

Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue: **North Wales - Prestatyn High School**

Meeting date: **Monday, 11 November 2013**

Meeting time: **09:53 - 12:15**

An audio-only feed of proceedings can be accessed on Senedd TV at:
http://www.senedd.tv/archiveplayer.jsf?v=en_700000_11_11_2013&t=0&l=en

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

William Powell (Chair)
Russell George
Bethan Jenkins

Witnesses:

Brian Mintoft, Lead petitioner
Jenny Windsor, Petitioner
Mike Parry, Lead petitioner
Dr Delyth Davies, Petitioner
Tom Pollock, Lead petitioner
Dr Karen Pollock, Petitioner
Councillor Lewis Davies, Petitioner
Dawn Docx, Lead Petitioner
Anna Gresty, Petitioner
Alex Barons, Prestatyn High School
Sebastian Collings, Prestatyn High School
Holly Hinson, Prestatyn High School
Daisy Major, Prestatyn High School

Committee Staff:

Steve George (Clerk)
Kayleigh Driscoll (Deputy Clerk)
Kath Thomas (Deputy Clerk)

1 Introduction, apologies and substitutions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Committee. Joyce Watson sent her apologies.

2 New petitions

2.1 P-04-510 Public inquiry into the Breckman case in Carmarthenshire

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

- Minister for Local Government and Government Business seeking her views;
- Public Services Ombudsman to ask if he is content with the action taken by the local authority; and
- the local authority seeking their views on the petition.

2.2 P-04-511 Support for children and young people participation standards

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

2.3 P-04-512 Stop the "Staff reduction proposals" at the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

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

- Minister for Health and Social Services seeking his views;
- Cardiff and Vale University Health Board seeking clarification on a number of points, including the downgrading of posts and what factors the LHB had taken into account in reaching their decisions; and
- The Trades Unions asking them to set out their concerns.

2.4 P-04-513 Save the Wrexham/Barmouth X94 bus service

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

- write to the Minister for Economy Science and Transport;
- write to Arriva and the regional transport consortia seeking their views on the petition; and
- request a research paper drawing together the various issues concerning integrated and regional transport.

3 Updates to previous petitions

3.1 P-04-367 Save our Hospital Services

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

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

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

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

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to:

- write to the Minister seeking further details on the purpose of the expert scrutiny panel;
- draw the Minister's attention to the further correspondence from the petitioners and ask that this is taken into account by the panel;
- await the Minister's decision in the light of the advice he receives from the panel; and
- seek a response from Hywel Dda Health Board, copying in the Minister and raising concern about the length of time taken to respond to the Committee's correspondence.

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

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to:

- ask the petitioners whether they are satisfied with the Minister's response;

- write to the Minister asking him to review the position after 12 months and for a plenary debate on the issue in the light of any review; and
- ask the Research Service to produce a paper on the position once the Minister has completed a review, possibly with a view to a short Committee report to help inform any plenary debate.

3.7 P-04-460 Lives not Airports

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to:

- Invite the WHSSC to give oral evidence around the concerns raised by the petitioner, and also express concern over the lack of response; and
- write to the Minister asking for a timeframe of the review of rare diseases and whether that will impact on the matters covered by the petition.

3.8 P-04-492 Diagnosis of autism in children

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to:

- await the Deputy Minister's update on implementation of Hywel Dda's action plan to address the waiting list in Pembrokeshire; and
- return to the petition once the Deputy Minister's update is received around February next year.

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

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to:

- write to the Cross-party Group to keep them informed of the latest correspondence; and
- clarify with the petitioner whether they are satisfied with the correspondence received, and
- depending on the petitioner's response, the Committee may commission a short piece of work on the petition.

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

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to close the petition in light of the petitioner's comments being taken in to account for the review of Welsh second language at key stages 3 and 4.

3.11 P-04-498 To get Wales educated

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

3.12 P-04-499 Kick Start The Welsh Language Curriculum

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

3.13 P-04-335 The Establishment of a Welsh Cricket Team

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to:

- close the petition, in light of the report being debated in Plenary, which has contributed to the wider public debate on the issue; and
- Refer the report to the cross-party group on sport to consider.

3.14 P-04-472 Make the MTAN law

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to;

- await the Minister's attendance in February;
- write to the Minister to seek clarification of the sort of questions he will be unable to address until the Varteg Hill application has been decided; and
- consider inviting stakeholders to give evidence in the New Year.

The Committee also noted with sadness the death of the lead petitioner's wife and agreed that the Chair should write to Dr Cox to express Members' condolences.

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

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

Mike Parry, Dr Delyth Davies, Brian Mintoft and Jennie Windsor answered questions from the Committee.

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

Tom Pollock, Dr Karen Pollock and Lewis Davies answered questions from the Committee.

7 P-04-496 Through Schools

Dawn Docx and Anna Gresty answered questions from the Committee.

8 P-04-432 Stop the Army Recruiting in Schools

Members discussed the evidence which was gathered by speaking to a group of pupils informally. Alex Barons, one of the staff, and Daisy Major, Holly Hinson and Sebastian Collings, pupils from Prestatyn High School contributed towards the discussion.

The Committee noted its gratitude to the pupils and staff they had met at Prestatyn High School and to the school for its warm welcome and help.