

Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:
Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date:
8 October 2013

Meeting time:
09:00

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



For further information please contact:

Steve George
Committee Clerk
029 2089 8421
Petition@wales.gov.uk

Kayleigh Driscoll
Deputy Committee Clerk
029 2089 8421
Petition@wales.gov.uk

Agenda

1 Introduction, apologies and substitutions

2 New petitions (9:00 – 9:20)

2.1 P-04-504 A483 Maerdy bridge Road Junction safety (Page 1)

2.2 P-04-505 Eating Disorder Unit in Wales (Page 2)

2.3 P-04-506 Free bus pass / concessionary travel for benefit claimants, students and under 18s (Page 3)

2.4 P-04-507 A Welsh bill of rights for women and girls: adhering to CEDAW (Pages 4 - 6)

2.5 P-04-508 Restore the Glandyfi view (Page 7)

2.6 P-04-509 Save the Welsh National Tennis Centre (Page 8)

3 Updates to previous petitions (9:20 – 10:00)

Culture and Sport

3.1 P-03-263 List Stradey Park (Pages 9 - 14)

Economy, Science and Transport

3.2 P-04-393 Llanymynech and Pant Bypass Action Group (Pages 15 - 16)

- 3.3 P-04-415 Support for Designation of Highly Protected Marine Conservation Zones (Pages 17 - 33)
- 3.4 P-04-459 A direct rail connection from Cardiff Airport to Cardiff central and west Wales (Pages 34 - 36)
- 3.5 P-04-468 Road Safety Concerns A48 Chepstow (Pages 37 - 44)
- 3.6 P-04-491 A National Bank of Wales and complementary Welsh currency (Pages 45 - 49)

Local Government and Government Business

- 3.7 P-04-402 Council Prayers (Pages 50 - 52)

Health

- 3.8 P-04-413 Maternity Services in the Cynon Valley (Page 53)
- 3.9 P-04-450 Barry & Vale needs a fully functioning hospital (Page 54)

Natural Resources and Food

- 3.10 P-04-428 Alternative energy for street lighting (Page 55)

Education

- 3.11 P-04-484 EMA for all! (Pages 56 - 57)
- 3.12 P-04-485 Abuse of casual contracts in Further Education (Pages 58 - 95)

Housing and Regeneration

- 3.13 P-04-487 A Welsh Government deposit loan scheme for first time Welsh home buyers (Pages 96 - 101)
- 3.14 P-04-489 A National affordable and priority housing Act of Wales (Pages 102 - 109)

Evidence Sessions

- 4 P-04-408 Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service: Evidence Session with the Petitioner (10:00 – 10.30)** (Pages 110 - 113)

Helen Missen, Petitioner

Ruth Belk,

Susannah Humphrey, B-eat Cymru project coordinator

**5 P-04-408 Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service:
Evidence Session with the Minister for Health and Social
Services (10:30 – 11:00)**

Mark Drakeford AM, Minister for Health and Social Services

Jo Jordan, Director of Corporate Services & Partnerships

Dr Sarah Watkins, Head of Mental Health, Vulnerable Groups & Offenders.

Agenda Item 2.1

P-04-504 A483 Maerdy bridge Road Junction safety

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to improve the safety of the Maerdy Bridge Road junction on the A483 by adding a central reservation and by the installation of street lighting.

Petition raised by: Llandrinio & Arddleen Community Council

Date petition first considered by Committee: 8 October 2013

Number of signatures: 740

P-04-505 Eating Disorder Unit in Wales

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to inform the Welsh Government of the urgency and necessity to provide a specialist eating disorder unit in Wales.

Additional Information:

We would like to see a specialist eating disorder unit built in Wales to reduce the stress and disruption of traveling so far from family and friends by having to go to England to receive treatment. In 2007 the government acknowledged that there was no specialist treatment in Wales and that this needed to change, yet 5 years on we are still waiting for that change. I know from personal experience how hard it is to be in hospital so far away from home and believe that an eating disorder unit in Wales would make the process of treatment and recovery easier for welsh sufferers.

Petition raised by: Keira Marlow

Date petition first considered by Committee: 8 October 2013

Number of signatures: 526

Agenda Item 2.3

P-04-506 Free bus pass / concessionary travel for benefit claimants, students and under 18s

Petition wording:

I live in an area where wealthy landowners and owner occupiers have access to free bus travel/pass due to their age , while a few miles away benefit claimants have to pay in order to sign-on ! This is another example of the poor and vulnerable being regressively charged for a public service which is essential to their daily lives, it is unfair and unjust. To remedy this unfair system I hereby petition the Welsh Assembly to set up a scheme for the poor and vulnerable in our society to have free access to bus services in wales and concessionary fares on the rail network. This can easily be funded by transferring benefits currently being wastefully awarded to the wealthy members of society.

Additional information:

If adopted this measure will greatly assist the poor in Wales to have the basic human right to travel, access local services and, in addition: improve environment by reducing co2 emissions. Encourage use and increase capacity of public transport. Improve emotional well-being. Encourage aid employment opportunities for unemployed. Aid access to basic health care needs. Demonstrate the need for an integrated public (re-nationalised) transport system.

Petition raised by: Mark Griffiths

Date petition first considered by Committee: 8 October 2013

Number of signatures: 60

P-04-507 A Welsh bill of rights for women and girls: adhering to CEDAW

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to adhere to the principles of the international Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This would allow the Welsh Government to display a clear commitment to women's equality in Wales and ensure clear priorities for achieving this.

Additional information:

Why we want to start this petition

There are 30 articles in the convention which detail the rights of women and girls. The articles cover all issues affecting women's equality such as stereotyping, equal pay, violence against women and women in public life. We believe that in adhering to the principles of the convention women in Wales will be represented fully on an international level and enable us (WEN Wales), as an umbrella organisation to help to build a fairer society for women across Wales.

The action we want the NAW to take

In adhering to the principles of the convention the NAW will display a clear commitment to women's equality in Wales, forming the basis of decisions on the priorities and objectives of the Welsh Government and building into a set of core aims for all women across Wales.

Any action we have already taken (e.g. letters sent to or received from Welsh Government)

On 21st June, women from across Wales will come together to explore CEDAW and discuss the tools available to help women in Wales achieve gender equality at a conference organised by WEN Wales. A number of prominent activists from equality organisations across the UK will address the conference and attendees will be able to share their views on what can be done in Wales to support women to live free and equal lives.

Board members have also contacted Bethan Jenkins AM and presented the Minister with a statement of opinion. We are awaiting details on the Minister's support of the adherence to the CEDAW convention.

Full account of petition

WENWales is a community of organisations and individuals working to advance the rights of women in all spheres of Welsh life. We want to create a fairer society in which women live free from sexism and gender discrimination and enjoy equality in all aspects of their daily lives. The role of WENWales is to facilitate communication between our members; to help them coordinate their work and work in partnership and to represent women's interests at all levels of government.

About the campaign

WEN Wales is calling on the Welsh Government to ratify the international Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against women.

This would allow the Welsh Government to display a clear commitment to women's equality in Wales and ensure clear priorities for achieving this.

About the convention

The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is an international document which lists the rights of all girls and women. It is an important agreement about gender equality which says that all forms of discrimination against girls/women must end.

The convention:

- Lists the rights of **all** women and girls
- Was accepted by the UN in 1979
- Is ratified by 186 countries throughout the world
- Calls for action to ensure equal access, opportunities and results
- Requires Governments to make sure that nothing stops women and girls from enjoying their rights (including stereotypes)
- Covers direct and indirect discrimination
- Demands that a Government change laws and customs

There are 30 articles in the convention which detail the rights of women and girls. The articles cover all issues affecting women's equality such as stereotyping, equal pay, violence against women and women in public life.

CEDAW conference

On 21st June, women from across Wales will come together to explore CEDAW and discuss the tools available to help women in Wales achieve gender equality.

A number of prominent activists from equality organisations across the UK will address the conference and attendees will be able to share their views on what can be done in Wales to support women to live free and equal lives.

Petition raised by: Women's Equality Network Wales

Date petition first considered by Committee: 8 October 2013

Number of signatures: 152

Agenda Item 2.5

P-04-508 Restore the Glandyfi view

Petition wording:

Whilst generally welcoming the widening of the A487 at Glandyfi, we are extremely concerned and deeply saddened that the work has involved unnecessarily raising the wall on the seaward side of the road, which now prevents users of the road and residents from enjoying the spectacular views across the Dyfi Estuary which have formed part of the local landscape for centuries. We do not feel that the creation of a formal 'viewpoint'; makes up for the loss of the views which have heretofore been enjoyed daily by users of this important road, both visitors and locals. We therefore call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to immediately instruct the contractors to lower the wall by a sufficient amount to restore our rightful view of this beautiful and unique landscape.

Additional Information:

The long-awaited work to widen the A487 at Glandyfi is now almost complete. All regular users of the road will be very glad to see an end to the awful congestion caused by the narrow bends on the road near Glandyfi Junction.

But a totally unnecessary side-effect of the work (in addition to the building of the largest walls in Wales since Edward I) has been the construction of a new wall between the road and the Dyfi Estuary. The new wall completely hides the view of this beautiful area from the sight of passing motorists, a view which has been enjoyed by users of the road for centuries.

The old wall was only a couple of feet high, and allowed uninterrupted views of the wonderful vistas across the river and sandbanks to the hills beyond. The new wall, for reasons known only to the developers, is nearly six feet high in places, and completely blocks the view. Some new viewpoints have been created, but this does not make up for the loss.

It is not too late to change things: the wall can be reduced to a sensible height with little effort or cost, and we can again enjoy our views across the river.

Petition raised by: Nigel Callaghan

Date petition first considered by Committee: 8 October 2013

Number of signatures: 83

P-04-509 Save the Welsh National Tennis Centre

Petition wording:

Virgin Active Cardiff announced the closure of The Welsh National Tennis centre as of 23rd Aug 2013. The centre has 6 indoor courts and 7 clay, outdoor courts. The facility provides the only public indoor courts in Cardiff. The courts are used by people from all walks of life and ages, inter generational 3 to 83. All levels of playing ability including wheelchair users and those with learning difficulties, from beginner to national standard. It is a centre for promoting tennis excellence and delivers performance coaching for children and young adults. Major tennis ranking tournaments are played at this venue. Closure of this facility is a major blow to tennis in the community and the principality.

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to protect the centre and do all in its powers to secure the Welsh National Tennis Centre as a tennis playing facility.

Petition raised by: Save The Welsh National Tennis Centre

Date petition first considered by Committee: 8 October 2013

Number of signatures: 496

Agenda Item 3.1

P-03-263 List Stradey Park

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Minister for Heritage to grant listed status to Stradey Park, in order to protect the heritage of this world famous rugby ground and cultural icon for the people of Wales.

Supporting information:

The petition to list Stradey Park was inspired by calls that “*something should be done*” to protect the heritage at this world famous location. It is significant that these calls have continued after the Scarlets have moved across Llanelli to their new stadium. Stradey Park is clearly more than just a place where rugby was watched - it is part of local culture and national heritage.

A cultural icon can be defined as anything that is readily recognised, and generally represents an object or concept with great cultural significance to a wide cultural group. It may come to be regarded as having a special status as particularly representative of a particular group of people or a period in history.

Stradey Park is synonymous with the support of a Welsh community for its rugby club in the 20th century - it is undoubtedly a cultural icon.

Stradey Park has gained worldwide fame, not only for the exploits of the players who took to the famous turf, but also for the fervent support supplied by those who crammed into the stands and terraces surrounding it during the matches, and at half-time and full-time onto the pitch itself.

That support became world renown as typically Welsh, an image strengthened by songs celebrating famous victories at Stradey, such as the Max Boyce song “9-3” about the support of the community at Stradey for the 1972 victory over the All Blacks - the last by any club side in the world. “All roads led to Stradey Park”, “The day the pubs ran dry” and “I was there” all conjure up images of Stradey Park on that day and Llanelli captain Delme Thomas being carried off the pitch by fellow players, surrounded by thousands of supporters.

Stradey Park invokes images of Welsh working men completing a shift in the tinsplate works, docks or mines before playing a match in front of thousands of fellow workers of Tinopolis. The famous “sosbans” that were placed on the Stradey posts were a direct reference to Llanelli’s main export - Tinsplate - and in particular the “Stamping” Works located less than a mile from Stradey Park where saucepans were made and exported worldwide.

Stradey Park has always been known as the “most Welsh” of Welsh grounds, not least for its Welsh language scoreboard and Welsh language singing on the terraces. “Sosban Fach” is known throughout the world after it was

adopted and sung by supporters due to the “sosbans” on posts. A gymanfa ganu was held in 1972, before the All Blacks game.

Typical of a rugby ground being at the heart of a Welsh community, Stradey Park has seen many non-rugby events including hosting several other sports and annual Guy Fawkes night fireworks displays.

On 15th November 2007 the funeral of Ray Gravell was held on the Stradey Park pitch. This unique event in Welsh history – described by some in the press as “a Welsh state funeral” - was attended by 6000 mourners including leading figures in Welsh political, sporting and cultural life, with many thousands of people lining the streets outside. Images of the coffin standing on the pitch, flanked by the Eisteddfod sword bearer and the assembled tribute makers were broadcast live on S4C.

There is no doubt that Stradey Park is of great cultural and historical significance to Wales. It was a modern day battle field and particularly representative of the Welsh passion for rugby in the 20th century. The petition has achieved in excess of 3500 signatures made more significant because this was a heritage petition not a rugby petition. The petition was collected on shop counters throughout Carmarthenshire and even without much publicity it has attracted signatures because people believe that the Stradey Park pitch should be saved to mark the location and its heritage.

Although the petition is named “List Stradey Park”, and there are many that would like to see the whole stadium saved, it is generally accepted that listing Stradey Park would mean listing the Stradey Park pitch and retaining it as open space within any development. This modern day battlefield is what makes it unique because of the events that have taken place on it, obviously rugby successes and the momentous Ray Gravell “state funeral”, but also the famous Stradey Park half-time and full-time pitch invasions where families would play where their heroes had just played.

To list a sports pitch would probably require a new listing category or an amendment to an existing category. As tourism becomes ever more important in Wales, key locations of modern Welsh heritage such as Stradey Park need to be protected, so the need for the National Assembly to direct Cadw to create or adapt a listing category for sports pitches is evident.

Once a location like Stradey Park is lost under a development it becomes almost worthless. Perhaps a few tourists may be attracted to read an interpretive panel or blue plaque near the site, but the benefit to the local economy would be negligible. Places like Stradey Park need to be preserved to allow them to be marketed as tourist locations of modern Welsh heritage for the 21st century. Tourists want to be able to take to the pitch, not just read about it.

As well as the 3500+ signatures and a Facebook group of over 520 members, several local organisations including Llanelli Town Council and Llanelli Rural Council support the aims of the petition to protect the Stradey Park pitch. However none of these groups has the power to deliver that protection.

The petition has received international support, as well as support from other parts of Wales and the UK showing clearly that Stradey Park is of national importance. Locally, the petition has also received the support of former Llanelli, Wales and Lions greats such as Delme Thomas and Phil Bennett.

A website supporting the petition can be found at www.stradeyparkpetition.co.uk. Further information to support a listing, from the kind provision in 1879 of land within its boundary walls by the Stradey Estate, through to the closure of the ground in October 2008, can be supplied.

Petition Raised by: Mr V Jones

Petition first considered by Committee: November 2009

Number of signatures: 4383

John Griffiths AC /AM
Y Gweinidog Diwylliant a Chwaraeon
Minister for Culture and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-263
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/00979/13

William Powell AM
AM for Mid & West Wales
Chair Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

1 August 2013

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 26 June about the lead petitioner, Mr Vaughan Jones', request for Cadw to spot-register the pitch at Stradey Park. My officials in Cadw also received the request direct from Mr Jones and have replied explaining that too many key features have been lost for the pitch to be registered.

To be included on the *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest*, any sporting or recreational venue will usually need to retain all or most of its component parts in situ. My officials therefore considered the request to register the pitch in its context as one component of a wider sporting complex, which included the stadium, ancillary buildings, structures and land. Cadw recognises the cultural significance of the game of Rugby to the Welsh nation and the notable historical associations attached to Stradey Park. However, it is considered that notwithstanding the retention of the pitch, the complex as a whole has lost too many of its key features (for example the stadium, the posts, scoreboard, stands etc) to be included on the Register.

I understand that this decision will be disappointing for the petitioner but Cadw will continue to take forward guidance relating to the protection of sporting heritage as part of the package of measures being developed in connection with the Heritage Bill.

John Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Diwylliant a Chwaraeon
Minister for Culture and Sport

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: John.Griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk
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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
27th September 2013

Dear Ms Giddins,

RE: P-03-263 List Stradey Park

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Correspondence received from the Minister for Culture and Sport regarding Cadw's refusal to include the pitch at Stradey Park on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

Naturally, the decision is disappointing for both me and the 5500 people who signed the petition and possibly indicates why Cadw is considered by many to be out of touch with the people for whom it is supposedly protecting heritage.

Cadw's reasoning for refusal - "the complex as a whole has lost too many of its key features (for example the stadium, the posts, scoreboard, stands etc) to be included on the Register" – makes it impossible for any such place that does not include listed buildings to achieve inclusion on the Register if they are part of a development site.

As identified in the Cadw consultation document published earlier this year, many buildings with sporting use are protected due to listing, but it is the architectural merits of the building that have enabled its protection not the sporting heritage itself. In a discussion with Cadw in 2005 regarding the pitch, it was clear that having it included on the Register would prove impossible due to the existing criteria and their strict interpretation. However, within the consultation document by the Head of Regeneration and Conservation she states "... as the scope of the Register includes '... designed grounds... and places of recreation', **sporting venues would be eligible for consideration in their own right.**" [my emphasis]. These comments indicating a change of interpretation of the current criteria resulted in the recent official request to consider the Stradey Park pitch for inclusion on the Register. It was, therefore, very surprising and disappointing that Cadw appeared to ignore their research over the last two years and use the same reasons for not including on the Register as they suggested in 2005.

In the case of Stradey Park, the new owners want to build as many homes as possible. The Stradey Park stadium had no structures worthy of listing so the developer was able to demolish them. Once the structures were demolished the pitch which was the subject of the petition was no longer valid to be included on the Register.

This is not what the public, who Cadw is supposedly protecting heritage for, wanted. Nobody claimed that the stands or posts were worthy of listing. We wanted recognition of the "battlefield" of Stradey Park where, like other pitches, famous victories had taken place, but also a place unique in world rugby where the public were able to join the teams on the pitch at half-time and full-time, where the funeral service for Ray Gravell was held not to mention many other services where ashes were scattered. All we were asking for was that Cadw recognised the importance of

the pitch to Welsh life and history over the last century and subsequently the pitch would be retained within the 23 acre housing development.

We could, of course, have hoped for Carmarthenshire County Council to insist on the retention of the pitch, but they had waived the requirement for any affordable housing within the 450 home application and reduced the open space requirement from the recommended 2.6 hectares for a site of this size to only 0.9 hectares on the sloping banks of an opened up stream underneath electricity pylons. Instead they required a £5.6million Section 106 payment all of which was given to the Scarlets (in advance from the Council Reserves) to fund their new stadium. All this on a site which is 63% C2 flood plain. Only in Wales?

As well as the petition and the planning process I also directly approached the developer to try and get it to retain the pitch. I believe that retention of the pitch as a village green would enhance the development but they refused. They also refused to retain the aerial footprint of the pitch within the development. Perhaps this is something Cadw could and should discuss with the developer as it is a small nod to the past in such a massive development.

I strongly feel that Cadw has let down Welsh heritage over Stradey Park. Based on previous correspondence considered by the Petitions Committee, Cadw apparently recognised the historical importance of Stradey Park, but did nothing to help its protection. It appears to have hidden behind the lack of physical structures rather than consider the historical merit of the sporting heritage of the location. If it felt (despite recent comments) that it could not include Stradey Park on the Register due to the outdated criteria but recognised its historical importance, why didn't it make a public statement encouraging retention and put the County Council and developer on the spot? Cadw appears to be a slow moving under staffed organisation which needs more resources and to be allowed to use its teeth. If the future prosperity of Wales is to be partially built on heritage tourism, Cadw must be allowed to exercise strength.

I would be grateful if the Petitions Committee could establish why Cadw's decision considered the lack of built structures remaining at Stradey Park and appeared to ignore the findings of the consultation document it published earlier this year where it suggested sporting venues could already be considered in their own right. Is the Committee in a position to request that Cadw speaks to the developer to achieve some recognition for the pitch? The "9-3 Square" proposed by the Former Players Association is a concrete structure amongst more concrete listing the names of past players, and is not even remotely close to what this 5500 signature petition was trying to achieve.

I would also be grateful for an update on Local Listing as this is an area of the planning process that many people in Llanelli interested in heritage would like to see implemented and adhered to.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Jones

Agenda Item 3.2

P-04-393 Llanymynech and Pant Bypass Action Group

Petition wording:

We call upon the Welsh Government to reinstate plans for the bypass of the villages of Pant and Llanymynech which straddle the English/Welsh border. 15,000 cars and lorries a day pass through these two villages, and it will only increase once the plans for the wind farms get the go-ahead. We call upon the government now to proceed with their plans, or at least open up talks on the bypass and have a full debate, listening to our needs and the voices from our community on how this road is affecting us and our quality of life. We hope, by doing this, that the English government will then take note and proceed with plans on their side. We would like a full and open debate on the need for a bypass for the villages of Pant and Llanymynech, which then, will develop into the actual construction of the bypass once funds are available.

We are fed up of the noise, the pollution, the fact that we cannot walk our children to school, walk to the shops, or walk our dogs along the road. Road improvements such as widening, will not work here. The road was initially designed as a single track lane for horses and carts. The houses on both sides of the road often touch the edge of the road, and there are many lanes which feed onto the A483, which will again make it unsuitable for improvements. A bypass is the only option we feel, taking the road from Llyncllys (which is absolutely deadly) around the villages of Pant and Llanymynech and joining the new bypass by the edge of Llandysilio. This is the main trunk road between Manchester and Swansea, and it is not fit for purpose. We have many MPs and AMs on our side and we are determined to get this done, and have a full debate in the Assembly on the subject.

Petition raised by: Duncan Borthwick

Date petition first considered by Committee: 29 May 2012

Number of signatures 84

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-04-393
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/02342/13
William Powell AM

Kayleigh.driscoll@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

02 August 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 23 July seeking further information regarding improvement options for the A483 through the village of Llanymynech.

My officials are still investigating potential options. This is proving challenging given the carriageway through the village is already wide, the 30mph speed limit is appropriate for the character of the road and congestion develops on the narrower sections of A483 to the north within England.

I will write to you again once this work has reached a conclusion in the Autumn.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Edwina Hart', written in a cursive style.

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

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Agenda Item 3.3

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



WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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-04-415 Support for Designation of Highly Protected Marine Conservation Zones – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Clerking team, 23.09.13

Dear Sian,

Thank you for your e-mail, and the previous one advising that any further comments needed to be submitted by 15 September. Unfortunately time got away from me and I missed that deadline. Nevertheless, I would be grateful if you could forward to the members of the Petitions Committee the attached two articles I was invited to contribute to *Natur Cymru*. They speak for themselves and, I trust, capture my views on the Ministerial statement on MCZs.

Best wishes,

Blaise Bullimore



Gloom or hope? – an update

Blaise Bullimore updates his assessment of the prospects for marine nature conservation which appeared in Natur Cymru 47 (Summer 2013).

The scores are in and it's marine conservation nul points. It is back to the drawing board for possible new Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), and the dashing of any hope that Skomer Marine Nature Reserve (MNR) might become an MCZ with even slightly improved protection in the foreseeable future.

Alun Davies, Minister for Natural Resources and Food, made his expected statement on MCZs and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Wales on 18 July. Welsh Government (WG) aspirations for the marine environment's future were made clear: ensuring Welsh seas and their

biodiversity are healthy and robust enough "to support the demands we put upon them now and in the future", since many people in Wales rely upon and use them "to support their livelihoods and recreational activities". This utilitarian vision becomes even clearer with reference to developing WG's "blue growth agenda". Nothing about biodiversity or wildlife conservation for either their inherent importance or even for the ecosystem support functions that marine biodiversity underpins. It's crystal clear: the economy first, marine environmental conservation a poor second.

The Minister told us we need to

understand more about the wide range of marine habitats and species that are already protected. Yet the MCZ consultation document listed over 140 relevant survey and monitoring reports. We can always do with knowing more, though we'll never know everything our opponents demand.

We're also told that (another) assessment of Wales's current MPAs will be commissioned to identify any gaps and the options to fill those gaps. Is it too much to hope that by "gaps" he means both deficiencies in the protection of biodiversity in existing MPAs and some omissions from the network of sites? But gap filling, we are told, will need to be "proportionate". Could this possibly be code to indicate that long-term conservation measures, of benefit to all of society, mustn't get in the way

Blaise Bullimore



Out of sight, out of mind: few people get to experience marine wildlife in its natural habitat, or to witness its destruction.

To the Editor:

I was interested to read the article "Marine Conservation in Wales" in your magazine no 47. It seems to me there is a lack of interest in this subject because of lack of information. There are frequent references to damage being caused to marine areas but almost no pictures showing mature areas, before and after scallop dredging, with follow-up pictures showing how long it takes for recovery. People, myself included, are left to imagine the havoc caused. What happens under the sea is hidden from the large majority of people and the conservation issues seem not to be illustrated. I feel that all the effects of damaging agents need to be visually publicised to show what is happening and to stimulate interest.

*Yours faithfully
John Ferguson*

of the short-term economic interests of a few? The statement also refers to 125 current MPAs covering 36% of Welsh seas. I mentioned previously how the simple quotation of the percentage of sea that is "protected" is deceptive, but alluding to this apparently large number of MPAs is far more disingenuous.

Most of these "MPAs" are intertidal Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), many primarily designated for wildlife features such as birds, and salt marshes, or

designated sites that are nested one within another. Carmarthen Bay & Estuaries European Marine Site (EMS), for example, includes two Special Protection Areas, a Ramsar site and 17 SSSI within its footprint - so that takes care of 21 of those 125. Each of the five large Welsh EMS includes a similar number of SPAs and SSSIs. If Wales really had 125 discrete, well-managed MPAs we'd be exceptionally well provided for: we don't. In reality we have a handful of MPAs and most are far from well enough managed or effective - as the Countryside Council for Wales's 2012 reports on MPA management to WG made abundantly clear.

The report from the MCZ Task and Finish Group accompanied the Minister's statement. This report faithfully mentioned the divergence of consultee views, but it neglected to include the analysis of MCZ consultation responses that had been in a draft provided to the Stakeholder Group, or to note that 81% of responses supported MCZ designation. Instead it laboured minority beliefs that MCZs would negatively impact on Wales's maritime economy. Bearing in mind this Group included just two conservation representatives but three WG officers (two fisheries) amongst its seven members, its recommendations to dismiss the proposed sites and to repeat much previously completed work are less than surprising. Yet both the statement and the report had conspicuous omissions.

Skomer MNR was not mentioned in the statement, but the pronouncement that all proposed MCZs were being withdrawn

prompted BBC Wales news to report under the headline *New marine zone plans scrapped by minister* that "Skomer was one of the proposed zones but the minister will now look at the 125 existing marine areas." Cue confusion for the public and a splendid potential excuse for anyone intent on mischief-making.

The merger of Welsh Government's marine and fisheries functions, in a new Marine & Fisheries Division within the WG Agriculture and Food portfolio, is another indication of political priorities. Eight of the ten short-term priority tasks for the new division's initial six months are fisheries actions. Alun Davies describes the sea as a "living resource" with "significant sustainable economic potential", albeit "needing careful management"; and the only sector he identifies for helping WG deliver a "healthy and productive" marine environment is the fishing industry. And observe that although the now compulsory word "sustainable" is used, it is associated with the economy and not the environment.

Nevertheless, Alun Davies reassures us that he is "aware of some elements that may need strengthening" and promises to "outline" any necessary changes in a Marine and Fisheries Action Plan scheduled for November. I assume and hope he is speaking about environmental protection and wildlife conservation so I guess we mustn't give up hope yet. But I'm still not holding my breath watch this space.

Blaise Bullimore is a European Marine Site Officer, consultant and Skomer MNR Honorary Warden.



Marine nature conservation in Wales:

gloom or hope?

The struggle to win the attention of the public and the will of politicians to the cause of the conservation of nature at sea has not been easy.

BLAISE BULLIMORE
describes the slow progress that has been made, the part that Skomer Marine Nature Reserve has played, and the uncertain prospects for effective marine conservation management.

I first got involved with marine nature conservation in my twenties. I've just turned sixty. Over three decades have flown by and Wales still doesn't have a single square metre of seabed completely protected from damaging and exploitative activities. That's right – not one fully protected marine wildlife area in Welsh waters, although the seas around NW Europe have long been amongst the most pressured and overexploited on the planet. Marine wildlife's low profile has doubtless hindered its protection, but the cause has been insufficient political will to take the action needed.

It takes effort to see most marine wildlife first hand. From the 1950s onwards, scuba diving brought the shallowest 40 metres into view, and this played a major part in the origins of British marine nature conservation. Marine biologists and recreational divers came to understand and appreciate the wealth of marine life and its vulnerability.

In 1965, diving members of the newly established Underwater Association



for Scientific Research wrote to the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), the parent body of the Nature Conservancy (predecessor of the current nature conservation agencies) recommending that some subtidal areas be set aside for protection. Skomer was one of three locations specifically suggested.

The roots of marine nature conservation in Wales can be traced to the Field Studies Council's (FSC) Pembrokeshire Dale Fort Field Centre (DFFC) in the late 1960s, and it too was triggered by scuba diving. Increasing numbers of professional marine scientists visiting DFFC, with its developing focus on subtidal biology, coincided with the rapid development of recreational diving.

Collection of shellfish and curios by divers landing at nearby Martin's Haven had become conspicuous and a point of conflict with local fishermen. This combination fostered a growing awareness that effective environmental stewardship might be as necessary in the sea as on land.

Dr Robin Crump joined DFFC for a year in 1969 and promptly set about organising underwater ecology courses for divers. These were welcomed, and attended by senior officers of the British Sub-aqua Club and Welsh Association of Sub-aqua Clubs (WASAC). Through these courses DFFC staff developed a broad picture of the area's subtidal ecology around the Dale and Marloes peninsulas. In 1971 the FSC's annual report recorded that under Robin's successor, Peter Hunnam, every course was booked to capacity.

The Centre's staff began a dialogue with the Nature Conservancy and Skomer Island's managers, the West Wales Naturalists Trust, to consider how an 'underwater nature reserve' might be established. The following year NERC invited DFFC to submit data to support the case for such reserves.

Skomer Island had become a National Nature Reserve for its nesting sea birds in 1959. Despite the sea's importance as the food source for the island's nesting birds, the marine environment had little respect: one early island warden recorded how empty food tins were thrown into the sea to dispose of them!

Following pressure from concerned organisations and individuals and parliamentary questions, NERC convened a working party on marine wildlife conservation. Its 1973 report concluded that there was insufficient ecological knowledge or evidence of risk to justify designation of marine reserves. It also forecast difficulties securing engagement by fisheries managers. Although there was a shortage of information at that time, these impediments – now excuses – are still alive and well.

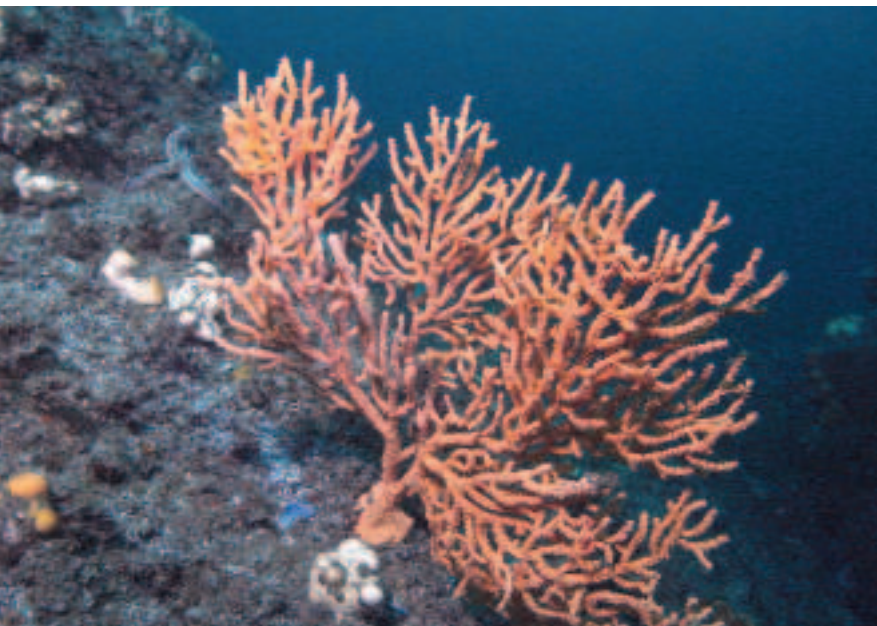
A scientific seminar on marine conservation was convened at North Wales' Menai Bridge marine laboratory. Agreements were made to start tackling the problems and the Skomer/Martin's Haven area was one of the few locations discussed as a potential marine protected area (MPA).

In Pembrokeshire, Peter Hunnam and colleagues surveyed underwater habitats from Gateholm, around Skomer, to east of Martin's Haven, confirming the presence of a wide diversity of habitats and species.

Skomer becomes a voluntary marine reserve

By 1974 a steering committee was established to develop a voluntary marine reserve. On declaration of the Skomer Marine Reserve (SMR) in 1976, it evolved into the ambitiously named Management Committee, with Robin Crump as Scientific Secretary and WASAC providing the chairman.

The steering committee had initially struggled to engage the South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee



Broad or pink sea fans (*Eunicella verrucosa*) are one of the few marine invertebrates specifically identified for protection in the Wildlife and Countryside Act, but colonies are disappearing in the Skomer MNR.



Sea slug *Okenia elegans*

conservation benefits are still accumulating.

Despite a management plan, an inclusive

(SWSFC - the local fisheries management body) until the intervention of Pembrokeshire-based SWSFC member Paul Raggett. The Committee gave an assurance that there was no intention at that time to try and curtail the then current 'traditional' pot-fishing effort as there was no evidence of harm - not that anyone had looked for any evidence of effects! Although these important caveats were recorded, they have been overlooked by the fishing industry ever since.

However, scallop-dredging impacts were a worry. Divers were able to see the damage which dragging over a ton of toothed scallop dredges caused to the seabed and its wildlife, and it became a potent focus for conservation campaigns, but the SWSFC wanted strong evidence that dredging caused damage in the proposed Marine Nature Reserve (MNR). In 1985, with SWSFC support and cooperation from a local fisherman, an experimental investigation of dredging's impacts was undertaken. The SWSFC accepted the resulting evidence and introduced a byelaw prohibiting dredging, beam trawling and collecting scallops by any method before the statutory MNR was legally designated. The consequential

Management Committee and the distribution of an SMR leaflet, the voluntary reserve's success was expected to be limited as there was neither staff nor resources for management. Consequently the SMR Committee welcomed the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) provisions for statutory MNRs and the inclusion of Skomer in the Nature Conservancy Council's (NCC) list of the first seven proposed MNRs.

Establishment of a statutory Marine Nature Reserve

A consultation on a proposed statutory MNR around Skomer and the Marloes Peninsula began in 1987 with the NCC making great efforts to liaise with consultees and Skomer Marine Reserve users. The proposal was judged an improvement on the voluntary SMR because it would legally re-enforce the existing code of conduct and bring resources to manage the MNR. Except for scallop fishing, it avoided tackling the difficult issue of fisheries management – commercial or recreational – because of the Government policy requirement for total consensus before it would designate an MNR. This policy, as much as the weak legislative provisions, eventually killed the MNR process.



Lomanotus genei

Two thirds of the British sea-slug list has been recorded in the Skomer MNR including species new to Britain and to science.



Limacia clavigera.

The consultation negotiations ran for four years. Compromises were made, including dropping some proposed byelaws, and the Skomer MNR was designated in July 1990, just months prior to the NCC being dissolved and the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) established.

Over two decades later, the on-water public engagement and deterrence patrolling, coupled with onshore outreach and education, have secured the support of most users. Biological monitoring, including valuable volunteer 'citizen science' projects, has recorded real conservation gains, such as the dramatic recovery of the scallop population, the most diverse animal communities in Wales in formerly dredged areas, and an increase in the size of the Reserve's sea-grass bed. These successes were dependent on the expertise and dedicated effort of the MNR's staff, CCW's continued resourcing and staffing of the Reserve, the SWSFC's scallop fishing byelaw and the support of the MNR Advisory Committee which evolved from the former Management Committee.

Not surprisingly, problems remain. Over time it became clear that 'low-impact' shellfish potting was not quite so benign as had been popularly assumed. On Advisory Committee recommendation, a proposal for a 'no take zone' was developed in 2003. The proposal took two years of careful negotiations and would have enabled the fishermen then using

the MNR to phase out their effort over ten years, and angling to continue in the most popular area: it was rejected by the SWSFC. Shellfish potting effort then almost doubled in the following three years.

After Skomer, only one further MNR was designated and the MNR provisions became increasingly criticised by the conservation community, academics and environmental lawyers as too weak and ineffective. Unfortunately, in the haste to advocate for stronger marine nature conservation legislation, the achievements of Skomer MNR and the lessons it provided were frequently overlooked.

The Menai Strait was one of the other original sites on NCC's MNR shortlist. Although considerable effort went into seeking support for its designation there were many objections, some to MNRs in principle, and the proposal was quietly forgotten when European Marine Special Areas of Conservation came over the horizon.

European Marine Sites

When the UK regulations implementing the 1992 European Community Habitats and Species Directive and its pan-Europe system of protected sites – the *Natura 2000* series – appeared, they contained special provisions for marine *Natura 2000* sites, grandly titled European Marine Sites (EMS). With brand-new EMS centre stage, MNRs faded from the

collective memory and any aspirations to designate more evaporated.

However, there were ominous similarities between the regulations and the discredited MNR sections of the 1981 WCA. Also, rather than identifying any one organisation as having responsibility for managing EMS, the regulations gave a duty to all relevant public bodies to “*exercise their functions so as to secure ... compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive*” and enabled them to collaborate to develop a management scheme – if they felt like it. Whilst a collaborative, consensus approach



Scallop (*Pecten maximus*) population density in suitable habitat has increased by over 25 fold since dredging was banned in the MNR.



appears attractive, EMS management schemes have gone on to demonstrate the difficulty of obtaining the necessary consensus and commitment to management action.

Most marine habitats listed for protection in the Directive are large physiographic features, so it appeared to make sense to select few large sites: just five wholly Welsh EMS and two cross-border estuary EMS cover over 70% of the coastline and 36% of territorial sea area (see back cover). The other UK countries selected many, mostly fairly small, sites.

It looks like a lot of protection, and it might be if designation equalled protection; unfortunately it doesn't. The relevant authorities for all except one EMS formed collaborative groups, which developed management schemes for each site. These consensus schemes took a long time to produce and the need to keep every authority engaged resulted in failures to agree on some issues and the omission of some necessary actions. Despite the schemes resulting in good liaison and outreach work it is difficult to identify changes to management resulting in conservation benefit. Known threats remain ineffectively managed; for example, illegal scallop

dredging continues and little effort goes into enforcing regulations.

Widespread discontent about the failures of the MNR process, and of EMS management, fuelled conservation NGO lobbying of government to introduce stronger marine nature conservation legislation throughout the late 1990s

and 2000s, which finally reached the statute book in 2009.

Marine Conservation Zones

The 2009 Marine and Coastal Access Act repealed MNR legislation and introduced provisions for Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs): the MNR is dead, long live the MCZ! But the MCZ management model is almost identical to that for EMS, despite its apparent lack of effectiveness. Simply giving public authorities a duty to do their jobs in a way that they think will support, or at least not hinder, achieving conservation objectives is just not good enough.

Also, as the primary purposes of Welsh Government's (WG) Fisheries Unit are to support and develop the industry, there is an inherent conflict of interest between fisheries exploitation and conservation goals.

In 2009 WG consulted on 'Protecting Welsh Seas', a draft strategy for Welsh MPAs and their contribution to an ecologically coherent UK network. Having taken advice from CCW, WG stated its intention to use the new powers to create highly protected MCZs (HPMCZs), within which no extraction, deposition or damaging activities would be permitted.

However, by the time a prolonged, complicated and secretive site selection process was completed, WG's rationale for its HPMCZ approach had either been forgotten by the public or had never come to many people's notice at the time. The consultation was so mishandled that it was a master-class in how not to carry one out! The consultation document was inaccessible, ambiguous and misleading. It unnecessarily alarmed many people and seemingly alienated everyone, including those naturally sympathetic to marine conservation. Failures to plan engagement with any interests other than fisheries, or to proactively engage with local communities adjacent to proposed sites, were serious errors of judgement. Legitimate confusion was worsened by misinformation that was repeated by economic self-interests and ideologically opposed protestors, but which went uncorrected by WG, who demonstrated a clear pro-fisheries bias.

Although considerable information had been collected in the 40 years since NERC's 1973 report, the evidence used to make the case for HPMCZs was criticised as insufficient. The contribution of dozens

of selfless, conscientious, volunteer Seasearch survey divers was vilified and discounted by objectors. It doesn't matter how much ecological information is collected, it never seems to be sufficient, nor good enough. Yet, the same standards of evidence are not demanded from challengers to MPAs, whose assertions of potential economic losses are accepted without question.

Wales Environment Link mounted vibrant advocacy campaigns for MCZ provisions in the 2009 Act and, later, their application, but in the face of the vitriolic objections to Wales' initial HPMCZ proposals its NGO members – with the notable exception of the Marine Conservation Society – suddenly back-pedalled. Promotion of comprehensive proactive protection was diluted to supporting reactive 'risk-based' management and 'sustainable' harvesting in MCZs. It's sad to see such double standards applied to the sea: would a suggestion to 'sustainably' crop the puffin and shearwater populations on Skomer – using indiscriminate traps that damage habitats and crush sensitive vegetation – not be greeted with horror by these same NGOs?



Spiny starfish, sponges, swimming crab and soft corals.



Grazing Common or Edible sea urchins (*Echinus esculentus*). Depletion of their predators by fishing can result in population increases which may over-graze habitats

An 'alternative' to HPMCZs published by the fishing industry was widely, though naively, greeted with open arms. Its core recommendation was to adopt almost the exact approach that EMS management has followed for over a decade, but with a twist – 'co-management' by the fishing industry. Whilst fishermen should indeed be involved in marine management, their industry's track record of self-control and compliance with regulation leaves so much to be desired that it does not inspire confidence in co-management.

After a silent period following the consultation, a Task and Finish Group was appointed by the environment minister to "reflect on" the almost 7000 responses to the consultation and, advised by a Stakeholder Focus Group, to "fully explore all the information received, to inform how we move ahead with MCZs". Though outputs from these Groups were not shared widely, what trickled out revealed that, rather than an overwhelming opposition to the initial proposals, 81% of consultation responses supported HPMCZs. Yet, because many of these had been stimulated by environmental NGO campaigns, they seemed to have been considered less valid than objections. Recommendations went to the minister at the end of April. Time will tell what they are and what the minister decides to do, but it's looking like Skomer

MNR will be renamed an MCZ and everything else will be scrapped and we'll start again.

A National Assembly for Wales' Environment and Sustainability Committee marine policy inquiry reported in January this year that, four years after the 2009 Act, WG had not delivered on the responsibilities it had been given and that the marine environment in Wales had not been given sufficient priority.

Marine conservation in Wales is struggling. The success and value of the single MNR has been underappreciated almost since the day it was designated, and EMS implementation has been, at best, disappointing. At present the MCZ process seems to have set progress back, not moved it forward. Where will marine conservation in Wales be in five years' time? Comprehensive and effective EMS management and several fully protected and well resourced and managed MCZs, starting with Skomer, would be marvellous, but given the history of false optimism I trust you will forgive me for not planning to hold my breath.

Blaise Bullimore was the Skomer MNR's first manager and is now a European Marine Site Officer, consultant and Skomer MNR Honorary Warden and scientific dive team volunteer.

Acknowledgements

The author extends his grateful thanks to Robin Crump, Stephen Evans, Keith Hiscock, Peter Hunnam, Lucy Kay, Steve Morrell and the Skomer MNR team for their memories, help and records of early marine conservation efforts in Wales.

Gwarchod natur y môr yng Nghymru: gobaith ynteu anobaith?

Nid yw'r frwydr i ennyn sylw'r cyhoedd ac ewyllys da gwleidyddion tuag at warchod natur y môr wedi bod yn hawdd. Mae BLAISE BULLIMORE yn disgrifio'r cynnydd araf sydd wedi'i wneud, y rhan y mae Gwarchodfa Natur Forol Sgomer wedi'i chwarae, a'r dyfodol ansicr sy'n wynebu rheoli cadwraeth y môr.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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

By e-mail via Petitions Committee secretariat

30 September 2013

Dear Mr Powell,

Petition P-04-415 Marine Conservation Zones

Thank you for agreeing to reconsider my petition at your next meeting following the very late arrival prior to your last meeting on 24 September - for which I apologise - of copies of my two recent articles in *Natur Cymru*.

Whilst I am well aware of the Ministers announcement on MCZs and the withdrawal of the list of proposed highly protected MCZs, the issue has not gone away. His announcement included:

- a statement that he wants to understand more about the wide range of marine habitats and species that are already “protected”;
- a commitment to an assessment of current MPAs to identify if there are any gaps;
- a statement that he is aware of elements that may need strengthening;
- and recognition that existing sites need to be well-managed to achieve their conservation objectives.

To avoid unnecessary repetition, I refer you to reiterate the points I made in my letters to you and members of your Committee in my letters of 19 October 2012 and 29 January 2013. The points made therein describing the need for hpMCZs, criticising the process undertaken to date and providing some pre-emptive answers to the bullets above still stand.

Nevertheless I again stress that much of the argument presented in opposition to the MCZ proposals is based on false premises. What is perhaps worse, is that the Ministerial Task and Finish Group appeared not to take into account a great deal of the considerable volume information and evidence that already exists about our marine environment and the benefits of highly protected MPAs. In addition to leading to poorly informed recommendations this has apparently misled the Minister into understanding that far less is known about these issues than actually is.

Of course there will never be enough evidence to satisfy objectors or those who demand absolute proof before taking action. And, unless the capacity to document and understand the pressures and threats to designated features outpaces society's capacity for their exploitation, which is improbable, it will be always necessary for managers to make decisions on the best knowledge available despite its limitations and for users to accept that precautionary management may be necessary in circumstances where risk is probable albeit not demonstrated.

Addressing the second of the bullet points above, I ask you to note that this work has been done already by the Countryside Council for Wales and reported to Welsh Government. Commissioning yet another review smacks of simply kicking the issue into the long grass to avoid making what is expected to be a decision that is unpopular with one sectoral interest or another

If the Minister is indeed aware that measures need strengthening and really would welcome more evidence of payback from good management, he needs to bite the bullet and actually designate an hpMCZ adequately resourced to document the changes that occur with protection. The Skomer MNR is the only viable candidate since it comes with over two decades of monitoring and surveillance already in the bag.

I have commented previously on the naïve unquestioning welcome accorded to the Welsh Fishermens' Association report *Striking the Balance*. I will not rehearse all my criticisms of that document again now, but do reiterate that the positive proposals it makes are not new. An ecosystem approach, adaptive management and collaborative engagement with stakeholders have been fundamental to the approach adopted for well over a decade in the management of Wales' European Marine Sites – albeit with very limited success (Hatton Ellis et al 2012).

Ecosystem approach and adaptive management are both are commendable goals and appear conceptually straightforward, but bring their own problems (e.g. UNEP 2011). Not only are the concepts not commonly understood, risking being misused, there seems limited agreement on how to implement them and they require a great deal of knowledge (e.g. Allen & Stankey, 2009; Arkema *et al.* 2006; Leslie & McLeod 2007; Tallis *et al.* 2010).

Ecosystem-based management requires precise knowledge and understanding of the spatial and temporal distribution of all the species, habitats and human interventions in the area of interest and how they all interact; such precision is rarely achievable. Likewise, it is easy to throw the phrase adaptive management into the mix because it sounds good and makes perfect sense, but it is very hard to achieve in the real world and without possibly prohibitive financial resources.

Ecosystem-based management must also take account of 'shifting baselines' - the tendency to continually consider increasingly degraded ecosystems long impacted by human activity as normal thereby gradually lowering expectations of what constitutes a healthy ecosystem (Dayton *et al.* 1998). Limited knowledge and understanding of historical ecosystem condition and human effects upon the ecosystem naturally makes it difficult to identify appropriate ecosystem objectives.

Wales still needs better protection for its marine environment and highly protected MCZs still need to be one of the key tools. Not to improve marine protection measures is an unacceptable option risking further and increased damage to our marine environment. Furthermore, designating hpMCZs would send a very positive message to business and the public: Wales cares about its marine environment and is determined to look after and improve it for its intergenerational importance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Blaise Bullimore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Blaise Bullimore

Once again, I request that my address and other contact details are redacted before this letter is placed on the WG website. Thank you.

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

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government develop a direct rail connection from Cardiff Airport itself to Cardiff central and west Wales.

There is a substantial need for a fast direct rail route straight from the actual Cardiff International Airport itself directly into Cardiff Central train station (and westwards to west Wales) so that national and international visitors are properly serviced and catered for at our National Airport. There is already a railway stop at Rhoose which is less than a mile away from the airport. It is a wasted opportunity not to extend this line to Cardiff International Airport itself so that travellers from all over the world, straight from their flight, can jump straight on to a train that takes them to the capital city of Wales and beyond.

Petition raised by: Sovereign Wales

Date petition first considered by Committee: 19 March 2013

Number of signatures: 39

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-04-459
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/02267/13

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

29 July 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 10 July on behalf of the Petitions Committee about the petition for a direct rail connection to Cardiff Airport and following up on our earlier correspondence on this issue in April.

I agree that it is important to improve access to Cardiff Airport. As you are aware, the First Minister has announced our plan to introduce a frequent, express bus service starting in August from Cardiff City Centre to the Airport.

Following my review of the South East Wales Integrated Task Force report, I am now considering future options for improved access to the Airport, including potential rail improvements. I will provide an update on this at the appropriate time.

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

P-04-459 A direct rail connection from Cardiff Airport to Cardiff central and west Wales – Correspondence from the petitioner to the clerking team, 30.09.13

I would like to reiterate what I have said previously about this petition – I have nothing new to add, other than to say that common sense dictates that it makes sense to build a railway station in front of/inside Cardiff Airport in order to make it a truly international airport, particularly given that the current line passes less than a mile away.

Agenda Item 3.5

P-04-468 Road Safety Concerns A48 Chepstow

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to reduce the speed limit on the A48 Bridge at Chepstow from 50mph to 30mph.

Petition raised by: Chepstow Town Council

Date petition first considered by Committee: 19 March 2013

Number of signatures : An associated petition collected 1,000 signatures

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-04-468
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/00648/13

William Powell AM
Chair of the Petitions
Committee

naomi.stocks@wales.gov.uk

02 August 2013

Dear William,

I wrote to you on 16 April 2013 regarding the outcome of the Speed Limit Review for the A48 Chepstow Bridge. In my letter I said I would provide an update in July, when the review was complete.

The speed limit review has now been undertaken and considered pedestrian usage, accidents and any change in residential development. It has recommended the current speed limit on the bridge is retained, which Gwent Police support. My officials will now consider the recommendation in detail.

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
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence.edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Printed on 100% recycled paper

P-04-468 Speed Reduction on the A48 in Chepstow – Correspondence from the petitioner to the clerking team, 28.09.13

Dear Sian,

Chepstow A48 Bridge – Petition for extending the 30mph limit to the far side of the A48 Bridge to protect pedestrians especially school children on a main route to school

Thank you for your email of 23 September 2013 giving us the opportunity to respond by midday 30 September 2013 to the response received by the Chair of the Petitions Committee from the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport dated 2 August 2013 regarding the speed limit on the A48 bridge crossing the River Wye at Chepstow.

The second paragraph of the Minister's response says that *'The speed limit review has now been undertaken and considered pedestrian usage, accidents and any change in residential development'* and it has been recommended that the limit is retained.

The circumstances of this bridge and the speed limit is a special case and would **not be measured appropriately by the statistics used by the department**. Pedestrian usage statistics, accidents and housing developments seem to be the criteria and method best used for open stretches of trunk roads rather than busy bridges in urban areas.

The A48 Bridge across the River Wye at Chepstow is a special case. It is a trunk road with a narrow pavement immediately adjacent to the carriageway with no intervening grass verge or railings or protective measures. It is in **an urban setting** immediately adjacent to a 30mph zone so there is no issue of needing to justify the slowing down of traffic. North east bound traffic leaving Chepstow across the bridge is travelling away from traffic lights and from a 30 mph zone. It is then is 'invited' to accelerate to 50mph on the bridge when **most drivers would not expect there to be an increase in the speed limit at that point**. There is a perfectly sensible place for an increase to 50mph at the far side of the bridge. The distance is only **335 metres (less than a quarter of a mile)** but it is a very significant quarter of a mile because **every day many school children walk across this bridge** to school.

There is **no pavement on the other side of the road** and so there are movements of pedestrians in both directions, trying to pass each other and groups of school children on this narrow pavement with traffic moving past at 50 mph.

Children going to school cannot see the vehicles coming up behind them but heavy lorries and buses with large wing mirrors are travelling at 50mph **within a few centimetres of children carrying** shoulder bags which could be caught by such vehicles with horrendous consequences.

This is not a normal road situation where 'housing development' statistics or 'total pedestrian flows over the course of a day' or 'road accidents per year' is going to indicate the need for 30 mph. This is a situation where common sense is a better measure.

A walk over the bridge at school arrival and departure times will show a very different picture than that of standard department statistics. We have attached some **photographs** of what it is like on the bridge at those very dangerous times.

We can see can no disadvantages for the Welsh Government or the Welsh economy to the granting of this simple request for extending Chepstow's 30mph zone by 335 metres further down the same road and so we are surprised that the Transport Minister cannot find a way of helping us. We can see **lots of dangers** and problems arising from not extending the 30mph limit to the far side of the bridge and so we would welcome a fresh look at the situation from the Welsh Government.

We are surprised that the department is not more helpful on this issue as it is very much an issue of **safe routes for communities** and safe routes to school which is a Government priority. This bridge is clearly part of the urban area of Chepstow and the speed limit should be 30 mph as it is in the rest of urban Chepstow.

On Thursday 27 September 2013 a man telephoned Chepstow Town Council to report that he had been in a vehicle behind a lorry which had narrowly missed a whole group of school children on the bridge that day and that he was so worried about the safety standards on the bridge he had decided to report it. This man knew nothing about the petition, and he has consented to his contact details being supplied should that be necessary.

Finally, we are also surprised that the Minister or her department has not been more responsive when the **source** of the request and petition is considered. This petition has come **from young people themselves**. Surely if we are to encourage the next generation to participate in public affairs and in Government (which is a priority of the National Assembly and the Welsh Government) we should be as responsive as we can when they do petition.

Of course not all petition requests from young people can be granted but this one does seem to be a **very reasonable case and with no financial implications** and would make an enormous difference to **public safety**. We hope that the Petitions Committee will give the petition a more positive hearing.

We would be grateful if you could put these views to the Petitions Committee.

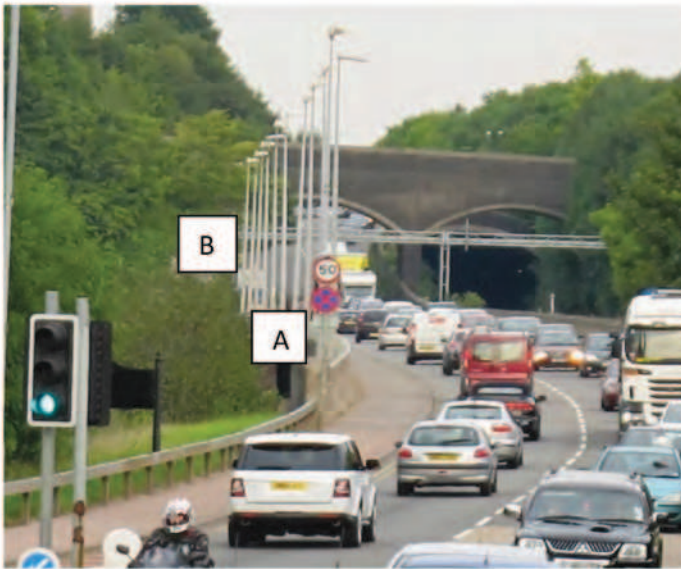
Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Sandra Bushell

Town Clerk, Chepstow Town Council

A48 at Chepstow – Request for speed limit on bridge to be 30 mph in place of 50 mph 1



The request is to move the 50mph sign in centre of this photo (Point A) to the bridge in the photo (Point B).



Railings would be help also, but 30 mph is essential.





A48 at Chepstow – Request for speed limit on bridge to be 30 mph in place of 50 mph 2





Chepstow A48 Bridge over River Wye – request for the Chepstow 30mph limit to be extended to cover the bridge.

Agenda Item 3.6

P-04-491 A National Bank of Wales and complementary Welsh currency

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to help establish a National Bank of Wales / Banc Cenedlaethol Cymru that would seek to operate within a new modern, responsible, sustainable and transparent Welsh banking code of conduct. We also call for a complementary Welsh currency to be established by the bank: similar to the C3 complementary currency in Uruguay and the Swiss WIR, and issued to interested SME's, the self-employed, industry, farmers and traders.

We believe that in the face of the global economic mismanagement seen in recent years especially, the Welsh Government needs to show economic accountability and leadership by encouraging and promoting debt free money in the public and state creation of money and by promoting currency innovation and sustainable banking as promoted by movements such as Positive Money. We believe that a Bank of Wales would be a perfect opportunity for Wales to demonstrate such economic innovation and leadership in the world.

An independent transparent Welsh Monetary Committee containing a mixture of non-politically affiliated experts and a citizen observer panel could act as an advisory body between the bank and the Welsh government on all relevant matters.

Petition raised by: Sovereign Wales

Date petition first considered by Committee: 18 June 2013

Number of signatures: 43

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-04-470
Ein cyf/Our ref: EH/01982/13

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
Naomi.stocks@wales.gov.uk

17 July 2013

Dear William

I am writing in response to your letter of 26 June following the submission of a petition to the Petitions Committee, about a National Bank of Wales and complementary Welsh currency, by Sovereign Wales.

The establishment of a Bank of Wales has been raised with me on a number of occasions over the past year or so, particularly against the backdrop of falling confidence in the traditional bank lending sector.

As the supporting information to your letter states, I have sought specialist, independent advice on issues of access to finance, including on alternative sources of finance and structures for financial institutions. Professor Dylan Jones-Evans of the University of Wales is conducting a review of the availability of private sector finance for Welsh SMEs.

Stage one of his review, which looked specifically at the role of high street banks in this, has recently been completed and the Professor has now begun stage two of his review, which is looking at alternative sources of financing, including new banking structures. The Professor has formally called for evidence from interested parties via our website at:
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandconomy/policy/financereview/?lang=en>

I have also commissioned Professor Colyn Gardner to provide me with advice on community financing and I will be considering his report in due course.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'C. Gardner', written in black ink.

Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid
Minister for Finance



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-491
Ein cyf/Our ref JH/00287/13

William Powell AC
AC y Canolbarth a'r Gorllewin
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Tŷ Hywel
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1NA

9 Awst 2013

Annwyl *William*,

Ar hyn o bryd, nid oes gan Lywodraeth Cymru gynlluniau i sefydlu Banc Cenedlaethol i Gymru, nac i gyflwyno arian ar wahân i Gymru.

Sefydlodd Llywodraeth Cymru Gyllid Cymru yn 2001 er mwyn darparu credyd er budd yr economi yng Nghymru. Ar hyn o bryd, mae Cyllid Cymru yn gyfrifol am gronfeydd gwerth bron £400 miliwn, sy'n ffynhonnell gyllid hanfodol i fentrau bach a chanolig Cymru.

Rwyf hefyd yn sylwi bod y deisebydd yn ymwybodol o'r adolygiad o'r Cyllid sydd ar gael i Fusnesau yng Nghymru a gynhelir gan yr Athro Dylan Jones-Evans. Byddwn yn annog y deisebydd i ddarparu adborth i'r adolygiad hwn. Gellir gwneud hyn drwy'r ddolen ganlynol:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandconomy/policy/financereview/?skip=1&lang=cy>

Yn gywir,

Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid
Minister for Finance

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: Jane.Hutt@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled paper

Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid
Minister for Finance



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-491
Ein cyf/Our ref JH/00287/13

William Powell AM
AM for Mid & West Wales
Chair Petitions committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

7th August 2013

Dear *William*,

At present the Welsh Government has no plans to establish a National Bank of Wales, or to introduce a Welsh currency.

The Welsh Government established Finance Wales in 2001 for the role of providing credit for the benefit of the Welsh economy. Finance Wales currently has nearly £400 million funds under management, providing a vital source of finance for Welsh small and medium sized enterprises.

I also note that the petitioner is aware of the review on Access to Finance that is being undertaken by Professor Dylan Jones-Evans. I would encourage the petitioner to provide feedback to this review, which can be done via the following link:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandconomy/policy/financereview/?lang=en>

Yours sincerely,

Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid
Minister for Finance

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: Jane.Hutt@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled paper

P-04-491 A national bank of wales and complementary Welsh currency - Correspondence from the petitioner to the clerking team, 30.09.13

Britain is facing a spiralling and unpayable debt of £1.4 trillion by 2015, basically meaning that Britain is bankrupt. Unless fixed or the debt in some way cancelled, or Wales quickly puts in place the real economic levers it should have and distances itself from the flawed UK economic system, a financial collapse will be inevitable. Private savings will likely be taken by the state to pay off private lenders as happened in Cyprus and Greece. There will be no food in the shops and ugly messy anarchy could prevail. Unless Wales demands a national currency and a Welsh pound pegged at parity to Sterling, the other immediate solution is for a Welsh public bank running under the current UK and Central Bank of England's fractional reserve system.

A public bank of Wales could responsibly harness the power of money creation through the issuing of credit to small to medium sized businesses, industry and Welsh infrastructure including renewable energy projects. If the Welsh Government needed to borrow it could borrow from its own bank at minimal interest and bank profits would be ploughed back in to Wales and for the good of the country as a whole. This power of levying interest is currently mostly in the hands of private corporations based outside of Wales who have no interest in the economic stability and future well being of Wales. This is an unsustainable extractive system which threatens the future of all Welsh citizens.

A public bank could leverage its deposit base at a ratio of 10:1 providing a substantial source of liquidity to the Welsh economy. Essentially this is a multiplier which, for example, would mean that a deposit base of £1 billion in a Welsh public bank could be leveraged to create £10 billion. Considering that Finance Wales only loaned out £19.35 million in the financial year 2012-2013 it should be obvious that a public bank of Wales could make a real and considerable difference to creating a more prosperous Wales. This can be done under the present devolution settlement without much extra facilitating and would benefit Wales greatly and in a sustainable way. The Welsh Government therefore have no reason not to be jumping at the chance to establish such a bank that would benefit us all.

Agenda Item 3.7

P-04-402 Council Prayers

Petition wording:

We the undersigned call upon the Welsh Government to amend the Local Government Act 1972 to afford each local authority in Wales the opportunity to decide whether it would like to hold council prayers during each council meeting and have it formally recorded on the official business agenda.

Petition raised by: Rev Alan Hewitt

Date petition first considered by Committee: 2 July 2012

Number of signatures: 155



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE **Holding Religious Ceremonies as part of the Official Proceedings of Local Authorities in Wales**

DATE **6 August 2013**

BY **Lesley Griffiths AM, Minister for Local Government and Government Business**

The freedom to hold religious beliefs and to exercise those views through holding religious ceremonies is enshrined in human rights legislation. Here in Wales, there has been a long standing and established tradition of both religious observance and tolerance. We have a proud history as a country where people of many cultures and religions have lived side by side for generations, enriching the life of the whole nation. The Welsh Government continues to be committed to promoting good relations and an understanding among all faith communities in Wales, including people of no faith.

The general power of competence does not apply to Councils in Wales. There has been a perception this has, in some way, disadvantaged Councils in Wales, in their ability to hold prayers as part of their official business. It has been seen, by some, as a matter which needs rectifying through legislation. The Welsh Government considers this to be misleading and does not intend to bring forward legislation on this point. If there are restrictions to how Councils may approach this matter, they arise from the general legal requirements as to equality and non-discrimination, not from any apparent limit on the Councils' statutory powers.

In the view of the Welsh Government, it is a matter for a Local Authority to consider on competent legal advice, whether the circumstances in its individual case make it appropriate to hold prayers as part of a formal meeting. Generally speaking, there is nothing to prevent like-minded Councillors from saying prayers – or sharing a moment of quiet reflection – immediately before moving on to official business, rather than as a formal part of business or in a way as to affect the formal business.

The Welsh Government is not able to give advice to cover the very specific individual circumstances in which these issues will arise for consideration. Most Councils in Wales have already made practical and workable arrangements and we are confident

that giving appropriate consideration to the rights of their Members and constituents, all may now do so.

This statement is being issued during recess in order to keep Members informed. Should Members wish me to make a further statement or to answer questions on this when the Assembly returns, I would be happy to do so.

P-04-413 : Maternity Services in the Cynon Valley

Petition wording:

We the undersigned call upon the National Assembly for Wales to reinstate maternity services in the Cynon valley by completing the Tair Afon birthing centre as originally planned in Ysbyty Cwm Cynon.

Supporting Information:

Ysbyty Cwm Cynon was designed to house a midwife-led birthing centre. Although the space is available at the hospital and much of the work has been completed the decision has been taken not to have the birthing centre. As a consequence the women of the Cynon valley must travel to Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil or opt for a home birth. This withdrawal of services to the people of the Cynon valley is unacceptable.

Petition raised by: Sarah Rachel Gait

Date petition first considered by Committee: 2 October 2012

Number of signatures: 406

Agenda Item 3.9

P-04-450 : Barry & Vale needs a fully functioning hospital.

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that Barry Hospital has a fully functioning minor injuries unit that is open to patients 8 hours a day, 5 days a week.

Supporting information: We call on the Welsh Government to stop sitting on their hands and intervene in the way the Cardiff & Vale NHS trust are running Barry Hospital. For too long the trust have sold the Barry & Vale people down the river! With excuses such as staff sickness and operational pressure. The Barry & Vale people need a fully functioning Minor Injuries unit. This is unacceptable for a hospital with a catchment area the size of Barry and the Vale of Glamorgan. The reasoning behind these problems are that 'the Minor Injuries Unit at Barry Hospital is a very busy service which is currently under significant operational pressure because of staff sickness and maternity leave. As a result, and for safety reasons, the Unit will run on a reduced hours basis until further notice. It will open at 8.30am, and will close to new patients at 2pm. This means that, after 2pm, we will only treat those patients who are already waiting'. (quote from official website)

This is unacceptable for a hospital with a catchment area the size of Barry and the Vale of Glamorgan. The reasoning behind these problems are that 'the Minor Injuries Unit at Barry Hospital is a very busy service which is currently under significant operational pressure because of staff sickness and maternity leave. As a result, and for safety reasons, the Unit will run on a reduced hours basis until further notice. It will open at 8.30am, and will close to new patients at 2pm. This means that, after 2pm, we will only treat those patients who are already waiting'.(quote from official website)

Petition raised by: Jeffrey Heathfield

Date petition first considered by Committee: 29 January 2013

Number of signatures: 50

P-04-428 : Alternative energy for street lighting

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh government to convert streetlights on the trunk road system in Wales to an alternative energy source and to issue guidelines to the local authorities requesting day convert local streetlights to alternative energy.

Supporting Information : The Welsh Assembly Government claim that they are working along the lines of Agenda 21, which is to reduce pollution by reducing our energy consumption. During the night, street lighting sends our energy consumption levels to a high peak. So I feel that the Government should convert the street lights in the country to an alternative energy source. For example, Solar and wind energy is already used for some street signage and to convert all street lighting so this would provide extensive and sustainable employment for thousands and the electricity providers would then be able to reduce their prices to the consumer and the Local Authorities.

Petition raised by: Ethan Gwyn

Date petition first considered by Committee: 16 October 2012

Number of signatures: 22

Agenda Item 3.11

P-04-484 EMA for all!

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to allow All children aged 16-19 and in full time education should receive the full £30 a week EMA regardless of their parents income.

Additional Information:

All children aged 16-19 should receive the full £30 EMA weekly regardless of their parents income. Not all parents who earn a decent wage help their children financially to attend college and it is hard to find work as most places require experience in their fields. Providing they attend all children should receive the weekly allowance.

Petition raised by: Jack Gillum

Date petition first considered by Committee: 4 June 2013

Number of signatures: 10



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-484
Ein cyf/Our ref LA/01667/13

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

21 June 2013

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 12 June, following a submission by Jack Gillum to the Petitions Committee, to allow all children aged 16-19 in full-time education to receive an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) regardless of their parents' income.

The means-tested EMA Wales Scheme was introduced to address the link between low income and low participation by providing a weekly financial incentive (of £30 per week) to encourage young people (aged 16-19) from low-income households to remain in full-time education beyond the compulsory school age.

The use of means-testing against annual household income is used widely across government when determining support for families or individuals, and is not unique to the EMA Wales Scheme. It is considered to be a fair measure of the resources each household has to meet its needs and is a transparent and practical way of determining entitlement.

I recognise that some young people and families will be disappointed as they fall outside the scope of EMA support, but there has to be a specific cut-off point as support from the public purse cannot be open ended.

It is important that we continue to encourage vulnerable young people to remain in education to reach their full potential during difficult economic times. I have commissioned an independent evaluation of EMA Wales to be undertaken during academic year 2013/14, to ensure that resources continue to remain targeted where they have most impact.

Yours Sincerely

Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills

Agenda Item 3.12

P-04-485 Abuse of casual contracts in Further Education

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to use its influence to ensure that the use of hourly paid (zero hour) and fixed term contracts are not abused in the Further Education sector and only used when there is a genuine objective justification for a short term contract with flexibility.

Petition raised by: Briony Knibbs

Date petition first considered by Committee: 4 June 2013

Number of signatures: 674

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-485
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/00690/13

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

17 July 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 12 June on behalf of the Petitions Committee.

The Welsh Minsters have no specific statutory powers on the use of hourly based and fixed term contracts. I do note however that the UK government has launched an “informal” review of the use of zero hours contracts, which will be published in the autumn.

In terms of the FE sector in Wales I would hope that a national contract would start to improve on the current conditions which exist for part time hourly paid contract holders. I would therefore urge the trades unions and ColegauCymru to continue with their negotiations.

After three years of hard negotiating, I hope the result is a Common Contract, agreed by all parties, that is of benefit to the FE sector as a whole, and ultimately, of benefit to our learners in Wales.

Best Regards
Huw

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

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

5 July 2013

Dear Mr Powell

Petitions Committee: hourly paid and fixed term contracts

I am writing on behalf of colleges in Wales in response to your letter of 12 June 2013 seeking the views of ColegauCymru on the use of hourly paid and fixed term contracts in the further education (FE) sector. I understand that, as chair of the Petitions Committee, you have also written to individual colleges.

ColegauCymru is the national organisation representing the 17 FE colleges and two FE institutions in Wales. ColegauCymru is currently negotiating a national contract for staff employed in FE colleges with a large number of trade unions, collectively known as the 'joint trade unions' (JTUs).

The latest figures published by the Welsh Government on staff contracts show that in 2008/09, there were 16,810 individual staff contracts. 57% of staff employed by FE institutions were permanent, 21% fixed term and 22% hourly paid/casual staff.¹

Between 1998/99 to 2009/10, the number of staff increased by 9%, with full-time staff increasing by 6% and that of part-time decreasing by 2%. Figures are not available for fixed term contracts. The trend in some colleges has been towards fewer hourly paid part-time staff as colleges have converted hourly paid part-time contracts into fractional contracts.

Colleges employ part-time hourly paid staff, particularly lecturers, in order to be in a position to respond flexibly to external demand. Studying beyond the age of post-16 is not compulsory. Individuals aged 16+ and adults have a choice whether or not to seek a place at college and a further choice between full-time and a range of part-time provision.

¹ *Staff at Further Education Institutions in Wales, 2008/09 SDR 130/2010*, 26 August 2010. Welsh Government. Please note that the latest statistics bulletin on staff was published on 26 June 2013 (SDR 105/2013) showing there were 8,775 full time equivalent staff in colleges. This latter data is collected from the Finance Record and does not give the breakdown of numbers that was previously collected through the Staff Individualised Record.

Colleges are not able to predict accurately the number of students that enrol or the mode of attendance. The number of students, particularly part-time students, fluctuates from year to year. Many make enquiries, attend interview and even accept a college place, but then their circumstances change or they change their minds and they do not in the end enrol at the beginning of term. This figure may comprise up to one-third of potential enrolments. Planning staff deployment with such unpredictable enrolment patterns is a challenge. It would not make financial sense to employ part-time lecturers with fixed weekly hours before students have formally enrolled.

In 2011/12, 191,185 learners attended colleges. Of these, around 76% of learners attended part-time²; around three-quarters were adults aged over 19. Predicting part-time numbers is particularly difficult.

Colleges also need to respond to requests from local businesses for courses or consultancy, often at short notice. There are, in addition, Welsh Government initiatives such as ReACT in which a person recently unemployed can seek training, often at a few days' notice.

In order to be responsive in the delivery of education and training and in order to manage this uncertainty, colleges employ flexible, part-time staff.

Colleges are often not in a position to confirm an individual lecturer's teaching load until the start of term, once the enrolment cycle has been completed and students have taken up their places. However, once a lecturer's teaching load is confirmed, the number of hours usually remains constant throughout the year - unless a class becomes unviable. The teaching load of an individual lecturer may be increased during the year where an opportunity arises and where the lecturer agrees. Many staff in further education prefer to work in a flexible way.

There has been recent press coverage of catering and cleaning companies that employ people on zero hour contracts where employees do not know from one week to the next how many hours – if any – they will work. This does not apply to further education.

The common contract negotiations between ColegauCymru and the JTUs have considered zero hours. The current draft - Version 26 - of the common contract includes these words:

² *Further Education, work-based learning and community learning in Wales 2011/12 SDR 48/2013*. 26 March 2013. Welsh Government.

D. "LECTURER PART-TIME HOURLY PAID

In view of the nature of your employment your hours may vary according to the academic requirements of the College. However the College will provide you with a minimum of [hours] of teaching per [week, term, and year]. This minimum will be reviewed on an annual basis and may be subject to change depending on the requirements of the college."

This clause would have the effect of ensuring that a lecturer is employed on a minimum hours rather than a zero hours contract. However, colleges must retain the flexibility referred to in previous paragraphs and which is appreciated by many staff.

In respect to fixed term contracts, colleges often receive Welsh Government or European funding for the delivery of short term projects. Staff on these projects are employed on fixed term contracts for the duration of these externally funded projects. No guarantees can be given on employment once external funding has ceased.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Your sincerely

Dr John Graystone
Chief Executive



Gower College Swansea
Coleg Gŵyr Abertawe

5th July 2013

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

Dear Mr Powell

Petitions Committee: hourly paid and fixed term contracts

I am writing in response to your letter to Mark Jones, Principal, of 18 June stating that the Petitions Committee is seeking information on the use of hourly paid and fixed term contracts in the further education (FE) sector.

ColegauCymru is the national organisation representing the 17 FE colleges and two FE institutions in Wales. ColegauCymru is currently negotiating a national contract for staff employed in FE colleges.

The latest figures published by the Welsh Government on staff contracts show that in 2008/09, there were 16,810 individual staff contracts. 57% of staff employed by FE institutions were permanent, 21% fixed term and 22% hourly paid/casual staff.¹

Between 1998/99 to 2009/10, the numbers of staff increased by 9% with full-time staff increasing by 26% and that of part-time decreasing by 2%. Figures are not available for fixed term contracts. The trend in some colleges has been to have fewer hourly paid part-time staff as colleges have converted hourly paid part-time contracts into fractional contracts.

In order to be flexible and responsive to external demand, colleges have to employ part-time hourly paid staff, particularly lecturers. Post-16 education is not compulsory. Colleges are not able to predict accurately the number of students they will enrol or the mode of attendance. Numbers of students, particularly part-time students, fluctuate from year to year. Students who have decided to join the college change their minds and do not enrol at the beginning of term. In some cases this figure can be one-third of potential enrolments. It would not make financial sense to employ part-time lecturers with fixed weekly hours before students have formally enrolled.

¹ Staff at Further Education Institutions in Wales., 2008/09 SDR 130/2010, 26 August 2010 Welsh Government

In 2011/12, 191,185 learners attended colleges. Of these, around 76% of learners attended part-time² and around three-quarters were adults aged over 19. Predicting part-time numbers is particularly difficult.

Colleges have to respond to requests from local businesses for courses or consultancy, often at short notice. There are also Welsh Government initiatives such as ReACT in which a person recently unemployed can seek training, often at a few days' notice.

All this means that colleges have to employ flexible part-time staff in order to respond to external demand and cope with uncertainty. Colleges will often not be able to inform lecturers of their teaching load until the start of term, once the enrolment cycle has been completed and students have turned up. Once the lecturer is informed of his/her teaching load, the number of hours will usually stay constant throughout the year unless the class becomes unviable. The lecturer may be invited to add to their teaching during the year but this will be with the agreement of the lecturer. Many staff in Further Education prefer to work in a flexible way.

There has been recent publicity about catering and cleaning companies employing people on zero hour contracts in which the individual does not know from one week to the other what if any hours they will be doing. This does not apply to further education.

The common contract negotiations have considered zero hours and Version 26 of the common contract includes these words:

D. "LECTURER PART-TIME HOURLY PAID

In view of the nature of your employment your hours may vary according to the academic requirements of the College. However the College will provide you with a minimum of [hours] of teaching per [week, term, and year]. This minimum will be reviewed on an annual basis and may be subject to change depending on the requirements of the college."

This clause would have the effect of ensuring that a lecturer is employed on a minimum hours contract.

In respect to fixed term contracts, colleges are often in receipt of funding for short term projects. These may be funded, for example, by the Welsh Government or the European Community. Staff on these projects will be employed on fixed term contracts for the duration of these externally funded projects. No guarantees can be given on employment once external funding has ceased.

² Further Education, work-based learning and community learning in Wales 2011/12 SDR 48/2013 26 March 2013, Welsh Government

The following are the specific answers to the questions in your letter.

1. Gower College Swansea does use Zero hours contracts and fixed term contracts.
2. a) 69 hourly paid part-time lecturers delivering less than 3 hours per week are employed on zero hours contracts. 68 support staff are employed as casual workers.

b) We have total of 225 staff (101 lecturers and 124 Support Staff) currently employed on Fixed Term contracts.
3. a) 6% of our teaching staff are employed on contract where their teaching hours will range from 0-3 hours per week; 6% of our support staff are regarded as "casual" workers, in both cases there is no "mutuality of obligation" i.e. there is no obligation for the College to offer work or for the individual to undertake work.

b) 19.75% of our total workforce are employed on fixed term contracts, this is split as follows: 8.8% of our teaching staff are employed on fixed term contracts; 10.8% of our support staff are employed on fixed term contracts
4. The number of zero hours contracts has neither increased or decreased over the last 2 years.
5. The use of fixed term contracts has increased over the past two years due to uncertain growth prospects and uncertainty over Welsh Government funding within FE, and changing Post 19 skills agenda.
6. This will depend on whether the National Contract is agreed and implemented.
7. This will depend on decisions made by the Welsh Government on FE funding, currently we anticipate needing to be able to keep flexibility within our workforce due to policy changes within the WG.
8. At Gower College Swansea, Zero hours contracts are only in use where lecturers are only engaged to teach *up to 3 hours per week*. Usually these staff have other full-time employment and often they contribute to our Part-time adult evening provision. Such provision varies from one academic year to the next, according to public demand. We therefore cannot guarantee a minimum number of teaching hours. If staff however are likely to teach more

than 3 hours per week, they are contracted on a specified contract which provides flexibility to teach between 4 and 12 hours per week.

9. It is essential to keep flexible contracts of employment in operation within the FE sector in order to remain responsive to changes in student demand, and changes in policy and funding. We endeavour however to use both Zero hours and Fixed Term contracts both responsibly and proportionately with the challenges we face as an Institution. On an annual basis, through our business planning cycle we review the terms and conditions on which staff are contracted, and over the past two years we have offered substantive, salaried teaching contracts to more than 37 lecturers and we have also secured a significant number of staff on permanent contracts.

I trust that this provides you with sufficient information to enable the Petitions Committee to fully consider this issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Perkins', with a horizontal line underneath.

Nicola Perkins
Head of HR

cc: Mark Jones

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

Our ref/*Ein Cyf*: DO/BDT

Date/*Dyddiad*: 5th July 2013

Ask For *Gofynnwch am*: Bev Thomas

Extension/*Estyniad*: 01492 546666
ext 288

Dear Mr Powell

Petitions Committee: hourly paid and fixed term contracts

I am writing in response to your letter of 18 June stating that the Petitions Committee is seeking information on the use of hourly paid and fixed term contracts in the further education (FE) sector.

ColegauCymru is the national organisation representing the 17 FE colleges and two FE institutions in Wales. ColegauCymru is currently negotiating a national contract for staff employed in FE colleges.

The latest figures published by the Welsh Government on staff contracts show that in 2008/09, there were 16,810 individual staff contracts. 57% of staff employed by FE institutions were permanent, 21% fixed term and 22% hourly paid/casual staff.¹

Between 1998/99 to 2009/10, the numbers of staff increased by 9% with full-time staff increasing by 26% and that of part-time decreasing by 2%. Figures are not available for fixed term contracts. The trend in some colleges has been to have fewer hourly paid part-time staff as colleges have converted hourly paid part-time contracts into fractional contracts.

In order to be flexible and responsive to external demand, colleges have to employ part-time hourly paid staff, particularly lecturers. Post-16 education is not compulsory. Colleges are not able to predict accurately the number of students they will enrol or the mode of attendance. Numbers of students, particularly part-time students, fluctuate from year to year. Students who have decided to join the college change their minds and do not enrol at the beginning of term. In some cases this figure can be one-third of potential enrolments. It would not make financial sense to

¹ Staff at Further Education Institutions in Wales., 2008/09 SDR 130/2010, 26 August 2010 Welsh Government

employ part-time lecturers with fixed weekly hours before students have formally enrolled.

In 2011/12, 191,185 learners attended colleges. Of these, around 76% of learners attended part-time² and around three-quarters were adults aged over 19. Predicting part-time numbers is particularly difficult.

Colleges have to respond to requests from local businesses for courses or consultancy, often at short notice. There are also Welsh Government initiatives such as ReACT in which a person recently unemployed can seek training, often at a few days' notice.

All this means that colleges have to employ flexible part-time staff in order to respond to external demand and cope with uncertainty. Colleges will often not be able to inform lecturers of their teaching load until the start of term, once the enrolment cycle has been completed and students have turned up. Once the lecturer is informed of his/her teaching load, the number of hours will usually stay constant throughout the year unless the class becomes unviable. The lecturer may be invited to add to their teaching during the year but this will be with the agreement of the lecturer. Many staff in Further Education prefer to work in a flexible way.

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This clause would have the effect of ensuring that a lecturer is employed on a minimum hours contract.

² Further Education, work-based learning and community learning in Wales 2011/12 SDR 48/2013 26 March 2013, Welsh Government

In respect to fixed term contracts, colleges are often in receipt of funding for short term projects. These may be funded, for example, by the Welsh Government or the European Community. Staff on these projects will be employed on fixed term contracts for the duration of these externally funded projects. No guarantees can be given on employment once external funding has ceased.

The following are the specific answers to the questions in your letter.

Question 1 – Grwp Llandrillo Menai does employ staff on fixed term contracts but not zero hours contracts

Question 2/3 – 651 staff are employed this year on fixed term contracts – this being 31% of the total workforce

Question 4 – Zero hours contracts not used

Question 5 – The use of fixed term contracts have decreased as staff who have 4 years' continuous service are offered permanent contracts. This exercise is undertaken on an annual basis.

Question 6 – No

Question 7 – Not at present but the financial settlements going forward may have a bearing on this.

Question 8 – No such documents are available at the present time.

I hope that this information will be of assistance

Yours sincerely



Dafydd Owen
HR Director

P-04-485 Abuse of casual contracts in Further Education Dear Ms Stocks – Correspondence from Coleg Ceredigion to the Clerking team, 08.07.13

Dear Naomi,

Thank you for your letter regarding zero hour contracts. Colegau Cymru is responding collectively to your correspondence via the Chief Executive, John Graystone. In the interim, just to confirm, Coleg Ceredigion has no staff on zero hour contracts.

Best wishes,
Carys Griffiths
Corporate Services Administrator
(on behalf of Jacqui Weatherburn, College Principal)



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

Date	8 July 2013
Our Ref	JAR/ak/1307-007
Your Ref	P-04-485
Email	jim.bennett@coleggwent.ac.uk
Telephone	01495 33 35601

Dear Mr Powell

**Petition from Briony Knibbs
Zero hour and fixed term contracts in the FE sector**

I am writing in response to your letter of 18 June 2013 requesting information from Coleg Gwent on zero hours and fixed term contracts in Further Education colleges. I am also aware of the letter sent to you by ColegauCymru on the same subject and would wish to add to this from the perspective of Coleg Gwent.

The flexibility required of Further Education colleges to meet the demands of our learners from all ages, backgrounds and needs is ever increasing, together with a need to do so in a cost effective and efficient way. In order to do this, we must make every effort to attract good staff, treat them favourably but also meet this demand in ever straightened circumstances. We, therefore, employ salaried, part-time, fixed term and hourly paid staff in the college. Coleg Gwent has "zero hours" contracts but I want to make it clear that these are used in the majority of cases to provide on an annual basis regular timetabled hours, not open ended, no commitment contracts as used in some industries. We consider the learner needs, quality and team management when we determine the mix of our contracted staff. We aim to have a proportionate mix, when financial considerations allow.

You asked for information on the following questions:

- 1 We use zero hour, as described above and fixed term contracts.
- 2a We have 374 hourly paid (zero hour contract) Lecturers and 229 Business Support staff employed on an hourly paid basis.
- 2b We have 48 staff employed on fixed term contracts.

Os gwelwch yn dda ymatab i / Please respond to:

Pencaidlys Y Rhadyr Brynbuga NP15 1XJ Ffôn 01495 333333	Campys Dinas Casnewydd Ffordd Nash Casnewydd NP19 4TS Ffôn 01633 466000	Campys Crosskeys Ffordd Rhisga Crosskeys NP11 7ZA Ffôn 01495 333456	Campys Glynrhwy Ffordd Y Coileg Glynrhwy NP23 6GT Ffôn 01495 333000	Campys Pont-y-pŵl Ffordd Blaendare Pont-y-pŵl NP4 5YE Ffôn 01495 333100	Campys Brynbuga Y Rhadyr Brynbuga NP15 1XJ Ffôn 01495 333639	Cymbran Learnr-II Centre 19 Y Rhodfa Cymbran NP44 1RQ Ffôn 01495 333306	Monmouth Learnr-II Centre 15 Stryd yr Eglwys Trefynwy NP25 3BX Ffôn 01600 775564
Headquarters The Rhadyr USK NP15 1XJ Tel 01495 333333	City of Newport Campus Nash Road Newport NP19 4TS Tel 01633 466000	Crosskeys Campus Risca Road Crosskeys NP11 7ZA Tel 01495 333456	Ebhor Vale Campus College Road Ebhor Vale NP23 6GT Tel 01495 333000	Pontypool Campus Blaendare Road Pontypool NP4 5YE Tel 01495 333100	USK Campus The Rhadyr USK NP15 1XJ Tel 01495 333639	Cymbran Learnr-II Centre 19 The Parade Cymbran NP44 1RQ Tel 01495 333306	Monmouth Learnr-II Centre 15 Church Street Monmouth NP25 3BX Tel 01600 775564



Geoleban Beazon
Enillydd 2009/2010
Beazon Awards
Mawrth 2009/2010



- 3a 24% of our staff are hourly paid Lecturers on "zero hours" contracts. Hourly paid Business Support staff are employed on a variety of arrangements dependent on need.
- 3b 3% of staff are on fixed term contracts.
- 4 The use of zero hours contracts has increased if measured by the number of staff but reduced if measured by activity.
- 5 The use of fixed term contracts has increased due to success in getting external funding, need for short-term cover and short-term needs.
- 6 We aim to achieve the right balance between full-time, part-time and hourly paid and this is constantly evolving. We would aim to reduce the overall number.
- 7 With less economic certainty, the use of fixed term contracts may increase.
- 8 We take into account the immediate need, quality considerations, balance of staffing, efficiency and cost effectiveness.
- 9 Not in addition to those exposed in the letter from Dr J Graystone and in this letter.

Yours sincerely



Jim Bennett
Principal/Chief Executive
Pennaeth/Prif Weithredwr

P-04-485 Abuse of casual contracts in Further Education Dear Ms Stocks – Correspondence from Coleg Powys to the Clerking team, 08.07.13

Re: Zero Hours and Fixed Term Contracts

John Graystone Chief Executive of Colegau Cymru has copied me into the response that he has submitted to yourselves, on behalf of all colleges in Wales. I confirm that Coleg Powys agrees with his comments.

Please find below individual responses for Coleg Powys in relation to the questions that you posed in your letter to Steve Doodson date 18th June 2013:

1. Coleg Powys does not use Zero hours contracts but we do engage staff on a hourly paid Fixed Term Contracts
2. Number of zero hour contract = 0
Number of staff on hourly paid fixed term contracts = 251
3. 55% of staff are engaged on hourly paid fixed term contracts
4. The use of Zero contracts over the past two years has remained the same
5. The use of Fixed Term contracts over the past two years has decreased slightly
6. We are not able to confirm the position in respect of the next two years as this may be affected by the proposed merge of Coleg Powys and Neath Port Talbot College on 01.08.13 as well as the outcome of the common contract negotiations
7. We are not able to confirm the position in respect of the next two years as this may be affected by the proposed merge of Coleg Powys and Neath Port Talbot College on 01.08.13 as well as the outcome of the common contract negotiations
8. There are no internal policies in place however the factors taken into account are those reflected in John Graystones response to Mr Powell
9. No other comments

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 0845 4086 251 if I can be of further assistance

Regards
Andrea

Andrea White
Swyddog Personél/Personnel Officer
Coleg Powys Ffordd Llanidloes, Y Drenewydd SY16 4HU
Llanidloes Road, Newtown, Powys SY16 4HU



Mr W Powell
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA
London
NW1 7LH

Date/Dyddiad
Our Ref/Ein Cyf
Direct Dial/Rhif Uniongyrchol
E-mail/E-bost

8 July 2013
HM / WP / NAW
01244 834507
hr@deeside.ac.uk

Dear Mr Powell

I write in response to your letter of 12 June 2013 to David Jones, Principal of Deeside College seeking information regarding the use of zero hour and fixed term contracts in FE colleges in Wales.

Please find below the college's response to the questions raised:

- Q1. Does your college use either zero hour or fixed term contracts?**
Deeside College does not use zero hour contracts but does employ staff on a fixed term basis.
- Q2. If so, how many staff are employed on a) zero hour contracts; b) fixed term contracts?**
No staff are employed on a zero hour basis.
For the current academic year, 225 staff are employed on a fixed term contract. This includes both academic "part-time hourly paid" and non-academic staff.
- Q3. What proportion of your staff are employed on a) zero hours contracts; b) fixed term contracts?**
For the current academic year, 26% of the workforce are employed on fixed term contracts.
- Q4. Has the use of zero hour contracts increased/decreased/remained the same over the past two years?**
Not applicable.
- Q5. Has the use of fixed term contracts increased/decreased/remained the same over the past two years?**
The use of fixed term contracts has increased over the last two years.



Q6. Do you envisage the use of zero hour contracts increasing/decreasing/remaining the same over the next two years?

The college has no intention to introduce zero hour contracts over the next two years.

Q7. Do you envisage the use of fixed term contracts increasing/decreasing/remaining the same over the next two years?

The college envisages that the use of fixed term contracts will decrease following the merger with Yale College on 1 August 2013 to become Coleg Cambria.

Q8. Do you have any internal policies or guidelines on whether zero hour or fixed term contracts should be used? What factors are taken into account when deciding upon appointing to such contracts?

Deeside College does not have specific policies or guidelines in respect of the use of such contracts. Account is given however to the nature and sustainability of the post such as whether it is:

- A one-off project.
- An externally funded post for a defined duration.
- A requirement to cover for long-term absence/maternity/adoption leave.

Q9. Do you have any other comments on the use of zero hour/fixed term contracts which the Committee may find useful?

The College employs staff on a fixed term basis in order to be in a position to respond flexibly to external demand which it is not able to accurately predict given the non-compulsory nature of the FE provision. Contracts are therefore offered on a termly basis in order to meet the demand as effectively as possible.

As you are aware, FE Colleges in Wales are currently in negotiation with the Joint Trade Unions on a national common contract. The current draft of the contract includes a clause which would ensure that a Lecturer is employed on a minimum hours rather than a zero hour contract.

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

Yours sincerely,

Helen Mullock
Human Resources Manager

Copy: D. Jones, Principal

www.deeside.ac.uk

JO/TW

8 July 2013

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

Dear Mr Powell

Petitions Committee: hourly paid and fixed term contracts

The College Merthyr Tydfil is in agreement with the enclosed letter from ColegauCymru regarding the hourly paid/fixed term/zero hours contracts.

Yours sincerely



John O'Shea
Principal

Enc

Principal and Chief Executive Pennaeth a Phrif Weithredwr **John O'Shea**

Ynysfach, Merthyr Tydfil Merthyr Tudful, CF48 1AR, UK DU
Tel Ffôn +44 (0)1685 726 000 • Fax Ffacs +44 (0)1685 726 100 • www.merthyr.ac.uk

Charity Registration Number 1140289. Rhif Cofrestru'r Elusen 1140289.

Company Number 667121. Rhif Cwmni 667121.

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Page 77

INVESTORS | BUDDSODDWYR
IN PEOPLE | MEWN POBL



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

5 July 2013

Dear Mr Powell

Petitions Committee: hourly paid and fixed term contracts

I am writing on behalf of colleges in Wales in response to your letter of 12 June 2013 seeking the views of ColegauCymru on the use of hourly paid and fixed term contracts in the further education (FE) sector. I understand that, as chair of the Petitions Committee, you have also written to individual colleges.

ColegauCymru is the national organisation representing the 17 FE colleges and two FE institutions in Wales. ColegauCymru is currently negotiating a national contract for staff employed in FE colleges with a large number of trade unions, collectively known as the 'joint trade unions' (JTUs).

The latest figures published by the Welsh Government on staff contracts show that in 2008/09, there were 16,810 individual staff contracts. 57% of staff employed by FE institutions were permanent, 21% fixed term and 22% hourly paid/casual staff.¹

Between 1998/99 to 2009/10, the number of staff increased by 9%, with full-time staff increasing by 26% and that of part-time decreasing by 2%. Figures are not available for fixed term contracts. The trend in some colleges has been towards fewer hourly paid part-time staff as colleges have converted hourly paid part-time contracts into fractional contracts.

Colleges employ part-time hourly paid staff, particularly lecturers, in order to be in a position to respond flexibly to external demand. Studying beyond the age of post-16 is not compulsory. Individuals aged 16+ and adults have a choice whether or not to seek a place at college and a further choice between full-time and a range of part-time provision.

¹ *Staff at Further Education Institutions in Wales, 2008/09 SDR 130/2010*, 26 August 2010. Welsh Government. Please note that the latest statistics bulletin on staff was published on 26 June 2013 (SDR 105/2013) showing there were 8,775 full time equivalent staff in colleges. This latter data is collected from the Finance Record and does not give the breakdown of numbers that was previously collected through the Staff Individualised Record.

Colleges are not able to predict accurately the number of students that enrol or the mode of attendance. The number of students, particularly part-time students, fluctuates from year to year. Many make enquiries, attend interview and even accept a college place, but then their circumstances change or they change their minds and they do not in the end enrol at the beginning of term. This figure may comprise up to one-third of potential enrolments. Planning staff deployment with such unpredictable enrolment patterns is a challenge. It would not make financial sense to employ part-time lecturers with fixed weekly hours before students have formally enrolled.

In 2011/12, 191,185 learners attended colleges. Of these, around 76% of learners attended part-time²; around three-quarters were adults aged over 19. Predicting part-time numbers is particularly difficult.

Colleges also need to respond to requests from local businesses for courses or consultancy, often at short notice. There are, in addition, Welsh Government initiatives such as ReACT in which a person recently unemployed can seek training, often at a few days' notice.

In order to be responsive in the delivery of education and training and in order to manage this uncertainty, colleges employ flexible, part-time staff.

Colleges are often not in a position to confirm an individual lecturer's teaching load until the start of term, once the enrolment cycle has been completed and students have taken up their places. However, once a lecturer's teaching load is confirmed, the number of hours usually remains constant throughout the year - unless a class becomes unviable. The teaching load of an individual lecturer may be increased during the year where an opportunity arises and where the lecturer agrees. Many staff in further education prefer to work in a flexible way.

There has been recent press coverage of catering and cleaning companies that employ people on zero hour contracts where employees do not know from one week to the next how many hours – if any – they will work. This does not apply to further education.

The common contract negotiations between ColegauCymru and the JTUs have considered zero hours. The current draft - Version 26 - of the common contract includes these words:

² *Further Education, work-based learning and community learning in Wales 2011/12 SDR 48/2013*. 26 March 2013. Welsh Government.

D. "LECTURER PART-TIME HOURLY PAID

In view of the nature of your employment your hours may vary according to the academic requirements of the College. However the College will provide you with a minimum of [hours] of teaching per [week, term, and year]. This minimum will be reviewed on an annual basis and may be subject to change depending on the requirements of the college."

This clause would have the effect of ensuring that a lecturer is employed on a minimum hours rather than a zero hours contract. However, colleges must retain the flexibility referred to in previous paragraphs and which is appreciated by many staff.

In respect to fixed term contracts, colleges often receive Welsh Government or European funding for the delivery of short term projects. Staff on these projects are employed on fixed term contracts for the duration of these externally funded projects. No guarantees can be given on employment once external funding has ceased.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Your sincerely

Dr John Graystone
Chief Executive

**P-04-485 Abuse of casual contracts in Further Education –
Correspondence from The College Ystrad Mynach to the
Clerking team, 08.07.2013**

8th July 2013

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

Dear Mr Powell

Petitions Committee: Zero Hour Contracts

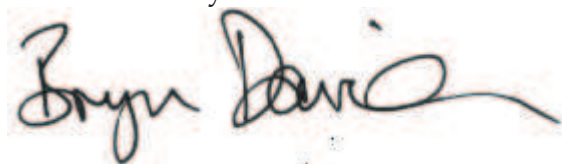
Thank you for your letter of 18th June 2013 concerning the above.

1. This College does use fixed term contracts.
2. a) This College has no staff on zero hour contracts.

b) This College has 133 staff employed in fixed term contracts.
3. The proportion of the College workforce employed on fixed term contracts is 24.4%
4. The use of zero hour contracts has remained at nil as we do not use this form of contract.
5. The use of fixed-term contracts by the College has remained the same over the past two years.
6. I envisage the use of zero hour contracts remaining the same for the next two years.
7. I envisage the use of fixed term contracts remaining the same for the next two years.
8. There is no official College policy nor guidance concerning the use of zero hour/fixed term contracts. The main factor that is taken into account when appointing to this type of contract is the number of student enrolments.
9. No further comments to add.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryn Davies', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bryn Davies
PRINCIPAL



Please ask for: Sue Johnson
Human Resources

Tel. No: (01656) 302586

15th July 2013

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Mr W Powell AC/AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

Re: Zero hours/Fixed term contracts

I write in response to your letter dated 18th June 2013 to confirm that Bridgend College agrees with the attached letter sent by ColegauCymru on 8th July 2013.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely

Sue Johnson
HR MANAGER

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

5 July 2013

Dear Mr Powell

Petitions Committee: hourly paid and fixed term contracts

I am writing on behalf of colleges in Wales in response to your letter of 12 June 2013 seeking the views of ColegauCymru on the use of hourly paid and fixed term contracts in the further education (FE) sector. I understand that, as chair of the Petitions Committee, you have also written to individual colleges.

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Colleges employ part-time hourly paid staff, particularly lecturers, in order to be in a position to respond flexibly to external demand. Studying beyond the age of post-16 is not compulsory. Individuals aged 16+ and adults have a choice whether or not to seek a place at college and a further choice between full-time and a range of part-time provision.

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D. "LECTURER PART-TIME HOURLY PAID

In view of the nature of your employment your hours may vary according to the academic requirements of the College. However the College will provide you with a minimum of [hours] of teaching per [week, term, and year]. This minimum will be reviewed on an annual basis and may be subject to change depending on the requirements of the college."

This clause would have the effect of ensuring that a lecturer is employed on a minimum hours rather than a zero hours contract. However, colleges must retain the flexibility referred to in previous paragraphs and which is appreciated by many staff.

In respect to fixed term contracts, colleges often receive Welsh Government or European funding for the delivery of short term projects. Staff on these projects are employed on fixed term contracts for the duration of these externally funded projects. No guarantees can be given on employment once external funding has ceased.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Your sincerely

Dr John Graystone
Chief Executive

P-04-485 Abuse of casual contracts in Further Education – Correspondence from Coleg Morgannwg to the Clerking team, 15.07.2013

Dear Clerk,

Further to your recent request regarding information related to contracts, Coleg Morgannwg's response is as follows:

Q1 Does the College use either zero hour or fixed term contracts?

College response = No zero hour contracts, we do employ some staff on fixed contracts

Q2 If so, how many staff are employed on:

A - Zero hour contracts = College response = 0 B - Fixed term contracts = College response = 62 of which 19 are covering short term sickness absences

Q3 What proportion of your workforce are employed on:

A Zero hour contracts = College response = 0% B Fixed term contracts = College response = 12.53% or 8.56%

Q4 Has the use of zero hour contracts increased / decreased / remained the same over the past two years?

College response = not applicable

Q5 Has the use of fixed term contracts increased / decreased / remained the same over the past two years?

College response = remained the same

Q6 Do you envisage the use of zero hour contracts increasing / decreasing / remaining the same over the next two years?

College response = not applicable

Q7 Do you envisage the use of fixed term contracts increasing / decreasing / remaining the same over the next two years?

College response = It is difficult to predict although as we are entering into merger fixed term contracts might rise slightly

Q8 Do you have any internal policies or guidelines on when wither zero hour or fixed term contracts should be used? If so, can you share this with the Committee? If not, what factors are taken into account when deciding to appoint on such contracts?

College response = No policy although we do have a Recruitment and Selection policy which has been attached for your perusal.

Do you have any other comments on the use of zero hours / fixed term contracts which the Committee may find useful?

College response = No

Yours faithfully

Clair Mapp
Executive Secretary
01443 663152
c.mapp@morgannwg.ac.uk

RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

Prepared by: **Head of Human Resources**

Policy Approved **Strategic Management Team** **29/09/09** **Minute 1729**
by:

Employment Policy Committee **02/11/09** **Minute 404**

AOS Aim 6

Review Date: **November 2012**

Preamble to the Policy

Equal Opportunities

The College shall comply with all statutory duties in respect of equal opportunities in the areas of sex, race, age, disability, sexual orientation, transgender, religion, belief, pregnancy, maternity and paternity, marriage and civil partnership and the rehabilitation of offenders. The college shall also comply with the Human Rights Act 1998 and any subsequent enactments or modifications.

Recruitment and Selection Procedure

1. Terms of Reference for Appointments

Under the Articles of Government of the Corporation: -

- 1.1 A selection panel consisting of at least 3 members of the Corporation shall be responsible for the appointment of the Principal and Deputy Principal
- 1.2 The Principal shall be responsible for the appointment, assignment, grading, appraisal, suspension, dismissal and determination, within the framework set by the Corporation, of the pay and conditions of service, of all other staff.
- 1.3 This College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

2. Staffing Levels

- 2.1 The staffing levels (establishment) of the College are those determined by the Principal. These levels may increase or decrease following the annual planning exercise or any other circumstance that may arise.

3. Vacancy Procedure

- 3.1 A vacancy occurs in a number of ways:-
 - 3.1.1 The retirement, resignation, dismissal or death of an existing member of staff.
 - 3.1.2 A significant increase in the volume of existing work,
 - 3.1.3 The introduction of new areas of work for which there is no existing expertise.
 - 3.1.4 New business introduced into the College on a cost recovery basis, e.g. Industrial Training, European Projects and commercial activities.
 - 3.1.5 In the instances of items 3.1.2, 3.1.3 and 3.1.4 discussions with the SMT must take place as staffing levels will be affected.
- 3.2 In the instance of a vacancy arising under 3.1.1 the following will be considered:-

- 3.2.1 The justification to proceed with a permanent replacement based on current and future demands in the programme/subject area or functional unit.
- 3.2.2 A possible change of emphasis of the post.
- 3.2.3 Possible redeployment of existing staff from within the College.
- 3.2.4 Use of a temporary appointment to cover the additional work.
- 3.3 When these considerations have been finalised and agreed upon, the vacancy will be advertised. It is normal College Policy that all vacancies are advertised (internally or externally).
- 3.4 The policy on the interviewing of internal and external candidates is contained in Appendix 1.

4. Appointment of all Staff

The general principles that apply are:-

- 4.1 To provide equitable and fair treatment, especially bearing in mind Equal Opportunity and Equal Pay legislation.
- 4.2 To provide effective control and management of the process.
- 4.3 To ensure cost-effective recruitment.
- 4.4 To ensure that the College recruits and retains suitably qualified and experienced staff to ensure the smooth functioning of the College.

5. Procedures

- 5.1 The Principal must approve any requests to fill a vacancy under 3 above.
- 5.2 SMT must approve the grade of the post. The grade should be established by objective analysis to ensure equal pay for work of equal value.
- 5.3 A job description and person specification should be reviewed and revised by the Manager, as appropriate. HR must be consulted during this process.
 - 5.3.1 The job description is a vital step in making recruitment fairer and more effective. Clear and precise job descriptions make it much easier to work out what skills, experience and knowledge are needed to do a job. Before any post is filled, an up to date job description must exist. It must describe fully, and in plain language, the tasks and responsibilities of the job
 - 5.3.2 A copy of the job description will be sent to all applicants applying for the vacancy
 - 5.3.3 The person specification will identify the type of candidate being sought as far as qualifications, experience, skills and abilities are concerned in respect of all vacancies.

- 5.4 HR shall establish an appointment file that will include copy of the advertisement, the job description and person specification.
- 5.5 As a guideline the closing date for applications should not normally be less than two weeks from the publication date and interviews should normally be held within four weeks of the closing date.
- 5.6 For external advertisements the standard College application form will be used. This form will be reviewed as necessary to conform to changes in legislation. C.V. will not be accepted and will be returned to the candidates.
- 5.7 The immediate Line Manager or Curriculum Director should carry out short-listing. HR can be called upon to assist. Evidence of short-listing must be retained on the appointment file for later audit.
- 5.8 Interviews will normally be a one-stage process, involving a panel interview. However a two stage process, commencing with an informal discussion followed by a panel interview may be used for senior posts. The extent of an informal process will vary with the nature of the vacancy.
- 5.9 Interview panels will include the immediate Line Manager, Curriculum Area / Functional Manager. HR will also be present. A note of the interview will be kept in the appointment file as well as details of questions asked, together with all related paperwork and notes from the interview panel members.
- 5.10 All internal candidates who meet the essential criteria will be offered an interview. All internal candidates will receive feedback from HR.
- 5.11 HR will establish the commencing salary of the successful applicant when a job offer is made. The commencing salary will be calculated in accordance with the College policy.
- 5.12 HR will confirm job offers in writing and will draft statements of particulars etc. and carry out any associated clerical procedures. All appointments will be conditional on medical screening, satisfactory references and a Criminal Records Bureau Check.
- 5.13 Applicants will be asked to complete Equal Opportunities monitoring forms.

6. Fixed Term/Temporary Contracts

- 6.1 In considering the staffing levels of the College, it could well be that to engage a new member of staff in a permanent capacity is inadvisable. Such examples are listed in 3.1.4 above where continuity of work and employment is not guaranteed.
- 6.2 In such cases, the most suitable option may be to make use of fixed term contracts for periods of one term, two terms, or a full academic year. Fixed term appointments must go through the same appointment procedure as specified above. A fixed term or temporary contract should not extend more than one academic year as the future of the post should be resolved within the planning process. However for staff who have been appointed to the college for the reasons identified by 3.1.4, the college will

make the post permanent or attempt to find them suitable alternative employment. If the College is unable to find them alternative employment the member of staff will be eligible to redundancy as per the appropriate policies.

- 6.3 College staff with permanent contracts will not be transferred to fixed term contracts.

7. Promotion Procedure

- 7.1 College policy for promotion is clear and applies to all categories of staff.
- 7.2 Where a permanent vacancy exists for a post graded above the basic grade the following procedure will apply:-
- 7.2.1 Where the vacancy arises under paragraph 3.1.1 the post may be advertised internally amongst existing members of staff eligible to apply under the terms of the advertisement in accordance with the principles and policies established in the Appendix 1 Interviewing Policy: Internal and External Candidates.
- 7.2.2 Where a restructure or reorganisation occurs and a vacancy arises the vacancy will be ring fenced to the potential redundant staff. Following this the post will be advertised internally and then if no appointment has been made the post will be advertised externally.

8. Part-time Staff

The College may, at any time, employ staff in a part-time capacity, both teaching and non-teaching. Such staff shall be appointed in the same manner as full time staff (application forms, interview etc)

8.1 Part time lecturers

- 8.1.1 Part time lecturers may be employed by two methods: as an hourly rate employee or as a salaried employee on a proportion of a full contract. The aggregate of whatever method is used will be converted to a full time equivalent to agree with the staffing level (establishment) of the College.
- 8.1.2 Part time lecturers employed under the hourly rate method should not be employed for more than 10 hours per week. Should it be necessary to employ a part time lecturer for more than this amount a salaried proportional contract should be considered and application made according to the procedure for staffing requests?
- 8.1.3 Advertisements may be placed in the press for part time lecturers. HR will keep a file of prospective part time lecturers.

Interviewing Policy: Internal and External Candidates

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The aim of all recruitment procedures, including interviewing, is to get the best person for the job.
- 1.2 The recruitment process, including the episode of interviewing, must be fully in keeping with the principles of equality of opportunity.
- 1.3 The recruitment process, for reasons of equality of opportunity, should neither discriminate in favour of, nor against, internal candidates.

2 Key Policy Statements

- 2.1 In general, it is the policy of the College that all posts should be advertised externally. Internal advertisement, that is, should be the exception rather than the rule.
- 2.2 In particular episodes of strategic change such as a restructuring, the vacancy will go to internal advertisement in the first instance.



15 July 2013

Pembrokeshire College
Haverfordwest
Pembrokeshire SA61 1SZ

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

Coleg Sir Benfro
Hwlfordd
Sir Benfro SA61 1SZ

☎ 01437 75 3000

☎ 01437 75 3001

✉ info@pembs.ac.uk

🌐 www.pembs.ac.uk

Dear Mr Powell

Petitions Committee: hourly paid and fixed term contracts

Thank you for your letter dated 18 June 2013 addressed to our College Principal, Sharron Lusher. I have been asked to provide a response on behalf of the College. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

You will have received a letter from Dr John Graystone, on behalf of colleges in Wales and I attach herewith a copy of this letter dated 5 July 2013.

Please be advised that we agree with the content of Dr Graystone's letter and would like to offer this as our response.

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

Yours sincerely

Kathryn Robson
Director of Human Resources and Learner Services

Enc

P-04-485 Abuse of Casual Contracts in Further Education – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Clerking team, 26.09.2013

My response to Colegau Cymru's Letter to the Chair of the Petitions Committee

- The new national contract will stop the use of 'zero hours' contracts but it will not stop the abuse of part time hourly paid contracts
- My fear is that the culture will become 1-108 contracts instead of 0-108 contracts (annual hours) and 1 guaranteed annual hour is hardly an improvement
- I understand the need for flexibility and am not asking for hourly paid contracts to be eradicated, only for them to be used responsibly and not successively for those with more than two years service and with sustainable hours
- In my personal experience, colleges are using these contracts to save money at the detriment to lecturers' financial security and general wellbeing
- Lecturers even with a minimum of 109 annual hours feel insecure knowing that at any point in the year their hours could be reduced with little notice to the equivalent of a 0.2 fractional contract. Even if this happens only on rare occasions, knowing that it *could* is unsettling.
- Some of my colleagues work a full timetable (25 weekly hours), yet are employed on a 109-420 annual hourly contract. They are working 840 annual hours which shows these contracts are not being used for their intended purpose i.e. for those who do between 4 and 12 hours a week.

My response to the letters from individual Colleges

- Although colleges such as Gower do review contracts annually, this is done on an ad hoc basis. I would like to see a procedure in place where staff who are reviewed but their contracts are not increased are provided with written justification of the reason for this so that they understand why perhaps one of their colleagues was chosen and they weren't. This gives

lecturers a road map so they can see where their careers are heading. The other issue is that sometimes fractions are given out that are below the number of hours that a lecturer has been teaching so even those who have been reviewed and increased still feel hard done by. This makes part time staff feel devalued compared to full time staff.

- It's pleasing to know that Llandrillo Menai transfer lecturers on fixed term contracts to permanent contracts after 4 years and it would be encouraging if all Colleges could do this.
- I find it very worrying that Coleg Powys employ such a high proportion of staff in a fixed term hourly paid capacity (55%). This makes me feel that as a sector the contribution staff in the FE sector make to young people's futures isn't recognised at all. As a sector, I can see young lecturers shying away from it which I find very sad. I would really like Welsh Government to consider how they can turn this situation around and put pressure on Colleges to use casual contracts responsibly and for their intended purposes.

Agenda Item 3.13

P-04-487 A Welsh Government deposit loan scheme for first time Welsh home buyers

Petition wording:

We call on the Welsh Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to offer an annual deposit loan scheme for first time Welsh house buyers and/or renters.

It is proposed that Welsh mortgage companies would also need to take part in this scheme and agree to ask for no more than 5% of a deposit on any suitable property (as well as offer a low interest own what you pay for mortgage). This for example would all mean that up to 15,000 Welsh first time house buyers (first time buyers whose earnings are below a certain threshold and have lived or worked in Wales continuously for at least 10 years, or have full time business links to Wales) could be helped annually with a deposit loan of around £7,500 each for an averaged priced house, with the loan back payments deferred for at least one year. Once sellers and buyers agree to the scheme, the property in question would keep its eligible occupancy clause, as happens with similar schemes in the Peak District and North York Moors National parks.

Supporting information:

Although the Welsh Government can't interfere with private properties, owners including second homeowners could be encouraged to consider selling through the scheme if they decide to sell their property. First time renovators of derelict properties/farmhouses should also be eligible for the scheme. It's proposed that Welsh estate agents and the house sellers would be paid a monthly fee (paid for by the interest on the deposit loans) for taking part in the voluntary scheme by agreeing to only advertise, sell or rent within Wales and to eligible Welsh citizens for the first 6 months of a property being put on the market - after which time it would be open to anyone.

This scheme would help to give families and individuals a chance to live and work within their own areas and not be priced out of the market by unreasonable average wage to property price ratios, whilst also ensuring more money stays within local economies, boosting a more sustainable and productive Welsh economy in general.

Petition raised by: Sovereign Wales

Date petition first considered by Committee: 18 June 2013

Number of signatures: 17

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-487
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/01192/13

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

02 July 2013

Dear William

Thank you for your letter dated 26 June regarding the petition from Sovereign Wales for a deposit loan scheme. Also, I would like to thank you for providing the Welsh Government with another option to assist first time home buyers in Wales.

The Welsh Government is aware of the difficulties people face today both in getting onto the property ladder as well as moving up. We are exploring different ways in which we can provide support to all in addition to our existing schemes, Homebuy and Rent First.

Recently two new schemes known as Help to Buy have been announced by the UK government.

Firstly, there will be a mortgage guarantee scheme from the UK Government to assist with access to high loan to value mortgages which we understand will be available UK wide from January 2014.

The second is an England only initiative, shared equity scheme, whereby a loan of up to 20% is provided to the buyer interest free for five years. I have agreed initial proposals for a shared equity scheme in Wales. My officials are now at the early stages of designing this new scheme.

I hope the above provides your constituents with some reassurance that the Welsh Government is actively seeking to address the issues they have raised.

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

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
Printed on 100% recycled paper

P-04-487 A Welsh Government deposit loan scheme for first time Welsh home buyers – Correspondence from the petitioner to the clerking team, 30.09.13

I read Carl Sargeants response letter of 2nd July to this petition and his initial proposals for a Shared equity scheme in Wales, with interest. Anything that is aimed at helping first time buyers is of course a welcomed development. However, except for the general idea of a (deposit) loan scheme that would be interest free for five years, the suggested 20% Welsh government Shared equity guarantee scheme can't be a sensible, sustainable or financially prudent way forward for the Welsh Government. The potential dangers of the Help to buy and the Shared equity scheme on an UK wide scale have been voiced over and over in the British press as demonstrated in selected examples below:

*Officials at The Institute of Directors said:

“the world must have gone mad for us to now be discussing endless taxpayer guarantees for mortgages”

*Robert Carroll of The Scottish MOV8 Real Estate firm of solicitors and estate agents, said:

“Anything that is aimed at helping First Time Buyers is of course a welcome development. First Time Buyers are the life blood of the property market and without people being able to get onto the property market the market is not as healthy as it could be. First time buyers have been struggling to gather a deposit in recent times because the deposits required by lenders have been higher than they were at the peak of the market in 2007 so, on the face of it, it's good for buyers with smaller deposits that the government is going to underwrite the banks who lend to such buyers, though since the scheme is not just aimed at First Time Buyers it is debatable about whether the scheme just allows lenders to offer even safer loans to people who already have enough money put aside and are moving up the property ladder or buying a second property. However, buyers' inability to purchase a property or get a mortgage is not just about deposit levels. The lenders' criteria about whom they will lend to have also tightened, making it more difficult to get a mortgage even if you do have the required deposit. It is of course helpful if the government will underwrite the mortgage, but it doesn't address the issue of the tighter criteria for whom the lenders are prepared to lend to.

The shared equity scheme for new build properties, with a 20% interest-free loan being provided by the government, will of course help people to get onto the property ladder. A significant chunk of money (about £266 million) has been earmarked for Scotland but it's up to the Scottish Government to decide that it actually wants to implement a scheme north of the Border. However, my concern is that new-build properties tend to drop in value as soon as you turn the key in the front door. So unless property prices rise in the interim period, anyone looking to move-up the property ladder will have to make a loss to do so and that will discourage people from actually moving.

By encouraging buyers to buy new build properties which carry with them a developer's premium whereby the value of the property is likely to be lower than the purchase price as soon as the buyer turns their keys in the front door, this is likely in my opinion to ensure that, although buyers are getting onto the property ladder, they are less likely to be able to move up it. In addition, by supporting only the new build and not second hand sector of the market, I am concerned that builders will be less likely to be prepared to be competitive with the pricing of their new build units because they have been given an artificial leg-up compared with the second-hand properties on the market that would normally provide stiff competition to them. All of this makes it unlikely as far as I am concerned that the buyer is going to get a good deal and that once they are on the housing ladder they will then be able to move up it, the one thing that will actually have the desired effect of stimulating the housing market.

My concern is that the initiatives perhaps don't address the root causes of lower activity levels within the housing market in recent years and that, although they may help buyers onto the housing ladder, they might not help them to move up it in years to come.

Another root cause of the slow-down in the housing market has been a general lack of confidence in the market and this has been the result of general economic doom and gloom, people losing their jobs and the realisation that property prices most certainly can go down as well as up. Simply providing funding for buyers doesn't address the lack of confidence that buyers will have in wondering whether the asset they have just bought will go down in value in the next few years.

As far as I am concerned, the big winners here are the builders and the lenders. The builders have less incentive to be competitive with their pricing and are given an artificial advantage versus the second-hand property market. The lenders have less risk because the mortgage is backed by a government guarantee. The big question is whether all of these ideas and the amount of public funds being poured into them will actually will help the right people, will help those people for years to come and will actually stimulate movement in the property market. The alternative is that they will simply fill the coffers of house builders, will be used by UK lenders as a way of de-risking their current lending positions and will put people in a position, under the next UK government, where they are unable to move home at all because they are, in real terms, in negative equity in their new build homes.

I have to say that I am less than convinced of the effectiveness of any of these initiatives!"- http://www.mov8realestate.com/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=145#sthash.RbdOjIjl.dpuf

*The Guardian newspaper and many other news media also reported that this scheme in general would be economic madness:

“Offering taxpayer subsidies for high loan-to-value mortgages worth up to £600,000, just as the incorrigibly boom-bust British housing market is moving from stop-to-go mode, is at best risky, at worst, downright reckless”
<http://www.theguardian.com/business/economics-blog/2013/sep/27/help-to-buy-george-osborne-concession>

*Money week stated:

"In case you missed it, George Osborne plans to offer loans on new builds of up to 20%. And more daringly, he plans to offer guarantees on mortgages. The idea is just like that of a doting parent, who offers to put up their own assets should things go wrong with the bank's loan. Long gone are the days when the banks would extend 95% loans (or higher!) alongside fantastic teaser deals with low rates. So when the government effectively says, "we'll put up the other 20%" and brings back the classic 95% mortgage, that obviously has its attractions for many. The chancellor is counting on his policy to bring serious sub-prime lending to the UK and to kick-start the economy... This policy scam needs one thing in order to work: interest rates have to stay pinned to the floor." <http://www.moneyweek.com/news-and-charts/economics/uk/budget-2013-now-osborne-is-all-in-63222>

In view of all this I would therefore urge that Carl Sargeant re look at the initial Sovereign Wales petition for a Welsh Government annual capped deposit fund for the first time house buyers of Wales rather than a bureaucratic and meddling Help to buy or Shared equity Scheme . The Sovereign Wales deposit plan proposes that Welsh mortgage companies would also need to take part in this scheme and agree to ask for no more than 5% of a deposit on any suitable property. The lenders' criteria about whom they will lend to should also be simplified and made easier for the people wishing to apply for the deposit scheme to get a mortgage. This I believe would be a far more practical, more helpful and un-meddling policy for Wales to take.

This for example would also mean that up to 15,000 Welsh first time house buyers (first time buyers whose earnings are below a certain threshold and have lived or worked in Wales continuously for at least 10 years, or have full time business links to Wales) could be helped annually with a deposit loan of around £7,500 each for an averaged priced house of a house valued at up to £300,000 or so, with the interest payments deferred for 5 years as Mr Sargeant suggests (It's proposed that the loan itself as could possibly be part deferred as well for some of this period) Once lenders and buyers agree to the scheme, and up to a capped amount, the properties in question could also keep their eligible occupancy clause, as happens with similar schemes in the Peak District and North York Moors National parks - hopefully catering for the next generation of new house buyers.

As previously stated, this scheme would help to get families and individuals on the property ladder and give them a chance to live and work within their own areas and not be priced out of the market by unreasonable average wage to property price ratios whilst also ensuring more money stays within local economies, boosting a more sustainable and productive Welsh economy in general.

Incidentally, as mentioned in another Sovereign Wales petition, the possibilities for a Welsh public bank to play a part in these annual capped deposit loans should also be considered.

P-04-489 A National affordable and priority housing Act of Wales

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to create a National Housing Act of Wales to regulate the building of new houses in accordance with sustainable, affordable local and national needs and capabilities: to be regulated by an exclusive independent Welsh Inspectorate and Welsh housing projections panel. Around 80% of all new houses built in Wales, whether for renting or selling, should be local need, affordable housing (priced proportionally to average local authority wages) and priority given to local authority residents (people who have lived or worked continuously in the area for 10 years or more, or have work, business or other immediate spouse/family connections to the area). This will ensure that most of the local money flow circulates within local economies, keeping them healthy to develop within their means. This is a similar policy to the ones practised in National Parks in England such as the Peak District and North York Moors.

Supporting information:

A housing act would guarantee that new all house builds are built in strict proportion to the existing urban/rural balance and within the means of the economy, social cohesion and infrastructure capabilities of the local authorities, and of Wales as a whole. A basic minimal amount of new houses/flats could be built at the discretion of local authorities under agreed guidelines, with any other new houses/flats having to go through the scrutiny of an independent Welsh Housing Inspectorate and Welsh Government. Disproportionate high housing prices in many areas of Wales can often result in local families being driven out of the areas where they've grown up. The focus therefore needs to be on real local need including affordable housing and renovating existing buildings, rather than on unsustainable housing projections conjured up by far removed civil servants.

Petition raised by: Sovereign Wales

Date petition first considered by Committee: 4 June 2013

Number of signatures: 28

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-489
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/01193/13

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

10 July 2013

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dear William

Thank you for your letter dated 26 June 2013 following the petition you received regarding a new national affordable and priority Housing Act for Wales.

Having read the letter I can confirm that there are no plans to include provisions on the regulation of new house building in the forthcoming Housing Bill. The contents of the Bill will be based upon the proposals set out in the Welsh Government's White Paper, entitled "Homes for Wales", published for wide-ranging consultation last year. The Bill is expected to include provisions on a range of matters including; tackling homelessness, empty homes and enabling more use of Community Land Trusts and Co-operative Housing

Whilst the Bill has no provisions to regulate new housing building in the context described by the petitioner, the Welsh Government has taken action to develop affordable housing across Wales where it is needed.

The Welsh Government's planning policy, set out in *Planning Policy Wales*, requires local authorities to optimise the delivery of housing to meet the requirements of all sectors of society in their area. *Planning Policy Wales* states that local planning authorities should promote sustainable residential environments and make appropriate provision for affordable housing. In planning the provision of new housing local authorities should make an assessment of the housing requirements of their area, covering the need for all types of housing, both market and affordable. The Welsh Government's household projections form the starting point for this assessment; however local planning authorities should consider the appropriateness of the projections for their area, based on all sources of local evidence, including the need for affordable housing. This assessment (termed a Local Housing Market Assessment) forms a key part of the evidence base for local planning authorities'

development plans. In particular, Local Development Plans (LDPs) must include a target for affordable housing, which should be based on the identified need and also take account of economic viability, and set out how this target is to be delivered.

The issues of 'affordability' and 'local need' are for local authorities to define and set out in their development plans. Affordability should be calculated for each of the housing markets that may be operating in an authority's area (and those of neighbouring authorities, if appropriate) and guidance on how to this is provided in the Welsh Government's *Local Housing Market Assessment Guide*.

Regarding the household projections for local authorities in Wales, these are prepared by Welsh Government statisticians independently of Ministers and policy officials and are designated as National Statistics by the UK Statistics Authority. This means that these statistics meet identified user needs; are well explained and readily accessible; are produced according to sound methods; and are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

I hope the above sets out the clear emphasis that we have in Wales for planning for affordable housing which is very much based on local planning to meet local housing needs.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Carl Sargeant'.

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

P-04-489 National affordable and priority housing Act of Wales – Correspondence from the petitioner to the clerking team, 30.09.13

It's taken Wales around 2000 years to have the 1.3 million houses it currently has. The Welsh Government proposes that their projections of 320,000 new houses for Wales, with no thought given to existing local priority or average wage to house price ratio, is taken up by all local authorities in the next 20 years, meaning a 25% increase in the house stock of Wales in 20 years. No mention is given to what jobs there will be for the up to 1 million new dwellers that will fill these houses or how the already struggling Welsh public service infrastructure and economy is supposed to accommodate a 33% increase in the population of Wales in such a short time. The Welsh public get no say and most of our representatives in the Senedd seemingly see this as completely normal.

It is strongly proposed that the National Assembly for Wales puts an end to this flawed process of LDP 'population projections' that are in reality no more than an estimate of how many people might be persuaded to move to an area from 'England and Wales'. It can't be right that housing associations are also locked into this flawed 'England and Wales' projections model. The Welsh Government and our democratic representatives are elected to serve the needs and interests of Welsh citizens first and foremost, as is their remit under Welsh devolution and housing within that settlement.

There are many areas of the country in which local authority citizens are clearly disadvantaged. This is why, in order to remedy this problem, the Welsh Government should introduce fair, proportionate priority legislation for Welsh citizens when it comes to the majority of new house builds. It is therefore proposed that a Housing Act of Wales is necessary in order to regulate the building of new houses in Wales in accordance with sustainable, realistic projections of population growth and future demand from within the existing population of Wales, whilst also taking in Wales' needs and capabilities to absorb populations from outside our borders that is within our economic and social services means. This should be regulated by an exclusive independent Welsh Inspectorate and Welsh housing projections panel and not an England and Wales panel designated as National Statistics by the UK Statistics Authority as the Minister for Housing and Regeneration Carl Sargeant refers to in his reply on the 10th of July 2013.

Your attention should also be drawn to the fact that the 2003-based national and sub-national household projections for Wales were bizarrely compiled by Anglia Ruskin University on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government. This work was being carried out as part of the wider project of compiling sub-national household projections for England, on behalf of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). This is a ridiculous situation and goes against the whole purpose of the devolution settlement. It also reiterates the obvious need for the establishment of an exclusive independent Welsh Inspectorate and Welsh housing projections panel to determine new Welsh housing stock based on existing Welsh need and not England and Wales needs as has been the case so far.

This lapse may have been understandable in the constitutional arrangement that existed before devolution, but now that we have a Welsh Government, and with that Government having devolved powers, and more importantly, responsibilities over housing, it is no longer

acceptable. The Welsh Government has been democratically elected to serve the needs and interests of Welsh citizens. If it does not, then for what purpose does it exist? And when – as in housing there are clearly many areas of the country in which Welsh citizens are being disadvantaged and Welsh communities damaged, then it becomes the duty of that Welsh Government and to introduce legislation to remedy these problems.

A proposed 5 - 10 year priority rule should not be as draconian as might be feared and would not include persons crossing the border to take up employment opportunities in Wales, key workers, students, business creators, companies, the self employed, vulnerable people or asylum seekers, as already catered for under UK law.

As a related Welsh housing/accommodation matter, in the 2009 report entitled *'The effects of recent migration on local authorities: allocation of housing and actions under homelessness legislation - a study in six local authorities - Executive summary'* commissioned by the Welsh Government, all stakeholders interviewed across the relevant six Welsh counties agreed that six months was too short a time to determine a local connection for homeless housing. Because of the relatively large private rented sector and holiday lets it was suggested that it was easy for someone to move in to the area and when the accommodation was no longer available, to claim themselves homeless and claim a local connection. In this case it was felt that a minimum residence of 12 months should be the bare minimum local connection before claiming homelessness. Personally I believe this should also be raised to at least 5 years as long as the relevant elements of the above mentioned exceptions are catered for.

This report also states that many elected members questioned felt that housing associations gave priority to assisting inward migration by accommodating greater numbers of people from outside the area rather than concentrating on local citizens as should be their remit. The impact of recent migrants for social housing was also claimed to prevent local people from accessing social housing and also had an averse impact on Welsh language and culture, and had brought a disproportionate impact and change to rural communities. The Welsh Government has a duty to rectify this.

While the plans themselves were drawn up by the relevant local authorities, these bodies insist they were left no alternative because bureaucratic UK wide projections diktats ordered them to provide for new homes in numbers greatly exceeding any predicted local demand. LDP's are based on flawed 'population projections' that are in reality no more than an estimate of how many people might be persuaded to move to an area and are based on England and Wales projections rather than existing Welsh based projections. There is a growing belief that, in many parts of Wales, all forms of housing provision are unrelated to the needs of existing Welsh citizens : even dismissive of, or openly hostile towards, those needs.

It also needs to be re instated that Wales is one of the small nations of the world and deserves to be protected economically as well as socially in terms of its distinct identity and culture. An influx of the size proposed by the LDP's would have disproportionate effects on such a small country in both these areas. Since the people of Wales have not been permitted a debate on this issue at Senedd level and our AM's currently do not seem that bothered, the people of

Wales will have no choice but to consider legal and international human rights action unless the Welsh Government starts doing what it was elected to do.

It is also worth reminding the Welsh Government, Assembly members as well as local authorities, that under the Local Government Act 2000, councils have been charged with “promoting the social, economic and environmental well being of their area and producing community strategies which contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK”. This should include impacts beyond the local area as well as making sure local people and communities are engaged in the process of decision making through participative systems of governance. As the Welsh government has apparently adopted sustainable development as its central organising principle it is oxymoronic that their housing projections seem to be the most unsustainable plans possible for the future of Wales and seem to run against the fundamental points outlined in the local government act concerning sustainable development. It should be very much hoped that this is currently an unfortunate oversight on behalf of the Welsh Government and that it can be quickly and sensibly rectified.

Below are the disproportionate housing projections commissioned and published by the Welsh Government for all the local authorities of Wales and which are bizarrely based on England and Wales projections. These unsustainable projections should be discontinued in favour of a sustainable Welsh based projections system as outlined in Welsh devolution responsibilities.

Projected housing increase Wales: 2008 - 2033
Welsh Government figures

Local Authority area	Households 2008	Projected household increase 2033
Anglesey	30,621	5,206
Gwynedd	51,865	8,397
Conway	50,651	9,233
Denbighshire	43,137	12,162
Flintshire	64,108	10,513
Wrexham	57,157	15,536
Powys	59,019	15,572
Ceredigion	32,808	6,670
Pembrokeshire	52,091	12,319
Carmarthenshire	80,280	26,547
Swansea	100,545	29,380
Neath Port Talbot	60,077	15,837
Bridgend	58,183	16,541
The Vale of Glamorgan	52,818	14,861
Cardiff	136,741	70,743
Rhondda Cynon Taf	99,109	16,272
Merthyr Tydfil	23,932	3,589
Caerphilly	73,998	14,563
Blaenau Gwent	30,679	5,522
Torfaen	38,838	2,812
Monmouthshire	38,090	7,782
Newport	59,960	11,111

Total housing increase for Wales between 2008 – 2033 – **331,168**

Projected population increase in Wales between 2008 – 2033, **794,803**

P-04-408 : Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to fund the Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service in Wales to the same degree as the Adult Eating Disorder Service in Wales.

It has come to my attention that there is a disparity in funding between Adult Services and Child and Adolescent Services as regards funding for Eating Disorder Treatment. At the present time Adult Eating Disorder Services receive £1 million per year from the Welsh Assembly, as well as 4 specialist trained provider groups.

Sadly research points to the fact that Eating Disorders, especially Anorexia Nervosa, are predominantly first experienced around puberty. Historically puberty was around 12-15, however, puberty is becoming younger and therefore statistics are beginning to show the prevalence of Anorexia Nervosa starting at younger ages is apparent. Bulimia Nervosa is generally a disease with an onset age of 18-25, however as with Anorexia this may differ from person to person. The fact that in both disorders, and indeed all diagnosable Eating Disorders, early intervention is the key to a quick recovery, therefore preventing long term financial implications for the WAG, makes this plea more pertinent.

I therefore implore the Assembly to consider this a priority for debate and to mend this disparity by giving equal finances and services to the Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder service in Wales as already given to Adult EDS.'

Petition raised by: Helen Missen

Date petition first considered by Committee: 17 July 2012

Number of signatures: 246

P-04-408 Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service – Supporting information from the Petitioner to the Committee, 23.09.2013

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you once again for taking this petition seriously.

1. This is, I understand, my last opportunity for input prior to the meeting on 8 October, which I shall be attending. It has been a bit of a learning curve to understand the procedures involved in dealing with a petition, and I hope that any amateur impressions in that respect will be forgiven.
To recap, I decided to initiate this petition a year ago in consequence of the experiences of my family and myself, and of the similar experiences of many families with whom I have been in touch. I did not consider it appropriate to give details of those families without their consent, but suggest that if any further research is needed before granting the petition then they should be approached in a proper manner.
2. Although I am not myself a professional (beyond being a qualified nurse employed in BCUHB) I feel I am no longer an amateur in relation to the whole field of eating disorders (ED).

Since my daughter developed an ED some 4 years ago, I have familiarized myself with a vast quantity of information and with a large number of relevant people, not only in Wales but in UK and internationally. Some of these have been leading specialists in treatment of EDs, some non-specialist professionals in the mental health services, some support groups such as BEAT. I do now feel that I probably have more knowledge in the field of EDs, particularly in relation to treatment and prognosis for minors, than many of those professionals who deal with first referrals.

3. A year ago I embarked on the petition process, having seen and experienced the disparity of funding for Specialist EDs in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in comparison to Adult ED services (AEDS) here in Wales. I stand by my original call for equal, if not more funding for specialist eating disorder services in Wales within CAMHS.
4. In the past four years I have been encouraged by the stance of the Welsh government in the addressing of ED services. Wales is well equipped with documents, groups of working parties and well meaning professionals. The Welsh Framework for EDs (2009) and the 1000 lives initiative launched on the 1st March 2012 are steadfast in their approach to 'improving care'; but it is a matter of grave concern that it seems to take so long for progress to be made. It appears that the "intelligent targets" have not been implemented uniformly across

Wales, and that they do not go far enough in providing specialist help at stages prior to Tier 3. Such help needs to be cross-disciplinary, including specialist dieticians as well as ED specialists.

5. The petition calls for funding, stemming from the need for early intervention in the treatment of EDs. This is backed up by both the Welsh Framework for EDs and the 1000 lives. Both stipulate it is fundamental to good, evidence based treatment. It remains the simple fact: the majority of EDs begin in childhood and early adolescence, a fact that cannot be changed, a fact that all professionals in this field agree with, a fact that I have quoted, as have the above mentioned gold standard documents that underpin the Welsh stance on EDs.
6. At present, the Welsh CAMHS system is full of gaping holes in the treatment of eating disorders. There is both disparity and discrepancy of care across Wales, evidence of which the Cross Party Group and Beat, alongside Dr Robin Glaze, Dr Menna Jones and others have reported.
7. I understand the need for an evidence based approach in all areas within the NHS and I do believe that the evidence should be gathered from all sources, including actual service users. I believe that families of patients with EDs should be approached, preferably by an independent body.. Their stories should be heard. At present, I have families approaching me, at their wits end. In this day and age, families are already under enormous stress, strain and financial pressure. Adding the complications and difficulties of an ED to a family unit increases stress to unbearable levels, especially when the treatment provided is inadequate, unhelpful and not evidence based or concurrent with latest protocols. I do believe that one of the next steps forward should be to include the service users, the clients, the 'carers and sufferers' as they are labelled.
8. Junior Marsipan is a wonderful document and to be applauded. However, with earlier intervention, appropriate training for CAMHS teams in the latest treatment protocols, and arming families with the right tools to treat this disorder at home, with the back-up of the Tier 1 & 2 clinical teams including cross-disciplinary specialists as above, many more children will be 'saved' long before both Junior Marsipan and in patient treatment is needed.

I am fully committed to Wales becoming a leader in the UK as far as the treatment of EDs go and I am thrilled that the AEDS tier 3 service has been created. It is invaluable.

9. However, I return to early intervention. CAMHS, if provided with specialist expertise at tier 2 level would be better equipped and the overall service would be more effective. The need for crisis admissions to Inpatient Units and the cost to the NHS of emergency admissions would be reduced, probably greatly, if early intervention, training of CAMHS teams, better support for parents at home and

training and help for parents were an integral part of Tier 1 & 2 care for families of patients with an ED.

10. At present, CAMHS “leads” with simply a special interest, who through no fault of their own, may lack knowledge and experience and expertise of these highly complex illnesses, may and do make mistakes and mis-judgements, which often result in emergency admissions to both hospitals and inpatient facilities. Needless to say, this results in even more stress and sometimes in devastation for the sufferers and their families.

It is also very important that non-specialist staff in CAMHS are better trained and educated in dealing with the urgencies involved in earlier stages of EDs, and in understanding the multi-disciplinary needs and the comorbidity issues, such as low mood, family problems and educational disruption. Virtual training and conferencing could perhaps play a valuable part.

11. 1000 lives calls for training of tier 1 and 2 by tier 3 specialists. I would suggest that the specialists should be in tier 2 thus bringing earlier appropriate intervention into the equation.

A specialist for EDs within every Local Health Board is one of the recommendations made by the Framework for Eating Disorders. That is still too far removed from the patient, but even that is not in place throughout Wales. 2009 is now 4 years ago!

12. I agree some children and adolescents presenting at Tiers 1 and 2 may not in any event progress to a chronic ED, but this is a rarity, rather than the norm. The point is that many who do progress to a chronic disorder (with consequent very expensive long-term funding implications) might at much lesser cost have been spared a lifetime of entrenchment in their illness, if they had only had early intervention by specialists with expertise and experience. Anorexia Nervosa still has the highest mortality rate of any mental illness.

Leaving aside the emotional and human cost (though of course it is a perfectly valid if not overwhelming factor), I remain convinced that the risk of putting extra funding into early intervention is one worth taking in funding terms, in view of the likely savings on long term treatment, even though it may not be possible to forecast this result precisely. Please do not use pure figures as an excuse for inaction.

Helen Missen