

## Petitions Committee

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

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Meeting date:  
**24 September 2013**

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Meeting time:  
**09:00**

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Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



For further information please contact:

**Steve George**  
Committee Clerk  
029 2089 8421  
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029 2089 8421  
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## Agenda

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### **1 Introduction, apologies and substitutions**

### **2 New petitions (09.00 – 09.20)**

- 2.1 P-04-496 Through Schools (Page 1)
- 2.2 P-04-497 National Graduate Housing Scheme (Pages 2 – 3)
- 2.3 P-04-498 To get Wales educated (Page 4)
- 2.4 P-04-499 Kick Start The Welsh Language Curriculum (Page 5)
- 2.5 P-04-500 Call For Regulation of Animal Welfare Establishments in Wales (Page 6)
- 2.6 P-04-501 Day Centres for the elderly in Wales to be made statutory (Page 7)
- 2.7 P-04-502 Wellbeing Centre for Wales (Pages 8 – 9)
- 2.8 P-04-503 Regeneration of Ton and Pentre (Page 10)

### **3 Updates to previous petitions (09.20 – 10.30)**

#### **Economy, Science and Transport**

- 3.1 P-03-240 Road safety on the A40 in Llanddewi Velfrey (Pages 11 – 13)

3.2 P-04-363 Town Centre Improvement Scheme for Fishguard (Pages 14 – 20)

**The following three petitions will be considered together**

- 3.3 P-04-406 Against Proposed MCZ zones in North Wales (Page 21)
- 3.4 P-04-411 Petition Against Marine Conservation Zones in Pembrokeshire (Page 22)
- 3.5 P-04-415 Support for Designation of Highly Protected Marine Conservation Zones (Pages 23 – 28)
- 3.6 P-04-426 Introduce a mandatory 40mph speed limit on the A487 at Blaenporth Ceredigion (Pages 29 – 33)
- 3.7 P-04-435 Wales & Border Railways Franchise 2018 to be Operated on a Not-for-Dividend Basis (Pages 34 – 35)
- 3.8 P-04-486 Act Now and Help Save the High Street Shops (Pages 36 – 39)

**Natural Resources and Food**

- 3.9 P-04-343 Prevent the destruction of amenities on common land – Anglesey (Pages 40 – 43)
- 3.10 P-04-399 Slaughter Practices (Pages 44 – 47)
- 3.11 P-04-433 CCTV in Slaughterhouses (Pages 48 – 52)
- 3.12 P-04-439 Ancient veteran and heritage trees of Wales to be given greater protection (Pages 53 – 55)
- 3.13 P-04-465 Save Welsh Milk, its infrastructure & its jobs (Pages 56 – 57)

**Health**

- 3.14 P-04-366 Closure of Aberystwyth Day Centre (Pages 58 – 63)
- 3.15 P-04-440 Say NO to Asset Stripping Bronllys Hospital (Pages 64 – 65)
- 3.16 P-04-456 Dementia – This Could Happen to you (Pages 66 – 67)
- 3.17 P-04-463 Reduction of Salt Levels in Food (Pages 68 – 70)
- 3.18 P-04-466 Medical Emergency – Preventing the introduction of a poorer Health Service for North Wales (Pages 71 – 76)
- 3.19 P-04-479 Tywyn Memorial Hospital X-ray & Minor Injuries Unit Petition (Pages 77 – 82)
- 3.20 P-04-492 Diagnosis of autism in children (Pages 83 – 88)

**Housing and Regeneration**

- 3.21 P-04-419 Wind Farm Moratorium (Pages 89 – 110)

3.22 P-04-423 Brooklands Nursing Home (Pages 111 – 112)

3.23 P-04-493 Moratorium on Local Development Plans (LDPs) (Pages 113 – 116)

### **Finance**

3.24 P-04-436 Government Expenditure and Revenue Wales (Pages 117 – 119)

### **Education**

3.25 P-04-441 Gwaith i Gymru – Work for Wales (Pages 120 – 124)

3.26 P-04-488 The right to decide: an end to the compulsory study of Welsh to GCSE (Pages 125 – 127)

### **Culture and Sport**

3.27 P-04-447 Campaign for Statue of Henry VII in Pembroke (Pages 128 – 131)

3.28 P-04-476 Restructuring in National Museum Wales (Pages 132 – 140)

### **Local Government and Government Business**

3.29 P-04-397 Living Wage (Pages 141 – 145)

## **4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business: (10.30)**

Item 5

## **5 P-03-262 Academi Heddwch Cymru / Wales Peace Institute: Draft report (10.30 – 10.45) (Page 146)**

Discussion of draft report

# Agenda Item 2.1

## **P-04-496 Through Schools**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to introduce guidance for local education authorities on school mergers and closures involving all-through schools (ie schools which provide primary, secondary and post 16 education on the same site).

We ask such guidance to:

- prevent the creation of dual/multi site schools, involving all-through schools, where school sites are more than 10 miles travelling distance apart;
- prevent the creation of dual/multi site schools, involving all-through schools, as a precursor to relocation to a new single site school, unless the new single site school is able to provide an all-through education;
- recognise parental and learner preference for all-through schools and require local authorities to meet demand for such schools where demand is sufficient;
- promote the establishment and continuation of all-through schools in Wales;
- ensure that no learners, as result of a school closure or merger involving an all-through school, should be forced to travel for more than 45 minutes to access suitable alternative education provision.

**Petition raised by:** Dawn Dox

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 24 September 2013

**Number of signatures:** 10

## **P-04-497 National Graduate Housing Scheme**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to support construction of Housing for Graduate Students.

### **Supporting Information:**

Details of the proposed national graduate housing schemes

What I describe here is nothing short of a revolutionary set of National Monuments. The buildings I shall go on to detail have a function that affects social growth at the most real grass roots level. Towers of opportunity and centrepieces of re-development; The National Graduate's Housing Schemes are the most real part of tomorrow's world. Constructed in the same fashion as our most modern shopping malls and hospitals; these masterpieces are both splendid and achievable for the masses. I envisage estates of structures as tall as eight or twelve storeys in height. Built from steel frames; there is as much fluidity in their form as there is rigidity in their function. The residents can enjoy food and fine wine, coffee, fashion and dances. All from within the boundaries of their exclusive accommodation facilities.

The lower street levels are all avenues, precincts and terraces. Here the concept is that these most modern developments are superior to previous mass housing efforts through having integral Shopping and Entertainment facilities. Crucial street level 'Graduate Jobpoints' offer more than simply career advice. The contact between the generations there allows for full understanding of exactly what degrees are there on the Resident's Roll of Names. The roll of the Managerials in the Graduate Jobpoint is then to assist the Graduates in finding their place in the economy. Other professional services can be accommodated in architectural designs allowing for on-site businesses. Here multi-discipline task forces can be assembled to work directly on issues that are most relevant to a progressive student movement.

Incorporated into the structures of the major buildings there are positions for many business to serve and employ the residents. The lower two to three levels contain numerous outlets including grocery stores, cafes, bars, etc. There is also space within the buildings for commercial/civil office space for specialist task forces of graduates and professional bodies to work economic accelerator areas. The same design and construction forces applied through construction of buildings for economic key areas such as fashion and media may also bring about greater employment levels

It is important that the Graduate sector receives Government Support, That is if Government are to hold good to the money they have loaned. As for Government funding the rent of the Graduate Residents, the system is loss-less where Government is also the Landlord. The National Graduate Housing Schemes are works of Socio-Politico genius that can and will show

themselves as this Country and it's global neighbours move on through the coming years.

To conclude; I suggest a Graduate world that is managed lightly and smoothly so that all those finishing University successfully can find the right place in a developing society. This only means wise stewardship of qualifications towards businesses.

**Petition raised by:** GWYRDDISM

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 24 September 2013

## **P-04-498 To get Wales Educated**

### **Petition wording:**

We the undersigned call on the Welsh Government to encourage children from primary school age to stay in education to university level.

**Petition raised by:** Matthew Hopkins

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 24 September 2013

**Number of signatures:** 12

# Agenda Item 2.4

## **P-04-499 Kick Start The Welsh Language Curriculum**

### **Petition wording:**

We the undersigned call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to change the Welsh Language Curriculum in Secondary Schools; in order to encourage the Welsh Language to be used in a conversational manner rather than teaching Cymraeg to pass an examination.

Additional information : We as pupils in a Secondary School in Wales believe that the current system for teaching Welsh does not encourage long term learning for real life use outside of school. We believe that the current focus on passing an exam does not address the use of real welsh effectively and most people leave school and forget most of what they have learnt during their five years of Secondary Education. We want the assembly to address the issue of life long welsh language learning in English medium Secondary Schools in order to keep the Welsh language alive all across the Country. We believe that this change needs to be made soon before irreversible damage is done and Welsh becomes a language for road signs and the museums.

**Petition raised by:** Eva Bowers and Lauren Davies

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 24 September 2013

**Number of signatures:** 19



## **P-04-500 Call For Regulation of Animal Welfare Establishments in Wales**

### **Petition wording:**

We the undersigned, call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to regulate Animal Welfare Establishments and legislate for compulsory requirements be met by all animal rescue establishments in line with the report produced by the AWW Animal Welfare Establishments Working Group October 2012. The Welsh Government need to put in place legislation for Wales under the Animal Welfare Act(2006), to protect animals from neglect and abuse.

### **Additional Info:**

More and more animals are suffering abuse, neglect and are being bred from in unregulated establishment who advertise as a Rescue Center, and we call upon the Welsh Assembly to legislate under the Animal Act 2006 to try and stop this from continuing.

**Petition raised by:** Lisa Winnett

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 24 September 2013

**Number of signatures:** 265

# Agenda Item 2.6

## **P-04-501 Day Centres for the elderly in Wales to be made statutory**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the Welsh Government to make Day Care Centres for older people a statutory requirement for the whole of Wales.

**Petition raised by:** Pamela Hughes

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 24 September 2013

**Number of signatures:** 204

## **P-04-502 Wellbeing Centre for Wales**

### **Petition wording:**

We the undersigned call on the Welsh Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to establish a new Wellbeing Centre for Wales that would put individual and community wellbeing(1) at the heart of Welsh politics, and that would be core-funded by government.

### **Additional information:**

Although we recognize that the Welsh government has made considerable strides forward in terms of wellbeing policy, the latest statistics from the All-Wales Mental Health Network show that poor mental health, for example, costs the Welsh economy £7.2bn a year(2) and that the industrial areas of south east Wales have amongst the lowest subjective wellbeing scores in the UK(3)

We believe that this situation needs a solution.

A Wellbeing Centre for Wales would provide evidence-based policy solutions to the problem of wellbeing levels in Wales that are, on average, lower than the UK average. It would draw on the expertise of a wide range of cross-sector partners; including those with policy-making expertise and a track record in effective political engagement; those with experience of delivering wellbeing initiatives at grassroots levels, such as representatives from the voluntary sector; those with a background in action research; as well as academics and academic networks.

A Wellbeing Centre for Wales would draw inspiration from prestigious policy institutes like the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ). As with the CSJ's Poverty Fighting Alliance, The Centre would also aim to build on the vibrant network of grassroots charities and voluntary organizations already established by Lles Cymru Wellbeing Wales, to create a dynamic Wellbeing Network that would serve not only to showcase models of best practice that would then inform and shape policy solutions, but also act as a bridge between communities and government.

The Wellbeing Centre for Wales could also provide a focus for a whole range of innovative wellbeing-promoting initiatives, such as working with the public and private sector to provide programmes of workplace training around wellbeing issues, including targeted workplace wellbeing training for those on low incomes; scaling up resources like the Sustainable Wellbeing Toolkit, which was developed by Lles Cymru Wellbeing Wales to help organizations implement and measure wellbeing programmes; mapping out community assets in Wales for the benefit of the public; or creating digital

resources to increase public awareness around wellbeing issues, such as creating free electronic apps to measure individual wellbeing. The Centre would look for funding for its programme of projects and events from charitable trusts and foundations, as well as corporate sponsors, private individuals, and partnerships with the private sector.

In short, we the undersigned believe that a concerted effort is now required by multiple agencies, all working together, to realize the wellbeing ambitions set out in the government's legislative programme. A Wellbeing Centre for Wales would be a perfect vehicle to drive change.

[1] "Wellbeing is a positive physical, social and mental state; it is not just the absence of pain, discomfort and incapacity. It arises not only from the action of individuals but from a host of collective goods and relationships with other people. It requires that basic needs are met, that individuals have a sense of purpose, and that they feel able to achieve important goals and participate in society. It is enhanced by conditions that include supportive personal relationships, involvement in empowered communities, good health, financial security, rewarding employment, and a healthy and attractive environment.

From 'Local Wellbeing: Can We Measure it?' New Economics Foundation, September 2008

(2) Promoting mental health and preventing mental illness: the economic case for investment in Wales by Lynne Friedli and Michael Parsonage October 2009. For more details visit:

<http://www.publicmentalhealth.org/news.cfm?orgid=749&contentid=15934>

[3] <http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/training-events/annual-conference/programme/health-and-wellbeing/analysis-subjective-wellbeing-wales-evidence-annual-populati/>

**Petition raised by:** Wellbeing Wales

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 24 September 2013

**Number of signatures:** 52

## **P-04-503 Regeneration of Ton and Pentre**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to give special consideration for the use of European Regional Funding to redevelop Ton and Pentre in the Rhondda Valley.

### **Additional information:**

Ferndale and Maerdy in the Rhondda Fach and Treorchy and Treherbert in the Rhondda Fawr have received European funding through the Heads of the Valleys Programme for the purpose of redevelopment. We feel that Ton and Pentre should now benefit from European funding also to bring them into line with the rest of the area.

**Petition raised by:** Mike Powell

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 24 September 2013

**Number of signatures:** 389

# Agenda Item 3.1

## **P-03-240 Improvements to the A40 in Llanddewi Velfrey**

### **Petition Wording**

Due to the increasing levels of traffic, especially heavy goods vehicles, on the A40 and due to the inadequate provision of safe pavements and pedestrian crossings acknowledged by the Trunk Road Agency through research on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government we, the undersigned, hereby demand the Welsh Assembly Government, as a matter of urgency, improve road safety in the village of Llanddewi Velfrey, Narberth, Pembrokeshire through implementation of the following measures:

1. Improve the inadequate pavement along the southern side of the A40 between Llandaff Row and the far eastern end of the village to ensure that it meets current safety standards, that it is sufficiently wide for the safe use of pedestrians, pushchairs and wheel chair users taking into consideration the proximity of heavy goods traffic passing by at speeds often in excess of the current limit of 40mph.
2. Install speed cameras at the eastern and western ends of the village.
3. Utilise the existing electrical installation for road crossing signs to provide flashing warning lights at times when children will be crossing the A40 to catch their school bus.
4. Install traffic calming measures at each end of the village and at road junctions to emphasise the need to reduce speed.
5. Reduce the speed limit to 30mph.

**Petition raised by:** Llanddewi Velfrey Community Council

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** September 2009

**Number of signatures:** 154

Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AC / AM  
Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth  
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-240  
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/02341/13

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions Committee

[kayleigh.driscoll@wales.gov.uk](mailto:kayleigh.driscoll@wales.gov.uk)

Dear William,

5 August 2013

Thank you for your 23 July letter regarding the A40 Llandewi – Penblewin improvement scheme.

I intend to appoint an Employer's Agent to assist officials to progress the A40 Llandewi Velfrey improvement project as the next stage of the improvement of the A40 west of St Clears to follow on from the Penblewin to Slebech Park improvement which was completed in 2011.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Edwina Hart'.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
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**P-03-240 Road safety on the A40 in Llanddewi Velfrey –  
Correspondence form the petitioner to the Clerking team,  
10.09.2013**

Dear Ms Giddins

Please accept my apologies for not replying as I have been away from home dealing with a family illness and have not kept up with correspondence. I had circulated the Minister's letter to members of the Community Council for their views. They have asked me to say that they are pleased with any initiative that moves forward the plans to build the by-pass around Llanddewi Velfrey and agree that the sooner that is done the better.

No mention in the letter from Ms Hart was made of the improvements to speed limit signage on the existing A40 that had been promised before November 2013. Nor has any mention been made of the improvements to safety on the pavements and crossing detailed in our original petition.

I would be grateful if you could pass our reponse to the Petitions Committee prior to their next meeting.

Kind Regards

Lynda Hill  
Clerk to Llanddewi Velfrey Community Council



## **P-04-363 Town Centre Improvement Scheme for Fishguard**

### **Petition wording:**

We, the undersigned, request that the National Assembly supports the call on the Welsh Government to work with Pembrokeshire County Council to ensure that investment is made in a Town Centre Improvement Scheme for Fishguard, including pedestrian and traffic management measures. Such an Improvement Scheme must improve the viability and sustainability of the Town and make it fully accessible for all residents and visitors, including those with mobility and other disability needs.

**Petition raised by:** Councillor Bob Kilmister

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 7 February 2012

**Number of signatures:** 1,042

ko



Correspondence in Welsh or English is welcomed : Mae croeso i ohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu Saesneg

William Powell AM  
Chair of the Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CARDIFF  
CF99 1NA

e.mail: [Rworkman@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:Rworkman@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)  
e.bost:

Your ref: P-04-363      Our ref:90192  
Eich Cyf:                      Ein Cyf:

Direct Line: 01267 224647      Date: 26<sup>th</sup> July  
2013

This matter is being dealt with by: Richard  
Workman

Trafodir y mater hwn gan: Director of Technical  
Services, Carmarthenshire County Council,  
County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1LZ

Dear William,

**PETITIONS COMMITTEE – TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME FOR  
FISHGUARD**

Thank you for your letter of 10<sup>th</sup> July and I apologise for the delay in responding, but it was not received by SWWITCH until 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013.

Firstly, can I confirm to you that the Lead Authority for SWWITCH changes each June and so from June 2013 Carmarthenshire County Council is now the Lead Authority for and I am now the Lead Chief Officer. We had informed our colleagues in the Welsh Government and I am sorry that this was not passed onto the National Assembly.

It was very helpful to see the attachments to your letter and thus the history behind your enquiry about the Fishguard Town Centre Access Improvements scheme. I can confirm that the scheme is not in the 2103/14 Regional Transport Plan Delivery Programme and thus no regional funding is allocated to the scheme at present.

However, I am aware that Pembrokeshire County Council have continued to investigate the scheme and that it may be proposed as part of the 2013/14 reserve list for SWWITCH. This would mean that should the Welsh Government be able to offer any extra money in the current financial year, there is a possibility that some funding may be allocated to the scheme. However, I should stress that those schemes currently in the programme which require more funding will of course take priority in terms of additional funding.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Workman**  
**SWWITCH Lead Chief Officer**



Date • Dyddiad 1 August 2013  
Your ref • Eich cyfeirnod EH/02092/13  
My ref • Fy nghyfeirnod SPJ/PEW  
Telephone • Ffôn 01437 775894  
Ask for • Gofynnwch am Dr S P Jones  
Email • Ebost Steven\_jones@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

BRYN PARRY-JONES, M.A. (Oxon)  
Chief Executive

Prif Weithredwr

Dr STEVEN JONES, B.A. (Hons), D.M.S., M.B.A., Ph.D., M.C.I.M.  
Director of Development

Cyfarwyddwr Datblygu

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Ms Naomi Stocks  
Committee Clerk  
National Assembly for Wales  
Petitions Committee  
Cardiff Bay  
CARDIFF CF99 1NA

Dear Ms Stocks

## Petitions Committee – Town Centre Improvement Scheme in Fishguard

I refer to your letter of the 18 July regarding the above and addressed to Mr Bryn Parry-Jones, Chief Executive.

The County Council has responded to the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport (2 July) and received a response dated 18 July; copy enclosed.

Whilst the County Council welcomes the publication of the 'Vibrant and Viable Places' regeneration framework, and has actively engaged in the consultation process and briefing sessions, it is clear from the more recent guidance that only projects with a significant housing component are likely to be considered for Welsh Government funding. As such, and following feedback from officials in the Housing and Regeneration department, the County Council has submitted a stage 1 'Strategic Outline Case' for a project in Milford Haven.

If the criteria for Vibrant and Viable Places are being further reviewed, and there is an opportunity to secure Welsh Government funding to facilitate the link road that will address both the highway safety and retail potential of Fishguard, the County Council would be happy to submit a further Stage 1 application.

Indeed, following the recent development of a Town Team in Fishguard – led by the Chamber of Trade and Tourism and Town Council – this would be particularly welcome.

Yours sincerely



Dr S P Jones  
Director of Development

Enc

Copies to: Chief Executive  
Cllrs Pat Davies; Myles Pepper, Gwylim Price  
Director of Transportation, Housing and Environment  
(Ian Westley)  
Head of Regeneration (Martin White)

Date • Dyddiad: 2 July 2013  
Your ref • Ffôn cyfeirnod: EH/01396/13  
My ref • Fy nghyfeirnod: SPJ/PEW  
Telephone • Ffôn: Dr S P Jones  
Ask for / Golynnwch am: Steven\_jones@pembrokeshire.gov.uk  
Email • E-bost:

BRYN PARRY JONES, MA (CBE)  
Chief Executive

Prif Weithredwr

Dr STEVEN JONES, B.A. (Hons), D.P.S., M.B.A., Ph.D., M.C.I.P.  
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Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AC  
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport  
Welsh Government  
Cardiff Bay  
CARDIFF  
CF99 1NA

Dear Minister

Fishguard Link Road

I am writing further to the recent email from County Councillor Pat Davies regarding the above, and your response dated 20 June 2013.

Your letter refers to the fact that the link road is not currently identified as a trunk road priority, and suggests that it may be possible to access funding for this scheme through the Welsh Government's 'Vibrant and Viable Places' regeneration framework.

Having considered the 'Vibrant and Viable Places' guidance document, received feedback from the recent Welsh Government seminars on the framework, and discussed the matter with officers from the Housing and Regeneration directorate, it would seem that the scheme would not score well.

Clearly, we remain concerned and focussed on finding a solution for the Link Road, which is an outstanding component of the Welsh Government supported Fishguard and North Pembrokeshire Regeneration Plan.

As such, the County Council would welcome further discussion with your officials on how this scheme may be brought forward.

Yours sincerely

Dr S P Jones  
Director of Development

Copy to: Ian Westley  
(Director of Transportation, Housing and Environment)

COPY

Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AC / AM  
Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth  
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref SPJ/PEW  
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/02092/13

Dr S P Jones

[steven\\_jones@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:steven_jones@pembrokeshire.gov.uk)

18 July 2013

Dear Dr Jones,

Thank you for your letter of 2 July, sent in response to my letter of 20 June to Cllr Pat Davies, regarding Fishguard Link Road.

Due to pressures on budgets, I am only able to support a limited number of priorities for road improvements. On 10 July I made a statement on my priorities for key road projects that will be delivered over the coming years.

I agreed to fund the SWWITCH Delivery Plan for 13/14 earlier this year and I note that this scheme was not put forward for funding. You may wish to discuss the prioritisation of this project with the SWWITCH team and the other local authorities.

COPY

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CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
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**P-04-363 Town Centre Improvement Scheme for Fishguard –  
Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee,  
12.09.2013**

We do not at this time have any new information to add but note that Vibrant Places is not an alternative. Unless we receive funding from somewhere our Town will continue to be blighted economically. We are only asking for what was promised by Welsh Government many years ago in the North Pembrokeshire Action Plan.

Regards

Bob

# Agenda Item 3.3

## **P-04-406 : Against Proposed MCZ zones in North Wales**

### **Petition wording:**

We Call upon the Welsh Assembly Government NOT to include any of the six proposed sites within North Wales to become Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ). We say no to Llanbedrog/Pwllheli, Aberdaron/Bardsey Island, Porthdinllaen/Tudweiliog, Aberech/Llanstyndwy, Puffin Island/Beaumaris and North East Menai Strait.

This proposal would have a detrimental effect not only on our fishing industry but also on our tourism and economy. We rely on our coasts for our livings and enjoyment. We strongly oppose all six potential sites.

**Petition raised by:** Claire Russell Griffiths

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 2 July 2012

**Number of signatures:** 6,501 (an associated Caernarfon Herald petition collected in excess of 180 signatures)



## **P-04-411 : Petition Against Marine Conservation Zones in Pembrokeshire**

### **Petition wording:**

I call upon The National Assembly of Wales, to urge the Welsh Government to not include the three proposed Highly Protected Marine Conservation Zones in Pembrokeshire to be designated as no Take Zones for the inshore fishing industry

I believe that the wrong decision has been made in only planning to designate HPMCZ, prohibiting all extractive activities, this decision appears to have been made politically, rather than scientifically which is a key aspect of the MCZ process.

**Petition raised by:** Stephen De-Waine

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 2 October 2012

**Number of signatures:** 586

# Agenda Item 3.5

## **P-04-415 : Support for Designation of Highly Protected Marine Conservation Zones**

### **Petition wording:**

We endorse the Welsh Government's policy to designate highly protected MCZs and urge the Government to adhere firmly to that policy. We note the pressures our seas are under, Wales' failure to meet the 2010 biodiversity targets and the robust scientific evidence of the need for much improved marine conservation measures. We acknowledge the strong global evidence for the benefits of highly protected marine protected areas and anticipate comparable benefits to accrue in Wales following designation of HP MCZs. In particular, we request that NAW strongly support Skomer MNR, Wales' only Marine Nature Reserve, which currently enjoys very limited protection, being redesignated as highly protected when it becomes an MCZ on commencement in Wales of the MCZ provisions of the Marine & Coastal Access Act.

We have nowhere in Welsh waters that has been ever been fully protected from direct human impacts. We need highly protected MCZs to: provide marine wildlife with a few places it can exist and thrive unmolested by us – we do this on land, there should not be a lower standard for the sea; enable marine ecosystems to recover from direct human impacts and increase their resilience; protect the marine ecosystem for the goods and services it gives us which we cannot exist without; help us understand the effects of human pressures on the marine environment and better understand what an unimpacted marine ecosystem is like. The purpose of highly protected MCZs is to safeguard and enhance the ecosystems within them, not simply fish and shellfish populations.

**Petition raised by:** Blaise Bullimore

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 2 October 2012

**Number of signatures:** 298



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## WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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**TITLE** Marine Conservation Zones and Marine Protected Areas in Wales

**DATE** 18 July 2013

**BY** Alun Davies AM, Minister for Natural Resources and Food

This statement is to update Members on progress with the Welsh Government's commitment to ensure that Wales fulfils its contribution to an ecologically coherent network of well-managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Members will be aware that I have restated my determination to ensure that we put in place a range of policy interventions to ensure that the Welsh seas and the diversity of life they support are healthy and robust to support the demands we put upon them now and in the future. Many people in Wales rely upon and use our seas to support their livelihoods and recreational activities. We want this to continue and develop as part of our blue growth agenda.

Last year we consulted on options for highly protected Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). This generated a substantial response that expressed divergent and strongly held views. A task and finish team, supported by a Stakeholder Focus Group, was established to consider and advise how we should take forward MCZs in Wales. I have met with both of these groups to thank them for their positive and constructive contribution throughout the process.

I will be taking forward the recommendations of the task and finish team and to avoid any continuing uncertainty over the options presented in the 2012 consultation, I am also withdrawing all the proposed sites. As a next step, I want to understand more about the wide range of marine habitats and species that are already protected by a series of 125 MPAs that cover 36% of Welsh seas. Over the last 12 months we have developed a better understanding of what constitutes a coherent network. We are

now in a stronger position to assess our current contribution to the network's ecological coherence. I have, therefore, commissioned an assessment of our current MPAs to identify if there are any gaps and what the options might be to fill those gaps. If any measures are required, I believe they should be simple, proportionate and fit for purpose.

I will be in a position to reach a view on whether further action is needed early next year, after considering the outcome of our MPA assessment and the response to the Historic Rights consultation – that I have also announced today.

Whilst the assessment of MPAs will take a detailed look at our existing contribution, I am already aware of some elements that may need strengthening. We will consult later this year on extensions to three of our Special Protection Areas for breeding sea birds.

Whilst our existing sites are required to achieve their conservation objectives, these sites also need to be well-managed. My officials will continue to work with Natural Resources Wales to review the management of our sites and, where necessary, identify improvements. Any proposed changes to the management regime will be outlined in the Marine and Fisheries Action Plan that I will announce in November.

## Notes

1. A summary of responses to the MCZ consultation – *Potential Site Options for Welsh Waters* - is available on the Welsh Government website:  
<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/mczpotentialsites/?status=closed&lang=en>;
2. The Report of the Task and Finish Team on MCZs in Wales is available on the Welsh Government website:  
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/marinefisheries/conservation/protected/conservationzones/nextsteps/?lang=en>;

## **P-04-406 Against Proposed MCZ zones in North Wales – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee, 12.09.2013**

Dear Petition Committee

I apologise for my English-only response. My initial reaction upon seeing the Minister's statement was a feeling of joy that devolution was bringing politics closer to the people of Wales. This process has been a stressful, long and painful one at times, and I know many local residents who have been fearful of losing their livelihoods. Receiving this news has lessened the burden on many local businesses and individuals who depend on tourism in order to keep their jobs. I am grateful for the opportunity to express the views of local people, and I am grateful to the Welsh Government for listening.

My personal response from the Minister's statement is that having a devolved Government can work in Wales. This whole process proves to me that we, the people of Wales as citizens can have a voice and be heard within policy decisions. The consultation process has now proven to me to be a process that takes account of the responses received and not a token gesture. There is fear when going against lobbyists groups and extremist that numbers can drown the voice and views of the people who live in the areas affected. Having used the methods available, the petition committee as one example, then there is opportunity to show support or indeed opposition to a consultation that do take in account the views of the local people within the areas.

In regards to this particular consultation by submitting my petition, that had a great number of signatures almost 7,000, it has been a great opportunity to prove that petitions demonstrate local views. I have been given the opportunity to comment twice on my petition to the committee, to which I am grateful. Thank you to everyone on the committee for discussing the petition and offering the opportunity for us to submit petitions that do get discussed and get brought to the Minister's attention for a response. I would also like to thank everyone within the Llyn and Ynys Mon that signed the petition and to everyone who worked hard to help me collect all the completed petitions.

I wish the new task group to which one member of Cragen the Vice chair Phil Hollington has a seat every success.

I enclose below a statement that has been prepared by Cragen Llyn a Mon a group that I chair. Cragen Llŷn a Môn is a community group set up to protect the social and natural ecology of the coastal and rural communities of North West Wales. In practice this means the representation of local sustainable industries such as fishing, farming and tourism and the promotion of responsible conservation and sustainable resource use. These factors underpin the rich living heritage of Llŷn and Sir Fôn, where the economy must be resilient if that heritage is to survive. Cragen was formed in direct response to the MCZ consultation.

## **Statement by Cragen Llŷn a Môn regarding the Minister's Statement on Marine Conservation Zones**

Cragen Llŷn a Môn welcomes the Statement by the Minister for Environment and Sustainability concerning Marine Conservation Zones.

In particular, we welcome the new approach that recognises the wide support for marine conservation in Welsh seas, and that the interests of all stakeholders, including conservationists, fishermen and other coastal industries, and local communities and their economies, will be taken into account at an early stage in identifying possible sites. We are happy to note that the previous ten candidate sites have all been withdrawn.

We welcome the news that the new approach will adopt a site-by-site approach, so that management will be based upon those local features that need protection, and that the proposal to designate sites as "Highly Protected", where a wide range of activities would be banned, has been dropped.

It is clear from the Minister's Statement that he does not believe that our waters require additional protection. This was initially stated by the Countryside Council for Wales (now Natural Resources Wales) in their reports on the Menai and Pen Llŷn Special Areas of Conservation. We regard this as recognition that the waters in the North East Menai Strait and around Pen Llŷn are of outstanding conservation value, including a long history of use by local people and visitors who care about them, and that there need be no conflict between human activities and maintaining high levels of biodiversity.

It is important that the new measures to be developed protect all the features that make our waters so special – the mixture of biodiversity, sustainable inshore fishing and the communities that it supports, tourism, and our local heritage. This will require the allocation of sufficient resources, and we will be watching to ensure that this is the case. We welcome recent recognition by organisations such as WWF that "co-management" to protect all these aspects is a vital part of the way forward, and we look forward to learning the full nature of the Welsh Government's proposals in due course.

Cragen Llŷn a Môn stands ready to play a major role in making sure they are a success.

Many thanks

Claire Russell Griffiths

**P-04-411 Petition Against Marine Conservation Zones in  
Pembrokeshire – Correspondence from the petitioner to the  
Clerking team, 05.09.2013**

Hi

My petition is now relevant as WAG have now decided not to go ahead with the introduction of HPMCZ

Thanks anyway

Steve

# Agenda Item 3.6

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

### **Petition wording:**

We, Aberporth Community Council call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to introduce a mandatory 40mph speed limit on the A487 at Blaenporth Ceredigion.

### **Supporting Information:**

#### **Background: -**

Blaenporth village straddles the main South/North coastal road; the A487. Roughly two thirds of the village live to the South of the main road; the remainder of the population are mostly clustered around the local Church to the North. As far as Aberporth Community Council can ascertain this village is the only one without a mandatory speed limit from Fishguard in the South to Porthmadog, Gwynedd in the North, the length of Cardigan Bay.

#### **Historic Data to April 2012: -**

Numerous letters and e mails have been sent to the Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency (MWTRA) and Ceredigion County Council (CCC).

Submissions to the MWTRA elicited no replies. Ceredigion Highways Department letters and e mails replies but no support for the change.

October 2009 came the Welsh Government Circular 24/2009; Setting Local Speed Limits in Wales. For 2 years CCC did nothing and then in a Cabinet Meeting 25/10/2011 a moratorium on the introduction of new speed limits was put to CCC cabinet members this was Page 8 of 9 being considered by Cabinet, a fait accompli! CCC Officers decision to start the process 2 years after the date of the circular and then take 3 years (until December 2014) to implement it seems to stretch the credibility of the process.

This decision prompted Aberporth Community Council to write to the Chief Executive of CCC, the reply just supported "The Party Line".

During this period Ceredigion AM Elin Jones was also attempting to implement a mandatory speed limit with no effect.

#### **May 2012 Onwards: -**

After the May Local Elections Aberporth Community Council felt it had a fresh mandate from the electorate to try once again for the mandatory speed limit at Blaenporth.



The start of the campaign was a site meeting with CCC Cabinet Member for Transport Cllr Alun Williams who supported our case and emailed CCC Highways Department and the Go Safe initiative.

The chair of Aberporth Community Council Highways Committee met with Ceredigion's MP Mark Williams and he also offered full support.

The opportunity was also taken to "Copy In" Mid and West Wales Regional Assembly Members. Rebecca Evans AM, finally had a reply from Mr Deio Evans MWTRA with the same mantra i.e. end of December 2014 before new speed limit decisions will be made. William Powell AM had suggested the petition's committee as a place of last resort.

**Addition Safety Information: -**

At the end of Summer Term 2012 CCC closed the local school; Blaenporth CP along with several other schools and opened a new school T Lewis Area School at Brynhoffnant Ceredigion, some 5 miles North on the A487.

As stated in the background paragraph two thirds of the homes in Blaenporth are on the south side of the village. These pupils and their parents have two options open to them for their children to attend their new school.

1. Take their primary school children in the morning across the road to the Bus Stop in what is an advisory speed limit with a legal speed of 60mph (more than half the traffic is estimated to exceed this National Limit). School pick up times also coincide with commuter traffic. or
2. Take them by car to the now closed Blaenporth School car park so that they can safely get on the bus. This option also has risks in that there is a finite time window to meet the school bus unlike previously when the School was open.

Of course children on the North side of the village will then have to cross this dangerous road at the end of school.

This situation has been highlighted in the local press Tivy-Side Advertiser 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012 edition.

**Summary: -**

Aberporth Community Council is at a loss to why there is no mandatory speed limit in Blaenporth and the lack of support by MWTRA and CCC to implement one. Ceredigion is not a large County and 3 years to check speed limits on Class A and B Roads seems an extraordinary amount of time for this exercise.

Just one village with no speed limit on the A487 within the County should be relatively easy to implement.

**Petition raised by:** Aberporth Community Council

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 16 October 2012

**Number of signatures:** Aberporth Community Council

Edwina Hart MBE OStJ AC / AM  
Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth  
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-426  
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/00598/13  
William Powell AM  
Chair of the Petitions Committee

naomi.stocks@wales.gov.uk

02 August 2013

Dear William,

Further to my letter dated 16 April, I can advise that following a speed limit review on the A487 at Blaenporth, it has been decided to implement a 40 mph speed limit.

Provided there are no objections during the statutory consultation period on the necessary Traffic Order, this will be implemented early in 2014.

We will continue to monitor the site after implementation of the 40 mph speed limit to establish whether traffic speed remains a problem and further traffic calming measures are required.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edwina Hart'.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
[Correspondence.edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Correspondence.edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

Printed on 100% recycled paper

**P-04-426 Introduce a mandatory 40mph speed limit on the A487 at Blaenporth Ceredigion – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Clerking team, 05.09.2013**

"This result is a good day for the people of Blaenporth who have campaigned for a 40mph speed limit for at least 10 years. However it is an even better day for democracy in Wales."

Where else can individuals or in our case the lowest tier of democracy influence the Welsh Government via the Petitions Committee to seek a resolution of their cause. In our case we won but if we had failed at least we explored ALL avenues and left no stone unturned.

Many Thanks

Cllr Arthur Richards

## **P-04-435 : Wales & Border Railways Franchise 2018 to be Operated on a Not-for-Dividend Basis**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that the next the Wales & the Border franchise is operated on a not-for-dividend basis.

Arriva has a monopoly over much of the railways in Wales and the Border; this does not encourage "cheaper prices and better standards through competition" as capitalism intended, due to that monopoly. In 2018 the contract with Arriva is up for renewal. A "not-for-dividends" pricing system would increase the amount of passengers and allow more people to work as they'd be able to afford to travel creating a knock on effect on the welsh GDP and also, in by-product of proving the system, give England more reason for doing likewise.

**Petition raised by:** Merlyn Cooper

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 6 November 2012

**Number of signatures:** 35

Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AC / AM  
Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth  
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-435  
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/02021/13

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

08 July 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Petitions Committee dated 26 June 2013.

I have instructed my officials to action your request to include the petitioner on the list for any consultation on the future of rail in Wales.

## **P-04-486 Act Now and Help Save the High Street Shops**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to provide support for independent traders in our towns by extending the small Business Relief Scheme to a greater number of businesses.

We would like to see a scheme that is similar to the one operating in Scotland where commercial properties with a rateable value of up to £18,000 get relief of between 25% and 100% on a sliding scale.

We believe that the Welsh Government's decision to postpone the revaluation of businesses from 2015 to 2017 does not allow the impact of the economic downturn in the High Street to be reflected in the business rates.

**Petition raised by:** Keith Davies

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 4 June 2013

**Number of signatures:** 12

Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AC / AM  
Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth  
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-486  
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/01761/13

William Powell AM

[William.powell@wales.gov.uk](mailto:William.powell@wales.gov.uk)

20 June 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 12 June on regarding a petition received from Keith Davies on the subject of small business rates relief and the revaluation of business rates.

The existing Small Business Rates Relief scheme that operates in Wales currently offers 100% relief for properties with a rateable value of £6,000 or less and relief on a sliding scale for properties with a rateable value between £6,001 and £12,000. The Welsh Government successfully lobbied the UK Government to continue with this scheme in 2013-14 and will continue to lobby for the extension of this scheme for as long as it is needed as it provided valuable assistance to small businesses in Wales. The scheme itself offers benefits to Welsh Business in the region of £75m so expanding the scheme to properties with a Rateable Value of up to £18,000 would need to be very carefully considered given the current financial settlement for Wales. The Small Business Rate Relief scheme should also not be considered in isolation as various other relief schemes are in operation and are in the process of being developed.

Over the last two years Professor Morgan has chaired a Task and Finish group that has looked extensively at Business Rates and how the system can be used to encourage growth. This group has made a number of recommendations which the Welsh Government is now acting upon. In 2012 the Government launched a scheme that provides assistance with business rates in Enterprise Zones and later this year I intend to launch two business rate relief schemes that:



- encourage the occupation of empty premises in town centres by giving 50% rate relief; and
- provide 100% relief to new premises that are not immediately occupied.

The issue of the revaluation is complex and although I was disappointed with the announcement made in England, I wanted to examine this issue independently and assess all of the evidence before making a decision.

I therefore asked Professor Morgan and the Task and Finish Group to research the issue and provide me with a full analysis.

One of the main issues in the analysis provided by the Task and Finish Group is the potential effect on the business rate Multiplier by holding a revaluation in 2015. The research suggests that this Multiplier would increase significantly over and above the rate in England and indicate that business rates in Wales were significantly higher. I therefore needed to consider the wider economic damage that such a message could potentially create.

I have previously referred to the potential for some form of assistance to be provided to businesses adversely affected by the delay in the revaluation. However, this is still under consideration and I would need to consider the affordability of such a scheme and ensure that the limited funds available are targeted at those businesses most affected.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'L. Morgan', written in dark ink.

P-04-486 Act now and Help save the High street shops –  
Correspondence from the petitioner to the clerking team,  
26.08.2013

Dear Sian

Further to your letter of 13th June and our conversation on the 20th of August regarding the petition.

A number of chamber of trades I contacted have shown support to the petition.

Aberystwyth and Lampeter chambers are both awaiting to learn of the outcome of this petition, as they like ourselves feel that

something must be done, sooner rather than later to help save independent shops on the High Street.

In Cardigan alone we have more than 2,000 signatures supporting this cause.

Regards

Keith

**P-04-343 Prevent the destruction of amenities on common land - Anglesey**

**Petition wording**

We call upon the Welsh Government to examine ways to prevent the destruction of amenities on common land, including for example the Marian Common in Llangoed, Ynys Môn.

**Petition raised by:** JE Futter

**Petition first considered by Committee:** 15 November 2011

**Number of signatures:** 156

Carl Sargeant AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio  
Minister for Housing and Regeneration



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-343  
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/01333/13

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

  
August 2013

Thank you for your letter dated 23 July to John Griffiths AM concerning the protection of common land. Your letter has been passed to me as ministerial responsibility for commons falls within my portfolio.

You refer to a letter issued on the 2 December 2011 by John Griffiths AM, the former Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development. The provisions contained under section 194 of the Law of Property Act 1925 referred to in this letter, have now been repealed. The current protection for common land in Wales is contained under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 which came into force in Wales on the 1 April 2012.

As far as works on common land is concerned, section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 provides that a person may not, except with the consent of the appropriate national authority (in Wales, the Welsh Ministers), carry out any restricted works on land to which section 38 applies. The land to which section 38 applies is, essentially, land registered as common land under the Commons Registration Act 1965 and 'restricted works' are defined as:

- (a) works which have the effect of preventing or impeding access to or over any land to which section 38 applies;
- (b) works for the resurfacing of land.

Section 38 also provides that works are for the resurfacing of land if they consist of the laying of concrete, tarmacadam, coated roadstone or similar material on the land (but not if they consist only of the repair of an existing surface of the land made of such material).

Ultimately it is up to the potential applicant to decide whether or not to apply for consent under section 38, but if a consent is necessary for works, but has not been obtained, then those works, if carried out, would be liable to enforcement action being taken under section

41 of the Commons Act 2006. Such action would be taken in the county court and could result in an order made by the court requiring the removal of the works and the restoration of the land to its condition before the works were carried out. This action could be taken by the County (Borough) Council, Community Council, National Park Authority (if the land is within a National Park), a registered commoner, the land owner or indeed a member of the

public. Action could also be taken by the Welsh Ministers but, in their view, action should be taken by those whose rights have been directly affected.

If planning permission should have been sought, or was sought and not granted, then it would be open to the local planning authority to take enforcement action should it consider it appropriate to do so. This does not mean that the local planning authority would, or should take action in this situation. Any decision in this instance would be a matter for the local planning authority to consider.

If planning permission had been granted for the works then the developer would be required to implement the permission subject to compliance with any conditions that may have been attached to it. If any of these conditions were not complied with then the local planning authority could take enforcement action if they considered it expedient to do so.

A consent under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 or a grant of planning permission would only provide the consents and permissions under those pieces of legislation. For any works to be lawful all necessary consents and permissions should be obtained.

It is considered that common land is sufficiently protected by the provisions of the 2006 Act but as referred to above, action should be taken by those whose rights have been directly affected.



**Carl Sargeant AC / AM**

Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio

Minister for Housing and Regeneration

**P-04-343 Prevent the destruction of amenities on common land - Anglesey- Correspondence form the petitioner to the Clerking team, 10.09.2013**

Dear Sian

Thank you for forwarding a copy of Carl Sargeant's letter to William Powell AM, Chair Petitions Committee.

The comments are duly noted, but the fact remains that whilst Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 should, in theory, prevent the resurfacing of the land, it does not prevent the destruction of vegetation and the modification of the landscape for vehicular use: basically, anyone can cut and drive large dirt tracks across any common land with impunity. In the worst case scenarios, little of the natural heritage would be left for the enjoyment of local communities. Furthermore, under the 1832 Act, if no greater protection is provided for common land, in this particular instance, it is likely that 'rights of access' will be applied for after twenty years and then, of course, vehicular trespass will be legitimised. We would welcome improved statutory laws to protect the common land in Wales. Common land should be for the benefit and use of the whole community and should also enhance the experience of visitors to Wales.

We feel that we must repeat what we have stated in previous correspondence to the committee, that Petition P-04-343 shows the strength of feeling over the destruction of amenities on common land and augments the preceding paper petition containing over 300 names which called for the protection of Marian Common, Llangoed. We fully support the petitioner and the views of Mr Lewis Davies in his letter to you dated 30th May 2013. We fear that, unless there are stronger statutory laws to prevent the acquisition of common land for private development, Marian Common, and other commons in Wales, will be lost forever to the detriment of local communities and the natural environment.

We have recently spoken to members of the community who are also concerned about the protection of this land and who agree with the statements above.

Dr Karen Pollock & Mr Tom Pollock

## **P-04-399 Slaughter Practices**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to ban the practise of slaughtering animals without pre-stunning them.

**Petition raised by:** Royce Clifford

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 19 June 2012

**Number of signatures:** 400

Alun Davies AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd  
Minister for Natural Resources and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-399  
Ein cyf/Our ref AD-/01059/13

William Powell AM  
AM for Mid & West Wales  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Bill,

28 July 2013

**P-04-399 - Petition to ban the practice of slaughtering animals without pre-stunning**

**P-04-433 -Petition calling for the compulsory installation of CCTV in Welsh slaughterhouses**

Thank you for your letters dated 10 July concerning petition numbers P-04-399 and P-04-433.

**P-04-399**

The Welsh Government is currently drafting legislation that implements EC Regulation 1099/2009 on the Protection of Animals at Time of Killing. The Welsh Statutory Instrument is scheduled to be presented before the National Assembly in the winter. These Regulations include provisions for the welfare of animals at slaughterhouses.

My officials will be reviewing the legislative powers available to the Welsh Government concerning the slaughter of animals without a pre-stun once the EC Regulation has been implemented. Only then will I consider the need for legislative proposals on this matter.



P-04-433

The Farm Animal Welfare Committee is currently considering the Welsh Government request for advice about unobserved monitoring at slaughterhouses. I will contact you once I receive further information.

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

**Alun Davies AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd  
Minister for Natural Resources and Food

## **P-04-399 Slaughter Practices – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Chair, 11.09.2013**

Ref: P-04-399 Petition to ban the Practice of Slaughter Animals without Stunning them first.

Date 11/09/2013

Dear Mr Powell

Further to my letter of the 20/06/2013

Over the years that i have been involved in this Petition i have looked into some other aspects of Islam and Judaism, i found out that the Polish Parliament Voted 222 to 178 against Halal & Kosher Slaughter, in December 2012, Poland's Constitutional Court put the ban in place when it ruled "Ritual Slaughter" with out the Animal being stunned before killing, was incompatible with animal Legislation.

I don't know if your Committee have witnessed a Halal, Kosher Slaughter? If they haven't they can view it on You Tube web site, I would warn you that they are very graphic, also there are stunned before Slaughter too, perhaps your Committee could view these before deciding if Legislation could be implemented to Stop Non-Stunned Slaughter in Wales.

What our UK Government failed to do was read this part of the Koran Islam's Holy Book which is very important before making a Law to allow Non-Stunned Slaughter:  
The Muslim Law in the Koran States, Quote, if there is absolutely no other food available, then a Muslim is allowed to eat non-Halal. [7] Surah 2: states: If one is forced because there is no other choice, neither craving nor transgressing, there is no sin on him. end of Quote.

There is no no or death threat if Muslim or Jew cannot have non-stunned meat, they did keep lobbying Westminster until an exception was made to them for Kosher & Halal Non-Stunned Slaughter, our Laws that we all live by are for everybody who live here.

Our Christian ways and Laws have changed to accommodate modern times, the Law on Alcohol, shops opening on Sundays, we accept modern change in our Country, why can't others.

I would like to Commend the Welsh Government for vaccinating Badgers in Southwest Wales and not killing thousands of Badgers; it's a sad pity the UK Government was not as wise in their legislation and animal duty of care in England.

Very Kind Regards

Royce Clifford

## **P-04-433 : CCTV in Slaughterhouses**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to introduce mandatory CCTV in slaughterhouses to help vets with better regulation and monitoring, to provide footage for training and retraining, to deter some of the animal welfare abuses filmed by Animal Aid, and to provide evidence for prosecutions should they be necessary.

**Petition raised by:** Animal Aid

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 6 November 2012

**Number of signatures:** 1066

Alun Davies AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd  
Minister for Natural Resources and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-399  
Ein cyf/Our ref AD-/01059/13

William Powell AM  
AM for Mid & West Wales  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Bill,

28 July 2013

**P-04-399 - Petition to ban the practice of slaughtering animals without pre-stunning**

**P-04-433 -Petition calling for the compulsory installation of CCTV in Welsh slaughterhouses**

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**P-04-399**

The Welsh Government is currently drafting legislation that implements EC Regulation 1099/2009 on the Protection of Animals at Time of Killing. The Welsh Statutory Instrument is scheduled to be presented before the National Assembly in the winter. These Regulations include provisions for the welfare of animals at slaughterhouses.

My officials will be reviewing the legislative powers available to the Welsh Government concerning the slaughter of animals without a pre-stun once the EC Regulation has been implemented. Only then will I consider the need for legislative proposals on this matter.

P-04-433

The Farm Animal Welfare Committee is currently considering the Welsh Government request for advice about unobserved monitoring at slaughterhouses. I will contact you once I receive further information.

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

**Alun Davies AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd  
Minister for Natural Resources and Food

## **P-04-433 CCTV in Slaughterhouses – Correspondence form the petitioner to the Clerking team, 05.09.2013**

Dear Sian,

Thank you for your email. The only correspondence I received was saying that the Minister had asked the Farm Animal Welfare Committee to look at the issue of unobserved monitoring in slaughterhouses and would make a statement once he hears back from them. I'm not sure what I can add at this time, but just to reiterate the importance of CCTV over platforms or apertures for unobserved monitoring. Namely:

Unobserved monitoring is crucial in the regulation of slaughterhouses, and Animal Aid believes that CCTV is the best method for unobserved monitoring. A platform / aperture where the vet can observe without being observed is less efficient and less effective for the following reasons:

- 1) Vets report that their duties keep them out of the stunning / slaughter area for most of the day. Certainly, during 250 hours of footage obtained in nine slaughterhouses, we did not see a single vet in the stunning or slaughter areas at any point. It is unlikely that they would spend much time at that platform. They could, however, view CCTV footage at their convenience.
- 2) CCTV provides a far greater deterrent than an unobserved platform. Knowing that there is a slim chance that a vet may be viewing the stunning / slaughter process is not the same as knowing that every animal is protected through the use of CCTV.
- 3) Unobserved platforms do not record events. Such recordings can be used to train and retrain workers, encourage best practice and provide evidence for prosecutions should they be necessary.
- 4) For many slaughterhouses, it is not possible to observe without being observed because of the plant layout. CCTV can be installed easily in every slaughterhouse.
- 5) CCTV protects workers from false allegations, and deters acts that could lead to injuries and deaths, such as the accidental shooting at Sandyford in 2011.
- 6) A significant percentage of slaughterhouse vets and hygiene inspectors report being bullied. CCTV would protect them, and allow them to undertake their tasks with confidence.
- 7) CCTV – unlike an unobserved platform – allows workers to discreetly air their concerns about, for example, certain procedures or a particular colleague. The concerned worker need not make a formal complaint but could simply suggest the vet views certain parts of the footage.
- 8) There can be no dispute with CCTV. With an unobserved platform, any allegations remain unsubstantiated, with a vet or other employee describing a problem and a worker denying it. CCTV settles such disputes definitively.

Kate Fowler

*Head of Campaigns, Animal Aid*

# Agenda Item 3.12

## **P-04-439 : Ancient veteran and heritage trees of Wales to be given greater protection**

### **Petition wording:**

We believe that the ancient, veteran and heritage trees of Wales are a vital and irreplaceable part of the nation's environment and heritage.

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to provide greater protection for them, for example by:

- Placing a duty on the new Single Environmental Body to promote the conservation of such trees by providing advice and support for their owners, including the grant aid where necessary;
- Amending current Tree Preservation Order legislation to make it fully fit for purpose in protecting ancient, veteran and heritage trees, in line with proposals by Coed Cadw (the Woodland Trust);
- Incorporating the database of trees recorded and verified through the Ancient Tree Hunt project as a dataset in any successor to the Wales Spatial Plan, recognising these as 'Trees of Special Interest' and providing this information to Local Planning Authorities in Wales so that it can be incorporated into their GIS system, for information.

**Petition raised by:** Coed Cadw Cymru

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 4 December 2012

**Number of signatures:** 5,320



Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a  
Llywodraeth Leol

Communities, Equality and Local Government  
Committee

Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



William Powell AM  
Chair of Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd / Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

27 June 2013

Dear William

**Re: P-04-429 – Coed Cadw Cymru**

Thank you for your letter dated 12 June drawing the Committee's attention to the above petition. The Committee considered your letter at its meeting on 27 June.

You may wish to note that the Committee recently published a report on issues relating to the Welsh Government historic environment policy, which touches on the issues raised in the petition:

<http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/documents/s14876/Inquiry%20into%20the%20Welsh%20Governments%20historic%20environment%20policy%20-%20Report%20-%20March%202013.pdf>

You may also be aware that the Welsh Government intends to bring forward a Heritage Bill later this Assembly. I am sure the Committee will bear this petition in mind when it considers the Bill.

Yours sincerely

**Christine Chapman AC / AM**  
Cadeirydd / Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh  
Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a Llywodraeth Leol / Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee  
Gwasanaeth y Pwyllgorau / Committee Service  
Ffôn / Tel : 029 2089 8429  
Ebst / Email : CELG.Committee@wales.gov.uk

Chair of Petitions Committee  
Bae Caerdydd  
Caerdydd  
CF99 1NA

**Date: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2013**

**By e-mail: [angharadevans@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:angharadevans@woodlandtrust.org.uk)**

Dear William Powell AM,

We are very grateful to the Petitions Committee for their pursuing of this important issue, which has been given added urgency by the sad loss of the Pontfadog Oak earlier this year.

For us, as the petition makes clear, an absolutely key element is that the system needs to recognise the unique value of ancient and veteran trees as a habitat for a whole range of extremely rare species and to provide some positive support for their care and management. This, of course, goes beyond mere reform of the Tree Preservation Order system.

For this reason, we have been disappointed to hear that it has been decided not to include better protection of ancient, heritage and veteran trees in the forthcoming Environment Bill, but to deal with it in the Planning Bill instead. As stated in the June E-Bulletins for Natural Resources Management Programme, The purpose of the Environment Bill is to:

- provide Natural Resources Wales with a legislative framework that means it can manage Wales' natural resources in a joined up way; and
- amend and better join up key areas of the legislative framework so it improves Wales' environment whilst also having wider economic and social benefits.

Isn't the first bullet point, in particular, very relevant to ancient and veteran trees? Our concern is that, if the issue is dealt with purely as a planning issue, it will presumably relate only to restrictions on landowners, rather than positive support for management or recognition of their importance as a unique wildlife habitat.

Could we therefore ask, if this issue is indeed to be dealt with in the Planning Bill, will this preclude the establishing of a system to support the positive care and management of our ancient, veteran and heritage trees? Will it preclude recognising their importance as a wildlife habitat?

Yr eiddoch yn gywir,



Angharad Evans  
Swyddog Ymgyrchoedd / Campaigns Officer

Coed Cadw  
The Woodland Trust

Uned 3, Iard y Cowper  
Ffordd Curran  
Caerdydd CF10 5NB

Unit 3, Cooper's Yard  
Curran Road  
Cardiff CF10 5NB

**Ffôn / Telephone**

08452 935 735

**Ar y we / Website**

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/cymru](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/cymru)

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/wales](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/wales)

## **P-04-465 Save Welsh Milk, its infrastructure & its jobs**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to protect Welsh Milk Production, Processing and the Dairy Infrastructure within Wales, rather than rely on the facilities centrally managed within the greater UK, a long way from the many Welsh farms particularly in the West of the country. We are not suggesting that the Government promote one business or brand, but rather promote investment in any business processing milk in Wales, either fresh liquid milk, butter or cheese.

**Petition raised by:** Richard Arnold

**Petition first considered by Committee:** 19 March 2013

**Number of signatures:** 426

**P-04-465 Save Welsh Milk, its infrastructure & its jobs –  
Correspondence from the petitioner to the Clerking team,  
27.08.2013**

Kayleigh good afternoon

Apologies for not responding earlier – however, as may be apparent, my campaign to “Save Welsh Milk” failed to Save “Proper Welsh Milk”, which went into administration on St David’s Day last – and was then scooped up by Industry giant, Dairy Crest

Dairy Crest in April, then sadly decided that rather than have a Welshman, based in Wales to do their marketing, they would make me redundant, and move their Welsh Milk marketing to Royal Berkshire.

My conclusion is therefore, that the campaign failed. That despite the backing from a number of key Assembly members, we failed to get our message across, and as a result Welsh milk bottled in Wales is as scarce as it ever was, and the Welsh cream we had listed in Tesco, Asda & Sainsbury, has lost its place on their shelves.

In short I believe the Welsh Governments failure to seriously get behind this campaign, allowed this amazing opportunity to slip through our collective hands, ad that their Welsh Milk plan has only succeeded, because Milk prices have risen across Europe, not just here in Wales.

I look forward to the musings of the committee, and would of course be delighted to help with any further investigations they may have on the depleted milk infrastructure we now have here in Wales.

With Very kind regards

Richard Arnold  
Formally of the Proper Welsh Milk Co

## **P-04-366 Closure of Aberystwyth Day Centre**

### **Petition wording:**

We the undersigned call on the Welsh Government to consider if proposals for day care for the vulnerable elderly, to be moved from a purpose built, thirty year old Day Centre, to an unsuitable basement in an old building, previously used as the Town Hall Aberystwyth, are compliant with statutory requirements, and any relevant guidance. The County Council are planning to demolish the Centre as part of a development to build a car park, a supermarket and a retail outlet.

**Petition raised by:** Pamela Ellis

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 28 February 2012

**Number of signatures:** 10 (An associated petition collected approximately 6,000 signatures)

**Supporting information:** The present Day Centre is a purpose built facility, about thirty years old. It is in a convenient situation in the town centre, with easy access, a large drop off point and is near a road safety crossing. It is light and sunny, and can accommodate about 90 clients of mixed dependency, in several spacious rooms. The envisaged centre is not quite half the size and will only be able to cater for 32 clients in one main room. At present those carers of disabled clients or those caring for victims of a stroke, can have access to respite care on 2 or 3 days of the week. We feel the move will discriminate against this group as already fewer people are being assessed and referred by Social Services for this respite care. The council have admitted there will be rationing. Because of difficulties of access to the basement area, an outdoor, steep ramp with a 180 degree turning point half way down has been built. We feel strongly that carers or mobile chair users will have huge problems, particularly in stormy or icy weather. The ceilings in the basement are low; there is a large pillar in the centre of the room making it difficult to move wheelchairs or trolleys, natural light levels are low as it is partially below ground and several doors have to be navigated to access toilets. The old centre has a superb new kitchen providing good meals, the weekly luncheon club, a valuable socially inclusive option, has been closed already. In future, meals will be prepared elsewhere and brought in. There will only be one area available for meals and all other activities; thus space will be extremely limited. The local WVS presently provides drinks and snacks; that will no longer exist. The present centre has a large bathroom with a hoist, also laundry facilities, which were invaluable. The new centre will have a shower built into a toilet for assisted bathing, which opens directly onto a communal area. As this is the only disabled

toilet, it will be difficult for a disabled client to access a toilet if another client is having a shower. If the only new facility will only be able to cater for 32 clients, these will almost certainly have to be those needing respite cares, so those older citizens who value the opportunity to enjoy time at the centre to socialise, take part in activities, have a bath and enjoy a good meal will not be able to do so. The present centre has a very pleasant garden with seats, ample parking, a bay for dropping off people and is completely accessible to all. The present centre is made available in the evenings to groups of elderly, for example the Arthritis Care group fear that they will not be able to cope with the rain, in the dark, for their evening meetings. The new centre is on a dangerous main road turning, with heavy traffic use. Former users of the basement when it was the Town Hall have complained that it is too hot in the summer and cold and damp in the winter. The heating system has been improved, but the present sash windows are not being replaced and there will be no air-conditioning installed. Whilst the County Council have made efforts to meet our concerns, we strongly believe that the proposed new centre is absolutely unsuitable and is vastly inferior in the present centre. We would add that the Council have admitted that they did not carry out a proper consultation. Hence the formation of this pressure group.

# Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

**Bronwen Morgan**  
Prif Weithredwr /  
Chief Executive

Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa, Aberaeron, SA46 0PA  
www.ceredigion.gov.uk DX 745510 ABERAERON 2



Mr. William Powell AC/AM,  
Chair of Petitions Committee,  
National Assembly for Wales,  
Cardiff Bay,  
CARDIFF,  
CF99 1NA.

Dyddiad Date	12 <sup>th</sup> July, 2013
Gofynnwch am Please ask for	Bronwen Morgan
Llinell uniongyrchol Direct line	01545 572000
Fy nghyf My ref	BM/SAT
Eich cyf Your ref	P-04-366
Ebost Email	

Dear Mr. Powell,

**Re: Aberystwyth Day Centre Review**

Thank you for your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 regarding the above.

I can confirm that in line with the Council's policy, the questionnaires used during the above review were sent to service users, carers and stakeholders in both Welsh and English and I can further confirm that returned questionnaires were received in both languages.

While the reviewer is Welsh, understands Welsh, she is unable to speak Welsh. Therefore in line with council's policy, at all interviews and meetings undertaken by the reviewer she was accompanied by a Welsh speaker. All written responses in Welsh were also translated for the reviewer.

I would like to emphasise the importance Ceredigion County Council puts on carrying its work through the medium of Welsh. Within the Care, Protection and Lifestyle service area, the percentage of Welsh speaking officers is 51%, which recognises the importance of staff being able to communicate with service users in their own language. I trust that you will find this information of assistance.

If you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Bronwen Morgan  
**Prif Weithredwr**  
Chief Executive

Gellir ateb yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg You may reply in Welsh or English

Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive :  
Cyfarwyddwyr Strategol / Strategic Directors :

Bronwen Morgan  
Gwyn Jones Adnoddau Corfforaethol / Corporate Resources  
Eifion Evans Dysgu a Phartneriaethau / Learning and Partnerships  
Parry Davies Gofal, Amddiffyn a Ffordd o Fyw / Care, Protection and Lifestyle

**P-04-366 Closure of Aberystwyth Day Centre –  
Correspondence from the lead petitioner to the Clerking team,  
06.09.2013**

Dear Naomi,

As a Committee we are disappointed with the letter from Bronwen Morgan ref. BM/SAT 12 July 2013.

We feel that there has been a breach of the Welsh Language Act, in the context of the way the Questionnaire responses were carried out.

When communicating with an older generation, especially users of a Day Centre facility, a more natural flow occurs in dialect when spoken in the mother tongue.

Quoting Bronwen Morgan's letter "she was accompanied by a Welsh speaker" - is not equivalent to a qualified translator.

We are led to believe that stakeholders did not receive a Questionnaire in Welsh.

Furthermore, we are led to believe that questions asked in English were not transferred correctly to the Questionnaire.

Stakeholders asked to meet with Sheila Wentworth, but she declined.

Sheila Wentworth's Recommendations, as yet, have not materialized.

Has your Committee had sight of the Overview & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's Report, after their visit to the Basement Day Centre?

Many thanks,

Kind regards,

Martin W. Shewring.  
Chairperson, Save Park Day Centre.



## 21.08.2013 – Petitioner to the Clerking team and Ceredigion County Council

Dear Sian,

Pam Ellis has forwarded your email to the "Day Centre Group". I have a comment on the letter from Bronwen Morgan which Pam has asked me to send to you.

Miss Morgan states :-

"I can confirm that, in line with the Council's policy, the questionnaires used during the above review

were sent to service users, carers and ***stakeholders*** in both Welsh and English and I can further confirm that returned questionnaires were received in both languages."

The bold italics highlighting of the word "stakeholders" is mine. To the best of my knowledge and belief, no stakeholders were consulted. I think this is supported by the extract of the "Wentworth Report" printed below :-

"A Questionnaire was sent to all Day Centre service users and another to their carers I invited any Day Centre service user or carer who wished to discuss issues confidentially, to meet with me privately. Only 3 service users requested this and their comments have been incorporated into the Questionnaire responses.

5) Service User and Carer Questionnaires "

I have copied this to Miss Morgan so that she can correct me if I am in error.

Regards

David Kirby

## 10.09.2013 – Ceredigion County Council to the petitioner and Clerking team

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to the e-mail forwarded to you by David and Meg Kirby on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2013 and apologise for the delay in forwarding you the following information, due to Officers' annual leave commitments.

When the Authority's Cabinet agreed to the service being transferred to the new location it was agreed that a review should be undertaken into the first year of the service, to consider whether the outcomes for the Day Centre are being achieved from the perspective of users and their carers, staff, care managers, senior managers and Council Members. In this context the review included discussions with the stakeholders referred to. The questionnaires were designed specifically to obtain feedback from the service users and their carers.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

*Sonia Thomas, Personal Assistant, on behalf of*  
Miss Bronwen Morgan  
Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive  
Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

## **P-04-440 : Say NO to Asset Stripping Bronllys Hospital**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to reject any attempt by the Powys Teaching Health Board to asset-strip the Bronllys Community hospital by closing or moving its Stroke Unit, nor by placing new services or service facilities for the region elsewhere and rather to instruct the Health Board to devise a strategy to build or re-build, improve and/or extend this NHS Hospital's facilities, and services and resource expertise; and to retain and re-build this valuable community asset as a centre of excellence.

We further call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to instruct the Health Board to place Bronllys Hospital at the centre of its strategy for the provision of adult and older people's health services in South East Powys for the next 50 years, and to release the necessary resources to make this happen.

**Petition raised by:** Michael Eccles

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 4 December 2012

**Number of signatures:** 3,144

Mel Evans, Chairman

Cadeirydd

Andrew Cottom, Chief Executive

Y Prif Weithredwr

Phone: 01874 712643

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E-bost/Email :

[mel.evans2@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:mel.evans2@wales.nhs.uk)

[andrew.cottom@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:andrew.cottom@wales.nhs.uk)



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd  
Addysgu Powys  
Powys Teaching  
Health Board

20

Ref: AC/AE/sj  
Yours Ref: P-04-440

26<sup>th</sup> July 2013

William Powell AC/AM  
Chair Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear William

**Re: Bronllys Hospital site**

I refer to your letter of 18<sup>th</sup> July on behalf of the Petitions Committee. You will be aware that the Powys teaching Health Board has been considering the future of the Bronllys site for some time.

Given the pressures facing the NHS in general and Powys teaching Health Board in particular, it is important that we operate all our sites in the most effective and efficient manner possible, particularly as these pressures are unlikely to reduce in the foreseeable future.

As part of an ongoing review of our sites and services, we are anticipating the completion of a Business Case setting out our preferred vision of the future of the Bronllys site by February/March 2014. A project management approach will be taken to achieve this, overseen by our Transformation Board.

Representatives from both our staff and the local community will be involved in this process.

When complete we will ensure that, as part of the communication flow, the Petitions Committee is sent a copy of the document.

Yours sincerely

**Andrew Cottom**  
Chief Executive

Pencadlys y Bwrdd Iechyd  
Y Plasty, Bronllys, Aberhonddu, Powys LD3 0LS  
Ffôn: 01874 711661 Ffacs: 01874 711601



Health Board Headquarters  
Mansion House, Bronllys, Brecon, Powys LD3 0LS  
Tel: 01874 711661 Fax: 01874 711601

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth Gymraeg  
Bwrdd Iechyd Addysgu Powys yw enw gweithred Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol  
Addysgu Powys



We welcome correspondence in Welsh  
Powys Teaching Health Board is the operational name of  
Powys Teaching Local Health Board

## **P-04-456 Dementia – This Could Happen to you**

### **Petition wording:**

We, the undersigned, call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to:

- i. Bring to an end the discrimination against dementia sufferers in Wales who apply for N.H.S. Continuing Care Funding, by allowing for the cognition category of need (known as the 'domain') to go up to the level 'Severe' in the Welsh version of the Decision Support Tool. This would bring it in line with the English version; and
- ii. Direct Local Health Boards to implement the National Framework for N.H.S., Continuing Care Funding correctly in terms of patient eligibility and without regard to budgetary constraints.

**Petition raised by:** Helen Jones

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 19 February 2013

**Number of signatures:** 1413

Mark Drakeford AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-456  
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/01817/13

William Powell AM  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

3 August 2013

*Dear William*

Thank you for your letter of 23 July and your subsequent request for your Committee to be consulted on my review of the Continuing NHS Healthcare (CHC) Framework.

I am also grateful to you for bringing to my attention the various issues brought to the Committee regarding CHC processes. In particular, you mention the petitioners concerns that budgetary considerations may influence decisions made about CHC support provided to individuals. The guidance of the 2010 National Framework is clear, however, in stating the sole criterion for eligibility for CHC is whether there is a primary health need. Decision making must be based on the outcomes of an appropriate multi-disciplinary assessment process, engaging the appropriate staff, assessment tools and the clinical opinion of the consultant or GP who has responsibility for the individual. Carers and relatives must be involved and kept informed throughout the process.

More broadly, my work on reviewing the Framework is already underway. A number of Task and Finish groups have been established to look at how to ensure future arrangements remain fit for purpose. The issues you highlight will be looked at as part of the formal consultation later on this year. My officials will liaise, as you have requested, with your clerking team to ensure your petitioners are included as part of that process.

*Best wishes  
Mark.*

**Mark Drakeford AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: Mark.Drakeford@wales.gsi.gov.uk

*Printed on 100% recycled paper*

## **P-04-463 Reduction of Salt Levels in Food**

### **Petition wording:**

We, the undersigned, call upon the Welsh Government to reduce the amount of salt in food so that people are able to choose healthy lifestyles in Wales.

Supporting Information: High salt intake is a noted contributor to hypertension (high blood pressure) that can lead to strokes and heart attacks.

**Petition raised by:** Harry Hayfield

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 19 March 2013

**Number of signatures:** 11

Mark Drakeford AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-463  
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/01458/13

William Powell AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee

5 July 2013

*Dea William*

Thank you for your letter of 26 June regarding a petition from Harry Hayfield calling upon the Welsh Government to reduce the level of salt in food.

The Welsh Government seeks to encourage a healthy balanced diet as part of a healthy lifestyle. A healthy diet is one that contains no more than 6g of salt per day for an adult, and less for a child. We recognise that achieving the public health goal of consuming no more than 6g of salt per person per day will necessitate action across the whole industry - retailers, manufacturers and caterers, Government, non Governmental organisations and individuals.

Around 75% of salt is hidden in food, so the food and drink and catering industries have a significant role to play in supporting the people of Wales to eat a healthier diet by reducing the amount of salt as well as saturated fat, and sugar in their products, and improving access to healthier products. Average daily salt intakes of UK adults is currently 8.6g, which is a reduction of about 10% (from 9.5g) since 2001

The Welsh Government supports the salt targets that were initially developed by the Food Standards Agency (FSA). The salt targets have been developed for 80 specific food groups that contribute most to population's salt intakes and include dietary staples, such as processed meats, bread and cheese, as well as convenience foods such as, ready meals, soups, pasta sauces, pizzas and sandwiches and snacks. The 2012 targets which are currently in place while the 2013 targets are developed, comprise the third generation of targets which have been developed since 2006, and through a stepwise approach have evolved to account for reductions achieved, salt levels in products, technical constraints, food safety issues, consumer acceptability, independent advice and data on salt intakes.

Prior to October 2010, work on reformulation and healthier catering was led by the FSA on a UK-wide basis. Most of the major manufacturers, retailers and caterers operate at this level. However, since machinery of government changes, this area of work is now being taken

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@wales.gsi.gov.uk  
Printed on 100% recycled paper

*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*



forward in England under the Public Health Responsibility Deal. This encourages food businesses to be responsible and to commit to healthier food provision. In Wales, there is less scope to pursue this agenda on a Welsh-specific level, as those businesses which serve the majority of the population are England-based and/or operate on a UK basis. However, the Welsh Government continues, where feasible, to encourage Welsh businesses to provide healthier products, such as working towards the Government 2012 salt targets, and we support local authorities in promoting reformulation and healthier catering. The Department for Health is developing salt targets for catered foods and we will be encouraging caterers in Wales to work towards these and considering their use in the Local Authority run Healthy Options Awards which recognises and encourages provision of healthier options in local catering outlets.

Finally, the Welsh Government in conjunction with the other UK Governments, has worked together with stakeholders to introduce one uniform front of pack (FoP) nutrition labelling scheme which combines traffic light colours and reference intakes (RIs, formerly known as Guideline Daily Amounts). This means that products bearing the label will contain information that can be interpreted at a glance for salt, as well as for fat, saturated fat, sugar and calories. Evidence suggests that the use of FoP labels drives reformulation, as companies do not want unhealthy profiles for their products, and will strive towards better profiles with more amber and green lights. The FoP labels are especially good in supporting consumers to make a healthy choice within a food type, for instance, choosing a healthier pizza, sandwich or ready meal

I hope this has helped clarify the position.

*Best wishes*

*Mark.*

**Mark Drakeford AC / AM**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

# Agenda Item 3.18

## **P-04-466 Medical Emergency – Preventing the introduction of a poorer Health Service for North Wales**

### **Petition wording:**

We the undersigned call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that the proposals contained within the Betsi Cadwalader University Health Board consultation– Health Care in North Wales is Changing does not result in poorer health provision and unnecessary deaths and suffering.

The proposals will have a detrimental effect on most areas of health provision and emergency services and in no way can the proposals be an improvement as is intimated. Already experiencing meltdown, the Health Service in Wales will head towards collapse, if these proposals are implemented in their present form

The current BCUHB consultation proposals in relation to Health Care in North Wales appear to be detrimental to general health provision and the safety of our communities. Accessibility, X-ray provision, Minor Injuries, Mental Health, the Ambulance Services, the Out of Hours service and the ability of GP s to deliver an integrated service are going to be particularly hard hit by the proposals – as they are diametrically at odds with the Welsh Govt’s vision in relation to the documents Together for Health , Setting the Direction , and Delivering Emergency Care Services – it appears also to be at odds with the Compact announced by the Health Minister on the 25th of September 2012.

**Petition raised by:** Mike Parry

**Petition first considered by Committee:** 19 March 2013

**Number of signatures:** 306



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Betsi Cadwaladr  
University Health Board

Mr William Powell AC / AM  
Cadeirydd / Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CARDIFF  
CF99 1NA

**Ein cyf / Our ref:** GL/SB/10332/635

**Eich cyf / Your ref:**

**☎:** 01248 384910

**Gofynnwch am / Ask for:** Geoff Lang

**Ffacs / Fax:** 01248 384937

**E-bost / Email:** [geoff.lang@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:geoff.lang@wales.nhs.uk)

**Dyddiad / Date:** 19 August 2013

Dear Mr Powell

Thank you for correspondence dated 21 March 2013 to Mrs Mary Burrows concerning a petition received from Mike Parry with 306 signatures.

Firstly, may I apologise that a response was not sent earlier by the Health Board. A reply had been drafted but it appears may not have been forwarded to you. We regret that this has delayed your consideration of the matters raised by the petition.

The petition focuses on proposals for change to services at Bryn Beryl Community Hospital, Pwllheli, which were subject to formal consultation as part of Healthcare in North Wales is Changing. The consultation period closed formally on 28 October 2012; however, we also took account of any responses received during the week following 28 October in order to ensure that any responses held up by postal or other issues were included.

The petition mirrors an electronic petition of which we were made aware during the consultation process. This was taken into account as part of the overall consultation feedback as confirmed in the Board report for the meeting held on 18 January 2013 which acknowledges receipt of:

“An e-petition set up by community leaders from the Pwllheli area and urging the Welsh Government “to ensure that proposals... [do] not result in poorer health provision and unnecessary deaths and suffering” had attracted 168 signatures by the beginning of November.”

There are a number of statements contained in the leaflet supporting the petition which might be challenged on grounds of accuracy or interpretation. However, at this stage, it does not feel appropriate to respond to each point. Further, the petition was submitted after both the consultation period and indeed the Board decision following analysis of the consultation feedback. It is important for us to note however that the Board was made very clearly aware of the strength of feeling of many in the local community regarding potential implications for Bryn Beryl, including those expressed through the petition.



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University Health Board

The changes proposed at Bryn Beryl Hospital related to three areas:

- Proposal to close the X-ray service in order to consolidate X-ray services at designated hospital hubs, which for the Pwllheli area would mean service provision at Ysbyty Alltwen, Porthmadog (around 13 miles or just under half an hour travelling time)
- Proposal to amend the Minor Injury Unit hours from 8.00 am to midnight, 5 days a week, to 7 days per week 10.00 am – 6.00 pm (April- September) and 5 days per week (October – March) to reflect demand better
- Proposal to confirm the permanent closure of 6 inpatient beds for older people with mental health needs, which had been closed on a temporary basis for 2 years, and provide more community support

Careful consideration was given to the comments received about the proposed changes before the Board reached its decision. Many of these related to travel time and distances, particularly for residents on the Llŷn Peninsula.

However, we also need to ensure services are delivered efficiently, reducing waste and duplication, and making best use of funds.

After careful consideration of all the evidence and feedback the Board agreed to retain an X-ray service at Bryn Beryl, operating for 2 half-day sessions a week rather than 3 half-day sessions, to reflect demand and service efficiency.

The proposals for minor injuries unit and for older people's mental health services were confirmed by the Board. You will be aware from other recent correspondence that the Board has recently reached a local resolution on these matters with the Community Health Council, subject to ongoing review of the effectiveness of the services and implementation of alternative community services for older people with mental health needs.

I hope that this helps clarify the consideration that has been given to local community views such as those expressed in the petition. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**GEOFF LANG**  
**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

## **P-04-466 Medical Emergency - Preventing the introduction of a poorer Health Service for North Wales – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Clerking team, 12.09.2013**

12/9/2013

F.A.O. Sian Giddins

Committee Service

National Assembly of Wales

*Dear Sian,*

Thank you for providing me with a copy of BCUHB's acting CEO's Mr G Lang's response to Mr William Powell AM/AC. I would wish to comment as follows:

At the outset AM's must not and cannot ignore the recent train of events that have befallen the Betsy Cadwalader University Health Board (BCUHB) and the damning report(s) delivered by the Auditor General Huw Vaughan Thomas, in relation to the services being delivered (or not) and indeed the abject failure of joined up thinking within the higher echelons of the organisation, which has now imploded - and to date, seen the resignation of the CEO, the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Prior to the publication of the Auditor General's report, the CEO of the BCUHB CHC along with the all Wales Director of CHC's in Wales, both retired, both presumably with generous conditions attached to their departures. The public at large will no doubt, draw their own conclusions in relation to the actual and coincidental timing of these two departures.

I am very aware that being so frustrated in this matter, one can easily slide into a diatribe and rant of "I told you so" - but a major contribution to this haemorrhaging of executive staff - has in my view, been partly due to their inability to listen and importantly take in what the public, the staff and GP's were saying to them. As a result I take no pleasure in saying that we now have a situation where confidence and morale amongst staff, doctors and the public is probably at an all time low.

Transparency has never been a strong element of the BCUHB as perceived by the staff or the public - so perhaps the new Chair Dr Peter Higson will address this matter for concern in the future - I wish him well in his new appointment as he has a huge task in front of him. The debacle of the BCUHB and its problems is something I certainly would not want on my CV and most of those complicit in the present mess, should depart as soon as practicable and we should have a predominantly new Board appointed - if confidence is to return. Please seriously consider that few Board members if any - flagged up the grave internal difficulties that were so obvious to the Auditor General and others.

In my personal view, the woes befalling the BCUHB emanate from it being physically, geographically and corporately a leviathan - and subsequently, not fit for purpose. Historically and significantly, our problems in the north-west, both financially and practically were triggered by the formation of the new Trust and the demise of our old one. What works in Wrexham and Prestatyn cannot be rolled out in south Merionethshire and the Llyn Peninsula and this message has failed to permeate through into the present Board's thinking. One of the crucial elements, which really are a constant in terms of continual consideration, is distance and travel times. Mr Lang's letter refers 1/2hr travel time from Pwllheli to Alltwen - which by default, automatically disenfranchises everyone to the west of Pwllheli - with somewhere like Aberdaron or Uwchmynydd being a further 45 + minutes

away, giving a travel time to Allt Wen of some 1 1/4 hrs plus - potentially only to be told that you are in dire need of the acute hospital, some further 40min plus away! So much for the “golden hour” that we hear so much about! Please give thought to the fact that timely intervention within this “golden hour” in conditions like strokes/heart attacks/asthma etc, has tremendous end- benefits in terms of clinical and physical outcomes and that the financial burdens are also considerably reduced for the support services.

The relationship with the local CHC also now leaves a lot to be desired and has lost the confidence of the masses. Theoretically an organisation designed to protect patients - it seems to have sunk into a talking shop that has not distanced itself appropriately and sufficiently from BCUHB. The resignations and departing comments from members of many years standing, attests to this fact. The new CHC CEO needs to do a lot of bridge building if the CHC is to regain status and credibility amongst the public - and WAG would do well to reflect on the past activities of the CHC ,which is no longer seen as a natural port of call.

#### X- RAY – a case in question

One of the recurring themes within the BCUHB and typified in the X- ray service, is the lack of a joined up approach to providing services.

Despite being historically one of the most efficient hubs in terms of throughput and efficiency - nevertheless, the service at Bryn Beryl X-ray unit has suffered cut-backs, in the pedantic name of cutbacks as opposed to logic - whilst other low output units remain unscathed. The opposite would have been more appropriate.

The Unit should be allocated one full day at the expense of other far less efficient units within the Trust if necessary –purely on the grounds of throughput, that by default would lessen the referrals to and the burden at the acute hospital. To paraphrase Mr Lang “services being delivered within the Trust should be delivered efficiently without waste and duplication, making the best use of funds,” – which is reasonable but should apply equitably wherever the location, not just at Bryn Beryl, which is why their case is such a strong one. For the clinically aware amongst you and as a simple example, Bryn Beryl have staff who can diagnose greenstick fractures, can authorise an X ray and can then bandage /cast the condition - with eventual referral to a fracture clinic - thereby taking out the travel time, trauma and backlog effect on the A&E dept at Bangor. A regular full day(Wed) at Bryn Beryl would also allow GP’s to better plan their service to their communities and indeed their patients ensconced at Bryn Beryl, who otherwise can be subjected to the indignity and trauma of having to go to an alternate facility, thereby tying up ambulances and personnel – which by default is especially damning in the geographical and rural area that we live in. The majority of these patients are frail, elderly and deserve some dignity and consideration. As I have said earlier, the acute hospital and ambulance service would also directly benefit greatly from this extra half day.

#### Minor Injuries/A&E Services at Bryn Beryl

Another element that requires attention is the A&E service which effectively has two standards of service – a good one in the summer and what’s left for the remainder of the year - so being a local clearly has its disadvantages and dangers! Unscheduled care provision is clearly in crisis and the public are well aware that the time to be ill is not at a weekend and when the OOH service is operating. Furthermore the lack of on-duty (as opposed to on-call) senior practitioners at the acute setting - **clearly escalates the possibility of unnecessary fatalities.**

Mr Lang sadly fails to mention in his communication that the Ambulance Service is failing, that GP's cannot recruit, are seriously undermanned and that the out of hours (OOH) service, also has serious manning problems.

Highlighted by myself recently, the enormous geographical area covered by a **single doctor** based at Allt Wen basically required the OOH GP to travel over an hour plus in two directions, to oversee a potential population in excess of 300,000. This scenario actually happened less than a month ago and it was sheer luck that it did not result in a tragedy. The current status quo means that should the OOH service be unable to provide GP cover or have a much reduced capability - there are no mechanisms presently in place that would flag up this situation to minor injuries centres - thus compromising their operational awareness and their resultant available options.

Minor Injuries A& E provision at Bryn Beryl presently does not provide any overlap –being open from 10-18.00 which means there is duplication with GP services and that there is a gap until the OOH doctor comes on duty. In my personal view, far better for instance that the MI/A&E at Bryn Beryl would be open from 12.00 – 20.00, thus plugging the gap.

To conclude, one of course appreciates that the Health Service is under enormous pressure – we have gone down the road of listening to the alumni and sages within the BCUHB - perhaps we should now start **listening** to the staff, the practitioners and the public. The other route has failed abjectly –particularly because the changes and decisions that were made, were being “sold” under the banner of being a **better and safer service !**

In passing, for your information, the excellent *breast screening service* provided at Bangor, and so ably streamlined by Mr Crawford, is due major reconfiguration. It would be prudent for WAG to enquire and engage with Mr Crawford (who retires at the end of the month) to see if these changes are going to be detrimental – because it is the consensus amongst GP's and patients, that it would be difficult to improve upon this excellent service.

If this was a murder enquiry the Judge would call it **unsafe** - like some of the decisions made, by the now immediate past BCUHB, (matters that are referred to in Mr Lang's letter as confirmed/considered by the Board). I respectfully suggest that due to the Board's implosion and admitted dysfunction, again highlighted in today's Daily Post - that some matters might indeed need to be revisited in the interest of service, safety and economy – thus avoiding the predictions contained in the carefully and specifically worded e-petition. It would be ironic if the concerns of the public were ignored for a second time. Please note that the e-petition is worded generically because sadly the problems and failings we are experiencing are typical and not unique to our community.

Sincerely,

*Michael Parry*

Cllr Michael Parry

# Agenda Item 3.19

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

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to stop the withdrawal of X-ray facilities & the reduction in provision of services by the Minor Injuries Unit as a matter of urgency.

**Petition raised by:** Tywyn & District Health Care Action Group

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 14 May 2013

**Number of signatures:** 4486





**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Betsi Cadwaladr  
University Health Board

Mr William Powell AC / AM  
Cadeirydd / Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CARDIFF  
CF99 1NA

**Ein cyf / Our ref:** GL/SB/9819/619

**Eich cyf / Your ref:** P-04-479

**☎:** 01248 384910

**Gofynnwch am / Ask for:** Geoff Lang

**Ffacs / Fax:** 01248 384937

**E-bost / Email:** [geoff.lang@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:geoff.lang@wales.nhs.uk)

**Dyddiad / Date:** 7 August 2013

Dear Mr Powell

### **TYWYN AND DISTRICT HEALTHCARE ACTION GROUP**

Thank you for your letter of 22 May 2013 concerning the above. May I first of all apologise for the oversight in not replying to your letter earlier.

You may be aware that over recent months the Health Board has been working with the Community Health Council to reach a local resolution to the outstanding concerns over proposals in Healthcare in North Wales is Changing (which was formally consulted upon during 2012).

On 17 July 2013, the Minister published a statement confirming that the Health Board and the CHC had reached a local resolution and agreement on a way forward. I am attaching the Minister's statement to this letter.

We have worked collaboratively with the Community Health Council to reach this position. We recognised the need to amend some of the proposals, as set out in the Minister's statement, to provide more assurance for people living in rural South Gwynedd about their access to healthcare services. This includes maintaining the X-ray services at Tywyn Hospital for two sessions a week and reviewing the usage of the Minor Injuries Unit to ensure the hours are appropriate. The hours are reduced only during winter months, with the period of opening during the summer months being moved to earlier in the day to reflect demand. We hope that this will help give local people more confidence that their health needs will be met.

Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**GEOFF LANG**  
**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Enc



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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## WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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**TITLE** Changes to Health Services in North Wales

**DATE** 17 July 2013

**BY** Mark Drakeford, Minister for Health & Social Services

When I was appointed as Minister for Health and Services earlier this year, I indicated that my three key priorities were unscheduled care, the legislative programme and bringing the three regional plans for service change in NHS Wales to a conclusion. I am pleased to announce that the first of the service change plans, for North Wales, has now been concluded successfully.

In January 2013, following extensive periods of engagement and formal public consultation, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board published its final proposals for changes to healthcare services in North Wales: *Healthcare in North Wales is Changing*.

In accordance with the *Guidance for Engagement and Consultation on Changes to Health Services*, Betsi Cadwaladr Community Health Council (CHC) had a period of six weeks to refer to Welsh Ministers any proposals that it considered were not in the best interests of the Health Service in the area.

On 4 March the CHC referred elements of the Health Board's proposals to the former Minister for Health and Social Services for determination. The proposals referred related to:

- minor injury services in South Gwynedd;
- the removal of X-Ray services from Tywyn Hospital;
- older people's mental health service for people living in Gwynedd.

I subsequently confirmed I would make final decisions on these matters once I was satisfied that I had all relevant information, having considered the issues thoroughly and carefully.

As part of this process, my officials met separately with members of both the CHC and Health Board on 11 June. Following these meetings, both parties believed there to be a way forward to resolve the matters that the CHC had referred to me for determination.

I am very pleased to report that I have now received a joint letter from the CHC and Health Board which confirms agreement has been reached on the outstanding issues.

### **Minor Injuries Service in South Gwynedd**

The CHC has agreed that the revised hours for the Minor Injury Service in Tywyn Hospital should continue, although the demand for the service will be monitored and reviewed over a longer period. Any amendments to the service which may subsequently be needed will be discussed through the Service Planning Committee. In monitoring the revised hours of the service, the Health Board will need to have plans for implementing and communicating its proposals so that people can be confident they will get the minor injuries services they need from GP surgeries, the out of hours service and their community hospitals.

### **X-Ray service**

Agreement has been reached to continue the X-Ray service at Tywyn Hospital for two sessions a week. To meet the difficulties the Health Board faces in staffing the service, it will explore with neighbouring Health Boards the potential for the service to be staffed by their radiology teams, rather than its own staff.

### **Older People's Mental Health Services in Gwynedd**

The CHC has agreed that the Service Planning Committee will monitor the action plan which has been developed to establish alternative services in the community, to mitigate the impact of the closure of beds at Uned Hafan (Pwllheli) and Uned Meirion (Dolgellau). This will provide the necessary assurances that the plans are being delivered and people's needs are being met. An update on progress, which will be shared with the local community, will also be produced following each milestone report to the Service Planning Committee.

### **Conclusion**

Alongside the elements formally referred by the CHC to the Minister, was the recurrent theme of a lack of transport provision to access health services in the rural areas of North Wales and in south Gwynedd in particular. The Welsh Government has agreed to work with partners across the public service to better understand the local transport access issues and identify joint opportunities for improvement.

The CHC is now content, subject to the outcome of the agreed monitoring and review processes it has highlighted being satisfactory, that it has reached a local resolution to the elements of the Health Board's proposals which it had previously referred to Welsh Ministers for determination.

I would like to place on record my personal thanks to all Health Board and CHC officials and members involved in drawing this matter to a conclusion.



**TYWYN & DISTRICT HEALTH CARE ACTION GROUP.  
GRWP GWEITHREDU GOFAL IECHYD TYWYN AR CYLCH**

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013

**Re: Tywyn Memorial Hospital X-ray & Minor Injuries Unit Petition**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the correspondence of 7<sup>th</sup> August 2013 from Geoff Lang, BCUHB and the written statement by Mark Drakeford of 17<sup>th</sup> July 2013 regarding changes to Health Services at Tywyn Hospital.

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank the CHC who recognised the difficulties faced by Health Service patients in the rural area of South Gwynedd and have put in considerable time & effort in discussions with BCUHB & Health Service Officials to communicate those difficulties.

We pleased to hear about the promised development of Tywyn Hospital as a Primary Care Centre and look forward to experiencing improvements of health care in the area as a result.

**X-Ray service**

We are pleased that it has been agreed, as per our petition request, to continue the X-ray service at Tywyn Hospital for 2 half-day sessions a week. This saves considerable inconvenience & travel difficulties for those requiring X-rays. It should also enable orthopaedic sessions with Bronglais, Aberystwyth staff to continue to be held in Tywyn Hospital thus saving minimum 70 mile round trips for the patients involved. This should also benefit some patients in North Powys & North Ceredigion.

We believe this is a logical conclusion where the vast majority of X-ray referrals (BCUHB statistics published Jan 2013) are made by local doctors and the Health Minister has now announced firm plans to develop Tywyn Hospital as a Primary Care Centre.

**Minor Injuries Service in South Gwynedd**

**We note the aims of BCUHB from their Equality Impact Assessment published in January 2013 (P18) "The proposals aim to provide equality of access and service provision across the region". We believe this not to be achieved in the case of Tywyn & District.**

We are disappointed in that the proposal to reduce the hours of availability for the MIU have gone ahead, even though there is a promise to review the on-going demand.

The problem that we see in monitoring this situation is not statistics related to those who are treated but of those who have to be treated elsewhere (e.g. A&E depts.) or who do not receive treatment at all. Can we monitor calls to MIU when closed?

We believe that by reducing the availability of MIU facilities fewer people will be able to use them & as a result future statistics will be used to close down further. The need however has not gone away!

We believe that many who need treatment, bear in mind that they often will personally need some diagnostic reassurance, will head for an A&E department if they can, although many old & infirm (we have a disproportionate aging population in the area), will not be able to do so. **Do we really want to increase traffic to A&E departments?** People know they exist, are available at all hours, and can provide whatever diagnosis, treatment or referral may be needed.

It may be obvious, but people do not have unexpected accidents or injuries within pre-determined days or hours! The problem of moving the hours of availability to earlier in the day (G. Lang BCUHB letter) means that the evening hours (6pm to 8pm) are no longer covered. This also applies to closing the MIU service at

weekends in the winter (Nov – March) bearing in mind the increased risks in darkness & poor weather conditions. This coincides with GP surgeries **not** being available except for the Out of Hours Service, which will most likely refer the patient to an A&E Dept.

Why not ensure that unplanned Minor Injuries treatment is available through doctor's surgeries in "normal hours" & retain some evening hours & weekend hours in the hospital? By doing this the patients would be better served. With the present proposal of closing at 6pm approximately 300 people would have to travel to, for example, Dolgellau MIU (when it is open), a 40 mile round trip with little or no public transport! (BCUHB statistics Jan 2013). In addition, at present it is not at all clear that Doctor's surgeries can deal with unscheduled injuries. (To get an appointment with Doctor or Nurse it may take up to 2 weeks).

### Transport.

There are many references to the difficulties in the BCUHB & the Minister's documents.

In the petition covering document we included the statement "*Public transport is extremely sparse & reduces year by year with no prospect of improvement*".

The BCUHB document makes proposals for consultations with transport organisations to try to improve the situation. The Health Minister's statement reinforces these actions to be taken

However, we believe that because of the distances involved and the naturally sparse population in a rural area we are extremely unlikely to see any improvement in this area. The BCUHB proposals recognise that transport budgets are under threat and an increase in services is unlikely. We are still experiencing periodic reductions of bus services.

**Transport organisations do not have a duty of care to the people of Wales but the Health Service does.**

Tywyn Station is on the Cambrian line & is approximately half a mile from the hospital. Perhaps this may be of use when considering travel for health care in the region?

### Conclusion.

We believe that by reducing the availability of MIU treatment at Tywyn Hospital without any improvement of transport arrangements or immediate clarity of availability for treatment of unscheduled injuries at Doctor's surgeries, the BCUHB aim of "*providing equality of access and service provision across the region*" has NOT been met and indeed **the equality of service has been reduced.**

Brian Mintoft  
Secretary

p.s. A few months ago a disabled friend of mine managed to fall & put his head through a glass door at 9:30pm at night. When his wife rang the OOH service she was told Tywyn MIU is closed, Dolgellau MIU is closed got to Bangor. The distance to travel is 140 miles round trip, they have no car. He had a sleepless night & went to Tywyn MIU at 10 am the following morning!

I know this can be dismissed as an isolated incident but I can assure you it is not! We are considering real people with real problems & not just statistics.

# Agenda Item 3.20

## **P-04-492 Diagnosis of autism in children**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to:

- ensure timely diagnosis for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder [ASD], regardless of where they live, so that children with autism can be supported and lead fulfilled lives; and
- review implementation of and ensure compliance with the NICE guidelines on recognition, referral and diagnosis of children and young people on the autism spectrum as part of the Welsh Government's refresh of its ASD Strategic Action Plan.

### **Supporting information:**

Diagnosing can be a critical milestone for people with autism. For children, it can help ensure that the right support is put in place from an early age.

Diagnosing autism can be difficult because autism is complex condition that affects each person in a different way. We therefore support the view that a number of different specialists should be part of the process to ensure a correct diagnosis.

However a timely diagnosis is vital in order to minimise anxiety and stress for children with autism and their families. The Deputy Minister for Social Services supports this view and in response to a question from Rebecca Evans AM said: 'I fully recognise the importance of receiving a timely diagnosis.' We also know that early intervention for children with autism is crucial in their educational, emotional and social development and for their longer-term health.

While there are good examples of diagnostic and assessments services in Wales, we are very concerned that not everyone can access a timely diagnosis and that not every area is following the NICE guidelines on recognition, referral and diagnosis of children and young people on the autism spectrum.

Our experience in Pembrokeshire has been particularly difficult, with some members of the branch waiting up to seven years for a diagnostic assessment. This lengthy wait for diagnosis is having a huge impact on families across Pembrokeshire.

We have tried on several occasions to engage with Hywel Dda Local Health Board. We have also met with local AMs Paul Davies and Angela Burns outlining our concerns. Paul Davies has written to Hywel Dda Health Board

urging them to meet with the branch. We are still waiting for the Health Board to act on that request.

One of the branch members has 'waited over six years for my one son to get a diagnosis. Now I'm waiting for the other it's been about two years and it fills me with dread.'

We want to ensure timely diagnosis for all children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder across Wales so that they can be supported appropriately to lead fulfilled lives.

#### About autism

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects the way a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them. It is a spectrum condition, which means that, while all people with autism share three main areas of difficulty, their condition will affect them in different ways. The three main areas of difficulty are:

- Difficulty with social interaction. This includes recognising and understanding other people's feelings and managing their own. Not understanding how to interact with other people can make it hard to form friendships;
- Difficulty with social communication. This includes using and understanding verbal and non-verbal language, such as gestures, facial expressions and tone of voice; and
- Difficulty with social imagination. This includes the ability to understand and predict other people's intentions and behaviour and to imagine situations outside of their own routine. This can be accompanied by a narrow repetitive range of activities.

Some people with autism are able to live relatively independent lives but others may need a lifetime of specialist support. People with autism may also experience some form of sensory sensitivity or under-sensitivity, for example to sounds touch, tastes, smells, light or colours. Asperger syndrome is a form of autism.

Research has shown that 1 in 100 people have autism. By applying the 1 in 100 figure we estimate that over 30,000 people in Wales have autism. Together with their families, they make up over 100,000 people whose lives are touched by autism every single day.

#### About the NAS and Pembrokeshire Branch

The National Autistic Society Cymru [NAS Cymru] is Wales' only member-led charity for people affected by autism. The National Autistic Society was founded in 1962 by a group of parents who were passionate about ensuring a better future for their children. In Wales, since 1994, we have been

providing local support, services and actively campaigning so that people with autism get to lead the life they choose.

NAS Cymru believes that the right support at the right time makes an enormous difference to the lives of those affected by autism and we are committed to ensuring that their voices are heard.

Across Wales we have over 900 members and 11 local branches including the one in Pembrokeshire. Launched on the 1st April 2011, the branch is for parents of children with autism to provide a network of support for people connected through autism living in Pembrokeshire and surrounding areas. The branch meets on a regular basis holding formal and informal events, as well as campaigning and fundraising locally.

**Petition raised by:** National Autistic Society Pembrokeshire Branch

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 18 June 2013

**Number of signatures:** 902



Gwenda Thomas AC / AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-492  
Ein cyf/Our ref GT/00422/13

William Powell AM  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA  
committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

17 August 2013

*Dear William,*

Thank you for your letter dated 26 June to the Minister for Education and Skills regarding the Petition that you have received from the National Autistic Society Pembrokeshire Branch on diagnosis for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). I am responding as this matter falls within my portfolio.

It is essential that children and their parents have timely access to ASD diagnosis and support services. The diagnostic pathway is led by Local Health Boards and the process can be very complex and time consuming as multi-disciplinary and specialist assessments must be carried out by a team of experts working across health boards and local authorities.

Since we launched the ASD Strategic Action Plan in 2008 much has been achieved to improve autism services in Wales. We have an established ASD infrastructure; there is now an ASD lead, a steering group and a local action plan in every local authority area. Although good progress has been made we acknowledge that there is still a lot more that needs to be done to make a real difference to the lives of children with ASD and their parents and carers.

We are currently refreshing the ASD Strategic Action Plan and to begin this work last November we held three stakeholder consultation events in partnership with the National Autistic Society, Autism Cymru and Autism Initiatives. The feedback we received will be used as the basis for the future priorities for action. At these events one of the main concerns raised by parents and carers were long waiting times for diagnosis and the differences in waiting times across local authority areas.

To help us to determine what actions need be taken, an ASD expert advisory group is being established to develop the refreshed ASD Strategic Action Plan. Representatives will be invited from the voluntary sector, local authorities, health boards and relevant Welsh Government departments. The draft Action Plan will be published for public consultation in the new year.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: Gwenda.Thomas@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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On 18 June Paul Davies AM raised an Oral Assembly Question asking the First Minister to make a statement on autism. As concerns about waiting times in Pembrokeshire were highlighted, the First Minister agreed to provide a written update on the local situation. Hywel Dda Local Health Board has since advised that an action plan will be implemented from September to address the waiting list in Pembrokeshire which currently stands at four years and comprises approximately 150 children.

To support improvements in children's ASD diagnosis we are part funding the Wales Autistic Research Centre (WARC) at Cardiff University to establish a research-policy-practice hub for children's diagnosis and have funded WARC to undertake development work on ASD diagnostic tools for children.

On 3 July I met the Chief Executive of the National Autistic Society to discuss autism policy. We spoke about waiting times and compliance with the NICE guidelines on the 'Recognition, Referral and Diagnosis of Children and Young People on the Autism Spectrum' as referred to in the Petition. Health professionals are required to take NICE guidance into account in the planning and delivery of services as they are designed to drive and measure quality improvements and describe what a good service looks like. This issue will be considered by the ASD expert advisory group as part of the ASD Strategy refresh.

The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Bill will transform the way that social care services are accessed and delivered in Wales. The Bill gives people a right to a social care assessment which will be proportionate to their needs and also requires the provision of information, advice and assistance to give people greater knowledge of what services are available locally and how to access the services they need. I will ensure that there continues to be collaborative working so that the refreshed ASD Strategic Action Plan complements the provisions contained within the Bill that will give citizens greater voice and control over the services they receive.

Yours Sincerely



**Gwenda Thomas AC / AM**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Social Services

The National Autistic Society Cymru  
6&7 Village Way  
Greenmeadow Springs Business Park  
Cardiff  
CF15 7NE  
30 August 2013

William Powell  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

Dear William Powell

The National Autistic Society [NAS] Pembrokeshire branch welcomes the positive response from the Deputy Minister for Social Services to our petition.

We believe that there are some constructive actions outlined in her letter that have the potential to make a real impact on reducing diagnosis times for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder [ASD] in Wales.

We note that the Deputy Minister recently met with NAS Chief Executive Mark Lever, and discussed autism policy, including diagnosis. We are also pleased to know that an expert Advisory Group is being established to refresh the Government's ASD Strategic Action Plan.

We are very glad to know that the Deputy Minister has tasked that Advisory Group to consider the implementation of, and ensure compliance with, the NICE guidelines on diagnosis for children as part of the refresh.


In order to help the Advisory Group in that task and to gain an accurate picture of the situation across Wales, we would urge the Deputy Minister to ask each of the seven Health Boards to update the Advisory Group on current waiting times and how they are each implementing the NICE guidelines on child diagnosis.

We are grateful for the written update from the First Minister on the situation in Pembrokeshire and acknowledge the commitment from Hywel Dda Local Health Board to implement an action plan from September to address the local waiting list. We would however ask the Deputy Minister to update this Committee on what progress is been made in implementing the action plan in six month time, in February 2014.

We look forward to hearing the Committee's response

Kind regards

Lisa Phillips  
NAS Pembrokeshire branch



Accept difference. Not indifference.

# Agenda Item 3.21

## **P-04-419 : Wind Farm Moratorium**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to ask the Welsh Government for a moratorium on wind farm and wind turbine developments for which it has devolved responsibility. The moratorium will be used as a period of reflection, during which time a cross party committee will be convened to examine the effects of operation of wind turbines upon the health, social well-being, property value, effects on tourism, and the local economy within 15Km of installations.

We ask that the all party committee be allowed to commission independent research on the devolved issues of Health, Social Well Being and Tourism with respect to wind turbines, and to agree a set of standards for devolved wind energy, which will prioritise the care of local environment, amenity land, habitat and nature.

We also ask that all devolved wind turbine installations be subject to the approval of a local (5Km) referendum.

This petition excludes wind power controlled by National Infrastructure Directorate.

**Petition raised by:** James Shepherd Foster

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 2 October 2012

**Number of signatures:** 1332

William Powell AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Your ref: P-04-419

08 July 2013

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 12 June 2013 seeking the views of Natural Resources Wales on the petition from James Shepherd Foster calling for a moratorium on wind farm and wind turbine developments.

The purpose of Natural Resources Wales is to ensure that the environment and natural resources of Wales are maintained, enhanced and used in a sustainable way, designed to benefit the environment, people and economy of Wales now and in the future.

The deployment of renewable energy in Wales contributes towards climate change mitigation, energy security and the economic and social wellbeing of communities. The role of Natural Resources Wales is to provide advice to Government, decision makers and developers to enable the right development in the right place whilst avoiding or minimising adverse impact on the environment. We encourage developers to work with us at the earliest possible stage of project design to ensure wind farm design and layout does not adversely affect conservation interests of acknowledged importance.

With regard to the issues raised by the Petitioner specific to the remit of Natural Resources Wales the response of the Minister for Housing and Regeneration clearly sets out the framework within which we work with developers and decision makers on a daily basis to avoid or minimise the environmental impact of wind turbines and we have no further observations to add.

Natural Resources Wales have no observations on those recommendations which are not within our remit.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emyr Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**EMYR ROBERTS**

Prif Weithredwr, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru  
Chief Executive, Natural Resources Wales

[emyr.roberts@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:emyr.roberts@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)

Natural Resources Wales,  
Ty Cambria, Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0TP

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru  
Ty Cambria, Heol Casnewydd, Caerdydd CF24 0TP

*DOCUMENT 1 Letter from Lead Petitioner on the “Moratorium on Wind Farms  
Petition” to Emyr Roberts, Chief Executive, Natural Resources Wales, copied to  
Petitions Committee*

29 August 2013

Reference P-04-419 Wind Farm Moratorium Petition

Dear Mr. Roberts,

Thank you for your response of the 8<sup>th</sup>. July, to our petition asking the Welsh Assembly Government to hold a moratorium on wind farm installations until matters relating to their deployment are resolved. The issues raised encompass, reliability, their place within a rural agricultural economy, the cost to Welsh energy consumers, (30% of whom are in fuel poverty), and the failure of the Welsh Assembly Government to address the lack of clarity and protection to the public; which should be the priority of any democratic Government to its population.

Paragraph 3 of your letter is both contentious and wrong on many levels. Our group's interest in the matter of onshore wind power is science led, we support Renewable Energy suitable for our topography; and the climate predicted by our Meteorological Services. We do not support the wholesale introduction of Wind Turbines to justify the political philosophy of WAG or the Westminster Government. Neither Professor D. MacKay chief scientific advisor to DECC, nor Professor Dieter Helm, in the past, advisor to Tony Blair, now currently working with DEFRA would claim onshore wind has any mitigating effect on climate change; nor should NRW, or WAG, or its Ministers, unless you can provide compelling evidence. We all accept the trend to warming and we should be selecting those generators which will both prepare our country for the effects of climate change and provide real cuts in our CO2 emissions. Wind energy is only one of the eleven sources of renewable energy identified in Directive 2009/28/EC, which implements the EU's 20% renewable energy by 2020. The well respected publication NATURE 'Climate Change' and the IPCC both agree that the way forward for countries is a mix of technologies, indeed they warn that allowing a technology to dominate policy is counterproductive to real emission reduction, (hence 2009/28/EC).

With regard to energy security, wind power is restricted by (A)What it can atmospherically glean (B) The decommissioning and installation of the present programme on a fifteen to twenty year cycle, (C) A large fossil fuel back up. (D) Continuity of subsidisation. NRW has no control over A,C, or D. Of course this gives both WAG and NRW opportunity to boast their 'green' credentials, because they are recipients of the subsidy, and not the financiers. Families and businesses in Wales provide that subsidy, 30% of Welsh families are in fuel poverty, and many businesses are struggling to re-establish employment in Wales. NRW's support for a programme to achieve the reviewed TAN 8 figures, help neither group, nor our CO2 emissions, which in common with other big wind economies, keep rising.

Your claim that wind farm development provides economic and social wellbeing of communities disregards this and other petitions. You also ignore the largest public demonstration by 2500 people in Cardiff Bay in the history of the WAG, numerous other demonstrations involving hundreds at council offices the length and breadth of Wales. It ignores people scratching together fighting funds to oppose the reviewed TAN 8 policy has endorsed by WAG and NRW.

With regard to economic contributions, the existing community benefit is little more than a charity hand out and a pittance. Our studies show that at least £22,000 per installed MW in rural areas and £28500/ MW in the valleys developments; this amount is required to compensate for loss of amenity, opportunity, property value and to fund regeneration. This is why we have asked the petitions committee to look at the possibility of a cross party examination of community benefit, to establish a means where the landlords 'windfall profit' by providing sites, and DECC make up the shortfall provided by electrical consumers subsidisation. Wind energy is divisive it sets public against farmer and 'lucky' communities against the 'unlucky' ones a couple of miles away. Further if you take a look at the petitioners addresses on this petition you will see the political divide in Wales clearly and geographically demonstrated.

The purpose of this petition is to rid us of NRW and WAG capitulation to the Developers at every turn, we are petitioning for a change to the existing system. CCW lost all credibility with us when they abandoned LANDMAP the Landscape Value data and Sensitivity results for the SSA zones. Our planning system is riddled with examples of rules in favour of the political lobby system the Wind Developers propound.

For example we are opposing Brechfa Forest East. 12 turbines out of 12 breach the Arup 2005 recommendations and LANDMAP on at least two counts, and the original TAN 8 siting rules on placement on plateau and land above 300metres. None of the developers in SSA G made any attempt to meet the 2005 requirements and limits set by Arup. This petition seeks a Moratorium until a set of rules and conditions are in place which will be respected and unchanged without proper consultation.

Adequate consultation is key to progress. During the life of this petition we have had judgement on Aarhus which demonstrates the shortcomings of the NRW and WAG approach. In your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2013 there is no mention of NRW consultation at all. Perhaps NRW and WAG will move from imposition to public consultation in light of this judgement.

The United Nations Economic Commission Europe has declared that the UK flouted Article 7 of the Aarhus Convention, which requires full and effective public participation on all environmental issues and demands that citizens are given the right to participate in the process. The UNECE committee has also recommended that the UK must in the future submit all plans and programmes similar in nature to the National Renewable Energy Action Plan to public participation, as required by Article 7.

This decision will have to cause a rethink of the Coalition's and WAG's wind-power policy, which is already under attack from campaigners who want developments stopped because, for example medical evidence showing that the noise from turbines is having a serious impact on public health as well as damaging the environment.

In this respect alone, due to ideological intransigence WAG missed an opportunity to lead Europe in noise control. The Gwyddgrug Initiative from the Wind Farm Noise Petition offered a cost nothing solution to the undoubted health issues. The new initiative is attached, it demonstrates that residents can enjoy rest and relaxation even while living too close to Wind Turbines. The developer would lose nothing, the consumer would lose nothing, and the local environmental health department would save millions in processing complaints and monitoring sites, which under the Initiative would fall to nothing. I have altered the Initiative slightly, because the only chance of an excellent idea not being binned by WAG, is to persuade OFGEM to take up the cause, and the alterations mean the Initiative can be brought into play by the National Grid without involving any outside agency.

With regard to the last paragraph of your letter, it says you only wish to make observation on those recommendations within your remit. To that end the list below shows some of the items raised by petitioners during the Moratorium on Wind Farms Petition (P-04-419). If you would be kind enough to pass any comments you may have to William Powell, Chair of the Petitions Committee.

#### List of unresolved NRW questions.

1. **2002/49/EC** This EU initiative ratified in 2002 has still not been enacted with respect to rural areas. We request a timetable for sound mapping methodology, and a programme for public Consultation.
2. **Chief Executive NRW** Claims wind power as a source of energy security. To maintain that security, based on the present TAN 8 programme, what replacement rate of turbines are NRW planning on over the next 100 years?
3. Have **NRW** any limit on wind turbine installations outside TAN8 areas?
4. Presuming **NRW** have a limit what is the total faceplate capacity of that limit?
5. What would the turbine replacement rate be for maintaining the faceplate capacity, (in 4 above), over a 100 year period.
6. What percentage of wind energy produced in Wales is for the home energy market?



7. **Disposal of Non Recyclable Parts** . Over the 100 year period, maintaining our energy security (in 2 above) a large amount of non recyclable materials will emanate from the scrap turbines, the main foreseeable problem will be disposal of the composite materials in the manufacture of turbine blades. Maintaining TAN 8 ambitions alone will generate around 1,000 tonnes of scrap blades annually. (A) Will the turbine blades be repatriated? (B) If the scrappage is to take place ‘in Wales’, what are the methods of cutting up and disposal?
8. **DECC** assert the need for a back up energy source to allow wind energy to be considered as a base load electricity provider. (A) What form of energy will provide the backup for the wind energy produced in Wales? (B) Where will the backup energy sources be sited. (C) How many jobs will be created in providing wind energy backup for the TAN 8 ambitions.
9. **Site Safety** many of the TAN 8 sites encompass rights of way in the forestry **NRW** have a duty of care to walkers and cyclists using these rights of way. Other **EU** member states impose safety restrictions on the general public approaching turbine, and ancillary equipment on wind farm sites. While **NRW** cannot abdicate its duty of care, according to the Minister for Housing and Regeneration, he prefers that the developer sets the rules. (A) Are **NRW** content to abdicate the responsibility? (B) How will **NRW** set any standard, considering that different developers are involved?
10. **Operational Safety** GALAR presented documentation to the Petitions Committee regarding our fears for the contamination of our agricultural lands, in the event of fire. Turbine fires, while infrequent, do happen, (as the insurance executive, quoted in our evidence confirmed). Because of the nature of the construction of wind turbines, they contain many contaminants which would harm, and if discovered in high enough concentrations preclude agricultural operations. While the developer covers the replacement of equipment in his insurance, there is no evidence that there is any cover for windblown contamination. As it would be impossible to allocate liability, between turbine and forest as to the causality do: (A) **NRW** and the developer have joint responsibility for contamination emanating from a development? (B) Neither **NRW**, nor the Developer accept liability for contamination emanating from a development? (C) If **NRW** and the developer jointly accept responsibility, what amount of compensation and specialist decontamination would be offered?
11. **Further to 10** above. While turbine fires may be rare, forest fire, whether accidental, or malicious, are common. Do **NRW** intend to legislate to control storage of turbine blades on site? Will any standards set for blade storage be applicable during commissioning and decommissioning of the turbines? What specialist equipment should County fire brigades hold to combat forest fires, involving Wind Farm developments?
12. Do **NRW** support the Minister for Housing and Regeneration assertion that there is an acceptable ‘kill’ level for bats and birds? Is this ‘kill’ level based on research undertaken by the WAG? Does the ‘kill’ level take into account the recently announced 60% reduction in flora and fauna in Wales? Are there any guidelines for local residents to preclude bird residence, (removal of nesting boxes etc); or to assess the problems which may be caused by modern turbines, (for example the tip speed of a modern turbine is 340Km/Hr or 208mph. While the swept area increases from 1963 sq. mts. on a traditional turbine to 6362 sq.mts. on a modern one ).

We would be obliged if you can offer guidance on the above issues.

Yours Sincerely

James M Shepherd Foster

Lead Petitioner Moratorium on Wind Farms Petition (P-04-419)

**Document 2** *Letter from Lead Petitioner on the “Moratorium on Wind Farms Petition”  
to William Powell AM Chair of the Petitions Committee; and the Members of the  
Petitions Committee.*

Dear William,

When I last wrote to the committee I was hopeful that we may be able to have a forum with interested stakeholders and **Natural Resources Wales** to discuss our very real concerns, and have expert input on the issues raised. In the reply from **Emyr Roberts**, there is obviously little hope of that; and indeed the previous replies from the ministers were equally unhelpful

However, as a matter of politeness, I attach my reply to **Emyr Roberts’s** letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2013, (with my comments), and a list of the matters raised by the petition which we believe are within the remit of **Natural Resources Wales**; and a breakdown of our response to the **Minister for Housing and Regeneration** and **The Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development**.

**The Petition**

This petition was born from the frustration we felt at the evasion and lack of clarity in all matters relating to wind farms emanating from the offices of **WAG**, and intransigence in policy relating to renewable energy. This has been amply demonstrated in the ministers, and **Emyr Roberts** replies to this petition. The **WAG** either by accident, or design, have created a situation where the people of Wales come a very poor second to foreign investment exploiting our natural resources, despoiling our biodiversity and environment: and ultimately paid for by Welsh families, 30% of whom, I would remind you, are in fuel poverty.

**Energy Security from Wind Energy.**

Both the **Minister for Housing and Regeneration** and **The Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development** and **Emyr Roberts** all make reference to Renewable Energy in responses to this petition. This petition relates only to Wind Farms and Wind Energy. There is a case to be made that wind energy is the cuckoo in the nest of Renewable Energies, and because of the crippling subsidies paid to this industry, all others suffer by comparison. This petition is not about making that case. The Petitioners want clarity on wind policy, and how that policy will be carried forwards; and a reasonable degree of safety measures, so that the Wind Turbine has the least possible impact on Rural Areas. **Emyr Roberts** claims the **WAG** wind policy will provide future energy security, and I have asked him to consider a future of 100 years, or the life expectancy of a child born today. Whether he responds to that, from an appeal by petitioners is hard to say.

So that the petitions committee can have some idea as to our concerns, we have put forward our predictions for the future impact of the current wind energy policy being pursued by **WAG**.

The table below demonstrates how the **WAG** ambition for 2655MW (from the *The Welsh Assembly Government Energy Policy Statement (2010)* which is the basis of the present target), of wind generation plays out over that 100 year projection according to **GALAR**, the parameters used in the calculations are listed below the table. We have also included the **Arup TAN 8** ambitions of 2005, and **Garrad Hassan Report** figures as comparisons to show the exponential rise which future generations will have to bear.

**Failure to Implement the Aarhus Convention, 2009/28/EC and 2002/49/EC**

**WAG** has obligations to meet UK Government Energy targets as required by **DECC** although the **Minister for Housing and Regeneration** implies he also has **EU** commitments. We would be interested to learn how the negotiations with **DECC** required **Wales** to deliver far more wind farms per hectare, and far more wind power per capita than England, how we went from 1200MW under the original **TAN 8**, to 2655MW demanded by **DECC** in 2010. In addition, why **WAG** failed to secure control of all wind energy produced in **Wales**.

Last month the UK government were found guilty of a breach of article 7 of the **Aarhus Convention**, due to lack of adequate consultation. The EU directive ratified in 2009, (2009/28/EC), on which the UK commitment to renewable energy rests, also makes it incumbent on the member states to undertake public consultation, and consideration of the best sort of **Renewable Energy** available to a particular site. I live in **SSA G** where to date three wind farms are proposed, I have attended the consultation put on by the developers on all three sites at none of them has any alternative been offered or discussed. Claims for capacities have been made which have later in the process been withdrawn, incomplete EIA statements, the list is endless.

**2002/49/EC** was ratified in 2002, yet isn’t even mentioned in **TAN 8** (three years later), and still is not activated to this day. Yet it is key to the protection acoustic pollution in rural areas.

This cherry picking of directives and parts of directives; to circumvent the rationale behind those directives, is a national disgrace. Our commitments to **EU** and **The United Nations Economic Commission Europe** should be at the forefront of planning, and is the duty of the **WAG and CC's** to implement, not pass it to Developers who have only a profit motivation in any undertaking. Other normal routes of Government scrutiny do not operate in bringing these matters before the public. Organisations such as the **BBC** and the **IWA** are either complicit, or complacent, I know not which, but those people who have been denied a fair consultation are dismissed as Nimbies, and **WAG and DECC** ambitions go unchallenged. Local media are usually excellent in reflecting a balanced view, but it is local to the affected area. This is also a key reason for this petition, the petitioners are denied a fair hearing.

### **A Way Forward for Our Petition**

Because **Wales** has yet to feature has a perpetrator of directive deceit does not mean it is innocent, far from it. Protest groups tend to have far more technical and practical knowledge, we tend to be weak on the political technicalities; this is a changing factor, we are slowly learning that the **EU** directives we have long thought were the enemy, are in actual fact our ally. Both the **EU** directives, and the **Aarhus Convention** have consultation at the heart of their legislation, and it is this full consultation which has been denied the people of **Wales**..

I have attached a sheet on the areas I believe have not been fully complied with, dating back to January 2003 when the rules on consultation became incumbent on the member states, and the adoption of the Aarhus convention into European Law in 1999.

I believe the **Petitions Committee** can help clear the bureaucratic intransigence that bedevils onshore wind power in Wales. At the moment **DEFRA** and **DECC** are having a symposium on energy, and this would be a time when our **AM's** should be doing the same. **WAG** has set an agenda for wind power capacity in **Wales**, the need for that programme, in both scope and effect needs to be fully explained and justified. The cost to **Welsh** people now, and the costs been handed on to their children needs full and open debate. **WAG** has to make a case based on fair and democratic consultation with the public through their **AM's**, **DECC** has to explain why this disproportionate demand on our environmental resources are necessary to electricity security.

I would ask the **Petitions Committee** to recommend to the **Assembly** that such a debate takes place to end the divisions within our country, and that we can go forward with **Renewable Energy Provisions** which reflect our ability to provide them in a sustainable way.

Yours Sincerely

James Shepherd Foster. Lead Petitioner: Moratorium on Wind Farms Petition.

Attached documents:

- 1) Our reply to Emyr Roberts
- 2) Our breakdown on the Ministers responses
- 3) Sheet on 2009/28/EC 2003/4/EC
- 4) Copy of updated Gwyddgrug Initiative to accompany reply to Emyr Roberts
- 5) Our Prediction of present and Future Impacts on the People of Wales follows on next page

**See Predictions table Overleaf**

**Predictions Table Based on Criteria Listed Below Table**

Calculations for:	Load Factor WAGI*	Number of Turbines to deliver WAGI	Number of Turbines Corrected to TF*	Turbine Lifespan	Average Turbines used per year over 100 years	Capability of Fossil Fuel Back up
2010 WAG Target of 2655MW	30%	1207	1376	17.9 years	77	
	20%	1605	<b>1830</b>	19.7 years	<b>93</b>	<b>1730MW</b>
Garrad Hassan 1666MW	30%	1110	1243	20.4 years	61	No imperative to 30% load factor
	20%	1477 (1110)	1653 (1243)	21.8years	<b>76</b>	<b>900 MW</b>
TAN 8 Targets as per Arup 1200MW	30%	1000	1090	24.8 years	44	No imperative to 30% load factor
	20%	1330	1450 (1090)	26.4 years	<b>55</b>	<b>620 MW</b>

Figures in red indicate actual predictive requirement to achieve targets set by the three Calculations

(Figures) in brackets only indicate number of turbines required to give a 30% load factor. There was no imperative for this in either Garrad Hassan or the original TAN 8 document.

**Calculations for:** The three sets of figures refer to targets set by Ministerial Statement in 2010 and the Garrad Hassan review, which increased the TAN 8 original targets, (see table below).

**\*Load Factor WAGI:** The Ministerial Review in 2010 also gave a 30% load factor to onshore turbines. Previously only a indicative faceplate capacity, dependant on turbine size and design was employed. Once a Load factor is applied it indicates an actual electrical output. We call this the **Welsh Assembly Government Imperative (WAGI)**. Of course wind harvest affects this number, in fact 2010 itself had a very poor harvest in the low 20's. However, if you have a target electrical output you are committed to meeting, then you can only increase the number of turbines. We have based the worst case scenario on a load factor of 20%.

**Number of Turbines to deliver WAGI:** The number of turbines are based on an average 2.2MW turbine. Of course larger turbines have been mooted in some areas, but in practise the face plate capacity is sometimes dropped after initial indications of higher values. For example **Brechfa East** promised 3.7MW at the planning stage, but now are reducing these to 2.2 to 2.5MW in the application. This will require 6 to 8 more turbines on SSA G to meet the **WAGI**.

**\*Number of Turbines Corrected to TF** TF or turbine factor is a % figure to compensate for turbine commissioning and decommissioning, downtime and the fact that all turbines lose some performance towards the end of their life. These extra turbines will compensate in producing the **WAGI**.

**Turbine Lifespan :** The wind industry claim 20 to 25 years. The Renewable Energy Foundation have recently produced figures suggesting this is much less. Climate exposure, faceplate size and operational hours are critical to both estimates. For example, if OFGEM decide that the wind industry should provide a reduced rate during off peak times, (like fossil fuel energy), switching turbines off to meet this will significantly improve the lifespan. The physical size of the turbines give much larger stress moments on high face plate capacities.

**Average Turbines per year for a Hundred years:** This assumes turbines are replaced when performance falls. If the developer replaces a complete wind farm when a few turbines start to lose performance, this figure will be higher.

**Capability of Fossil Fuel Back Up:** If wind is to be considered as a base load supply, then it requires a dedicated back up. Either coal or gas. Coal can be more flexible, but the CO2 emissions are more than for the less flexible gas. There is an allowance in that assumes wind will never reach zero, or if it does there would be enough flexibility in other base loads to accommodate this.

<b>Table 1. Energy Yields ( GH estimates ) Strategic Search Area</b>	<b>Rated Capacity Output (MW) Draft TAN 8</b>	<b>Rated Capacity Output A (MW) Garrad Hassan Report</b>
A	200	212
B	200	430
C	100	98
D	100	212
E	100	152
F	350	430
G	150	132
<b>Total</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>1666</b>

Please note that Garrad Hassan worked on a 700metre separation distance, which is why some areas were reviewed downwards.

# The New Gwyddgrug Initiative

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## Short Form

J.M. Shepherd Foster

7/17/2013

The new Gwyddgrug Initiative is similar in most respects to the Initiative put forward as part of the Wind Turbine Noise Petition submitted to, and rejected by the Welsh Assembly Government. Please read this document with Gwyddgrug Initiative Figures A&B

In a similar manner to its predecessor the Initiative is aimed to give respite from noise to people living near turbines; to operate in a cost neutral manner to the consumer, and to be cost neutral to the developer. The full list of beneficiaries are listed below.

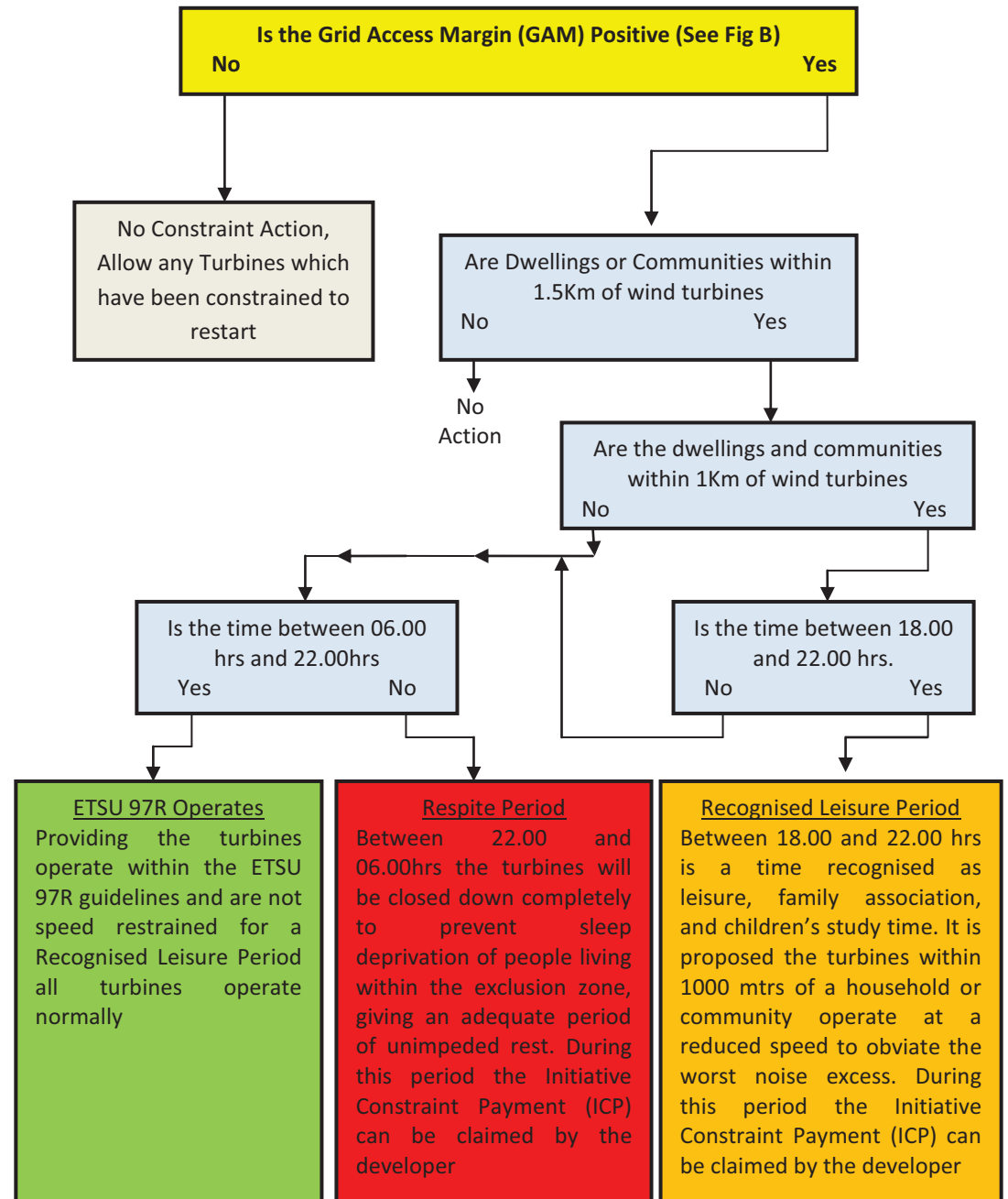
Under normal operation there is plenty of energy available in off peak times and the Grid operates with a safety margin of oversupply. If this margin is too great for the grid to handle then the supply side, (Nuclear, Fossil fuel and off peak renewable), are paid to constrain supply. Conversely, if the supply falls below demand the supply side is paid to increase supply. The GAM is the area consumers pay for, but don't use, it is a margin which ensures the lights don't go out due to under supply and monitored to ensure the grid is undamaged by oversupply.

When Turbines are constrained, under the initiative, they are able to claim restraint, (Initiative Constraint Payment IPC) to the value of the energy they would have produced unrestrained. Therefore, in GAM positive territory, if the constraint payment is equal to the energy the consumer would have paid for anyway, then both the consumer and the developer have a cost neutral system, and the grid will be a little more efficient for the removal of the energy. If GAM is negative the people of Gwyddgrug accepted that the grids needs should be addressed first.

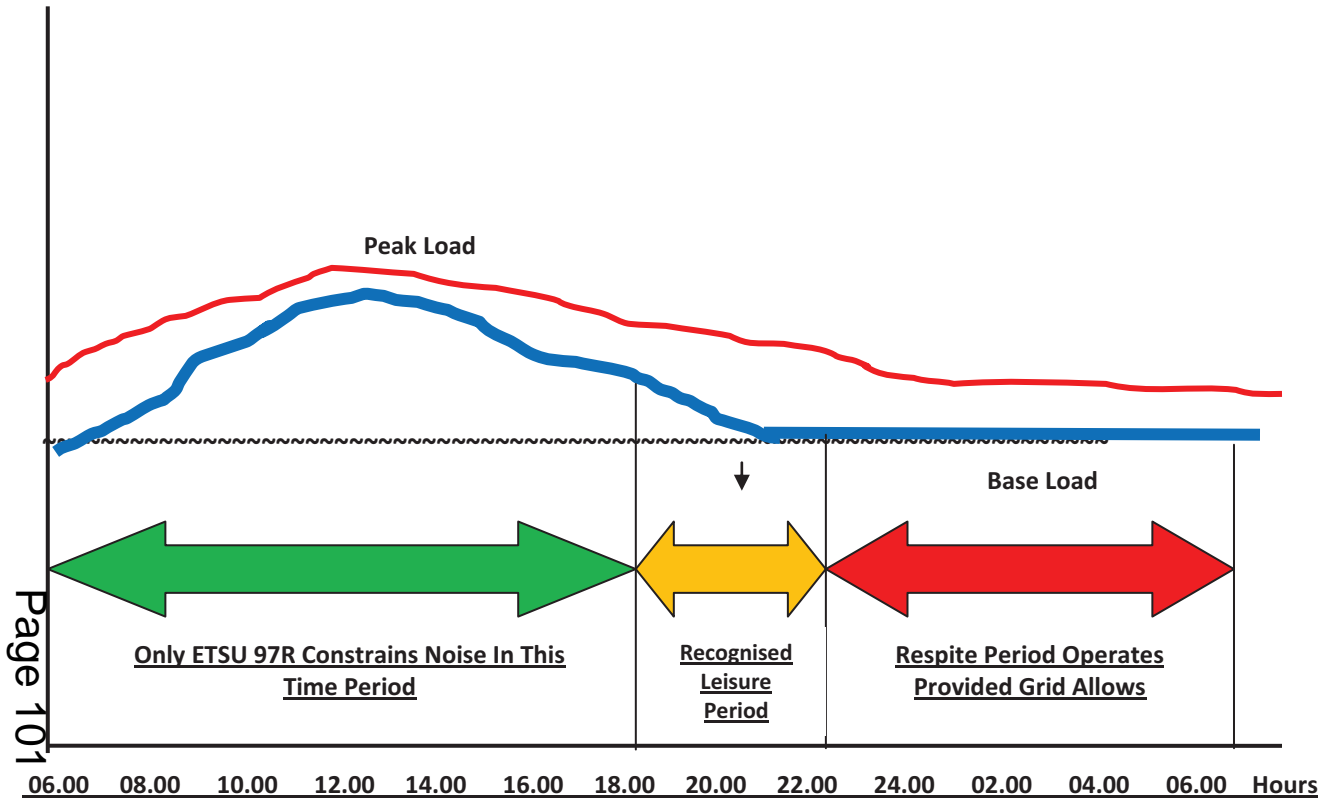
In the original initiative the Recognised Leisure Period was monitored and controlled by listening stations. The new initiative says if GAM is positive then Turbines within 1Km. of dwellings will be speed restricted to 3RPM below design speed. This will take all site work and costs out of the system and the Initiative will be cost neutral as well, in that it is only a executive decision to enact all parts.

**Beneficiaries**

- 1} **Dwellings and communities** within 1.5 Km of Wind Turbines.
- 2} **Wind Farm Developers;** because Turbines are lifetime related to operating hours, restriction of operation while being recompensed, means life extension of the Turbine at zero cost, and the opportunity to earn generation costs over a much longer period. This bonus can be up to 50% of generation and renewal costs. The initiative does not seek to claw back any of this bonus, because we wish it to be able to be applied retrospectively to existing wind farms. With developments not yet built it would be up to DECC to provide an equitable settlement.
- 3} **Local Council Environmental Health Departments.** Most complaints relate to times outside office hours. With the Initiative only ETSU 97R operates, and only in the twelve hours between 06.00 and 18.00 Hrs. Monitoring, if required will fit within rural Environmental Health Officers normal operations.
- 4} **Housing Market.** Noise will be less of a negative issue on house prices.
- 5} **Nocturnal Birds and Mammals**
- 6} **Reduces** likelihood of oversupply constraint payments.
- 7} **Green Groups** a more efficient\_grid is a prime green objective



Gwyddgrug Initiative Figure A



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**Fig. A Representation of 24 Hour Grid Cycle As Applied to the Gwyddgrug Initiative**

— Thick blue line represents the actual grid demand line on which the National Grid controls the supply side,(supply side are generators i.e fossil fuel, nuclear, wind ).

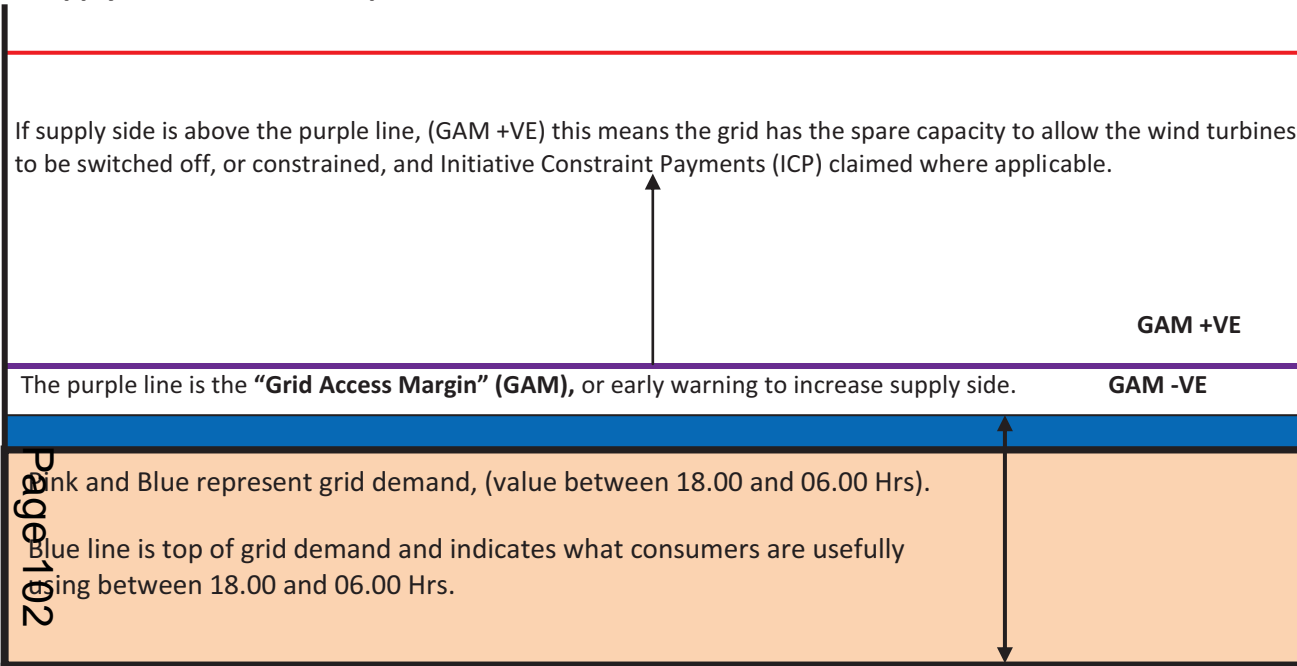
— Red line represents “full grid” or supply side restraint limit. This is very flexible, and in practise a comfortable position is 20% over peak. It is also the reason off peak electricity is supplied heavily discounted, (i.e to avoid constraint payments to supply side, and utilise overproduction).

↔ Symbols show World Health Organisation (WHO) and European Noise Directive (END) time period definitions.



Gwyddgrug Initiative Fig B

Red line represents “full grid” or supply side restraint limit. At this point grid has to request supply side to reduce output



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Fig B Shows a snapshot of grid demand during restraint periods and how GAM will allow noise restraint when positive, but override restraint when GAM is negative.

## DOCUMENT 4

Wind Farm Moratorium Petition. References to EU legislation we have been denied through ‘cherry picking’

We believe that the references below point to the fact that we have not had a full and adequate consultation in SSA G, on the Wind Farms known as Brechfa West, Brechfa East, and Bryn Llywelyn. Bryn Llywelyn is in appeal, Brechfa West has been approved, but we feel the old IPC failed to provide adequate consultation and the approval should be set aside. Brechfa East is yet to go before CCC planning, but is imminent.

I don't know enough about the other SSA's to comment on the quality of consultation, and whether it conformed to the Aarhus convention, but the local AM's, if informed of the requirements incumbent on the IPC WAG and affected CC's would comment better than I.

Indeed the legality of TAN 8 itself would seem to be on very shaky ground. The SSA's were ring fenced for wind turbine developments, and Arup advised WAG on the areas selected, but there was no consultation on what promise to be the seven biggest wind farms in Europe. That is no Wales wide Consultation and explanation of public participation, nor was there local consultation. The first reference is based on 2009/28/EC and the second reference is from 2003/4/EC, which predates TAN 8 by 2 years, and relates to the signing of the Aarhus convention in 1998. A full seven years before TAN 8. TAN 8 itself makes no reference to the directives, neither in 2005, nor at subsequent reviews. The third reference is to 2002/49/EC and points out the EC's demand for public consultation on matters relating to the European Noise Directive, which we have asked Emyr Roberts to give us an implementation programme.

2009/28/EC

*(90) The implementation of this Directive should reflect, where relevant, the provisions of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, in particular as implemented through Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 on public access to environmental information(1)*

*OJ L 41, 14.2.2003, p. 26..*

2003/4/EC

*(5) On 25 June 1998 the European Community signed the UN/ECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters ('the Aarhus Convention'). Provisions of Community law must be consistent with that Convention with a view to its conclusion by the European Community.*

Public Consultation European Noise Directive

Article 3 Definitions 2002/49/EC

*(v) 'the public' shall mean one or more natural or legal persons and, in accordance with national legislation or practice, their associations, organisations or groups.*

Document 5 *Galar ecology volunteer group*

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Questions Arising from Ministers Responses to Wind Farm Moratorium  
Petition P 04 419

Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development 21 Nov. 2012 Ref P 04 419

Minister for Housing and Regeneration 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013 Ref P 04 419

We would like to thank the Ministers for their response and ask them to look at the questions arising from their replies:

Question 1

Minister E S and D wrote:

Local planning authorities consider onshore proposals up to 50MW under Town and Country Planning legislation. Applications over 50MW are not devolved and are processed by the National Infrastructure Directorate, within the Planning Inspectorate, and decisions on such schemes in Wales are taken by UK Ministers.

The current energy ambition of the WAG is 2655MW installed plate capacity, What part of that lies with the NID, and who is responsible in ensuring consultation with the public on renewable energy, as defined by EU directive 2009/28/EC 2003/4/EC and the Aarhus Convention signed on the 28<sup>th</sup>.June 1998 between the UN and ECE? On projects below 50MW who is responsible for consultation with the public. WAG or the CC's?

Question 2

Minister for E S &D wrote:

The Welsh Government accepts that the introduction of new, often very large, structures into the open countryside needs careful consideration to minimise the impact on the environment and local communities. However, the need for wind turbines is established through a global environmental imperative and is a key part of meeting the Welsh Government's renewable energy production aspiration and UK and European targets on renewable energy.

Following the Ministerial Statement of 2010, why were the LANDMAP protection in the SSA's abandoned by WAG? Why were the capacities set by Arup and Garrad Hassan in 2005 abandoned? Why was the WAG aspiration on Wind Power raised from 1666MW to 2655MW? What public consultation, as required by EU directive, was undertaken in that increase of 160%? Does Wales have a separate European target than the rest of the UK, and if not where can we see the records of the negotiation for the 160% increase, with the UK government by WAG?

Question 3

Minister for E S & D wrote:

The public, and other relevant stakeholders, have the opportunity to be involved in the preparation of Local Development Plans and as such can have a say in the future development and use of land in their area. The views of the local community should also be taken into account in the decision-making process. It is however for the local planning authority, taking into account any relevant views on planning matters, to determine the planning application on its planning merits.

In practise do not LDP's have to be approved by WAG and central planning? What appeals procedure is in place, when WAG are disinclined to accept LDP's? In your sentence “ **The views of the local community should also be taken into account in the decision making process**”, does this include the public's rights under the EU and Aarhus convention, and is the Minister certain that these WAG obligations are fully enacted with respect to all wind installations below 50MW in Wales?

The part sentence “**taking into account any relevant views on planning matters**” seems to have some hidden meaning, which we are unable to determine. Do not the public have a right to examine all the planning imperatives, emanating from the local planning office and central planning through WAG?

All developments under consideration by local planning are 50MW or less, which is 0.02% of WAG's stated ambition, most of those applications amount to 0.00002 of WAG's stated ambition. Cannot it be left completely to the discretion of local planners and planning rules on these piffling amounts?

If a publicly elected CC turns down a 50MW or less application on it not being either Environmentally or Sustainably within the interests of the community those CC's represent, isn't it your job to endorse that decision and oppose any reapplication? Should not any reapplication be subject to Aarhus and EC 2003/4/EC being reapplied so the council and WAG are fully aware of the public's position?

WAG is a fully committed member of the EU, you must therefore be less than pleased that it appears to the petitioners that WAG is deliberately ignoring some sections of EU directives to drive forward a political programme of supplying more than Wales's fair share of the UK's European commitment. Can you assure us this is not the case? The directives recognised in this petition all relate to your ministry, can we expect early progress in their recognition and application in all parts of Wales?

Minister for Housing and Regeneration 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013 Ref P 04 419

The minister for H & R wrote:

### **Health and Safety in Construction and Design of Wind Turbines**

Incidents involving turbines are rare. The risks posed by wind turbines can and should be managed by their operators so that neither the workers involved in building or running them, nor members of the public, are harmed or put at risk of harm.

Separation distances, between turbines and other land uses (such as buildings, roads and railways), are considered within the planning and consenting process in order to ensure safety. The distance between wind turbines and buildings required, on the basis of expected noise levels and visual impact, will often be greater than that necessary to meet safety requirements.

Where appropriate, the Health and Safety Executive or the relevant local planning authority, depending on the particular circumstances, would be responsible for investigating incidents involving wind turbines.

We would agree incidents involving turbines are rare, as are ships striking icebergs, but when they occur the lessons gained should feed into the safety procedure. We have no problem with the industry setting a code of conduct in respect of construction, operation, public access and decommissioning; providing that code of

conduct is a written document being approved and endorsed by the Minister and the Health and Safety Executive, and available to the public. Is such a document in existence? Does it cover small turbines, some of which are mounted on school property, and comprise the large majority of turbine incidents?

Because many windfarms impact with public rights of way it is important to establish access after the turbines have been installed, yet there is no common consensus as to the closeness of access. Obviously the general public cannot be expected to provide hardhats and ear defenders, common to construction workers, but why isn't a common policy in place, as it is in other EU countries?

In respect of fire, we are only concerned in agricultural land contamination. Agriculture is the prime industry and employer in rural areas. In the cases of fire we have studied, it is apparent that the developer is insured for damage to their property, but it is less clear that surrounding land, contaminated by pollutants from such fires have any automatic recourse to compensation by the developer. The standard fire fighting procedure is to allow the turbine to 'burn out', with all the potential to pollute surrounding areas. Our similar concerns for the very flammable turbine blades which may be stored on the site, polluting our farm land. As clean up can cost several million pounds, who would pay?

## Question 2

The Minister wrote:

Landscape and visual impacts are considered within the planning and consenting process. Wind turbines should be sited and designed so that adverse effects on landscape and visual amenity are minimised and the special qualities of designated areas are protected. Wind farm applications will usually require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). EIA is a means of drawing together an assessment of a project's likely significant environmental effects, including its impact on the landscape.

TAN 8: Planning for Renewable Energy seeks to minimise the affect across Wales of large scale renewable energy developments by identifying 7 Strategic Search Areas (SSAs). The SSAs are considered most suitable in terms of environment, technical issues and grid network. This approach seeks to safeguard our most important environmental priorities and minimise the associated grid lines required to meet our obligations under European and UK law.

Why, when later in your letter, you are of the opinion that wind turbines do not affect tourism, WAG continues turbine concentration in the seven SSA's, when for example the Brecon Beacons are far better placed, both in wind resource, and grid lines feeding Cardiff and Newport and England?

Why was there no Public Consultation when the seven SSA's were recognised, with people local to those areas? The Aarhus Convention, ratified in 1998, before the WAG came into being, EU/2003/4/EC ratified two years before TAN 8 all point to a consultation procedure which WAG ignored?

Why was there no public consultation when the Ministerial announcement in 2010 meant abandoning LANDMAP and other protections advised by Arup and Garrad Hassan in 2005?

The seven SSA's seek to disadvantage one area of the country, against another, and adopting a policy which means Wales has adopted wind energy targets far in excess of the rest of the UK either judged per capita, or per hectare the WAG must be very confident that England will continue to subsidise the industry. What grounds have you for this confidence?

## Question 3

The Minister wrote:

Ecology and biodiversity impacts of wind farms are considered as part of the planning and consenting process. Planning Policy Wales (edition 5, November 2012) supported by TAN 5: Nature Conservation and Planning provides advice on protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation. Policy guidance is given for local planning authorities in considering any development proposal on how to consider environmental impact, so as to avoid, wherever possible, adverse effects on the environment. In addition, TAN 8 addresses the potential impact of wind turbines moving blades upon birds and bats. This issue is a common concern but, in most cases, will not lead to significant numbers of bird and bat deaths or injuries.

Wind farm applications will usually require an EIA; which assesses the effect of developments on the environment. In addition, developers should follow the industry's Best Practice Guidelines and work closely with organisations, such as Natural Resources Wales and the RSPB, to ensure that wind farm design and layout does not interfere with sensitive species or wildlife designated sites.

In 2011 the Welsh Government published "Practice Guidance: Planning Implications of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy" as a tool to support Local Planning Authorities in dealing with applications for renewable and low carbon energy development, including wind farms. This provides advice on what mitigation measures can be incorporated into the design of wind turbines and wind farms to mitigate potential impacts on local ecology.

Is there any plans to review your policy in view of the announcement that Wales has lost over 60% of its biodiversity, and many plants, mammals and birds are under threat, and that neither you're present policy, nor that of the RSPB looks to mitigate against climate change?

I have read in detail the EIA's in respect of SSA G and find them nothing more than a self justification for whichever wind farm they are seeking planning on. If these are powerful and well thought documents, why are they not endorsed by WAG?

The images produced to indicate the visual impact of a development bear little resemblance to the finished development; technically far better representations are possible. Why don't WAG endorse these representations, after all local planners use them as their only indication of the visual impact of a development?

We have studied "Practice Guidance: Planning Implications of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy".

We would ask the following:

Why does wind energy stand alone as the only Renewable with a target?

Many statements in the guide are so positive to wind energy, it could have been written by Renewables UK themselves. Why was it felt necessary to include them?

**Examples** *For a typical upland site in the UK, a turbine is likely to be operational for around 70-85% of the time.* This implies a load factor only slightly less than a nuclear power station, and is one of the requests of this petition that cut in speeds are increased to stop turbine wear and protect animal life, as applies in many US states. The 30% load factor the guide claims Welsh Turbines achieve is also higher than the annual load factor available in Wales. In fact the majority of Welsh onshore turbines are described as underperforming.

**2** *Power is a function of the wind speed raised to the power of three, so if the wind speed doubles then the power will increase by a factor of eight.* How true, but as the wind speed halves the opposite is true, would this were understood. Even children who have been instructed in turbine technology think that if the design speed of a turbine is 20RPM then 10RPM gives you half the output.

Why is there no mention of a back up energy source, which allows Wind to be regarded as a base load supply, by DECC and every major EU economy?

The Minister wrote on noise, we have concluded that any fair and considered judgement on noise is better pursued with DEFRA and OFGEM.

The Minister wrote:

National Planning Policy, and EIA Regulations, identify that any proposal for a wind farm development needs to consider potential impacts upon both hydrology and hydrogeology, and, where necessary, provide appropriate mitigation.

The Welsh Government's "Practice Guidance: Planning Implications of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy" provides advice on what mitigation measures can be incorporated into the design to minimise flood risk and surface water runoff.

Changes to planning policy are based upon clear and substantiated evidence, and my officials keep a watching overview for the need to revise planning policy. In terms of the preferred advice set out by Galar it is not clear what evidence underpins their figures.

National Planning Policy, in relation to protection of groundwater and flood risk, is robust and it is not proposed to endorse the recommendations put forward by Galar.

Comment:

In a country with so many domestic properties at risk of flooding we find this a very complacent attitude. The Meteorological Office tell us four out of the five wettest years since records began in 1910 have occurred since 2000. They also predict that climate warming will increase the potential for water vapour in the atmosphere, (the most potent greenhouse gas), and hence the likelihood of further record years. While "*Practice Guidance: Planning Implications of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy*" appear to dispute this in their assessment; on balance I think the Meteorological Office are more likely to be correct. Therefore, if we do not use the chance of mitigating against flood risk, while the heavy machinery is in place during wind farm developments; and if the developers are excused the responsibilities of making a real difference and complying with Technical Advice Notes to improve the situation on our mountains, then I think this is an abdication of responsibility of WAG.

Question 4

The minister wrote:

TAN 8 provides an appropriate framework for the strategic planning of all forms of renewable energy in Wales. The Welsh Government has no intention, at the present time, to undertake a wholesale review of TAN 8.

In addition, it is for local planning authorities to set out local criteria, against which smaller scale renewable energy proposals outside of Strategic Search Areas will be evaluated, in their development plans. We have prepared a Toolkit 'Planning for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy – A Toolkit for Planners' to assist local planning authorities produce renewable energy assessments in support of their local development plans. The Toolkit offers a possible methodology which enables local authorities to develop a robust evidence base to assess the potential renewable and low carbon energy generation. The information can underpin renewable energy and low carbon energy policies in local planning authority's local development plan.

Why did WAG review TAN 8 twice, and by demanding Wales provide by far the biggest wind energy programme per capita and per land space available in the entire EU, set county against county in Wales?

The WAG has been under the control of the same political party since devolution, what happened in 2010 which caused them to abandon the work of Arup and Garrad Hassan, for a target which was already higher than the rest of the UK? What public demand was there for this?

Do you accept WAG has responsibilities in endorsing and enacting Aarhus and the other EU legislation on consultancy with the public?

We noticed in your guide "*Practise Guidance: Planning Implications of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy*". that public consultation only appears once in the whole guide, and that's regarding TAN22. Why are planners not encouraged to consult the public, who have a statutory right under EU directives?

Question 5

The Minister wrote:

#### **Community Benefit**

We are currently working with the onshore wind industry to increase levels of Welsh investment and we will set expectations for economic and community benefit. We have agreed the broad principles under which onshore wind community benefits should be operated within Wales and an analysis of current community support arrangements is taking place. The Welsh Government and wind developers are currently participating in workshops to develop more detailed arrangements.

The Petition specifically asked that Community Benefit be examined by a cross party committee as increases have to be met by the Welsh public, through their electricity bills. We specifically asked that wind farm landlords and DECC should supply the substantial increases needed to offset the losses to people living in and around the TAN 8 SSA's. As the Minister represents WAG, and the onshore wind industry represents their shareholders, both recipients of the subsidies provided by the Welsh public, we feel they will not be inclined to improve the benefit in any meaningful amounts. Why can't this matter be examined by AM's who represent those paying the benefit? How do wind farm benefits compare with other community benefits from other energy sources?

Question 6

The Minister wrote:

#### **Tourism**

A diverse range of factors influence the tourism industry. There is no concrete evidence to suggest that wind farms damage tourism. Although inconclusive, previous research carried out into the impact of wind farms on tourism in Wales has indicated that, for the majority of visitors, the existence of wind farms in the countryside does not have a major impact. Studies carried out elsewhere indicate that the impact of wind farms on tourism is minimal and, if they are properly designed and sensitively laid out, there is no reason to believe that renewable energy targets and tourism are incompatible.

Tourism is our second largest industry; if wind farms have no effect on tourists, why can't wind farms be shared out more equitably around the land available?

In Spanish studies it has been found the biggest factor affecting tourism was the amount of holidays affected by the construction industry. As the WAG ambition for wind energy will require servicing, and wind turbines are short lived consumables, there is unlikely to be a year in the next hundred years when seventy to a hundred turbine installations are not taking place, and due to our climate we haven't



the option of moving construction from the holiday season. Have WAG any studies which look at the effects of holidays affected by construction and heavy vehicular traffic?

In inland Spain and Greece many people feel their tourist share is affected by wind turbines. This is mainly because many people resent the massive subsidies enjoyed by the wind companies in times of economic hardship, how will we overcome the negative feelings of tourists?

# Agenda Item 3.22

## **P-04-423 : Brooklands Nursing Home**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to consider if residents of Brooklands Nursing Home would have their human rights infringed by the siting of the civic amenity site 30 metres from the home.

**Supporting Information** : Staff and relatives of clients at Brooklands are very unhappy. The council are proposing to put the Civic amenities from Tenby adjacent to Brooklands Nursing Home. We strongly feel that their last days should be spent enjoying peace and tranquillity and not be disrupted with noise, pollution, traffic disruption, disruption from seagulls etc. Our clients are vulnerable adults who are unable to voice their opinion and so they need your help. Would you like to spend the rest of your days with the tip as your neighbour? We wouldn't. Please help with our petition and sign below.

**Petition raised by:** Darren Umanee

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 2 October 2012

**Number of signatures:** 115. Associated petitions collected over 4484 signatures

**P-04-423 Brooklands Nursing Home – Correspondence from  
Pembrokeshire County Council to the Clerking team,  
05.08.2013**

FAO Naomi Stocks

Dear Ms Stocks,

I refer to the letter dated 10 July (ref P-04-423) from the Chair of the Petitions Committee to me. The letter was received here on 22 July.

There are no immediate plans to resubmit the planning application but it would be premature to state that this option has been totally ruled out.

To outline the current position, I refer to the following answer by the Deputy Leader at Council on 18 July to a similar question:-

"Since a request to defer consideration of the planning application was refused by PCNPA, Officers of this Council have been considering several options. The need for such a facility is not in dispute (and this was acknowledged by PCNPA). Options include the potential to resubmit an amended application or to seek an alternative site within the vicinity for a CA Site on a similar scale."

Yours sincerely

B Parry-Jones

Chief Executive

# Agenda Item 3.23

## **P-04-493 Moratorium on Local Development Plans (LDPs) in potential City Regions**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to bring about a moratorium on LDPs in those areas that have been recommended to be part of two new city regions. Save our Capital Cardiff believes it would be unwise for councils in those areas to make significant plans for future housing and infrastructure, which include irreversible damage to greenfield sites, before a decision is taken on the city region approach.

**Petition raised by:** Neil John McEvoy

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 2 July 2013

**Number of signatures:** 170

Carl Sargeant AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio  
Minister for Housing and Regeneration



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-493  
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/01266/13

William Powell AM  
AM for Mid & West Wales  
Chair Petitions committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA  
[committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

26 July 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter dated 10 July seeking my views on a petition submitted by a councillor from north west Cardiff, to introduce a moratorium on Local Development Plans (LDPs) in those areas recommended for inclusion in city regions (P-04-493). I have concerns about the petition and consider it an inappropriate course of action to follow. My reasons, relating to the benefit of progressing up to date LDP coverage across Wales to provide certainty for infrastructure providers and communities, are set out more fully below.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 places a statutory duty on all local planning authorities across Wales to prepare a LDP. To date there are currently 9 adopted LDPs out of 24 being prepared (37.5%) with a further 4 anticipated to be adopted later this year (subject to examination Inspectors' recommendations), taking the total to over 50% coverage.

Having an up-to-date adopted development plan in place is essential to provide certainty for both local communities, infrastructure providers and others, ensuring there is sufficient land in sustainable locations to meet the needs of society over the next 10 to 15 years. Enabling jobs, infrastructure, homes and all the other facilities required to provide high quality lifestyles to come forward is vital for our communities. Investors require confidence that Wales is open for business; a pre-requisite being an adopted LDP which enables developers to access finance and implement proposals. Having an adopted LDP provides this reassurance and financial confidence.

In parallel, it is also essential for local communities to be part of the process shaping their future environments, engaging in plan preparation. Plans not only provide certainty for investors but clarity for communities, with consideration of their needs and aspirations.

To provide a practical example of why the petition does not offer an appropriate way forward I wish to cite Cardiff. Cardiff's Deposit LDP is programmed to be agreed by the Council and

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: [Carl.Sargeant@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Carl.Sargeant@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

subject to statutory consultation in October/November this year (an informal copy of this plan is currently available on the Council's website). The Council currently does not have a 5 year housing land supply, as required by national policy – 'Planning Policy Wales' (PPW), nor an up-to-date development plan. This has left the Council in a vulnerable position regarding ad hoc planning applications coming forward which would be likely to be approved at appeal. This is currently happening, with the Council also incurring financial penalties as the applicants' seek to recover their costs.

Similarly, in the greater Swansea area, work is progressing on the Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea LDPs. I do not want this work to stop.

While we can always find reasons for avoiding or postponing difficult decisions, including in plan making, it is worth noting that one of the Independent Advisory Group's conclusions was that LDPs are essential to identify the land needed to meet society's needs for amongst other things, houses and jobs and that they are key to delivering sustainable development objectives. The consequence of delaying LDPs would be to essentially say that Wales is closed for business. Infrastructure providers and others would not be able to access finance to bring forward development, market confidence and the creation of new jobs would fall, and housing affordability would worsen due to supply not matching demand; there would be planning by appeal, with land lost to inappropriate development in potentially less sustainable locations. Conversely, development could grind to a halt to the detriment of Wales. If Wales is to recover and compete on a global scale we cannot allow this to happen.

A further reason for progressing LDPs relates to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), introduced by the UK Government on an England and Wales basis, which effectively replaces Section 106 planning obligations when considering financing wider infrastructure. The CIL is based on having an adopted up-to-date development plan in place, a LDP. With a delay in bringing forward LDPs, there would be an inability to utilise the CIL to finance infrastructure which could have severe consequences for local communities and business. I wish to avoid limiting local planning authorities' access to such finance.

The petition submitted by Councillor McEvoy refers to 'Save our Capital Cardiff', a group formed to object to the scale and location of growth currently being proposed through Cardiff Council's emerging LDP. I wish to point out that the preparation of a LDP is a statutory process with formal consultation periods and a public examination led by an independently appointed Inspector. All objectors who make their views known through the statutory deposit consultation period have a right to be heard in person at the examination. Therefore, if anybody holds views regarding the scale and location of growth as being inappropriate, such as the Save our Capital Group, there is a statutory process already in place to address such concerns.

I am pleased that Cardiff's new administration is determined to progress a plan and anticipates adopting its LDP in October 2015. Having an adopted plan should enable the Council to steer and influence change and to maximise financial receipts through a CIL charge to support infrastructure, giving certainty and confidence to infrastructure providers and local communities.

An LDP for Cardiff does not prejudice the outcome of strategic planning; it ensures that the Council has a plan in place to address current issues. It ensures that all current statutory duties are adhered to and more importantly, provides certainty and clarity as expediently as possible.

In conclusion, I believe that it is imperative that LDPs are progressed as rapidly as possible to ensure Wales is best placed to compete globally and maximise the benefits to the people and businesses of Wales.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carl Sargeant". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the "Yours Sincerely" text.

**Carl Sargeant AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio  
Minister for Housing and Regeneration

# Agenda Item 3.24

## **P-04-436 : Government Expenditure and Revenue Wales**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to put together a Government Expenditure and Revenue Wales report.

In Scotland they have the GERS report, it aims to enhance public understanding of fiscal issues through detailed analysis of official UK and Scottish Government financial statistics. It's time that the Welsh Government published a similar report so that we can truly see the fiscal position of Wales.

**Petition raised by:** Stuart Evans

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 15 January 2013

**Number of signatures:** 27





Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Jane Hutt AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Cyllid  
Minister for Finance

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-436  
Ein cyf/Our ref SF JH 0532/13

William Powell AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

3 / July 2013

*Dear William,*

**Petitions Committee: analysis of Welsh and UK Government financial statistics**

Thank you for your letter of 23 July, enclosing the further communication you have received from Mr. Evans, calling for the publication of a report on Government expenditure and revenue in Wales.

As I explained in my earlier letter, there may well be a need for publication of certain information on devolved taxes in the future, but it would be premature to give a commitment on that before the UK Government issues its response to the report on financial reform produced by the Commission on Devolution in Wales ('Silk Commission'). That response was expected in Spring 2013 but the UK Government has recently indicated that it will now follow in Autumn 2013.

As regards non-devolved taxes, those are primarily a matter for the UK Government. However, Mr. Evans may be interested in the intention of HMRC to publish sub-UK information on tax receipts. Further information is available on the HMRC website at: <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/statistics/announcements/22-07-13.htm>

I hope this is helpful to Mr. Evans.

*Beath Isler, ,*

*Jane*

**Jane Hutt AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Cyllid  
Minister for Finance

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: Jane.Hutt@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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paper*

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## **P-04-436 Government Expenditure and Revenue Wales – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Clerking team, 08.09.13**

As with my previous comment it is quite obvious that the Minister for Finance has absolutely no interest in providing any information to the people of Wales over the finances of Wales. The Minister has repeatedly missed the point of the petition, first ignoring the revenue aspect and secondly interpreting the petition wrongly. In the reply the Minister claims there may be a need for the publication of certain devolved taxes. This is not the point of the petition. The point was to provide a financial breakdown of all revenue and expenditure for Wales, both devolved and non-devolved.

If the Minister had looked up the "Government Expenditure and Revenue Scotland" website she would have seen the following.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Economy/GERS>

"The aim of GERS is to enhance public understanding of fiscal issues in Scotland. The primary objective is to estimate a set of public sector accounts for Scotland through detailed analysis of official UK and Scottish Government finance statistics. GERS estimates the contribution of revenue raised in Scotland toward the goods and services provided for the benefit of the people of Scotland. The report is designed to allow users to understand and analyse Scotland's fiscal position under different scenarios."

The Minister has now passed the buck to the Conservative led government in Westminster. It's now 16 years since we voted for devolution and it's worth asking what the point was if Welsh Ministers would rather leave it for London to sort out.

Stuart Evans

## **P-04-441 : Gwaith i Gymru – Work for Wales**

### **Petition wording:**

In light of the most recent Welsh youth unemployment figures, Plaid Cymru Youth calls on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to put effective and positive steps in place to ensure a brighter future for this generation of young people.

Specifically, we call on the Welsh Government to (1) create a scheme to support 30,000 apprenticeships and to expand the Young Recruits programme; (2) develop a modern, high-value, in-work training programme to increase young people's employability; and (3) extend local authorities' borrowing powers to £350 million so that they can support small and medium enterprises with 'local loans funds'. In addition to these steps, we call on the Welsh Government to do everything in its power to reverse this worrying situation and to do everything it can, in spite of public sector cuts being imposed by the UK Government, to create work for Wales. These are difficult times and Plaid Cymru Youth believes that the cuts that the Westminster coalition government is imposing on us are utterly unreasonable. Those cuts, however, must not stop the Welsh Government from acting now to help the Welsh economy. Youth unemployment is at record levels and worryingly, is worse in Wales than other parts of the United Kingdom; we seem to be bucking the UK trend. There is a real risk that this generation of 16–24 year olds will become a lost generation. They are in danger of being faced with financial hardship for the rest of their lives because of the jobs crisis that they are facing today. Having a quarter of our young people out of work is not a sustainable situation, and it is the start of a dangerous path to economic difficulties for Wales for decades to come. Effective and positive steps must be put in place now to reverse this alarming trend and ensure that we are creating work for Wales.

**Petition raised by:** Cerith Rhys Jones

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 4 December 2012

**Number of signatures:** 129

Our Ref No 10/5/13 WG/RM  
Careers Wales  
Ty Glyn  
William Brown Close  
Llantarnam  
Cwmbran  
NP44 3AB

William Powell AC/AM  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA  
Ref P-04-441

10<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Dear Mr Powell

We have recently received an invitation (24<sup>th</sup> April) to present our views on a petition that Cerith Rhys Jones has submitted, regarding the plight of the young people in Wales facing unemployment.

Please be advised that from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2013, Careers Wales became a wholly owned subsidiary of the Welsh Government. It would, therefore, not be appropriate for Careers Wales to express views on this topic and any questions should be addressed to Mr Jo Banks title and address.

Careers Wales has a role to support unemployed young people through the provision of careers information advice and guidance, which is available via our website careerswales.com and by telephone on 0800 028 4844. The website also hosts job vacancies and information on training opportunities through Apprentice Matching Service and Jobs Growth Wales. Young people who are unemployed may also access direct careers service support such as a guidance interview with a careers adviser.

I am copying this letter to Mr Jo Banks for information

Yours sincerely,

Rilla Morries  
Head of Information & Marketing  
Email; [rilla.morries@careerswalesgyrfacymru.com](mailto:rilla.morries@careerswalesgyrfacymru.com)  
Tel 0300 123 3833 ext 2013

### **Gyrfa Cymru Careers Wales**



Careers Wales Connect Helpline: 0800 028 4844 Llinell Gymorth Cyswllt Gyrfa Cymru: 0800 028 4844  
Learning and Careers Advice Helpline: 0800 100 900 Llinell Gymorth Cyngor Dysgu a Gyrfaoedd 0800 100 900  
E-mail/Ebost: [headoffice@careerswalesgyrfacymru.com](mailto:headoffice@careerswalesgyrfacymru.com)

[www.careerswales.com](http://www.careerswales.com) / [www.gyrfacymru.com](http://www.gyrfacymru.com)

**Swyddfa Gofrestredig:** Career Choices Dewis Gyrfa Ltd yn masnachu fel Careers Wales Gyrfacymru, Ty Glyn, Brecon Court, William Brown Close, Parc Llantarnam, Cwmbran NP44 3AB  
**Registered Office:** Career Choices Dewis Gyrfa Ltd trading as Careers Wales Gyrfacymru, Ty Glyn, Brecon Court, William Brown Close, Llantarnam Park, Cwmbran NP44 3AB  
Ffôn/Tel: 0300 123 3833 Ffacs/Fax: 0300 123 3853

**Rhif Cofrestredig** 7442837 Cofrestrwyd yng Nghymru  
**Registered No:** 7442837 Registered in Wales



Petitions Committee

Response from National Training Federation Wales (NTfW) to the petition submitted by Cerith Rhys Jones:

Your Ref: P-04-441

We are only able to respond to 2 of the 3 key points contained within the petition.

- 1. Create a scheme to support 30,000 apprenticeships and to expand the Young Recruits programme;**
- 2. Develop a modern, high-value, in-work training programme to increase young peoples employability;**

NTfW is a Federation of organisations that deliver Work Based Learning Programmes in Wales commissioned by DfES via an open tendering exercise polished on the European Journal.

There are 112 member organisations of the Federation from the Public, Independent and Third Sector.

1. Create a scheme to support 30,000 apprentices and to expand the Young Recruits programme.

We believe that we have a scheme already in place that annually supports over 30,000 apprentices in Wales. This scheme has recently received a significant increase in investment in the 2013/14 budget allocation of £20 million with an additional commitment of £20 million for the 2014/15 budget allocation. This additional investment was part of the agreement reached with Labour and Plaid Cymru in the recent budget negotiations.

Since the Apprenticeship Act 2009 became adopted in Wales in 2011 all apprentices have to be on a contract of employment on the same terms and conditions of employment and the employer has to pay the apprenticeship wage as a minimum. NTfW fully support this commitment and our members deliver the approved Framework that relates directly to the Apprentices job role within the respective company.

To support employers that decided to take on an Apprentice over and above their normal pattern of Apprentice recruitment there is a direct support programme called the Young Recruits Programme (YRP) this programme provides a £100.00 per week wage reimbursement the employer has to comply with the Apprenticeship Act 2009 our members have to deliver the approved Framework and administer the wage reimbursement to the employer.

This programme has published numbers from a budgeting perspective but as a responsive Network we know that the budget can be increased in this priority area based on demand and a reduction made in non priority areas to address any shortfall.

Since the introduction of the YRP we have no evidence to demonstrate that demand has not been met.

Both of these programmes are directly linked to employment and in many cases they are a progression pathway from Jobs Growth Wales and Traineeship programmes both of which we will cover off in our response to Point 2.

We would question how closely aligned is the understanding of the supply of , and demand for, employment opportunities linked to the wider Pre 16 and Post 16 agenda.

With an ever increasing importance for all careers advice and guidance to be aware of the National Strategic Skills Audit for Wales. We would hope for a much better alignment of skills requirements of the economy in Wales linked into preparing individuals for the world of work.

2. Develop a modern, high –value, in-work training programme to increase young peoples employability.

We are now into the second year of the Jobs Growth Wales initiative this programme specifically creates an opportunity for young people to gain employability experience creating a platform for individuals to launch their careers directly with employers by creating a 6 month window of supported employment with an aspiration to progress onto a sustainable job.

We also have the Traineeship programme which is targeted more at the 16-19 age cohorts and this programme can also provide the foundation phase for progression onto Apprenticeship programmes.

We recognise the points made in the petition and given the finite resources available and the finite amount of opportunities that Employers in Wales are able to create and sustain we believe we have the balance right.

We are always seeking to secure a more stable commissioning of these resources and welcome any opportunity to expand high value programmes where there is identified demand based on evidence.

We have to remember that an Apprenticeship programme is an employed status programme and must be directly linked to a real job with a high expectation that the job will be maintained on completion of the Framework.

NTfW members are a quality assured Network who are committed to a flexible approach to the services that we are commissioned to provide including the development of new programmes in partnership with DfES.

Arwyn Watkins

CEO



Developing the Network to Deliver Excellence in Vocational Skills

Datblygu'r Rhwydwaith i Gyflawni Rhagoriaeth mewn Sgiliau Galwedigaethol

# Agenda Item 3.26

## **P-04-488 The right to decide an end to the compulsory study of Welsh to GCSE**

### **Petition wording:**

We the undersigned call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to change the policy which makes it compulsory for pupils in English medium secondary schools in the Principality to study Welsh to GCSE level. This should be a matter of choice for the pupils and their parents.

**Petition raised by:** David Fitzpatrick

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 18 June 2013

**Number of signatures:** 51



Huw Lewis AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau  
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/00739/13

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dear William,

9 July 2013

Thank you for your letter dated 26 June regarding a petition received from David Fitzpatrick, which opposes the compulsory requirement for pupils in English-medium secondary schools to study Welsh to GCSE level.

The Welsh Government is currently undertaking a review of assessment and the National Curriculum in Wales. A further independent group is reviewing the teaching of Welsh second language, and in particular, has been asked to consider what changes should be made to the teaching and assessment of Welsh second language at key stages 3 and 4. This review is due to conclude in September 2013, and I expect to publish the report and recommendations in the autumn. The review of Welsh second language will contribute to the wider review of assessment and the National Curriculum.

Mr Fitzpatrick has previously been in contact with my department and was made aware of the ongoing review into the teaching of Welsh second language in a letter dated 2 October 2012 and a subsequent e-mail dated 5 October. The review group will be made aware of the petition and I will ask them to consider the matter as they prepare their recommendations.

*Best Regards*  
*Huw*

**Huw Lewis AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau  
Minister for Education and Skills

**P-04-488 The right to decide: an end to the compulsory study of Welsh to GCSE - Correspondence from the petitioner to the Clerking team, 20.08.13**

Dear Ms Giddings,

Thank you for the email and a further opportunity to contribute. My fundamental objection to compulsory Welsh GCSE is the fact of compulsion. Why, if it such a benefit to Welsh pupils, must you force Anglophones to study Welsh to quite a high level? What do the pupils think? Both those who will study and those who have completed the course. Did Mr Lewis and/or his advisors think to conduct a poll of Welsh youth or their parents? Absent such a poll I do not think any review could be described as an honest or thorough exercise in policy determination.

It would appear that Welsh speaking is in decline. A matter which much saddens me. Possibly, it is because its most strident advocates of Welsh speaking have failed to sell a good product. For me, Welsh has its place in the cultural and spiritual life of the nation. It is not the language of business, nor of science, nor the professions. Nor should it be a badge of entitlement in public office or civil service. Otherwise, is to exclude a large majority. But, how do you sell Hwyl? Never by compulsion.

Yours sincerely,  
David Fitzpatrick

## **P-04-447 : Campaign for Statue of Henry VII in Pembroke**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to fund a statue of Henry VII in Pembroke, town of his birth and birthplace of the Tudor Dynasty. There is no statue or memorial in the town of this man. A statue could improve the economy of the town as a Tudor must-visit place.

**Petition raised by:** Nathen Amin

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 15 January 2013

**Number of signatures:** 144

John Griffiths AC /AM  
Y Gweinidog Diwylliant a Chwaraeon  
Minister for Culture and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-447  
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/00746/13

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

17 May 2013

*Dear William,*

Thank you for your letter of 24 April regarding a petition to fund a statue of Henry VII in Pembroke. In his previous response, the Minister for Housing Regeneration and Heritage set out details of further interpretation plans for the Middle Ages and you have asked for further details.

Cadw intends to commission an interpretation plan later this year titled 'Security, Prosperity and Anarchy 1420 to 1750' as part of the Pan Wales Heritage Interpretation Plan. This plan will encompass the political, social and religious changes which took place during the period 1420-1750, including the Tudor period, and will identify key themes and stories to be presented to visitors, including sites and locations where they are most clearly manifested.

The plan will cover the whole geographic area of Wales, adopting a broad perspective and considering multiple viewpoints to explain the events of the period not only from the position of the powerful and wealthy but also as it was experienced by the majority of the Welsh population. The plan is not intended to be prescriptive in that it will not detail specific interventions or media at specific monuments or sites, rather it will encourage what part of the story needs to be told at a particular monument or site and by means of a form of delivery which is relevant, appropriate but thought provoking.

I am attaching a link to the headline Pan Wales Heritage Interpretation Plan, of which this new thematic plan forms a subsidiary.

<http://cadw.wales.gov.uk/interpretation/Overview/?jsessionid=0E0875F499EE0508CAE52F8894184820?lang=en>

I hope you will find this information helpful.

Yours,



**John Griffiths AC / AM**

Y Gweinidog Diwylliant a Chwaraeon  
Minister for Culture and Sport

**P-04-447 Campaign for Statue of Henry VII in Pembroke –  
Correspondence from the petitioner to the Clerking team, 06.09.13**

I have little to say outside of the initial petition however I would like to add that I truly believe a statue in Pembroke would help raise awareness and publicity for the town inside and outside Wales and would help increase tourism to the area. We possess a true Tudor gem and by helping the Castle trust can turn this area into a profitable tourist attraction. The author Alison Weir regularly offers tours around England's Tudor sites and these market for over £4000 per person. With the added attraction of a statue in South West Wales there is no reason why we cant appeal to the people who pay such figures to travel throughout England to make the same journey through Wales. One also needs to acknowledge the great success of the BBC's recent drama The White Queen which prominently featured the story of Henry Tudor to realise this is a prosperous time for the industry.

Although I dont envisage the same sums of money, I note a recent news story regarding the potential 'Man of Steel' statue mooted for Sheffield, where it has been claimed it will provide a £9m boost to the local economy.

The statue will be popular amongst local historians, aficonados from further afield and perhaps local schools on day trips.

Thank you, Nathen Amin

## **P-04-476 Restructuring in National Museum Wales**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to reconsider its funding settlement for National Museum Wales, with a view to protecting the Museum's services and the jobs, pay and conditions of its staff.

The freezing of the National Museum's grant by the Welsh Government has led to cuts of up to £2.5 million being announced, along with restructuring proposals, which would see the loss of some 35 posts, potentially detrimental impacts for more than 160 staff and the possible loss of allowances, resulting in a 20 per cent cut in take-home pay, for some of the Museum's lowest-paid employees. We believe that the proposed cuts threaten not only the living standards, jobs and security of the National Museum's loyal staff but the unique services that they offer to the people of Wales and the one and a half million visitors that come every year, including school and educational visits

**Petition raised by:** PCS Union

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 30 April 2013

**Number of signatures :** 1617

John Griffiths AC /AM  
Y Gweinidog Diwylliant a Chwaraeon  
Minister for Culture and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-476  
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/00977/13

William Powell AM  
AM for Mid & West Wales  
Chair Petitions committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@wales.gsi.gov.uk

*Dear William*

8 August 2013

Thank you for your letter of 7 May regarding PCS' petition about Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales' plans to restructure the organisation.

The response to the petition shows the very high regard in which the public holds the Museum and the contribution it makes to our cultural life, and the tourism industry in Wales.

The public sector is going through an unprecedented period of budgetary pressure and the Welsh Government has seen its overall grant from Westminster reduced. There are inevitably knock-on effects for the bodies we ourselves fund and many difficult decisions to be made. Amgueddfa Cymru has received a virtually standstill budget in 2013-14 when compared with 2012-13. This compares very favourably with equivalent bodies in England, where national museums funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have been subject to 15% revenue cuts in recent years, with further reductions announced just before Christmas. The Welsh Government is seeking to protect spending on culture, heritage in contrast to expenditure cuts elsewhere in the UK.



Nevertheless, Amgueddfa Cymru like all organisations must make some savings to its operational budget in order for it to continue to thrive and prosper in the future. The Museum estimates it needs to make savings of £2.5million over the next 2-3 years. Amgueddfa Cymru's budget on staffing, and staff costs will continue to rise as contractual incremental payments are made. Staff costs account for 80% of their overall budget. It is Amgueddfa Cymru's view that the only way to close this budget deficit is to reduce staffing costs. I have received reassurance from the senior management of the Museum that there is a continuing commitment to avoid compulsory redundancies as far as possible.

In May 2013 the Museum released its revised staffing structure following the 90 day statutory consultation period, which will see around 22 posts lost, mostly through voluntary redundancy. This contrasts with the 35 posts lost in the draft structure released in January 2013.

The proposed changes to the staffing structure are designed to support the Museum's strategic objectives and ensure the organisation can continue operating its family of seven world-class museums. Amgueddfa Cymru's long-term priorities include the creation of a National Museum of Natural Sciences at the Cathays site. This latter project is at the planning stage and will follow on from the current redevelopment work at St Fagans, and follows on from the highly successful National Museum of Art development, also at Cathays. The proposed changes to the staffing structure are designed to support these strategic objectives.

I would like to thank you for writing to me on this issue.

Yours,  
John

**John Griffiths AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Diwylliant a Chwaraeon  
Minister for Culture and Sport

Amgueddfa Cymru  
Parc Cathays, Caerdydd CF10 3NP  
Ffôn: (029) 2039 7951  
Ffacs: (029) 2057 3105

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales  
Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NP  
Tel (029) 2039 7951  
Fax: (029) 2057 3105

national  
museum  
wales  
amgueddfa  
cymru

24 May 2013

William Powell AM  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

Dear William Powell

Thank you for your letter of 7 May 2013 regarding PCS' petition about Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales' plans to restructure the organization. We welcome the opportunity to respond. I also attached a briefing note with further information about the Change Programme and restructure.

As you are aware, Amgueddfa Cymru undertook a period of consultation with staff and trade unions, regarding a proposed new structure for the organization, from 21 January 2013 to 20 April 2013. PCS - one of our recognised trade unions - represents many of Amgueddfa Cymru's staff and have fully engaged with us during this consultation period.

The collection of 1,617 signatures in support of the petition against cuts to the Museum, highlights the strong support there is for Amgueddfa Cymru going forward. It is clear that our staff feel passionately about the organization, our audiences, the collections, the professionalism of staff across all of our sites and the quality of what we offer the people of Wales.

However, faced with a reduced budget we have to find around £2.5 million in savings over the next three years. Staff costs account for 80% of our overall budget so we had no option but to review the structure of the organization to reduce these costs.

We have also reviewed how we interpret and communicate the national collections to the people of Wales and its visitors. Many of our existing visitors are highly satisfied with their visit to our museums. However, the public's needs are constantly evolving, therefore we need to ensure that our offer is also changing to meet their expectations.

Under the new structure, a total of 23 posts will be lost – 12 less than was originally proposed. Overall 134 jobs will be affected in some way, as opposed to the figure of 160 announced in January. We hope we can avoid compulsory redundancies by offering redeployment into vacant posts, and through schemes such as voluntary redundancy and early retirement.

national  
museum  
wales  
amgueddfa  
cymru



Throughout the consultation most departments across the museum have been reviewed and Amgueddfa Cymru will also be moving towards all staff receiving 'the living wage' over the next year.

In making these changes, which will be implemented from June this year, the organization will maintain its service to the public at all its sites. The new structure will not affect the day-to-day operations of the seven national museums across Wales. Amgueddfa Cymru will continue to offer visitors quality experiences at each of its museums, which together attracted over 1.75 million people last year.

We are also committed to delivering our key corporate projects such as the development of St Fagans: National History Museum. St Fagans is also the Welsh Government's highest museum priority, which is why we have been allocated £7m towards the project. In addition, it is attracting nearly £12million of HLF funding into Wales.

Through developing St Fagans, which attracts over 650,000 visitors a year, we are responding to the wishes of the people of Wales. There has been a growing call for a national history museum for many years and St Fagans has long been identified as the place where the history of Wales should be told. It will be an opportunity to present the full story of Wales's past.

It is estimated that the project will generate around 180 jobs during the construction phase. The Museum itself will generate an additional £500,000 of income per year and create an estimated £5.5m of additional income for the Cardiff area by 2020-21.

We recognize that the current financial climate poses unprecedented challenges for every public sector organisation in Wales, including Amgueddfa Cymru. This is a time of austerity and we are working within the resources available to us from the Welsh Government. We are also seeking to raise funds from other sources within and outside Wales by increasing fundraising and research income.

I thank you for your correspondence and the opportunity to provide a response.

Yours sincerely



David Anderson  
Director General  
Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

## Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales’ plans to restructure the organization

### Background

- Faced with a reduced budget Amgueddfa Cymru has to find around £2.5 million in savings over the next three years.
- Staff costs account for 80% of our overall budget so we had no option but to review the structure of the organization to reduce these costs.  
Amgueddfa Cymru also committed to reviewing how it could better research, interpret and communicate the national collection to the people of Wales, and engage with its visitors while maintaining world-class expertise across all its disciplines.

### The Consultation

- The statutory 90 day consultation period began on 21 January 2013 and ended on 20 April 2013.
- A number of different methods were offered for staff to submit their comments to ensure maximum accessibility to the process. These included:
  - A dedicated email account
  - Regular Staff Forum Meetings
  - Opportunities to meet with Directors individually
  - Team meetings and briefings attended by the Director General and Directors
  - Regular all staff briefings
  - Discussions with designated HR representatives.
- We received hundreds of responses during the consultation period from staff and trade unions. The Senior Management Team have considered all responses and these have informed the final structure.
- Staff were briefed on the final structure on 13 and 14 May 2013.
- The table below shows where these savings are being made:

	<b>Proposed Savings (outlined in the Consultation Document) £</b>	<b>Revised Savings £</b>
<b>Staff cost savings</b>		
Collections & Research	1.1m	0.92m
Learning, Exhibitions & Digital Media	0.3m	0.26m
Finance & Corporate Resources	0.1m	0.11m
<b>Staff/non-staff net cost savings</b>		
Operations	0.5m	0.71m

<b>Other initiatives re. staff</b>	0.25m	0.25m
<b>Additional income from fundraising, research, charging for facilitated visits</b>	0.25m	0.25m
<b>Total</b>	2.5m	2.5m

- 134 staff are affected by changes. The majority of these staff will be redeployed to alternative posts in the new structure.
- There are 23 fewer posts in the final structure 12 of these posts have already been lost through natural wastage.
- We hope to avoid compulsory redundancies through redeployment into vacant posts and voluntary redundancy and early retirement schemes.

The key drivers that have underpinned the approach to the Change Programme across all Divisions are:

- To reduce staff costs and headcount to enable us to meet our savings target of £2.5m, whilst also contributing to long-term savings;
- To enable us to deliver our commitment to bring a learning organization that actively promotes inclusion and participation in culture and heritage and supports the Welsh Government in addressing Child Poverty through greater cultural access and partnership working;
- To ensure that higher priority is given to engaging directly with the public in line with our stated aims
- To develop an organizational approach that is able to deliver strategic aims and is capable of changing to meet new circumstances, demands and challenges;
- To realign our staffing structure to support the creation of the three new museums outlined in the Vision – the National Museum of Art, the National History Museum and the National Museum of Natural Sciences;
- To keep the museums open to the public and continue to ensure the security of the national collections.

### Key Points

- In making these changes, which will be implemented from June this year, the organization will maintain its service to the public at all its sites. The new structure will not affect the day-to-day operations of the seven national museums across Wales. Amgueddfa Cymru will continue to offer visitors quality experiences at each of its museums, which together attracted over 1.75 million people last year.
- Going forward Amgueddfa Cymru will continue to have a strong curatorial and conservation team, made up from 120 staff, maintaining high level expertise

across all departments. We also remain committed to supporting partner projects and delivering high quality research.

- Amgueddfa Cymru also remains committed to delivering key projects such as the redevelopment of St Fagans: National History Museum, a National Museum of Natural Sciences and building on partnership work throughout Wales and beyond.
- The Natural Sciences Department will, even after the organisation, still be the largest in the UK outside of London, maintaining the Amgueddfa Cymru's core scientific expertise and a strong platform upon which to develop a new National Museum of Natural Sciences over the next five years.
- Through the proposed changes, we will maintain an effective balance between our important, internationally recognised research work and our capability of offering visitors what they expect from a public-facing national museum. We are confident that we have found a balance between the resources we commit to research and those that we put towards communicating that research to our visitors. Of the 134 affected staff:
  - 33 are from the Collections Services department
  - 34 are from the History and Archaeology department
  - 33 are from the Natural Sciences department
  - 34 are from the Learning department

Affected staff includes:

- Those taking voluntary redundancy;
- Those taking early retirement;
- Those whose terms and conditions of employment we propose to change;
  - Those on fixed-term contracts that we do not propose to renew or extend;
  - Those whose post does not appear in the new structure and as a result may be redeployed; transferred to another location or, if no alternative employment can be found, those who may be made compulsorily redundant.
- With regards to the numbers of Curatorial staff:
  - The number of curators in the History and Archaeology department will reduce from 35 to 33 posts. The new structure has been created to enable us to deliver the redevelopment of St Fagans into a National History Museum -an institutional priority.
  - The number of curators in the Natural Sciences department will go from 39 to 27 posts. It remains the largest Natural Sciences department in the UK other than the Natural History Museum in London.

- The number of curators within the small Art department will remain unchanged at 9 posts.

There is also some impact on the Operations Division. This Division has a high turnover of staff, therefore it is possible to make significant savings mainly through non-replacement of posts as they become available, rather than by losing existing staff. In addition, consideration has been given to the future staffing requirements of the Operations Division. As a result, the contribution of the Division to the overall savings will be circa £710,000 per annum.

- From the outset we wanted to ensure that staff had the opportunity to comment on and offer alternatives to what we had proposed.
- We have very much welcomed this level of engagement from staff in the process.
- It is clear from the responses we received that our staff feel passionately about Amgueddfa Cymru, our audiences, the collections, the professionalism of staff across all of our sites and the quality of what we offer the people of Wales.
- There is a perception that Amgueddfa Cymru's relationship with partners such as Cadw, Natural Resources Wales and the Heritage Lottery Fund could be under threat because of the changes. The Senior Management Team and other colleagues within the organization are in regular dialogue with these partners, and indeed many others with whom we work closely. The Heritage Lottery Fund for example were aware of the restructure and have been kept fully informed of the new developments. The History and Archaeology department has actually been structured to ensure the delivery of the redevelopment of St Fagans.

Going forward, the Senior Management Team remains confident of the delivery of the redevelopment of St Fagans: National History Museum. We will maintain and build on partnership work throughout Wales and beyond. We will also continue to drive forward key corporate initiatives such as the Child Poverty Action Plan and our social inclusion agenda.

# Agenda Item 3.29

## **P-04-397 Living Wage**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the Welsh Government to stand by their promise to work towards a living wage for every worker in Wales and tell us when and how they will make it happen.

No matter how hard they try the minimum wage simply is not enough for some parents to make ends meet and give children like us the best chance in life. The living wage means that parents who work would earn at least £7.20 an hour.

We are young campaigners working with Save the Children across the UK for change. We are campaigning for a living wage, representing the views of young people, families and communities in Wales.

**Petition raised by:** Save the Children

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 19 June 2012

**Number of signatures:** 483



Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth  
Minister for Local Government and Government Business



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-397  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/01609/13

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

16 August 2013

Dear Bill

Thank you for your letter to Jeff Cuthbert AM, Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty dated 10 July regarding the Living Wage. I am responding as this matter falls within my portfolio.

The Living Wage is a voluntary, non-statutory hourly rate of pay set by the Centre for Social Research Policy. Due to the fact it is a non-statutory rate, it is not within the powers of the Welsh Government to enforce this hourly rate, without a change in UK legislation.

Work has been going on in relation to the Welsh Government's stance on the Living Wage and a Cabinet Statement was published in November 2012 with regards to this. (A copy is enclosed)

Following a recent Cabinet discussion, the First Minister has now placed the subject of the Living Wage within the remit of the Workforce Partnership Council, the commitment within the Programme for Government is as follows,

Work with Trades Unions, employers and other stakeholders to explore ways of ensuring a Living Wage for every worker in Wales, given that low pay is a significant problem for many families and the challenges of in-work poverty remain.

I trust the Committee will now consider this petition with regard to the on-going and longer-term nature of the work involved.

Regards  
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth  
Minister for Local Government and Government Business

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**WRITTEN STATEMENT  
BY  
THE WELSH GOVERNMENT**

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**TITLE**        **The UK Living Wage in Wales**  
**DATE**        **8 November 2012**  
**BY**            **Carl Sargeant AM, Minister for Local Government and Communities**

Jobs and growth are the over-riding priorities of the Welsh Government as set out in our Programme for Government. The Welsh Government believes a strong Welsh economy is best built on fair, just and sustainable jobs, recognising the importance of work to income, health and wellbeing. This is the Wales we want our children to inherit.

The Welsh Government recognises the Living Wage as one of a range of positive actions to help alleviate the problems caused by low wages and in-work poverty in Wales, major causes of child poverty which result in long-term damaging effects on children's outcomes.

This reflects the Welsh Government's aspiration to remain a Living Wage employer and its commitment to leading and encouraging other employers in the public, third and private sectors to consider becoming a Living Wage employer.

Benefits of Living Wage can include bearing down on in-work poverty, reinforcing positive messages about work as a route out of poverty, promoting dignity and fairness in work and boosting local economies. The Welsh Government sees its own role as a major Welsh employer as strategically important in demonstrating the potential of a Living Wage for Wales and will continue to work to guide, support and inform debate on this issue whilst respecting existing employment packages and the role of Trade Union partners in free collective bargaining.

The Welsh Government acknowledges that the Living Wage is not an antidote to the challenges of poverty by itself and notes concerns about the costs and implications of implementation, particularly against the backdrop of current economic challenges. The Welsh Government also recognises the significance of the total employment package in this agenda.

The Welsh Government has established an advisory group for this purpose and will be bringing the sum of social partners' advice to an event on The Living Wage in Wales. This will be held in early 2013.

## **P-04-397 Living Wage – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Clerking team, 16.09.2013**

Dear Sian,

Sorry for this delayed reply.

I appreciate that the formal deadline has now passed for a reply from the young people who unfortunately due to school holidays and new school term commitments were only able to meet and review the correspondence yesterday evening.

In case there is still scope for feedback to be given to the Committee Members, the only question they had after reading the Minister's reply was for more information regarding the status of the Welsh Government Advisory Group on the Living Wage (on which Save the Children was given a seat as a result of this petition) and the role of this Group (which has not met for some months) within the new proposed approach of placing the Living Wage within the remit of the Workforce Partnership Council.

Could you confirm with me if the Members will definitely not receive this information prior to the next Committee meeting.

Thanks for your consideration of this matter.

Catherine

## **P-03-262 Wales Peace Institute**

### **Petition wording**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to investigate the potential for and practicality of Wales having a Peace Institute concerned with Peace and Human Rights, comparable with those supported by state governments in Flanders, Catalonia and elsewhere in Europe

**Petition raised by:** Welsh Centre for International Affairs, Cymdeithas y Cynod, Cynefin y Werin and CND Cymru

**Petition first considered by Committee:** November 2009

**Number of signatures:** 1525