitions Committee has a valuable role to play in achieving this.

#### Performance

In Wales, as with other UK nations, the minimum standard for breast screening uptake is 70%, with the target set at 80%. In 2022/2023 uptake was 69.5%. This shows that the current uptake in Wales has still not reached the 70% minimum standard. The minimum standard is achievable, the latest uptake data across the UK nations shows England at 70%, Northern Ireland at 74.3% and Scotland at 75.6%.

#### Pandemic

The Cabinet Secretary noted the impact of the pandemic on breast screening services. However, breast screening has recovered, for example round length, the screening invitations issued within 36 months of previous appointments, returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2022-23.

However, breast screening uptake, the percentage of eligible women who attend their routine mammogram invitation within six months, was declining before the pandemic. In 2011/12 the uptake was 73.2% but there has been an overall decline since, and it has not reached the minimum standard since 2016/17, apart from 2021/22, when many fewer women were invited for screening due to the pandemic.

#### Deliver a breast screening awareness campaign, focusing on low-uptake areas and communities

The Cabinet Secretary rightly identified that work needs to address concerns from participants who are attending screening for the first time and are anxious about what will happen during their appointment.

As the Cabinet Secretary outlines, BTW and PHW have developed online tools including a breast screening pathway video, *Breast Screening – What to Expect*, in addition to social media posts during breast cancer awareness month. These resources are welcome; however, they are not equivalent to a national breast screening awareness campaign. These resources are only being shared during one awareness month and otherwise are hosted on BTW website, meaning they are not utilised to target low-uptake areas and communities and reach underserved groups.

Earlier this year, NHS England launched its screening awareness campaign. Wales could build on the learning from this campaign, including how best to reach low-uptake areas and communities. A breast screening campaign would be in line with PHW's current Screening Equity Strategy, which outlines that it would "develop and support evidence-based national awareness campaigns such as #LoveYourCervix".

Provide more convenient, flexible routes into breast screening services, including multiple options to arrange appointments

We welcome the Cabinet Secretary outlining how Wales' breast screening programme is working to improve accessibility, with 11 mobile units, supported with interpreters, ability to rearrange the appointment, with early and Saturday appointments. However, the inability of screening services to access data on communication needs at the point that the first invitations are sent out via post presents a barrier to first time invitees who may have additional communication needs.

Wales' breast screening programme needs to be more ambitious to create more convenient, flexible routes, such as piloting providing multiple options to arrange appointments, such as walk in clinics and same day booking. Our Building a truly accessible, equal, and fair breast screening programme – A consensus statement on health inequalities within breast screening, sets out 12 recommendations that would remove barriers to entry for screening and improve access across all underserved groups. The Cabinet Secretary outlined that it is not currently possible to offer online appointment booking, but noted the opportunity to offer this in the future. For this to be achieved, BTW will need investment in its IT systems to be able to handle appointment booking, and share information with screening units.

Improve data reporting and accountability by regularly publishing uptake data, including for minority ethnic and underserved groups

The Cabinet Secretary acknowledges the delay in data reporting, and the need for timely data. We welcome the upcoming 2023-24 annual report which is in preparation. However, Welsh Government previously stated, in answer to the Wales Cancer Alliance that this data would be published by the end of summer 2025. In addition, this annual report will be published a year after England's report covering the same time period, and around the same time as England's 2024-25 data is published. Timely annual statistical reporting, in line with the timescale of other UK nations, increases transparency, and accountability within Wales' breast screening programme, and supports evidence-based decision making and long-term planning.

We welcome that scoping work is in progress to include additional determinants of screening uptake, such as ethnicity, within future iterations of the Screening Inequity Report. This is vital as the 2022-25 Equity and Screening Strategy commitment to improve data collection to monitor uptake by minority ethnic communities and other underserved groups is currently unfulfilled. We recommend in addition to ethnicity other determinants included are disability, deprivation, religion, gender and sexual orientation. This data also needs to be included within the annual statistical reporting of the breast screening programme. These insights should be used to evaluate and capture the value of different interventions designed to reduce inequalities in uptake.

### **Further questions in response**

- **Question:** How will Welsh Government support, resource and enable Breast Test Wales and Public Health Wales to meet the 70% minimum standard and the 80% target and deliver commitments within its new Screening Equity Strategy?
- **Question:** What engagement has Welsh Government had with Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England about England's breast screening campaign?
- **Question:** The Cabinet Secretary noted that the current Screening Equity Strategy is coming to an end, and developing the next version of the strategy:
  - When will the next Screening Equity Strategy be published?
  - How are women of screening age and underserved groups being involved in the development of the strategy?

### **Additional Information**

In January 2025, Audit Wales' report, Cancer Services in Wales, noted opportunities to increase breast screening uptake, and recommended more data is published on waiting times for diagnosis and treatment for patients referred into the cancer pathway from breast screening.

Our blueprint for transforming breast screening in Wales (attached) outlines the challenges faced by Wales's breast screening programme. Services are understaffed and overstretched. Waiting times for screening results are long, and outdated, siloed IT systems mean that innovations to make screening more efficient struggle to get rolled out. The Blueprint recommends how breast screening can be prioritised to make sure that the breast screening programme can continue being a powerful, cost-effective tool for early diagnosis, by:

1. Providing convenient, flexible and equitable access to screening
2. Maximising the efficiency of the breast screening programme
3. Making sure the breast screening programme has the resources it needs to succeed
4. Increasing data reporting, transparency, and accountability within the screening programme
5. Preparing to adapt to future demands and implement new innovations

[Our consensus statement on health inequalities within breast screening](#) outlines our recommendations on how breast screening providers can build a truly accessible, equal, and fair breast screening programme. These include:

#### Listening

- Integrate relevant existing information within people's health records, including reasonable adjustments and communication needs,
- Establish a process of asking for and noting support needs, or reasonable adjustments as part of the booking process
- Proactively ask groups who do not engage with screening to share their concerns and work to counter any myths or misconceptions

#### Enabling

- Offer routes into screening that do not depend on primary care records for eligible groups that are frequently left off automatically generated screening lists
- Provide all screening information and resources in the full range of accessible formats and languages,
- Create more flexible ways for people who have been invited to get screened that fit with their lives and responsibilities
- Require robust collection and assessment of equity data by services, and use insights to evaluate and capture the value of different interventions.

#### Embedding

- Work with underserved groups to inform the design of screening processes and services, so the system is built with them and their needs in mind.
- Make breast screening a standard issue for relevant healthcare professionals to routinely raise when they come into contact with someone eligible
- Put in place clear expectations and standards for all services delivering breast screening to meet around inclusivity, and set out mechanisms for accountability to enforce these standards.
- Commit to a process of consistent, ongoing engagement with communities to establish breast screening as a visible and valuable routine service within underserved groups

# Agenda Item 3.1

## **P-05-1456 I demand a full public enquiry into the closure of Welsh Air Ambulance bases in mid and North Wales**

This petition was submitted by Karl Ciz, having collected a total of 10,426 signatures.

### **Text of Petition:**

Recent announcement by Welsh Air Ambulance to close two bases and centralise its operations leaves whole swathes of Mid and Northwest Wales with inferior coverage. I believe the public need, and public opinion on the matter has not been listened to, and appeal to Welsh Government to intervene.

A full public enquiry should be launched.

### **Additional details:**

Many of us feel our rights to Air Ambulance coverage will be eroded, and especially those of us in the mid and Northwest of Wales where the distances to nearest Accident and Emergency facilities are often very distant. This is a lifeline for many of us and it must not be removed without a full public enquiry.

### **Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Dwyfor Meirionnydd
- Mid and West Wales

**P-06-1456 I demand a full public enquiry into the closure of Welsh Air Ambulance bases in mid and North Wales - Correspondence from Russell George MS to the Committee, 27 November 2025**

Dear Carolyn,

I am writing in regard to this week's Plenary debate - Debate on petition P-05-1456: I demand a full public enquiry into the closure of Welsh Air Ambulance bases in mid and North Wales concerning the proposed closure of the Welshpool and Caernarfon air ambulance bases, and to reiterate the strength of public feeling on this issue. Tens of thousands of residents from mid and north Wales have made their concerns clear, and the debate again highlighted the potential risk to life that these changes would present.

As I set out during the debate, the decision taken by the JCC has generated significant anxiety, particularly in rural communities where timely access to emergency care can be the determining factor between life and death. This concern has only been deepened by the lack of clarity surrounding the so-called "mitigation measures", including the additional Rapid Response Vehicles that were promised.

I am therefore asking the Committee to set out what steps it now intends to take to hold both the Welsh Government and NHS Wales to account on the commitments made—that no bases would close until the Rapid Response Vehicles are fully in place and operational. Public trust is already fragile, particularly given the absence of detailed information on these commitments, and it is essential that the assurances previously given are not allowed to lapse without appropriate scrutiny.

Given the cross-party concern, the opposition from both Powys and Betsi Cadwaladr health boards, and the overwhelmingly clear views of the public and clinicians alike, it is vital that this issue receives continued and robust parliamentary oversight. I would therefore be grateful if the Committee could confirm how it intends to progress this petition, including any planned evidence sessions, correspondence, or recommendations to the Welsh Government.

Thank you for your continued work on this important matter. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Russell

## Agenda Item 3.2

### **P-06-1491 We demand a fair deal for residents affected by the Arbed and CESP scheme**

This petition was submitted by Rhiannon Goodall, having collected a total of 333 signatures.

#### **Text of petition:**

In September 2012, residents in Caerau and other areas in Wales signed up to an energy efficiency scheme run by both UK and Welsh Governments.

The scheme provided internal and external wall insulation to houses involved and since the installation of the insulation, participant houses have suffered from damp and mould. This in turn has drained residents finances and negatively affected residents' mental health.

We entered these schemes in good faith, now we want that good faith returned in kind.

#### **Additional information:**

Involved in the works were internal and external insulation, new boilers, vents on the properties and rendering.

Since the works have been done, residents have had to live with extreme damp and mould. This has led to residents paying for work to put things right, such as paying for new kitchens, carpets, new paint, new blinds. This has been an ongoing issue for over a decade now. Some residents have unfortunately passed away having not seen these issues put right. Below are links to news stories that give further information:

<https://oggybloggyogwr.com/2021/11/the-caerau-insulation-scandal-a-timeline-of-shame/>

<https://oggybloggyogwr.com/2021/11/welsh-government-unenthusiastic-about-supporting-arbed-scandal-clean-up-in-caerau/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-60765932>

Damages to the property must be put right and residents compensated for putting the damages right themselves which has amounted to thousands of pounds.

**Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Ogmore
- South Wales West



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1491  
Ein cyf/Our ref JB/00538/25

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

10 November 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your further letter regarding petition P-06-1491 – “We demand a fair deal for residents affected by the Arbed and CESP scheme”.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) approached the Welsh Government with a request for funding, based on a specification they had developed, to remediate the poorly installed Exterior Wall Insulation (EWI) in Caerau. Funding was allocated based on BCBC's scope of works, and the project has been delivered on that basis. A total of £3.29 million of Welsh Government funding has been provided to date. The local authority has also contributed £855,000 of its own money, to put things right. My officials hold regular grant management meetings with BCBC and current indications are that the project will be completed for the funding agreed.

The funding requires BCBC to ensure all remediation work is completed to PAS2035 standard. BCBC has appointed experienced contractors, Warmworks, to do this. Each house was assessed individually to ensure the remediation was bespoke for that property. During this process, there have been ongoing conversation with homeowners regarding the appropriateness of each potential solution for their particular circumstance.

Warmworks will work with each household to remove the faulty insulation, install ventilation and receive a RICS survey and further updated retrofit assessment. This assessment includes frequent moisture testing to ensure the removal site is dry. Following this the Clerk of Works will inspect selected homes, and Warmworks will meet with homeowners again to review findings and agree approval of the next steps and proposed designs. The reports will not only detail defects, it will also distinguish between defects originating from the poor application of EWI and other issues.

The homeowners are given a choice to have the EWI replaced during this process, or to have a rendered finish applied. Once designs are finalised the homeowners are given a seven-day cooling-off period before work commences.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Jayne.Bryant@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Jayne.Bryant@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Jayne.Bryant@gov.Wales](mailto:Correspondence.Jayne.Bryant@gov.Wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Importantly, one of the final steps involved in the process is the application of a mould removal treatment. Whilst I understand it must be frustrating not to have the mould removed at the start, it is important that this work is carried out after the homes have dried out, or there is a risk mould will return due to residual damp issues. Upon completion of the work, homeowners receive a handover pack and system guidance, followed by a 12-month inspection to ensure continued quality and support.

BCBC have reviewed the RICS surveys and advised that new plastering hasn't been included as internal works fall outside the scope of the project which is defined as the minimum requirement for PAS 2035. The surveys have found that most plaster damage appears unrelated to the EWI, issues such as poor ventilation and existing defects to guttering and roofs have likely worsened conditions. However, BCBC have stated that replastering has been carried out when necessary to achieve PAS compliance. BCBC have confirmed they would continue to review these requirements in line with their delivery of the project.

Reports from my officials have confirmed that BCBC have worked with householders since early stages in the project and throughout. This has included the appointment of a community liaison manager to answer any queries from concerned residents. The liaison manager is available to respond to residents' questions and concerns and can take action to resolve issues in a timely manner. The Council has also set up regular drop-in sessions where there are opportunities to meet the appointed contractor. BCBC have confirmed to my officials during their project progress meetings that this arrangement is working well.

I am pleased to report that the remedial works in Bryn Carno, Caerphilly have concluded satisfactorily, we have started works in Arfon, Gwynedd and we are not aware of any other area-based initiatives where EWI has failed. Thank you once again for your continued engagement on this issue. The situation at Caerau is being closely monitored to ensure the lessons learnt continue to inform how we manage current and future schemes to provide positive outcomes for residents across Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jayne Bryant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Jayne Bryant AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Thai  
Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

**P-06-1491 We demand a fair deal for residents affected by the Arbed and CESP scheme - Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 05 January 2025**

Dear Carolyn,

I thank you for the attached letter from Jayne Brynant. I will address each point below individually.

*"Funding was provided based on BCBC's scope of works"*

-Please could you provide a copy of the scope of works? We want to identify what exactly was proposed to the Welsh Government.

*"A total of £3.2 million... has been provided to date"*

-£1.5 million has been spent so far, and ONE property has been completed! This is concerning.

*"My officials hold regular grant meetings... and current indications are that the project will be completed for the funding agreed"*

-I fear that whatever is being discussed in these meetings is far from the truth. If only one property has been completed and £1.5 million has already been spent, that is close to half of the funding, and there are over 70 more properties still to be done.

*"The funding requires BCBC to ensure all remediation work is completed to PAS2035. BCBC has appointed experienced contractors, Warmworks"*

-PAS2035 is a very interesting read. Did you know that PAS2035 requires installers to be certified by a UKAS-accredited certification body? Warmworks has various certifications; however, it doesn't appear to hold direct UKAS accreditation.

The subcontractors who were previously SERS were recently acquired by another company, CARDO. SERS does or did not appear to have or hold its own direct accreditation from UKAS (UKAS being the sole national accreditation body appointed by the Government to assess organisations providing certification, testing, inspection and calibration services) CARDO – or one of its subsidiaries – CARDO (South) Limited – has been registered with Trustmark for only 2 years. They are registered with NAPIT, which holds UKAS accreditation, although, according to CARDO's own website, their area of expertise is Solar Panels. This does not fill me with confidence that PAS2035 guidance is being followed, especially with the recent experience of 'ongoing' works.

*"There have been ongoing conversations with homeowners regarding the appropriateness of each potential solution"*

-This is far from the reality of the situation. Residents are not being informed of any 'appropriateness'. Reports are not sent to residents unless requested. Regardless of the extent of technical jargon, residents should receive ALL information about each visit, retrofit assessment, RICS survey, etc. Residents are being asked whether they intend to replace the insulation. That is the extent of the 'appropriateness'. I am sorry to say, but the reality of what is happening and what is being portrayed to Jayne are two very different scenarios.

*"BCBC have reviewed the RICS surveys and advised that new plastering hasn't been included as internal works fall outside the scope of the project, which is defined as the minimum requirement for PAS2035"*

-Did you know PAS2035 was the outcome of the 2016 Each Home Counts report, and its purpose was to review the results of poorly performing retrofit installations and their recommended actions. It covered restoring customer trust and protection.

PAS2035 is a whole-house retrofit process that supports residents from inception to completion.

PAS2035 also introduced new roles: the Retrofit Assessor, Retrofit Co-ordinator, Retrofit Evaluator and Retrofit Designer.

Work is supposed to be signed off as part of a Claim of Compliance document, which is submitted to the Retrofit Co-ordinator as one of the key project documents, ensuring that responsibility and transparency for the resident. This document is then submitted to Trustmark, including all the assessments and surveys.

All projects must be undertaken by a retrofit assessor who is qualified by a retrofit assessor who is qualified as a Domestic Energy Assessor. Additionally, they must hold a Level 3 Award in Energy Efficiency for Older and Traditional Buildings. Retrofit Co-ordinators must also hold this qualification.

**PAS2035 guidance specifies that building defects are addressed and remediated before any installation.**

*"The surveys have found that most plaster damage appears unrelated to the EWI"*

-Which survey would this information be in? What qualifications does the person have that have made this statement? What previous reports are they using to support their statement and to show the buildings' condition before 2012?

*"Issues such as poor ventilation and existing defects to guttering and roofs..."*

-Again, I ask what previous building reports they are using to show that the defects existed before 2012 and before the faulty EWI system was wrongly installed?

Every property has defective guttering due to guidelines not being followed and the roofline not being extended as per the ARBED/CESP guidelines. What evidence can they provide that these issues were there before 2012?

*"Reports from my officials..."*

-I regret to inform you that you are being misinformed. There are serious concerns among residents, and half-finished properties across the village. The quality of workmanship is questionable. Certain aspects are not being followed, and problems are not being addressed promptly. I regretfully say it is not working well.

With all those points addressed in Jayne's letter, I wish to put forward that now.

1. We would like to request a meeting with Jayne and you.
2. We would like to come back to the original point of this petition. If BCBC and the Welsh Government are not going to include the repair and replacement of damaged fixtures and chattels, plastering of internal walls, and replacement of boilers that were replaced in the original ARBED/CESP scheme, we still seek compensation for this. But for the insulation being incorrectly installed in 2012, none of these issues would have

occurred. Residents would not be suffering from damp, damaged and uninhabitable homes.

3. Lastly, we would like to revisit the original points of the petition that were made when it was first discussed. We still request a public inquiry. Especially now, as a National Audit has since been released regarding faulty energy efficiency schemes across the UK. Additionally, BCBC's audit is heavily redacted, even to its own councillors. Recently, a councillor's request to view the unredacted version was unequivocally denied. We believe that it is in the public interest that an unredacted version be released.

I appreciate the time you have devoted to our case and the help and support you have provided.

Kind regards, Rhiannon.

# Agenda Item 3.3

## **P-06-1515 Urgent installation of CCTV at Porth Train Station and bridge**

This petition was submitted by Emma Cawston, having collected a total of 255 signatures.

### **Text of petition:**

Urgently request the installation of CCTV at Porth Train Station and the bridge that spans the train tracks.

This area has increasingly become a hotspot for antisocial behavior, groups of individuals bullying and intimidating young children, passengers, and local residents. Reports have highlighted incidents of intimidation, substance abuse, vandalism to shops and the throwing of bricks at nearby properties. This is creating an unsafe environment for those who live, work, or travel in the vicinity.

### **Additional information:**

Despite repeated concerns raised with law enforcement, little progress has been made in addressing the growing problem.

As a result, residents and passengers feel vulnerable and unsupported. The lack of security measures is a concern for parents, commuters and the wider community.

Installing CCTV at Porth Train Station and the bridge is a crucial step to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of residents and commuters. Visible, active CCTV systems would act as both a deterrent to criminal behaviour and a tool for law enforcement in identifying and prosecuting offenders.

The duty of care owed to the community is not being adequately met, and immediate action is required to protect young children, passengers, and residents from harm. We urge the relevant authorities to take this matter seriously and prioritise the safety of the community by installing CCTV as a matter of urgency.

### **Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Rhondda
- South Wales Central



Carolyn Thomas MS  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

Dear Ms Thomas,

Thank you for your letter regarding anti-social behaviour (ASB) at Porth Transport Hub. I am writing to provide a clear summary of recent activity and the work undertaken by British Transport Police (BTP) and partners.

Following concerns raised at the Rhondda Cynon Taff Problem Solving Group meeting, a site visit was carried out on 24 October 2025 by a BTP Designing Out Crime Officer accompanied by a South Wales Police Counter Terrorism Security Advisor. The visit focused on reports of youths gaining access to the bus station roof via the railway footbridge.

During the visit, the BTP representative engaged with residents and Stagecoach staff who reported persistent ASB at the station entrance. Issues included youths playing sports and riding electric bikes across the forecourt and footbridge, resulting in several near misses involving commuters. Concerns were also raised about access from the bridge to the Transport Hub roof.

In response to ASB concerns, BTP has increased patrols and carried out joint operations with revenue teams. Although ASB directly linked to the railway station remains low, most related incidents occur at the bus station, which is under South Wales Police jurisdiction. BTP continues to provide support and patrols in this area to assist local policing efforts.

The Bus Interchange is managed by the local council, which is also responsible for CCTV. Transport for Wales has confirmed that 25 CCTV cameras operate at the railway station, with only one currently out of service. Coverage includes both platforms, one shelter on the Cardiff-bound side, and several cameras directed towards the bus station. No recent offences have been reported on the footbridge aside from isolated incidents during the summer.

Incident data shows an increase from 6 reports in 24/25 to 14 reports so far this year, reflecting improved reporting practices encouraged by BTP. Approximately half of these incidents occurred onboard trains. Violence increased by one offence (40% solved rate); criminal damage and theft of passenger property each decreased by one; and public order offences rose from 0 to 8. One youth linked to multiple ASB offences is now progressing through the youth court system, and reports at the station have since reduced.

Porth Railway Station has recently undergone significant redevelopment under the Core Valley Lines project, including electrification and a new active travel link to the bus station. Despite the extended closure for these works, BTP has maintained a consistent and visible presence throughout.

BTP will continue routine patrols along the Treherbert Line and maintain strong partnership working with South Wales Police, Transport for Wales and the local authority.

I hope this provides a sufficient update. I'd be happy to answer any further questions you have.

Yours sincerely

**Superintendent Andy Morgan**  
**British Transport Police**

# Agenda Item 3.4

## P-06-1534 End corridor care in Wales

This petition was submitted by the Royal College of Nursing Wales, having collected 10,536 signatures.

### **Text of petition:**

In Wales, patients are currently receiving care on trolleys or chairs for hours on end, often days, in pain and suffering. Doctors, nurses, and health care staff are forced to treat and care for patients in corridors, car parks, and other places where safe, dignified care isn't possible and where they lack access to life-saving equipment.

The Royal College of Nursing Wales and the BMA Cymru Wales are jointly raising the alarm on patient safety for Welsh Government to eradicate corridor care.

### **Additional information:**

The RCN and the BMA call on the Welsh Government to immediately:

1. Begin recording and reporting on corridor care in Wales, starting by making it a 'never event' for patients to receive care in chairs for more than 24 hours.
2. Pause reductions in NHS Wales hospital beds. Nationally review capacity and deliver a clear, costed workforce plan to ensure hospitals and wider care settings can meet future demand.
3. Invest in community-based care by:
  - increasing the number of District Nurses (and nurses with a community nursing master's degree) back to, and above, 2010 levels to meet demand.
  - restoring the proportion of NHS Wales funding in general practice to historic levels, with aspirations to increase, so that we train, recruit and retain enough GPs to move toward the OECD average number of GPs per 1000 people.

4. Prioritise prevention and early intervention. Sustainable emergency care needs a strong focus on population health and early diagnosis to reduce avoidable crises.

**Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Cardiff North
- South Wales Central



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1534  
Ein cyf/Our ref JMHSC/02998/25

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair  
Petitions committee

05 December 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 14 November about **Petition P-06-1534 'End corridor care in Wales'**. I note a debate is scheduled for 10 December.

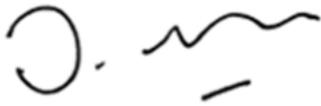
As part of the work to refresh the NHS Wales Framework for Urgent and Emergency Care System Escalation (December 2024), a dedicated working group developed shared definitions for boarding, surge capacity, and outliers to ensure clarity and uniformity across healthcare settings in Wales. The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) was part of the working group and agreed the following definitions:

- **Boarding**: Temporarily exceeding the commissioned working capacity of a ward/unit by utilising a non-configured space in anticipation of an upcoming discharge or transfer. This is a time-limited measure.
- **Surge Capacity**: Implementation of additional bed spaces based on a risk-assessed approach, activated in response to anticipated spikes in demand.
- **Outliers**: Patients receiving care in a hospital bed not designated for their specialty or treatment needs.

In terms of data collection, it is the responsibility of health boards to capture operational data in relation to hospital capacity and the prevalence of individuals cared for in non-clinical environments. This should be used dynamically to take immediate action, aligned to local and national escalation frameworks, to reduce the risk of harm. This data is not held nationally.

As I set out in my previous response to the committee on 20 October, to support delivery of improved ambulance patient handover times and flow through acute hospitals, further consideration is being given to our national escalation processes and strengthening accountability through the national daily system call. More robust and consistent reporting by health boards is expected over the coming weeks to support the safe local delivery of services.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol  
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

18 December 2025

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BMA Cymru Wales  
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Cardiff  
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Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair, Senedd Petitions Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

Dear Chair,

**Regarding the 10 December 2025 Senedd Debate on petition P-06-1534, 'End corridor care in Wales'**

We write to you in response to the debate on petition P-06-1534, "End corridor care in Wales".

As Chairs of the RCN Wales Board and of the BMA Welsh Consultants Committee, we would like to begin by thanking the Petitions Committee for recommending our petition for debate. It is of great value to both the Senedd and the people of Wales that the democratic process empowers citizens to bring urgent issues – like patient safety and corridor care – into plenary discussion.

Reflecting the nationwide nature of this crisis, the debate had contributions from Members representing nearly every region of Wales. We would like to specifically thank members of the Petitions Committee who spoke in favour of the petition during the debate, including Joel James MS and Rhys ab Owen MS.

We were pleased to hear Rhys ab Owen MS support our plan of action. We were also pleased to hear him remind the Chamber of what "corridor care" means – patients awaiting or receiving care not just in corridors "but also car parks, break rooms and even toilets" – and that the Welsh Government pledged more than two years ago that "onboarding...or corridor care will only be enacted in exceptional circumstances through the named responsible executive".

We wholeheartedly agree with Joel James MS, who highlighted that corridor care represents the normalisation of emergency measures. We especially welcomed his emphasis on the lack of public statistics, and on the fact that corridor care is not inevitable but is the result of political choices:

“choices not to provide enough beds, not to repair our social care system, and not to strengthen community-based care.” Gareth Davies MS added weight to this point by raising the difference between the UK Government, which “has set a target to eradicate corridor care in England by 2029”, and the Welsh Government, which continues to treat corridor care as an issue for health boards to monitor and address locally.

Mabon ap Gwynfor MS, too, highlighted the need to strengthen the primary and social care sectors, so that more patients can be treated outside hospital, and those who do need admission can be safely discharged earlier. His emphasis that “solving this problem permanently will only be done through adopting a whole-system approach” – one that includes tackling the decline in inpatient bed capacity *and* the lack of resources in primary care – is important.

We welcomed the description, from Laura Anne Jones MS, of investment in district nursing and general practice as “basic foundations of a safe health system, not optional extras”

We were pleased to hear from Janet Finch-Saunders MS that “the Welsh Conservatives are fully committed to ensuring the end of corridor care.” She and other Members’ contributions emphasised the need to prevent the number of hospital beds declining further, a point Mark Isherwood MS put succinctly when he explained that “even if the proportion of people needing hospital beds fell,” age and complexity mean “the absolute number will not.”

However, we were disappointed by the response from the Welsh Government.

Jeremy Miles MS, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, acknowledged that care “in undesignated or non-clinical environments is not acceptable [and] compromises patient dignity, safety and staff well-being”. On this, we are in full agreement with him, and we welcome that he shares “the determination in this petition to eliminate it.”

However, the Cabinet Secretary’s response did not leave us convinced that he recognises that, in health boards across Wales, emergency measures are being adopted as business-as-usual.

In his response, he mentioned ambulance delays – which are largely caused by discharge delays – and framed corridor care, as he has previously done, as a local issue for health boards. In arguing that “health boards must ensure there is a consistent and efficient flow through and out of hospitals,” he conflates two separate responsibilities. Flow *through* hospitals is squarely within the responsibilities of health boards. In contrast, flow *out* of hospitals requires sufficient community care infrastructure and social care capacity, much of which is commissioned through independent providers and lies outside health boards’ direct control.

Ensuring that patients can leave hospital promptly is a shared responsibility between health boards, local authorities, and external suppliers, but health and social care in Wales are ultimately the responsibility of the Welsh Government. The shared nature of responsibility for hospital discharge is one reason why tackling corridor care requires leadership at the Welsh Government level and why it cannot be left to health boards alone.

#### ‘Never events’

On the Cabinet Secretary’s view that care delivered in chairs for over 24 hours fails to meet the criteria to be categorised as a “never event”, we would challenge the Cabinet Secretary’s response on several levels.

In concentrating on the technical definition of a “never event”, the Cabinet Secretary fails to engage with the substantive point. Our petition’s signatories call for the Welsh Government to “begin recording and reporting on corridor care in Wales”. To do this, the Welsh Government will first need to define “corridor care” and how to report it. This will take time, and corridor care is putting patients at risk now. Care delivered in chairs lasting over 24 hours is one clear manifestation of corridor care which could serve as both a red line and a proxy indicator – and instructions on when and how to report never events already exist. Establishing this issue as a never event is a straightforward way the Welsh Government could begin measuring and publishing information on the scale of the problem.

Even the Cabinet Secretary’s technical objection based on the definition of a never event is weak. He claims this issue does not meet the criteria for a “never event”, yet the definition he invokes is not the Welsh Government’s own definition. During the debate, he defined them as “serious medical errors with the potential to cause serious harm or death and that are wholly preventable.” On other occasions, he has included the provision that they “should not occur if the available safety measures have been implemented”.

However, in response to a written question from Rhys ab Owen MS on 17 November 2025, the Cabinet Secretary stated that the Welsh Government uses the NHS England definition, and that the source of this definition is the never events policy (and framework), which was revised in January 2018.<sup>1</sup> That definition, which the Cabinet Secretary quotes in his answer, is:

“**serious incidents**, which are wholly preventable because guidance or safety recommendations are available at a national level and should have been implemented by all healthcare providers.”

“Serious incidents” are a broader category than “serious medical errors” and this difference matters. The Cabinet Secretary’s narrower definition would exclude even some established never events, which are not always the result of a single medical error but are nonetheless preventable through adherence to national guidance. Care in chairs for extended periods is wholly preventable, poses a serious risk to patient safety, and is a practice for which national guidance could – and should – be developed. It is precisely the kind of systemic failure that a never event designation is intended to address.

The list of ‘never events’ can be amended and has indeed been amended in the past. For example, “wrong tooth extraction” was removed from the Welsh Government list of never events in 2021.<sup>2</sup>

In the Welsh Health Circular (2022) 020 (22 July 2022), Professor Chris Jones, National Clinical Director, NHS Wales and Deputy Chief Medical Officer, stated that the “updated list [of never events] can be found on the NHS Wales Delivery Unit website Never Events - Delivery Unit (nhs.wales) <https://du.nhs.wales/patient-safety-wales/>” and that the list “will continue to be updated to reflect any further changes...”<sup>3</sup> However, this link does not work and leads to a “404 – Page not found” message being displayed (please see the attached screenshot of the webpage). We have sought to find an updated list of never events elsewhere on the Welsh Government and NHS websites;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://record.senedd.wales/WrittenQuestion/97699>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-07/whc-2022-020-never-events-policy-july-2022.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-07/whc-2022-020-never-events-policy-july-2022.pdf>

however, it appears that this list is not publicly available via the internet. This is unacceptable for many reasons. Firstly, patients have the right to be kept informed about their health care services. To deprive patients of the right to be informed about 'never events' does a huge disservice to patients and reduces their ability to stay informed about their health care services. Secondly, it reduces accountability and limits the ability of members of the public, Members of the Senedd and stakeholders to effectively scrutinise Welsh Government policy.

There would be clear advantages in classifying care in chair for more than 24 as a 'never event'. The Welsh Government states that never events "require full...investigation" which must result in "immediate make-safes [being] put in place, targeted action agreed and lessons-learnt shared across the organisation". Classifying care in a chair for more than 24 hours as a 'never event' would therefore help to protect patients by putting appropriate mechanisms in place to ensure that lessons are learned when things go wrong, thus minimising the risk of future incidents occurring. To continue to omit care in a chair for more than 24 hours from the official list of never events entails the continuation of a situation in which there is no accountability, no consequences and no lessons learned when a patient is made to sit in a chair for more than 24 hours.

#### Data

During the debate, Joel James MS highlighted the need for the Welsh Government to collect and publish national data on the prevalence of corridor care in Wales. The Cabinet Secretary has consistently described corridor care as being an "exceptional" occurrence, which runs contrary to anecdotal evidence from both RCN and BMA members. Not only this, but a 'snapshot' survey conducted by the Royal College of Emergency Medicine found that in the first quarter of 2025, every A&E department in Wales recorded seeing patients in unsafe, inappropriate spaces with almost half of patients waiting for an inpatient bed.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, several health boards have this week been escalated due to concerns about their delivery of emergency care, and HIW inspections of health care services demonstrate a theme of corridor care as a regular feature across Wales.

In his response to the debate, the Cabinet Secretary insisted that "understanding the prevalence of this issue is a health board operational responsibility", yet it is a fact that Welsh Government is lagging behind other UK nations in this respect. Both the UK Government and the Northern Ireland Executive have publicly committed to publish data on the extent of corridor care, with the latter working to publish their first dataset around February 2026.

We are confident that the national data, if collected and published, would vindicate our view that care in inappropriate areas has become normalised across Wales. However, the only way to prove or disprove the Cabinet Secretary's assertion that corridor care takes place only in "exceptional" circumstances would be to collect and publish the data. By publishing this data, the Welsh Government and members of the public would be able to have an accurate understanding of the current problem. Not only is this essential to ensure the effective scrutiny of Welsh Government policy, but it would greatly benefit the Welsh Government in forming health and social care policies.

We were somewhat pleased to hear the Cabinet Secretary say, in his response to the debate, that the Welsh Government is "supporting the NHS to improve the robustness and consistency of daily reporting by health boards, including trialling new approaches to data capture and reporting over the

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<sup>4</sup> <https://rcem.ac.uk/news/corridor-care-endemic-in-welsh-aes-as-rcem-research-reveals-shocking-reality/>

coming weeks. This will enable health boards to better understand when and where care is taking place in non-clinical areas, and to take immediate action, aligned to local and national escalation frameworks so the risk of harm is reduced.” However, we urge the Cabinet Secretary to elaborate on this and to commit to publishing the first set of data on corridor care in the first quarter of 2026.

The Welsh Government’s current approach is allowing corridor care to continue within the NHS across Wales. This is not acceptable for patients, nor for the workforce who desperately need the Welsh Government to treat corridor care as a Wales-wide, all-year round serious safety threat and as a failure of NHS Wales.

Yours sincerely,



Jackie Davies

**Chair, RCN Wales Board**



Dr Manish Adke

**Chair, BMA Welsh Consultants Committee**

# Agenda Item 3.5

## **P-06-1531 Mandate Comprehensive and Specific Food Labelling to Support Dietary Needs and Allergies**

This petition was submitted by Jessica Davies, having collected a total of 308 signatures.

### **Text of petition:**

Imagine navigating daily life knowing that one wrong bite could jeopardise your health or the health of someone you love. For my son, and countless others worldwide, this is a constant reality. He has a severe allergy to potatoes—an ingredient that often hides behind vague terms like "starch" on food labels, and sometimes not labelled at all.

### **Additional information:**

The lack of clear, specific labelling poses a serious risk. This is more than a matter of convenience; it's about safety and the right to make informed choices about what we consume. Every consumer deserves to know exactly what ingredients are in their food.

Empowering consumers with accurate information protects not only those with dietary restrictions but also fosters trust and accountability in the food industry.

Join us in advocating for change. Sign this petition to mandate detailed and specific food labelling. Together, we can create a safer and more inclusive food landscape for everyone.

### **Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central



**By email:** [petitions@senedd.wales](mailto:petitions@senedd.wales)

Carolyn Thomas,  
Chair, Petitions Committee,  
Welsh Parliament Cardiff Bay,  
Cardiff, CF99 1SN

9 December 2025

Dear Carolyn,

**Petition P-06-1531 Mandate Comprehensive and Specific Food Labelling to Support Dietary Needs and Allergies**

Thank you for sharing this petition with the FSA and for giving us the opportunity to respond.

The petition touches on two issues - one related to the current major allergens (of which there are 14) which are legislated for, and one related to general food labelling, where labelling for the source of certain ingredients, such as starch, is not required.

**The mandated list of 14 major allergens**

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) continues to work to make it easier for people with food hypersensitivities (allergies, intolerances, and coeliac disease) to access to clear and accurate information on products. We recognise that there are a number of foods outside the prescribed 14 allergens that may also cause people concern.

Whilst these 14 are established across Europe as the most common allergenic ingredients to cause public health concern, the FSA is working with the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSACI) and other stakeholders to gather more information on hidden and emerging food allergens. This will help in assessing the need for further research and work in this area, which could lead to a change of the current list. We will continue to explore new evidence on food hypersensitivity for foods outside the 14 regulated allergens.

**Food Labelling**

Food law in GB requires the names of ingredients in food to be named in the ingredients list. However, for certain foods the category of food can be used instead of the specific name, for example “starch” rather than providing the source material of the starch. Food businesses can provide this information on food labels voluntarily. There are currently no plans to change food labelling law in respect of labelling for starches. However, if further

information comes to light, the FSA working with Food Standards Scotland and Defra could consider such proposals.

Yours sincerely



**Sian Bowsley**  
**Director of FSA for Wales**

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Adeilad Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government Building  
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Cofiwch gadw mewn cysylltiad drwy:/Let's keep connected:

- [facebook.com/AsiantaethSafonauBwy](https://www.facebook.com/AsiantaethSafonauBwy)
- [facebook.com/FoodStandardsAgency](https://www.facebook.com/FoodStandardsAgency)
- @fsacymry ac @fsawales
- @foodgov

**P-06-1531 Mandate Comprehensive and Specific Food Labelling to Support Dietary Needs and Allergies – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 09 December 2025**

Dear all,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Food Standards Agency's response.

1. My thoughts on the attached document

I appreciate the FSA outlining the current position regarding the 14 mandated allergens and their ongoing discussions with clinical and allergy organisations. However, the response does not fully acknowledge the seriousness of the issue for individuals who live with allergies outside of the prescribed list.

For families like mine, the uncertainty surrounding food labelling—especially when ingredients such as “starch” are listed without specifying their source—creates daily risk. Food is not something people can opt out of, and clear information is essential for safety, not convenience.

While the FSA notes that businesses can voluntarily provide more detailed labelling, relying on voluntary measures leaves vulnerable people unprotected. There is an implication that only the major 14 allergens justify robust protection, which leads to a difficult but important question: If someone does not have a ‘common’ allergen, is their life less important? The current system unintentionally creates a two-tier approach to allergy safety.

2. Does the response adequately address the issues I raised?

Respectfully, no.

The core concern I raised was the lack of mandatory clarity around ingredients that can be derived from multiple sources, such as starch, oils, or thickeners. The FSA response confirms that no changes to food labelling law are currently planned in this area. This means uncertainty remains for people with less common or emerging allergens—yet their reactions can be just as severe and life-threatening as those to the major 14.

The FSA notes ongoing research on “emerging” allergens, but no timeline, no interim measures, and no commitment to improving source-specific labelling. This does not alleviate the real-world risk or the everyday anxiety caused by ambiguous ingredient lists.

3. Further questions or points I would like the Committee to consider

- What steps can be taken now, before long-term research is complete, to ensure greater transparency in ingredient sourcing?
- Could mandatory source labelling be introduced for categories like starches, vegetable oils, or thickeners, where multiple potential allergens may be hidden?
- What mechanisms exist for incorporating lived experience—such as families managing complex or non-listed allergies—into the decision-making process?

- Is there a plan to review the system regularly so that people with less common allergies are not left waiting indefinitely for protection.

#### 4. Additional information for the Committee

This issue is about safety, dignity, and the ability to live without fear. Every individual with an allergy deserves to know whether the food they buy is safe for them. At present, many people are forced to avoid a huge range of foods simply because labelling is too vague to confirm whether hidden ingredients may harm them.

I ask the Committee to consider the human impact: parents afraid to feed their children foods that appear harmless; individuals whose allergens fall outside the “main 14” feeling overlooked; and the ongoing mental and financial burden of navigating unclear labelling. Clear, specific labelling is not an unreasonable request—it’s a basic safety need.

Kind regards,

Jessica

# Agenda Item 3.6

## **P-06-1547 Sea bottom trawling is killing our marine wildlife...Stop bulldozing our marine wildlife!**

This petition was submitted by Robert Curtis, having collected a total of 297 signatures.

### **Text of petition:**

Sir David Attenborough's latest documentary, Oceans, highlights the fact that a shocking 97% of our marine protected areas (MPA), created to safeguard ocean habitats, are being destroyed by being dredged and bottom trawled.

We call on the Welsh Government to ban all forms of bottom trawling by both foreign and UK vessels in Welsh waters. We are in an ecological emergency and need action now.

### **Additional information:**

If we do not take action now, we will have no chance of stopping the shocking loss of biodiversity or mitigate the impacts of climate change. This widespread fishing practice involves dragging heavy metal nets along the seabed, effectively bulldozing all sea life before it!

New research has revealed that this system of fishing pumps out one gigaton of carbon every year. This carbon is released from the seabed sediment into the water, and can increase ocean acidification, as well as adversely affecting productivity and biodiversity. Marine sediments are the largest pool of carbon storage in the world. In fact fishing boats that trawl the ocean floor release as much carbon dioxide as the entire aviation industry!

There can be no place for bottom trawling in a modern nature friendly Wales!

### **Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS  
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet  
dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig  
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for  
Climate Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1547  
Ein cyf/Our ref HIDCC/02039/25

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

[petitions@senedd.wales](mailto:petitions@senedd.wales)

18 November 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 31 October regarding further questions relating to a petition which seeks to promote a ban on bottom towed fishing gear.

I have seen the Sir David Attenborough documentary, Ocean, and understand people's concern about this issue. As I set out in my response of 27 August, I'm pleased to be able to say that the position in Wales is very different from that seen in the documentary.

In answer to your additional questions, the Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for king scallops in English and Welsh waters was subject to public consultation and published in December 2023. The summary of responses and government response can be found here: [Summary of responses and government response - GOV.UK](#). The FMP contains a range of policy commitments, including a review of fishing regulations.

The resulting consultation on *scallop fishing management measures in Wales*, launched on the 24 October 2025, concerns a range of proposed changes to scallop fishing management following policies in the FMP. The petitioner may be interested in responding to the consultation: [Scallop fishing management measures in Wales \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#) which closes on 15 January 2026.

Wales already has a well-managed inshore king scallop fishery with substantial areas closed to protect sensitive habitats. The proposals in the consultation, developed with the help of the Wales King Scallop Advisory Group, aim to strengthen the current controls and extend them to the whole of the Welsh zone, i.e. the full Welsh maritime jurisdiction. At the same time, the proposals seek to enable adaptive management of the fishery such that measures could be varied in response to evidence about the stock, the fishery or the environment. We are committed to ensuring our fisheries are as sustainable as possible, and so there are also proposals which would help us trial, and where practicable implement, lower-impact fishing methods such as hand diving.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The scope of the consultation includes all targeted king scallop fishing but does not relate to the types of bottom towed gears used in other fisheries, such as demersal trawls which target fish that live near the seafloor.

In line with the Joint Fisheries Statement 2022, the Welsh Government is jointly developing demersal FMPs with the UK and Devolved Governments which may consider other types of bottom towed gears. Development of the Irish Sea Demersal FMP is being led by Northern Ireland and the Celtic Sea and Western Channel Demersal FMP is led by the UK Government. These FMPs will be consulted on prior to publication which is scheduled for 2026.

Once again, thank you for writing to me on this important matter. I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Irranca-Davies', written over a light blue horizontal line.

**Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS**

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd  
a Materion Gwledig

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1307  
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/01429/25

Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

12 December 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter regarding Petition P-06-1307 *The Welsh Government should commit to the adoption of the maintenance of new housing estates by local authorities.*

I would like to put on record my thanks to the Petitions Committee and the late Hefin David MS for the important work undertaken on this issue.

As you know, the Leasehold and Freehold Reform 2024 Act applies to both England and Wales and introduces significant new rights and protections for homeowners on privately managed estates, which will enable them to hold their estate manager to account for the money they spend. Homeowners will gain much needed transparency over estate charges, the ability to challenge reasonableness of charges via the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal, and a right to apply to the tribunal for a substitute manager to be appointed in cases where there has been serious management failure. Implementation depends on the development and passage of a programme of subordinate legislation necessary to enable the reforms.

The powers to implement most of the estate charge provisions in the 2024 Act rest with the UK Government, including the details of information which must be provided in an estate management charge demand and in an annual report of estate management charge activity. The Welsh Ministers have responsibility only to exercise powers in relation to the new duty of estate managers to publish administration charge schedules.

Matthew Pennycook MP, Minister of State for Housing and Planning, published a written statement late last year (see [Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)) which indicated an intention to consult on the exercise of powers to implement this new regime by the end of this year. The Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government will notify Members about the launch of the consultations on the exercise of these powers and would be grateful if Members could promote the consultations to their constituents locally. This will help to ensure that as many affected homeowners as possible can have a say on the detail of the operation of these important new rights.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

It may also be of interest to the Committee that the Law Commission has included a project on 'Management of housing estates' in its recently announced 14<sup>th</sup> Programme of Law Reform. The preliminary details about the project are available here: [Management of housing estates – Law Commission](#). The focus of this project is considering the creation of a right to manage for managed estates, so that those freehold homeowners who choose to will be able to assume the management functions from external companies and have more involvement in deciding how their estates should be managed. Officials will be engaging with the Law Commission as this work progresses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Rebecca Evans AS/MS**

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio