

## Agenda – Petitions Committee

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Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 4 – Tŷ Hywel

Hybrid

Meeting date: 9 February 2026

Meeting time: 14.00

For further information contact:

Gareth Price – Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

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

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

(Pages 1 – 23)

### 2 New Petitions

2.1 P-06-1554 Secure Fair Funding for Charitable Social Care Providers

(Pages 24 – 32)

2.2 P-06-1568 Return all the M4 to the 70mph speed limit, in Wales. Remove all lower speed limits forced on us

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2.3 P-06-1551 Stop the Welsh Government’s Harmful Changes to NHS Dentistry

(Pages 42 – 49)

2.4 P-06-1557 Introduce guaranteed NHS dental treatment for the population of Wales

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### 3 Updates to previous petitions

3.1 P-06-1464 Allow Welsh families who have experienced Baby loss before 24 weeks to obtain baby loss certificate

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3.2 P-06-1533 Review and update Provisions 2-10 of The Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008

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- 3.3 P-06-1555 To review all guidance on Home to School Transport for all of Wales. Free access to an education  
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- 3.4 P-06-1550 Place the drug Xonvea on to the formulary for the management of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy  
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- 3.5 P-06-1553 Increase investment and action in nature-based flood management to protect Welsh communities  
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- 3.6 P-06-1565 Continue funding Technocamps to provide the support that schools and teachers across Wales rely on  
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#### **4 Papers to note**

- 4.1 P-06-1525 Preserve the unique character of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal for the future generations of Wales  
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- 4.2 P-06-1519 Implement safety measures at the A477 Red Roses junction to reduce accidents and stop any fatalities  
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#### **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 Legacy Report: Draft outline**

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Document is Restricted

# P-06-1554 Secure Fair Funding for Charitable Social Care Providers

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 9 Chwefror 2026  
Petitions Committee | 9 February 2026

**Reference:** RS26/13022-1

## Introduction

**Petition Number:** P-06-1554

**Petition title:** Secure Fair Funding for Charitable Social Care Providers

**Text of petition:**

Anheddau Cyf is a long-established, not-for-profit charity supporting over 140 people with learning disabilities across North Wales. For 35 years, Anheddau has empowered individuals to live independently in shared homes, rooted in community life. Its commitment to high-quality, person-centred care has earned it a glowing rating from Care Inspectorate Wales in February 2025, and the trust of families across the region.

Charitable care providers face severe financial strain due to rising costs and underfunding from local authorities. Despite increased Welsh Government funding, much isn't reaching frontline services like Anheddau. We urge the Welsh Government to ensure full fund pass-through, enforce fair commissioning standards, engage with providers on funding impacts, and commit to long-term reform to protect essential care services and the people who rely on them.



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

In Wales local authorities often commission independent and third sector providers to deliver care and support services. As set out by the Petitioner the [charity Anheddau](#) is a not for profit, charitable organisation which supports people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health conditions across North Wales. With 400 staff the charity aims to help “people live with dignity and independence”.

The charity has [documented the financial struggles](#) it is facing and has said it is operating at an 11% deficit. It said unless local authority funding increases by 8.8%, it “will be forced to make impossible decisions: cut services, lose staff, or even close”. In July 2025 [the charity reported](#) that its board had concluded that “closure was its only option because the sums didn’t add up”. It explained that “Denbighshire is reconsidering its original rise of only 4.3 per cent and Ynys Môn has revised its offer from 4.2 per cent to 5.8 per cent, which is still too low.”

There have been reports that care providers across the sector are facing similar financial struggles. Last year [Learning Disability Wales](#) highlighted concerns around the reduction of services and the closure of several learning disability organisations, research teams and support services. One of these was [Cymryd Rhan \(who provided supported living, care and other services\)](#) who after 40 years, closed in March 2025. The organisation cited “underfunding” as a reason for its closure, explaining that council fees which were “so low that it faced an annual loss of more than £100,000 if the contracts carried on”.

[Care Forum Wales](#) (the main representative body for independent health and social care providers in Wales), [Cymorth Cymru](#) and the [Homecare Association](#) [have warned](#) that the impact of National Insurance and wage increases, along with insufficient funding, will affect the sustainability of many organisations and care homes within the sector.

[Responding to the consultation](#) on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2026-27 [Care Forum Wales](#) and the [Homecare Association](#) have said that providers have been left to absorb the additional costs from National Insurance rises without adequate support, noting that they are dependent on commissioner set rates (which, they say, often do not reflect true delivery costs). Care Forum Wales said the Welsh Government’s decision not to provide additional funding “threatens the stability of an essential sector that underpins the NHS”. They also said:

*Without greater support, the challenges currently faced by charities such as Anheddau, including the potential for up to 400 redundancies as a result of increases in the RLW and eNICs with serious implications for the 140 vulnerable people they support, will inevitably extend to other organisations across the sector.*

## 2. Welsh Government action

### 2.1. Financial sustainability

In correspondence to the Committee, the Minister for Children and Social Care Dawn Bowden MS recognised the pressures organisations like Anheddau Cyf are facing. She highlighted that in 2025-26 local authorities received over £6.1 billion in core revenue funding and non-domestic rates, an increase of 4.5% or £262m

Looking ahead to 2026/27 the Minister confirmed the Final Budget would see local government and health receiving an additional £300m, with no council receiving less than 4%.

To support fair pay for the social care workforce, the Minister said that funding for the Real Living Wage (RLW) had been factored into the overall local government settlement. She explained that since 2022 the Welsh Government has maintained its commitment to funding the Real Living Wage (RLW) by providing additional recurrent funding to “bridge the gap between the National Living Wage and the RLW”.

### 2.2. The National Framework

In September 2024 the Welsh Government introduced a new Code of Practice, the National Framework for Commissioning Care and Support Services “the National Framework”. The National Framework aims to reduce complexity, facilitate national consistency of commissioning practices and rebalance commissioning to focus on quality and outcomes, and put people who need care and support at the centre of the commissioning process. The Code applies principles and standards to the commissioning of care and support services by local authorities, local health boards and NHS trusts.

In correspondence to the Committee the Minister for Children and Social Care Dawn Bowden MS refers to Standard 7: Understanding the Costs of Care and Standard 8: Setting Fair and Sustainable Fees which she says is of particular relevance to providers such as Anheddau Cyf. She explains that Standard: 7

*requires statutory partners to develop a comprehensive understanding of the full costs associated with both directly delivered and commissioned care services. This includes working collaboratively with providers to identify and analyse what constitutes fair and sustainable costs. These insights must then directly inform local decision-making on fee levels.*

Standard 8 sets out what statutory partners should do to “determine a fair and sustainable price for quality care and support”. The Minister states that this Standard:

*[...] sets out the expectation that fee-setting must be transparent, consistent, and based on robust, evidence-informed methodologies. Commissioners are expected to consider a range of contextual factors, including geography, organisational characteristics, local labour market conditions, and fair work principles, such as pay, terms and conditions, and workforce development.*

The Minister adds that these standards have been designed to “ensure that commissioning practices support the long-term sustainability of care services and deliver public value”. She notes that:

*By adhering to these standards, statutory partners can ensure that commissioning practices are equitable, sustainable, and aligned with national policy objectives.*

The implementation of the Code is overseen by a National Office for Care and Support (“the National Office”). The Minister referred to the work the National Office is undertaking to develop a National Market Oversight framework in Wales which she said aims to enhance system resilience and moderate or mitigate risk, within the social care market and “ensure sustainability and consistency of services”.

Referring to Anheddau Cyf, the Minister said she was sure they will be:

*[...] engaging proactively with relevant local authorities and health boards to discuss the pressures they face and to ensure that fee-setting processes reflect the true cost of delivering high-quality care.*

### 3. Welsh Parliament action

Members of the Senedd have raised concerns about the financial pressures facing care providers. During [Plenary on 12 February 2025](#) Mabon ap Gwynfor referred to the “truly existential” nature of the additional costs facing third sector and independent providers, sharing the example of a care home in Ynys Môn which will face an extra £127,500 in annual costs from April 2025.

Mark Ishewood MS has raised concerns relating to this issue on several occasions. For example in [Plenary on 1 July 2025](#) he referred to the financial issues facing Anheddau Cyf and called on the Welsh Government to ensure that funding is directed towards stabilising the charitable social care sector. In [Plenary on 13 January 2026](#) he repeated these concerns, calling on the Welsh Government to issue an urgent statement before the Final Budget on the support for third sector providers of key health and care services, warning that increased costs will cause a further “contraction” of these services.

Senedd Committees have also raised similar concerns. In its [report on the Draft Budget 2026/27](#) the Health and Social Care Committee reflected on evidence from Care Forum Wales and the Homecare Association. The Committee recommended the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care set out how the Welsh Government will support NHS bodies and third sector providers to manage additional costs without compromising service delivery.

The [Local Government and Housing Committee’s inquiry](#) on the role of local authorities in supporting hospital discharges (September 2025) heard evidence about current problems with care commissioning and fees set by local authorities. Expressing concerns that the fees set by local authorities for beds are often too low to cover the cost of care home places, the Committee recommended the Welsh Government “set out how it will monitor and review implementation of the national framework for commissioning care and support”.

The Committee also noted that the Welsh Government had commissioned research around the feasibility of creating and implementing national fee methodologies and recommended the Welsh Government work with “partners to develop a national formula for a fair, consistent approach to setting fees for care and support services, following consideration of the findings of its commissioned research in this area. The [National Office for Care and Support](#) is now considering the [research recommendations](#) which were published in January 2026.

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-06-1554  
Ein cyf/Our ref DB/00691/25

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

31 December 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Firstly, I want to acknowledge the important role that Anheddau Cyf and other such charitable organisations play in supporting people across Wales. We fully acknowledge the financial pressures that such organisations are facing

Recognising the pressures on such services and looking more broadly, local authorities will have received over £6.1 billion in core revenue funding and non-domestic rates for 2025–26. This represents a 4.5% increase, or £262m on a like-for-like basis compared with the previous year. Local authorities themselves determine how best to allocate the resources that we provide to them to meet local needs, including funding commissioned services.

Earlier this month, the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru reached an agreement which will secure the passage of the Final Budget for 2026/7. This will see an additional £300m invested in local government and health in 2026-27. For local government, no council will receive a settlement of less than 4%. The Final Budget will be published on 20 January, and a vote will be held in the Senedd on 27 January.

The Welsh Government has also maintained its commitment to funding the Real Living Wage (RLW). Since 2022, we have provided additional funding to bridge the gap between the National Living Wage and the RLW. This funding is recurrent and has been factored into the overall local government settlement to support fair pay for the social care workforce. You may also be aware that in September 2024 a new Code of Practice, the National Framework for Commissioning Care and Support Services came into force.

This framework sets out national principles and standards to guide how local authorities and health boards commission care and support services. Of particular relevance to providers like Anheddau Cyf are *Standard 7: Understanding the Costs of Care* and *Standard 8: Setting Fair and Sustainable Fees*.

Standard 7 requires statutory partners to develop a comprehensive understanding of the full costs associated with both directly delivered and commissioned care services. This includes working collaboratively with providers to identify and analyse what constitutes fair and sustainable costs. These insights must then directly inform local decision-making on fee 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.

Building on this, Standard 8 sets out the expectation that fee-setting must be transparent, consistent, and based on robust, evidence-informed methodologies. Commissioners are expected to consider a range of contextual factors, including geography, organisational characteristics, local labour market conditions, and fair work principles, such as pay, terms and conditions, and workforce development. These standards are designed to ensure that commissioning practices support the long-term sustainability of care services and deliver public value. By adhering to these standards, statutory partners can ensure that commissioning practices are equitable, sustainable, and aligned with national policy objectives.

We are sure Anheddau Cyf will be engaging proactively with relevant local authorities and health boards to discuss the pressures they face and to ensure that fee-setting processes reflect the true cost of delivering high-quality care.

The National Framework requires statutory commissioners to demonstrate that their commissioning practices are compliant with the Code. The National Office for Care and Support maintain an oversight of implementation of the Code and work is commencing in the National Office to develop a National Market Oversight framework for Wales with the aim of enhancing system resilience and moderating or mitigating risk, within the social care market. This will be a key part of how the National Office will help to ensure sustainability and consistency of services, ensuring the right care and support is delivered when needed.

We remain committed to working collaboratively with sector partners to ensure a fair, transparent, and sustainable approach to the commissioning and delivery of care services across Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn Bowden', written in a cursive style.

**Dawn Bowden AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Plant a Gofal Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Children and Social Care

# P-06-1568 Return all the M4 to the 70mph speed limit, in Wales. Remove all lower speed limits forced on us.

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 9 Chwefror 2026  
Petitions Committee | 9 February 2026

**Reference:** RS26/13022-2

**Petition Number:** P-06-1568

**Petition title:** Return all the M4 to the 70mph speed limit, in Wales. Remove all lower speed limits forced on us.

**Text of petition:** The OVERWHELMING MAJORITY believe the Port Talbot 50mph is not required. This is likewise with the 50mph brought in around Newport. It is stifling our ability to travel freely and causing unnecessary 'snarl ups'. The Government is here to serve the people and better their lives. This is a reduced speed limit, that is neither wanted or required. Modern cars are able to travel very safely with far superior braking distances to older cars when 70mph was the standard motorway speed limit.

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.



## 1. Background

Cars with petrol and diesel combustion engines produce a variety of polluting gases, including nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). Production of NO<sub>2</sub> increases with vehicle speed. Lower speed limits can therefore reduce NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the air.

Human exposure to NO<sub>2</sub> has negative health impacts. The Welsh Government has a legal duty to comply with air quality regulations, including limits on NO<sub>2</sub> at the roadside. Legal limits are set at:

- an hourly limit value of an average of 200 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) (which must not be exceeded more than 18 times in a calendar year); and
- an annual limit value of an average of 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

Assessment and monitoring previously identified NO<sub>2</sub> levels above the legal limit at several locations on the motorway and trunk road network, including the M4 between junctions 41 and 42 at Port Talbot, and junction 25 to 26 at Newport. In 2018, both the Welsh Government and UK Government were successfully taken to Court over NO<sub>2</sub> levels which exceeded legal limits.

NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations at identified locations on the motorway and trunk road network have reduced since the introduction of 50 mph speed limits in 2018.

## 2. Welsh Government action

The Welsh Government consulted on an approach to tackling roadside NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the Spring of 2018. In November 2018 it published its 'Tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations in Wales' plan. In terms of the trunk road and motorway network, which the Welsh Government is directly responsible for, the plan noted:

Exceedances of legal limits for NO<sub>2</sub> have been identified on the following discrete stretches of motorway and trunk road outside the Cardiff and Swansea Urban Areas:

- (i) A494 at Deeside (North Wales Zone);
- (ii) A483 near Wrexham (North Wales Zone);

(iii) M4 between Junctions 41 and 42 at Port Talbot (Swansea and South Wales Zone);

(iv) M4 between Junctions 25 and 26 at Newport (South Wales Zone);  
and

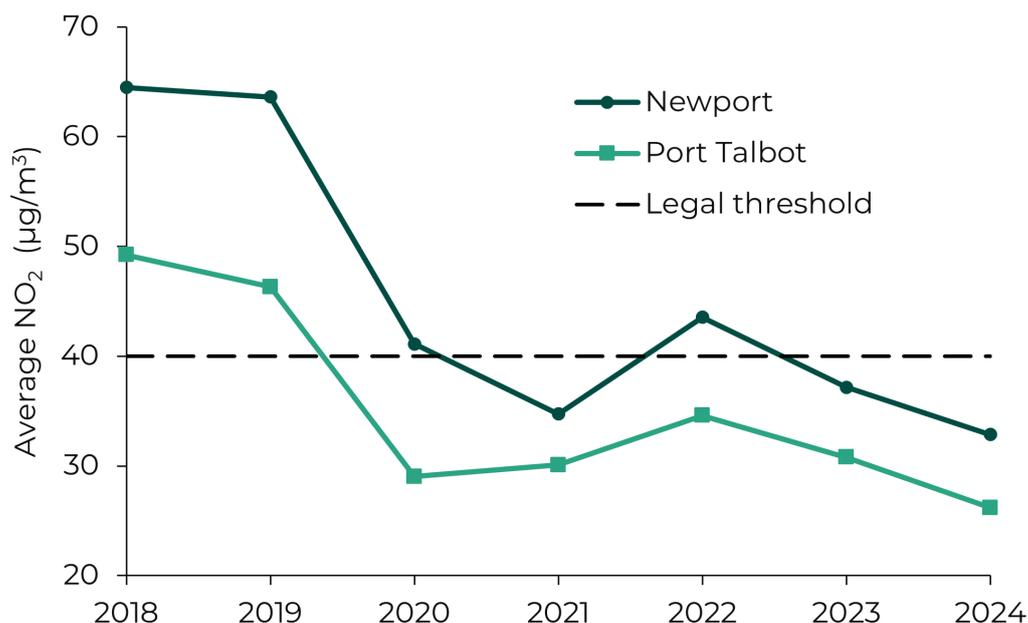
(v) A470 between Upper Boat and Pontypridd (South Wales Zone).

The plan made clear that NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations were above the 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup> limit at these sites. The Welsh Government determined the introduction of 50 mph speed limits as the quickest method of achieving compliance.

In June 2018, 50 mph speed limits were introduced at each of the five sites identified in the plan, with the 50 mph limit made permanent the following year. The Welsh Government has monitored the sites since, and published monitoring reports on its website. The most recent data was published in December 2025, and covers 2018 to 2024.

Roadside M4 NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations at Newport and Port Talbot have fallen since the 50 mph speed limit was introduced. Annual mean levels were below the legal threshold for all monitored locations in 2024. The graphic below shows the average annual NO<sub>2</sub> concentration for monitoring sites where data was recorded in every year since 2018. This comprises six sites in Newport, and five sites in Port Talbot.

Average annual roadside NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations on M4 50 mph sections since 2018



Source: Senedd Research analysis of Welsh Government data

Summarising the changes in roadside NO<sub>2</sub> at the five locations where a 50 mph speed limit has been introduced, the [Welsh Government report](#) says:

The trend in concentrations is one of general improvement at all monitoring sites from 2018 to 2024. Although concentrations decreased notably at the majority of sites in 2020, and to a lesser extent in 2021 as a result of the reduction in traffic during the global pandemic, concentrations in 2024 have remained lower than in 2018 and 2019, despite a return in traffic levels to near pre-pandemic conditions. Furthermore, the average speed data collected at each site shows that there is compliance at all five sites with the 50 mph speed limit on all days and in both directions at each location in 2024.

The Welsh Government published its [Clean Air Plan for Wales](#) in August 2020. It also introduced the [Environment \(Air Quality and Soundscapes\) \(Wales\) Act 2024](#), which was passed by the Senedd in November 2023.

The South East Wales Transport Commission, established by the Welsh Government to consider alternatives to the M4 relief road, [published its interim report in 2019](#). This recommended the introduction of average speed control cameras between junctions 24 and 28, replacing the previous variable speed limit approach. In doing so, the Commission said:

Our analysis suggests an average speed control would help improve the regularity of traffic speeds across the problematic stretches of the M4. A fixed speed limit should encourage vehicles to travel at a more consistent speed, making many journeys quicker and more reliable. A single speed limit should also reduce driver confusion and improve safety.

We have considered and modelled a range of speed limits from 40mph to 50mph and 60mph. Our analysis demonstrates 50mph to be the optimal speed in terms of journey time reliability and journey speeds, also taking account other important factors such as air quality, emissions and noise.

In September 2021, the [Welsh Government announced](#) enforcement of 50 mph at all five locations would begin from 4 October that year.

## 3. Welsh Parliament action

### 3.1. Previous petitions

On 13 May 2024, the Petitions Committee considered petitions P-06-1413 ‘Scrap the 50mph limits on the M4 around Newport and Swansea and on the A470 around Pontypridd’ and P-06-1416 ‘Increase the speed limit on the M4 back to 70mph’. The Committee noted that the speed limit reductions could be reviewed in future if technological developments mean engines become less polluting, such as through uptake of electric vehicles. The Committee thanked the petitioners and agreed to close these petitions without taking further action.

In 2021, the Petitions Committee considered a petition calling for the Welsh Government to “Remove the average speed cameras and 50mph speed limit on the M4 between Newport and Cardiff.” The Committee noted the concerns, whilst recognising that the Wales Transport Strategy emphasises environment, air quality and people’s well-being through focusing on sustainable travel and improved public travel infrastructure. It concluded the Welsh Government has no plans to remove the average speed cameras at present, and agreed to thank the petitioner and close the petition.

### 3.2. Discussion in Plenary

Traffic congestion on the M4 between Cardiff and Swansea was discussed in Plenary on 8 January 2025. Altaf Hussain MS suggested “the 50 mph limit should now be unnecessary as other factors will dramatically improve air quality in the area”. The Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales, Ken Skates MS, responded:

...the 50 mph speed restriction was introduced as a consequence of legal action that was taken against Welsh Government—legal action that's been taken against Governments elsewhere as well for the same reason—to help to bring down air pollution. We are hopeful that that measure will be successful, and, of course, if levels of pollution can drop along those routes below the legal threshold, then we'd look at removing those speed restrictions.

In November 2022 Natasha Asghar MS said the 50 mph cameras on the M4 in Newport “simply haven’t worked” as “heavy congestion still plagues that stretch of

the road every single day". She asked, referring to cancellation of the M4 relief road scheme:

... is it not true that the imposition of unrealistic speed limits has less to do with cutting pollution and everything to do with forcing motorists off our inadequate roads to cover up your failure to provide Wales with an effective and efficient road network?

The then Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Lee Waters MS, responded:

The provision of 50 mph speed limits, as the Member knows, were, in many cases, court ordered because they were breaching air quality targets, and, far from her saying have proven ineffective, the reverse is true, as she well knows. They have proven effective in bringing down the pollution levels, as well as contributing to smoother flow of traffic.

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-06-1568  
Ein cyf/Our ref KSNWT/01991/25

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

17 December 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 05 December regarding Petition P-06-1568 - Return all the M4 to the 70mph speed limit.

Speed limits are placed on public roads to promote safety, improve journey times, contribute to improving air quality and ultimately saving lives.

We have reduced speed limits to 50mph to reduce nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) pollution and improve air quality. Detailed information is available at [50mph speed limits to reduce pollution | GOV.WALES](#)

Further data on how effective these measures have been at five key sites across Wales, including M4 Port Talbot and M4 Newport, can be found at [Annual data on NO2 concentrations for the motorway and trunk road network | GOV.WALES](#).

Following the decision not to proceed with the M4 Relief Road, the South East Wales Transport Commission (SEWTC) was established to consider congestion issues on the M4 and make recommendations to the Welsh Government. The Commission operated independently and examined a wide range of options. Its final recommendations, accepted by the Welsh Government, acknowledge that further measures are needed to address wider issues along the M4 corridor. More information is available at [M4 corridor around Newport | GOV.WALES](#).

The 50mph speed limit between junctions 24 and 28 was introduced following SEWTC's recommendations to reduce congestion, including the air pollution section between junctions 25 and 26. The replacement of the variable speed limit with a fixed 50mph limit was one of several measures implemented after the Commission's interim findings. Analysis showed that variable speeds and late lane changes often caused breakdowns in traffic flow, particularly near the Brynglas Tunnels. While the variable limit helped during off-peak periods, it had limited impact during peak times, and a fixed limit was recommended as more effective.

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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 is acknowledged further measures are needed to tackle the wider issues along the M4 corridor around Newport and this is reflected in the Commission's [Final Recommendations](#) report, accepted by the Welsh Government. You can follow the progress of delivering these measures online at [The Burns Delivery Unit | TfW](#).

Significant progress has been made in moving forward delivery of Lord Burns' recommendations, not least the commitment by the UK Government in their latest Comprehensive Spending Review to fund capacity improvements to the South Wales Mainline and construction of new stations on it in South East Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**Ken Skates AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru  
Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales

**P-06-1568 Return all the M4 to the 70mph speed limit, in Wales. Remove all lower speed limits forced on us – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 26 January 2026**

Hi,

First thoughts. The first link says there are green cameras on the M4. Is this correct? I only seem to see yellow?

With NO<sup>2</sup> data, I would think this could be skewed to give whatever results the surveyor wanted. It could depend on time of day, weather, volume of traffic, equipment used, position of the equipment, different people surveying, etc. I would take any government data or commissioned data with a pinch of salt, unless I saw the process with my own eyes, and knew it to be conducted without bias. People are now aware of cases of independent surveys/data that are perhaps only independent in name only, with hidden links and funding.

We seem to be getting the 'saving lives' mantra peddled out every time with speed limits. The 20mph fiasco, but the data showed accidents were already declining historically, but this data was manipulated to push this agenda.

If it was about safety, speed limits would be applied in specific areas not just rolled out adhoc, again down to government agenda surveys that no one is really privy to until they are applied.

Safety should be about driving standards, people indicating, not hogging the middle lane, repairing potholes, clearing drains, where standing water hides hazards. Since November the amount of water on the roads that is pooling in same places due to council/government neglect is shocking. We are nearly into February and there has been 2-3 months to get these looked at, so it's not about safety, we know that.

If it was about saving lives we wouldn't have the worst performing NHS in the UK after 26 years of devolution, plenty of lives to be saved there!

Fingers crossed, things will change in the upcoming election, since the 20mph introduction, the population has become very aware of the ineptitude of the Welsh government and resource wastage. An extra 36 politicians that no one has voted for being a case in point.

I don't think the Senedd quite realises the amount of disquiet felt by many of the population, they have had opportunities to listen but haven't taken things onboard.

Regards,

Robert Watkins.

# NHS Dentistry

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 9 Chwefror 2026  
Petitions Committee | 9 February 2026

**Reference:** RS25/12887-4

## Introduction

The following two petitions on NHS dentistry are to be considered:

**Petition Number:** P-06-1551

**Petition title:** Stop the Welsh Government's Harmful Changes to NHS Dentistry

**Text of petition:**

We call on the Welsh Government to halt proposed changes to NHS dental services that will dramatically affect access to care, especially for people with disabilities, those with mental health conditions, and individuals with a fear of dentists.

These changes risk reducing the availability of appointments, increasing waiting times, and placing greater pressure on dental practices already struggling to meet demand. Many people with disabilities or complex needs already face barriers when accessing dental care – including physical inaccessibility, sensory overload, communication difficulties, and anxiety.

Reforming the system without strong patient consultation and support will only make these problems worse. We urge the Welsh Government to reconsider these changes and instead invest in making NHS dentistry more accessible, inclusive, and responsive to vulnerable patients' needs.



**Petition Number:** P-06-1557

**Petition title:** Introduce guaranteed NHS dental treatment for the population of Wales

**Text of petition:**

Ensure that NHS dental treatment coverage is available for all residents of Wales.

The Welsh Government should ensure that NHS dental coverage is available throughout Wales, be it provided by an NHS dentist or a service that is bought in from the private sector at the same fee level.

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.

## Committee inquiry and Dental Access Portal

The Senedd's Health and Social Care Committee carried out an [inquiry into dentistry](#) and published its [report](#) in February 2023. A [Senedd Research article](#) outlined some of the issues with accessing NHS dentistry in Wales at the time. In October 2024, [the Welsh Government provided an update](#) on action it had taken in response to the Committee's recommendations.

In response to the Committee calling for the Welsh Government to consider a single centralised waiting list across Wales, an all-Wales digital [Dental Access Portal](#) (DAP) was rolled out in February 2025. This enables people to register their interest in receiving NHS dental care. The [Portal](#) originally had a requirement that people must not have received routine dental treatment on the NHS in the last 4 years but [this requirement was removed](#) in June 2025.

The Welsh Government's letter to the Petitions Committee (5 January 2026) highlights that the DAP aims to provide health boards with a clear understanding of need in their area and enable them to manage the allocation of people to dental practices as capacity becomes available. When registering with the DAP, people can indicate how far they are willing or able to travel to see an NHS dentist.

## Proposed new dental contract

Information on the current NHS General Dental Services contract and related reforms is set out in a Senedd Research article on [Developments in NHS dentistry in Wales](#).

[Tripartite negotiations took place](#) from September 2023 to October 2024 between the Welsh Government, NHS, and the Welsh General Dental Practice Committee to design and develop a new General Dental Services contract.

During [Plenary on 18 March 2025](#), the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care (the Cabinet Secretary) outlined a **proposed new contract for NHS General Dental Services in Wales**. The new contract aims to deliver a system based on prevention and the provision of dental treatment on a risk and needs basis, meaning **the automatic recall of patients every six months for a routine check-up will end**.

A [consultation on the proposed new contract](#) was held between March and June 2025 with [proposals including](#):

- creating a single route of entry for people to access NHS dental services;

- implementing a different remuneration system;
- adjusting patient charges due to changes in the remuneration system;
- a change in how charges are collected; and
- the development of a high-needs pathway.

## **Changes following consultation**

On 23 September 2025, a consultation summary was published, and in Plenary, the Cabinet Secretary set out **changes to the proposed new contract**.

The original consultation document proposed that patients would be assigned a dental practice through the DAP. This could result in patients being sent to different practices in their local area depending on their recall status and the capacity in the health board area.

Following the consultation, the Cabinet Secretary confirmed that **people with good oral health will not be referred back to the DAP**. He said this aims to maintain a patient's relationship with their dentist, and enable the monitoring of a patient's oral health based on risk and need.

The Cabinet Secretary also referred to the development of a high-needs pathway for people who may need additional support. The Welsh Government's letter to the Petitions Committee states that vulnerable people who are unable to access general dental services will continue to be seen by the community dental service.

**Other changes following the consultation include** an increase in payments made by the NHS to dentists, and the introduction of an online payment system being postponed to April 2027.

## **Implementation of the new contract**

The new contract is planned to come into force in April 2026 and will be implemented by legislation and directions. At the time of writing, the relevant regulations had not been laid.

The **British Dental Association Cymru** has raised a **number of concerns** regarding NHS dental contracts and the proposed reforms. Its website includes blogs and news articles setting out these concerns.

During Plenary on 18 March 2025 and 23 September 2025, Members raised issues including accessing dentistry and ensuring dental provision across Wales, and the details of the proposed new contract.

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## Statistics on dentistry

According to [the latest Welsh Government statistical release](#), (published in November 2025), the percentage of children [treated by an NHS dentist](#) has increased in the last year, while adult treatment rates have remained broadly stable over the last 18 months.

In the 12 months ending 30 June 2025, 48.2% of **children** living in Wales received NHS dental treatment. 40.1% of the **adult** population received treatment in the [24-month period](#) ending 30 June 2025.

These figures show the volume of treatment delivered, not the number of people who needed care or were unable to access it, so they only provide a partial picture of access.

The Welsh Government's letter to the Petitions Committee states that since April 2022, when a [variation to the current contract](#) was introduced, almost 530,000 new patients have received a full course of treatment; and 214,000 appointments have been provided for new patients to have urgent care.

While these figures suggest capacity for new patients, [the Health and Social Care Committee's report on dentistry](#) noted BDA Cymru's concerns that the contract reform's aim of releasing capacity to provide appointments for new patients could come at the detriment of existing patients. The Committee recommended that the Welsh Government monitors the provision of patient appointments to ensure the right balance is struck.

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-06-1557 and P-06-1551  
Ein cyf/Our ref JMHSC/03179/25 and JMHSC/03125/25

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair  
Petitions committee  
[petitions@senedd.wales](mailto:petitions@senedd.wales)

05 January 2026

Dear Carolyn,

I am replying to letters from the committee in relation to two separate but related petitions, which both concern the new dental contract, which will be introduced in April 2026:

**Petition P-06-1557:** Introduce guaranteed NHS dental treatment for the population of Wales

**Petition P-06-1551:** Stop the Welsh Government's Harmful Changes to NHS Dentistry

The new dental contract – the first major reform of the general dental services contract in 20 years – is a significant change from the current units of dental activity (UDA) contract. It will mean that people will be seen on the basis of their health needs and not automatically every six months. It will help to improve access to NHS dentistry for the public and will be fair to dentists.

We have developed the contract with the NHS and the dental profession's representatives and consulted on it with the public. The public consultation received 6,427 responses making it one of the most, if not the most, responded to consultations since devolution.

As a result of the feedback from the consultation, we have made a number of important changes, including ensure people with very good oral health are able to maintain continuity with their dental practice.

I made a [statement in the Senedd](#) about the new contract and the changes we are making following the recent public consultation. This includes information about developing a high needs pathway for people who may need additional support. Vulnerable people who are unable to access general dental services will continue to be seen by the community dental service.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

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

[Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@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.

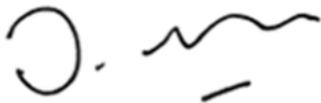
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

We know it can be difficult for people to access NHS dental care if they do not have an ongoing relationship with an NHS dentist. The Dental Access Portal (DAP) was developed to provide health boards with a clear understanding of need in their area and enable them to manage the allocation of people to dental practices as capacity becomes available. It also removes the need for people to have to ring around a lot of practices to find an NHS dentist in their area. When registering with the DAP, people can indicate how far they are willing or able to travel to see an NHS dentist. People can register their details on the Dental Access Portal by following this link: [Dental Access Portal - Digital Health and Care Wales](#)

Dental practices are taking on new NHS patients across Wales, since April 2022, when we introduced a variation to the current UDA contract, almost 530,000 new patients have received a full course of treatment; and 214,000 appointments have been provided for new patients to have urgent care.

The new dental contract for Wales will improve access to NHS dentistry for everyone as health needs and prevention are at the heart of the new system.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a circular mark followed by a wavy line and a short horizontal stroke.

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**

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

# Agenda Item 3.1

## **P-06-1464 Allow Welsh families who have experienced Baby loss before 24 weeks to obtain baby loss certificate**

This petition was submitted by Angharad Cousins, having collected a total of 749 signatures.

### **Text of Petition:**

The UK government have introduced baby loss certificates for families in England who have lost babies prior to 24 weeks. This doesn't apply to Welsh families. Let's get this changed!!

### **Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Caerphilly
- South Wales East

Sarah Murphy AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant  
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1464  
Ein cyf/Our ref SM/00708/25

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair  
Petitions Committee

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

05 January 2026

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter dated 18 November regarding Petition P-06-1464, which calls for Welsh families to have access to a bereavement certificate for baby loss up to 24 weeks gestation.

The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring every family is appropriately and compassionately supported in these circumstances and understands the importance for parents to have formal recognition of their loss.

As you are aware, I have issued a Ministerial Direction to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHS BSA) to deliver the scheme for Wales. Discovery work is underway, which includes an assessment of implementation timelines, costs and the technical requirements to provide a fully bilingual service – from application, to the production of a bilingual certificate – which complies with Welsh language standards.

Unfortunately, this is taking longer than we anticipated, we have been advised by NHS BSA that the current system was not developed to deliver a bi-lingual service therefore a new development is required. This must comply with Government Digital Standards and therefore we will be commencing a period of user research (a requirement of these standards) in January 2026. My officials are working collaboratively with NHS BSA, during the discovery phase, liaising with parents who wish to participate in the user research phase and with translation support. We anticipate a final report to be with us week commencing the 2nd March detailing the development timeline and cost.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Sarah.Murphy@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Sarah.Murphy@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Sarah.Murphy@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Sarah.Murphy@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.

As soon as I have the detail from NHS BSA, I will advise the committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

**Sarah Murphy AS/MS**  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant  
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

# Agenda Item 3.2

## **P-06-1533 Review and update Provisions 2-10 of The Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008**

This petition was submitted by Rebecca Smart, having collected a total of 2,185 signatures.

### **Text of petition:**

We, the undersigned, request the Welsh Government to review and update provisions 2-10 of the Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008. Namely, local authorities' duty to assess learner travel needs and transport arrangements, including travel limits. Post-16 and nursery education travel. Equality in travel arrangements and promotion of the Welsh Language.

In 2021, Welsh ministers committed to reviewing the Measure, highlighting the issues; however, it remains unchanged.

### **Additional information:**

This request follows sustained concerns from members of the public and independent bodies, including the Children's Commissioner for Wales, surrounding child welfare, such as safety, impact on mental well-being, education, and children's physical health.

In 2021, Welsh ministers noted issues with the current Measure, some of which extended beyond the scope of current legislation, saying a do-nothing approach was inappropriate. It concluded that interim work justified a comprehensive review of the Measure, preventing "further inequality, inconsistency in provision and further outdated codes and guidance".

However, members stated there was no time within the administration to begin a formal process to change the Measure before the pre-election period started, so it remains unchanged.

### **Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Ogmore
- South Wales West

# Agenda Item 3.3

## **P-06-1555 To review all guidance on Home to School Transport for all of Wales. Free access to an education**

This petition was submitted by Tina Collins, having collected a total of 11,790 signatures.

### **Text of petition:**

All Children attending an education should be able to attend a school or college without any struggle.

Our streets are no longer safe to walk on their own, especially those who are under 19 years of age.

With NO direct transport for an education for those who even HAVE to attend until their last day in year 11. These students struggle through underlying illness, hidden illness, or even undiagnosed.

The students who live in poverty and struggle to even travel on a public bus.

### **Additional information:**

The years leading up to GCSE or A-LEVEL are the critical time of an education. Students should NOT be fighting to gain an education. This should be made easy.

A year 8 student tested his journey by foot from home to school one way.

This was a total of 1hr and 10mins. He has no underlying illnesses and plays sport after school. Carrying 6kg in his backpack and coat.

After this journey he complained of sore feet, his shoulders hurt and felt exhausted.

This is before a 6 hour day in cool dry weather conditions.

There is no storage for spare clothes or even a dry room to dry clothes.

Absenteeism is going to rise.

More cars will be on our roads leading to emissions increasing. Statistics for a child killed in a serious accident will rise.

Please review this legislation for the children to have an easier way of accessing and education or even before a child is serious hurt.

A child's voice needs to be heard. They are our priority are they yours?

The years leading up to GCSE or A-LEVEL are the critical time of an education. Students should NOT be fighting to gain an education. This should be made easy.

A year 8 student tested his journey by foot from home to school one way.

This was a total of 1hr and 10mins. He has no underlying illnesses and plays sport after school. Carrying 6kg in his backpack and coat.

After this journey he complained of sore feet, his shoulders hurt and felt exhausted.

This is before a 6 hour day in cool dry weather conditions.

There is no storage for spare clothes or even a dry room to dry clothes.

Absenteeism is going to rise.

More cars will be on our roads leading to emissions increasing. Statistics for a child killed in a serious accident will rise.

Please review this legislation for the children to have an easier way of accessing and education or even before a child is serious hurt.

A child's voice needs to be heard. They are our priority are they yours?

**Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Cynon Valley
- South Wales Central

**P-06-1555 To review all guidance on Home to School Transport for all of Wales.  
Free access to an education – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the  
Committee, 04 February 2026**

**Dear Petitions Committee**

**Reflections on the debate**

Thank you for agreeing for this matter to be discussed again.

In the debate on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January, we have some positive and negatives.

In regards to the positives, we welcomed hearing that there is cross party consensus that this is an issue that has to be addressed. It was also positive for us to see that so many members came across as though they genuinely cared about the issue. As a parent, a petitioner and a campaigner this has been a long journey, especially when I still receive stories daily from parents about how this policy is impacting negatively on their child.

With any progress potentially being delayed until after the election, many people are frustrated and angry. This is why we are still pursuing for this to be actioned as a matter of urgency. If we wait any longer the students who are struggling now will continue to suffer. Not being able to access school could hinder their whole futures.

Attending school or college is the only opportunity some children get to leave their home or to see their friends. To be able to fulfil their potential. We have to stand now and give every child the opportunity to thrive. Cost of living is rising putting children at risk from family relationship breakdowns. Even those who used to live comfortably are now also struggling to juggle work and getting their child to an educational setting.

Climate change and more frequent extreme weather events is also having an impact. The decision in RCT has added additional stress, strain and emotional worries to students. Weather warnings are increasing and are not one offs. Taking school transport off students has increased significantly in other vehicles on our roads, leading to increased emissions filtering into our lungs putting added pressure on health and our NHS.

The cost in SEND/ ALN transport hasn't gone unnoticed. As a campaign group we are putting together a survey for students and parents to answer. Their input will help shape what improvements could be made to the current system.

In the meantime, we are asking for immediate support for those who can't afford the £1 journey and are therefore missing school or college. And also for those who are waiting for buses to arrive, leaving them vulnerable waiting in the cold sometimes in uncovered bus stops, and in areas not safe to wait in.

There have been numerous issues on public transport over the last few months involving inappropriate actions by adults with children travelling the same time. Evidence has been submitted to the campaign group by parents.

Child safety and now their protection is an issue on public transport, making them more vulnerable to predators and substance misusers when travelling with them.

We are not begging. We are now pleading with you to forward this urgently for consideration by the Welsh Government so that funding is provided for the local authorities to at least provide transportation after the Easter break until September this year. A resolution is desperately needed.

With respect and kindness.

Tina Collins

# Agenda Item 3.4

**P-06-1550 Place the drug Xonvea on to the formulary for the management of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy**

This petition was submitted by Sarah Spooner, having collected a total of 947 signatures.

**Text of petition:**

The RCOG's Greentop Guidelines for the management of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy recommend Xonvea as an effective first line treatment for the management of severe pregnancy sickness. However it is currently off formulary in Wales. Hyperemesis Gravidarum is a serious condition affecting around 3% of pregnant women, 1 in 10 women with HG will terminate their pregnancy and 1 in 4 will consider suicide. Xonvea is a safe and effective treatment . We ask for AWMMSG to review their recommendation.

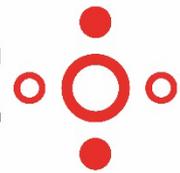
**Additional information:**

Greentop Guidelines: <https://www.rcog.org.uk/guidance/browse-all-guidance/green-top-guidelines/the-management-of-nausea-and-vomiting-of-pregnancy-and-hyperemesis-gravidarum-green-top-guideline-no-69/>

More Information about HG: <https://pregnancysicknesssupport.org.uk/>

**Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Monmouth
- South Wales East



21st January 2026

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

Dear Ms Thomas

**Re: Petition P-06-1550  
Xonvea for the management of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy**

Thank you for your letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and request for the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) to reconsider its decision not to support the routine use of doxylamine succinate/pyridoxine hydrochloride (Xonvea®) for the management of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy. AWMSG recognises the distressing effect of Hyperemesis Gravidarum on pregnant women and their families.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) makes the majority of decisions on the routine reimbursement of medicines for England and Wales. If NICE does not undertake a health technology assessment of an indication for a medicine (as occurred for Xonvea), AWMSG can undertake the assessment and make recommendations to Welsh Government.

In May 2019, AWMSG appraised Xonvea for the treatment of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy in women who do not respond to conservative management. Based on the evidence submitted by the pharmaceutical company and the cost of the medicine, AWMSG considered the most likely cost-effectiveness estimates were above the range considered an acceptable use of NHS resources. It is notable that in Scotland, the Scottish Medicines Consortium came to the same decision as AWMSG based on similar submitted evidence and cost.

I would emphasise that cost alone is not the determining factor in AWMSG's decision making, rather cost effectiveness. In these times of ever challenging NHS funding, it is incumbent on AWMSG to make decisions that maximise value to patients in Wales. An assessment of cost effectiveness reflects both the evidence for an intervention and the cost to the NHS. For negative recommendations AWMSG will continue to engage with

pharmaceutical companies to determine if changes in either the evidence base or the cost would materially affect the cost-effectiveness of a medicine.

AWMSG has continued to proactively engage with the manufacturer of Xonvea over the last 18 months, and as a result AWMSG are optimistic that the company will be able to provide updated real world evidence in the very near future. Irrespective of whether further evidence is submitted, AWMSG plans a re-appraisal of the evidence for Xonvea in the management of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy in the next 12 months. We would also emphasise that if a medicine is not routinely funded within NHS Wales, clinicians are still able to request a medicine via the health board's individual patient funding request (IPFR) process.

In conclusion, AWMSG is actively exploring a resubmission of the evidence of Xonvea with the manufacturer and I will ensure you are kept informed of any developments in this regard.

Kindest regards

Yours sincerely,



**Professor Iolo Doull**  
**Chairman, All Wales Medicines Strategy Group**

## **P-06-1550 Place the drug Xonvea on to the formulary for the management of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 02 February 2026**

Dear Petitions Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the information sent by the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group dated the 21st January.

I am pleased to hear that the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group are having continue correspondence with the manufacturers of Xonvea and a re-appraisal is planned in the next 12 months. Thank you also for acknowledging the impact of hyperemesis gravidarum on pregnant people and their families.

I would like to seek clarification and raise several concerns regarding how cost effectiveness is currently being interpreted. I would also like to clarify what specifically would be required for Xonvea to be approved as on formulary in Wales.

In the letter from the AWMSG it is emphasized that cost alone is not the determining factor, but rather cost effectiveness. My concern is that the assessment appears to be based on the acquisition cost of Xonvea rather than a consideration of the financial ramifications of pregnancy sickness not being managed appropriately, including the cost to the NHS of treating patients presenting with physical and mental health complications from hyperemesis gravidarum, the cost of babies being born prematurely or at a low birth weight, and the economic cost of women being unable to work due to severe sickness. In 2016 the estimated cost to the NHS across the UK of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy was £64 million (Gadsby et al, 2019). Xonvea will only ever be used short term, in the worst-case scenario for a maximum of 8 months.

I recognise that an individual patient funding request (IPFR) process is possible and that Xonvea may be prescribed in exceptional circumstances. However, without clearer guidance on this GPs may be reluctant to prescribe. I would like to once again point out that in both the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology guidelines, and NICE guidelines, Xonvea is recommended as a first line antiemetic and there is no mention of cases needing to be 'exceptional' to prescribe. It is the only medication to be licensed for use in pregnancy and has a well-known safety profile. Is there the possibility of an interim measure allowing clearer guidance on when GPs would be able to prescribe this medication? E.g if other first line antiemetics are unsuccessful, if recommended by an obstetrician etc. Although it is also worth pointing out that in both of those cases the cost of delaying prescribing Xonvea will likely outweigh the cost of prescribing it first line. The value of Xonvea (£28) is the value of approximately half of a GP appointment (£56) (Royal College of General Practitioners, 2024) so if three GP appointments were required to try out three other first line antiemetics first (cyclizine, promethazine, prochlorperazine) you would be looking at a total cost of £175.14 before the patient were able to have treatment that is more likely to be effective (Pregnancy Sickness Support, 2025).

In summary I would like to ask the following points:

- How is the AWMSG assessing cost-effectiveness in its appraisal?
- Would data such as audits be taken into consideration alongside manufacturer submissions?

- What steps are being taken to ensure the right women are receiving the right treatment?
- Are there any interim measures that can be taken to ensure that other women are not suffering unnecessarily, including potentially having to terminate their wanted pregnancies, over the next 12 months?

The recent discussion at the Senedd Petitions Committee demonstrated strong cross-party concern that financial concern should not prevent women from accessing licensed and recommend treatment. I hope that further engagement between the AWMSG, the manufacturer, clinicians and patient groups can lead to progress and a more transparent pathway towards approval.

Thank you for your continued engagement on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Spooner (Butterworth) BSc(hons) PGDip Prof Cert Glauc / Med Ret

Reference:

Gadsby, R. et al. 2019. Nausea and Vomiting of Pregnancy And Resource Implications: the NVP impact study. British Journal of General Practice 69 (680) e217-e223

Pregnancy Sickness Support. 2025. Establishing the Cost and Impact of Xonvea for NVP. A summary of findings by Pregnancy Sickness Support [online] available at:

[https://pregnancysicknesssupport.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Xonvea-Survey-results-and-data-analysis\\_Pregnancy-Sickness-Support-2025-8.7.25.pdf](https://pregnancysicknesssupport.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Xonvea-Survey-results-and-data-analysis_Pregnancy-Sickness-Support-2025-8.7.25.pdf) [Accessed: 02/02/2025]

Royal College of General Practitioners. 2024. Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) submission to the Autumn Budget 2024 / Spending Review [online] Available at:

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/getmedia/3a1bb4e5-8def-4afb-bdc0-75d4d344f024/Royal-College-General-Practitioners-Budget-submission-Autumn-2024.pdf> [accessed: 02/02/2026]

# Agenda Item 3.5

**P-06-1553 Cynyddu buddsoddiad a gweithredu mewn rheoli llifogydd ar sail natur i amddiffyn cymunedau Cymru**

Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb hon gan Menna Roberts, ar ôl casglu 285 lofnodion.

## **Geiriad y ddeiseb:**

Mae llifogydd yn effeithio ar 1 o bob 8 eiddo yng Nghymru, gan achosi trasiedi i lawer. Rydym ni, Llysgenhadon Hinsawdd Ieuenctid Cymru, yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i ymrwymo i gynyddu buddsoddiad a gweithredu tuag at reoli llifogydd ar sail natur i amddiffyn cymunedau yn well, gwella llesiant meddyliol, ac adfer iechyd afonydd. Rydym yn annog dyrannu o leiaf 10% o arian atal llifogydd tuag at reoli llifogydd ar sail natur.

## **Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol:**

Rydym hefyd yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i ystyried:

- Cynnwys cymorth i ffermwyr yn y Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy i wella llystyfiant, plannu coed, ac adfer cynefinoedd;
- Cadw'r ymrwymiad i gyflwyno afancod mewn mannau addas;
- Creu ardaloedd cadwraeth ar hyd gorlifdiroedd naturiol i wella gwydnwch a bioamrywiaeth.

## **Etholaeth a Rhanbarth y Senedd:**

- Gorllewin Caerdydd
- Canol De Cymru

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

Your ref P-06-1553  
Our ref HIDCC/00015/26

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

26 January 2026

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 6 January 2026 regarding the petition to increase investment and action in nature-based flood management to protect Welsh communities.

Below you will find answers to the specific points raised by the Youth Climate Ambassadors for Wales in their further response to my letter in November.

### **Funding for Nature-Based Flood Management (NFM) and the 10% Commitment**

The Welsh Government recognises the growing importance of nature-based flood management as part of a balanced and resilient approach to flood and coastal erosion risk management. Current investment includes £2 million allocated specifically to NFM projects in 2025–26, with a further funding round opened for 2026–27.

At present, Welsh Government does not operate a fixed percentage allocation of the national flood-prevention budget to specific intervention types. Funding decisions are taken on a case-by-case basis as Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) identify suitable flood alleviation schemes in their regions.

However, the proportion of funding supporting natural and hybrid solutions has increased over recent funding periods. This improved baseline will support future strategic decisions about the role NFM can play alongside structural measures.

Welsh Government will continue to review the case for setting clearer long-term expectations for NFM investment as part of future flood-risk management strategies, informed by evidence of effectiveness, delivery capacity, and climate-change projections.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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CF99 1SN

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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.

## **Position on the 2050 Flood-Resilience Target**

Welsh Government supports the ambition outlined in the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales's report Building Resilience to Flooding in Wales by 2050, and recognises the scale of transformation required to adapt to a changing climate.

The 2050 timeframe is treated as a strategic vision, rather than a single end-point, with action already underway to improve resilience in the short and medium term. This includes increased emphasis on catchment-scale planning, integration of climate-change allowances into scheme design, and prioritisation of communities facing the highest and most frequent flood risks.

Welsh Government is developing a catchment-planning roadmap that will identify phased actions, enabling interim milestones to be set and progress tracked. These milestones will align with wider climate-adaptation frameworks and reporting obligations, ensuring that progress towards resilience is assessed regularly rather than deferred to 2050.

## **Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS): Voluntary Uptake and Effectiveness**

Participation in the Sustainable Farming Scheme is voluntary, but the scheme is designed to be accessible to all farmers in Wales, regardless of their location and sector, as long as they can meet the requirements of the scheme.

Various Universal Actions such as soil testing, tree planting, maintaining all semi-natural habitats, and creating additional habitat where there is not 10% existing habitat per farm will all contribute to reducing flood risk. As well as completing a Tree and Hedgerow Planting Opportunity Plan all farmers entering the scheme will have to plant a minimum of 0.1 ha of additional planting (or at least 250 trees) by the end of 2028. We provide a range of incentives to encourage farmers to help deliver our tree planting ambition

The list of Optional and Collaborative themes being developed for introduction later this year are published here: [Sustainable Farming Scheme 2026: scheme description](#). These actions are still being developed, but will contain detail of more targeted, site-specific interventions to enhance the management of habitats and woodlands which will further contribute to reducing flood risk.

The Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023 established Sustainable Land Management (SLM) as the central framework for supporting and regulating agriculture in Wales.

[Introducing the Sustainable Land Management Framework](#) (Page 10) sets out the steps the Act requires to establish the new monitoring, reporting and evaluation framework:

- Multi-Annual Support Plan (2025-29) – [published Dec 2024](#)
- SLM Indicator and Target Statement – [published Dec 2025](#)
- SLM Report (2023-25) – due Dec 2026
- Multi-Annual Support Plan (2030-34) – due Dec 2028
- Impact Report (2023-29) – due Dec 2030
- SLM Report (2026-30) – due Dec 2031

The Sustainable Farming Scheme, launched in 2026 will be a key contributor to achieving the SLM objectives.

## **Beaver Reintroduction: Timeline and Strategic Planning**

Welsh Government is committed to the managed reintroduction of the European beaver, recognising its potential contribution to biodiversity recovery, natural flood management, and ecosystem resilience.

The Welsh Government is working with Natural Resources Wales to establish the governance and regulatory framework needed to support recent changes in legislation and policy. As part of this work, and in collaboration with a range of key stakeholders, the Welsh Beaver Forum has been formed and will meet for the first time in February to guide and inform the development of a National Beaver Strategy.

While specific timelines for widespread re-establishment will depend on ecological assessment, stakeholder engagement, and resource availability, Welsh Government anticipates that progress towards reintroduction in priority catchments will be made in a phased and evidence-led manner. The long-term ambition is to enable beavers to contribute meaningfully to climate-adaptation outcomes over the coming decades.

## **Naturfa Sites / OECMs: Support and Incentives**

Naturfa status is intended to recognise and support land management practices that create areas rich with biodiversity, delivering public goods, often including flood-water storage and attenuation.

Biodiversity is the primary public good that Naturfa status is about, but importantly unlike SSSIs, it doesn't have to be the primary objective e.g. if a site is managed primarily for flood attenuation but rich biodiversity is a by-product, then Naturfa status is certainly applicable.

Welsh Government is actively exploring how financial support, advisory services, and integration with existing schemes – including the Sustainable Farming Scheme – can incentivise landowners to achieve Naturfa status, for example by managing floodplains in ways that enhance biodiversity and natural processes as part of maintaining viable businesses.

Integration with catchment-scale flood-risk priorities will be guided by Area Statements, development of Resilient Ecological Networks, local flood-risk strategies, and partnership working between Natural Resources Wales, local authorities, and land managers. Further guidance on eligibility, incentives, and strategic alignment will be developed as the Naturfa framework is implemented.

By establishing, managing, and governing such that the costs and benefits of 30by30 areas are to be shared equitably, this will involve transparent, accountable, and inclusive participation in decision-making, recognising the rights, livelihoods, and diversity of the people of Wales. In other words, Naturfa sites should demonstrate ways they are involving others, particularly the local community, in their management. Democratic and participatory management, respecting, valuing, and involving others in the spirit of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act ways of working, is very much at the heart of what we want to promote with Naturfa.

## **Involvement of Flood-Affected Communities**

Welsh Government recognises that effective flood risk management depends on meaningful involvement of the communities most affected by flooding. Current engagement includes public consultation on strategies and schemes, local engagement led by Local Authorities and Natural Resources Wales (NRW), and partnership working at catchment level.

The Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Business Case Guidance, used by Local Authorities and NRW for all scheme development, requires early and ongoing engagement with key stakeholders, including affected communities, and embeds the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

NRW also supports communities to develop and test community flood plans, improving local preparedness and resilience.

Future policy will continue to emphasise transparency, co-production and trust-building, recognising that lived experience is central to fair and effective climate adaptation.

Welsh Government welcomes the continued engagement of the Youth Climate Ambassadors for Wales and values their contribution to discussions on flood resilience and nature-based solutions.

Thank you for writing to me on behalf of the Petitions Committee on this important matter. I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely,



**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

**P-06-1553 Increase investment and action in nature-based flood management to protect Welsh communities – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 02 February 2026**

Dear Deputy First Minister and the senedd petitions committee ,

Thank you for your detailed response to our petition calling for increased investment and action in nature-based flood management (NFM) to protect Welsh communities. We are writing to you as the Youth Climate Ambassadors for Wales, representing young people who will live with the long-term consequences of today's decisions on flood risk, climate resilience, and the health of our natural environment.

We recognise a number of positive elements within your response, including continued funding for NFM, the commitment to catchment-scale planning, progress towards a National Beaver Strategy, and the emphasis on community involvement. These are welcome signals. However, from a young person's perspective, we remain concerned that much of what is described reflects plans to develop further plans, rather than the pace and scale of action needed to protect our future in Wales.

While we welcome the £2 million allocation for nature-based flood management in 2025–26, we are concerned that current spending patterns are not delivering the outcomes Wales needs. Flooding continues to affect communities across the country, suggesting that existing approaches alone are not solving the problem. At present, only around 2.5% of flood-related expenditure is directed towards nature-based solutions. From our perspective, this indicates a missed opportunity to invest more strongly in approaches that address the root causes of flooding while delivering long-term benefits for nature, climate resilience, and future generations.

We believe there is a real opportunity for the Welsh Government to champion nature-based solutions and to lead the way across the four nations of the UK. Wales has strong environmental legislation, a commitment to the Well-being of Future Generations, and a growing evidence base for nature-based approaches. We believe that setting an aspirational target such as committing 10% of flood-prevention funding to nature-based solutions would send a powerful signal that Wales is serious about long-term, preventative action rather than continually reacting to flood damage after it occurs. We understand that flood management decisions are made in terms of need, and so we believe that an aspirational target would respect the ever-changing nature of flood management while making sure that nature is still considered as a priority. For young people, this kind of ambition matters because it shows that our future is being actively protected.

As young people, we are particularly concerned about long-term accountability. Flood resilience by 2050 will span multiple future governments, yet the impacts will be felt most strongly by our generation and those that follow. We would welcome further detail on how the Welsh Government plans to secure long-term progress through durable funding commitments, statutory targets, or governance arrangements that will not be easily undone by future political change.

We note with interest the recent work of the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales trialling the inclusion of nature as a representative in decision-making. From a youth perspective, giving nature a voice in governance reflects the kind of systems thinking needed to address climate and ecological crises. We would therefore welcome consideration of independent representation for nature across key decision-making bodies, including the Sustainable Farming Scheme, national flood governance structures, Natural Resources Wales, and the Welsh Beaver Forum.

Finally, we were disappointed to see little reference to the forthcoming development of secondary targets under the Environmental Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Bill. For young people, this represents a crucial opportunity to embed long-term commitments to nature-based flood management, ecosystem restoration, and potentially species reintroductions such as beavers, within a statutory framework that helps secure our future.

In summary, while we recognise positive intent in your response, we remain concerned that current funding levels, governance arrangements, and delivery mechanisms do not yet reflect the scale or urgency of the challenge facing our generation. We want to see Wales move from incremental progress to genuine leadership in nature-based flood resilience not only for today's communities, but for those of us who will inherit the consequences.

Thank you for engaging with young people on this critical issue. We look forward to continued dialogue and to seeing how the Welsh Government will act to safeguard our future in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

Menna Roberts ,

Youth climate Ambassadors for Wales.

# Agenda Item 3.6

**P-06-1565 Continue funding Technocamps to provide the support that schools and teachers across Wales rely on**

**Text of petition:**

Welsh Government has stopped funding Welsh universities (Technocamps) to support Welsh teachers, and instead is giving £1.4M to York University to provide on-line resources for this. This is outrageous: both in the loss of critical local in-person support for Welsh teachers, and in the disrespect shown towards Wales and Welsh universities that are eager to support their local schools but are having their funding for this taken away and given –in far greater amounts– to an English university.

**Additional information:**

Since 2014, Welsh Government has funded Welsh universities (Technocamps) to help all teachers across Wales cope with the challenges of digital education, through in-person bilingual training and guidance. Teachers still face increasingly difficult challenges due to rapid developments in digital technology, and have become reliant on Technocamps support and understanding of the Welsh Curriculum. The success of many DfES initiatives (DCF, DigiTech quals, micro:bits, cyber and AI projects, etc) relies heavily on Technocamps support.

Astonishingly, only 7% of the Curriculum support funding goes to the Science and Technology AoLE, in two grants to England-based organisations; the remaining 93% goes to the 5 other AoLEs. Providing so little support for the Science and Technology AoLE –and particularly computing and digital technology– is frightening and inexplicable, as it can only lead to a decline in attainment in digital and STEM subjects, and ultimately in economic prosperity for Wales.

**Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Gower
- South Wales West

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LN/00014/26

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair - Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

26 January 2026

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter regarding Petition P-06-1565, *“Continue funding Technocamps to provide the support that schools and teachers across Wales rely on.”* I welcome the Committee’s continued scrutiny and its request for clarity in relation to the grant awarded to STEM Learning on (a) the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023 and (b) bilingual provision.

On point (a), the Curriculum for Wales Grant Support Programme is a grant scheme, not a public procurement exercise and no contract for services was let under procurement legislation. Therefore, it is not covered by the provisions in the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023.

On point (b), STEM Learning’s professional learning programme will be delivered entirely in Welsh and English. Online engagement will include a fully bilingual user journey. Since my previous correspondence, I am pleased to confirm that STEM Learning have recruited two bilingual advisers, strengthening the programme’s capacity to deliver high-quality professional learning in both Welsh and English across Wales.

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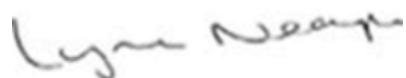
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[Correspondence.Lynne.Neagle@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lynne.Neagle@gov.wales)

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.

I hope this clarifies the points raised by the committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynne Neagle". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Lynne Neagle AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education

**P-06-1565 Continue funding Technocamps to provide the support that schools and teachers across Wales rely on - Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 29 January 2026**

Dear Kayleigh,

Many thanks for providing me a further opportunity to offer my views for the benefit of the members of the Petitions Committee who will be considering my petition.

I was surprised and sorely disappointed with the lack of attention that my petition received by the Petitions Committee when they met on **8 December 2025**. The outcome of that meeting, after 90 seconds of consideration, was to request further information from the Cabinet Secretary that is irrelevant to my petition.

For example, in her letter to the Committee of **18 November 2025**, the Cabinet Secretary made **false** claims about the petition; in particular, she wrote that:

***“the petition claims [the STEM Learning UK project] is an exclusively English language programme”.***

My letter to the Committee of **27 November 2025** opened by **exposing these blatantly false claims**. In particular, in regard to the above claim, I wrote:

***“This is blatantly false. I ask the Petitions Committee to read over my petition and confirm for itself that it makes no such claim.”***

Given this, I am utterly astounded that the Committee would spend less than two minutes considering my petition, resulting in the following:

***“The Committee agreed to seek clarity from the Cabinet Secretary for Education on the issues raised by the petitioner about bilingual provision [by the STEM Learning UK project].”***

It is clear from this that the Committee had neither read my petition, nor my response to the Cabinet Secretary’s false narrative, with enough attention to note that the Committee itself was repeating the false narrative invented by the Cabinet Secretary about my petition.

By obfuscating the issues that I raise in my petition with her false narratives, the Cabinet Secretary has seemingly succeeded in side-tracking the Committee from its assigned duty.

I beg the members of the Committee to properly read and consider my petition, and my response of 27 November 2025 to the Cabinet Secretary’s letter of 18 November 2025, and debate my petition itself rather than the Cabinet Secretary’s false characterisation of the petition.

I provided a great volume of salient information in my earlier response that I will not repeat here – please reflect carefully on this. I will only add two points to the consideration.

- The end of 11 years of DfES funding for Technocamps has resulted in the loss of salary of 15 people employed in the Welsh universities throughout Wales. As noted in the Cabinet Secretary's latest letter, in place of this Technocamps work force in Wales, the greater funding provided to York University will go instead to two people working at and for York University.
- The Technocamps Delivery Officers at the various universities across Wales that, until last year, teachers across Wales have relied on for professional training and support have been clearly identified on the Technocamps website, and have always been readily accessible. Teachers across Wales are now expressing their grave concerns to us, as they do not know where to turn; there is no information available about people in York University who are funded to help them. They are now truly struggling.

The strength and volume of feeling amongst the practitioners is clear from the response to my petition: despite being live for a relatively short period, and despite its specialist nature, the number of signatories to my petition places it amongst the **top 5.6%** of such petitions historically in terms of support.

Beti

***Beti Williams, MBE***

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

Agenda Item 4.1

Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1525  
Ein cyf/Our ref HIDCC/00010/26

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair - Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

23 January 2026

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 5 January on behalf of the Petitions Committee, referring to the preservation of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal for the future generations of Wales.

I welcome the Committee's acknowledgement of the Welsh Government's announcement on 5 December confirming additional investment for the canal. This commitment provides an important degree of stability for those who work on, rely upon, and care deeply about the canal over the next five years. I am also pleased that Members found value in their recent visit and the Senedd debate, and I echo the Committee's congratulations to the petitioners on their effective and dedicated campaign.

Regarding the Committee's request for written confirmation on the long-term future of the canal, I can confirm that the Welsh Government remains committed to safeguarding the canal as a significant cultural, environmental, and economic asset for Wales. While the current £400,000 allocation is set for this Senedd term, the Ministerial led group is actively examining the longer-term requirements, including sustainable funding models, maintenance needs, and opportunities for future development. Its work will inform decisions that ensure the canal's continued protection and enhancement beyond the current funding period.

I appreciate the Committee's continued interest in this issue and will ensure that updates are provided as our work progresses. We remain pleased to support this important initiative and are firmly committed to working in close partnership with all stakeholders to safeguard and enhance the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. Our shared aim is to ensure that the canal continues to thrive as a valued asset for local communities, a destination for visitors, and a contributor to the wider Welsh economy for many years to come.

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.

Once again, thank you for writing to me on this important topic. I hope this information is helpful to you and or goes someway in answering your queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

**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-06-1519  
Ein cyf/Our ref KSNWT/02013/25

Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair - Petitions Committee

29 January 2026

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 10 December regarding the A477 at Red Roses and the concerns raised by Eglwyscummin Community Council, in their letter of 18 November 2025. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

I appreciate the suggestion of Eglwyscummin Community Council regarding the timing of the new CCTV survey as seasonal variations are an important factor.

I can confirm that funding has been allocated for a 7-day survey this summer. Whilst multiple surveys over a longer period can provide a broader dataset, our current approach is to plan survey work within confirmed 12-month funding cycles and apply this consistently across Wales. Continuous or permanent 24-hour monitoring is not standard practice as it requires significant cost and data processing labour and must be prioritised where it provides the greatest network-wide benefit.

Officials will ensure that the survey captures meaningful information to support a robust assessment of the junction and to help inform future decisions. The timing of the survey will be aligned with the peak summer tourist period to ensure traffic conditions representative of seasonal demand are captured. Any future survey work will be subject to the availability of funding and programme priorities.

Our South Wales Trunk Road Agent (SWTRA) met with GoSafe in December 2025 to assess a proposed speed-enforcement layby. GoSafe confirmed the site is suitable for monitoring westbound traffic towards the A477 Red Roses Junction and funding has been allocated. Construction of the enforcement layby is planned for this financial year, dependent on weather conditions, contractor availability, necessary approvals and traffic management plans.

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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.

I can also confirm that funding has been allocated for the 2026 / 2027 financial year to provide an appraisal of street lighting requirements at Red Roses.

Any assessment will need to consider a range of factors, including safety data and how the junction operates in different conditions. Police recorded personal injury collisions remain the primary evidence base for the appraisal and any assessment must be based on injury collisions occurring during the hours of darkness.

Although damage-only incidents can indicate local operational issues, they are not recorded to the same standard as injury collisions and therefore cannot be relied upon as primary evidence for lighting justification. As part of the assessment, we will request SWTRA visit the site to review the junction and identify issues not evident from a desktop analysis. Any recommendations arising from this work would then be considered alongside available funding and all-Wales priorities.

Welsh Government officials have attended the site alongside SWTRA to understand the operational issues. SWTRA Route Managers also regularly monitor the A477 route, including the Red Roses junction, under different conditions and at different times of day. Any relevant findings are reported to Welsh Government and used to inform future considerations.

Due to data protection and information governance requirements, the Welsh Government is unable to routinely share raw CCTV footage or detailed datasets. However, we will share the conclusions and an executive summary of the findings with the community council once the analysis has been completed.

Finally, I have noted your request to continue dialogue with the community council moving forward. I would be grateful if any further correspondence can be directed to [welshgovernment.transport@gov.wales](mailto:welshgovernment.transport@gov.wales) so that officials can consider and provide a direct response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

**Ken Skates AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru  
Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales

# Agenda Item 6

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