

Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 1 - Senedd**

Meeting date: **Tuesday, 14 May 2013**

Meeting time: **09:01 - 10:42**

This meeting can be viewed on Senedd TV at:

http://www.senedd.tv/archiveplayer.jsf?v=en_200000_14_05_2013&t=3350&l=en

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

William Powell (Chair)
Russell George
Joyce Watson
Elin Jones

Witnesses:

Ian Thomas, Scope
Dr John Cox, Petitioner
Lynne Neagle

Committee Staff:

Naomi Stocks (Clerk)
Sian Giddins (Deputy Clerk)
Matthew Richards (Legal Advisor)

1. Introduction, apologies and substitutions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Committee. There were no apologies.

2. New petitions

2.1 P-04-478 A simple info pack for all the people of Wales explaining how they can stand as candidates

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the Minister for Local Government and Government Business seeking her views on the petition.

2.2 P-04-479 Tywyn Memorial Hospital X-ray & Minor Injuries Unit Petition

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to Betsi Cadwaladr Local Health Board seeking their views on the petition, copying the Minister for Health and Social Services and the Health and Social Care Committee.

2.3 P-04-480 Address Private Sector Student Housing Standards

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the Minister for Housing and Regeneration seeking his views on the petition.

The Committee indicated they may wish to look at the issue in more detail once they have received the response from the Minister.

The Chair and Russell George AM declared they have both met the petitioners on this issue.

2.4 P-04-481 Close the Gap for deaf pupils in Wales

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the Minister for Education and Skills seeking his views on the petition.

2.5 P-04-482 Public noticeboards across Wales notifying the public of who all their political representatives are

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write the Minister for Local Government and Government Business seeking her views on the petition.

2.6 P-04-483 A plain English /Cymraeg clir policy for all Welsh Assembly and Government communications

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to:

- the Permanent Secretary seeking his views on the petition as it relates to the Welsh Government; and
- the Chief Executive and Clerk of the National Assembly for Wales seeking her views on the petition.

3. Updates to previous petitions

3.1 P-04-462 Ban the flying of Union flags from official Welsh buildings

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the First Minister seeking further clarity on the flag policy, specifically on the policy around the European flag.

3.2 P-04-319 Newtown traffic petition

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport asking for further information as to why the construction has been delayed and how traffic congestion will be addressed in the interim.

3.3 P-04-426 Introduce a mandatory 40mph speed limit on the A487 at Blaenporth Ceredigion

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to;

- await the completion of the speed limit review; and
- write to the petitioner with an update on progress.

Joyce Watson AM offered to meet with the petitioners and feedback to the Committee at a later date.

3.4 P-04-459 A direct rail connection from Cardiff Airport to Cardiff central and west Wales

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to seek the petitioner's views on the responses.

3.5 P-04-468 Road Safety Concerns A48 Chepstow

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to;

- await the outcome of the speed limit review; and
- write to the petitioner with an update on progress.

3.6 P-04-398 Campaign for a Welsh Animal Offenders Register

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to seek a legal briefing on the petition with a view to closing the petition once this has been considered.

3.7 P-04-399 Slaughter Practices

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to seek clarity from the Minister for Natural Resources and Food on the timeframe for taking forward this issue.

3.8 P-04-433 CCTV in Slaughterhouses

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to seek clarity from the Minister for Natural Resources and Food on the timeframe for taking forward this issue.

3.9 P-04-402 Council Prayers

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to;

- write to the Minister for Local Government and Government Business sharing the correspondence from One Voice Wales and highlighting that they support the need for legal guidance from the Welsh Government; and
- await the update from the Minister.

3.10 P-04-400 NICE Quality Standard in Mental Health

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to close the petition because it has been stated in previous correspondence that the Quality Standards are being adopted.

3.11 P-04-367 Save our Hospital Services

3.12 P-04-394 Save our Services – Prince Philip Hospital

3.13 P-04-430 Proposed closure of Tenby Minor Injuries Unit

3.14 P-04-431 Against Health Cuts from the Residents of Pembrokeshire

3.15 P-04-455 Save Prince Phillip Hospital A&E

The Committee considered correspondence on the petitions and agreed to;

- group P-04-455 with the other related Hywel Dda petitions; and
- write to Hywel Dda LHB about Tenby Minor Injuries Unit asking if they will be able to meet the conditions laid out by the CHC when providing alternative minor injuries provision in Tenby; and
- write to the Minister for Health and Social Services seeking an update on progress on Prince Philip and Withybush services and asked to be informed when a final decision is made.

3.16 P-04-417 Save Morfa Beach and Prevent the Closure of Public Footpaths 92 and 93

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the Planning Inspectorate asking when the inquiry will start, and the expected completion date.

3.17 P-04-461 Save Ponty Paddling Pool

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to;

- write to the Minister for Culture and Sport to seek his views on the petition; and
- seeking the petitioner's views on the correspondence from Rhondda Cynon Taff Council.

The Committee adjourned under Standing Order 17.47 to await the arrival of the witnesses.

4. P-04-442 Guarantee good support close to home for disabled children and their families: Evidence Session

The petitioner answered questions from the Committee.

5. P-04-472 Make the MTAN law: Evidence Session

The petitioner and Lynne Neagle AM answered questions from the Committee.

The Chair thanked Elin Jones AM for her work on the Petitions Committee.