

## Petitions Committee

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

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Meeting date:  
**10 December 2013**

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Meeting time:  
**09:00**

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Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



For further information please contact:

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## Agenda

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

### **2 New petitions (09.00 – 09.15)**

- 2.1 P-04-519 Abolition of Park Homes Sales Commission (Page 1)
- 2.2 P-04-520 Regarding the Cancellation of All Elective Orthopaedic Surgery by Hywel Dda Health Board During the Winter 2013/14 (Page 2)
- 2.3 P-04-521 Regulating Caravan Sites (Pages 3 - 5)
- 2.4 P-04-522 Asbestos in Schools (Page 6)
- 2.5 P-04-523 Protect the elderly and vulnerable in care homes (Pages 7 - 14)

### **3 Updates to previous petitions (09.15 – 10.15)**

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

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- 3.4 P-04-504 A483 Maerdy bridge Road Junction safety (Pages 22 - 25)

## **Housing and Regeneration**

- 3.5 P-04-365 Protect buildings of note on the Mid Wales Hospital site (Pages 26 - 34)
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- 3.7 P-04-489 A National affordable and priority housing Act of Wales (Pages 40 - 47)

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## **Education and Skills**

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## **Culture and Sport**

- 3.17 P-04-447 Campaign for Statue of Henry VII in Pembroke (Pages 129 - 131)
- 3.18 P-04-476 Restructuring in National Museum Wales (Pages 132 - 134)

## **Health**

- 3.19 P-04-450 Barry & Vale needs a fully functioning hospital (Pages 135 - 137)
- 3.20 P-04-471 Mandatory Welsh legislation to ensure Defibrillators in all public places (Pages 138 - 166)

## **Communities and Tackling Poverty**

3.21 P-04-507 A Welsh bill of rights for women and girls: adhering to CEDAW  
(Pages 167 - 170)

## **Finance**

3.22 P-04-436 Government Expenditure and Revenue Wales (Pages 171 - 174)

# Agenda Item 2.1

## **P-04-519 Abolition of Park Homes Sales Commission**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly For Wales to urge the Welsh Government to remove from Legislation the right of Park Owners to demand commission on the private sale of park homes now that they are no longer involved in the selling process.

**Petition raised by:** Caerwnon Park Residents Association

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 10 December 2013

## **P-04-520 Regarding the Cancellation of All Elective Orthopaedic Surgery by Hywel Dda Health Board During the Winter 2013/2014**

### **Petition wording:**

We the undersigned believe the cancellation of all orthopaedic surgery except trauma, during the Winter months 2013/14 undermines the human rights of patients and discriminates against disability. We demand that this decision be urgently revisited. All decisions regarding the priority of patient needs should be made by clinicians rather than the administration making decisions based on financial restrictions.

There are seriously urgent cases, other than trauma, already on the waiting list who without surgery are in danger of losing mobility and consequently their livelihood.

In a political climate where patients should be listened to, in this case they have not even been informed let alone been consulted, the Hywel Dda decision would appear to be directly in conflict with this principle.

Neither can we understand why orthopaedic patients should be targeted. This seems an over simplistic approach to addressing financial problems. Not only are patients affected by such decisions but specialist staff and trainees are not allowed to do the job they are paid for and wish to do.

We call upon the Welsh Government to reverse this decision.

**Petition raised by:** Kate O'Dell

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 10 December 2013

**Number of signatures:** 490

# Agenda Item 2.3

## **P-04-521 Regulating Caravan Sites**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to investigate whether legislation relating to safety of holiday and residential caravan parks in Wales is adequate and/or properly enforced. If not, we urge the Welsh Government to take appropriate action. We are especially concerned about the following safety hazards:

1. The space between caravans;
2. The storage of bottled gas; and
3. The siting of caravans and other combustible structures in the 3 metre clear area round the site boundary.

All of these examples present safety risks which do not appear to be adequately enforced at present.

**Petition raised by:** Brian Silvester

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 10 December 2013

**Number of signatures:** 37

S. 24 SLP

29-11-2013

Petition Statement  
Regulation of Caravan Parks  
Y-Fron Booth

- 1 Y-Fron Caravan Park Booth has not complied and still does not comply with the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960. Aerial photographs taken confirm that the site does not comply.
- 2 Ceredigion County Council has failed to enforce and oversee the legislation and the licence conditions.
- 3 The County Council has issued a licence without the necessary Site Plan and have to date failed to enforce the licence conditions, dated 9th May 2000. The most recently issued licence (without a plan of the layout which is valid) does not comply with the model standards 2008 conditions of the licence and the Council have failed to enforce those conditions.
- 4 The Council's Chief Executive Officer is aware that the Caravan Park Owners are committing criminal offences in respect of Health and Safety legislation. To date no action has been taken by the Council on these matters.
- 5 The monitoring officer of the council has failed to reply to emails and letters addressed to her. On the occasions when a reply has been received they have not addressed or dealt with the subjects raised.

6 The County Council accept that they are responsible for ensuring that site owners comply with the legislation governing the control and operation of Caravan Parks and the 1960 Act. Despite this acknowledgement the Council over a period of more than fourteen years have failed to enforce the Site licence conditions

7 The Councils C.E.O. accepts that there is a statutory basis for enforcing a three metre gap for health and safety reasons. No action has been taken to insure compliance. The cost to the site owners is not a valid reason to exercise a discretion not to enforce the licence conditions.

This site is operated on a commercial basis yielding substantial annual profits. Lack of action by the County Council amounts to Maladministration.

The council's licencing Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2006 considered this matter and instructed its Officers to ~~the~~ deal with the matters reported on to secure compliance with the licence conditions.

Signed and dated this 29<sup>th</sup> day November 2013  
B.J. Silvester.



## **P-04-522 Asbestos in Schools**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to put measures in place to ensure that parents and guardians of children across Wales can easily access information about the presence and management of asbestos in all school buildings.

Given the health risks associated with the presence of asbestos in public buildings, we believe parents and guardians across Wales have the right;

- to know if asbestos is located in their school;
- to know whether, where asbestos is present, it is being managed in line with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012;
- to access that information easily online

**Petition raised by:** Cenric Clement-Evans

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 10 December 2013

**Number of signatures:** 448

# Agenda Item 2.5

## **P-04-523 Protect the elderly and vulnerable in care homes**

### **Petition wording:**

We, the undersigned, call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to hold a Public Inquiry into the events that led to Operation Jasmine, which investigated alleged neglect of older people in nursing homes in Wales.

### **Additional information:**

With the collapse of Operation Jasmine, where the police investigated more than 100 cases of alleged neglect and spent more than £13 million, it has meant that those affected have had no justice and those responsible for the neglect have not been held accountable. We call for a Public Inquiry to take place to ensure that all aspects of the cause of neglect are fully investigated and that new legislation is passed to make certain that people in nursing homes will receive a higher standard of care and if they do not, that they can then obtain redress via the appropriate agencies and the legal system.

**Petition raised by:** Justice for Jasmine

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 10 December 2013

**Number of signatures:** 132

**P-04-523 Protect the elderly and vulnerable in care homes –  
Correspondence form the petitioner to the Clerking team,  
01.12.2013**

Hi Sian

Thanks for the reminder. I just want to give you the full picture from the Justice for Jasmine viewpoint so that you do not duplicate any effort at the Assembly.

Our group sent a letter to the First Minister at the end of September 2013 seeking a Public Inquiry into the circumstances behind the collapsed police operation called Jasmine. It is still being considered and our Chairperson will be seeing the First Minister on Wednesday at 11.00 for an update. We have commissioned a website(soon to be published) and started a petition (both e-petition and a paper version) with a view to showing how much public support there is for our request. We now have over 3,000 signatures in support.

I am attaching a copy of the letter to the First Minister but have removed the family stories referred to at the end of the letter. This will give all the information you require plus the knowledge that we do have widespread public support shown by the fact that we have been able to collect over 3,000 signatures in support in a matter of weeks.

Notwithstanding the response we have had from the First Minister it is our intention to continue to press for a Public Inquiry.

Kind regards

Kelvyn Morris

Secretary

Justice for Jasmine Group

## JUSTICE for JASMINE

Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AC/AM,  
Welsh Government,  
Cardiff Bay,  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

September 2013

Dear First Minister,

### **Re: Operation Jasmine**

I refer to your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013, addresses to Sarah Rochira, Older people's Commissioner for Wales, a copy of which has been passed to the relatives of the individuals whose cases were investigated as part of the abortive Police and HSE investigation.

Some of the families have now formed themselves into a constituted body called "*JUSTICE for JASMINE*" and it is on behalf of Justice for Jasmine that I now write to you.

We have read with interest the measures that have been instigated supposedly to ensure that there is no repetition of the circumstances that took place which formed the basis of Operation Jasmine. The lengthy and detailed points referred to in your letter relating to strengthening and safeguarding the protection of vulnerable people particularly for those in residential care are welcomed. We note that these include:-

- Guidance on adult protection *In Safe Hands* has undertaken a comprehensive independent review;
- The publishing of new, all Wales adult protection procedures for use by the four local authority-led Adult Protection Boards
- The introduction of a modernised programme by the CSSIW into the wellbeing of care home residents;
- The comprehensive 106 "lessons learnt" report which has been used to strengthen adult protection in the Caerphilly area.

Also those implemented by Welsh Government:-

- Statutory Guidance – Escalating Concerns with, and Closures of, Care Homes for adults introduced in 2009;
- The findings of the Dignity in Care Programme;
- The White Paper "Sustainability Social Services";
- Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Bill

- The Regulation & Inspection of Social Care and Support Services White Paper.

It is our contention that the amount of change to policies and procedures, initiated both during and after the investigation by Gwent Police and the HSE was being carried out, and proposed for the future, demonstrate (a welcome but regrettably extremely belated) recognition and acceptance of the grave omissions and failings made by all the agencies both local, statutory or otherwise, that were charged with the safety, standards and governance of those responsible for the wellbeing of elderly residents admitted to the residential homes investigated by Operation Jasmine.

It is these failings that *JUSTICE for JASMINE* will be seeking to have uncovered, for unless they are identified, there cannot be any satisfaction or reassurance that the changes, made or proposed, have gone or will go, far enough to remedy the shortcomings which allowed the terrible abuse and neglect to occur and to continue over many years.

It is perhaps opportune to remind ourselves of the key facts and scale of the abuse and neglect suffered by members of our families and which formed the basis of the Operation Jasmine investigation :-

- 6 care homes investigated in Caerphilly County Borough and Blaenau Gwent County Borough
- Of 74 suspects, 52 were arrested and 20 charged;
- 75 police officers and staff worked on the case;
- 103 alleged victims, 63 were at different points in the investigation considered as victims;
- 4,126 statements taken;
- 10,534 exhibits;
- 49,222 pieces of documentation weighing approximately 12.5 metric tonnes;
- £15 million total spend on Operation Jasmine - £8.5 million Home Office and £3.1 million Gwent Police;
- Health & Safety Executive an additional £3.5 million spend.
- 6 test cases considered to go before the Courts.

The level and scale of the alleged abuse is staggering. It is beyond belief that the scale of neglect remained undiscovered by the appropriate agencies and authorities for so long. There was, without doubt, therefore, a considerable, and in our view, inexcusable dereliction of duty by one or more of the agencies and authorities responsible, which requires a full and proper Inquiry. Only then will it be possible to identify the precise deficiencies in the system, so that targeted measures can be introduced to ensure that these tragic events cannot ever re-occur.

The families of the 6 test cases had the privilege of meeting Kier Starmer QC the Director of Public Prosecutions and his team at Cardiff City Hall on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2013. At that meeting a number of questions were forcibly placed before him as to the reasons why the CPS could not proceed with the investigation. This amounted, in essence, to evidential issues resulting from deficiencies in the law as it currently stands. The families are extremely grateful to Mr. Starmer, his team and those members of Gwent Police and the HSE for the efforts undertaken on their behalf. However, the families were, understandably, left bereft that the law, as it stands, is so deficient that it is, in our opinion, virtually impossible to bring a prosecution via the criminal courts in cases of abuse resulting from neglect similar to that sustained by the victims of Operation Jasmine.

You suggest in your letter that the families can perhaps obtain answers to their questions by other methods to achieve closure.

You do not say what other methods you have in mind, other than suggesting that we might take up an offer of a meeting made by the Chief Inspector of Gwent Police on the recent BBC *Week in Week Out* programme. With respect, we do not consider that any such meeting would be anywhere sufficient to address our specific concerns, or provide a satisfactory outcome as you suggest.

It is the firm view of Justice for Jasmine that only a Public Inquiry can bring about a situation in an open and transparent arena, whereby the numerous failings, which have resulted in such an iniquitous situation, can be adequately investigated. Justice for Jasmine does not agree that due to the case being left on file, that this would preclude the holding of a Public Inquiry. The Group challenges this claim and it was the view of the Director of Public Prosecution at the meeting held at the City Hall on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2013, as well as of our own legal advisers, that such an Inquiry should not affect the stayed proceedings.

It is also noted that you suggest to the Older People's Commissioner for Wales, in your letter that *"The complexities including the non-devolved aspects of the case together with the overall costs, timescales and resourcing such an inquiry would command, need to be balanced against such action could indeed provide the desired outcome for effected families and the wider Public."*

We do not believe that just because the issues involved are complex this is a good reason for refusing to hold an Inquiry. On the contrary, this is all the more reason that the issues are given a thorough and transparent hearing so that they can be fully understood and learnt from. In addition, you do not say what "key aspects" of the case involve non-devolved areas. In any event, Justice for Jasmine is firmly of the opinion that the issue of non-devolved aspects to which you allude to can be easily accommodated if there is sufficient will to overcome them! We firmly believe that if there is genuine resolve to undertake a proper Inquiry, its terms of reference can be framed appropriately.

As to *"overall costs, time scales and resources"* (third from last paragraph of your letter), the families have failed to receive simple justice for those who actually suffered the pain, torment, and suffering derived from the unbelievable scale of neglect uncovered by Operation Jasmine. The question that we believe should be asked is, how can a free society not afford to make resources available to uncover how it was possible for such alleged abuse and neglect to take place on such a scale? This will ensure that failings are brought to light, that changes are implemented and go far enough, so that nothing of this nature happens again and that where change is needed, that such change is robust enough so that similar events can never take place again and if they do, then the families of those victims can obtain justice for their relatives.

To this end, we would respectfully request a meeting with your good self, so that we may be given the opportunity to convey to you, most earnestly, of our desire that nothing less than a Public Inquiry will be sufficient to establish the circumstances leading to the systemic failings which have resulted in such a large case of neglect of elderly residents in care homes.

Please could you also let us know as soon as possible what response you have had from your letter to the Secretary of State for the Home Department in relation to a Public Inquiry and, in any event, let us know as soon as possible when you will be in a position to make a fully informed decision as to whether you will call for a Public Inquiry.

Justice for Jasmine believes that the victims of Operation Jasmine have become anonymous.

We place before you in the attached, some of the victims of Operation Jasmine, so that they are not forgotten, when you consider our request. I would ask that you respect the family statements and not publish them.

We, the relatives of the victims, can never forget that these were our loved ones who, through no fault of their own, were placed in an environment which we considered to be a safe and caring environment. Sadly, that was not the case. What happened to them, how, and why, are the fundamental questions which require answers. Until we have those answers there can be no confidence that the clear and serious shortcomings in the present system for the protection of the elderly and vulnerable can, and will, be adequately addressed.

We await your reply.

Yours faithfully

Loraine Brannan

Chairperson – Justice for Jasmine

**STATEMENT**  
**BY**  
**THE WELSH GOVERNMENT**

**TITLE** Operation Jasmine  
**DATE** 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013  
**BY** Rt. Hon Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister of Wales

Members of this Assembly will be familiar with the historical events and alleged abuse that occurred in care homes in Gwent in the early years of this century. These events resulted in a major police investigation called 'Operation Jasmine' that led to a number of cases within the criminal courts.

In March of this year, the cases against the owners and manager of these care homes was placed 'on file' due to the condition of one of the defendants following an unrelated assault. This means that, potentially, these cases could be revived should the condition of the defendant improve.

Today I wish to inform the Members of the Assembly of my decision to establish an important review of this case in order that we may learn for the future.

It had always been our intention to review the lessons of this serious and tragic case following the conclusion of criminal proceedings. However the unusual circumstances we find ourselves in have warranted further consideration of options. I have therefore sought advice and guidance from a number of quarters, including legal officials. I have corresponded with and met the group that represents the families of the victims. I have also met the Older People's Commissioner who has taken a special interest in these events.

I recognise that much has been done by the sector already to learn lessons from what happened. We have introduced new procedures for the Inspectorate on managing escalating concerns with care homes, funded a Dignity in Care programme to improve practice and in the new Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill included provisions to significantly strengthen the law around adult protection in Wales. We are also currently consulting on a major White Paper on Regulation and Inspection of Social Care. The Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales has also modernised its approach to Inspection and Regulation to give a stronger voice to care home residents and their families.



But I believe that we need a full and independent review of these events to understand whether there is anything else the social care sector and policy makers need to learn, anything else we need to put in place.

I have therefore decided to establish an independent review to quickly and effectively look at the major issues raised by the events surrounding Operation Jasmine.

I expect the review to speak with the families of those involved as well as the local authorities involved, the police, the professionals and the regulators. I am sure that these groups will be keen to be involved in this review and to share their experiences so that we may continue to learn lessons.

I am pleased to say that Dr Margaret Flynn has agreed to lead this review. Dr Flynn is a much admired figure within the social care sector. She is currently the independent Chair of the Lancashire's Safeguarding Adults Board and has been the chair and author of high profile Serious Case Reviews concerning older people. Members may be most familiar with her role as author of the important review into care at Winterbourne View Hospital published last year. Her appointment is a reflection of the importance we place on this review and what it can achieve.

I have talked with Dr Flynn. We are both committed to a review that must be serious and comprehensive. She has agreed to ensure a full report by the end of 2014 and, where appropriate, provide any interim findings to Welsh Ministers in the summer so that these might inform changes to our policy or future legislation in this area.

Finally can I say a few words, on the record, to the victims and their families? I received a letter from the Chairperson of the families' group Justice for Jasmine in October which contained the personal stories of many of those involved in this case. These stories were moving and powerful. They captured, better than any speech I could make, the importance of protecting our older people in care and of putting their well-being at the heart of our public services. The victims and their families have acted throughout with great dignity and fortitude. They are an example to us all.

I do not want the events that happened in Gwent a decade ago to ever be repeated. This review will be part of ensuring that is the case. I ask this Assembly and its members to support it.

# Agenda Item 3.1

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

### **Petition Wording**

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

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

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

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

**Number of signatures:** 154

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-240  
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/03243/13

William Powell AM

Chair of Petition Committee

[Stephen.George@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.George@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

5 November 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your further letter of 3 October about safety improvements to the A40 trunk road at Llandewi Velfrey.

All works to emphasise the presence of a 40 mph speed limit will be completed by the end of November. These include enhanced speed limit and nameplate signs, coloured road surfacing and road markings. During design of these measures, it was established that additional signs at the side road junctions were not necessary.

The provision of improved pedestrian crossing facilities within Llanddewi Velfrey has been considered. It was established that an existing crossing point, with a pedestrian refuge island, is already located near the bus stops at Commercial Cross.

Widening of the footway alongside the A40 was investigated in 2008. The cost was deemed prohibitive due to the likely construction of the bypass. Minor improvements to the footway adjacent to Ivy Cottage were completed in early 2011.

The procurement of an Employer's Agent for the A40 Llanddewi Velfrey to Penblewin Improvement is underway and is due for completion early next year. I will ensure my officials provide you with an update once this process has been completed.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

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

# Agenda Item 3.2

## **P-04-470 Against the nationalisation of Cardiff Airport**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to fully justify its decision to nationalize Cardiff Airport and provide evidence that its purchase will bring value for money and benefits for Welsh taxpayers wherever they live in Wales.

**Petition raised by:** Madeleine Thornton

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 16 April 2013

**Number of signatures :** 196

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

### **Petition wording:**

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

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

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

**Petition raised by:** Keith Davies

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

**Number of signatures:** 12

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-486  
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/03391/13

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

24 October 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 3 October regarding the Business Rates Review Task and Finish Group's analysis of the issues associated with the possible revaluation of business rates.

It appears that there has been a misunderstanding regarding my comments on the decision to postpone the business rates revaluation. In my letter to you of 20 June, I set out that I was disappointed by the UK Government's decision to postpone revaluation in England. I explained that I had asked the Task and Finish Group to provide me with analysis before taking a decision in Wales.

However, I am happy to provide you with further detail should this assist you. As part of their analysis, the Group met with the Council for Economic Renewal and other stakeholders and reached a number of conclusions which I set out in the Chamber during an Oral Statement on 5 March.

The Task and Finish Group argued that given the strong economic ties across the border, and the business need for consistency and stability, a different approach to revaluation in Wales was not advised. They also set out that taking a different approach would in all likelihood necessitate an increase in the Universal Business Rates in Wales and that this may be difficult to explain and justify to businesses and inward investors.

Finally, in their discussions with the Valuation Office Agency, the Group found that there would be practical and administrative difficulties in undertaking a Wales only revaluation. This is because some valuation evidence is drawn

from both England and Wales, and certain classes of property are subject to schemes drawn up with trade and professional bodies which may not be prepared to bear the cost of administering two distinct schemes.

In addition to my Oral Statement in March 2013, a briefing session was held with the Opposition Spokespeople and Professor Morgan to explain this rationale. I was pleased to achieve cross-party support for this approach.

There are a number of work strands relating to business rates currently underway. On 1 October 2013, I gave an Oral Statement to set out my plans on the Task and Finish Group Report on Business Rates Reliefs for Charities and Social Enterprises and I have written to you in detail regarding this.

My correspondence to you on 20 June also referred to Small Business Rate Relief which we successfully lobbied the UK Government to extend. We anticipate a further decision on this scheme beyond March 2014 when the UK Government provide their Autumn Statement in early December.

Finally, the Task and Finish Group are currently completing their third and final report on perceived business rates anomalies. I am expecting this shortly and will make this available to Members.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. M.', is located below the main text.

**P-04-486 Act now and Help save the High street shops –  
Correspondence from the petitioner to the Chair, 28.11.2013**

Mr William Powell AM.  
Chair Petitions committee.

Your Ref: P-04-486

Dear Mr Powell,

I thank you for a copy of a letter sent to you from Edwina Hart dated 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013 which I have today received from Sian Giddins from Chamber and Committee services at The National Assembly for Wales.

I understand that this petition will again be considered at the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013. which meeting I will be able to attend.

I am disappointed to note that Edwina Hart again states that the problems on the High Street would seem only to apply to Charity shops and Social Enterprises, for which she seeks additional relief. She also proposes to grant empty shops 50% rate relief, maybe if such shops had been granted the assistance I am now petitioning for, they might have been able to remain in business!

I believe that The Welsh Government can take a lead in supporting the Independent High Street trader. I appreciate that there are insufficient funds available to assist all sectors of businesses.

I strongly believe that the Welsh Government should consider the potential for a fund to save the Independent High Street shops. I believe that town centres have to suffer the joint problems of High Business Rates and High Parking Fees and numerous restrictions whilst trying to compete with purpose built out of town developments encouraged by successive governments and local authorities over the last 20 years. With the length and depth of this recession our High Streets are at crisis point and need immediate help if they are to survive. Every town in Wales is being affected and action is required urgently.

The current relief provides assistance to all small businesses with a rateable value up to £12,000 which includes the High Street Independent shops which I believe is far too low, a more realistic figure for the Independent High Street shops would be £18,000.

Yours sincerely

J T Keith Davies



## **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

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-04-504  
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/03608/13

William Powell AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@wales.gsi.gov.uk

7 November 2013

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 23 October, enclosing a petition from Llandrinio and Arddleen Community Council about the safety of the Maerdy Bridge junction on the A483.

My officials investigated safety improvements at the A483 Maerdy Bridge junction this year following feedback from the Community Council. The measures did not include a central reserve as this could not be safely accommodated without acquiring land from a third party. Centreline hatching has been provided instead to separate the two lanes.

A number of improvements to the traffic signs in the vicinity of the Maerdy Bridge junction will be made prior to 1 April 2014. These will include the provision of new "staggered junction ahead" warning signs. Lighting is not considered appropriate at this junction.

My officials will continue to monitor the impact of the interventions and take further action accordingly.



Powys Council  
County Hall  
Llandrindod Wells  
Powys  
LD1 5LG

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

5 November 2013

Dear William

### **A483 Trunk Road – Maerdy Bridge Junction**

Thank you for your letter dated 23 October 2013 (Ref P-04-504 addressed to the Chief Executive, regarding a petition calling for safety improvements at the above mentioned junction, which has been passed to me for attention.

As you are aware the Welsh Government (WG) is the highway authority for trunk roads and the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency (NMWTRA), which is hosted by Gwynedd County Council acts as Agent on behalf of WG.

I note that you have also written to the Minister seeking her views on the petition and I am sure that she will give a definitive view with regard to any proposals relating to the trunk road junction.

As highway authority for the B4393 side road, which connects with the trunk road at the junction, Powys County Council supports any accident reduction initiative which has reduction in road traffic casualties as an outcome.

I have forwarded your letter to NMWTRA for information and trust that they will keep you informed of any proposals for the junction. I have also requested that they copy me and the local Member Cllr Graham Brown in to the response for information purposes.

Yours sincerely

**County Councillor Barry Thomas**  
**Cabinet Member**  
**Environment**

c.c. Stuart Mackenzie NMWTRA  
Cllr Graham Brown

**Gwasanaethau effeithiol ar gyfer calon werdd Cymru**  
Efficient services for the green heart of Wales

[www.powys.gov.uk](http://www.powys.gov.uk)



**P-04-504 A483 Maerdy bridge Road Junction safety –  
Correspondence from the petitioner to the Chair,  
27.11.2013**

27<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Dear Williams,

**Re: Petition calling for additional lighting at the A483 Maerdy Bridge Junction**

Thank you for a copy of the reply received from Edwina Hart, Minister for Economy, Science and Transport.

Whilst we welcome the proposed improvements to the signage which will help inform motorists of a busy junction ahead we would like to draw her attention to the Accident Statistics released by the Police. This comprehensive data collated since 2002 shows a 100% increase in the rate of accidents since the introduction of the amenity weight limit through Four Crosses in 2008 resulting in all H.G.V's now having to use Maerdy Bridge Junction to join the A483.

We are in the process of continuing to raise motorists awareness to ensure that all incidences/accidents are recorded at this Junction.

There is already lighting installed half a mile away at the Arddleen Junction and we feel it is very appropriate that lighting should be considered here. We will be willing to present photographic and video evidence to the Committee if required.

Best wishes,  
Yours truly,

Clerk to Llandrinio & Arddleen Community Council

c.c Russell George A.M  
County Cllr R G Brown

## **P-04-365 Protect buildings of note on the Mid Wales Hospital site**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to list or otherwise protect buildings of note on the former Mid Wales Hospital site. Unlisted but in the Conservation Area they are an invaluable part of the architectural and social heritage of Talgarth.

**Petition raised by:** John Tushingham

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

**Number of signatures:** 206

**Supporting information:** The Brecon and Radnor County Asylum had a Grand Opening in 1903. The souvenir booklet describes how thousands of people were present and every nook and corner of the huge building was inspected. Altogether the establishment was a wonder of its time. It is now in an appalling state of decay but this important example of an early Edwardian asylum of the compact arrow echelon style, designed by Giles, Gough and Trollope, noted by Pevsner and on SAVE Britain's' Heritage, Buildings at Risk register, is thoroughly worthy of conservation. Situated approximately half a mile from Talgarth in outstandingly beautiful countryside within the Brecon Beacons National Park, and Talgarth Conservation Area, it has a special relationship with Talgarth. Loss of any of the original/notable buildings would be an unacceptable loss of Talgarth's heritage assets.

# Petitions Committee

## P-04-365 Protect buildings of note on the Mid Wales Hospital site

Visit to the Mid Wales Hospital site: 10 November 2013

Attendees:

### Petitions Committee

- William Powell, AM, Chair of Petitions Committee
- Bethan Jenkins, AM
- Steve George, Petitions Committee Clerk
- Kayleigh Driscoll, Petitions Committee Deputy Clerk
- Kath Thomas, Petitions Committee Deputy Clerk

### Witnesses

- Mr Phil Collins, Site owner
- Mr John Tushingham, Lead petitioner
- Graham Frecknell, petitioner
- Mrs Frecknell, petitioner
- Niel Bally, Town Councillor and petitioner
- Virginia Brown, petitioner
- Clemmie Cecil, SAVE
- Ann Deirikx, interestd party

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The purpose of the site visit was to gain a better understanding of what the petition is calling for and to help assist with the Committee's consideration of the petition.

The Committee was shown around the Mid Wales Hospital site by Mr Phil Collins, the site owner and Mr John Tushingham, the lead petitioner.

Phil Collins is the present owner of the Mid Wales hospital site and was able to give his views on the future of the site.

John Tushingham was accompanied by a variety of people who have all contributed to the petition, and they were able to share their own personal views with Members.

All highlighted a number of concerns before the tour of the site took place



and identified areas of the buildings they wanted to show the Committee.

Set out below are a series of images of various parts of the building which were shown to Members.

Phil Collins giving his views on his future plans for site. This part of the building would be retained under his plans as it is in relatively good condition.



Other part of the buildings had deteriorated and decay was apparent as can be seen from the following images.









The result of a recent wall collapse in December 2012.



The hospital Chapel is one part of the site that remains in relatively good condition and would also be retained under current plans



## **P-04-365 Protect buildings of note on the Mid Wales Hospital site – Correspondence from the site owner of the Mid Wales Hospital to the Committee, 18.11.2013**

Dear Caryl,

I thought the visit was conducted in a friendly and constructive way. I hope the Members of the Committee benefited from the process and that they could see at first hand the conditions of the buildings at the site.

What I cannot judge, of course, is the views of those present and the way it will go from here on. I therefore have some questions at the end which I would be grateful if you could address.

Generally though, I think that the Petition process for seeking the Listing of buildings is potentially dangerous and incomplete. This is because the petition is being driven by a small group of people working together and who prepare a petition simply because they do not want something to happen. The petition is highly simplistic as it only offers one option, one view point, and is simply presented, with no back ground information, knowledge of the site, or other options presented. Indeed site discussions with petitioners suggested perhaps there to be a level of misunderstanding of how problematic buildings like this truly are. I saw the list of names on the petition some time ago and it was obvious that many had been simply persuaded to sign it by the petitioners but were unlikely to have any particularly strong feelings about it or much knowledge of the subject as they were from all over the place. The petition therefore cannot be said to represent the local community. A petition in this instance is a deeply flawed basis on which to garner the local community views on the future for the site. With this in mind we ask you to consider that in spite of all that has been said by this group it remains a fact that when we held a public meeting in Talgarth Town Hall, we offered those present a form on which to express their views. Out of 64 forms that were handed in on the day or posted to us a few days after, 62 were broadly supportive of our proposals, which included the demolition of the buildings in question. Those forms are still in our possession and this statistic should not be ignored.

We understand that it is the Welsh Government's Listing Group who decide whether specific buildings are worthy of 'Listing' or not. They have been through the thought process several times before and the latest attempt was quite some time ago, when the buildings were in much better condition, yet they decided they did not merit it even then. This situation has also been confirmed by the Historic Buildings Advisory Council of Wales (representing CADW - (now part of Natural Resources Wales), as the buildings have previously been considered for listing and have been judged to fall short of the criteria of being of "outstanding interest".

Additionally, Brecon Beacons National Park have not sought to list the buildings given that they do not represent the standard required by the Listed Buildings and Conservation Area Act. The National Park, however, has included the site and buildings within the Talgarth Conservation area. The Conservation Area designation provides suitable controls over the future redevelopment of the site, in accordance with the Local Development Plan and the findings of the Planning Inspector's Report. Then there is the National Park's Planning Committee and the statutory planning process which ensure that the wider views of the local community and those of the National Park officers are represented and fully considered.

Now the buildings have desperately deteriorated further. Our proposals will preserve the Chapel for a community use and small business centre, along with the main administration buildings. We have reviewed the main ward buildings and these are well beyond a state of economic repair causing us to show this area to be redeveloped for housing. Our proposals have been supported in the recent Inspector's report on the Brecon Beacon's Local Development Plan. Seeking to List the Buildings now would fulfil little other than to cause substantial delays and almost certainly assure their eventual collapse. This would deny the people of Talgarth the regeneration of the site for housing, employment/medical uses, and community facilities which are envisioned within the Local Development Plan.

I would be grateful if you could keep me fully informed of the process.

Please can you confirm the following:

- When will the Petitions Committee make their final decision;
- How and when can I provide any information to aid their decision making process;
- Can I speak and appear before the Petitions Committee;
- Will the petitioners be afforded the ability for further lobbying and speaking at the Committee?
- What are my rights of potential appeal, if the Petitions Committee are able to influence a review of the buildings being re-considered for listing?

With regard to the future of this process it is very difficult for me to comment as I guess every situation is different, requiring a whole range of skill sets and experience. Whilst it is always interesting to see the democratic process at work it is also very easy to see its flaws – especially when dealing with something like this which has to be decided upon, in the end, by people with the skills and experience. Showing concern and expressing opinion is one thing but making final decisions is something that must be done only via the proper process.

I hope these few comments, made with careful thought and the benefit of over 3 years working with this site are considered by your office to be constructive and helpful? We await the answers to the above in due course.

Best Regards

*Phil Collins*

## **P-04-365 Protect buildings of note on the Mid Wales Hospital site – Correspondence to the clerking team, 19.11.2013**

Dear Steve,

It was good to meet you at the Petitions Committee visit to the Mid Wales Hospital.

While Phil Collins emphasised the poor condition of the site and his lack of interest in reuse SAVE and Graham Frecknall showed how the buildings could be converted, given the will, preserving the built and social heritage of Talgarth and resulting in a development of appropriate scale that would enhance the town. I hope that we will all be able to work together to achieve this aim.

One of the ways of giving the buildings some further protection would be to include them in the Local List. The Senior Conservation Officer of the BBNPA, after proper public consultation, put all of the original buildings on the list. At a meeting in July 2013, in the face of objections from the owner of the site, the Members of the BBNPA chose to approve the Local List for Talgarth with the exception of the Mid Wales Hospital site. The original buildings match virtually all the Criteria for inclusion on the Local List, namely 1. Historic Interest a) and b) 2. Historic Association a) and b) 3. Architectural & Design merit a)b) and c) 4. Survival a) b)and c) 5. a) and 6. Bio-diversity a) and the Officer had taken into consideration the views of the local community. The minutes of the meeting state “ the officer advised that the Local List advised the Authority what was there and while there was not statutory protection but there is a policy to say that the Authority should seek to protect them. It did not mean that some buildings could not be removed but it ensured proper debate” and yet the Members inexplicably asked for further information. There is no justification for omitting the original Mid Wales Hospital buildings from the Local List. The situation is unresolved to date and I was told recently by the Senior Conservation Officer that it would not be considered by Members before the New Year.

I should be most grateful if the Petitions Committee could help to ensure that the original buildings of the Mid Wales Hospital are included in the Local List. It fits with the petition

‘We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to list or otherwise protect buildings of note on the former Mid Wales Hospital site. Unlisted but in the Conservation Area they are an invaluable part of the architectural and social heritage of Talgarth.’ I should be grateful if you would pass this information on to the members of the committee.

Many thanks and best wishes,

Virginia

Virginia Brown

# Agenda Item 3.6

## **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/01742/13

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions committee  
committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

  
20 November 2013

Dear Bill

Thank you for your letter dated 23 October regarding a deposit loan scheme.

As you're petitioners note in their correspondence, there has been considerable interest in the Help to Buy products in England and the schemes themselves have been scrutinised very closely. This is something we discussed at our last meeting in October, and I'd like to thank you for pulling together a note outlining the concerns of your petitioners.

Much of the criticism of Help to Buy to date has focussed on the UK-wide Mortgage Guarantee, largely due to the fact that it encompasses all properties (both new and old) and whether such an initiative will generate additional house building activity or, in fact, artificially inflate the market. Indeed, this is something that many of the commentators in your letter highlight as a key concern, and is also a point I and my officials have raised with our UK counterparts.

On the shared equity side, I remain committed to launching a Welsh specific product this calendar year. This initiative (Help to Buy – Wales) will be similar to the existing English product, but there will be some notable differences in its design that will mitigate for many of the issues your petitioners raise. Whilst I'm not in a position to share specifics at this point in time, I can assure you that the details of Help to Buy – Wales will be made publically available shortly and I have instructed my officials to keep you abreast of developments.

Separately, I note with interest your proposal around an annual capped deposit fund for first time buyers, and have passed this to my officials to look at in more detail.

Yours sincerely



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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argyrfu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu **Parth 36**

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, 02.12.2013**

Please accept these as my responses to Carl Sargeants letter on November the 12th (2013)

I'm sure that Mr Sargeant is aware that the Bank of England's Governor Mark Carney recently stated that the Funding for Lending scheme (FLS) stimulus was no longer needed amid rising house prices, and it would instead be further focused on helping small business borrowing

<http://money.uk.msn.com/news/bank-touches-property-market-brake-2>

It's not only British bankers opposing it. Ben Dyson, a founder member of the highly regarded Positive Money group (who spoke on this and other issues at the Welsh Assembly Cross Party Group on Monetary Reform at Ty Hywel on November 26th of this year) has also made it clear that the Help to Buy scheme could be another disastrous step towards bubble and bust in Britain and clearly stated that he did not support it in any way.

Regarding the shared equity aspect - in view of all the restrictive measures that are put in place for this scheme, and with the danger that homes will be worth less in the future if there is another bursting of the housing bubble where participants could be left worse off, may I suggest that this proposed deposit scheme for Welsh first time home buyers earning below a certain wage (or earning an average local wage ratio) could be a safer and more sensible bet for the Welsh Government.

A deposit scheme could also work in conjunction with a priority housing act for Wales mentioned in another petition. If an annual capped and deferred deposit 5% loan fund was offered to buyers wishing to put a deposit on a home, and with mortgage lenders agreeing to take part, then this scheme would surely be a far less costly and less bureaucratic system for Wales. With the majority of new homes built by local authorities sold at average local wage ratios, this would make it an even more attractive plan. An effective deposit scheme would give new home buyers far more freedom to do as they wished with their new homes as long as they eventually paid off the Welsh Government deposit loan. A Welsh public bank could also play its part in this deposit lending scheme which would also boost the



productive economy of new house building if properly implemented.

# Agenda Item 3.7

## **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/01743/13

12th  
November 2013

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dear William

Thank you for your letter dated 23 October in relation to 'A national, affordable and priority housing Act of Wales' in reply to my letter of 10 July.

I have noted the new correspondence from the petitioners in light of my letter and the various topics that have been raised.

In terms of the main area of concern within this correspondence around household projections in Wales I must reiterate what I previously said in my letter of 10 July. The household projections for local authorities in Wales 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.

My officials have checked the national projected household increase in Wales (2008 – 2033) figures that are detailed within the letter and they are unclear how these have been arrived at. On the statswales website at a national level the projections are slightly lower at 323,009. To see the web link below

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Housing/Households/Projections/National/2008-Based/Households-by-Type-Year>

I can also confirm that any housing projections for Wales at a local authority level are in fact based on a Welsh specific methodology which is separate to the methodology used in England.

Increasing housing supply is my number one priority and I recognise the challenges of housing supply meeting the projected population figures. Demand for all tenures of housing continues to challenge both market and affordable housing supply. We are maximising the

use of limited budgets to support the delivery of affordable homes of a range of tenures and are making good progress against our target of 7500 additional affordable homes with 60% of this target already achieved.

Housing demand goes beyond affordable housing and whilst the market drives the supply, I am supporting all housing delivery where I am able to.

I hope the above clarifies the household projection figures and also sets out my commitment to increasing housing supply across Wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Sargeant', written over a horizontal line.

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

## **P-04-489 A National affordable and priority housing Act of Wales – Correspondence from the petitioner to the clerking team, 02.12.2013**

Please accept these as my responses to Carl Sargeants letter on November the 12th (2013)

I am grateful to Carl Sargeant for his response on November 12th. It is unfortunate however that he seems not to have responded to the main point of the petition which is to ask for a bill/Act to make sure new homes are built and sold/rented/priced proportionally to average local authority wages and that Welsh citizens have priority to buy/rent the majority of these new homes as happens in the Lake District, the Peak district and North York Moors in England for example. The suggestion of this petition is that a 5 - 10 year priority rule would be reasonable for new normal and social housing (other than extreme urgent situations that suddenly arise) but would not affect persons crossing the border to take up employment opportunities in Wales, key workers, students, business creators and companies, the self employed or asylum seekers, as already catered for under UK law. This would not have to apply to existing homes in Wales.

This is a similar idea to what Prime minister David Cameron recently outlined when he stated that he wanted to introduce an ‘expectation’ that local authorities will introduce a local residency test determining who should qualify for social housing. He stated:

"New migrants should not expect to be given a home on arrival. And yet at present almost one in ten new social lettings go to foreign nationals. So I am going to introduce new statutory housing allocations guidance this spring to create a local residence test. This should mean that local people rightly get priority in the social housing system. And migrants will need to have lived here and contributed to this country for at least two years before they can qualify."  
<http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/blogs/local-priority/6526291.blog> (a similar scheme was announced by Labour in June 2009 as part of the Building Britain’s Future relaunch of Gordon Brown’s premiership)

In the same link above, housing minister Mark Prisk spells out the rules that already apply to allocations:

"Most foreign nationals who have recently come to England are not eligible for

an allocation of social housing. Broadly speaking, European economic area nationals are eligible if they are working, self-sufficient, or have a permanent right of residence in the UK (after five years lawful residence in the UK)"

Even though this is an UK state issue, as housing is a devolved issue it should be obvious that Wales should be allowed to make similar safeguarding policies in its own right - even more so considering its lack of monetary, economic and tax raising powers and the fact that many areas of Wales are suffering from worse poverty than Eastern European countries such as Bulgaria.

Mr Sargeant states in his reply that: "The household projections for local authorities in Wales are prepared by Welsh Government statisticians independently of Ministers and policy officials and are designated as National Statistics by the UK Statistics Authority" but no one I've spoken to is aware that the Welsh Government has any statisticians of its own and, by Uk Statistics Authority - I take it Mr Sargeant means an authority related to the Office of National Statistics?

Currently, the Planning Inspectorate is not answerable to the Welsh Government and merely informs the Welsh Government of what decisions it's arrived at. This highlights the numerous calls for a specific, transparent and democratically accountable Welsh planning inspectorate and projections research unit as a completely independent body for Wales, working hand in hand with local authorities and with the communities involved, who should also be able to appeal decisions

As previously quoted from a Welsh Government 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*', it was also stated that many elected members questioned for the report 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, 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 and responsibility to rectify this by insisting that local need and economic sustainability must come first and that there is also a Welsh language impact assesment of all new housing developments. The

current Sustainability bill white paper and its sustainable communities agenda developments goes against its own remit by ignoring these fundamental issues and responsibilities.

Along the same lines, it should be restated that under the Local Government Act 2000, the Welsh Government, Assembly members as well as local authorities have been given the responsibility of “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”. These current LDP housing projections simply don't do that and are not based on sustainable community visioning.

This could be changed by a National Housing Act of Wales that provided the framework and policy for a genuinely worthwhile housing strategy, and which took in to consideration jobs availability and the economy of Wales as well as other important sustainability matters such the rights and vitality of the Welsh language in Wales. An effective act would also allow local authorities to scrap the current LDP plans and replace them with their own formulated, annually reviewed plans where necessary, based on local need and working alongside local community groups.

Lastly it should be noted that the current non LDP housing plans are adequate enough for the needs of sustainable growth within Wales and that the proposed LDP projections are exponential, misguided and not fit for purpose. A clear example of this can be seen by the Office of National Statistics/Welsh Government projected household figures versus the actual household figures. The 2011 census shows that there were 1,302,700 households in Wales. This did not cause any major housing shortages or mass homelessness problems and is roughly in line with actual demand.

In 2008, the data sheet entitled 'Households by type and year' was published by the Welsh Government Stats Wales site:

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Housing/Households/Projections/National/2008-Based/Households-by-Type-Year> which projected how many households there would be in Wales in each year from 2008 until 2033. This document predicted that there would be 1,335,911 households in Wales by 2011; however the 2011 census showed there to be only 1,302,700 households in Wales:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/search/index.html?newquery=ons+2011+census%3>

## [A number of households with at least one usual resident%2C unitary authorities in Wales](#)

It is apparent that the 2008 projections were wholly flawed, and given that they were based on estimates of the number of households in Wales in 2008 this isn't surprising. What is surprising is that the Welsh Government continue to use what seem to be flawed projections, and that it has had since 2011 to recognise the inaccuracy of its 2008 projections. This raises the question of why these official household numbers projections haven't been revised in the past 2 years.

These inaccurate projections could cause an over supply of new homes. Building a mass surplus of unnecessary new homes with the wishful aim of filling them all at some point in the future, with no thought given to Welsh needs and the sustainability of the Welsh economy and our communities is sheer irresponsibility and needs to be addressed by all our elected representatives.

### **A quick recap of these main points if I may:**

1. The Welsh Government's overall LDP projections of 323,009 new households from between 2008 - 2033 are hugely over inflated and not fit for purpose. Given that the population of Wales has increased at a fairly steady 12,000 a year for the past 15 years, and this also being the present and near future case, there is likely to be an increase of about 5000 households a year in Wales given an average household size of 2.4 persons. This annual new household number would likely be reduced again if an effective and sustainable Housing Priority Act of Wales was in place. These more realistic household figures are at odds with the substantially higher and over projected household figures that the Welsh Government has been promoting via the flawed LDP projections. These can be seen by the exaggerated 12,000-13,000 new households projected annually on average between the years 2008 - 2033, which is at odds with actual need.

2. The Welsh Assembly should introduce a bill which would guarantee that the vast majority of new homes have a 5-10 year Welsh citizen priority clause and/or business/wealth creator/employee priority clause and that the majority are also built and priced proportionally to average local authority wages. This is crucial considering that Wales has no control over currency or other crucial



economic levers.

3. These LDP plans and ONS projections arrangements should be scrapped

4. There should be an exclusive Welsh Planning Inspectorate and projections team democratically controlled and completely transparent, to give guidance on a priority housing bill and to act as mediators between local authorities, local communities and house builders if need be.

5. Local authorities should work with local community groups and decide new home numbers annually which should be based on sustainable actual local need and local infrastructure capabilities.

6. The Welsh Government should follow their own policy of sustainability which should take in to consideration the capability of Welsh infrastructure, public services and availability of new jobs in line with new homes and the impact of large housing developments on the cohesiveness of all communities in Wales, and in order to avoid a detrimental impact on the Welsh language as a spoken community language.

# Agenda Item 3.8

## **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

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth  
Minister for Local Government and Government Business

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-402  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/01887/13

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

[committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

6 November 2013

Dear Bill

Thank you for your further letter of 23 October regarding Council Prayers.  
My Statement on prayers as part of official Council business, makes clear there are many legal factors which Councils would have to consider. I am not in a position to hypothesise about any particular circumstances and it must be for Councils to take their own legal opinion in this regard.

Regards  


**Lesley Griffiths AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth  
Minister for Local Government and Government Business

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff

CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu **Page 48**

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Gymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: [lesley.griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

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## **P-04-402 Council Prayers – Correspondence from the petitioner to the clerking team, 01.12.2013**

Dear Sian,

Thank-you for your email concerning my petition.

I have noted the comments made by Lesley Griffiths but am not satisfied and would ask that further consideration be given to this issue.

In my mind, there is quite a lot of fudge in the Statement written on the 6<sup>th</sup> August which requires clarity. It still is not clear to me whether Councils in Wales are free to hold prayers prior to their meetings as was customary prior to the controversy brought about by an English local authority. Wales has a long Christian history and I don't see why practices long established that should be put at risk by unclear or contrary advice.

With respect therefore I urge for a clear statement,

Rev Alan L Hewitt

## **P-04-422 : Fracking**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development to produce a Ministerial Interim Minerals Planning Policy Statement as well as a new technical advice note to strengthen the precautionary principle with regard to planning applications for onshore oil and gas, including fracking. All reasonable scientific doubt that there is any risk of adverse impacts must be eliminated, and strongest consideration must be given to the urgent need to mitigate climate change.

**Petition raised by:** Friends of the Earth Cymru

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

**Number of signatures:** Approximately 1000



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-422  
Ein cyf/Our ref AD-/01130/13

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

*Dear Bill,*

9 August 2013

## FRACKING

Thank you for your letter of 23 July to Carl Sargeant seeking information about the number of officials in Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government which have technical knowledge and/or long standing experience in the field of unconventional gas / fracking, including what external expertise is available.

As unconventional gas exploration in Wales is in the early stage there has been no requirement upon Natural Resources Wales all its predecessor organisations to issue environmental permits to unconventional gas developers.

Natural Resources Wales has access to all guidance material from legacy bodies such as that developed by the Environment Agency to deal with unconventional gas exploration and staff from its predecessor body Environment Agency Wales contributed to the development of this guidance. Natural Resources Wales is undertaking a review of resources required to deal with unconventional gas exploration in Wales. This will focus on their role as an advisor, a regulator and enforcer of unconventional gas exploration in Wales.

Currently NRW have technical expertise should it need to regulate exploratory activities for unconventional gas, including for example:

- The EC Mining Waste Directive
- Radioactive Substances
- Groundwater & Contaminated Land
- Site-Based Regulation
- Advice & licence in relation to designated sites
- Legal aspects

In terms of external expertise, I am advised that NRW have a Transition Plan in place with the Environment Agency to provide access to experts, as well as a range of consultants and advisors working in this field. Currently it is not contracted to any external organisation to provide support.

In respect of Welsh Government, officials have discussed and are continuing to discuss unconventional gas matters with a number of UK Government Departments, regulatory bodies and geological specialists including the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the Office of Unconventional Gas and Oil, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), British Geological Survey (BGS) and Wales based academia. Officials also participate in DECC chaired meetings on unconventional gas regulation alongside other devolved administrations and regulatory bodies including NRW, the HSE and the Environment Agency.

Finally officials have also tendered for the procurement of a specialist report to assess any geological or environmental issues particular to the areas in Wales where unconventional gas exploration or development might take place.



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



# Welsh Affairs Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA  
Tel 020 7219 6189 Fax 020 7219 0300 Email [welshcom@parliament.uk](mailto:welshcom@parliament.uk)  
Website <http://www.parliament.uk/welshcom/>



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

3 September 2013

*Dear William*

## **Petition to National Assembly for Wales on shale gas**

Thank you for your letter of 23 July, informing the Welsh Affairs Committee about the petition received by your Committee about shale gas exploration. This will be a helpful contribution to our inquiry on Shale Gas in Wales, which is set to begin in October. I will ensure your letter and the petition are circulated to Committee Members.

You asked about being kept updated with the progress for our inquiry. We will soon be publishing the written evidence for the inquiry on our website, at [www.parliament.uk/welshcom](http://www.parliament.uk/welshcom). Oral evidence is likely to begin in late October. The Committee staff will liaise with your officials to keep you informed of progress with the inquiry.

I am grateful that you contacted the Welsh Affairs Committee in this way. It is a good example of co-operation between our two legislatures. I would be grateful if you let us know in future of any other petitions considered by the National Assembly's Petitions Committee which are relevant to our inquiries.

Yours sincerely,

David T.C. Davies MP  
Chair, Welsh Affairs Select Committee



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

### **Petition wording:**

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

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

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

**Petition raised by:** Coed Cadw Cymru

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

**Number of signatures:** 5,320

## **P-04-439 Ancient veteran and heritage trees of Wales to be given greater protection – Correspondence from Coed Cadw to the Committee, 11.11.2013**

Annwyl bawb / Dear all

Many thanks to all of you for making time to call in at Gregynog this afternoon to see some of the amazing trees there. I hope you were impressed by the some of the amazing trees there. I'll post up some pictures tomorrow evening.

I thought you might be interested by an article I've written for the magazine Natur Cymru / The Nature of Wales, on our ancient trees, below.

Secondly, I think it's worth making the point that this issue of the protection of our oldest, most venerable trees has never been more pressing. Under the Renewable Heat Incentive, landowners and householders will effectively be paid generously by the Government to burn wood to keep their houses warm. This in turn will provide a huge incentive to harvest firewood from wherever it is available for the purpose of space heating. Every landowner, in effect, has an allowance of 5m<sup>3</sup> per quarter, or 20 m<sup>2</sup> a year. The Woodland Trust is in favour of the use of sustainable, renewable sources of heat such as firewood. But we also stress that, if this incentive is to be provided, really important, historical trees have to be effectively protected, and more so than they are now.

Here's the article from Natur Cymru, which attempts to lay out the situation as it stands:

### **Help on the way to our ancient trees?**

April 2013 was a bad month for Wales' ancient trees. The Pontfadog Oak, the oldest and most notable of our ancient oaks blew down in the early morning of 18 April.

But this did at least provide the opportunity to raise the important issue of whether or not we are looking after our ancient trees properly. It emerged that just a few months before, experts from the Ancient Tree Forum had drawn up a wish list of measures, like crown stabilisation, that might just have prolonged the tree's life. The total cost was less than £5,000, but most of these measures were not taken as no funding was available.

In response to press interest, a spokesperson for Alun Davies, Natural Resources Minister, reiterated that the Welsh Government is looking to strengthen the protection for ancient trees in Wales. That commitment had been made partly in response to a 5,000 signature petition by Coed Cadw (Woodland Trust) which was also supported by the Tree Council, the RSPB and the National Trust.

The good news is that things continue to move forward, if slowly. A task and finish group is to be established to develop concrete proposals to strengthen the protection of ancient and veteran trees. Staff from a number of environmental NGOs have agreed to be considered as members though, to my knowledge, none has yet been appointed.

An initial discussion paper has been produced. It notes the concern that we are not be looking after our ancient and notable trees as well as we should. It quotes to the Rev Francis Kilvert's description of the ancient oaks of Moccas Park in 1876: "those grey, gnarled, low browed, knock kneed, bent, huge, strange, long armed, deformed, hunchbacked, misshapen oak men that stand awaiting and watching century after century." It refers to the yews of Strata Florida as examples of ancient trees which have a resonating cultural significance.

It flags up the significant fact that ancient tree protection has already diverged in Wales and England. The 2008 Planning Act amends Tree Preservation Order Legislation. But these changes have been brought into force in England, but not in Wales.

So, what should conservationists be rooting for in any changes to legislation on protecting ancient trees? There are many fairly minor changes that could make

a lot of difference. Coed Cadw has flagged up a list of proposals at [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/saveourtrees](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/saveourtrees) Could I make a heartfelt plea, however, that any change should include three absolutely key elements:

- There needs to be positive encouragement and support for the landowners who wish to do the right thing by their ancient trees. Any regime based purely on stopping people doing bad things will clearly have a limited value. If we really want to help look after these trees we need to find positive ways of engaging with their owners.
- At present, the law gives no protection whatever to trees which are “dying or dead or have become dangerous”. But we know that many trees take centuries to gradually decline, and it is in their final period that they have perhaps the greatest value. The law should make exceptions only for ancient trees that are dangerous. And even then, if it is possible make the tree acceptably safe by, say, crown reduction or even pollarding, it should surely allow just this, rather allowing the tree to totally destroyed.
- Finally, has the time not come to define the word ‘amenity’ with reference to so much more than just whether a tree can be seen from a public road for footpath? An ancient tree might play host to the incredibly rare oak polypore fungus (*piptoporus quercinus*) that grows out of the heartwood of old oaks and has been recorded in Wales only twice. It may be well-known in the local community or have a really notable piece of folklore attached to it. But at present, if it is not visible from a public area, it would be difficult to establish that it had ‘amenity’ value. Surely the time has come to recognise that the value of ancient trees is so much more than just this?

Sadly, the web link doesn’t work just now, as the whole Woodland Trust website has just been revamped. It will be up again soon, but in the meantime, the explanation of what we are hoping for is here:

**Coed Cadw (the Woodland Trust) is calling on the Welsh Assembly to increase the protection for ancient, veteran and heritage trees in Wales, for example by:**

1. Placing a duty of the Single Environmental Body to promote the conservation of ancient, veteran and heritage trees by providing advice and support for the owners of such trees that meet criteria set by the agency following consultation. This would include the provision of grant aid where work was needed for the benefit of the tree. The agency would also have a duty to advise Local Planning Authorities (LPA's) on the care of such trees.
2. Amending the present Tree Preservation Order (TPO) legislation to make it fit for purpose in protecting our most ancient and venerable trees:
  - a. To remove the blanket exemption for trees that are 'dead' or 'dying'
  - b. To reword the reference to dangerous trees to distinguish between those trees which constitute a 'real and present danger', which would remain exempt, and others where there is a less immediate safety issue to address. Also to clarify that work should be limited to those parts of the tree which actually constitute such a danger and that the LPA should be notified as soon as possible.
  - c. To clarify that the wildlife and heritage interest does constitute 'amenity' for the purpose of TPO legislation.
  - d. In the case of trees carrying TPOs which also meet the criteria in section 1 above, LPAs would have the right to refuse permission to fell trees, but to refer to the new environmental agency to advise on management work and funding, as above.
  - e. To put a duty on LPAs to publish a telephone number on which the public can contact the authority about tree preservation issues out of usual office hours.
  - f. To replace the current two category penalty system with one which would allow the courts to impose penalties at a level they believe to be appropriate. (Under the current system it is extremely difficult for LPAs to bring a prosecution for a category 1 offence; the maximum penalty for a category 2 offence is just £2,500. This is hardly a meaningful deterrent, bearing in mind the value of building plots.)
  - g. The 6 month time limit for prosecutions should be from the date on which the prosecuting officer has sufficient evidence to justify proceedings, not from the date of commission. This is already the case in England.

- h. To require LPAs to digitise the location of trees covered by TPOs, within a given timescale, and pass this information to the new environmental agency so it can be collated, published and distributed at Wales level.
- 3. Incorporating the publically facing database of trees verified under the Ancient Tree Hunt, as one of the datasets in any successor to the Wales Spatial Plan, recognising these as 'Trees of Special Interest' and providing this information to Local Planning Authorities in Wales so that it can be incorporated into their GIS systems, for information.

I hope you all have a good day in Prestatyn!

Best wishes / Hwyl

Rory

## Petitions Committee

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

Visit to the Great Wood at the Coed Cadw site in Gregynog: 10 November 2013

Attendees:

Petitions Committee

- William Powell, AM, Chair of Petitions Committee
- Russell George, AM
- Bethan Jenkins, AM
- Steve George, Petitions Committee Clerk
- Kayleigh Driscoll, Petitions Committee Deputy Clerk
- Kath Thomas, Petitions Committee Deputy Clerk

Witnesses

- Mr David Jenkins, Director of Coed Cymru based in Tregynon
- Rory Francis, Petitioner
- Rob McBride, Petition Supporter

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The purpose of the site visit was to gain a better understanding of what the petition is calling for, and to help assist with the Committee's consideration of the petition.

Famed for centuries for its hospitality, Gregynog Hall is an historic house and country estate in the village of Tregynon, near Newtown. Gifted to the University of Wales by Margaret Davies of Llandinam in 1960, it has Grade 1 listed gardens and is surrounded by 750 acres of beautiful grounds and landscapes.

Gregynog has one of the largest examples of ancient woodland in Wales, aptly named the Great Wood. Some of the oak trees are over 350 years old.

The Committee was escorted around the Great Wood by Mr David Jenkins who is the Director of Coed Cymru based in Tregynon, Newtown.



Rory Francis was accompanied by a variety of people who all share an interest and contributed to the petition. They were able to share their own views with Members while looking at various trees on the Great Wood site.

Set out below are a series of images of trees which were shown to Members.









Members gather around the oldest tree on the site which is estimated to be around 500 years old.





# Agenda Item 3.11

## **P-04-444 : Dig for Victory**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to introduce via local Councils a modern day Dig for Victory campaign.

With food prices continually rising and times of a recession, there is a need once more to grow your own food, just like during ww2 when they introduced a Dig for Victory campaign to make sure everyone was fed. If the Welsh Government introduced this via their local councils by giving householders vouchers or seeds, compost, even chicken arks and chickens (where suitable) then people would be a little better off financially and also healthier. It would also cut down on the amount of food we import thus cutting down on our carbon footprint. Most people have a garden and people without one can still grow some veg on patios and balconies. So come on lets Dig for Victory.

**Petition raised by:** Plaid Cymru Aberavon.

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

**Number of signatures:** 13

**P-04-444 Dig for Victory - Correspondence from the petitioner to the clerking team, 29.11.2013**

hello ,

i dont think i could add anything to it - in asking for more to be done that's being done , other than its imperative that more allotments are available to communities and maybe a Welsh Government Media (TV/NEWSPAPER/LEAFLET) campaign to encourage people to grow their own and dig up their gardens rather than concrete them over . Perhaps even do a scheme offering people 2 free chickens if the people buy the chicken run from a Government recommended supplier . To coin a phrase from a supermarket 'every little helps' .

thanks

russell

# Agenda Item 3.12

## **P-04-445 : Save our Welsh cats & dogs from death on the roads**

### **Petition wording:**

We, the undersigned, call on all Welsh Residents who own cats and dogs to support our petition to the Welsh Government to remove the ban on electronic collars linked with invisible boundary fencing/hidden fencing so that we can protect our companion pets from harm either from: a) Road Traffic b) Straying into Danger c) Causing accidents for which we owners of cats & dogs might legally be held liable.

**Petition raised by:** Monima O'Connor

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

**Number of signatures:** 10 - Associated petition collected approximately 500 signatures

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-445  
Ein cyf/Our ref AD-/01084/13

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

24 September 2013

**Petitions Committee: P-04-445 Electronic 'Invisible' Fencing**

I am writing further to my letter of 4<sup>th</sup> September regarding the Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) (Wales) Regulations 2010 and the petition calling for the Welsh Government to remove the ban under this legislation on electronic collars linked with invisible boundary fencing/hidden fencing.

The Welsh legislation that bans the use of electronic collars has been in force since 2010. The Welsh Government will be reviewing the operation of the ban and the legislation that applies it in due course. This will inform any policy decisions that result in change to the legislation. In carrying out the review, a wide range of evidence will be considered both from available scientific enquiry and representations from interested parties, but that review will not start until the summer of 2014 simply because of other priorities related to animal welfare.

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

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

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

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Reference: P-04-445

Response to Alun Davies's letter to William Powell, Chair, Petitions Committee

1.

I am very encouraged by the Minister's response that there will be a review of the Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) 2010 legislation in Summer 2014 that "will inform any policy decisions that result in a change to the legislation".

It is apparent from my meetings with some Assembly Members including the then Minister for Rural Affairs Elin Jones (who signed this legislation) that there is a complete lack of understanding of how the fencing system works; none of them has ever personally visited a garden or field with invisible fence system to see how it operates.

This was very apparent from the Draft Legislation of 2009 - copy enclosed (which was abandoned at the last minute in 2010 in favour of a blanket ban for dog training collars and invisible fencing collars to make it easier for officials to police the law. It cannot be that cats & dogs must die on the roads to make it easier for officials to do their job !)

It states that " *a person may attach an electronic device to a cat or a dog if –*

- a) Any electric shock to the animal is caused by virtue of the animal's proximity to a boundary marked by a physical barrier;*
- b) The physical barrier is clearly visible to the animal*
- c) The boundary marked by the physical barrier is entirely outdoors and*
- d) The device is attached to the animal for a period of no more than 2 months from the date on which it was first attached"*

During training, flags are put around a chosen boundary in a garden and the collar emits audible warning alerts when the cat or dog is within 8 feet from this boundary. Pets are taken on a lead towards the boundary by the owner but pulled back quickly when the alerts start and the pet is praised and fussed. It can take less than an hour before the pet understands that the alerts represent a sign of danger of a static charge or correction (not a live electric shock as with a livestock fence) and they do not proceed any further.

This correction mimics the 'nip' given by an adult animal in the wild to its young and recognised by domestic pets.

The training procedure is gradual and reinforced with the pet on a lead taken to the training flags in brief sessions during this reinforcement period until the flags are alternatively removed over a period of up to 4 weeks until the owner can see the pet's progress and then the animal is free to roam in the garden.





Also, the collars are only attached to the cat or dog when it is outside in the garden and removed in the evening. The manufacturer's instructions clearly state that the collars should only be worn for a maximum of 12 hours and this is easily achieved.

This is a set training protocol by the American Kennel club used throughout the USA and also in England, Scotland and Ireland.

It is baffling why the RSPCA is not in favour of the invisible fencing system. It would free up the Charity's resources for real cases of genuine cruelty and neglect which are so graphically shown on their website.

There are many thousands of cats and dogs abandoned by owners every year which are housed by the RSPCA and other animal welfare charities. Yet bizarrely, the RSPCA refuses to re-house a rescue animal in a home that is near a road. This is the first question I was asked when I rang my local RSPCA 3 years ago to adopt cats. Who doesn't live near a road, for heaven's sake? Perhaps the RSPCA cannot see the 'clear blue water' difference between dog training collars activated by a human hand and the invisible fencing collars governed by the animal's own behaviour.

Or maybe there are commercial reasons for it.

2.

No-one across the UK has ever been prosecuted under the Animal Welfare Act of 2006 for using an electronic collar on a cat or a dog since it was introduced 7 years ago.

This Act is the gold standard for legislation for protection of animals from cruelty

I sincerely hope this reassures the Minister that these invisible fences are only a force for good and demonstrated by the fact that that no other country in the UK has followed Wales over the past 3 years in implementing a ban.

Monima O'Connor  
Petitioner.

13<sup>th</sup> November 2013

*Draft Regulations laid before the National Assembly for Wales under section 12 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (and paragraph 34 of Schedule 11 of the Government of Wales Act 2006), for approval by a resolution of the Assembly*

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W E L S H   S T A T U T O R Y   I N S T R U M E N T S

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**2008 No. (W.)**

**ANIMALS, WALES**

**ANIMAL WELFARE**

**The Animal Welfare (Electronic Devices) (Wales) Regulations  
2009**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations are made under section 12 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (c.45). By virtue of section 162 of, and paragraph 30 of Schedule 11 to, the Government of Wales Act 2006 (2006 c.32), this section confers powers on the Welsh Ministers to make such provision as they think fit for the purpose of promoting the welfare of animals for which a person is responsible, or the progeny of such animals.

Regulation 2 defines “electronic device”.

Regulation 3 provides for offences in relation to the use of an electronic device on a dog or a cat.

Regulations 4 and 5 provide for defences in cases where an electronic device is used on a dog or a cat.

Regulation 6 provides for penalties for the offences established in regulation 3.

Regulations 7 to 16 provide post-conviction powers, including powers relating to: deprivation (regulation 8); disqualification (regulation 9); seizure of animals (regulations 10 and 11); destruction in the interests of the animal (regulation 12); forfeiture of equipment used in offences (regulation 13); appeals (regulation 14); termination of disqualification (regulation 15); and reimbursement of expenses (regulations 16 and 17).

Regulation 17 provides powers of entry and search, by treating an offence under the Regulations as a relevant offence for the purposes of section 24 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

A regulatory appraisal has been prepared. Copies may be obtained from the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, the Welsh Assembly Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ.

**2008 No. (W.)**

**ANIMALS, WALES**

**ANIMAL WELFARE**

**The Animal Welfare (Electronic Devices) (Wales) Regulations  
2009**

*Made* 2009

*Coming into force* 2009

The Welsh Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 12 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (1), and having consulted such persons as they consider appropriate, make the following Regulations—

A draft of these Regulations was laid before the National Assembly for Wales under section 12 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and has been approved by a resolution of the National Assembly for Wales.

**Title, commencement and application**

1. The title of these Regulations is the Animal Welfare (Electronic Devices) (Wales) Regulations 2009; they apply in relation to Wales and come into force on the day after they are made.

**Interpretation**

2. In these Regulations—

“the Act” means the Animal Welfare Act 2006;

“electronic device” means a device or instrument of a type which is capable of causing an electric shock to an animal;

“electric shock” means stimulation of nerves or contraction of muscles caused by a flow of electric current through the body.

**Prohibition on use of electronic devices**

3.—(1) A person commits an offence if he or she—

- (a) attaches an electronic device to a dog or a cat;

---

(1) 2006 c.45. By virtue of section 162 of and paragraph 30 of Schedule 11 to the Government of Wales Act 2006 (2006 c.32) the functions of the National Assembly for Wales are exercisable by the Welsh Ministers.

- (b) causes an electronic device to be attached to a dog or a cat; or
  - (c) is responsible for a dog or a cat to which an electronic device is attached.
- (2) Nothing in these Regulations prohibits the insertion and reading of a microchip for the purpose of identifying a cat or a dog, where that is done in accordance with good practice.

### **Defences**

4. It is a defence for a person accused of an offence under regulation 3 to show that the electronic device—

- (a) was not capable of causing an electric shock to the animal;
- (b) was attached by or under the direction of a veterinary surgeon; or
- (c) was attached in accordance with regulation 5.

### **Fencing systems**

5.—(1) A person may attach an electronic device to a cat or a dog if—

- (a) any electric shock to the animal is caused or to be caused by virtue of the animal's proximity to a boundary marked by a physical barrier;
- (b) the physical barrier is clearly visible to the animal;
- (c) the boundary marked by the physical barrier is entirely outdoors; and
- (d) the device is attached to the animal for a period of no more than 2 months from the date on which it was first attached.

(2) In this regulation, "outdoors" means outside of, or not covered by, any building or permanent structure.

### **Penalties**

6.—(1) A person convicted of an offence under these Regulations is liable, on summary conviction, to—

- (a) imprisonment for a term not exceeding 51 weeks, or
- (b) a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale,

or to both.

### **Deprivation**

7.—(1) If a person convicted of an offence under regulation 3 is the owner of an animal in relation to which the offence was committed, the court by or before which he or she is convicted may, instead of or in addition to dealing with that person in any other way, make an order depriving him or her of ownership of the animal and for its disposal.

(2) Where the owner of an animal is convicted of an offence under regulation 8(9), because ownership of the animal is in breach of a disqualification under regulation 8(2), the court by or before which that person is convicted may, instead of or in addition to dealing with him or her in any other way, make an order depriving him or her of ownership of the animal and for its disposal.

(3) Where the animal in respect of which an order under paragraph (1) or (2) is made has any dependent offspring, the order may include provision depriving the person to whom it relates of ownership of the offspring and for its disposal.

(4) Where a court makes an order under paragraph (1) or (2), it may—

- (a) appoint a person to carry out, or arrange for the carrying out of, the order;

- (b) require any person who has possession of an animal to which the order applies to deliver it up to enable the order to be carried out;
  - (c) give directions with respect to the carrying out of the order;
  - (d) confer additional powers (including power to enter premises where an animal to which the order applies is being kept) for the purpose of, or in connection with, the carrying out of the order;
  - (e) order the offender to reimburse the expenses of carrying out the order.
- (5) Directions under paragraph (4)(c) may—
- (a) specify the manner in which an animal is to be disposed of, or
  - (b) delegate the decision about the manner in which an animal is to be disposed of to a person appointed under paragraph (4)(a).
- (6) Where a court decides not to make an order under paragraph (1) or (2) in relation to an offender, it must give its reasons for the decision in open court and cause them to be entered in the register of its proceedings.
- (7) Paragraph (6) does not apply where the court makes an order under regulation 8(1) in relation to the offender.
- (8) In this regulation, references to disposing of an animal include destroying it.

### **Disqualification**

**8.**—(1) Where a person is convicted of an offence under regulation 3, the court by or before which he or she is convicted may, instead of or in addition to dealing with that person in any other way, make an order disqualifying him or her under any one or more of paragraphs (2) to (4) for such period as it thinks fit.

- (2) Disqualification under this paragraph disqualifies a person—
- (a) from owning animals,
  - (b) from keeping animals,
  - (c) from participating in the keeping of animals, and
  - (d) from being party to an arrangement under which he or she is entitled to control or influence the way in which animals are kept.
- (3) Disqualification under this paragraph disqualifies a person from dealing in animals.
- (4) Disqualification under this paragraph disqualifies a person—
- (a) from transporting animals, and
  - (b) from arranging for the transport of animals.
- (5) Disqualification under paragraph (2), (3) or (4) may be imposed in relation to animals generally, or in relation to animals of one or more kinds.
- (6) The court by which an order under paragraph (1) is made may specify a period during which the offender may not make an application under regulation 14(1) for termination of the order.
- (7) The court by which an order under paragraph (1) is made may—
- (a) suspend the operation of the order pending an appeal, or
  - (b) where it appears to the court that the offender owns or keeps an animal to which the order applies, suspend the operation of the order, and of any order made under regulation 10 in connection with the disqualification, for such period as it thinks necessary for enabling alternative arrangements to be made in respect of the animal.
- (8) Where a court decides not to make an order under paragraph (1) in relation to an offender, it must give its reasons for the decision in open court and cause them to be entered in the register of its proceedings.

- (9) A person who breaches a disqualification imposed by an order under paragraph (1) commits an offence.

### **Seizure of animals in connection with disqualification**

**9.**—(1) Where—

- (a) a court makes an order under regulation 8(1), and
- (b) it appears to the court that the person to whom the order applies owns or keeps any animal contrary to the disqualification imposed by the order,

it may order that all animals that that person owns or keeps contrary to the disqualification be taken into possession.

- (2) Where a person is convicted of an offence under regulation 8(9) because of owning or keeping an animal in breach of disqualification under regulation 8(2), the court by or before which he or she is convicted may order that all animals that that person owns or keeps in breach of the disqualification be taken into possession.
- (3) An order under paragraph (1) or (2), so far as relating to any animal owned by the person subject to disqualification, has effect as an order for the disposal of the animal.
- (4) Any animal taken into possession in pursuance of an order under paragraph (1) or (2) that is not owned by the person subject to disqualification is to be dealt with in such manner as the appropriate court may order.
- (5) A court may not make an order for disposal under subsection (4) unless—
  - (a) it has given the owner of the animal an opportunity to be heard, or
  - (b) it is satisfied that it is not reasonably practicable to communicate with the owner.
- (6) Where a court makes an order under subsection (4) for the disposal of an animal, the owner may—
  - (a) in the case of an order made by a magistrates' court, appeal against the order to the Crown Court;
  - (b) in the case of an order made by the Crown Court, appeal against the order to the Court of Appeal.
- (7) In subsection (4), the reference to the appropriate court is to—
  - (a) the court which made the order under subsection (1) or (2), or
  - (b) in the case of an order made by a magistrates' court, to a magistrates' court for the same local justice area as that court.
- (8) In this section, references to disposing of an animal include destroying it.

### **Seizure of animals: supplementary**

**10.**—(1) The court by which an order under regulation 9 is made may—

- (a) appoint a person to carry out, or arrange for the carrying out of, the order;
- (b) require any person who has possession of an animal to which the order applies to deliver it up to enable the order to be carried out;
- (c) give directions with respect to the carrying out of the order;
- (d) confer additional powers (including power to enter premises where an animal to which the order applies is being kept) for the purpose of, or in connection with, the carrying out of the order;
- (e) order the person subject to disqualification, or another person, to reimburse the expenses of carrying out the order.

(2) Directions under paragraph (1)(c) may—

- (a) specify the manner in which an animal is to be disposed of, or
- (b) delegate the decision about the manner in which an animal is to be disposed of to a person appointed under subsection (1)(a).
- (3) In determining how to exercise its powers under regulation 9 and this regulation, the court must have regard, amongst other things, to—
  - (a) the desirability of protecting the value of any animal to which the order applies, and
  - (b) the desirability of avoiding increasing any expenses which a person may be ordered to reimburse.
- (4) In determining how to exercise a power delegated under subsection (2)(b), a person must have regard, amongst other things, to the things mentioned in subsection (3)(a) and (b).
- (5) If the owner of an animal ordered to be disposed of under regulation 9 is subject to a liability by virtue of paragraph (1)(e), any amount to which he or she is entitled as a result of sale of the animal may be reduced by an amount equal to that liability.

### **Destruction in the interests of the animal**

**11.**—(1) The court by or before which a person is convicted of an offence under regulation 3 may order the destruction of an animal in relation to which the offence was committed if it is satisfied, on the basis of evidence given by a veterinary surgeon, that it is appropriate to do so in the interests of the animal.

- (2) A court may not make an order under subsection (1) unless—
  - (a) it has given the owner of the animal an opportunity to be heard, or
  - (b) it is satisfied that it is not reasonably practicable to communicate with the owner.
- (3) Where a court makes an order under subsection (1), it may—
  - (a) appoint a person to carry out, or arrange for the carrying out of, the order;
  - (b) require a person who has possession of the animal to deliver it up to enable the order to be carried out;
  - (c) give directions with respect to the carrying out of the order (including directions about how the animal is to be dealt with until it is destroyed);
  - (d) confer additional powers (including power to enter premises where the animal is being kept) for the purpose of, or in connection with, the carrying out of the order;
  - (e) order the offender or another person to reimburse the expenses of carrying out the order.
- (4) Where a court makes an order under subsection (1), each of the offender and, if different, the owner of the animal may appeal against the order to the Crown Court;
- (5) Subsection (4) does not apply if the court by which the order is made directs that it is appropriate in the interests of the animal that the carrying out of the order should not be delayed.

### **Forfeiture of equipment used in offences**

**12.**—(1) Where a person is convicted of an offence under regulation 3, the court by or before which he or she is convicted may order any electronic device which is shown to the satisfaction of the court to relate to the offence, to be—

- (a) forfeited, and
- (b) destroyed or dealt with in such manner as may be specified in the order.

- (2) The court may not order anything to be forfeited under subsection (1) if a person claiming to be the owner of it or otherwise interested in it applies to be heard by the court, unless he or she has been given an opportunity to show cause why the order should not be made.

### **Orders: Appeals**

**13.**—(1) Nothing may be done under an order under regulation 8, 10 or 11 with respect to an animal or an order under regulation 12 unless—

- (a) the period for giving notice of appeal against the order has expired,
- (b) the period for giving notice of appeal against the conviction on which the order was made has expired, and
- (c) if the order or conviction is the subject of an appeal, the appeal has been determined or withdrawn.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to an order under regulation 11(1) if the order is the subject of a direction under subsection (5) of that section.

(3) Where the effect of an order is suspended under paragraph (1)—

- (a) no requirement imposed or directions given in connection with the order have effect, but
- (b) the court may give directions about how any animal to which the order applies is to be dealt with during the suspension.

(4) Directions under paragraph (3)(b) may, in particular—

- (a) authorise the animal to be taken into possession;
- (b) authorise the removal of the animal to a place of safety;
- (c) authorise the animal to be cared for either on the premises where it was being kept when it was taken into possession or at some other place;
- (d) appoint a person to carry out, or arrange for the carrying out, of the directions;
- (e) require any person who has possession of the animal to deliver it up for the purposes of the directions;
- (f) confer additional powers (including power to enter premises where the animal is being kept) for the purpose of, or in connection with, the carrying out of the directions;
- (g) provide for the recovery of any expenses in relation to removal or care of the animal which are incurred in carrying out the directions.

(5) Any expenses a person is directed to pay under paragraph (4)(g) are recoverable summarily as a civil debt.

(6) Where the effect of an order under regulation 8 is suspended under paragraph (1) the person to whom the order relates may not sell or part with any animal to which the order applies.

(7) Failure to comply with paragraph (6) is an offence.

### **Termination of disqualification**

**14.**—(1) A person who is disqualified by virtue of an order under regulation 9 may apply to the appropriate court for the termination of the order.

(2) No application under paragraph (1) may be made—

- (a) before the end of the period of one year beginning with the date on which the order is made,



- (b) where a previous application under that paragraph has been made in relation to the same order, before the end of the period of one year beginning with the date on which the previous application was determined, or
- (c) before the end of any period specified under regulation 9(6) or paragraph (5) below in relation to the order.
- (3) On an application under paragraph (1), the court may—
  - (a) terminate the disqualification,
  - (b) vary the disqualification so as to make it less onerous, or
  - (c) refuse the application.
- (4) When determining an application under paragraph (1), the court must have regard to the character of the applicant, his or her conduct since the imposition of the disqualification and any other circumstances of the case.
- (5) Where the court refuses an application under paragraph (1), it may specify a period during which the applicant may not make a further application under that subsection in relation to the order concerned.
- (6) The court may order an applicant under paragraph (1) to pay all or part of the costs of the application.
- (7) In paragraph (1), the reference to the appropriate court is to—
  - (a) the court which made the order under regulation 9, or
  - (b) in the case of an order made by a magistrates' court, to a magistrates' court acting for the same local justice area as that court.

#### **Orders made on conviction for reimbursement of expenses**

**15.** Where an order is made under regulation 8(4)(e), 11(1)(e) or 12(3)(e), the expenses that are required by the order to be reimbursed are not to be regarded for the purposes of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980(2) as a sum adjudged to be paid by a summary conviction, but are to be recoverable summarily as a civil debt.

#### **Orders for reimbursement of expenses: right of appeal for non-offenders**

- 16.**—(1) Where a court makes an order to which this regulation applies, the person against whom the order is made may appeal against the order to the Crown Court;
- (2) This regulation applies to an order under regulation 11(1)(e) against a person other than the person subject to disqualification.

#### **Entry and search**

**17.** An offence under these Regulations is to be treated as a relevant offence for the purposes of section 24 of the Act.

*Name*

Minister for Rural Affairs, one of the Welsh Ministers

[Date]

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(2) 1980 c. 43





# Cymdeithas Frenhinol Atal Creulondeb i Anifeiliaid Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

20th November 2013

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

Dear William Powell AM,

**Re: P-04-445 - 'Save our Welsh cats & dogs from death on the roads'**

I write in relation to P-04-445, entitled '*Save our Welsh cats & dogs from death on the roads*', which is currently being considered by the National Assembly for Wales' Petitions Committee.

RSPCA policy states that no technical device should be used (or offered for sale) where an animal can be subjected to a painful stimulus at the direct instigation of a human or where a painful stimulus is delivered as a result of an animal's action from which it cannot retreat.

The RSPCA also has a very strong position against the use of training aids which are based on the principles of applying an unpleasant stimulus to inhibit unwanted behaviour.

We are, therefore, deeply concerned by any proposals to remove the ban on electric collars linked with invisible boundary fencing or hidden fencing, as proposed by P-04-445. We also believe that such discussions are untimely.

The report from the Companion Animal Welfare Council, referred to during the Committee's deliberations, argues that there is no scientific evidence that these boundary fence systems necessarily cause any welfare problems, nor is there a compelling argument to believe that this should be the case. However, the report also states there is a lack of conclusive scientific research concerning the welfare implications of the use of Electronic Pulse Training Aids. Such conclusions about boundary fence systems, therefore, appear premature.

We would suggest that the lack of evidence in relation to welfare problems relate primarily to a shortage of research. Committee members will be aware that the University of Lincoln is presently undertaking research in this field, and we hope

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**Chris O'Brien, Public Affairs Manager**

Christopher.obrien@rspca.org.uk - 0300 123 8912 / 07715 540595

Facebook: RSPCA [www.politicalanimal.org.uk/wales](http://www.politicalanimal.org.uk/wales) Twitter: @RSPCAcymru

**RSPCA Cymru**

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Noddwr Ei Mawrhydi Y Frenhines  
Patron HM The Queen

## Cymdeithas Frenhinol Atal Creulondeb i Anifeiliaid Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

their deliberations will encourage further, informed debate on this important issue.

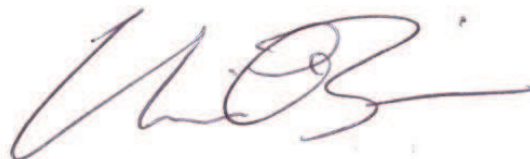
Certainly, existing evidence has highlighted many of the negative consequences concerning the use of boundary fence systems. The Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors (APBC), for example, found additional behavioural problems in animals subject to such systems. Suitable alternatives which pet owners can use have been highlighted by the APBC.

Invisible boundary fencing systems support a form of aversive training which inhibits unwanted dog or cat behaviours by applying an unpleasant stimulus. We are concerned that legalising such systems in Wales could encourage poor practices in animal training and ownership, which could have negative consequences for an animal's welfare and which may cause pain and fear, as well as other behavioural problems, including aggression.

RSPCA Cymru hugely welcomed the decision to introduce the Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) (Wales) Regulations 2010, which included the ban on devices which administer an electric shock to pets to stop them getting too close to a defined boundary. We are concerned that a reversal of any such ban, particularly given the lack of conclusive evidence, could be a backwards step for animal welfare and, more broadly, lead to irresponsible pet ownership and a prevalence of ineffective, aversive approaches to animal training. We, therefore, presently support the view which the Welsh Government communicated to the Committee in February 2013 that no significant proposals have been brought forward to suggest changes to the legislation are warranted.

As ever, RSPCA Cymru would be very pleased to meet with you to discuss this or provide any further information which may be required.

Yours Sincerely,



**Chris O'Brien**  
**Public Affairs Manager, RSPCA Cymru**

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Chris O'Brien, Public Affairs Manager

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## **P-04-445 Save our Welsh cats & dogs from death on the roads – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee in response to correspondence from the RSPCA, 23.11.2013**

Response to RSPCA's letter to William Powell, Chair, Petitions Committee

I welcome the response from the RSPCA as it is important that this subject is openly discussed. The Charity confuses the dog training collars with the invisible fencing collars (Dog Training collars should continue to be outlawed)

The RSPCA writes “ where a painful stimulus is delivered as a result of an animal's action from which it cannot retreat”.

Firstly, there is no evidence at all that there is any pain triggered by the correction as it mimics the 'nip' given by an adult animal in the wild to discipline the offspring and is recognised by the pet and I can reassure the Chair that the pet can and does retreat from the stimulus or correction, unlike the dog training collar which is controlled by a human's hand.

After gentle, gradual training and a reinforcement period, the pet does not even approach the area where the warning alerts start. This was demonstrated in the accompanying short video to this petition back in January. I enclose it again for good measure:

<http://www.jacobwhittaker.co.uk/pics/FencingPlus.mp4>

The RSPCA quotes from the CAWC letter but excludes another couple of sentences from the same report:

The CAWC says “on the balance of probabilities, the element of the Welsh ban which extends to boundary fencing is not conducive to the promotion of animal welfare, but may in fact, be increasing animal suffering” and cites the pets (300,000 cats) which are killed on roads every year clearly as a welfare problem.

Practical alternatives are limited and have their own welfare risks e.g. confinement indoors .This was actually suggested by the ABCP/Feline Advisory Bureau amongst other things like chicken mesh cages for cats .As a society should we be moving backwards to keep animals in cages again ? Who wants the cost of maintaining a garden fence akin to a concentration camp, assuming the Planning officers/neighbours agree ?

Any dog owner will tell you that when continuously tethered or chained, dogs can become neurotic, unhappy, anxious and often aggressive. Pets should be allowed to run, play and roam freely as is their natural instinct.

The RSPCA Cymru officers should get in touch with their former CVO, Chris Laurence who has an invisible fence of his own; here is the Daily Mail article:



<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2020343/Dogs-Trust-veterinary-director-Chris-Laurence-Hypocrisy-bunny-hugger.html>

Why does the RSPCA support livestock fencing which carries a live electric shock (unlike an electronic collar) and no warning alerts ?

Furthermore, the Charity cites a lack of evidence in relation to welfare problems which relate primarily to a shortage of research, but they omit to mention Defra's own 3 year research project into electronic collars' use for training dogs which was published only a few months ago from which I quote Adam Broderick's response:

"While research showed no evidence that e-collars cause long-term harm to dog welfare when used appropriately, Defra wants to ensure electric dog collars are used properly and manufactured to a high standard.

We will work with the Electronic Collar Manufacturers Association to draw up guidance for dog owners and trainers advising how to use e-collars properly and to develop a manufacturers' charter to make sure any e-collars on sale are made to high standards.

A ban on e-collars could not be justified because the research provided no evidence that e-collars pose a significant risk to dog welfare. For a ban to be introduced there would have to be evidence showing they were harmful to the long-term welfare of dogs.

**There are no proposals to place restrictions on the use of electronic containment fences."**

The Welsh ban came into force in 2010, before this DEFRA-funded research project was completed.

The University of Lincoln research project is researching the behaviour of cats and part of the study is looking into containment fencing – but dogs are not included.

At my own cost, I would be happy to take the Minister and other interested parties to see an invisible fence in action in England. It is absolutely vital they see this harmless and effective system for themselves and speak to the owner.

Lastly, I met with Nick Ramsay (AM) yesterday at his Constituency office in Monmouthshire. He voted in favour of the legislation in 2010 and was surprised to hear that it included invisible fencing. I quote his exact words:

"How did that happen? The Kennel Club wanted the invisible fencing excluded.

This is not what we voted for"

Monima O'Connor  
Petitioner

## **P-04-432 : Stop the Army Recruiting in Schools**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to recommend that the armed forces should not go into schools to recruit.

Britain is the only country in the European Union that allows a military presence in its schools. Britain is the only country of the 27 European Union countries to recruit 16-year-old children to the armed forces. The armed forces target their recruitment in schools in the most deprived areas of Wales.

**Petition raised by:** The Fellowship of Reconciliation

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

**Number of signatures:** 374 Associated petition collected approximately 700 signatures





Careers Wales worked with over 21,000 employers last year in sectors as diverse as accountancy to zoology. However, in the case of the armed forces, they normally offer their demonstrations and visits directly to schools and colleges, as do many other organisations and providers.

As we understand it, in law the decision on which employers or organisations have access to individual schools rests entirely with the Head Teacher and Governors and this is not something that Careers Wales has influence over.

I hope that this clarifies the matter for the Committee

Yours sincerely,

**Ray Collier**  
Interim Chief Executive  
Careers Wales

**Gyrfa Cymru Careers Wales**



**BUDDSODDWYR** | INVESTORS  
**MEWN POBL** | IN PEOPLE



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

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

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

Swyddfa Gofrestredig: Career Choices Dewis Gyrfa Ltd yn masnachu fel Careers Wales Gyrfa Cymru, Tŷ Glyn, Brecon Court, William Brown Close, Parc Llantarnam, Cwmbrân NP44 3AB  
Registered Office: Career Choices Dewis Gyrfa Ltd trading as Careers Wales Gyrfa Cymru, Tŷ Glyn, Brecon Court, William Brown Close, Llantarnam Park, Cwmbrân NP44 3AB  
Ffôn/Tel: 0300 123 3853 Ffôn Ffôn: 0300 123 3853



# Cymdeithas y Cymod

*Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales*

Rhif Elusen /Charity No 700609

02/12/2013

William Powell AC  
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deisebau  
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru  
Bae Caerdydd  
Caerdydd  
CF99 1NA

Annwyl Syr

Diolch am y cyfle yma eto i ymateb i'r ddeiseb yn erbyn recriwtio'r fyddin mewn ysgolion. Gan na chawsom fwy na dau ddiwrnod i ymateb y tro yma, nid ydym wedi cael yr amser i ymateb yn llawn yn y Gymraeg. Felly gan ymddiheuro am hynny, dyma ein ymateb yn Saesneg yn unig i'r ymatebion gawsoch yn Saesneg:-

## **Ministry of Defence response**

Although the correspondence with the Ministry of Defence states that the armed forces do not conduct recruitment activities in schools – 'no pupil or school student is ever 'signed-up' or otherwise make a commitment to become a recruit into the armed forces during the course of any school visit by our representatives' – we are concerned that the activities are, for some students, the first stage towards recruitment. We do not suggest that students are signed up there and then, but that they are engaged in **pre-recruitment activities** that encourage them to actively consider a career in the armed forces. There are a considerable number of armed forces careers orientated activities taking place in schools including 'Insight' courses which is a residential course taken at a barracks providing "hands-on experience of the jobs you're interested in". Interviews for Insight courses take place in schools with students who have expressed interest within the school.

## **Role of the school**

While it is the role of the school to provide a range of career information to students, it is also their duty to act 'in loco parentis' – with all the considerations of the best interest of the child that a parent would have. No single career provider should be given more access to their students than another and that access should be monitored and full information on the nature of the career should be provided by the school in its role as gatekeeper.

Schools act as a seal of approval for young people and the information provided to them within the school environment is viewed as authoritative. Parents and

guardians are not on hand to have an input. It is the duty of the schools to ensure that the information provided about a career in the armed forces and armed forces activities is verified, debated and balanced by schools.

### **Careers Wales response**

The letter from Careers Wales letter is correct in that most visits will be arranged directly between the school and the armed forces so are not a matter that Careers Wales can influence.

1. However, data from the Army indicates that schools took part in careers fairs and other events run by Careers Wales at which the Army is present. This is an opportunity for Careers Wales to ensure that a wide array of opportunities are given to young people and industries that do not have the budget for promotion available to the armed forces are none-the-less encouraged to take part.

2. Other activities provided by the armed forces take place away from school (visits to training camps etc). These should be adequately supervised by the school and material and activities undertaken should be subject to debate and discussion in the same way that visits to other amenities would be.

3. Headteachers have full discretion about whether or not they take up an offer from the armed forces to visit the school. They should use this discretion to consider if the activities on offer:

- are in the best interests of their students
- are appropriate to the curriculum
- provide a balanced view of life in the forces and military activities
- should be balanced with alternative perspectives from another source
- are, or could lead to, pre-recruitment activities
- and, how can critical awareness around the issues be introduced alongside the activities

4. Headteachers should be provided with guidance about concerns relating to visits/activities of the armed forces:

- that they can glorify or sanitise involvement in warfare
- that there is a need for balance in the range of activities provided
- that an approach towards armed forces presentations and discussions that develops student's critical awareness around the issues should be encouraged

5 Teachers should be guided to actively participate in any activities run by the armed forces in their classes and discussions around armed forces material/presentations in order to assist students with interrogating the materials and to create a balanced discussion.

6. Schools should be given resources to provide an alternative and balanced view such as curriculum materials and contacts for organisations involved in peace education and veterans groups that can provide an independent viewpoint.

### **Risks to young people in conflict**

Finally, we would like to take the opportunity of drawing the committee's attention to recent research carried out by ForcesWatch and Child Soldiers International, which indicates that those who join the armed forces at the youngest age are most at risk.:

- ***Young age at Army enlistment is associated with greater war zone risks: An analysis of British Army fatalities in Afghanistan*** (<http://www.forceswatch.net/content/youngest-soldiers-face-greatest-risks>) This

paper, published by ForcesWatch and Child Soldiers International, indicates that the risk of fatality in Afghanistan for British Army recruits aged 16 who have completed training has been twice as high as it has for those enlisting at 18 or above. This increased risk reflects the disproportionately high number of 16 year olds who join front-line Infantry roles. This is mainly the result of recruitment policies which drive the youngest recruits into the Army's most dangerous roles

- ***The Last Ambush? Aspects of mental health in the British armed forces*** (<http://www.forceswatch.net/content/last-ambush>) This report, published by ForcesWatch, shows that post-war mental health problems are most common in young soldiers from disadvantaged backgrounds. It draws on over 150 sources, including 41 British military mental health studies, as well as testimony from veterans.

Diolch eto am y cyfle i ymateb er na chawsom llawer o amser i wneud hynny y tro yma. Edrychwn ymlaen nawr i gael ymateb cadarnhaol i'r ddeiseb gan eich Pwyllgor.

Yn gywir

Arfon Rhys  
Ysgrifennydd Cymdeithas y Cymod yng Nghymru

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

### **Petition wording:**

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

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

**Petition raised by:** Cerith Rhys Jones

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

**Number of signatures:** 129

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

8 October 2013

Dear William

### **Petition on Brighter Future for Young People**

I apologise for not responding to your letter of 24 April 2013 seeking the views of Colegau Cymru on a petition urging the Welsh Government to put forward effective and positive steps to ensure a brighter future for the current generation of young people.

Colegau Cymru represents 16 further education (FE) colleges and FE institutions in Wales. In 2010/11, there were 82,985 students attending FE colleges, of which 59,355 students were aged below 20<sup>1</sup>.

FE colleges have a twin purpose – promoting social justice and inclusion and supporting a buoyant economy.

#### **(i) Promoting social justice**

Investing in the future of our young people and tackling disadvantage are both core to the approach taken by colleges – indeed they are the *raison d'être* of colleges' existence.

A survey of 15 colleges in Wales in July 2013 showed that almost 37,000 learners received Educational Maintenance Allowances, Assembly Learning Grants or college Financial Contingency Funds. This funding ensures that those requiring financial support are not deterred from enrolling on courses. Colleges have almost 500 looked-after children to whom they give specialist and dedicated support. Providing support to all these learners is at the heart of what colleges do; it is nonetheless time consuming and expensive. Investment needs to be sustained to ensure the most disadvantaged learners are catered for. Where does a learner go if deprived of a second chance opportunity? Maintaining investment in these learners ensures that they do not become NEET (not in employment, education or training).

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<sup>1</sup> Further Education, Work-based Learning and Community Learning in Wales Statistics 2010/11 Welsh Government 2012

Colleges make probably the single biggest impact to reducing those who are NEET by either being the first point of contact for the young persons or being the point of first referral by other agencies in many cases.

Colleges received Financial Contingency Funds (FCF) of £7m from the Welsh Government in 2011/12. There were 17,145 successful applications for funds from students, 88% of which were from full-time students. The highest costs were for childcare and transport with other key areas being luncheon vouchers, equipment and books.

16 year olds who choose to remain in school may continue to receive means-tested free school meals (FSM). There is no dedicated FSM funding for college students. Colleges often increase the amount of funding available to disadvantaged learners by reallocating sums earned from entrepreneurial activity.

Colleges also receive funding for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. In 2012/13 this amounted to £6.4m. This funding contributes towards providing specialist support in areas such as sign language and Braille and in-class (ancillary) support.

As well as providing financial support through grants, colleges deliver curriculum specifically designed for those from disadvantaged or vulnerable groups – that is, education and training provision as well as financial support. This provision, some of which can be termed as ‘uneconomic’, means that classes can be run in smaller groups, or that classes can be run in the community. By so doing, colleges encourage learners to participate in learning where they may not have done so previously.

In addition, colleges use a significant amount of resources to boost levels of literacy and numeracy. Estyn has pointed out the differences between chronological age and reading age for example, and colleges seek to compensate for these gaps. In November 2010, a survey carried out by ColegauCymru showed that 43% of their new full-time students had literacy levels below level 1 on entry to college, with the comparable figure being 48% for level 1 numeracy. Improving literacy and numeracy levels is crucial in tackling disadvantage.

## **(ii) Supporting a buoyant economy**

The second key element is the major contribution made by colleges to the economy in Wales by raising skills levels in Wales. This is particularly significant as the increased level of long term unemployment in Wales since the recession in 2008 runs the risk of denuding the skills base of our country.

ColegauCymru believes that despite the extremely testing economic outlook, Wales has the opportunity to rebuild its industrial future based on an ever more highly skilled workforce with FE colleges responding positively to the needs of business and industry.

According to the latest large scale UKCES *Employers' Skills Survey*, FE colleges in Wales prepare 17-18 year old ‘education leavers’ better than school sixth forms in Wales by a margin of 10%. 75% of employers in the survey stated that college leavers

are 'well prepared' or better compared to less than two thirds of school leavers who were so.<sup>2</sup>

Work with business has remained a central priority for the sector over many years. Most colleges now have a commercial arm or business unit and promote their services to a wide range of employers. ColegauCymru has estimated that colleges engage with over 25,000 businesses every year to work to develop a suite of products designed to meet the needs of private and public sector employers in Wales. Such services range from work on apprenticeships (all levels), bespoke training programmes for staff, consultancies, product innovation and general advice on future skill needs of their workforce. Colleges are constantly seeking to make sure that their work with business is nimble, at the cutting edge and suited to individual employer needs. This is a central goal for colleges in Wales.

Colleges have responded to the Welsh Government's investment with an improving quality profile year-on-year. For example, the Department for Education and Skills' (DfES) annual *Learner Outcomes Reports for 2010/11* showed that 90% of students completed their courses in FE colleges and of these 90% achieved their qualifications – making an overall success rate of 81%. This can be compared with a 40% successful completion in 2000/01.

Sustaining public investment in skills in the medium to long term is crucial. Vocational education delivered by colleges makes a major contribution to meeting the aims of Wales' ambitious skills agenda. Approximately 85% of courses (at level 3 and below) offered by colleges in Wales are vocational or vocationally related. Colleges are therefore, by a large margin, the predominant providers of vocational and technical education in Wales.

The need to develop a skills base for a renewed emphasis on industrial and construction industry growth is supported by clear evidence on projected labour demand in Wales up to 2020. According to the latest estimates from the UK Commission on Employment and Skills' *Working Futures* report: "*Wales is the only nation/region [in the UK] where skilled trades occupations are expected to grow in employment, and not decline*" and employment growth in Wales is projected to be: "*above the UK average ... for the primary sector and utilities, construction, and trade, accommodation and transport*". This gives a particular impetus to investment focused on enhancing Wales' crucial vocational skills base.

Colleges enrol more 16-19 students than do school sixth forms. Colleges provide a "sixth form" provision which is often unrecognised by many politicians. Key features:

- results are very good – the 2013 AS/A level results showed outstanding performance in many colleges with results comparable to school sixth forms
- in several areas tertiary colleges widen student choice and provide specialist support
- tertiary reorganisation is cost effective and provides a more efficient and fair solution than just reducing budgets and cuts out unnecessary competition for 16-19 students.

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<sup>2</sup> UK Commission for Employment and Skills: *Employer Skills Survey 2011: Wales Results*, Evidence Report 62, Nov 2012, fig. 3.1 p.28.



## **Comment**

Colleges play a key role in investing in the future of 16-24 year olds. They are supporting disadvantaged learners; promoting opportunities for developing vocational qualifications; supporting apprenticeships and vocational learning routes; raising standards for all learners – academic and vocational; and seeking to ensure that young people and adults are equipped with the skills necessary to take on jobs when the economy eventually improves. Colleges have invested heavily in their student support services which provide appropriate support and guidance and independent careers advice that meets the needs of young people.

In short, colleges are playing key role in ensuring that 16-24 year olds do not become a 'lost generation'. Rather, they are providing an education and skills environment that will help ensure a brighter future for young people in Wales.

Yours sincerely

Dr John Graystone  
Chief Executive

c Mark Jones  
Ken Skates, Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology

(signed copy in the post)

# Agenda Item 3.15

## **P-04-443 : Welsh History**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to make Welsh History Compulsory in our schools from the age of 7.

Supporting information: Teaching about Wales from the Celtic times right through to the present Day , including for example Llywelyn, Glyndŵr, all other Welsh Native Princes , Tryweryn , The Welsh Not , The Norman conquest, Act of Union and Industrialisation. As It appears that not all of Welsh history is being taught and is selective to cover certain periods and events .

**Petition raised by:** BALCHDER CYMRU / PRIDE OF WALES

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

**Number of signatures:** 597



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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## WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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**TITLE**        **The Cwricwlwm Cymreig, history and the story of Wales**

**DATE**        23 September 2013

**BY**            **Huw Lewis AM, Minister for Education and Skills**

In October 2012, an independent review group, chaired by Dr Elin Jones, was established by my predecessor to explore and consider the future development of Cwricwlwm Cymreig, the teaching of Welsh history and the resources available to support that teaching. The group was established in response to significant changes in the curriculum since the publication of ACCAC's guidance on '*Developing the Curriculum Cymreig*' in 2003, and the growth in interest in the history of Wales over the last decade.

"The Cwricwlwm Cymreig, history and the story of Wales report", published today, builds on the interim report published in April 2013 and reflects the findings of the group's subsequent consultation. I very much welcome this report, which makes a number of important recommendations on which I will now take time to reflect both in the context of the wider review of National Curriculum and assessment and, where appropriate, the work being taken forward in response to the review of qualifications published earlier this year. I will respond in full to all these recommendations in due course.

In the meantime, I would like to express my gratitude to Dr Elin Jones and the following Members of the review group for all their work in producing the report and the recommendations:

- (Deputy Chair) Paul Nolan, History advisor;
- Prof Angela John;
- Dr Sian Rhiannon Williams, Cardiff Metropolitan University;
- Dr Hugh Griffiths, Ysgol Bro Myrddin;
- Nia Williams, Education Coordinator, National Museum and Galleries of Wales;
- Frank Olding, Blaenau Gwent Heritage Officer;
- Dr Stephanie Ward, Cardiff University;
- David Stacey, Olchfa Comprehensive School;
- Dr Martin Johnes, UC Swansea;
- William Rogers, Queen Street School, Blaenau Gwent;
- Nicola Thomas, Cornist Park School

- Nia Huw, Ysgol Gynradd Llangeitho; and,
- John Dilwyn Williams, Gwynedd Archives.

# The Cwricwlwm Cymreig, history and the story of Wales

Final report

*'Distinctiveness in an education structure is no virtue of itself; it is worth fighting for only if it enriches the educational experience of pupils.'*\*

\* Gareth Elwyn Jones and Gordon Wynne Rowland, *A History of Education in Wales* (University of Wales Press, 2003, page 211).



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## Introduction

### **The development of the national curriculum and Cwricwlwm Cymreig**

The national curriculum of Wales today is the outcome of the Education Reform Act of 1988. Before this, although there were defined study areas for each examination subject, there were no compulsory curriculum Orders for learners under 14 years old. There were only two compulsory subjects, namely religious education and physical education. Welsh was also compulsory in some parts of Wales, but did not have to be taught at all in others. Otherwise each individual school had the freedom to choose the subjects to be taught as well as the aspects of these and the methods of presenting them to their learners.

Although this freedom allowed good teachers to devise learning experiences which were relevant to their learners and reflected the latest developments in the subject, it also meant that there were wide variations in the standard of education across the country. Although there were many reasons for the decision to introduce a national curriculum in 1988, concern about this variation was one reason for doing so.

### **The Cwricwlwm Cymreig**

The original intention was to establish a common national curriculum for Wales and England. Wales and England had been one country for centuries, both constitutionally and in practice, and they shared a common education system. After considerable campaigning, it was agreed that some subjects, such as history and geography, would have different programmes of study. The Association of History Teachers in Wales took a leading part in this campaign to ensure a distinctive curriculum in Wales. Other subjects, such as mathematics and science, would have a core curriculum in common. During the process of developing the national curricula, there was close cooperation between the Curriculum Councils in Wales and England, and between the subject committees in all subjects, in order to ensure consistency between the two curricula.

The aim of the campaigning for a separate curriculum was to secure a national curriculum for Wales which would reflect the culture, environment, economy and history of Wales, and the influences which have shaped the country of today. A need for further guidance on this was perceived by ACAC<sup>1</sup>, which in 1993 published guidance on *Developing the Curriculum*

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<sup>1</sup> Awdurdod Cwricwlwm ac Asesu Cymru (ACAC: the Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales), successor body to the Curriculum Council for Wales (CCW), which developed the original curriculum. This later became ACCAC: Awdurdod Cymwysterau, Cwricwlwm ac Asesu Cymru (the Qualifications, Curriculum, and Assessment Authority) before being absorbed into the Education and Skills Department of the Welsh Government in 2006. For a comprehensive and informed account of the process of developing the national curriculum in Wales and the Cwricwlwm Cymreig, see *A History of Education in Wales* (2003), pages 198–214. Emeritus Professor Gareth Elwyn Jones was a member of both the Welsh and English committees which developed the original programmes of study for history.



*Cymreig*<sup>2</sup>, following that with further guidance and advice as the curriculum was reviewed<sup>3</sup>. It remains the case however that while other countries simply have one national curriculum, Wales has a statutory national curriculum and an additional document which is also statutory.

One outcome of devolution in 1999 was the development of an increasingly independent education system in Wales. The original intention was to review the national curriculum every five years. Whilst this did not happen, there were reviews in 1995–6, 2000 and 2008.

The Minister for Education and Skills announced a further review in October 2012, one key purpose of which was to consider the impact of the new National Literacy and Numeracy Framework and tests on existing curriculum and assessment arrangements in Wales. As part of this wider review, the Minister has set up this task and finish group to look specifically at the teaching of Welsh history, the story(ies) of Wales and the *Cwricwlwm Cymreig*.

The task group began its work at the beginning of November, and published an interim report at the end of April 2013. A public consultation on this report was held until 21 June. Details of the consultation process are to be found in Appendix 2. A significant majority of positive responses were received both to the report and to its recommendations, and these are reflected in this final version of the report, including the clear demand for a new curriculum for twenty-first century Wales.

This report was presented to the Minister in July 2013, and the first phase of the wider review completed by September. This included evidence gathering, consultation with key stakeholders and experts, and analysis, all of which culminated in a final report to the Minister in September. The work of this task and finish group formed part of this phase, and helped to inform the final report.

The second phase of the review will be completed by September 2014. This will include identification of any revisions to the current assessment and curriculum arrangements in Wales, informed by public consultation. Implementation is expected to take place from September 2014.

In addition, the Review of Qualifications for 14 to 19-year-olds in Wales was published in November 2012. The Welsh Government announced its broad acceptance of all the recommendations of the review at the end of January 2013. This means, amongst other things, that GCSEs and A levels will be

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<sup>2</sup> The adjective *Cymreig* means 'pertaining to Wales or the Welsh; pertaining to the Welsh language, that is in terms of geography, the economy or culture, and should be differentiated from the adjective *Cymraeg*, which refers more specifically to the Welsh language' (definitions drawn from *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru: A Dictionary of the Welsh Language*, Cardiff 1950–2002).

<sup>3</sup> See Kevin Smith 'A Critical Discourse Analysis of Developing the Curriculum *Cymreig*: the Language of Learning Welshness' (unpublished doctoral thesis, University of Miami, 2010) for a perceptive analysis of the process of developing the Curriculum *Cymreig*, and of the 2003 guidance in particular.

retained in Wales within the framework of a revised, more rigorous Welsh Baccalaureate. This will sometimes mean diverging from England and the rest of the UK, but many qualifications will continue to be shared. There will also be clear pathways for progression through the medium of Welsh.

### **Learning and teaching resources**

There was a demand for resources to support the new national curriculum, and it was decided that the government should commission publishers to produce resources in English and Welsh for those subjects which had a separate Welsh programme of study, and Welsh versions of resources for subjects which had the same programme of study in Wales and England. A panel of classroom teachers would meet annually to decide what were the resource priorities in each curriculum subject. The market for these resources was too small to make them commercially attractive without government subsidy.

The first history resources for Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 were published in 1996<sup>4</sup>, for example, and since then appropriate resources have regularly been published for every curriculum subject.

Previously, the lack of teaching resources suitable for schools in Wales had been a matter of concern for many years. Teachers had either to use resources developed for England, adapting and/or translating them as needed, or use resources produced by publishers in Wales, which might or might not be suitable for their own scheme of work. For commercial reasons, the resources published in Wales were not always as attractive as those produced in England, and it seems likely that the poor quality of some Welsh history resources affected the learning experience.

The Welsh Books Council, together with the publishers, is responsible for advertising and marketing the resources commissioned for the curriculum in Wales. The Council's schools' officers regularly visit schools across Wales, undertaking about 700 visits every year. Nevertheless, despite this, teachers continue to refer to a shortage of suitable resources.

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<sup>4</sup> *Welsh History Stories/Storiâu Hanes Cymru* (Cardiff) for Key Stages 1 and 2, and *Focus on Welsh History/Ffocws ar Hanes Cymru* (Aberystwyth) for Key Stage 3.

# 1. The Cwricwlwm Cymreig

**Should the Cwricwlwm Cymreig best be delivered in future through the discipline of history and, if not, what are the best means of ensuring that the elements of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig are delivered across the curriculum?**

At present the statutory expectation is that learners aged 7 to 14 should be given opportunities in all curriculum subjects to develop and apply their knowledge and understanding of the cultural, economic, environmental, historical and linguistic characteristics of Wales. Learners aged 14 to 19 should have opportunities for active engagement in understanding the political, social, economic and cultural aspects of Wales as a part of the world as a whole. For learners aged 14 to 19, this is part of their Learning Core entitlement and is a requirement at Key Stage 4.

History is seen as contributing to the Cwricwlwm Cymreig by making local and Welsh history a focus of the study and helping learners to understand the factors that have shaped Wales and other countries today.

Similar statements about the contributions of other subjects to the Cwricwlwm Cymreig are provided in the section 'Learning across the curriculum' in the introduction to their programmes of study.

**Question 1: Should the Cwricwlwm Cymreig be delivered in future through the discipline of history?**

The **Cwricwlwm Cymreig should not be delivered through the discipline of history alone.** The task group was unanimous in its belief that to do so would be damaging to the concept of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig itself, to the discipline of history, and also to the other curriculum subjects.

The group did not perceive there to be any advantages to delivering the Cwricwlwm Cymreig through history. Every subject provides opportunities for learners to develop their understanding of Wales, and **the Cwricwlwm Cymreig should not focus on the past only: it should be a means of helping the present and future citizens of Wales to understand their world.**

The task group was of the opinion that there would be the following disadvantages to delivering the Cwricwlwm Cymreig through history. It would:

- be likely to deprive other subjects of their contribution to the Cwricwlwm Cymreig, since there is far more to the Cwricwlwm Cymreig than history alone
- make it more difficult for schools to place a stronger focus on taking an active approach to learning through art, technology and science in a local and contemporary context
- narrow the History Programme of Study too much, and tend to make it narrow and parochial

- lead to content overload of the programme of study, endangering the skills focus
- be open to being interpreted as an attempt to turn the study of history into nationalist propaganda
- mean that learners' interest in the Cwricwlwm Cymreig would be entirely dependent on their interest in history as a subject – if history had no appeal for them, there would be no other opportunity to kindle their interest in the Cwricwlwm Cymreig
- likely to lead learners to associate Welshness only with the past
- be impractical, given the limited time available for the teaching of history, and the optional nature of history from Key Stage 4 onwards
- place the responsibility for developing the Cwricwlwm Cymreig on individual teachers, whereas it should be the school's collective responsibility.

The task group was of the opinion that there were examples of good practice in integrating the Cwricwlwm Cymreig into subjects across the curriculum, but that there are wide variations in schools' attitudes towards the Cwricwlwm Cymreig<sup>5</sup>. Not all schools understand the requirement that the Cwricwlwm Cymreig be relevant and meaningful to learners. While some schools are successful in giving a Welsh dimension to every subject, and do so in a way which is appropriate, integrated into the subject and the topic being investigated, many schools:

- limit it to some subjects only, for example Welsh as a subject, expressive arts (such as music and art) and history
- treat it as an addition to the 'real' programme of study, first devising their schemes of work, and then adding elements of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig afterwards.

Members from the primary sector thought that the present tendency towards a thematic approach, rather than a subject-based approach, provided more opportunities for effective development of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig, and they were more confident that it was being effectively delivered in their sector. Nevertheless, the tendency in some schools is to focus more on the local and the Welsh, possibly at the expense of the links between Wales and the world. There is not much evidence either that schools place their local studies in a wider Welsh context.

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<sup>5</sup> This comment is chiefly based on the impressions of those members of the task group who currently work with a number of different schools, as local advisors, or in museums and universities. It was supported by teacher members of the task group, on the basis of their own experience in different schools and discussions with colleagues. The most recent Estyn survey of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig was published in 2006 (*Cwricwlwm Cymreig: Phase 2*) and gives a comprehensive overview of the situation then, based on school reports for the academic years 2003/4 and 2005/6 and on visits during 2005/6 to a small number of secondary schools and one special school. Its conclusions (page 3) were that while teaching was good or better in three-quarters of schools, learners' knowledge of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig had shortcomings in about a quarter of all schools in Wales, and in some of these the work was of a low standard.

Members from the secondary sector expressed concern that the current trends in some secondary schools towards:

- reducing the time allocated to history in the school timetable
- and/or teaching it through integrated humanities courses
- and/or teaching it as part of a 'carousel' of humanities subjects
- and/or compressing the Key Stage 3 programme of study into years 7 and 8
- and/or starting to teach GCSE subjects in Year 9

all had the practical result of reducing the time available to deliver the current programme of study in history, quite apart from the Cwricwlwm Cymreig.

Members from the higher education sector were anxious that we consider the effect of any changes on those students following GCSE and AS/A level courses at colleges for further education.

**Question 2: If it is decided that the Cwricwlwm Cymreig should not be delivered through the discipline of history alone, what would be the best means of ensuring that the elements of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig are delivered across the curriculum?**

**The group felt that the Welsh dimension should be integrated into every subject, where that is relevant and meaningful.** The current definitions are a good starting point in this respect, although they could be developed further.

A recent book on mathematics<sup>6</sup> gives clear examples of how this may be done in subjects such as mathematics which share a core programme of study with schools in England. The author says in his introduction 'The Welsh experience of counting must be understood in order to understand our contemporary attitude to numbers.'<sup>7</sup> The book includes a discussion on mathematical principles and puzzles, putting these in a Welsh context by, for example, analysing the reasons for the different ways of counting in Welsh.

The aim in every subject should be to integrate the essentials of the subject with the Welsh perspective<sup>8</sup> in order to meet the demands of the twenty-first century, where that enhances both an understanding of the subject itself and of Wales. It need not be artificial or irrelevant, and should provide opportunities for active learning through direct experience. No one should be trying to put a Welsh hat on the Mona Lisa. But nor should an understanding of wider trends, concepts and events be divorced from their relevance to Wales. The principles which inform the New Zealand Curriculum provide an interesting example of an approach which might be taken<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> Gareth Ffowc Roberts, *Mae Pawb yn Cyfrif: stori ryfeddol y Cymry a'u rhifau* ('Everyone counts: the wonderful story of the Welsh and their numbers'; Llandysul, 2012). Author's translation of title and quotation.

<sup>7</sup> Page 15.

<sup>8</sup> In referring to the 'Welsh perspective' (or 'Welsh dimension'), the panel would not wish to suggest that there is only one such perspective. There is a range of perspectives in every subject.

<sup>9</sup> <http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-documents/The-New-Zealand-Curriculum/Principles>

The task group was of the opinion that teachers' understanding of the implications of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig needed to be improved across all age and ability sectors, and across all subjects. It should help learners to develop their investigative skills in all subjects, giving them opportunities to learn actively, developing their knowledge, skills and understanding through activities and experiences rather than passively receiving information.

Restricting the Cwricwlwm Cymreig to some subjects alone would:

- restrict learners' experiences
- limit the opportunities for teachers to teach their subjects from a Welsh standpoint
- reduce the potential of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig to contribute to innovative teaching methods relevant to twenty-first century learners
- reinforce the impression that the Cwricwlwm Cymreig is something peripheral or additional
- downgrade the Welsh dimension of the national curriculum in the long term.

Every curriculum or scheme of work has the potential to become restrictively conservative if it does not develop with the passage of time and with changes in society. There have been great social changes since the national curriculum was first drawn up a quarter of a century ago. Devolution has been one of the most obvious, but not the only change in the course of these years. We should take this opportunity to look afresh at every curriculum subject, with the intention of reviewing them to meet the needs of twenty-first century society and post-devolution Wales.

The term 'Cwricwlwm Cymreig' is a stumbling block in itself, in the opinion of the task group. It is not a curriculum in itself, but an aspect of the national curriculum. The word 'Cymreig' also causes difficulty, since the difference in meaning between 'Cymreig' and 'Cymraeg' is not clear to everyone, especially to those who do not speak Welsh.

The task group considered the possibility of recommending that the name be changed, in order to:

- avoid the ambiguity of the current title
- make the wider context more explicit.

A name such as 'Wales and the World' would:

- strengthen the continuity from Key Stages 2 and 3 to Key Stages 4 and 5
- emphasise that basing the learners' experiences on their own area is not parochial or narrow, as there is an expectation that an integrated Cwricwlwm Cymreig will also extend their horizons.

However, the task group finally decided that a change of name would not resolve the issue, or help to achieve the original aim of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig: a fully Welsh curriculum which integrates both a Welsh dimension and an international perspective into the learning and teaching of every

subject. The present review of the national curriculum in Wales is an ideal opportunity to do this. To do so would remove the problem of an additional and detachable layer of 'Welshness', and the danger of adding another new initiative from the Government to a timetable which is already full.

However, such integration could endanger the Welsh dimension if that is not already firmly established in the school's ethos. Teachers will need a clear vision and leadership, as well as continuing training in order to ensure that the principles, the practice and the resources are all familiar to them.

**The task group is of the opinion that the next national curriculum in Wales should take as its starting point the ideas and ideals of the present Cwricwlwm Cymreig. Its aim should be to build on these to create an entirely holistic national curriculum for twenty-first century Wales, one which will have both a Welsh dimension and an international perspective. There should be no further reference to a 'national curriculum' and a 'Cwricwlwm Cymreig', but to one 'curriculum for Wales'.**

The developers of this new curriculum should work closely with working groups of specialists in each subject from all sectors of education, in order to profit from both academic and practical expertise. The aims of these specialist working groups would be:

- to agree on clearer and more detailed definitions of the Welsh perspective in that subject
- to be available to offer expert and practical support to the consortia and to the professional learning communities, as they develop
- to support teachers in recognising the ethos of their communities, and how they can develop schemes of work, learning activities and relevant teaching resources which will both belong to each community and promote good practice in each subject.

They should also develop benchmarks for each subject which would help teachers to decide whether the Welsh dimension:

- is a natural, meaningful and organic aspect of the topic they are investigating
- emphasises active learning through experience and investigation
- provides opportunities for learners to form their own opinions
- offers a range of images of Welshness and opportunities to compare these
- helps learners to understand and challenge stereotypes
- extends the learners' horizons as well as giving them roots in their own culture<sup>10</sup>
- takes into account the learners' own cultural and linguistic background and the communities to which they belong
- provides opportunities to debate or challenge the content.

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<sup>10</sup> This should reflect the diversity of experience and culture in Wales both today and in the past.

Establishing such a committee for every subject might also help to address one of the weaknesses of the current education system: the lack of continuity and progression from one key stage to the next, which is particularly evident at transition from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3 and in the foundation subjects.

The members of these committees should be aware of the pressures of work on teachers and on school resources, and work with the communities and with the teachers seconded to Hwb to provide clear and practical advice on how existing schemes of work and resources may be used as a basis for the new developments. One of their priorities should be on the potential of integrating the Welsh dimension to reduce teachers' workload by offering opportunities to avoid repetition and unnecessary work, but they should also take responsibility for assuring the quality of the resources on Hwb and Hwb+.

There is also a pressing need for a better way of collecting and sharing current good practice in developing the present Cwricwlwm Cymreig, and the task group suggest that in advance of the introduction of the new curriculum:

- Estyn should include such examples on the 'Good Practice' section of their website
- Hwb and the Hwb+ Learning Platform should establish a national forum to share:
  - training materials
  - a range of appropriate digital resources in English and Welsh to support teaching the Cwricwlwm Cymreig, regularly reviewing and updating these
  - more informal examples of good practice than those provided by Estyn, such as the work of the winners of the Welsh Heritage Schools' Initiative's annual competition
  - subject discussions across sectors.

This should be supported by a regular electronic newsletter to schools and other interested bodies. The quality of all Hwb resources should also be assured, and updated regularly. All these steps would help to establish a firm foundation for the development of the new national curriculum.

Substantial investment will be needed in in-service training for every teacher in every subject, in initial teacher training, in training for newly qualified teachers and in classroom and online resources. The needs of teachers moving to Wales from other countries should also be taken into consideration. The development of professional learning communities and of Hwb provide opportunities to ensure that everyone can both profit from and contribute to these new developments in the curriculum.

The specifications for all qualification, offered in Wales should be reviewed to establish how the Welsh perspective is ensured in them. Changes to qualifications in Wales following the review of 14–19 Qualifications, discussed in the introduction to this report, provide an opportunity to do this now.



In the past, for example, it was made compulsory for all History GCSE and AS/A Level specifications to include a percentage of British history. While something similar could be done in order to ensure a Welsh perspective, artificial and irrelevant changes should be avoided. Consequently, specialists from the higher and further education sectors and from professional bodies should be consulted, in order to support the maintenance of rigour, and to ensure that the Welsh dimension is integral to the knowledge, skills and understanding being developed. Such changes should not be confined to academic subjects only. The increasing emphasis currently being placed on sustainability, the use of local resources and local produce suggests a practical approach to ensuring the Welsh dimension.

In all instances, the revised specifications should make explicit links with the 'Wales, Europe and the World' theme in the Welsh Baccalaureate.

### **Recommendations**

- 1. The next national curriculum for Wales should take as its starting point the ideas and ideals embodied in the current Cwricwlwm Cymreig and build upon these as the foundation of the next National Curriculum for Wales rather than as an addition to it. It should have a Welsh dimension and an international perspective.**
- 2. The developers of the new curriculum should work closely with working groups of specialists in each subject from all sectors of education, in order to agree on clearer and more detailed definitions of the Welsh perspective in that subject. This should be the starting point in the development of the new curriculum.**
- 3. A set of benchmarks should be developed to help teachers and others ensure that the Welsh dimension is incorporated into each subject in a meaningful way.**
- 4. A more effective method should be developed of gathering and sharing examples of current good practice in the development of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig across Wales.**
- 5. Substantial investment will be needed in in-service training for every teacher in every subject, in initial teacher training, in training for newly qualified teachers and in classroom and online resources.**
- 6. It should be compulsory for every qualification offered in Wales to reflect a Welsh perspective where appropriate.**

## **2. The emphasis on Welsh history and the story(ies) of Wales in the teaching of history and the current programme of study**

### **Introduction**

#### **Historical background**

The freedom teachers had before the establishment of the national curriculum<sup>11</sup> allowed them to teach a subject like history from a Welsh perspective, and/or to include a strong element of local history in their schemes of work, if they chose to do so. It also allowed them to ignore Welsh and/or local history entirely, and to teach the history of any other country, if they so chose. Although there was never any obligation to do so, many teachers chose to teach a form of British history that was almost entirely dominated by England.

The influence of this belief that the history of England is the only ‘proper’ history is still to be seen in the custom of referring to the history of Wales as a subject distinct from history itself. The history of the state, and thus of England, is the official history, namely, the history taught in the country’s schools since the public education system developed in the Victorian era. This did not have to mean a complete absence of Welsh history in schools. Given that Wales had been a part of England, practically and constitutionally, for so many centuries, it follows that Welsh history had to be studied in the wider context of English history. However, when added to a historic lack of confidence in Welsh national identity, too often Anglocentric British history became the only kind of history taught. Rather than interpret Wales within a British context, Wales was often simply just left out of the history taught in schools.

This pattern has proved difficult to break. The programme of study for history has from its inception given appropriate attention to local and Welsh history, and good practice also indicates starting with the local and the familiar, developing into consideration of the unfamiliar and the wider world. Nevertheless, the panel’s experience suggests that many learners in Wales learn far more about the history of England than that of their own area and country. The task group also believe that not enough attention is paid to the other countries of Britain, and that there is also a tendency to concentrate on a narrow range of topics in the history of Europe and the world.

When the national curriculum was developed in 1989, the opening statement of the Preliminary Advice on History read:

We believe that the overriding purpose of history in the school curriculum is to provide pupils, through the acquisition of historical knowledge, with a map of the past. This will help them to understand

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<sup>11</sup> See the first section of this report.

the inheritance and identity of their own society, and those of other societies.<sup>12</sup>

The task group maintains that these words continue to define the role of history in the school curriculum in Wales. It believes that the stories of Wales should be at the heart of any history course at every level in Wales. They should not be treated as something to be attached to the history of England, when relevant to that history. They should not either be added to a course devised for other countries. **Wales is the home of its learners, and a map of their past should be as familiar to them as the way home from school.**

There is a continuing debate about the nature and content of many national history curricula, with particular reference to the tendency to emphasise the positive aspects of that country's history. In practice however, the history curriculum of every country focuses on the history of that country. In a review of a number of different history curricula, from Greece and Turkey to the US and UK [sic], Mark Donnelly and Claire Norton say '...the history curriculum of a country focuses almost exclusively on the history of that state'<sup>13</sup>. They think that this is because '...the history taught in schools plays an integral part in the dissemination and reinforcement of national identities. It provides students with a sense of self, an idea of where they came from, and of the values of their nation'<sup>14</sup>.

So the history taught in schools in Wales developed over the century before the national curriculum was developed. As outlined above, the history of England was the focus of that history, in schools in England and Wales alike, because Wales had no independent educational system or constitutional status during that period. It was necessary to campaign for a programme of study for history in Wales different from that of England. Although that campaign was successful, the influence of the old focus on the history of England appears still to be strong in schools in Wales. This undermines the aims of the current programme of study, with its emphasis on the centrality of the history of Wales within a wider context.

This may be compared with the current curriculum in Scotland, where the history of the country is central to the course of study, but set in a wider context, and international influences are recognised<sup>15</sup>. The task group would not want to replace the current programme of study for history with a 'programme of study for Welsh history', but wants to see the diet of what is learnt and taught in schools rebalanced to make the centrality of the Welsh element more visible. It would also want to include some topics which help students understand the context of Wales in the modern world which might be lacking from a more Anglocentric list of topics.

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<sup>12</sup> National Curriculum History Committee for Wales, *Preliminary Advice to the Secretary of State for Wales* (Welsh Office, June 1989), page 5.

<sup>13</sup> M. Donnelly and C. Norton, *Doing History* (Abingdon, 2011), page 125.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> See <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/studyingScotland/about.asp>

The task group would wish to emphasise that it does not oppose the teaching of the history of England as such. To understand the history of Wales, it is necessary to understand its historical context, namely the immense influence of England over many centuries on Wales and the other nations of Britain. The task group's concern is that the development of the whole British state is explained from an English perspective only. This does not help learners 'to understand the inheritance and identity of their own society, and those of other societies'<sup>16</sup> except that of England.

Much of the debate on the history taught in school tends to emphasise the factual content of the curriculum. There is, however, far more to the discipline of history than chronology and factual knowledge alone. While chronology and factual knowledge provide a framework for understanding the past and the relationship of different periods, developments and individual actions, history also provides opportunities to develop an understanding of:

- cause and effect
- the importance of evidence
- the role of standpoints and of bias in the process of creating interpretations of history
- the significance of historic events, changes and individuals.

It also provides opportunities to develop the skills of:

- historical enquiry
- using a range of sources
- evaluating evidence
- analytical thinking
- making historical comparisons and connections
- preparing and presenting an argument or account
- evaluating an argument or account.

One of the most important aspects of the discipline of history is the opportunity it provides of understanding that every narrative or historical argument is open to criticism, and that every historical judgement is provisional. **There is no one history: every individual has their own experience, and their own unique perspective on the past.** We should perhaps always refer to teaching different versions of history, or 'histories', rather than history in the singular. Realising this is a means of accepting and respecting different versions of history, while evaluating them against more objective criteria than our personal knowledge of the past, or a familiar version of it.

Effective history teaching can help to develop the active citizens of the future. It can enable learners to understand their own history, and the way in which the past has formed the present, but, more importantly, it can help them to investigate that history, and evaluate different versions of it. It can equip every citizen to deal effectively with all kinds of propaganda.

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<sup>16</sup> See note 12.

## Learning and teaching

Once again, the opinion of the task group as a whole was that **there are wide variations in the approach taken to teaching Welsh history in the schools of Wales at present.**

- There are variations between the primary and secondary sectors and also between individual schools in the same sector<sup>17</sup>.
- Many schools still appear to be influenced by the Anglocentric history commonly taught before the introduction of the national curriculum.
- In other cases, the prevalence of examples from the English curriculum seems to have had a strong influence on both the choice of topics, and the focus within those topics.
- The tendency in primary schools is to emphasise the local dimension to history when presenting Welsh history. Local history is not so evident in the schemes of work in secondary schools, however, and the attention given to Welsh history also varies.
- Local history is rarely linked to the wider context in either sector.
- Few schools provide opportunities for learners to investigate different perspectives on Welsh history<sup>18</sup>.

Consequently, many learners are deprived of knowledge, skills and understanding relevant to them when they try to connect with the history of their locality and that of Wales itself.

It must be remembered too that history is optional at Key Stages 4 and 5, at the precise time when learners' intellectual development enables them to understand complex concepts and to think in more abstract terms. This is also the time when they are developing as young citizens. History is a compulsory subject for this age range in many other countries in the European Community. The original intention in developing the national curriculum was that history be a compulsory subject at Key Stage 4. The task group is of the opinion that consideration should be given to revisiting this idea, perhaps initially by strengthening the historical element in the Welsh Baccalaureate. Giving up history at the age of 14 does not help the young people of Wales to understand history better. Increasing the element of history in the Welsh Baccalaureate would give learners an opportunity to develop their historical understanding and skills at an age-appropriate stage in their education, and to apply them to a wider context than that of an examination subject alone.

The task group was also of the opinion that some periods and events are over-emphasised in schools' schemes of work, and that this limits learners'

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<sup>17</sup> During 2007–11, for example, the assessments made by teachers at the end of Key Stage 3 were moderated, and the moderators noted the variation in the examples submitted for the history of Wales. Some schools did not submit any evidence for this at all, although it is central to the programme of study for history at both Key Stage 2 and 3.

<sup>18</sup> While an understanding of interpretations of history is one of the subject skills identified both in the programme of study for Key Stages 2 and 3, and an assessment objective at GCSE and AS/A level, it is a skill with which many teachers find difficulty, and they tend either to avoid it, or to interpret it as developing an understanding of bias.

experience of history. The original aim of studying some of the same periods (the early modern period, the nineteenth century and aspects of the twentieth century) at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 was to provide opportunities to deepen learners' knowledge and understanding as they matured intellectually. Key Stage 2 learners are expected to investigate ways of life in these periods, developing their understanding of the different characteristics of each period. They would then enquire more deeply into their political, economic, spiritual and social history at Key Stage 3. In practice, it appears that some popular topics, irrelevant to the original plan, such as the marriages of Henry VIII, are introduced at Key Stage 2, and then taught again at Key Stage 3, and this without always developing the appropriate depth.

There are examples of good and/or innovative practice, and of cooperation between schools and other agencies (such as museums, archives, libraries and the higher education sector). However there are far fewer examples of such practice being shared with other schools, of schools in the same area working together, and of the continuation and influence of innovative schemes. For example, the winners of the Welsh Heritage Schools' Initiative's annual competition provide evidence of good practice in the teaching of local and Welsh history, but there is little evidence of this being shared with other schools. Sharing resources and good practice with colleagues is a very effective way of raising standards and ensuring consistency of provision, as is clearly seen in countries such as Finland.

Opportunities to share good practice have declined in recent years. For many years CYDAG<sup>19</sup> provided a forum for teachers in the Welsh-medium sector to meet regularly and share resources and practice, but recent developments in education have led to a reduction in the work and influence of CYDAG. Nothing similar exists for teachers in the English-medium sector since the Association of History Teachers in Wales ceased to function. The Humanities Advisory Panel was for many years a means of sharing information in this field. The members of this panel included the local authority advisors for geography and history, and representatives of the education services of heritage institutions such as the National Museum and Cadw. Following local authority changes, it ceased to function this year. The professional learning communities provide a new opportunity for teachers to work together, but it is too early to assess their contribution.

Several other reasons were put forward to explain these deficiencies. Some are practical, such as resources, while others are less easy to define, since they reflect common attitudes and beliefs. No new resources or programme of study can meet the need to change the attitude of some teachers and learners towards local and Welsh history, since this requires a broader change of attitudes. However, the popularity of television series such as *The Story of Wales* (BBC, 2012) and the articles in the *New History of Wales* in the *Western Mail* (2010–12; subsequently published in book form) suggests that innovative and attractive materials can capture the public imagination,

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<sup>19</sup> *Cymdeithas Ysgolion dros Addysg Gymraeg*: an organisation which promotes Welsh-medium education and supports the sharing of good practice and the development of teaching and learning materials through the medium of Welsh.

and in so doing might have a positive influence on education too. It should be noted that both these examples are available in English only<sup>20</sup>, although the way in which extracts from *The Story of Wales* have been translated and made available on a permanent basis via the Education Wales iTunesU channel may well provide a model for the adaptation of future resources as they are developed.

Visits to historical sites can enrich and extend learners' experiences, and although good use is made of such visits at Key Stage 2, this is not as true at Key Stage 3. There are practical reasons for this, the cost of transport being one, but schools in Scotland integrate visits and the local environment into their school work, providing an example which should be considered in Wales. In order to make such visits effective, the heritage sector will need to work more closely with schools (see also the comments below under Resources).

### **Current difficulties in giving an appropriate emphasis to the history and histories of Wales**

#### **Resources**

- The lack of appropriate resources, especially in Welsh, and lack of information about those which actually are available.
- The difficulty of finding resources for the history of Wales which are innovative in their teaching approach and up-to-date in content.
- The wealth of good, innovative and contemporary resources available for English history.
- The omni-presence of English history<sup>21</sup> across all media, from quiz games to serious historical documentaries on British and international channels.

#### **The influence of GCSE**

Although the old history 'O' Level requirement to answer one question on Welsh history cannot be said to have ensured effective or coherent learning and teaching of Welsh history, the decision to remove that requirement for GCSE lowered the status of Welsh history in the eyes of teachers. The later decision to require the study of a percentage of British history reflects a wider concern about the effects of such changes in respect of British history. The requirements and expectations of the 16+ examinations have a considerable influence on Key Stage 3 teaching, and many teachers regard Key Stage 3 as a preparation for GCSE. If Welsh history does not have an appropriate emphasis at GCSE, it is not surprising that it is not given prominence at Key Stage 3.

GCSE approaches and priorities influence learning and teaching at Key Stage 3. The creation of a curriculum that integrated the history of Wales into the wider historical context would entail integrating an element of the history of Wales into the GCSE specification also.

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<sup>20</sup> But selections from them are now available in Welsh: see <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/itunes-u/stori-cymru/id580130164>.

<sup>21</sup> There are also many readily available resources to support the teaching of Nazi Germany, a very popular option at both GCSE and AS/A level.

## **Attitudes and practices in schools**

- Schools' individualist ethos: every school is a little world of its own, with its own individual priorities, traditions, programmes and schemes of work. It is difficult to arrange meetings which are outside the work of the school itself or change a school's arrangements to meet those of another school or institution. In addition, schools in the same locality may be in competition, and this does not support cooperation.
- A general belief amongst history teachers that they need to pass on a certain body of information so that their learners have a secure foundation of historical knowledge. This may be defined in terms of their own experience and interests.
- There is an increasing emphasis in the primary sector on developing the historical skills which will enable learners to decide the focus of their enquiry, obtain the relevant information, and assess it. Consequently, there is less emphasis in the primary sector on formal schemes of work and pre-planned lessons.
- Lack of knowledge of Welsh history amongst teachers in general, due essentially to weaknesses in their own schooling, and the lack of opportunities to follow courses which integrate the history of Wales with that of Britain as a whole, Europe and the wider world.
- Lack of confidence in and enthusiasm for teaching Welsh history, arising in part from lack of information and experience, and the perception that local and Welsh history is narrow, and different from 'real' history, i.e. that of England, Europe and the wider world. This is reflected in the negative attitude of some university students of history towards the Welsh history options offered.
- Lack of teaching time for history in school, and of time for teachers to research/read/prepare. This is true of many subjects, of course, but there is a current tendency to conflate history and geography in order to follow a course in humanities.

## **General attitudes and beliefs**

- The lack of a wide or popular circulation in Wales for those publications which deal with Welsh affairs, while the contrary is true for publications from England. There is also a general lack of publications: there is, for example, no national newspaper in Wales. The tendency in such English publications to refer to England as 'Britain' is misleading, and this is very clearly seen in recent discussions on proposed changes to the national curriculum in England. There are very few references to the other national curricula in Britain, while the English curriculum is all too often described as 'the national curriculum'.
- The way in which Welsh history is presented from an English perspective even by some heritage institutions in Wales. In this context, reference was made to the tendency to over-emphasise those aspects of the heritage of Wales, such as the castles, which reflect the perspective of the conquerors, rather than the experiences of the native Welsh. Efforts should be made to ensure that all heritage institutions in Wales provide appropriate interpretations, in both local



and national contexts, and in both English and Welsh. Where necessary, training should be provided to ensure staff are confident in interpreting the history, histories and cultures of Wales.

### **The programme of study**

The task group agreed that the current programme of study gives explicit priority to the history of Wales in every period studied at Key Stages 2 and 3 (with the exception of the enquiry into recent history at the end of Key Stage 3). However, the evidence available to the panel suggests that, for a variety of reasons, not all schools meet the requirements (see above for more detail on this).

In addition, some periods which are key to an understanding of Welsh history are not included in the programme of study, for example:

- the period between AD 400 and 1000, when the Christian tradition of the saints developed, together with the early independent kingdoms of Wales
- the first half of the eighteenth century, when the Methodist Revival began, which did so much to form the nonconformist tradition of Wales.

During the consultation process the task group received several interesting and constructive suggestions for restructuring the range of the current programme of study. However, while it remains of the opinion that it would not be practical or desirable to consider including every aspect of every period in any programme of study, or expect teachers to start from the beginning again, it is of the opinion that the present programme of study should be restructured. A revised programme of study should build on the current programme, and develop from it. It should offer a choice of a variety of in-depth and line of development studies, which would support learning and teaching aspects of local and Welsh history which give appropriate emphasis to the wider British, European and world contexts. It would then be possible to include some themes suitable to specific areas of Wales, such as the development of the copper industry or maritime history.

However, the task group would wish to emphasise the importance of using current good practice. A revised programme of study should build on the best of what is already there, while addressing any perceived weaknesses. Curriculum change should be evolutionary, not revolutionary. The task group would not want to see teachers' good work being undervalued, nor the promising developments of the years following the establishment of the national curriculum being thrown aside. Sudden and revolutionary change would place a strain on the human and financial resources of schools at a time of economic stringency. The task group believes that a subject task group of the sort outlined above could work with teachers and learners to develop ways of teaching history which would reflect the best of what is currently available, and develop innovative methods of teaching that reflect the histories of a diverse and devolved twenty-first century Wales.

### **3. Does the teaching of history across all phases sufficiently take into account the latest research and the new resources available about the historical development of Wales from the earliest times to the twenty-first century?**

The resources commissioned by the Government to support learning and teaching of history are available through the Welsh Books Council. Although representatives of the Council regularly visit every school in Wales, and the Council's catalogue is also available online, the task group's opinion is that only a minority of history teachers in every sector are aware of the resources they offer, both digitally and in print. Publishers in England have a much larger market, and consequently the resources to advertise their publications more widely and also to obtain publicity for them. The vast majority of these resources do not support the learning and teaching of Welsh history however.

Teachers and student teachers now mainly use websites, and some of these, such as the BBC website, provide them with information on programming on Wales and/or Welsh history which might introduce them to recent research. However the use made of these by teachers depends very largely on their personal interest in the subject, and not all the BBC's resources are available in Welsh, which limits their usefulness in Welsh-medium schools.

Many heritage institutions provide very high-quality resources which take into account the latest research, but these are not always intended for schools, nor are they always devised to meet the requirements of the Welsh curriculum. Some heritage bodies do not provide any specific educational resources, and there is a tendency to emphasise local history at the expense of the wider Welsh context, or to set this history in the context of the history of England.

At present, university teachers are being encouraged to strengthen their links with A level students, and participation in collaboration via the Hwb+ Learning Platform would be a means of doing so. It may also be possible to hold day schools for school and university teachers to cooperate in developing activities and resources for history which reflect the latest research. However, although part of the Research Evaluation Framework (REF) strategy is to strengthen the impact agenda (which includes engagement with institutions like schools) there are also other requirements on university teachers.

Although teachers were making considerable and increasing use of NGfL, the standard of these resources was variable. The current development of Hwb has immense potential to promote awareness and use of the latest research and new resources, and was warmly welcomed by the group. As a result of the scarcity of resources, the tendency has been to use old resources, which reinforce traditional stereotypes (e.g. the coal miner in his bath, with no reference to the work of his wife in the home, etc.).

Many of the factors noted in discussing the teaching of the history of Wales more generally (See Section 2) are also relevant here, and in particular the weaknesses in cooperation and sharing of good practice.

Although there are examples of successful cooperation on individual projects between research institutions (such as universities and museums) and schools, the task group is of the opinion that there is a lack of coordinated and continuous cooperation between the different sectors. This weakens the influence of the higher education and heritage sectors on the history taught in schools in general.

The programme *The Story of Wales*, and the series on Welsh history published by the Western Mail in recent years, provide a glimpse of the exciting and relevant research currently being carried out in Wales. But, perfectly naturally, there has been no guidance on the way in which this research might be used in schools, and there is no obvious way for researchers to find out whether their work is relevant to schools.

The task group believes that appointing a history committee for Wales would create a link between the research world and the classroom, and that Hwb+ offers an opportunity to present the fruits of this cooperation to teachers and learners across Wales in a medium which is both accessible and relevant.

## **Recommendations**

- 1. A committee of history specialists should be established, to include representatives from every sector of education and relevant organisations such as museums. This committee would be responsible for:**
  - **promoting cooperation between schools and the sharing of good practice**
  - **developing benchmarks of good practice in history**
  - **quality-assuring the resources published on Hwb**
  - **recommending new resources to be developed.**
- 2. To support this group, a subject specific coordinator should be appointed to the Hwb team, funded directly by the Welsh Government. They would facilitate the work of the specialist committee and encourage collaboration at a national, regional and local level. They should also be charged with publishing a regular digital newsletter, bringing together new resources, events and research developments within the field of history. This approach may provide a model for other subject areas to drive forward collaboration in their fields.**
- 3. In the revision of the national curriculum, the programme of study should be structured so as to provide clear guidance on the relationship between local, Welsh, British, European and world history. The aim should be to provide a sound foundation for learners' historical understanding while expanding their horizons.**

4. Numerous, specific and diverse examples of schemes of work with a focus on local and Welsh history in its wider context should be developed for Key Stages 2 and 3. Once these have been quality-assured, they should be stored on Hwb and updated regularly.
5. A proportion of Welsh history should be an integrated and compulsory part of every History GCSE specification offered in Wales.
6. In reviewing the qualifications, consideration should be given to strengthening the element of history in the Welsh Baccalaureate.
7. Access to the online collaboration space provided by Hwb+ should be extended to the higher education sector, and to heritage organisations such as the National Library of Wales, the National Museum of Wales, CADW, the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales and the county archives and other organisations through CyMAL.
8. Certain questions/themes and/or topics should be selected for development on Hwb+ so that the higher education and heritage sectors work with teachers to develop innovative resources based on the latest research in formats useful to teachers.
9. Those materials already produced where copyright is held by the Welsh Government should be digitised and made available via Hwb.
10. Those heritage institutions which are directly funded by the Welsh Government (i.e. Cadw, the Royal Commission, the National Museum and the National Library) should be required to adopt education policies which show clearly how they intend to contribute positively to the success of the national curriculum and the Cwricwlwm Cymreig.
11. Government-funded heritage organisations should be strongly encouraged to provide easy access for schools to the materials they develop, in both Welsh and English, so they can be used in the classroom setting.
12. All such resources should emphasise the provisional nature of history and the diversity of experience in all periods. Where appropriate, it should help learners to contrast and compare the experiences of different groups of people in all periods.

*'A nation is spiritually poor when it is cut off from its past.'*<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> David Thomas, *Hen Longau Sir Gaernarfon* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Llanrwst, 2005); quoted by Robin Evans, *Merched a'r Môr*, chapter 8, page 1. Author's translation.

## **Appendix 1: Members of the task and finish group**

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Dr. Sian Rhiannon Williams, Cardiff Metropolitan University  
Dr Huw Griffiths, Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin, Carmarthenshire  
Dr Stephanie Ward, Cardiff University  
Nicola Thomas, Cornist Park County Primary School, Flintshire  
William Rogers, Queen Street Primary School, Blaenau Gwent  
Nia Huw, Ysgol Gynradd Llangeitho, Ceredigion  
Nia Williams, Educational coordinator, Amgueddfa Genedlaethol  
Cymru/National Museum of Wales  
Frank Olding, Heritage officer, Blaenau Gwent local authority  
John Dilwyn Williams, Archifdy Gwynedd

The group met on November 5, February 6, April 9, May 15, and on July 1 and 19. They also regularly communicated via e-mail while working on the two versions of the report (interim and final), the questionnaire and the responses received during the consultation period (April 25–June 21).

## Appendix 2: The consultation process

The interim report was published on the **Welsh Government website** on April 25, together with a questionnaire asking for comments on each of its recommendations. Over 220 responses were received. Over 80 per cent of these supported the report and the recommendations, although there was less support for the recommendations on appointing 'Champions' and including a compulsory element of history in the Welsh Baccalaureate.

Over 40 individuals and institutions wrote **letters** in response to the consultation, and/or making relevant comments about the Cwricwlwm Cymreig and/or history. Once again, a substantial majority supported the report and its recommendations, but some expressed reservations about appointing 'Champions' and including a compulsory element of history in the Welsh Baccalaureate. Several respondents argued for establishing a new national curriculum for Wales which would take Wales as its starting point, but have an international perspective. Some of these criticised the report for its weak recommendations and ambiguous comments on this issue.

The Welsh Government also received a **petition**, with 597 signatures, calling for the history of Wales to be compulsory for all pupils from 7 years of age onwards.

Two **public meetings** were held, one in Wrexham (June 12) and one in Carmarthen (June 13) 44 people attended these. A number of aspects of the report and its recommendations were discussed, and received largely positive comments, although some teachers present expressed concerns about the recommendations regarding GCSE and the Welsh Baccalaureate. Others present called for more positive recommendations regarding a new curriculum for Wales.

Dr Martin Johnes published an **article** on the website *Click on Wales*, outlining some of the arguments in the report, and this received 14 responses. Eight of these were broadly supportive, and three very critical, expressing concerns about the proposed compulsory element of Welsh history at GCSE, and about the practicality of some of the recommendations. A **twitter discussion** was also held on AddCym, arranged by Dave Stacey, which included a variety of comments.

**Articles** about the report and consultation process were also published in the **press**, including the *Western Mail* and *Golwg*. These articles stimulated some correspondence in the press, and there was also some discussion of the report on Radio Wales.

The Chair of the group visited 10 **public libraries** during the consultation period, namely Llandrindod, Welshpool, Aberystwyth, Llangefni, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Chepstow, Blaenafon, Ystrad Mynach, Haverfordwest and Townhill (Swansea). The libraries advertised her visit in advance, and members of the public thus had an opportunity to discuss the report and its recommendations

with her. Some of the comments made during these discussions are to be found in Appendix 3.

The Chair made a presentation on the report to:

- The South Wales Heritage Forum (July 4)
- The *Educating the Nation(s)* conference organised by the Politics Department of Huddersfield University (July 6)
- The *Holding a Mirror to Michael Gove* conference organised by the History Teacher Educators' Network, and held at the Institute for Educational Research, London (July 16–7)

While preparing the report, and as part of the consultation process on it, the Chair also met the following **individuals**:

- Ann Keane and Meilyr Rowlands, Estyn
- Alun Morgan, former History inspector, Estyn
- Dr Kevin Smith, Cardiff University
- Dr Glenn Jordan, Director of the Butetown History and Arts Centre
- Robin Williams, President of the Oxford House Industrial History Society, Risca

and held telephone conversations with:

- Gareth Pierce, Chief Executive of the Welsh Joint Education Committee
- Jerome Freeman, Chair of the Primary Committee of the Historical Association.

## Appendix 3: Quotations

### Comments made by the public, during the informal library consultations

#### The Cwricwlwm Cymreig

“I suppose it’s about learning Welsh, is it?”

“It’s just for the Welsh schools, isn’t it?”

“Young people need to have a full Welsh perspective on economics and politics to explain the world we live in... If the Cwricwlwm Cymreig is just restricted to history, then Wales is downgraded to the past.”

#### History

“I want my children to know about the important things... the wars... the Holocaust... things like that.”

“Dim ond yn cofio gwneud y rhyfeloedd yn yr uwchradd – a’r *Treaty of Versailles*: roedd hwnnw’n dod lan bob tro.” (“I only remember doing the wars in secondary – and the Treaty of Versailles: that came up all the time.”)

“Young people need to know about the history of the place they live in, if they’re going to have any respect for it. And that will give them more self-respect and a more positive outlook on the future, if they can take a pride in their past.”

“I love Welsh history, but everything I know about it I learnt *after* I left school. I’ve had to do it all myself, and I think that’s wrong.”

“I’m ashamed I don’t know enough about the history of my own country.”

“I liked history in school, until I started GCSE. Then we spent a whole term on the Plains Indians, and nobody ever told me why. I gave it up at Christmas.”



## **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

**P-04-484 EMA for all! – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee, 15.10.2013**

Dear Petition Committee,

Following the response from the minister I do not think that this petition is worth continuing being to the fact that I can see why they are doing what they do and now the fact that I don't think that this will now change anything.

Many thanks

Jack Gillum

## **P-04-447 : Campaign for Statue of Henry VII in Pembroke**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to fund a statue of Henry VII in Pembroke, town of his birth and birthplace of the Tudor Dynasty. There is no statue or memorial in the town of this man. A statue could improve the economy of the town as a Tudor must-visit place.

**Petition raised by:** Nathen Amin

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

**Number of signatures:** 144

## **P-04-447 Campaign for Statue of Henry VII in Pembroke – Correspondence from Pembroke Castle Trust to the clerking team, 14.10.2013**

Dear Stephen,

I have this morning received a letter from William Powell asking for our opinion on a petition considering a call for a statue of Henry VII in Pembroke.

I think our previous response to this may well have gone missing as I am very sure that we did respond originally. So apologies for the delay in this getting to you.

In theory we would support a Statue of Henry VII, it would be an attraction for the town and add to the historic nature of Pembroke. We are not unfortunately in a position to fund a statue ourselves.

Best wishes

Jon

Jon Williams

General Manager

Pembroke Castle [www.pembrokecastle.co.uk](http://www.pembrokecastle.co.uk)



# PEMBROKE TOWN COUNCIL • CYNGOR TREF PENFRO

COUNCIL OFFICES THE TOWN HALL PEMBROKE PEMBROKESHIRE SA71 4JS  
SWYDDFA CYNGOR NEUADD Y DREF PENFRO SIR BENFRO SA71 4JS

Town Clerk / Financial Officer • Clerc y Dref / Trysorydd - Karen Didcote

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

11th November 2013

Dear Mr Powell

Re: Statue of Henry VII

Thank you for your letter dated 3rd October 2013 relating to a petition which is being considered by the Welsh Government for the funding of a statue of Henry VII in Pembroke.

This matter was discussed by Council at a meeting held on Thursday 7th November 2013.

During the past year, Council have taken the initiative of appointing a committee to Regenerate and Enhance the historic town of Pembroke. This committee has grown and now consists of many members from organisations and groups throughout Pembroke. Both Pembroke Town Council and members of the Regeneration and Enhancement Committee would clearly support the Welsh Government funding of a statue of Henry VII in Pembroke.

Pembroke is a town of great historical importance with the 'crown' being the fabulous Castle. As you are no doubt aware Henry VII was born in the castle on 28 January 1457 and it is strongly felt that a statue commemorating him should be erected in Pembroke. Pembroke wholeheartedly support the petition which has been submitted.

If you require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Karen Didcote  
Town Clerk

# Agenda Item 3.18

## **P-04-476 Restructuring in National Museum Wales**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to reconsider its funding settlement for National Museum Wales, with a view to protecting the Museum's services and the jobs, pay and conditions of its staff.

The freezing of the National Museum's grant by the Welsh Government has led to cuts of up to £2.5 million being announced, along with restructuring proposals, which would see the loss of some 35 posts, potentially detrimental impacts for more than 160 staff and the possible loss of allowances, resulting in a 20 per cent cut in take-home pay, for some of the Museum's lowest-paid employees. We believe that the proposed cuts threaten not only the living standards, jobs and security of the National Museum's loyal staff but the unique services that they offer to the people of Wales and the one and a half million visitors that come every year, including school and educational visits

**Petition raised by:** PCS Union

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 30 April 2013

**Number of signatures :** 1617

Amgueddfa Cymru  
Parc Cathays, Caerdydd CF10 3NP  
Ffôn: (029) 2039 7951  
Ffacs: (029) 2057 3105

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales  
Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NP  
Tel (029) 2039 7951  
Fax: (029) 2057 3105

national  
museum  
wales  
amgueddfa  
cymru

24 October 2013

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

Dear William Powell

Thank you for your letter of 3 October 2013 requesting an update on how the Change Programme structure has affected the operational matters of the seven national museums.

We have begun implementing the Change Programme, which is broadly in line with our programme schedule. It will take several months more to implement, as it is being carried out in a sequential manner to ensure openness and transparency to all.

The key drivers that have underpinned the approach to the Change Programme across all Divisions are:

- To reduce staff costs and headcount to enable us to meet our savings target of £2.5m, whilst also contributing to long-term savings;
- To enable us to deliver our commitment to bring a learning organization that actively promotes inclusion and participation in culture and heritage and supports the Welsh Government in addressing Child Poverty through greater cultural access and partnership working;
- To ensure that higher priority is given to engaging directly with the public in line with our stated aims;
- To develop an organizational approach that is able to deliver strategic aims and is capable of changing to meet new circumstances, demands and challenges;
- To realign our staffing structure to support the creation of the three new museums outlined in the Vision – the National Museum of Art, the National History Museum and the National Museum of Natural Sciences;
- To keep the museums open to the public and continue to ensure the security of the national collections.

Llywydd/President Elisabeth Elias MA DL  
Is-Lywydd/Vice President Dr Haydn Edwards MBA PhD FRSC  
Trysorydd/Treasurer J Peter W Morgan MSc FCA  
Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol/Director General David Anderson OBE  
Rhif elusen / Charity registration number: 525774  
Rhif TAW / VAT registration number: GB 783 4541 10

national  
museum  
wales  
amgueddfa  
cymru



In making these changes, introduced from June this year, Amgueddfa Cymru has tried to maintain its service to the public at all its sites. We hope the new structure will not directly affect the delivery of the day-to-day operations of the seven national museums across Wales. Amgueddfa Cymru will continue to offer visitors quality experiences at each of its museums, which together attracted over 1.75 million people last year.

Amgueddfa Cymru continues to implement, support and promote the Welsh Government's commitment to free entry to all of the seven national museum sites. Following the introduction of the policy in 2001, the number of visitors to our seven national museums has more than doubled. Free Entry is important to our visitors, especially during the current economic climate. The national collections belong to the people of Wales and our museums should therefore be as accessible as possible to everyone.

However, following the recent budget announcement by the Welsh Government and working within a challenging economic climate, we – like many other public sector organisations – we will continue to keep under review our financial situation to ensure we align our resources to deliver our strategic objectives.

The current economic climate is challenging but I, together with the Senior Management Team, will do all that we can to minimise the impact on our staff and our visitors.

I thank you for your correspondence.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Anderson  
Director General, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales



## **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



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

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Caerdydd a'r Fro  
Cardiff and Vale  
University Health Board

**Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru**  
**University Hospital of Wales**  
**UHB Headquarters**  
Heath Park  
Cardiff, CF14 4XW

Parc Y Mynydd Bychan  
Caerdydd, CF14 4XW

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-450  
Ein cyf/Our ref: AC-jb-11-3068  
Welsh Health Telephone Network:  
Direct Line/Llinell uniongychol: 02920 745681

**Adam Cairns**  
**Chief Executive**

18 November 2013

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

Dear Mr Powell

**P-04-450 Barry and Vale needs a fully functioning hospital**

Thank you for your letter dated 23 October 2013 which provided comments from petitioners about the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) at Barry Hospital. Below I have responded to each of the suggestions in turn.

**Accident and Emergency (A&E) Services at Barry Hospital**

As I am sure you will be aware, Cardiff and Vale UHB is working with the four other health boards in south Wales, and the Welsh Ambulance Services Trust, as part of the South Wales Programme to develop plans to ensure the sustainability of a number of key services – including emergency medicine. Following extensive work led by clinicians and an engagement exercise involving stakeholders and partners, four options were identified. These options have recently been the subject of an extensive consultation process, the information from which is currently being considered. In each of the options, the need to concentrate specialist services on fewer sites was proposed, recognising the need to improve the quality of care and patient outcomes, and provide the best possible training experience for doctors of the future. University Hospital of Wales was regarded as one of the 'fixed points' in each of the options considered, ie it would continue to be a specialist centre for emergency medicine services. Barry Hospital does not meet the criteria for providing a specialist centre for emergency medicine. Further details of the South Wales Programme can be found at [www.wales.nhs.uk/swp](http://www.wales.nhs.uk/swp).

**Extended MIU opening times**


Barry Hospital continues to provide an excellent nurse-led minor injury services for the Vale of Glamorgan community. The Health Board has previously reviewed the activity at Barry MIU and has matched the resources to best meet the demand pattern, taking into consideration the resource requirements of all of the emergency care services provided at each of the hospitals. The majority of patients attend the MIU before 14.30, and the unit closes at 4pm, with the last patients being booked in a 3.30 to allow for treatment time.



We are not therefore planning to change the opening times in the near future but as part of our planning for the future, and in response to the South Wales Programme consultation we will need to consider how best to delivery emergency care to the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan population to ensure we continue to provide appropriate, safe and timely care.

I hope this clarifies the Health Board's position at this time.

Yours sincerely



**Abigail Harris**  
**Director of Planning, on behalf of**

**Adam Cairns**  
**Chief Executive**

# Agenda Item 3.20

## **P-04-471 Mandatory Welsh legislation to ensure Defibrillators in all public places.**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the Welsh Government to provide funding to ensure that, as with basic fire fighting equipment (eg. Extinguishers), Automated External Defibrillators are available in all Welsh Public places (either NHS, Charity or Privately funded) to ensure the rapid treatment of any Victim of Cardiac arrest. Supporting Information: Wales has led the way with important Public Health issues such as the smoking ban/s and the organ donor issue. Unlike fire extinguishers and first aid kits there is currently no legislation in the UK to ensure that an Automated External Defibrillators are available treat victims of sudden Cardiac Arrest in Public. Several recent high profile incidents have demonstrated how important they are in saving lives in our communities.

**Petition raised by:** Phil Hill

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 16 April 2013

**Number of signatures :** 78



FO

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

Our ref: CP/HT

2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2013

Dear William

**Re: Automated External Defibrillators**

---

In principle the provision of AED's could be positive but there are particular issues to be addressed which have on-going implications.

Attached is a paper produced by our Force Medical Advisor Dr Judge for previous consideration undertaken. This might help in your deliberations.

Kind Regards

Yours sincerely

*H Tays*

*CP* Christine Price on behalf of the Chief Constable  
Occupational Health and Welfare Manager  
Occupational Health Unit  
Gwent Police.

## Guidelines for consideration of provision of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED)

### **What is an AED?**

An automatic external defibrillator is a device which enables the general public to attempt to restart a heart after a cardiac arrest. They are "foolproof" as the device has a computer programme which will read the heart rhythm and will only discharge (automatically) if it is correct to use a shock in that set of circumstances. They are being introduced into community settings more frequently and **may** be positive in terms of preventing avoidable deaths.

### **Should we install them?**

At present there is no statutory legal requirement under English and Welsh law to provide a defibrillator, but liability may arise under common law for failure to take adequate safeguards to protect the public present at a facility (Management of Health and Safety in the Workplace).

The risk of a member of the public sustaining a cardiac arrest at any given facility can reasonably be balanced against the cost of purchase, installation, and maintenance of AEDs, and of initial and on-going training of staff to use the devices.

There will be a need to undertake a **risk assessment** to determine the need for AED's. This assessment should include the following factors

- The frequency of cardiac arrest at the site. The Resuscitation Council guidelines indicate that if the frequency is 1 arrest every 2 years then evidence supports the use of AEDs.
- The time between call out of an ambulance and it's arrival. If this is greater than 5 minutes then AED's are supported. In the UK this (for practical purposes) means almost all areas. In Wales the ambulance service is achieving arrival at cardiac arrest within 4 minutes for only 20-25% of calls (*Annual report of the Welsh Ambulance Service*).
- The time from collapse of a victim till the on-site AED arrives is less than 5 minutes. In remote areas it may not be practical to provide AEDs even though the ambulance call out time is extended.
- The overall risk of the various sites e.g gyms and leisure centres have a higher risk of experiencing a cardiac arrest
- The population being served taking into account age and other social demographics. Working populations have a better health profile than the general population which reduces the likelihood of cardiac arrest episodes.

Other factors that will have to be considered in deciding on the use of AEDs include

- Training. There will be a commitment to training both initially and ongoing. Any training must comply with the guidelines of the Resuscitation Council UK.

- Cost of AEDs. This will include the initial cost (about £1000 per unit) and the ongoing maintenance (calibration, servicing, batteries etc).
- Routine upkeep of the AEDs. They must be kept available, fully charged and with appropriately trained people available to administer treatment with them at all times.
- Selection of individuals trained in the use of AEDs and their distribution in the community
- Management of the system. Medical advice is recommended to oversee the system.
- Development of a Policy for the use of AEDs in the community which will need to be reviewed annually or if any changes occur in the guidelines from the Resuscitation Council UK.
- Legal implications. Legal action may ensue following the use of AEDs and compensation sought. A person who attempts resuscitation will only be liable for damages if negligent intervention directly causes injury which would not otherwise have occurred or if it exacerbates an injury. If circumstances arise whereby without resuscitation the casualty would almost certainly die, the risk of incurring such liability is extremely small. If, however, a resuscitation procedure is carried out negligently and a consequential injury can be proved to have arisen from that negligent procedure, a rescuer may be held liable for substantial damages if the standard of care he employed fell below that which could be expected of him in the given circumstances. This applies whether he is a health-care professional, a non-professional volunteer first-aider or simply an unskilled member of the general public.

It is possible that if a rescuer performs a procedure negligently others may, additionally or alternatively, be pursued for damages in respect of the injuries that the casualty suffers. In this context there is a potential liability for those who train rescuers in resuscitation techniques, those who provide or maintain resuscitation equipment and those who administer the system under which rescuers operate.

Dr Jo Judge  
May 2009



Pencadlys yr Ymddiriedolaeth, Safle H M Stanley, Llanelwy, Sir Ddinbych LL17 0RS  
Trust Headquarters, H M Stanley Site, St Asaph, Denbighshire LL17 0RS  
Tel/Ffôn 01745 532900 Fax/Ffacs 01745 532901  
[www.ambulance.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.ambulance.wales.nhs.uk)

Our Ref: EPM/rc  
Your Ref: P-04-471

Please reply to: Rose Cook  
PA to the Chairman & Chief Executive  
Direct Line: 01745 532944

5 August 2013

Mr W. Powell MP  
Chair Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CARDIFF  
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response to your letter to Elwyn Price-Morris on 11 July in relation to defibrillators in the community.

The Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST) has a full time Public Access Defibrillation Site (PADS) manager who co-ordinates over 300 public access defibrillators across Wales, with over 450 defibrillators in situ at these sites. To support these sites, WAST has delivered training to 5,500 people across Wales.

The Trust has recently received funding for two years from the British Heart Foundation to second two Clinical Support Officers to deliver a cardiac arrest improvement plan aligned to the Together for Health Cardiac Delivery Plan.

Increasing the number of PAD sites, along with the number of people trained to provide CPR, is a key strand of this improvement plan. In 2012/13 the Trust was awarded funding from Welsh Government through the capital planning process to replace around 40 older PADs with newer equipment.

The Trust supports the development of community defibrillation schemes across the nation and would welcome further dialogue with colleagues around how this can be achieved.

Yours sincerely

  
Elwyn Price-Morris  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE





GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Betsi Cadwaladr  
University Health Board

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

**Ein cyf / Our ref:** GL/CH/10230  
**Eich cyf / Your ref:** P-04-471  
**☎:** 01248 384910  
**Gofynnwch am / Ask for:** Geoff Lang  
**Ffacs / Fax:** 01248 384937  
**E-bost / Email:** [geoff.lang@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:geoff.lang@wales.nhs.uk)  
**Dyddiad / Date:** 6 August 2013

Dear Mr Powell

Thank you for your letter dated 11 July 2013 with regard to a petition to ensure that Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are available in all Welsh public places to ensure rapid treatment of any victim of cardiac arrest.

The Health Board, through the North Wales Cardiac Network, is currently working in partnership with the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) and the British Heart Foundation (BHF) to develop a strategy to widen access to AEDs. This means reviewing the location of AEDs, ensuring public access to AEDs as well as raising awareness amongst the general public.

The newly published Welsh Government Plans, 'Together for Health – A Heart Disease Delivery Plan (2013-2016)', sets clearly the requirement for us as a Health Board to review our plans with regard to the provision of AEDs in public places. This work is under way in partnership with WAST and BHF. Progress will be included in the Health Board's Local Heart Disease Delivery Plans/North Wales Cardiac Network Work Programme to 2016.

If you would like further information with regard to the above, please do not hesitate to contact Catrin Hanks, North Wales Cardiac Network Manager on 01745 448586 ext 2283/2284.

Yours sincerely

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

Copy to: Dr Olwen Williams, Chief of Staff, PCSM CPG  
Gareth Evans, ACOS (Ops) PCSM CPG  
Wyn Thomas, Network Chair  
Catrin Hanks, Network Manager



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd  
Addysgu Powys  
Powys Teaching  
Health Board

Cyfarwyddwr Therapiau  
& Gwyddorau Iechyd  
Ty Mansion  
Bronllys  
Aberhondu  
Powys LD3 0LS  
Ffon (01874) 712421

Director of Therapies &  
Health Science  
Mansion House  
Bronllys  
Brecon  
Powys LD3 0LS  
Tel (01874) 712421

e-mail: [foi.foi@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:foi.foi@wales.nhs.uk)

Our ref: AS/as/FOI/13.R.177

15 August 2013

Sent via email to: 'naomi.stocks@wales.gov.uk'

Dear Ms Stocks

### **Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Further to your previous correspondence in respect of your request for information which we originally received on 26 July 2013, I can confirm in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that Powys teaching Health Board holds the information you require.

#### FOI Request

To help aid further consideration of this petition we agreed to ask for an update on the work undertaken by your Health Board to review the provision of defibrillators in public places

#### Powys Response

Powys is currently working on this piece of work and will have a Cardiac Delivery Plan insitu by December 2013. At present we do not currently hold a list of where these devices are placed, this would need to be established as part of the planning process as these devices may be provided locally independently of the Health Board.

Should you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address below.

If you are dissatisfied, with the way your request has been dealt with by the teaching Health Board (tHB), you have the right to request a review in which case you should write to:

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



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

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



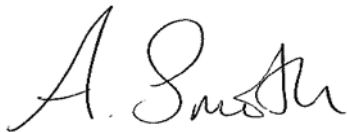
We welcome correspondence in Welsh  
Powys Teaching Health Board is the operational name of  
Powys Teaching Local Health Board

Andrew Cottom  
Chief Executive  
Powys Teaching Health Board  
Mansion House  
Bronllys  
Brecon  
Powys LD3 0LS

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Wycliffe House  
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SH9 5AF

Yours sincerely

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

**Amanda Smith**  
**Director of Therapies & Health Science and Executive Lead**  
**for FOI**



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

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Caerdydd a'r Fro  
Cardiff and Vale  
University Health Board

**Ysbyty'r Eglwys Newydd**  
**Whitchurch Hospital**

Park Road, Whitchurch.  
Cardiff, CF14 7XB  
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Heol Parc, Yr Eglwys Newydd  
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Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-471  
Ein cyf/Our ref: AC-jb-08-2868  
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**Adam Cairns**  
**Chief Executive**

23 August 2013

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

Dear Mr Powell

### **Automated External Defibrillators**

I am writing to provide further views and information regarding the work which is ongoing in Cardiff and Vale UHB. As pointed out in the correspondence from Mark Drakeford, the Heart Disease Delivery Plan in Chapter 3 (Fast and Effective Care) calls for a review of provision of defibrillators in public places and community first responders within LHB areas, ensuring there is liaison with WAST and the British Heart Foundation and that there is adequate provision of training and an effective first responder in place.

I am aware of information from our Public Health colleagues that work in the Observatory is being completed on a national basis, which we will be translating locally into a needs assessment requirement of this plan. We will be looking into a local review for the provision of defibrillators in public places which will need to take into account population need and characteristics of the local community.

I am also aware of our planning department specifically taking this work forward, which will identify gaps between our current need and provision.

Yours sincerely

**Tracy Myhill**  
**Deputy Chief Executive, on behalf of**

**Adam Cairns**  
**Chief Executive**

**UPDATE: Petition by Mr P J Hill  
to the Welsh Assembly Government:  
Legislation to ensure access to Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)  
in all public places in Wales.**

*Requested personal\* response to following  
recent public services evidence (updated).*

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*Themes:                    Training.  
                                  Location of AEDs in Public places.  
                                  Who deploys AEDs in Public places?  
                                  Survival.  
                                  The legal status of providing (or not providing) AEDs.*

### **3. Recommendations.**

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*\*The evidence and recommendations here-in are not necessarily reflective of my professional body,  
my NHS employer or any other Organisation.*

*It is not meant to reflect negatively on any existing services.  
These views are purely personal.*

*This work has been undertaken without support (financial or otherwise) from any Organisation.*

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## **1. Introduction**

In the United Kingdom 60,000 people a year will suffer an *Out of Hospital Sudden Cardiac Arrest* (OHSCA) with a variable survival rate below 12% (British Heart Foundation 2011) *BHF*. It is estimated that between 80-90% of these will initially present with a heart rhythm that could be treated with a defibrillator (Engdahl et al. 2001). When a famous person survives such an incident, modern communication means their experiences can be used to raise public awareness. Examples include the explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes who suffered an OHSCA in Bristol airport in 2003 and the singer “Shakin” Stevens who was resuscitated at home in 2010 (Elevaed 2011; BHF 2011). Most recently the successful resuscitation of footballer Fabrice Muamba who “died” for over an hour has raised awareness about Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and the importance of defibrillators (BBC online 2012; Resuscitation Council UK *RCUK* 2013). This coincided with a popular nationwide campaign launched by the BHF employing actor Vinnie Jones to promote CPR. The first annual European-wide “Restart a Heart” day on 16<sup>th</sup> 2013 October was launched by the European Resuscitation Council and was widely promoted on social media sites (ERC 2013).

### **Defibrillators – a brief history.**

Within the “Chain of survival” concept (**Appendix I**) each rapidly instigated link is essential for increased survival from an OHSCA (where the heart stops). The sooner a defibrillator is used to restart the heart the more likely it is the victim will survive (McNally et al. 2011; Ornato 2000b; RCUK 2011a) **Appendix II**.

Since the 50’s defibrillator technology has developed from large manually-operated machines found only in hospitals to automated portable units. Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) have a recognition component that recommends if a life-saving “shock” should be delivered to a victim’s chest (Scripps Howard News Service 2013).

AEDs have been installed in many public areas for deployment before an ambulance arrives. A growing body of evidence suggests that untrained bystanders can safely deploy and use an AED on OHSCA victims (Caffrey et al. 2002; Eames, Larsen & Galletly 2003; Jorgenson et al. 2003; Andre et al. 2004a; Andre et al. 2004b; Colquhoun et al. 2004; Abella et al. 2007; Andre et al. 2009; Mosesso et al. 2009). This led to a statement from the RCUK citing the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR 2010):

*“An AED can be used safely and effectively without previous training.  
Therefore, the use of an AED should not be restricted to trained rescuers.  
However, training should be encouraged to help improve the time to shock  
delivery and correct pad placement.”*

<http://www.resus.org.uk/pages/AEDsecst.htm>

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If bystanders (whether previously trained or not) are to safely deploy AEDs, the unit itself must be recognisable and user-friendly and fears related to possible harm and potential litigation must also be addressed (Eames, Larsen & Galletly 2003; Andre et al. 2004a; 2004b; 2009; Woollard 2006; Harrison-Paul 2009; Bogle et al. 2012). The UK has no laws in relation to AED provision (RCUK 2012) whereas by comparison the French principality of Monaco has a national PAD scheme (Bouquier 2010). In the United States (US) cities like Seattle also have state legislation on CPR training and PAD schemes and this seems to impact on survival rates that are between 30%-50% (Caffrey et al. 2002; RCUK 2007; BHF 2011). It seems improbable that many untrained members of the public would chose to respond in places where there is no statutory impetus to learn CPR and First aid coupled with a lack of PAD legislation and fear. MacNally et al. (2011) and the (RCUK 2011c) suggest that even with the aforementioned programmes the overall survival rate remains very poor as most OHSCAs occur in private residence.

It is argued that even if the survival rate was 1% it would be worth it for those individuals.

*Rationale.*

OHSCA continues to be a significant cause of death and disability across the world each day, with an estimated 1000 per day in Europe alone (Caffrey et al. 2002; Colquhoun et al. 2004; Hazinski et al. 2005; Hallstrom AP et al. 2005; MacNally et al. 2011; RCUK 2011b; Ornato 2011a; Bogle et al. 2012, ERC 2013). Despite this awareness of resuscitation in the general public remains poor in the UK. A large quantitative survey demonstrated that only 30% (n=1011) of those interviewed had received CPR training (Donohoe, Haefeli & Moore 2006). Only 25% of interviewees felt confident in CPR and that every year, up to 140,000 people die in situations where basic aid could have given them a chance to live (England and Wales). Despite fewer than one in 10 people are said to be trained (St John Ambulance 2009, 2013). Worse still the BHF (2011) cite their own research that nearly 75% of the UK population are not CPR trained. They contrast this with other European countries where around 80% of people are said to have CPR skills. Despite the number of PAD's proliferating in the last 20 years, the problem exists that the ILCOR guidelines may not be reflective of how bystanders and service providers react. There therefore needs to be a unified approach to raising awareness, access to AEDs which includes recognised signage and the promotion of evidence based practice where it exists. For example, David Lloyd Leisure won "Heart safe Gym of the year 2013" and has worked hard over 15 years to install AEDs (and train staff) in all 91 of its clubs (mostly in the UK). They claim to have saved 100 lives with these units during this time (David Lloyd Leisure 2013).

The Disney Corporation in the US has also been at the forefront by equipping all parks and hotels with AEDs but also have marked them at the sites, on interactive e-media and on all handheld (paper) maps (Watwood 2013).

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## **2. The Literature review.**

### *Search Strategy.*

Searches were undertaken using the databases in Medline, The Royal College of Nursing Online Portal, Science Direct/SCOPUS with the *Search terms* highlighted using *Boolean logic* (Holland and Rees 2010) found in Table 1 (**Appendix II**). Of the 375 results, 32 were relevant. Three relevant studies were found after the initial literature search using a general internet search engine. Social media has been used to follow “themes” of emerging evidence (anecdotal through to scientific).

### *Relevant search results.*

The following themes emerge from the searches: previous training, PAD location, those who deploy the AED, survival rates and legal considerations. This body of research seemed rigorous. Most of the studies had multiple authors and were all quantitative with one mixed method. The search did not reveal any previous research on AED use in the UK by untrained bystanders and there was very limited data available internationally. It is noted that the response from Dyfed Powys Police was dated 2009 but similar documented concerns reflect these themes.

### *Training.*

Continuous first responder training has previously been considered important for skill retention (Harrison-Paul 2009; Woollard 2006) but there are now calls for alternative training methods (Riegel B et al. 2006; Cleland et al. 2007; RCUK 2010a; 2013). For example the “no training” model of regularly repeated short public announcement videos would incur less cost and might encourage a previously untrained bystander to access an AED. The world’s first CPR training “kiosk” (complete with rubber chest, interactive scoring screen, playing the Bee Gees song “Staying Alive”) was recently installed in Dallas/Fort-Worth Airport enabling bored, waiting travellers to learn hands free CPR (Sommers 2002; Caffrey et al. 2002; Park et al. 2008; Ornato 2011a; Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association 2013).

However Eckstein (2012) cited Schober et al. (2011) revealing that over 50% of (non-medical) bystanders were able to recognise an AED but less than 50% of them were willing to use one. Even in countries with targeted campaigns, Riegel et al. (2006) said that awareness remained “unacceptably” low despite suggesting that AED is easier to learn/retain than CPR. Enabling AED access for the person nearest the victim has been described as the “Fire Extinguisher” model by Caffrey et al. (2002) and Mell and Sayre (2008). The London Ambulance Service (2011) support this view saying that in that year 56 people died in fires in London yet 10,000 people died from OHSCA.

The development of cellular/mobile “face-time” video calling has also been suggested a method for “talking through” untrained responders by an Ambulance dispatcher Bolle, Johnsen and Gilbert (2010).



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Some have also questioned the funding of PAD schemes comparing them to other preventative programmes (such as smoking cessation and weight management) and First responder schemes – “uniformed” or trained “lay responders” as volunteers (Kellermann 2005; Pell, Walker & Cobb 2007; Mell & Sayre 2008; Cairnes 2010). Others continue to argue that compared with standard responses by professionals and lay rescuers alone, modern PAD schemes are effective (Sommers 2002; Colquhoun et al. 2008; Cave et al. 2011; Eckstein 2012).

Only two studies in the search incorporated UK schemes and although valuable, were not fully relevant as they related to trained responders (Colquhoun 2008; Harrison-Paul 2009). They assessed the deployment of the UK Defibrillators in Public Places Initiatives DiPPI (n=113 of 437) with a survival rate of 26%. There was recognition that providing defibrillation to the victims of OHSCA was a key feature of the National Health Service (NHS).

McIntyre (2013) and McMahon and Pattison (2013) describe incidents where basic resuscitation attempts failed in public places (by first aiders on scene) where there were delays in getting defibrillators to the OHSCA victim (one in a supermarket and one on a train). This again reinforces the Chain of Survival as an essential concept (**Appendix I**). Alarming, it can be easy to assume that certain services must have AEDs (an obvious example being on a commercial aeroplane for use mid-flight) but during an emergency it can then transpire they do not (Clancy 2013). This further strengthens the argument for a legally enforced “level playing field” like the “fire extinguisher model”.

*Location of AEDs in Public places.*

Authors often examined where AEDs are most likely to be used. With regard to minimal training Jorgenson et al. (2003) looked at AEDs in/near patients’ homes (n=2828) with a deployment rate of nearly 12% per year. Kellermann (2005) later expressed reservations about the procurement and placement of AEDs in high risk homes (for example: of aged persons with previous heart problems) without medical authorisation. He cites an earlier study by Eisenberg & Cummins (1989) suggesting that survival rates from such incidents could be worsened at home by breaking the chain of survival by *delaying* dialling for help to use the AED.

It is assumed that because of the very high numbers of visitors involved, airports seem to be the commonest place for PAD schemes but also included is shopping centres, leisure centres, educational establishments and gated communities (Sommers 2002; Caffrey et al. 2002; Eckstein 2012). Page et al. (2013) and Goodier (2013, citing Drezner 2013) found that despite a higher incidence of OHSCA at Leisure and Fitness facilities they also had better survival rates compared to other locations and they suggest this may be because of the better availability of AEDs and preparedness at such sites. Beasley (2013) describes the successful resuscitation of 33 year old squash player and father of three. Sadly, some facilities and their patrons do not consider the importance of on-site AEDs until a tragedy occurs. This can often be a child or young person (South Wales Argus 2013; Louca 2013, LAS 2013).

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When individual survival rates are extrapolated for a population the size of North America, Weisfeldt et al. (2010) anticipated the survival of 474 individuals per year and the Scripps Howard News Service (2013) has cited various experts, suggesting that AEDs could save 20,000 OHSCA victims a year (in the US). They advise that providers make the ones they have available to all and raise local awareness of placement. Several novel ideas are being implemented including making AEDs available in old red “telephone boxes” or even delivering them via unmanned “Drones” driven via a smart-phone technology. This would be especially relevant for hard to reach places such as Golf courses. It could be argued one of these may altered the chance of survival in the victim stuck on the train some miles outside the station (The Community Heartbeat Trust 2013; Martin 2013; McMahon and Pattison 2013).

*Who deploys AEDs in Public places?*

A range of “responders” were discussed in the results. Sanna et al. (2008) noted that only 7% of victims received “lay public” care and the remaining had care delivered by coincidentally trained personnel. It could be argued this figure of 7% could be lower than this as some bystanders were “unknown” on follow-up. Eckstein (2012) confirmed that “uniformed” responders (not lay public) delivered AED “shocks” in 66% (n=39) of OHSCA cases. The remaining figure (n=11) looks promising but it transpires 7 of these (63%) were coincidentally professionals who had previous medical training (doctors, nurses, fire fighters). Clancy (2013) describes a similar situation where the actions of such off-duty professionals have probably saved lives, despite the fact the cabin crew were apparently untrained and there was no AED available mid-flight. The statement is noted from the Company suggesting there is no legal requirement to provide them, so they do not provide them.

*Survival.*

Important evidence was elucidated with regard to which type of PAD responder was the most effective. Jorgenson et al. (2003) reported a 100% (n=4) survival for those treated by minimally trained members of the public, although the very small sample size is noted. Sanna et al. (2008) performed a meta-analysis of 1583 resuscitation attempts by non-health care professionals and concluded that mortality improved with CPR alone but further improved with rapid AED deployment (**Appendix III**). Weisfeldt et al. (2010) undertook a population-based cohort study of (non-trauma) OHSCA victims (n=13,769) and noted the survival rate increased to 38% (n=64 of 170) where CPR was administered with a “shock” from a bystander. MacNally et al. (2011) analysed the outcomes of nearly 32,000 OHSCAs in the US (with a mortality rate of over 92%) suggesting an “almost invariable” poor prognosis where the victim had not achieved a *return of spontaneous circulation* (RoSC - no pulse) prior to arrival at hospital. This challenges the previously held belief that PAD AED availability (in the community) correlates with survival rates comparable to in-hospital events.

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*The legal status of providing (or not providing) AEDs.*

Because everyone has the right to seek legal redress if harm occurs as the result of an emergency intervention, technically any rescuer (health professional, first aider/responder or even member of the public) can be sued. However, there has never been a successful case brought against someone for using an AED. In the US most states have passed "Good Samaritan" legislation protecting the lay rescuer from lawsuits (Zoll ® 2013; MedChannel 2013).

*"... a person who attempts resuscitation will only be liable for damages if negligent intervention directly causes injury which would not otherwise have occurred, or if it exacerbates an injury. In the circumstances under discussion, where without resuscitation the victim would almost certainly die, the risk of incurring such liability is extremely small" RCUK (2010b).*

It is often argued there is currently no legal requirement for services to make AEDs available where the risk of an OHSCA is low (and unexpected). It is also thought having AEDs may even increase the risk of litigation. On this basis there have been decision makers who block the wider statutory implementation of PAD AEDs on the basis of financial constraints or litigation fears. This is even where they appreciate PAD scheme "cover" at work themselves (Owens 2013; Mail Online 2013; UK Parliament 2013). Conversely, it is counter argued that the people expect increasingly high standards of health and safety provision whilst in public places. They might equally compare the availability of AEDs (or not) in the event of a preventable death following an OHSCA in such a place (RCUK 2010b; Clancy 2013; Martin 2013).

### **3. *Petitioners recommendations.***

*Awareness: Public.*

It has been suggested that the public have become aware of AEDs (and their purpose) in public places (RCUK 2013b) and the petitioner is undertaking (pilot) research as an MSc student in Cardiff University to test this hypothesis. Regardless, in the same way the BHF (2012) has tried to raise the awareness of CPR, sustained efforts are required to raise general awareness of AEDs, including where they are located, who can use them and how to use them. This has already begun with the development of "Lifesaver" <https://life-saver.org.uk/>. This is a free interactive, decision based – scenario film via a website/app by the RCUK (2013). They might need assistance in the wider promotion of this to the general public/service providers. Traditional and Social media should be widely used on a regular basis to raise this awareness.

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*Awareness: Businesses and Service Providers.*

Those that provide services to the public require engagement to assist them in the establishment of the risks versus the benefits of providing PAD AEDs to all consumers / clients. This should be from a sound evidence base via expert opinion to help them perform proper risk assessments. There should be a period of evidence gathering within Wales to establish who has AEDs (in addition to the 450 PAD sites mentioned by the Welsh Ambulance Service). They should be encouraged to ensure training for staff, recommending that their AEDs are accessible to all in unlockable cabinets with recognised signage (RCUK 2010c) – **Appendix IV**. To allay fears of vandalism / theft, cabinets can be fitted with coded locks and Ambulance dispatchers can give access during 999 calls.

Traditional and Social media should be widely used on a regular basis to raise this awareness.

For those that do not have PAD access, research should be undertaken to establish the actual / perceived barriers that exist.

*A single AED Device for Wales (PAD sites).*

The Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust could be assisted in a scoping exercise to pilot a tendering process with a single AED across Wales. It is anticipated this will:

- 1) Improve recognition
- 2) help with discounting for all participating
- 3) Assist with standardised training
- 4) provide cost effective replacement of cabinets, consumables and devices.

It is recognised this will require high level risk versus benefit analysis and legal input.

*Location of AEDs.*

Public services (coordinated by the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust) could make use of a site similar to “AED Locator” (<http://www.aedlocator.org/AEDLocations.php>) to help raise awareness and data log the location of the available PAD AEDs in Wales. At the time of this report there are apparently only 10 PAD AEDs available in Wales, although it is acknowledged there are many more. AED locations must be shown on area maps (traditional paper and interactive E-displays) provided by local businesses and services (such as shopping centres). Traditional and Social media should be widely used on a regular basis to raise this awareness. One aspect of coordinated PAD schemes awareness is their availability during civil emergencies and major incidents. If not already this information should be incorporated into such plans.

*Checking of AEDs.*

As more PAD AEDs are implemented, plans could be developed to ensure equipment is checked at the same time as *Fire Extinguishers* by these contractors. This would be in collaboration with the AED manufacturer/s and the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

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*Training and re-training.*

The Welsh Ambulance Service “Dispatchers” currently ask “is there a Defibrillator available” during 999 calls. This should be developed and the increased use of technology explored to enable visual, remote support of untrained lay rescuers during an emergency.

Training providers should also meet the simple skills assessment and competency standards of the RCUK (2011d). All Instructors should now be suitably qualified in accordance to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) “Guidance on selecting a First Aid Training provider” (HSE 2013). The Welsh Government could consider setting a “Fee cap” on recognised training providers to ensure that training (ongoing) fees are not expensively prohibitive to the public service and business sectors.

This could ensure parity of standards and quality across Wales.

*Eventual legislation.*

Relevant legal and legislative procedures should be undertaken to ensure the above recommendations have an implemented time frame. The aim is to ensure that Wales has legally binding legislation to ensure PAD AEDs are available in all services that have public areas. This might also include the investigation of protective “Good Samaritan laws” for such providers and individuals who use an AED in an OHSCA situation.

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**UPDATE: Petition by Mr P J Hill  
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**UPDATE: Petition by Mr P J Hill  
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Legislation to ensure access to Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)  
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**UPDATE: Petition by Mr P J Hill  
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Legislation to ensure access to Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)  
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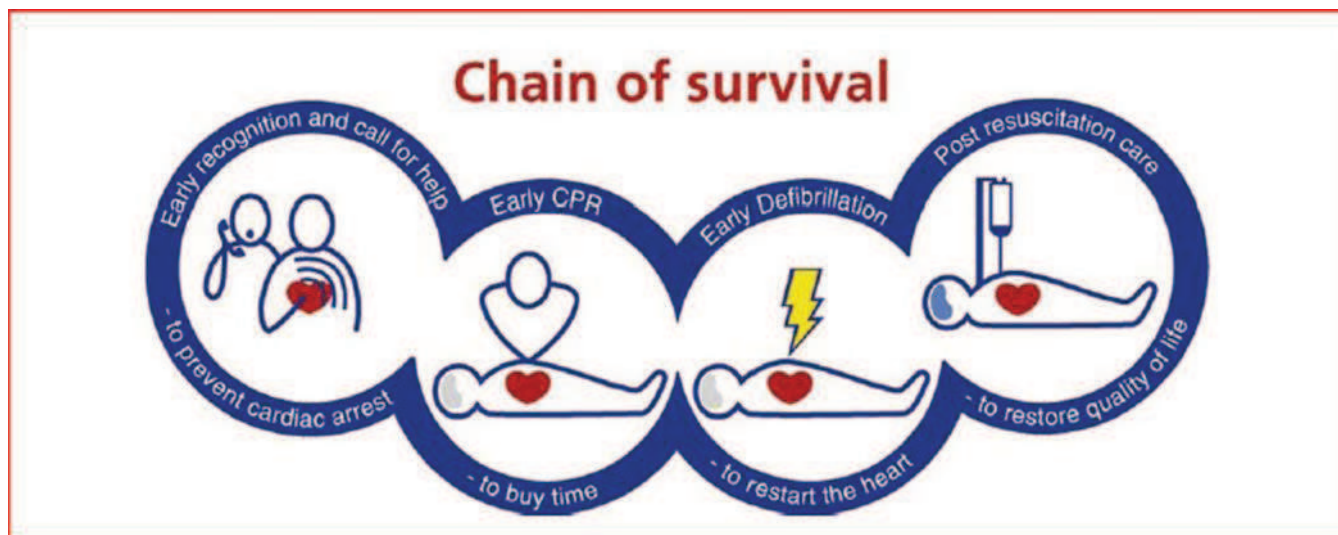
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**UPDATE: Petition by Mr P J Hill  
to the Welsh Assembly Government:  
Legislation to ensure access to Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)  
in all public places in Wales.**

**SECTION 5.**

**Appendix I.**



Accessed 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

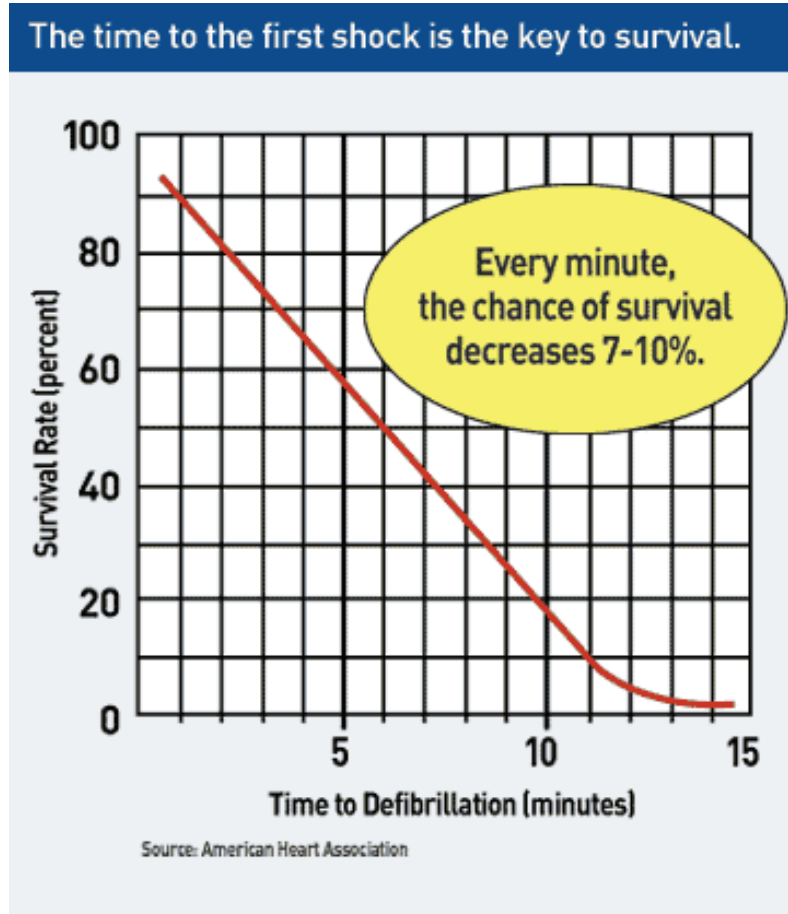
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in all public places in Wales.**

**Appendix II**

<b>Table 1:</b>	<i>Search terms used to conduct the literature review:</i>							
Untrained members of the public	<i>AND</i>	Automated External Defibrillators  Or  AEDs	<i>AND</i>	Public Access Defibrillators  Or  PADs	<i>AND</i>	Willingness to access and deploy an Automated External Defibrillator  Or  AED	<i>AND</i>	Willingness to use an Automated External Defibrillator  Or  AED
<b>Search results across four databases:</b> <i>Articles selected, reviewed and analysed from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012.</i>								
<b>Inclusion criteria:</b> <i>Any country (within the time frame) in relation to the untrained lay public deployment of AEDs in OHSCA.</i>								
<b>Exclusion criteria:</b> <i>Non-English language articles. Companies and manufacturers selling AEDs and AED training providers. Implementation of PAD schemes. PAD schemes in Clinical / Hospital areas (due to a high incidence of health professional respondents and organised onsite responses). First Responder Schemes (training / implementation and audit).</i>								
<b>Time frame:</b> <i>Articles published between 2002 – 2012 (10 years).</i>								

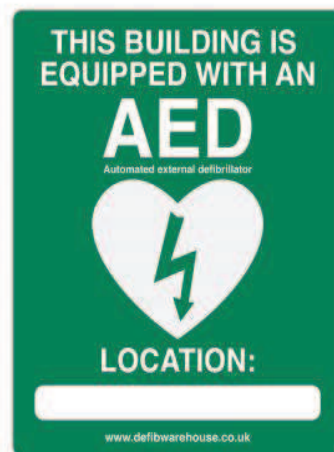
**UPDATE: Petition by Mr P J Hill  
to the Welsh Assembly Government:  
Legislation to ensure access to Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)  
in all public places in Wales.**

**Appendix III.**



Accessed 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012.

Appendix IV





## **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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



Jeff Cuthbert AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchgu Tlodi  
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-507  
Ein cyf/Our ref JC/00744/13  
William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

8 November 2013

Dear William

### **P-04-507: Women's Equality Network Wales**

The Welsh Government is fully committed to adhering to the principles of the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Welsh Government is part of the UK State Party which has ratified this UN Convention.

The UK Government Equalities Office (GEO) is responsible for overseeing and promoting the delivery of commitments to CEDAW and co-ordinates input from all other UK Government Departments and the devolved administrations, including the Welsh Government for four yearly reports.

These reports provide progress information on the situation of women in regards to all the areas of discrimination detailed within the Convention as well as on the UN CEDAW Committee's previous recommendations. The UK's 7th report was submitted to the United Nations in June 2011. Wales, along with the other Devolved Administrations contributed to the UK's report. The UN's oral examination of the UK's Report took place on 17 July 2013 at the UN in Geneva. Devolved administrations, including the Welsh Government, were part of the UK delegation.

There is a great deal of work taking place across Welsh Government to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and advance gender equality. This includes work to eliminate gender stereotyping in schools and the workplace; work to increase the representation of women in public life and work to tackle violence and domestic abuse against women.

Yours sincerely

**Jeff Cuthbert AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchgu Tlodi  
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff

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

# Agenda Item 3.22

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

### **Petition wording:**

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

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

**Petition raised by:** Stuart Evans

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

**Number of signatures:** 27



Jane Hutt AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Cyllid ac Arweinydd y Ty  
Minister for Finance and Leader of the House

Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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

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

9<sup>th</sup> October 2013

*Dear William,*

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

Thank you for your letter of 3 October, enclosing a further communication asking that the Welsh Government publishes a new report on Government expenditure and revenue in Wales.

As I said in my previous replies, I have no plans at this stage to produce such a report. There is already a wealth of data available on public expenditure in Wales (Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses, published by the UK Government, and of course the Welsh Government's own budget documentation), to which has been added recently HMRC's publication of tax receipts in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The overall position has also been considered by the highly respected Holtham Commission and Silk Commission. I am enclosing links to useful statistical sources and publications.

Should the UK Government accept the Silk Commission's recommendations for tax devolution to Wales, then there may well be a need to publish further information in the future. However, that must await the UK Government's response to the Silk Commission's report.

*Best wishes,  
Jane*

**Jane Hutt AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Cyllid ac Arweinydd y Ty  
Minister for Finance and Leader of the House

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

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

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

## **Useful statistical sources and publications**

Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses, published by the UK Government:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-treasury/series/public-expenditure-statistical-analyses-pesa>

Welsh Government's budget documentation:  
<http://wales.gov.uk/funding/budget/?lang=en>  
<http://wales.gov.uk/funding/budget/?lang=cy>

HMRC's publication of tax receipts in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland:  
<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/statistics/announcements/22-07-13.htm>

Holtham Commission reports:  
<http://wales.gov.uk/funding/financereform/report/?lang=en>  
<http://wales.gov.uk/funding/financereform/report/?lang=cy>

Silk Commission's Part 1 report:  
<http://commissionondevolutioninwales.independent.gov.uk/>  
<http://commissionondevolutioninwales.independent.gov.uk/cy/>



**P-04-436 Government Expenditure and Revenue Wales report –  
Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee,  
08.11.2013**

The finance minister has used every opportunity she can to ignore the word REVENUE in the petition so asking yet again that they look at REVENUE would be like banging my head against a wall.

Thanks

Stuart.