

Agenda – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 5 – Tŷ Hywel

Hybrid

Meeting date: 16 March 2026

Meeting time: 14.00

For further information contact:

Gareth Price – Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

Petitions@senedd.wales

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

2 Inquiry: P-06-1510 Direct NRW to revoke the environmental permit and ensure the closure of Enover's, Hafod Landfill Site in Wrexham

(Pages 1 – 31)

3 New Petitions

3.1 P-06-1573 Protect Llanidloes: Stop illegal & dangerous gas and water pollution from Bryn Posteg Landfill now

(Pages 32 – 37)

4 Updates to previous petitions

4.1 P-06-1291 Hold an enquiry into the corporate takeover of the veterinary profession in Wales

(Pages 38 – 39)

5 Review paper: Petitions under consideration

(Pages 40 – 51)

6 Papers to note



- 6.1 Letter to Business Committee – Consideration of changes to Standing Order
23
(Pages 52 – 59)
- 6.2 P-06-1550 Place the drug Xonvea on to the formulary for the management
of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy
(Pages 60 – 61)
- 6.3 P-06-1307 The Welsh Government should commit to the adoption of the
maintenance of new housing estates by local authorities
(Pages 62 – 63)
- 6.4 P-06-1476 1000 meter mandatory buffer zone for all new and existing
quarries
(Pages 64 – 65)
- 6.5 P-06-1540 Remove The Manipulative Funding System Forcing Students To
Do Welsh Baccalaureate
(Pages 66 – 67)
- 6.6 P-06-1582 Restore a fair funding route so Welsh students aren't shut out
from MT dance degrees in England
(Pages 68 – 70)
- 6.7 P-06-1581 Urgent Pembrokeshire Healthcare & Resident Safety – Worthybush
Hospital & Health Board Intervention
(Page 71)
- 6.8 P-06-1479 Stop the detention of learning disabled and autistic children,
young people and adults in hospitals
(Page 72)
- 6.9 P-06-1464 Allow Welsh families who have experienced Baby loss before 24
weeks to obtain baby loss certificate
(Page 73)
- 7 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the
public from the meeting for the remainder of today's business:**

8 Legacy report: Consideration of final draft

(Pages 74 – 98)

Agenda Item 1

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Agenda Item 2

P-06-1510 Direct NRW to revoke the environmental permit and ensure the closure of Enover's, Hafod Landfill Site in Wrexham

This petition was submitted by Steven Gittins, having collected 1,125 signatures.

Text of petition:

The Hafod Landfill Site has caused community distress for 18 years, making it Wales' longest running environmental campaign. Despite efforts by residents and elected representatives, the site continues to emit noxious odours, creating an unacceptable statutory nuisance. NRW are responsible for environmental protection and has failed to take meaningful enforcement action, relying instead on technical justifications and vague assurances. This is not just regulatory inertia, but governance failure.

Additional information:

In 2024, the odour and air pollution reached distressing and crisis levels. Families were unable to open their windows, children are forced to play indoors. If NRW regulatory framework allows a site to emit persistent and overpowering odours whilst remaining compliant, then the regulations are clearly not fit for purpose. Their own last Inspection reported key failings such as a non-operational gas engine, increasing the release of landfill gases. Temporary capping of landfill cells that fail to contain odours. Persistent leaks from multiple area of the site. Delays in infrastructure upgrades, leaving the site vulnerable to excessive emissions. In May 2020, a substantial fire broke out, burning for several days and producing thick black smoke. NRW recorded air pollution levels 14 times above the permitted level. If NRW cannot hold Enover accountable, and they have failed to do so in 18 years, then an independent inquiry into their effectiveness as a regulatory body is urgently needed.

Senedd Constituency and Region:

- Clwyd South
- North Wales



Welsh Government Response

P-06-1510 Direct NRW to revoke the environmental permit and ensure the closure of Enover's Hafod Landfill Site in Wrexham

As Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs with Ministerial accountability for Circular Economy Policy and Legislation, I very much welcome the Petitions Committee's Report P-06-1510 regarding directing Natural Resources Wales to revoke the environmental permit and ensure the closure of Enover's Hafod Landfill Site in Wrexham.

I thank the Committee for its careful and professional consideration in undertaking this scrutiny as laid out in its comprehensive [report](#), which was published in January 2026.

This sets out the Welsh Government's response to the report's 11 recommendations.

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

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Responses

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that

Enovert and Wrexham County Borough Council should ensure that full calibration of AQMesh Pod monitoring data for accuracy happens as soon as possible, and all monitoring data is published immediately that calibration is completed. Both regulators and residents must be able to assess the outcome of monitoring activity. Ideally information should be provided in real time if the technical capability exists to do so.

Response: Accept in principle.

This recommendation is assigned to Enovert and Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC) to consider, However, the Welsh Government agrees in principle that AQMesh Pod monitoring data should be calibrated for accuracy and shared with regulators and residents.

Financial Implications – None.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that

NRW should ensure that staff undertaking community 'sniff tests' to help assess odour nuisance have undergone appropriate training, and that training and competence to conduct these tests is kept under regular review.

Response: Accept.

NRW are already delivering this recommendation. All NRW staff who undertake odour investigations at their regulated sites have started to progress or have progressed through the recognised odour pathway training.

Odour sensitivity testing is also a requirement of officers who are investigating odour from their regulated sites.

NRW advise regulatory officers on the likely causes of changes to a 'normal' persons sensitivity to odour, e.g. age, COVID, influenza and recommend re-testing where necessary.

Whilst NRW recognise the recommendation made by the Petitions Committee and have committed to putting systems in place to ensure officers maintain their capability as required.

Financial Implications – None.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that

The Welsh Government should introduce mandatory automated odour monitoring at landfill sites. This is not something currently required by Natural Resources Wales, and the Welsh Government should ensure that regulators are sufficiently funded to facilitate this.

Response: Accept in principle.

NRW confirmed that their odour guidance (How to comply) states that:

'It is not possible to use instruments to measure odour in ambient air directly. However, very occasionally it may be possible to undertake surrogate measurements that are indicative of odours. This may be through direct measurement of chemicals that are themselves odorous, such as hydrogen sulphide.'

BSEN 13725 - Dynamic Dilution Olfactometry is the method for measuring odour, but this is specific to point source emissions where grab samples of source emissions are subsequently diluted to the odour threshold in a laboratory setting. This method is not relevant to ambient odour monitoring.

Consideration will therefore need to be given as to what NRW would test for (e.g. methane, hydrogen sulphide, carbon sulphide, ammonia). There are also considerations around the enforceability of any limits included in Environmental Permits, as it would be challenging to prove definitively that the source of the hydrogen sulphide is coming from a landfill site, as other sources also contribute to background levels.

NRW may also be able to request this testing from the operator if they have substantiated odour and attributed it to the landfill. In the case of Hafod landfill, Enover (the operator) has set up AQMesh monitoring pods and has used the consultants Geotechnology to interpret results. Although it is noted that several of the petitioners questioned the accuracy and validity of the data on the basis that the work was completed on behalf of the operator.

NRW will therefore consider this recommendation further; however, it should be noted that the mechanics around introducing mandatory automated odour monitoring at landfill sites is complex. As NRW will need to consider its remit and the resources needed to manage and interpret results captured, the enforceability of the results as well as the resources required for automated monitoring. They will also need to consider the roles and responsibilities of other organisations, for example, the Local Authority and Public Health Wales, should Welsh Government mandate ambient air monitoring for hydrogen sulphide in Environmental Permits.

The Welsh Government will therefore work with NRW to look at the feasibility of how taking forward this recommendation would work in practice.

Financial Implications – None.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that

The Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government should engage with the Welsh Local Government Association and all local authorities to clarify how local authorities can practically use the powers they have to protect their communities from statutory nuisance, and what criteria Welsh Ministers would use in order to endorse an intervention, in cases such as Hafod landfill.

Response: Accept in Principle.

Responsibility for local environmental quality, including statutory nuisance, comes under the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs rather than the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government.

The Welsh Government recognises the regulatory roles of both NRW, which enforces compliance with the requirements of environmental permits, and local authorities in respect of statutory nuisance. However, as Local authorities taking enforcement action for statutory nuisances on permitted sites potentially risks double regulation the UK and Welsh Governments have published guidance to clarify the roles of the regulators in these situations: [Interaction between Environmental Permitting and local authorities' statutory nuisance duties](#)

The Welsh Government will engage with NRW, WLGA and local authorities to examine the interface between environmental permitting and statutory nuisance, to further clarify roles and responsibilities in protecting communities from statutory nuisance.

Financial Implications – this work will be accommodated within existing budgets.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that

Natural Resources Wales should consider whether criteria for measuring hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) levels, causing “rotten egg” odour, should be included in environmental permit conditions, and report back to Welsh Ministers on whether more work should be commissioned on the appropriate measurement of H₂S thresholds.

Response: Reject.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) air quality guidelines for Europe states:

‘On the basis of the scientific literature, it is not possible to state a specific concentration of hydrogen sulfide at which odour nuisance starts to appear. Half-hour average concentrations exceeding 7 µg/m³ are likely to produce substantial complaints among persons exposed. A reduction in the concentration of hydrogen sulfide does not guarantee a substantial reduction of the odour nuisance, since hydrogen sulfide in many effluents provides only a small contribution to the odour strength of the total effluent.’

The qualifications in this WHO statement are important. The concentration of hydrogen sulphide is only likely to be relevant where it is the dominant odorous chemical. Otherwise, hydrogen sulphide monitoring on its own may severely underestimate levels of odour pollution. This potential limitation applies to monitoring for any surrogate chemicals which might be measured in ambient air.

There have been concerns raised on the acceptability of the WHO’s guidance on hydrogen sulphide in relation to Walley’s Quarry Landfill in England, with the Environment Agency’s new odour guidance stating:

‘Hydrogen sulphide levels are sometimes used as a surrogate for odour when conducting ambient air quality monitoring, but there are limitations to this approach.’

NRW do, however, monitor hydrogen sulphide at some landfills where there is an identified risk. At Hafod, the sites Odour Management Plan stipulates that they will undertake ad-hoc monitoring as required. Measurements are provided every 6 months from:

-
- In waste gas monitoring boreholes or sealed leachate wells or sacrificial gas extraction system in cells or phases which have no active gas extraction system.
 - Gas collection system at all well control valves, manifolds (if applicable) and strategic points on gas system.

NRW's view is that regulatory compliance to mitigate against hydrogen sulphide production at landfills should be focussed on landfill site management, such as waste inputs and types i.e. control of wastes containing gypsum (calcium sulphate), or other wastes that are likely to produce hydrogen sulphide in a landfill environment. These aspects are already within NRW's regulatory control via the Environmental Permit.

Welsh Government has allocated funding to NRW to purchase an Optical Gas Imaging Camera for onsite investigations. Whilst this does not measure hydrogen sulphide, it can consider other odour surrogate chemicals, including methane. This new equipment will further help focus regulatory compliance on the landfills which are giving rise to emissions and can lead to odour issues.

In conclusion, NRW do not consider it necessary to introduce hydrogen sulphide thresholds into Environmental Permits given the limitations to the approach. They are however using the regulatory controls and tools via the landfill permit to control waste acceptance and to require operators to manage their landfills appropriately to reduce the risk of sulphide being produced at the site.

Financial Implications – None.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that

The Welsh Government should seek assurances from Natural Resources Wales that the measures in place at landfill sites in Wales are adequate to ensure they are climate resilient during and beyond their operational lifetimes.

Response: Accept.

NRW have recently issued climate change adaptation questionnaires to landfill operators who are regulated under the Environmental Permitting Regulations. This included Hafod landfill and their response highlighted the potential impact of increased rainfall, which has been reflected in their updated management plans.

The Welsh Government is also working with Local Partnerships on a project to support the wider waste sector to increase its climate resilience, which has included joint work with Local Authorities.

The scope of this work includes:

- review all stages of waste and resource management in Wales, from collections, through processing and treatment to identify the challenges faced by each, across a range of climate change impacts (e.g. heatwaves, flooding, high winds, etc.)
- incorporate the full spectrum of waste facilities within Wales from energy from waste (EfW), anaerobic digestion, landfill, waste transfer station, household waste reuse and recycling centres, local authority depots, waste processing sites, etc., as well as essential infrastructure for full-service provision such as transport links, power and digital services
- research best practice examples of climate change risk and how to plan appropriate mitigation, through adaptation and resilience, to inform a risk assessment framework for sites in Wales
- identify where Wales can work with the other parts of the UK on mitigations to risks and vulnerabilities (e.g. EfW capacity in south west and north west England).

Financial Implications – None.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that

Natural Resources Wales should investigate whether a connection exists between rainfall and hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) production at Hafod landfill site - using the monitoring data, and available weather data, not just complaint numbers. If a connection is found, it must account for this in the regulatory approach.

Response: Accept.

Existing evidence shows that there is a demonstrable link between rainfall at landfills and the production of hydrogen sulphide, with increased rain entering a landfill reacting with the sulphur bearing materials with a landfill.

It is important that the operator undertakes waste acceptance checks and takes steps to ensure that the exposed areas of the landfill are minimised as much as possible. This is done by installing temporary or permanent capping of the waste

mass as soon as possible after waste has deposited, and by minimising the size of the active tipping area as much as possible. These measures are already detailed in regulatory guidance and Industry Codes of Practice.

Recent site audits at Hafod landfill have highlighted areas where additional capping could be installed and the operator has been working on its installation. NRW have also recently received updated Landfill Gas and Leachate Management action plans for Hafod landfill, which include necessary technical measures for minimising water infiltration into the waste mass and for the collection and removal of landfill gas and leachate.

NRW has offered to undertake a specific study at Hafod landfill in response to this recommendation. However, they highlight that it may be of limited additional value as the link between rainfall and elevated hydrogen sulphide production is already well documented. There are also existing regulatory controls via the Environmental Permit and statutory guidance in place to mitigate against this.

Financial Implications – None.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that

Wrexham County Borough Council and the Hafod Stakeholder Group should continue to prioritise interpretation of the monitoring data; assess what improvements may be necessary to the method of collection and independent interpretation and communicate its work on this issue by publishing updates at least quarterly.

Response: Accept in principle.

The Welsh Government notes the recommendation for WCBC. The Welsh Government is aware efforts are being made to communicate the data and support its continuation.

Financial Implications – None.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that

Wrexham County Borough Council should clarify in simple terms, for residents' benefit, the circumstances under which it has intervened in the operation of the

site, and the conditions under which it would intervene in future. It should continue to provide regular online updates and consult resident members of the Hafod Liaison Group on the most appropriate means to communicate information.

Response: Accept in principle.

The Welsh Government notes the recommendation for WCBC and supports the continuation of this communication and engagement in principle.

Financial Implications – None.

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that

Wrexham County Borough Council should clarify the criteria for resident participation on the Hafod Liaison Group and ensure that the meeting minutes are cleared with attendees and published punctually by means that are fully accessible for residents.

Response: Accept in principle.

The Welsh Government notes the recommendation for WCBC and supports the continuation of this communication and engagement in principle and agrees there should be clarity.

Financial Implications – None.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that

Wrexham County Borough Council should ensure that residents are directly represented on the Hafod Stakeholder Group. This should be limited to up to three representatives, with substitutions permitted.

Response: Accept in principle.

The Welsh Government notes the recommendation for WCBC and supports the recommendation and regard it as good practice for residents to be represented, with substitutions permitted.

Financial Implications – None.

Natural Resources Wales response to the Welsh Parliament Petitions Committee report:

P-06-1510 Direct NRW to revoke the environmental permit and ensure the closure of Enover't's, Hafod Landfill Site in Wrexham, January 2026

Recommendations for Natural Resources Wales

We welcome the Petition Committee's [report](#) and the opportunity to consider recommendations the committee has made for Natural Resource Wales.

Our response to each recommendation is laid out below.

Recommendation 2. *NRW should ensure that staff undertaking community 'sniff tests' to help assess odour nuisance have undergone appropriate training, and that training and competence to conduct these tests is kept under regular review*

Accept – already in place.

NRW staff who undertake odour investigations at our regulated sites will have started to progress or have progressed through the recognised odour pathway training. Within the pathway are four steps from introduction odour to advanced techniques in odour control. Odour sensitivity testing is also a requirement of officers who are investigating odour from our regulated sites. We undertake testing and recently carried out sessions with officers across Wales to raise awareness of the wide range of normal odour sensitivity found across the population and to assess where our officers' odour sensitivity falls within this range. NRW's Environmental Permit odour condition for landfills does not require "screened" or "calibrated" noses for odour inspection – we simply have to have a normal sense of smell. Testing is one of the ways we can demonstrate this. The test that we use is the threshold test provided by OdoFin using n-butanol - [Test procedure Threshold Test \(ODOFIN Sniffin' Sticks\) - MediSense | Smelltest.eu](#).

We do not have a defined retesting requirement in our H4 [Natural Resources Wales / Horizontal guidance](#), however, we do advise regulatory officers on the likely causes of changes to a 'normal' persons sensitivity to odour, e.g. age, COVID, influenza and recommend retesting where necessary.

Whilst there is no requirement to regularly retest, we recognise the recommendation made by the Petitions Committee, and we will put systems in place to ensure officers maintain their capability as required.

Recommendation 3. *The Welsh Government should introduce mandatory automated odour monitoring at landfill sites. This is not something currently required by Natural Resources*

Wales, and the Welsh Government should ensure that regulators are sufficiently funded to facilitate this.

Accept – in principle pending further consideration.

NRW's odour guidance ([How to comply](#)) states that:

It is not possible to use instruments to measure odour in ambient air directly. However, very occasionally it may be possible to undertake surrogate measurements which are indicative of odours. This may be through direct measurement of chemicals which are themselves odorous, such as hydrogen sulphide.

BSEN 13725 - Dynamic Dilution Olfactometry is the method for measuring odour, but this is specific to point source emissions where grab samples of source emissions are subsequently diluted to the odour threshold in a laboratory setting. This method is not relevant to ambient odour monitoring.

This recommendation needs some consideration as to what we would test for (e.g. methane, H₂S, CS₂, Ammonia), should we have the ability to introduce ambient automated odour monitoring. There are also considerations needed around enforceability of any limits included in Environmental Permits, as it would be challenging to prove definitively that the source of the odour (H₂S) would be from the landfill, as other sources also contribute to background levels. Hafod landfill is in close proximity to other potential sources of odour, such as agricultural and industrial activity, as well as being in close proximity to roads.

We can request this testing from the operator if we have substantiated odour and attributed it to the landfill. In the case of Hafod landfill, Enovert (the operator) has set up AQMesh monitoring pods and used the consultants Geotechnology to interpret results. Several of the petitioners questioned the accuracy and validity of the data on the basis that the work was completed on behalf of the operator.

We will consider this recommendation further, however, the mechanics around introducing mandatory automated odour monitoring at landfill sites is complex. We would need to consider NRW's remit and the resources needed to manage and interpret such results captured in this manner, as well as the enforceability of the results. We also need to consider the roles and responsibilities with other organisations, e.g. Local Authority, Public Health Wales, should Welsh Government mandate that ambient air monitoring for Hydrogen sulphide in Environmental Permits or via other regulatory frameworks.

Recommendation 5. *Natural Resources Wales should consider whether criteria for measuring hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) levels, causing “rotten egg” odour, should be included in environmental permit conditions, and report back to Welsh Ministers on whether more work should be commissioned on the appropriate measurement of H₂S thresholds.*

Reject – but recognise the value in undertaking certain types of monitoring.

Our view is that regulatory compliance to mitigate against H₂S production at landfills should be focussed on landfill site management, such as waste inputs and types i.e. control of wastes containing gypsum, or other wastes that are likely to produce H₂S in a landfill environment, and in maintaining small working areas. These aspects are already within our regulatory control via the Environmental Permit.

We would exercise caution in including H_2S limits in Environmental Permits, due to the difficulties in distinguishing the source of H_2S from other sources in the vicinity of the landfill, e.g. other industrial or agricultural. The Environment Agency's new odour guidance, which NRW has adopted, states:

Hydrogen sulphide levels are sometimes used as a surrogate for odour when conducting ambient air quality monitoring, but there are limitations to this approach.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) air quality guidelines for Europe states:

On the basis of the scientific literature, it is not possible to state a specific concentration of hydrogen sulfide at which odour nuisance starts to appear. Half-hour average concentrations exceeding $7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ are likely to produce substantial complaints among persons exposed. A reduction in the concentration of hydrogen sulfide does not guarantee a substantial reduction of the odour nuisance, since hydrogen sulfide in many effluents provides only a small contribution to the odour strength of the total effluent.

The qualifications in this WHO statement are important. The concentration of hydrogen sulphide is only likely to be relevant where it is the dominant odorous chemical. Otherwise, hydrogen sulphide monitoring on its own may severely underestimate levels of odour pollution. This potential limitation applies to monitoring for any surrogate chemicals which might be measured in ambient air. There have been concerns raised on the acceptability of the World Health Organisation's guidance on H_2S in relation to Walley's Quarry Landfill in England. It has been questioned due to significant discrepancies between guideline levels and the "lived experience" of the local community. While monitored levels often remained below the WHO 24-hour health guideline, they frequently exceeded the WHO odour annoyance guideline, leading to widespread complaints.

We do, however, monitor H_2S at some landfills where there is an identified risk. In the case of Hafod Landfill, H_2S monitoring is reported quarterly by the operator, as required under Table S3.8 in their Environmental Permit. There is a requirement to report the levels, but no compliance limit set. This reporting also forms part of the operator's Odour Management Plan, which stipulates that they will undertake ad-hoc monitoring as required. Measurements are provided every 6 months from:

- In waste gas monitoring boreholes or sealed leachate wells or sacrificial gas extraction system in cells or phases which have no active gas extraction system.
- Gas collection system at all well control valves, manifolds (if applicable) and strategic points on gas system.

In conclusion, it would be very difficult to introduce enforceable H_2S thresholds for ambient air into landfill Environmental Permits as there are other potential sources of odour emissions in the vicinity of the landfill. Our view is that we already have the regulatory controls and tools via the landfill permit to control waste acceptance which require operators to manage their landfills appropriately to reduce the risk of H_2S being produced at the site.

For information, Welsh Government have allocated funding to NRW to purchase an Optical Gas Imaging Camera for onsite investigations. Although this won't measure H_2S , we can use this equipment to measure other odour surrogate chemicals, including methane. This will help

us focus our regulatory compliance on the landfill which are giving rise to emissions and can lead to odour issues.

Recommendation 6. *The Welsh Government should seek assurances from Natural Resources Wales that the measures in place at landfill sites in Wales are adequate to ensure they are climate resilient during and beyond their operational lifetimes.*

Accept – already in place.

Our regulation of the site requires operators to have appropriate management plans in place to address the risk of off-site impacts from landfilling activities. These plans require the operator to consider the potential impacts arising from climate change. NRW assess the suitability of these plans. We have, reviewed Enovert's climate change risk assessment which we are satisfied meets regulatory requirements.

We have also required operators of installations regulated under the Environmental Permitting Regulations to undertake climate change adaptation questionnaires, to provide us with information of the operators climate change adaptation preparedness. Enovert identified a number of significant hazards and consequences of climate change and considered the control measures to mitigate the impacts for Hafod landfill.

In summary, Enovert's response to the questionnaire for Hafod Landfill raised the following considerations:

- Higher temperatures and potentially drier summers could result in an increase in dust and odour, cracking of cover soils and caps, increased erosion.
- The potential for an increase in "hot waste" and resultant fire risk.
- Higher temperatures may also result in failure of infrastructure such as pumps, engines, IT equipment and control of critical equipment.
- Lower temperatures and freezing events.
- The hazards and effects of increased extreme rainfall events, which could lead to flooding, erosion and instability of cover and waste mass, and increased infiltration and associated leachate generation and contaminated surface water discharge.
- Increased wet waste in operational areas generating landfill gas and hydrogen sulphide was also identified.
- Variance (increases or decreases) in water tables and local river flow and the impact on discharge consents.

Given the uncertainty of the potential future climatic impacts, NRW are satisfied that the operator currently has adequately considered the appropriate control measures, and should ensure are reflected in their management plans to mitigate the identified potential hazardous and effects of climate change. Operators are required to keep these plans up to date and under regular review, reflecting any changes in operations.

Recommendation 7. *Natural Resources Wales should investigate whether a connection exists between rainfall and hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) production at Hafod landfill site - using the*

monitoring data, and available weather data, not just complaint numbers. If a connection is found, it must account for this in the regulatory approach

Accept – already in place.

Existing evidence shows that there is a demonstrable link between rainfall at landfills and the production of Hydrogen Sulphide, with increased rain entering a landfill reacting with the sulphur bearing materials with a landfill. This will be the case at Hafod landfill, as it is with many other landfills. It should however be noted that the links between rainfall and Hydrogen Sulphide production won't present in short term spikes in gas production immediately following rainfall events. Gas production will increase over a longer period as infiltration reacts with wastes in the landfill.

This is why it is important that the operator undertakes waste acceptance checks and takes steps to ensure that the exposed areas of the landfill are minimised as much as possible. This is done by installing temporary or permanent capping of the waste mass as soon as possible after waste has deposited, and by minimising the size of the active tipping area as much as possible. These measures are already detailed in regulatory guidance and Industry Codes of Practice, which detail the standards operators must adhere to, in order to achieve compliance with their permit requirements.

Recent site audits at Hafod landfill have highlighted areas where additional capping could be installed, and operator has been working to install this. The operator has also improved operations to ensure the size of the active tipping face is as small as possible, which reduces the risk of fugitive emissions from active areas. We have also recently received updated Landfill Gas and Leachate Management action plans for Hafod landfill, which include necessary technical measures for minimising water infiltration into the waste mass, and for the collection and removal of landfill gas and leachate.

We could undertake a specific study at Hafod landfill in response to this recommendation, should funding be available, however, we do not consider this necessary as the link between rainfall and elevated H₂S production is already well documented and there are existing regulatory controls via the Environmental Permit and statutory guidance to mitigate against this.

Carolyn Thomas MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Eich Cyf/Your Ref P-06-1510
Ein Cyf Our Ref
Dyddiad/Date 10th March 2026
Gofynner am/Ask for Ian Jones
Rhif Cyswllt/Contact No lan1.jones@wrexham.gov.uk
E-bost/E-mail

Dear Ms Thomas,

Petitions Committee report P-06-1510 Hafod Landfill Site, Wrexham

I acknowledge receipt of your letter and copy of the above report dated 19th January 2026.

I can confirm that Wrexham CBC will be taking an active role in supporting the delivery of the eleven recommendations contained in the report. The recommendations have been used to formulate objectives and a plan for delivery which will be overseen by the Hafod Stakeholder Group. This group has been strengthened with the addition of two representatives of the community affected.

With respect to those recommendations that relate specifically to Wrexham Council, we would provide the below update:

Recommendation 1

Full calibration and re-scaling of all 6 air quality monitors (AQMesh pods) has been completed.

Recommendation 8

Three Air Quality Summary reports have been published on Natural Resources Wales's Citizens Webpace. Future reports will be published quarterly.

Recommendation 9

The Hafod Liaison Group and Hafod Stakeholder Group will be used to consult residents on effective means to share this advice.

Recommendation 10

Wrexham CBC will work with Enover to clarify membership criteria for the Hafod Liaison Group. New Terms of Reference have been agreed and the minutes of the most recent meeting have been published.

Recommendation 11

Members of the local community have joined the Hafod Stakeholder Group and have attended their first meeting.

With respect to the content of the report and the recommendations we would make the following observations.

With reference to paragraph 70, the Council has installed two air quality monitors in the community and the combined data output is now regularly analysed and shared, this is in addition to the 'subjective' sniff tests.

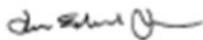
With respect to Recommendation 3, the Council would welcome this. We have already funded the installation of the 2 air quality monitors referred to above in the community to provide additional air quality data. We would suggest that the committee review the wording of the recommendation to reflect the assumed intention of the need for automated odour monitoring in the community.

With respect to Recommendation 4, we are disappointed with this. The focus needs to be on the primary regulatory regime (environmental permitting) and it's regulator (NRW) to prevent the issue of odour nuisance rather than attempting to rely on the statutory nuisance provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Much emphasis in the report is placed on complaint fatigue. The approach undertaken by the Council was to reduce reliance on a 'reactive complaint led approach' to a more 'proactive approach' with the installation of two air quality monitors and Officer 'sniff tests' to provide an accurate overview to assess the impact of the landfill on the nearby community. Given the current levels of routine and regular monitoring we already have comprehensive data and are likely to already be aware of any odour issue reported by residents.

In conclusion, I would highlight that the Council remains very concerned about the impact on the daily lives of those living close to the site and affected by the issues this causes them. Whilst we are not the primary regulator, we will seek to engage with all relevant stakeholders and ensure as far we can that the recommendations of the report are delivered and that all parties are held accountable.

Yours sincerely



Ian Jones
Interim Chief Officer, Economy & Planning

Dear Lara,

Many thanks for the opportunity to comment on the recommendations made in the committee report as issued in January 2026. Enover provides the following comments:

Recommendation 1

We acknowledge the intent of this recommendation and confirm that all AQmesh pods were calibrated as of 17th October 2025. Following calibration, AQmesh (the pod manufacturer) issued correction factors to be applied to historical data. All data has subsequently been calibrated.

Recommendations 3, 5, 6 and 7

While these recommendations are actionable by Natural Resources Wales, their implementation would require legislative and regulatory changes by the Welsh Government and formal NRW led variations to environmental permits. We consider it important that this is clearly stated to manage expectations regarding process and delivery timescales.

In the interests of the immediate and ongoing regulation of the Hafod site and public perception of both Operator and Regulatory performance we feel the report should clarify that, the regulatory changes the recommendations seek to implement are not currently requirements of the Hafod Landfill Site permit.

Recommendation 7

Enover has collated rainfall, emissions, and complaint data to assess the assertion that rainfall events directly increase hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) emissions. Our review identifies no such correlation. However, as the recommendation calls for NRW to undertake review, we confirm Enover will provide all relevant data to support an independent regulatory assessment.

Recommendations 8-11

Enover remains fully engaged with the Stakeholder and Liaison Groups and will continue to support Wrexham County Borough Council in implementing these recommendations.

If we could have visibility the of other parties' responses to the recommendations, should we wish to respond further I'll ensure we do ahead of your deadline.

Kind Regards

Mark Silvester

Legacy Statement: Response to the Welsh Government Report on Petition P-06-1510

On behalf of the residents of Johnstown and the surrounding communities, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to the **Welsh Government** for its diligence and professional scrutiny regarding the Hafod Landfill Site. We are encouraged by the Deputy First Minister's acceptance, in principle or in full, of the majority of the Petitions Committee's recommendations. While this represents a significant step toward transparency, our ultimate goal remains the protection of public health through the **revocation of the environmental permit**.

Responses to Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Calibration of Monitoring Data

- **Our Position:** We welcome the acceptance in principle. However, given that historical data has been amended on three separate occasions, we request the immediate release of all **RAW data** for independent scrutiny. Calibration alone is insufficient if the community cannot verify the foundational numbers.

Recommendation 2: Training for 'Sniff Tests'

- **Our Position:** We support the requirement for NRW staff to undergo accredited training. To ensure these records are pivotal and critical, we propose that NRW employs **digital H2S handheld devices** that record concentrations alongside **GPS coordinates and date/time stamps**. This removes human subjectivity and provides an immutable digital audit trail.

Recommendation 3: Mandatory Automated Odour Monitoring

- **Our Position:** The Welsh Government's acceptance in principle is a start, but NRW's claim that they "**wouldn't even know what to test for**" is a masterclass in playing coy. When a community smells rotten eggs, you don't need a PhD in atmospheric chemistry to reach for an H2S sensor.
- **The Logic Gap:** Suggesting that measuring H2S is merely an "occasional surrogate" for an odour is like saying a thermometer is just an "indicative surrogate" for whether or not you are currently standing in a fire.
- **The Evidence:** AQMesh monitors currently deployed in the community show H2S levels exceeded WHO guidelines **37% of the time**. To pretend the source is a mystery while the stench gets exponentially stronger as you approach the landfill boundary borders on gaslighting.

Recommendation 4: Clarifying Local Authority Powers

- **Our Position:** We accept the principle of clarifying roles. We urge the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to engage with Wrexham Council to ensure they use their existing powers—specifically **Abatement Notices**—to protect the community rather than shying away from "double regulation".

Recommendation 5: H2S Thresholds in Permits

- **Our Position:** We strongly appeal the rejection of this recommendation. NRW's logic represents a convenient regulatory blind spot and a masterclass in administrative "gaslighting." By admitting that Hydrogen Sulphide causes the "rotten egg" smell that plagues the community, yet refusing to monitor it because it might not be the *only* gas present, they have effectively legalized a nuisance. This is like a fire department refusing to measure smoke because "smoke isn't the only byproduct of fire."
- **Misusing WHO Guidance:** NRW's attempt to weaponize the World Health Organization is intellectually dishonest. They quote WHO guidelines stating that S₂H concentrations over 7 μg/m³ produce "substantial complaints," yet use that very document to justify *not* monitoring it. To describe monitoring as "ad-hoc" after 20 years of documented distress is not a regulatory strategy; it is a total abdication of environmental protection. Without a numeric threshold in the permit, "monitoring" is merely an expensive way of telling residents what their noses already know, while providing the operator with a permanent "get out of jail free" card.

Summary of the Circular Logic

The NRW's stance can be boiled down to this:

1. We won't set a limit because \$H_2S\$ isn't the *only* problem.
2. We will focus on "site management" instead.
3. Site management is failing (hence the complaints).
4. We cannot prove site management is failing legally because we have no H₂S limits in the permit.
5. **Go back to Step 1.**

Recommendation 6 & 7: Climate Resilience and Rainfall Correlation

Our Position: We accept these recommendations but highlight the staggering disconnect between the operator and reality. Enovert continues to deny any correlation between rainfall and \$H_2S\$ emissions, despite the Welsh Government's own admission that a "demonstrable link" exists.

The Antiquated Permit: The current permit is no longer fit for purpose. It fails to regulate modern-day landfill operations against the backdrop of a changing climate. A site that cannot handle increased rainfall without leaking toxic odours into Johnstown and surrounding communities is, by definition, not climate-

resilient. Maintaining an outdated permit is not "stability"; it is a refusal to adapt to the physical reality of the site's failure.

- **Recommendation 8: Data Interpretation and Frequency**
- **Our Position:** Transparency is the only antidote to the "smoke and mirrors" approach currently in play. Raw data is useless if it is filtered through the lens of those responsible for the failure. We expect Wrexham Council and the Stakeholder Group to publish **independent** interpretations of monitoring data at least quarterly. If the NRW claims the site is "well-managed," they should have no fear of third-party scrutiny.
- **Recommendation 9, 10, & 11: Transparency and Resident Representation**
- **Our Position:** We agree that Wrexham Council must demonstrate and publish its scrutiny of the site in simple, non-bureaucratic terms. Meeting minutes must be published punctually and be fully accessible to the public, not buried in obscure portals.
- **Direct Representation:** We welcome the inclusion of up to three resident representatives on the Stakeholder Group. For too long, these meetings have been a closed-loop conversation between the polluter and the regulator. The community is the primary stakeholder—we are the ones living with the consequences of these "ad-hoc" failures—and our voices must be present where decisions are made.

Steve Gittins

Lead Petitioner : P-6-1510

Formal Request for Internal Review & Freedom of Information

To: [REDACTED] CC: Michelle Morris (Public Services Ombudsman for Wales) Reference: Complaint against Wrexham County Borough Council

Date: February 13, 2026

Your Ref : 202509035

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to formally request an **Internal Review** of your decision not to investigate my complaint. Your characterization of the Council's decision as "properly made" is not only subjective but ignores the wider context of administrative failure and the specific findings of both the Senedd and Audit Wales.

1. Vindication by the Senedd Petitions Inquiry (P-6-1541)

Your letter states there is "no evidence of service failure." This is factually incorrect. The **Senedd Petitions Inquiry** report, published in January 2026, specifically vindicated my position as lead petitioner. The inquiry found:

- **"Lacking Transparency"**: Wrexham Council was found to be sadly lacking in its engagement and transparency regarding this 20-year campaign.
- **Breakdown in Trust**: The Committee noted a profound breakdown in trust caused by the Council's failure to communicate honestly with residents.
- **Validation of Persistence**: The report highlighted that "complaint fatigue" and the silencing of residents are real issues in Wrexham, effectively acknowledging that my persistence is a necessary response to being ignored.

2. Evidence of Governance Failure: Audit Wales (Sept 2025)

You suggest the Council's decision to block my communication was a "properly made" discretionary choice. However, the **September 2025 Audit Wales Report** into Wrexham Council paints a damning picture of their internal culture. The Auditor General found:

- An **"unhelpful blame culture"** where senior leadership is plagued by **"distrust."**
- **"Insufficient progress"** in addressing governance failures.
- Actions that **"endanger the Council's reputation"** and the integrity of its decision-making.

For the Ombudsman to accept a "vexatious" characterization from an organization officially branded as having a "blame culture" is a failure of oversight. My "persistence" is the only tool left when faced with what Audit Wales describes as a fractured and failing administration. This is **bureaucratic gaslighting** at its very best.

3. Discrediting the Ombudsman as a "Shield"

The Ombudsman's 2024-25 performance data confirms a worrying trend. While complaints against local councils have **increased by 54%** since 2019, your **intervention rate has dropped to 18%**. This suggests your office is acting as a shield to protect public service staff rather than a safeguard for the public.

4. Freedom of Information (FOI) Request

Under the FOI Act 2000, please provide the following within **20 working days**:

1. The number of complaints received against Wrexham Council in the last 2 years.
2. The number of those complaints found in favour of the complainant.
3. The number of complaints dismissed because the Council deemed the resident "vexatious."
4. The number of complaints received within Wales in the last 2 years.
5. The number of those Welsh complaints found in favour of the complainant.

Required Timeframes & Escalation

I expect a substantive response to this review request within **20 working days** (by March 13, 2026).

If you maintain this refusal to investigate, despite the Senedd and Audit Wales both documenting Wrexham Council's lack of engagement, transparency and "blame culture", I will escalate this matter to the **Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government** and the **Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)**.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Gittins
Lead Petitioner (P-6-1510)

Rebuttal of Document '260306 Enovert Committee'

This analysis deconstructs the correspondence from Enovert, highlighting a strategy of **institutional inertia** and **regulatory shielding** designed to prioritize permit compliance over public safety and modern environmental standards.

1. Retroactive Data Manipulation and Lack of Transparency

Enovert admits that AQmesh pods were only calibrated in October 2025, after which "correction factors" were applied to historical data. They claim all subsequent data has been calibrated accordingly.

- **The Campaigner's View:** This is a transparent attempt to move the goalposts. By applying "corrections" to past data, the operator is essentially grading its own exam. Any spikes in toxic emissions that occurred before October 2025 can now be "adjusted" away to fit a more favorable narrative.
- **Data Transparency:** Despite three formal requests for Enovert to share the **RAW data**, the operator has consistently prevaricated. They have condescendingly declined these requests by claiming that releasing such data to "non-professionals" would "**cause unnecessary anxiety**," despite repeated reassurances that the community has an independent professional standing by to review the figures. This gatekeeping suggests they are more interested in controlling the narrative than being honest with the public.

2. Strategic "Buck-Passing" and Bureaucratic Evasion

The operator argues that implementing key safety recommendations (3, 5, 6, and 7) would require legislative changes by the Welsh Government and formal permit variations by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). They emphasize that these changes are not currently requirements of the Hafod Landfill Site permit.

- **The Campaigner's View:** This is a classic case of **bureaucratic evasion**. By insisting they cannot act until the law forces them to, Enovert is hiding behind an antiquated permit that fails to meet modern environmental practices or address the realities of climate change. Instead of taking proactive responsibility as a "good neighbor," they are passing the buck to regulators to manage "expectations regarding process and delivery timescales".

3. Denial of Basic Science

Enovert makes the staggering claim that their review "identifies no such correlation" between rainfall events and increased Hydrogen Sulphide (H_2S) emissions.

- **The Campaigner's View:** This statement is an affront to both basic landfill science and the lived experience of every resident who smells the site after a downpour. To suggest that water entering a landfill does not increase leachate and gas release is to deny physical reality.

The Science: Why Enover's Claim is Fictional

The link between rainfall and H_2S is a globally documented phenomenon that Enover appears to be ignoring:

- **The "Piston Effect":** As rainwater infiltrates the landfill, it physically displaces gases trapped in the waste pores. This "piston effect" forces concentrated pulses of H_2S out of the surface and into the community.
- **Biological Acceleration:** High moisture content is the primary driver for anaerobic bacteria. Increased rainfall leads to higher leachate levels, which provides the perfect medium for the chemical reactions that produce H_2S .
- **Global Evidence:** The **US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** and the **UK Environment Agency** both acknowledge that moisture management is the single most important factor in controlling landfill gas. Denying this correlation suggests that Enover's data collection is either deeply flawed or intentionally narrow.

4. False Engagement

Enover claims to remain "fully engaged" with stakeholders and liaison groups.

- **The Campaigner's View:** True engagement would involve voluntarily upgrading site practices to meet 2026 standards. Instead, Enover's letter reveals a company that will do the absolute bare minimum, hiding behind the fact that modern safety recommendations "are not currently requirements of the Hafod Landfill Site permit". This is not cooperation; it is **regulatory capture** designed to keep a failing site open at the expense of the public.

Steve Gittins

Lead Petitioner – P-6-15-10.

Rebuttal of NRW's Petition Committee Hafod Report

This document serves to discredit the regulatory stance of Natural Resources Wales (NRW) regarding the Hafod Landfill, specifically addressing their refusal to implement modern, enforceable standards that reflect the 20-year distress of the Johnstown community.

1. Failure to Implement Enforceable H₂S Thresholds

The single most critical issue for residents—the fugitive emission of Hydrogen Sulphide (H₂S) beyond the site perimeter—remains unaddressed by enforceable permit conditions.

- **Rejection of WHO Standards:** NRW has rejected the inclusion of H₂S limits in the environmental permit, despite acknowledging that concentrations exceeding $7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ produce "substantial complaints".
- **Antiquated Permit Framework:** While the operator must report H₂S levels, there is currently **no compliance limit** set in the permit. NRW continues to prioritize "site management" over the atmospheric reality experienced by residents.
- **Ambient Breaches:** NRW admits that in similar cases, such as Walley's Quarry, monitored levels frequently exceeded WHO odour annoyance guidelines, creating a "significant discrepancy" between regulatory data and the "lived experience" of the community.

2. Denial of Climate and Rainfall Correlations

NRW's response downplays the urgent need for site-specific data regarding the intensification of rainfall and its direct impact on leachate and gas production.

- **Refusal to Investigate:** Despite the Petitions Committee's recommendation, NRW stated they "**do not consider this necessary**" to undertake a specific study at Hafod to link rainfall to elevated H₂S production.
- **Leachate and Infiltration:** NRW acknowledges that increased rainfall reacts with sulfur-bearing materials to produce H₂S, yet they rely on the operator's existing, criticized management plans rather than new, rigorous scientific oversight.
- **Infrastructure Risks:** The operator's own assessment admits that extreme rainfall leads to "increased infiltration and associated leachate generation," yet NRW remains "satisfied" with current mitigation efforts.

3. Reluctance to Adopt Best Practice & Digital Monitoring

NRW demonstrates a clear resistance to implementing transparent, high-tech monitoring solutions that would provide residents with verifiable data.

- **Avoidance of Digital Best Practice:** There is a documented reluctance to mandate automated, digital monitoring. NRW claims the "mechanics" of such a system are too "complex" and cite concerns over their own "remit and resources".
- **Inadequate Tooling:** While NRW is purchasing an Optical Gas Imaging Camera, they explicitly admit it "**won't measure H₂S**," the primary chemical causing community distress.
- **Subjective Oversight:** NRW continues to defend the use of "sniff tests" and admits they have no defined requirement for the regular retesting of officers' olfactory competence.
- **Data Integrity Issues:** Residents have rightfully questioned the validity of monitoring data produced by consultants (Geotechnology) who are funded directly by the operator, Enovert.

Steve Gittins

Lead Petitioner – P-6-1510

Rebuttal of Wrexham Council's Report and claims of Oversight

1. Technical Obfuscation: Calibration vs. Raw Data

The Council emphasizes the **"full calibration and re-scaling"** of the six AQMesh pods. While framed as a technical achievement, this serves to justify why the original reports were adjusted and updated on three separate occasions. This focus on "calibrated data" creates a technical barrier that masks a lack of transparency: while the Council claims they do not have the raw data, Enovert continues to refuse its release for independent analysis.

2. Stagnant Engagement: The NRW Citizens Webpace

The letter leans on Recommendation 8, citing the publication of Air Quality Summary reports on the **Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Citizens Webpace**. However, the Council's reliance on this platform as a tool for "active" engagement is contradicted by the reality of the data:

- The "last update" on the site was in **November 2025**.
- The Air Quality Summary Report was last posted in **August 2025** (over six months ago).
- The last Newsletter was issued in **July 2025**.

Instead of proactive communication, this represents a **recirculation of stagnant rhetoric** that fails to keep residents informed.

3. Curating the Opposition: Stakeholder Membership

Regarding Recommendation 10, the Council states it will work with Enovert to **"clarify membership criteria"** for the Hafod Liaison Group. Allowing the operator to define who is "eligible" to hold them accountable suggests a **carefully curated panel** rather than an independent community watchdog. This ensures that "participation" remains within parameters defined by the very entities being scrutinized.

4. Abdication of Statutory Responsibility (EPA 1990)

The Council's response to Recommendation 4 is a pivot away from their legal obligations. They express disappointment with the recommendation, arguing that the focus should be on NRW's environmental permitting rather than the **statutory nuisance provisions** of the **Environmental Protection Act 1990**. By framing themselves as "not the primary regulator," Wrexham Council is effectively **marginalizing their own enforcement powers**, delegating their local responsibilities to a national body.

5. Discrediting "Complaint Fatigue" and the "Sniff Test"

The Council attempts to dismiss "complaint fatigue" by claiming their "proactive" monitoring and officer "**sniff tests**" make them likely to be aware of issues without resident input. However, this claim is undermined by several factors:

- **Lack of Training:** By NRW's own admission, these "sniff testers" were not actually trained for the role until the commencement of this inquiry.
- **Subjectivity:** These tests remain a "subjective" metric compared to the lived experience of residents.
- **Artificial Suppression:** By claiming they "already have comprehensive data," the Council discourages further reporting, thereby suppressing complaint numbers to falsely suggest the issue is resolved.

6. Conclusion

Wrexham Council's insistence on the 'calibration' of monitors serves only to distract from the reality that raw data is being withheld from independent scrutiny, leaving residents to rely on 'Summary Reports' that haven't been updated in over half a year. Their response to Recommendation 4 reveals a calculated marginalization of their own duties under the EPA 1990, choosing to defer to the NRW rather than exercise their local enforcement powers—all while relying on 'sniff tests' conducted by staff who, by the regulator's own admission, weren't even trained for the task until this inquiry began.

Ultimately, **both Wrexham Council and NRW have mastered the art of disruptive rhetoric to mask systemic inertia, gift-wrapping the status quo in the language of a revolution and a new dawn, when nothing has changed or improved for over 20 years.**"

Steve Gittins

Lead Petitioner : P-6-1510

Petitioner to Committee, 20 January 2026

I am writing to thank you for your work as a member of the Senedd Petitions Committee in relation to Petition P-06-1510 concerning Hafod Landfill. I received a 'media embargo' copy of your deliberations and findings yesterday, and I am looking forward to 'share' this report with my residents and campaigners.

Whilst we are disappointed that the revocation of the permit has not been implemented, campaigners and local residents greatly appreciate the seriousness with which the Committee has examined the concerns raised and the recommendations that have been made.

The Committee's work has been vital in ensuring that community voices are heard at a national level.

As we move towards the election period, we respectfully ask for your continued support in, ensuring that the Committee's recommendations are not lost or delayed, encouraging Welsh political parties to commit to these recommendations in their manifestos, and maintaining public and governmental focus on the Hafod Landfill issue

Your role has already made a meaningful difference, and we hope we can continue to rely your support to ensure that real and lasting change follows.

Interestingly, during my continued research, I found that the location of Hafod Landfill (within 100 - 200 metres, of residential areas) would not pass current modern day permit and planning regulations.

Thank you again for your work and commitment. We will, of course, continue to hold Enovert, NRW, Wrexham Council to account.

Best wishes for your campaigns, at the Seventh Senedd.

Kind regards,
Steve Gittins

Petitioner to Committee, Legacy Statement, 3 February 2026

Subject: URGENT: Ensuring Accountability for the Hafod Landfill Senedd Inquiry Report (P-06-1510) – Legacy Statement

To: The Petitions Committee Clerk, Senedd Petitions Committee

Dear Clerk, Carolyn Thomas,

I am writing on behalf of the residents regarding the final report for Petition **P-06-1510**, *"Direct NRW to revoke the environmental permit and ensure the closure of Enover's Hafod Landfill Site in Wrexham."*

A Message of Gratitude

Firstly, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to all members of the Petitions Committee for their diligence and thoroughness throughout this inquiry. For many years, our community has felt "ignored" and "fobbed off" by the organizations tasked with our protection. Seeing our experiences reflected in the final report has provided a profound sense of vindication. We truly feel that, through this Committee, our voices have finally been heard at the highest level of Welsh governance. We also believe that this injustice has escalated to a National agenda, given the messages I have received from other Landfill campaigners, past and present.

Addressing the Modern Regulatory Gap

A key takeaway from this process, which we wish to emphasize, is that current landfill permits and regulatory frameworks are increasingly **inadequate for the modern day**. As we face the realities of **climate change**, including increased frequency of heavy rainfall events, the link between environmental conditions and hydrogen sulphide (H₂S)) production has become undeniable. The existing system is failing to keep pace with these shifting environmental pressures, leaving communities vulnerable.

Ensuring a Seamless Transition (Legacy Statement)

As we approach the dissolution of the Sixth Senedd, it is imperative that the findings of this inquiry are not lost during the transition to the Seventh Senedd in May 2026. The community cannot afford "complaint fatigue" or a lapse in oversight.

The report's eleven critical recommendations offer a roadmap to rectifying an unacceptable status quo. We specifically highlight the need for:

- **Automated Monitoring:** Mandatory, calibrated odour monitoring to replace subjective assessments.
- **Regulatory Reform:** A fundamental review ensuring that persistent odour and leachate failures act as automatic triggers for permit revocation.
- **Transparency:** Direct resident representation on the Hafod Stakeholder Group to restore shattered public trust.

Formal Assurances Required

To ensure the "mantle" is successfully taken up by the next Parliament, we seek formal assurances that:

1. The **eleven recommendations** will be formally adopted into the work programmes of the Welsh Government and relevant local authorities.
2. **Natural Resources Wales (NRW)** will immediately implement enhanced staff training and investigate the correlation between extreme weather/rainfall and landfill emissions.
3. A **formal handover process** is established to ensure the Seventh Senedd maintains continuity of oversight without delay.

For nearly 20 years, the people of Johnstown have lived behind closed windows, enduring a "rotten egg" stench that has reached crisis levels. We are seeking nothing more than our fundamental right to clean air and environmental accountability.

We look forward to your prompt response and a written commitment to the future of our community's health and well-being.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Gittins
Lead Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

3rd February 2026

Steve Gittins Lead Petitioner – P-6-1510 Hafod Landfill Campaigners

March 11, 2026

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

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

5th Floor,
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay,
CF99 1NA

Dear Sir,

RE: Formal Appeal: Rejection of Recommendation 5 – H2S Permit Thresholds

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

The residents of Johnstown and the surrounding areas, supported by the Hafod Landfill Campaigners, formally appeal the Welsh Government's decision to **reject Recommendation 5**. This recommendation, which seeks the inclusion of hydrogen sulphide Hydrogen Sulphide measurement criteria within environmental permit conditions, is the most pivotal element of this inquiry.

The current regulatory stance represents a **national blind spot** that allows operators to treat fugitive emissions into local communities as an unmeasured, and therefore "non-existent," byproduct of landfill operations.

1. The Fallacy of the "Occasional Surrogate"

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) argues that because \$H_2S\$ might not be the *only* odorous chemical present, it is an unreliable metric for permit conditions. This logic is fundamentally flawed:

- **The Fire Analogy:** Refusing to measure \$H_2S\$ because other gases might exist is equivalent to refusing to measure smoke during a fire because other particulates are present.
- **Identifiable Nuisance:** The community consistently reports a "rotten egg" odour. Science universally recognizes \$H_2S\$ as the source of this specific stench.
- **Regulatory Avoidance:** By claiming they do not know "what to test for," regulators are ignoring the very chemical they admit is produced by gypsum-bearing waste.

2. Misinterpretation of WHO Guidelines

NRW cites the World Health Organization (WHO) to justify its rejection, but the application of this data is disingenuous:

- **The Threshold of Complaint:** The WHO states that concentrations exceeding $7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ are likely to produce substantial complaints.
- **Weaponizing Uncertainty:** Instead of using this $7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ figure as a clear, enforceable regulatory "red line," NRW uses the WHO's scientific nuances to argue against having any threshold at all.
- **Community Data:** Independent AQMesh monitoring has already shown that H₂S levels in the community exceeded these WHO guidelines **37% of the time**.

NRW's refusal to adopt these standards into the permit is a choice to remain blind to documented public health nuisances.

3. The "Ad-Hoc" Failure

NRW points to "ad-hoc" monitoring under the site's Odour Management Plan as a sufficient safeguard.

- **Lack of Accountability:** "Ad-hoc" monitoring at the operator's discretion is not regulation; it is a courtesy.
- **Two Decades of Failure:** This approach has been the status quo for nearly 20 years, during which the community has been subjected to persistent, debilitating odours.
- **Need for Mandates:** Without mandatory, automated monitoring and enforceable permit limits, the operator has no legal incentive to prevent fugitive emissions from crossing the site perimeter.

4. A National Issue of Environmental Justice

This is not an isolated technical dispute; it is an issue affecting every landfill site across Wales.

- **The Perimeter Gap:** Current regulation focuses on management *inside* the fence (waste inputs and capping). It fails to account for the impact *outside* the fence, where residents actually live and breathe.
- **The Digital Solution:** We urge the Welsh Government to mandate the use of **digital \$H_2S\$ handheld devices** and fixed automated monitors that record concentrations with GPS and time-stamping to create an immutable record of permit breaches.

Conclusion

The rejection of Recommendation 5 preserves a regulatory vacuum. It allows NRW to claim "insufficient evidence" while simultaneously refusing to gather the very evidence needed to prove a breach.

Fugitive Hydrogen Sulphide (H₂S) odours migrating beyond the landfill boundary are the core grievance of this campaign. The current permit regulations, now over 36 years old, are a relic of a previous era. They fail to reflect the complexities of modern waste composition or the volatile impacts of climate change on gas migration.

We request that the Welsh Government reconsider this rejection and direct NRW to establish clear, enforceable H₂S thresholds within the Hafod Landfill permit to protect the health and dignity of our community.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Gittins Lead Petitioner – P-6-1510

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 3.1

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Your ref P-06-1573
Our ref HIDCC/00132/26

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee

13 February 2026

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 27 January regarding petition P-06-1573 Protect Llanidloes: Stop illegal & dangerous gas and water pollution from Bryn Posteg Landfill led by Xander Ashwell. Xander Ashwell has raised the issue with me directly and officials are preparing a response.

Activities at Bryn Posteg Landfill are controlled by an Environmental Permit that contains conditions the operator must comply with to prevent harm to the environment or human health. Natural Resources Wales (NRW), as the waste regulator in Wales, is responsible for regulating the site and ensuring compliance with the conditions of the permit.

I understand NRW are aware of an increase in odour complaints and pollution concerns from the public relating to Bryn Posteg landfill. While waste is no longer being accepted at the site, there is currently significant activity on site as the operator undertakes capping works. These works can disturb existing waste and release pockets of odour. NRW are conducting site visits and are in regular contact with the operator to ensure that all works are undertaken in line with the requirements of the site's environmental permit and in a manner that minimises any impact on the environment.

Where any breaches of the permit are identified, enforcement action will be considered in line with NRW's enforcement and sanction policy. They encourage anyone with odour or pollution concerns in relation to this site to report them using our online reporting form or by calling 03000653000.

I understand the level of concern the local community has regarding odour issues, and can reassure you that we are taking this matter very seriously. The Welsh Government continues to work towards eradicating the landfilling of waste produced in Wales. Since the start of devolution our policy approach has seen the use of landfill fall dramatically in Wales, with less than 1% of local authority collected rubbish entering landfill now, compared with 95% in 1998.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Huw.Irranca-Davies@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@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.

Thank you for writing to me on this important matter. I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, 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

Dear Petitions Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment ahead of the meeting on Monday, 16 March 2026. I note that the Committee will also be discussing the inquiry into the Hafod Landfill site (**P-06-1510**) during this meeting. The forensic evidence gathered regarding Bryn Posteg strongly reinforces the findings of the Hafod inquiry, demonstrating that regulatory failure, loss of community trust, and prolonged environmental hazard are systemic issues with Landfill sites across Wales.

I also note the response from Huw Irranca-Davies (**P-06-1573**) regarding this matter - unfortunately, while this response which lays out the landscape of regulatory accountability, and provides some context as to the practical reasons why these egregious breaches are occurring, there is very little substance as to the **systemic mismanagement of the site**, or whether **NRW's regulatory & enforcement powers (and the resources at their disposal) are sufficient**. It also **does not address the regulatory "gap"** where resident's health and wellbeing is neither considered nor prioritised by NRW, Powys CC environmental health, or otherwise. Indeed, it is deeply frustrating that parts of this response almost seem to provide a *justification* for the landfill's impact on residents, rather than laying out any **remedial action** beyond NRW's existing procedures, which are demonstrably insufficient in protecting the wellbeing and safety of local residents.

I would like to draw the Committee's attention to the following key points regarding Bryn Posteg (Permit EPR/BU7766IC), which NRW has previously designated in 2017 as the "worst performing landfill in Wales", and has shown little sign of improving since then.

1. An Acute Public Safety and Environmental Crisis.

The situation at Bryn Posteg is an active public safety and environmental emergency. In the 12 months of 2025 alone, the site recorded **five separate "Significant" (Category 2) breaches** of its permit. A "Significant" breach implies a serious impact on the environment or human health. For a regulated site to have *one* is bad, to have *five* in a year is indicative of total management failure.

- **Methane Gas Migration.** In late 2025, methane levels at the site perimeter reached 84% – **radically exceeding the 1% safety limit**. This indicates mass lateral migration of explosive gas through the subsurface. In April 2025, atmospheric gas levels were so hazardous that **NRW officers had to abandon an inspection when their personal safety alarms were triggered**. In April 2024, an NRW Gas Audit found extreme dilapidation - **25% of the gas wells were disconnected** from the gas extraction system, **venting up to 47% raw methane into the atmosphere**. These breaches are not isolated incidents, they are continuous and systemic - frequently, levels for methane in perimeter boreholes are above 80%, and environmental permit limits are breached **over 100 times each year**. The 2024 & 2025 annual reviews of the site by Caulmert states that *"Due to the EP limit exceedances of methane and carbon dioxide at a number of perimeter wells, it has been suggested that off-site gas migration may be an issue"*.
- **Hydrogen Sulphide (H₂S) emissions.** Hydrogen Sulphide is the primary compound responsible for the "rotten egg" smell associated with landfill gas. It is highly toxic and odorous even at parts-per-billion levels. The operator's 2025 Annual Review reveals that the waste mass at Bryn Posteg is generating massive volumes of H₂S. For context, the UK workplace exposure limit for H₂S is just 5 ppm (parts per million) over an 8-hour period, and the human nose can detect it at just 0.01 ppm. While peaks of **1,360 ppm** were measured within in-waste boreholes, **H₂S is not staying contained within the waste mass**. The 2025 data confirms it is migrating to the perimeter of the site. Multiple perimeter wells evidence a concentration of up to **162 ppm** in January 2025. A

walkover survey in July 2025 identified **35 separate Point Source Emissions**— locations where gas is actively leaking out of the capped surfaces and broken infrastructure. Despite all this evidence, residents are continually gaslit by the site operator about their lived experience of odour nuisance from the site, and the burden of proof falls squarely on the shoulders of affected individuals.

- **Severe River Contamination.** In November 2025, the site discharged sediment into the Nant Y Bradnant tributary of the Upper Severn at a concentration of 7,050 mg/l, which is **140 times the legal limit of 50 mg/l**. Remedial bunds ordered by NRW to prevent this were found unbuilt a month later. This runoff is not, as NRW or the site operator state, simply “clean” sediment from recent earthworks - the sediment contained almost **40x the permitted limit** of ammoniacal nitrates - a level that demonstrates that toxic leachate is not effectively contained and is mixing with surface runoff, as well as being a level that is acutely toxic to life within the watercourse. Several Curlew nesting pairs, a “red list” species that is “critically endangered” in Wales due to environmental pressures, nest within a mile of the site. Curlews predate on benthic invertebrates (sediment-dwelling food sources) that live in watercourses such as the Nant Y Bradnant.
- **Hydraulic Containment Failure.** Monitoring in 2022-24 revealed leachate heads reaching up to 22 metres above the sump base—**over 20 times the legal limit**. This exerts immense hydraulic pressure on the site's lining, drastically increasing the risk of “forever chemicals” (PFAS) and heavy metals contaminating local groundwater and private water supplies. The pedigree of the landfill site as a historic lead mine, and its establishment by local authorities in the '80's, paint a very unclear and poorly documented picture of the site's ability to effectively contain leachate or prevent PFAs from leaching into local private water supplies.
- **2025 Annual Report.** The operator's own 2025 Annual Review admits to **102 methane gas breaches, 35 separate gas leaks on the cap, and routine failures in managing toxic leachate** - all in language that normalises systemic failure - significant breaches of legal levels are referenced as “comparable to previous reports”. Worse, the report (from Caulmert) explicitly states the data was provided by the operator (Sundorne Products (Llanidloes) Ltd) and is completely unverified. When we look at the independent regulator (NRW) data, we see the true pollution figures are **up to 7 times worse** than the site operator documents in their annual review.

2. Decades of Corporate Negligence and Regulatory Failure

The operator, Sundorne Products (Llanidloes) Ltd, has a proven track record of prioritising revenue and operations over environmental safety:

- **Criminal and Safety Convictions:** The operator was criminally convicted and fined £55,000 in 2019 for illegal waste deposits and failing to manage landfill gas. In January 2025, the same company was fined £100,000 by the Health and Safety Executive for severe safety failures at a recycling centre. The documented history of a failure to safely manage the site suggests that the **regulatory pressure NRW is able to exact on the site operator is not sufficient**, with the history of fines and continued operational, managerial and administrative negligence suggesting corporate recidivism - minimal fines for permit breaches are simply the cost of doing business for the site operator, and preferable to operating safely and within permitted limits.
- **Administrative Deception:** In regulatory filings submitted to NRW in 2023, the operator used topographical surveys dated from 2009 to represent the site's current settlement and stability, masking the true physical state of the over-tipped landform. Waste returns for Q1, Q2, and Q3 2024 were **exactly the same** to the decimal point, raising serious questions about the accuracy/honesty of their reporting. Their most

recent planning permission was remedial to account for previous breaches - in short, overtipping the site, asking for forgiveness rather than permission, and putting profits before people.

- **Infrastructure Neglect:** An NRW audit revealed that the operator conducted zero mandatory emissions monitoring on its gas engines for the entirety of 2022. When tested in 2023, emissions of Nitrogen Oxides and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) massively breached legal limits - nearly 3.5 times the legally permitted limit of NO² and 20% more VOCs than the environmental permit stipulates.
- **Ineffective Regulation:** In recent responses to complaints, NRW state that nuisance odours are the temporary result of earthworks, whereas both the lived experience of residents and NRW's own reporting suggests otherwise. NRW's methodology for investigating smell reports is to alert the site operator and request they investigate - a wholly unsatisfactory method of "marking their own homework" which suggests apathy towards the local impact. Frequently reports are discredited without investigation due to wind direction or lack of perceivable onsite odour, and the burden of proof lies squarely with the complainant.
- **Residents left stranded:** NRW's regulatory mandate focuses on environmental impacts, and not health outcomes. Environmental health point to regulatory responsibility being NRW's. Powys CC point to the Sennedd and NRW. NRW state they are doing their jobs and impacts are temporary - this merry-go-round of buck-passing and administrative apathy has gone on for decades, with seemingly no accountability or ownership of the issue. Meanwhile, local residents are stuck in the gap between these various agencies, their lived experience remaining unheeded.

3. Alignment with the Hafod Landfill Inquiry Findings

The community of Llanidloes stands in absolute solidarity with the residents of Johnstown. The recent Petitions Committee report on Hafod highlighted a total breakdown in trust and called for mandatory automated monitoring. Bryn Posteg proves this is a national necessity:

- Like Hafod, residents near Bryn Posteg suffer daily from toxic methane & hydrogen sulphide odours, impacting mental health, trapping people indoors, and causing physical symptoms like migraines.
- We fully endorse the Committee's recommendation for mandatory, independent, automated odour monitoring at all landfill sites in Wales. The current system of self-reporting by operators is fundamentally broken, and this is leveraged by the site operator to continue to act with impunity.

4. Health Impacts of Living near Landfill sites

Finally, it is relevant to highlight the findings from the [UK Health Security Agency's Guidance: Impacts on health of emissions from landfill sites \(2024\)](#), which states:

*"living close to a **well-managed** municipal active or closed landfill site does not pose a significant risk to human health...the picture for **historic sites is less clear**, due to the lack of data and construction details. However, **given their age and assuming a capping that ... decreases gas emissions**, the same statement can be applied."*

I believe it's clear from that data within NRW's public register that this site is neither well-managed nor safe, and that the current site operator is demonstrably incapable or

unwilling to ensure its safe management. The findings from this report are clear about the mental health, stressors, and negative health impacts of mismanaged and historic sites.

5. Requested Actions from the Committee

Given the extreme data relating to the site operator going back decades - consistently breaching safe permit levels in air and water pollution up to 140 times the legal limit—we urge the Committee to recognise that standard regulatory warnings and pressure are no longer sufficient. We ask the Committee to recommend the following to the Welsh Government and NRW:

1. **Immediate Permit Revocation:** Direct NRW to revoke the permit, as the site poses an imminent threat to public safety and the River Severn catchment.
2. **Independent Closure Taskforce:** Establish a Welsh Government-led taskforce to oversee the site's closure, taking control out of the hands of the failing operator.
3. **Regulatory overhaul:** Timelines between permit breaches and remediation/prosecution of site operators are far too long. No specific parameters for H₂S are laid out in the Environmental Permit - despite this being the gas that provides the primary odour pathway for nuisance odours. No weighting is given to historic trends or evidence of negligence when investigating contemporary breaches or performance. Site operators breach environmental permits with impunity, fines are “swallowed up” as a cost of doing business. There is no compliance oversight from local planning authorities or environmental health bodies. The growing problem of historic landfills will need regulatory adaptation to prevent a toxic legacy. We ask that **NRW be provided the resources and powers to be effective regulators of landfills.**
4. **Fugitive Emissions:** Urgently reform the environmental regulatory framework governing fugitive emissions and nuisance odours, specifically highly toxic Hydrogen Sulphide. The current protocol (which allows NRW to rely on a polluting operator’s self-investigation to dismiss community complaints) is entirely unfit for purpose. We request the implementation of a mandated, robust enforcement process that requires rapid, independent, on-site verification of odour breaches by NRW officers, ensuring strict adherence to environmental permits and ending the culture of operator self-regulation.
5. **Financial Bond Audit:** Initiate an immediate, transparent audit of the site's financial provision to ensure the taxpayer is not left with the multi-million-pound liability of managing a leaking, 30-year aftercare site, and ensuring that the site operator is held to effective regulatory pressures to ensure the safety of the local environment and population.
6. **Private Water Supply Testing:** Environmental Health seemingly show little interest in the potentially damaging health impacts related to the mismanagement of the site, or in applying any specialised testing to private water supplies or monitoring air quality in nearby dwellings and amenity areas. We ask that the Senedd mandate immediate testing of local private water supplies for PFAS and trace metals.

All data relating to the Bryn Posteg Landfill shared above is in the public record and is freely available through NRW’s own public register: <https://publicregister.naturalresources.wales/>
Thank you for your time, your diligent work on the Hafod inquiry, and your ongoing commitment to protecting Welsh communities from environmental negligence. I look forward to hearing **how the Senedd will act in this instance** to ensure the wellbeing of its remarkable citizens and the continued stewardship of our beautiful natural environment.

Yours sincerely,
Xander Ashwell

Agenda Item 4.1

P-06-1291 Hold an enquiry into the corporate takeover of the veterinary profession in Wales

This petition was submitted by Dr Linda Evelyn Joyce-Jones, having collected a total of 308 signatures.

Text of Petition:

In 1999 legislation was changed by the UK Government which allowed veterinary practices to be owned not just by qualified veterinary surgeons. This paved the way for private equity stakeholder corporates to buy into this market. These profit driven organisations have changed the profession so that it is barely recognisable. In many parts of Wales, it is virtually impossible to find an independently run veterinary practice. The corporate buyout now extends to out of hours provision, referral practices as well as general practice. The corporates also own laboratories, drug companies, pet crematorium as well as shares in many pets' food companies. Such a monopoly makes the few remaining independently run practices presence virtually untenable. From vet school to recruitment through to practice the corporates have the advantage. Set in this context their influence on bodies such as the RCVS and BVA is predicable.

Additional Information:

For those of us with companion animals this monopoly has had devastating consequences. From lack of choice in finding an independent practice, seeing the same Veterinary Surgeon for continuity of care through to cost. But most of all clinical decisions being made with the policies of the corporate's taking centre stage.

My experience with My Cat Rosa sadly means I will always mistrust some within the profession. Companion animals are part of people's families. Covid, the isolation and mental health issues have made these relationships even more precious.

I dread to think (but have been informed) how the animal rescue sector in Wales copes. Because they must deal with some of the most abused and clinically challenged animals who have significant and often complex medical needs.

Despite numerous petitions to the UK Government, Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs etc have failed to take any action whatsoever. Cymru has led the way before on animals and their welfare, so we ask our Senedd to do so again.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Ynys Môn
- North Wales

Review of petitions under consideration at the end of the Sixth Senedd

16 March 2026

This paper asks the Committee to review the petitions it is currently considering, and agree which should be carried over to the Seventh Senedd for further consideration and which should be closed..

1. Background

- 1.** In anticipation of the end of the current Senedd, the Committee asked clerks to identify which petitions could be carried over to the next Senedd for consideration by its successor committee and which petitions could be considered for closure by this Committee.
- 2.** Closing a significant number prior to dissolution will give the incoming Committee more space to decide its own priorities, ensure that it is only considering relevant issues and prevent existing petitions from stopping new petitions being submitted on similar topics in the Seventh Senedd.
- 3.** In line with practice at the end of the Fifth Senedd, on 10 November 2025 Members agreed some key principles to help clerks advise Members for that decision process:



- To keep open petitions that have only recently been referred to it (for example in the last 3 months) and which it is still gathering evidence on;
- To keep open a small number of other major petitions, such as those where it has not been able to complete its scrutiny of the issue due to time constraints; and
- For petitions where this Committee has already carried out its own scrutiny, it will only keep them open if there are significant issues still unresolved or responses to correspondence outstanding.

4. There are currently 24 petitions under active consideration by the Committee (i.e. that have been discussed on at least one occasion and not been closed).

5. In determining how many petitions to carry over, the Committee should also note that, as of 11 March, there are 32 petitions collecting signatures which will also be referred for consideration in the Seventh Senedd if they pass the 250 signature threshold, and 19 petitions that have already reached that threshold but do not close until after dissolution, and for which a response will need to be sought from the incoming Welsh Government.

6. The clerking team have prepared three tables for the Committee's consideration. The table at Annex A provides an overview of petitions the Committee may wish to consider referring to the committee responsible for petitions in the Seventh Senedd. The table at Annex B contains petitions that the Committee could consider closing. The table at Annex C lists petitions that have recently reached the threshold and will require a response from the incoming Welsh Government before consideration in the Seventh Senedd.

2. Action

7. The Committee is invited to agree the proposals set out in Annex A and Annex B below, and note the table at Annex C.

Annex A – Petitions to consider referring to the Seventh Senedd

Petition title/signatures	First considered	Times considered	Current position
<p><u>P-06-1232 Stop the proliferation of intensive poultry units (IPUs) by legislating and introduce a moratorium until this can be achieved</u></p> <p>5,920 signatures</p>	10 October 2023	Four	Agreed on 2 March to keep open and write to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs for an update on the Technical Advice Note.
<p><u>P-06-1291 Hold an enquiry into the corporate takeover of the veterinary profession in Wales</u></p> <p>308 signatures</p>	17 October 2022	Nine (including today's meeting and noting papers on two occasions)	An update considered at 16 March meeting, following a Cross-Party Group event on 20 January and ETRA Ministerial scrutiny session on 5 March.
<p><u>P-06-1428 Stop the flooding in Caenant Terrace, Skewen NOW!</u></p> <p>766 signatures</p>	8 July 2024	Three	Kept open (8 December 2025) in the hope that the next Government will allocate funding to support Neath Port Talbot and alleviate the hardship faced by local residents.. Members noted that while progress appears to be planned, work is not expected to begin until 2027 and uncertainties remain around funding. Also noted earlier decision to include flood management as a priority theme in the Committee's legacy report.

Petition title/signatures	First considered	Times considered	Current position
<u>P-06-1464 Allow Welsh families who have experienced Baby loss before 24 weeks to obtain baby loss certificate</u> 749 signatures	4 November 2024	Seven (and paper to note for 2 March meeting)	Kept open – for a successor committee to take it forward and keep pushing the issue due to its importance for those affected.
<u>P-06-1479 Stop the detention of learning disabled and autistic children, young people and adults in hospitals</u> 1,754 signatures	2 December 2024	Four	Agreed on 2 March 2026 to keep the petition open due to ongoing concerns.
<u>P-06-1521 Give park home residents in Wales the right to a water meter</u> 447 signatures	6 October 2025	Three	Agreed on 2 March to keep open with a recommendation that the successor committee either refers the matter to the Committee scrutinising the Minister responsible for water reform, or writes to that Minister directly for a response to the petitioner’s request for more immediate regulatory measures.
<u>P-06-1548 Welsh Government to provide fair funding to Cardiff Council to enable essential works on Roath Park Primary</u> 658 signatures			Awaiting government response before first consideration, despite multiple requests. Petition closed for signatures in November 2025.
<u>P-06-1550 Place the drug Xonvea on to the formulary for the management of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy</u> 947 signatures	15 January 2026	Twice	Agreed to forward the petitioner’s additional detailed questions to the AWMSG, along with a case received by

Petition title/signatures	First considered	Times considered	Current position
			the Chair. Kept open pending a response, which is a paper to note today.
<p><u>P-06-1573 Protect Llanidloes: Stop illegal & dangerous gas and water pollution from Bryn Posteg Landfill now</u></p> <p>1,144 Signatures</p>			Welsh Government response received – to be considered on 16 March 2026.
<p><u>P-06-1582 Restore a fair funding route so Welsh students aren't shut out from MT/dance degrees in England</u></p> <p>10,582 Signatures</p>	2 March 2026	Once	Agreed to keep open for successor Committee to consider seeking an early debate. The petition has been considered by the Culture Committee – this Committee will write to note that it reached the 10,000 threshold, and ask if that Committee's legacy report could include considering returning to the issue early in the new Senedd term..

Annex B – Petitions to consider closing

Petition title/signatures	First considered	Times considered	Current position
<p><u>P-06-1195 Conduct an independent inquiry into the death of Glyn Summers and the actions of Coleg y Cymoedd</u></p> <p>834 signatures</p>	1 November 2021	Once	Joel James MS declared a relevant interest under Standing Order 17.24A: He has previously been contacted by the petitioner on this issue.

Petition title/signatures	First considered	Times considered	Current position
			Members noted the Minister's response, agreeing that it was difficult to see much space to progress on an independent inquiry. Members however agreed to arrange a meeting with the petitioner, to discuss whether there are other elements of their campaign which could be taken forward.
<p><u>P-06-1262 Welsh Government to hold a public inquiry into decisions taken by them before & during the pandemic</u></p> <p>2,116 signatures</p>	9 May 2022	Three	Kept open at last consideration (25 September 2023) pending the forward work programme of the special purpose COVID Committee becoming available. On 16 February 2026 the First Minister stated "I intend to publish the Welsh Government's response to the inquiry's Module 2 report about decision-making structures before the end of the Senedd term."
<p><u>P-06-1314 Insulate all Welsh homes against both the heat and the cold...introduce grants that are open to all!</u></p> <p>279 signatures</p>	21 November 2022	Four	A roundtable discussion was held on the issue on 9 January 2023, with a plan to write to the Minister for Climate Change to follow up. This was subsequently

Petition title/signatures	First considered	Times considered	Current position
			overtaken by events as CCEI Committee undertook work on the issue.
<p><u>P-06-1377 Decline planning permission for the development planned proposed as Parc Solar Caenewydd</u></p> <p>10,356 signatures</p>	11 December 2023	Once	Kept open pending a decision from the Minister following the conclusion of the Development of National Significance (DNS) process.
<p><u>P-06-1418 New legislation should be introduced to protect sports pitches from dog fouling</u></p> <p>2,518 signatures</p>	22 April 2024	Once	The Committee agreed to visit Abercarn Rugby Football Club to see the extent of the problem, with a view to raising further public awareness on the issue.
<p><u>P-06-1427 Create a sustainable traffic plan for the Rhiangoll Valley</u></p> <p>258 signatures</p>	24 June 2024	Twice	The Committee noted an update on 10 November 2025 and the Cabinet Secretary undertook to provide further updates on actions being taken. Any update will be forwarded to the petitioner and published on the petition webpage.
<p><u>P-06-1468 Set stricter rules to limit gifts, donations and payments received by Members of Senedd</u></p> <p>343 signatures</p>	20 January 2025	Once	The Standards Committee inquiry into the registration and declaration of interests is completed. Plenary motions to amend Standing Orders for the registration and declaration of

Petition title/signatures	First considered	Times considered	Current position
			interests are scheduled for 11 March; and a motion to approve the Guidance for Members of the Senedd on the registration, declaration and recording of financial and other interests for 18 March..
<p><u>P-06-1476 1000 meter mandatory buffer zone for all new and existing quarries</u></p> <p>11,473 signatures</p>	18 November 2024	Four (and plenary debate)	The Chair wrote to the Cabinet Secretary on 10 December to seek a meeting – inviting other interested MSs – to establish exactly what information is needed for a review of MTAN 1, which was written before the Well-being of Future Generations Act came in to force. Also agreed to note the issues raised in the legacy report.
<p><u>P-06-1492 Maintain 24 hour access to the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) at Prince Philip Hospital, Llanelli</u></p> <p>969 signatures</p>	3 February 2025	Twice	Kept open pending outcome of public consultation. September 2025 Hywel Dda UHB confirmed 24 hour service would not resume. On 29 January it approved a new <u>Health Board strategy</u> shaped by community engagement.

Petition title/signatures	First considered	Times considered	Current position
<p><u>P-06-1507 We call on UWTSD and the Welsh Government to create a viable, sustainable plan for the long-term future of Lampeter campus</u></p> <p>5,754 signatures</p>	10 March 2025	Once (referred to CYPE and ETRA and highlighted in Siambr debate)	A majority of Members supported closing the petition, but Joel James did not. Final Ministerial scrutiny sessions in CYPE held on 4 February and financial sustainability was discussed. No further reports on HE funding planned by CYPE.
<p><u>P-06-1498 Introduce a bus service from Abergavenny Bus Station to The Grange Hospital</u></p> <p>665 signatures</p>	24 March 2025	Once	Kept open with watching brief in light of the Bus Services (Wales) Bill, which became an Act on 2 February 2026.
<p><u>P-06-1510 Direct NRW to revoke the environmental permit and ensure the closure of Enovert's, Hafod Landfill Site in Wrexham</u></p> <p>1,125 signatures</p>	28 April 2025	Eight (including today)	Inquiry responses considered 16 March 2025 - Included here for completeness.
<p><u>P-06-1540 Remove The Manipulative Funding System Forcing Students To Do Welsh Baccalaureate</u></p> <p>1,125 signatures</p>	12 January 2026	Once	Kept open pending response from Cabinet Secretary but with a view to closing when response has been shared with petitioner and published.
<p><u>P-06-1562 Improve breast screening uptake for women in Wales</u></p> <p>4,254 signatures:</p>	12 January 2026	Once	Kept open pending response from Cabinet Secretary with a view to closing once response received, shared with petitioner and published. Correspondence to be shared with HSC Committee.

Annex C – Petitions over the threshold for consideration and open for signatures beyond dissolution – for the Seventh Senedd (as at 11 March 2026)

Petition title/signatures	Opened	Currently closing
<u>Restore parental consent for Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) lessons in the Curriculum for Wales</u>	13 October 2025	13 April 2026
<u>Introduce a Basic Income for the Arts scheme in Wales, modelled on Ireland's successful initiative.</u>	28 October 2025	28 April 2026
<u>Ban shops selling vapes like sweets; ban sweet-style marketing and branding to stop underage vaping</u>	29 October 2025	29 April 2026
<u>Declare a Welsh National Health Emergency</u>	23 February 2026	30 April 2026
<u>Keep Welsh-speaking children with complex needs in Wales – stop placements in England</u>	11 November 2025	11 May 2026
<u>Bring Jess's Rule to Wales to prevent missed & delayed diagnoses</u>	12 November 2025	12 May 2026
<u>Put a referendum to Wales asking "Do you want to reduce the number of MSs from 96 to 40?"</u>	12 January 2026	8 June 2026
<u>Pause and withdraw climate-based policies that damage nature, farms and daily life in Wales. - Petitions</u>	28 January 2026	21 June 2026
<u>Erect a Statue for Gwenllïan ferch Gruffydd</u>	2 February 2026	1 July 2026
<u>Establish a Memorial to Catrin ferch Owain Glyndŵr at or near Harlech Castle</u>	9 February 2026	8 July 2026
<u>Reinstate Welsh Government funding to ensure Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant surgery stays open.</u>	13 January 2026	13 July 2026
<u>The GCSE (Curriculum Wales) course needs to put a much greater focus on Welsh history</u>	30 January 2026	30 July 2026
<u>Introduce mandatory continuous automated odour monitoring at all landfill sites across Wales</u>	28 January 2026	28 July 2026
<u>Introduce the Mandatory Microchipping of Cats in Wales</u>	2 February 2026	2 August 2026

Petition title/signatures	Opened	Currently closing
<u>Ban the tethering of horses and get them help when neglected.</u>	16 February 2026	16 August 2026
<u>Protect Specialist Palliative Care at Ysbyty Cwm Cynon</u>	18 February 2026	14 August 2026
<u>Conduct a feasibility study with regard to reopening Nelson railway station, Caerphilly County</u>	23 February 2026	20 August 2026
<u>Urgent Pembrokeshire Healthcare & Resident Safety - Withybush Hospital & Health Board Intervention</u>	23 February 2026	23 August 2026
<u>Establish One National Health Board for Wales and Empower County Hospitals</u>	4 March 2026	4 September 2026

* Petitioners have been offered the option to close their petition early or keep it open until the next Senedd.

Elin Jones MS
Chair, Business Committee
Senedd Cymru
CF99 1SN

January 2026

Dear Business Committee

Review of Petitions Process – Consideration of changes to Standing Order 23 – Public Petitions

At its meeting on 20 October 2025 the Committee held private discussions on the current petitions process and arrangements, and considered practice elsewhere. This was with a view to making any recommendations in advance of the Seventh Senedd. The Committee agreed to request that the Business Committee considers the following possible changes to Standing Order 23.

1. Standing Order 23.1 - status of the committee

Standing Order 23.1 requires the functions set out in that Standing Order regarding public petitions to be assigned to “a committee or committees”, but does not require a dedicated “Petitions Committee” to be established. Members noted the possibility that even in a larger Senedd of 96 Members there might be pressure to include the function of handling petitions within the remit(s) of other Committees. They discussed whether it was preferable to recommend that the Seventh Senedd committee structure should include a separate standing committee with a dedicated function of handling petitions, or to retain the status quo in Standing Orders which allows greater flexibility for deciding arrangements for handling petitions.

In reaching a decision the Committee noted that the Scottish Parliament’s equivalent Standing Orders are very brief, but require a dedicated committee, the remit of which can be expanded by a motion of its Bureau (equivalent to the Business Committee):

Rule 6.10 Public Petitions

1. There shall be a committee, the remit of which is to consider public petitions addressed to the Parliament in accordance with these Rules (and any additional matter added under Rule 6.1.5A) and, in particular, to—

- (a) decide in a case of dispute whether a petition is admissible;
- (b) decide what action should be taken upon an admissible public petition; and
- (c) keep under review the operation of the petitions system.

Proposal

The Committee agreed to submit a formal proposal to the Business Committee to amend Standing Order 23.1 before the end of the Sixth Senedd to better reflect the expectation that one committee will have a dedicated lead role in handling public petitions. This proposal would not exclude that committee from also having other functions within its remit.

Rationale

Petitions Committee Members are strongly of the view that it is important for petitioners to have a dedicated Petitions Committee they can directly engage with. Responses to a targeted consultation with public bodies in Wales over summer recess highlighted the value of the current petitions process. The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales said: *"We strongly believe in the value of the petitions process in strengthening citizen's voice and influence over public policy"*, and the Welsh NHS Confederation noted *"the Petitions Committee fulfils an essential role in our country's democracy. It is important that all Welsh citizens have the opportunity to voice their concerns if they have issues with the actions of any public body."* This was a view shared by Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board: *"the work of the Committee is an important and established plank of Welsh democratic life."* Members also note that there can be instances where a dedicated committee is able to give more attention to a particular issue than a specialist policy committee, for example because of other scrutiny commitments.

If the Business Committee is minded to consider this proposal in more detail, with a view to any agreed changes being put in place before the start of the Seventh Senedd, the attached Annex A sets out the changes the Committee would envisage being necessary.

2. Standing Orders 23.4-23.10 – Explaining Admissibility and Action on a petition

Currently 'admissibility' of a petition is described (in SO 23.4(i)) as including a petition containing no fewer than 250 signatures. Historically this signature threshold has been considered the final admissibility criteria, and the trigger point at which it is referred for 'Action on a petition' under SO23.8 (Committee consideration).

In real practice, a petition is described to a petitioner as being 'admissible' for publication in the online system and open for signatures when it has met the other criteria set out in Standing Orders 23.2-23.4 - i.e. it complies with the rules; is in proper form; is not offensive; and is within Senedd competence.

It is also proposed to update the wording in 23.7 which describes how decisions on admissibility are recorded and petitioners informed. In practice, now that the petitions system is fully online, the rationale for rejecting a petition as inadmissible is recorded for that individual petition, and the lead petitioner is automatically informed by email. The online system constitutes a 'record'

of decisions rather than forming a 'register'. The amendment is proposed for clarity, and reflects existing practice in other parts of the Standing Orders.

3. Standing Orders 23.11-23.12 – Closing Petitions

Petitioners can sometimes be confused by the difference between their petition being 'closed' for signatures, and being 'closed' by the Committee following its consideration by Members. Amending the title in the Standing Order to 'Closing *consideration of* Petitions' would provide greater clarity.

Proposal

Clerks have considered the current wording of Standing Order 23, and propose that in light of developed practice it might be better amended to more clearly outline the stages of considering admissibility; referring a petition on for Committee consideration; and deciding to close a petition that has been under consideration. The suggested amendments to achieve this are set out at Annex A.

Rationale

The proposed changes would improve clarity for petitioners and better reflect established practice.

Presiding Officer's Determination on the Proper Form of Petitions

For your awareness, the Committee also considered the current wording of the Determination on the Proper Form of Petitions, and agreed to propose some minor updates to improve clarity for petitioners. As the Determination is a matter for you as Llywydd, and not related to your role as Chair of the Business Committee, clerks will provide you with advice on this separately.

I look forward to the Business Committee's response to the proposals for possible changes to Standing Order 23.

If you have any queries, please contact the Committee clerking team.

Yours Sincerely,



Carolyn Thomas MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



STANDING ORDER 23 – Public Petitions

Committee or Committees

- 23.1 In proposing the remits of committees under Standing Order 16.2 or 16.3, the Business Committee must ensure that responsibility for the functions in Standing Order 23 is assigned to a committee ~~or committees~~ (referred to within Standing Order 23 as “the responsible committee”).

Form of Petitions

- 23.2 A petition must clearly indicate:
- i. the name of the petitioner, who may be an individual person (other than a Member) resident in Wales, or a body corporate or an unincorporated association of persons with a base in Wales;
 - ii. an address of the petitioner to which all communications concerning the petition should be sent; and
 - iii. the names and addresses of any person supporting the petition.
- 23.3 The Presiding Officer must determine the proper form of petitions and must publish his or her determinations.

Admissibility of Petitions

- 23.4 A petition is not admissible if it:
- ~~i. contains fewer than 250 signatures;~~
 - i. fails to comply with Standing Order 23.2 or is otherwise not in proper form;
 - ~~iii.~~ii. contains language which is offensive;
 - ~~iv.~~iii. requests the Senedd to do anything which the Senedd clearly has no power to do; or
 - ~~v.~~iv. is the same as, or substantially similar to, a petition which was closed less than a year earlier.
- 23.5 *[Standing Order removed by resolution in Plenary on 8 March 2017]*
- 23.6 The Presiding Officer must consider and decide in a case of dispute whether a petition is admissible and must notify the petitioner, as soon as is reasonably practicable, of his or her decision and the reasons for it.
- 23.7 The Presiding Officer must publish a ~~register~~record of decisions made under Standing Order 23.6. *[It is proposed to replace the word ‘register’ with ‘record’ to better reflect current practice. NB: The Conduct Order also uses the word ‘record’ for similar instances.]*

Action on a Petition

23.8 If a petition is admissible, and reaches the threshold for consideration, the Presiding Officer must refer that petition to the responsible committee. The threshold for consideration by the responsible committee is 250 signatures.

23.9 The responsible committee must:

- i. refer the petition to the government, any other committee of the Senedd or any other person or body for them to take such action as they consider appropriate;
- ii. report to the Senedd; or
- iii. take any other action which the committee considers appropriate.

23.10 The responsible committee must notify the petitioner of any action taken under Standing Order 23.9.

Closing Consideration of Petitions

23.11 The responsible committee may close consideration of a petition at any time.

23.12 When the responsible committee closes a petition, it must notify the petitioner that the petition is closed and of the reasons for closing it.



Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

2 March 2026

Dear Carolyn,

Consideration of changes to Standing Order 23 – Public Petitions

At its meetings of 3 and 10 February, the Business Committee considered your letter and proposals relating to amendments to Standing Order 23.

The Business Committee has accepted both the second proposal (relating to Standing Orders 23.4-23.10, Explaining Admissibility and Action on a petition) and third proposal (relating to Standing Orders 23.11-23.12, Closing Petitions) made in the letter.

In respect of the first proposal relating to Standing Order 23.1, status of the committee, we observe that the practice of establishing a standalone Petitions Committee, which has been followed since the introduction of a formal petitioning process in 2007, is considered to have worked well. We will encourage our successor committee to continue with this practice when it proposes the establishment of a committee structure in the Seventh Senedd.

However, in light of the scale of changes that may be required to working practices in the Seventh Senedd, we have concluded that we do not wish to constrain the flexibility of the next Business Committee when it comes to make decisions on the committee structure that it wishes to propose in the next Senedd,. We have therefore decided not to take forward this proposal.

The Business Committee intends to propose the amendments to Standing Orders that we have agreed to take forward to the Senedd at a Plenary meeting in March.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Petitions Committee for your work and consideration of these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Elin Jones

The Rt Hon Elin Jones MS

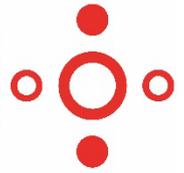
Chair of the Business Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Agenda Item 6.2

Grŵp Strategaeth Meddyginiaethau Cymru Gyfan All Wales Medicines Strategy Group



25th February 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 18 February, sent following the Petitions Committee meeting held on 9 February. I appreciate that this is a highly emotive issue, and I agree that systems should support clinicians in prescribing the most appropriate treatment for their patients. Whilst I have considerable sympathy for the patient included in the case study submitted to the Petitions Committee, I am not able to comment on the specifics of this particular case.

The AWMSG evaluates the cost-effectiveness of medicines through a comprehensive and rigorous process. This includes the consideration of clinical and economic evidence, data from clinical trials, real-world evidence, and health economic modelling. The aim is to understand the benefits of a treatment relative to its cost, ensuring that NHS resources are used effectively to achieve the best possible outcomes for patients. AWMSG gives careful consideration to the ethical and societal implications of its decisions, and patient representatives and relevant organisations are actively involved to ensure that the patient voice is embedded throughout the process. This inclusive approach helps ensure that decisions are informed not only by clinical and economic evidence, but also by lived experience and broader context.

Currently in Wales, clinicians on behalf of their patients can request Xonvea through the Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) process. Clinicians do not need to demonstrate exceptionality, this term was removed from the policy in 2017, instead requests are considered on how the intervention may offer significant clinical benefit for a patient at reasonable value for money. As outlined in previous correspondence, the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC) remain in communication with the manufacturer of Xonvea and are hopeful they can provide further real-world data to address uncertainties identified in the original health technology appraisal, particularly regarding hospitalisation rates and dosing based on current practice. Our priority is to ensure that clinicians have as many treatment options as possible, so that women suffering from hyperemesis gravidarum do not feel forced into making life-changing decisions.

/2....

I will contact you again as soon as we have further information regarding any future assessment of this medicine.

Kindest regards

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Iolo Doull', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Professor Iolo Doull
Chair, All Wales Medicines Strategy Group

—
**Local Government
and Housing Committee**

Florence Eshalomi MP
Chair,
Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee

2 March 2026

Pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Bill

Dear Florence,

Thank you for your letter inviting the Local Government and Housing Committee to share our views on the draft Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Bill to help inform your pre-legislative scrutiny. Although we have not undertaken any specific work on leasehold reform in Wales, our colleagues on the Senedd's Petitions Committee conducted an inquiry into estate management charges between 2022 and 2025 in response to a petition: [P-06-1307 The Welsh Government should commit to the adoption of the maintenance of new housing estates by local authorities](#). That Committee published a [report with recommendations](#) in May 2025, which the Welsh Government [responded](#) to. Consideration of the petition was closed in November 2025 following a [plenary debate](#) on 17 September.

Members of the Petitions Committee paid tribute to the important work done by the late Hefin David MS, and stressed the importance of resolving the issue of 'fleecehold'. The Committee inquiry highlighted the lived experience of Welsh residents, and called for swift implementation of a regulatory regime that ensures prospective purchasers in Wales do not face these problems in the future. The Committee's position on this issue is set out here: [Stop 'wild west' of housing estate management fees](#).

Additionally, we recently conducted scrutiny of the Welsh Government's [Building Safety \(Wales\) Bill](#). In our Stage 1 [report](#) on that Bill we noted our concern at "the clear and significant risk identified in evidence that additional costs incurred by Accountable Persons and Principal Accountable Persons in order to meet the Bill's requirements will be passed on to residents and that such costs could further increase rents and service charges that many people are already struggling to meet". We therefore recommended (recommendation 6) that the Welsh Government should engage with representative

bodies on behalf of tenants and leaseholders, including those engaged in provision of legal advice, to consider the adequacy and effectiveness of existing legal protections against the passing on of unreasonable costs by landlords to tenants and leaseholders. Our recommendation also called on the Welsh Government to consider whether further legal protections are needed within Welsh law, to ensure their suitability for the Welsh housing context.

This recommendation was accepted by the Welsh Government and the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government committed to engaging with representative bodies on behalf of tenants and leaseholders "to ensure that there is an understanding of the legal protections imposed by the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 which imposes requirements for what costs can be taken into account when determining the amount of service charge payable". The Welsh Government's response noted that the requirements are that costs are reasonably incurred and the service is of a reasonable standard to ensure that excessive costs are not permitted to be passed on to leaseholders. The response also referred to working with the UK Government on legislative reforms to improve protections and provide additional rights to leaseholders in England and Wales and noted that the draft Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Bill would include important reforms for leasehold homeowners in Wales.

I hope this information is helpful to your scrutiny of the draft Bill.

I am copying this letter to the Senedd's Petitions Committee.

Yours sincerely,



John Griffiths MS

Chair, Local Government and Housing Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Agenda Item 6.4

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1476
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/01557/25

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

3 March 2026

Dear Carolyn Thomas MS,

Thank you for your letter regarding Petition P-06-1476 1000 metre mandatory buffer zone for all new and existing quarries.

As I have outlined previously, I'm afraid it is not appropriate for the Welsh Government to pre-determine what may or may not be considered evidence. The development of evidence-based policy making relies on gathering information from an extensive range of sources and stakeholders in order to fully appraise and understand the impacts and implications of policy options before taking any final decision.

Society needs, and will continue to need for the foreseeable future, a wide range of minerals and ensuring the sustainable supply of minerals is a strategic issue which plays a fundamental underpinning role in supporting non-minerals development.

The overarching objective in planning for aggregates provision therefore is to ensure supply is managed in a sustainable way so that the best balance between environmental, economic and social considerations is struck, while making sure that the environmental and amenity impacts of any necessary extraction are kept to a level that avoids causing demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledged importance.

The key policy is to provide positively for the safeguarding and working of mineral resources to meet society's needs now and in the future, encouraging the efficient and appropriate use of high quality materials, whilst at the same time minimising the impacts on communities and the environment.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

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.

Should new evidence come to light in terms of new data on blasting, air quality limits or dust for instance, I would be happy to consider it. I would stress however the need for any new information or data to be of a robust nature and to have sought scientific consensus.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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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.

Agenda Item 6.5

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Your ref P-06-1540
Our ref LN/00096/26

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee
petitions@senedd.wales

23 February 2026

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 27 January, regarding an update on Petition P-06-1540:
Remove The Manipulative Funding System Forcing Students To Do Welsh Baccaalaureate.

I am sorry loan was dissatisfied with the previous response on this matter and am happy to address the points he raises.

In my initial response I confirmed that schools and colleges receive the same level of funding for learners studying 3 A levels and the Advanced Skills Baccaalaureate Wales (AdvSBW), as they do for a learner studying 4 A levels. This does not constitute a 'financial incentive' to offer the qualification; rather, it reflects fair funding for the additional costs involved in delivering further qualifications to learners.

In his response, loan asked whether Medr and/or the Welsh Government could provide a transparent example showing the funding difference for:

- 3 A-levels only
- 3 A-levels + AdvSBW
- and 4 A-levels without AdvSBW

For clarity, this information is set out below:

3 A Levels	3 A Levels + AdvSBW	4 A Levels
£3,951	£5,063	£5,063

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Lynne.Neagle@llyw.cymru
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.

To illustrate that the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales is not made mandatory through its funding arrangements, it may be helpful to share data on the programmes of learning followed by learners in schools and colleges. Based on the most recent, available data:

- In school sixth forms, 70% of learners on a Level 3 (L3) programme were entered in AdvSBW in 2024/25
- In colleges, 60% of all L3 learners were entered in AdvSBW in 2023/24
- In colleges, 90% of L3 learners doing A level programmes were entered in AdvSBW in 2023/24, with uptake ranging between 97% and 37% by college.

While this data counters the argument that AdvSBW is 'effectively mandatory', it also demonstrates that schools and colleges retain autonomy over the curricula and qualifications they offer to their 16 to 18 learners, including how they deliver the AdvSBW alongside other level 3 courses.

Ioan has also asked about any assessments the Welsh Government has considered or conducted in respect of the qualification being 'effectively mandatory'. For the reasons outlined above, the qualification is not mandatory, and therefore no such impact assessments have been undertaken. However, Welsh Government has previously carried out and published an [impact assessment](#) of the policy of 'universal adoption' of the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate, the predecessor qualification of the AdvSBW. This was carried out in response to a report by the National Assembly's Children, Young People and Education (CYPE) Committee in April 2019.

I can assure Ioan that I remain committed to ensuring that mental health and wellbeing of post-16 learners continues to be high on the Government's agenda. The Tertiary Education and Research Act (Wales) 2022 requires Medr to develop a new registration and funding condition, which I expect to create a common framework for mental health support across tertiary education. This will make it clear to students the baseline of support that they can expect from their providers.

I should also mention here that I have recently launched a consultation on draft 16 to 18 local curricula guidance for Medr. This guidance includes a section setting out our expectations for how the AdvSBW should be used within 16 to 18 curricula. I have provided an extract and links to the consultation below and would encourage Ioan to engage with the consultation process:

The AdvSBW should be available and offered to all learners aged 16 to 18 on a 2-year, level 3 course. It will normally be taken alongside other Level 3 qualifications, such as a combination of A levels and (or) vocational qualifications. All eligible learners should be encouraged to undertake the AdvSBW, although schools and FEIs should take into account the individual needs and circumstances of learners, as they would for any qualification.

[16 to 18 local curricula guidance | GOV.WALES](#)
[Canllawiau ar gwricwla lleol 16 i 18 | LLYW.CYMRU](#)

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education

**Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport and International Relations Committee**

Vicki Howells MS
Minister for Further and Higher Education
Jack Sargeant MS
Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership
Welsh Government

10 March 2026

Dear Ministers,

Support for specialist creative higher-education courses outside Wales

I am writing following the Committee's meeting on 26 February 2026, during which Members considered correspondence relating to the ability of Welsh-domiciled young people to access Student Finance Wales (SFW) support for specialist creative higher education courses outside Wales. The issues that have been raised with us speak not only to individual hardship, but to wider questions about fairness, opportunity and the future of Wales's creative and cultural talent pipeline.

Concerns for Wales's cultural and creative future

The Committee has received detailed accounts from families and organisations outlining the barriers now being encountered by applicants to conservatoire-style programmes in musical theatre, dance, circus arts and other specialist disciplines. These courses are delivered in only a handful of institutions across the UK, many of them based in England. They play a vital role in training the next generation of performers, technicians, and creative practitioners.

This specialist creative training forms part of a fragile but vital pipeline into Wales's artistic life and culture sector. When even a small number of young people are prevented from accessing training that does not exist within Wales, the impact reverberates across the sector for years to come.

The Committee is therefore concerned that the current designation arrangements may, unintentionally, restrict access to opportunities that have long supported the development of Welsh creative talent - talent that enriches our communities, strengthens our cultural identity, and contributes to Wales's presence on national and international stages.

A recently closed [Senedd petition](#) calling for restoration of fair funding routes for Welsh students applying to musical theatre and dance degree in England reached the required threshold of 10,000 signatures for a debate in the Senedd. Although this comes too late in this Senedd cycle for a meaningful debate, the strength of public feeling expressed through that petition underlines the urgency and seriousness of the concerns raised.

Clarification and next steps

The Committee would be grateful for clarity on the following points:

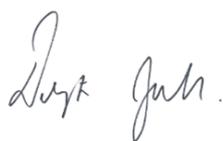
1. What degree of certainty can Welsh-domiciled students expect for the 2026 audition cycle and 2027 entry, particularly in relation to courses validated by UK universities but delivered by specialist partner providers that are not themselves directly registered with the Office for Students?
2. Is the Government considering temporary or transitional arrangements, to avoid the creation of a lost cohort of students while the regulatory landscape is clarified?
3. What engagement is taking place with Medr, SFW, validating universities and specialist providers to explore a more proportionate, streamlined designation pathway for small, high quality institutions offering training not available in Wales?
4. What is the Government's assessment of the likely effect on Wales's cultural and creative sectors, including the sustainability of organisations that rely on a steady supply of specialist graduates?

Given the time sensitive nature of audition cycles and the distress already being experienced by families, early clarity would be valuable.

I look forward to your response on how equitable access to specialist training opportunities for young people across Wales can be protected and maintained.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Petitions Committee and the Children, Young People and Education Committee, who also have an interest in this a matter.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS

Chair

Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair of the Petitions Committee
Senedd Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1SN

3rd March 2026

Dear Chair,

Request for Urgent Debate – Petition on Withybush Hospital Services

We write jointly to request that the Petition entitled “Urgent Pembrokeshire Healthcare & Resident Safety - Withybush Hospital & Health Board Intervention” be scheduled for debate in the Senedd at the earliest available opportunity.

The petition has now surpassed 10,000 signatures, the threshold set by the Senedd for consideration for debate - demonstrating the depth of public concern across Pembrokeshire and beyond. The strength and speed of public engagement reflect genuine anxiety about recent decisions taken by Hywel Dda University Health Board, including the withdrawal of emergency general surgery from Withybush Hospital.

Residents, clinicians, ambulance staff and community organisations have expressed serious concerns regarding patient safety, increased travel times, service centralisation and the cumulative impact of successive downgrades. The petition explicitly raises fears that the re-configuration of services presents a risk to public safety.

Given the gravity of these concerns, and the fact that the Senedd will shortly be dissolved ahead of the next election, we believe it is essential that this matter is debated before dissolution. The people of Pembrokeshire deserve the opportunity for their elected representatives to scrutinise these changes in full and for the Welsh Government to respond formally on the record.

We therefore respectfully urge the Petitions Committee to:

1. Expedite consideration of the petition;
2. Recommend it for plenary debate before dissolution; and
3. Ensure that the Welsh Government is required to set out clearly what intervention, oversight or assurances it will provide regarding the future of services at Withybush Hospital.

This issue goes beyond routine service reconfiguration. It concerns public confidence, equitable access to care in rural communities, and patient safety.

We would be grateful for confirmation of the Committee’s intended timetable for consideration.

Kind regards,



Paul Davies MS
Member of the Senedd for Preseli Pembrokeshire



Samuel Kurtz MS
Member of the Senedd for Carmarthen West & South Pembrokeshire

Paul Davies MS and Sam Kurtz MS
Senedd Cymru
CF99 1SN

12 March 2026

Dear Paul and Sam

Request for Urgent Debate – Petition on Withybush Hospital Services

Thank you for your letter of 3 March asking about expediting consideration and debate of the petition '[Urgent Pembrokeshire Healthcare & Resident Safety - Withybush Hospital & Health Board Intervention](#)', which is currently collecting signatures until August. As requested I write to confirm the intended timescale for consideration.

Before any petition is formally considered it is usually closed for signatures, we seek a formal response from the Welsh Government, and allow time for the lead petitioner to provide their views on that response before bringing it to the Committee.

Regarding petitions that have quickly reached the debate threshold, Committee Members have expressed the view that this late in the Senedd term it is more appropriate to refer on to the Seventh Senedd, for a decision on seeking a debate to be taken early in the new Senedd term. We expect that initially there will be more time available for debating non-legislative business, and it also provides the opportunity for written response from the incoming Welsh Government. On this basis, at our last meeting the Committee decided to refer on petition [P-06-1582 Restore a fair funding route so Welsh students aren't shut out from MT dance degrees in England](#) which had quickly exceeded the 10,000 threshold and been closed early.

Time is now very much against us, but we have contacted the lead petitioner regarding your request to expedite a debate and seek a response from the Welsh Government in plenary. His view is that his petition will achieve a far more meaningful outcome if considered and debated by the new Senedd. He says his priority is ensuring that the petitioners receive a substantive response from the incoming Welsh Government, and intends to keep collecting signatures beyond the election period.

At the Committee's next, final meeting of this Senedd term, on Monday 16 March, we will review all petitions under consideration and note those currently open for signatures. In light of the

response from the petitioner I expect that the Committee will formalise a recommendation to the successor committee to seek early debate of this particular petition.

In the meantime, Members can of course explore other opportunities to highlight the petition in the course of remaining Senedd business, something I do myself as Petitions Committee Chair.

If you have any further queries, please contact the Committee clerking team.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn". The letters are cursive and fluid, with the 'y' having a long tail that loops back under the 'n'.

Carolyn Thomas MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Agenda Item 6.8

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1479
Ein cyf/Our ref JMHSC/00661/26

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions committee

petitions@senedd.wales

11 March 2026

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 12 January asking for an update about the Stolen Lives Wales campaign and the report from the Learning Disability Ministerial Advisory Group (LDMAG).

I published the [LDMAG report and a written statement on 20 January](#). The statement also provides a comprehensive update about the work we have undertaken to improve services and support for people with a learning disability over the course of this Senedd term. It also addresses the majority of queries raised in the Senedd debate of 4 December 2024 and the subsequent letter from the Petitions Committee of 9 January 2025.

Subject to final approval of the governance process, we anticipate being able to publish the first census data following the April 2026 inpatient audit. We are also fully aware of the potential impact of forthcoming changes to the Mental Health Act and have built this into the transformation programme.

The LDMAG and our key learning disability stakeholder partners will continue to play a key role in supporting the development and delivery of our future policy activity in this area and we have committed to continuing to work with the Stolen Lives Wales campaign group as one of the key sources of expertise and lived experience.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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

Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru
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.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Agenda Item 6.9


Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

petitions@senedd.wales

11 March 2026

Dear Carolyn,

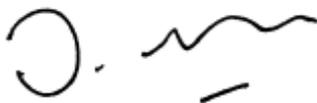
Further to the letter of 9 February 2026, the discovery phase for a Baby Loss Certificate service concluded on Monday 2nd March 2026. A summary of findings is included below to update the committee.

The discovery phase tested a fully bilingual digital journey with 9 Welsh users from across Wales with varying levels of Welsh fluency. The user experience was positive with feedback provided on the current service, as well as specific aspects of the proposed Welsh service.

The digital delivery was found to be technically feasible although some limitations exist related to the quality of data available such as email address and telephone number for identity verification. A digitally assisted journey is already in place in England and will be required by users in Wales to support those users that cannot be verified digitally, or who cannot use a digital service.

Two options have been proposed with a decision required from UK Government to determine whether the Welsh service can be integrated with the English service, or whether a new standalone service will need to be built. The next steps are for NHS BSA to conclude discussions with UK Government in order to finalise costs and timelines. Officials continue to work with NHS BSA to ensure this information is available in this Senedd term.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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

Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales

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Agenda Item 8

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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