

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: Tuesday, 13 December
2016

Meeting time: 09.08 – 09.32

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/3942>

Attendance

Category	Names
Assembly Members:	Mike Hedges AM (Chair) Gareth Bennett AM Neil McEvoy AM
Witnesses:	
Committee Staff:	Graeme Francis (Clerk) Kayleigh Driscoll (Deputy Clerk) Jessica England (Deputy Clerk) Sam Mason (Legal Adviser) Lisa Salkeld (Legal Adviser)

Transcript

View the meeting [transcript](#) (PDF 297KB) View as [HTML](#) (72KB)

1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Janet Finch–Saunders sent her apologies.



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Wales

2 New petitions

2.1 P-05-721 Penegoes Speed Limit Petition

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to await the results of the traffic monitoring scheme, and the petitioner's views at that point, before deciding whether to take further action on the issue.

2.2 P-05-722 Protect Special Educational Needs

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

- the Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language to ask how the Welsh Government monitors (a) the effectiveness of services and support for children with autism and their parents, and (b) the outcomes achieved from the funding provided; and
- Neath Port Talbot Council to seek their response to the specific experiences related by the petitioner.

2.3 P-05-724 Rights to Primary Health Care in Welsh

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

- await the Welsh Government's response to the recent public consultation on this issue and the draft regulations they bring forward; and
- in the meantime, write to the Welsh Language Commissioner seeking her views on the issues raised by the petition.

2.4 P-05-725 Widen the A470 from Pontypridd to Coryton to 3 Lanes

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to await the views of the petitioner before deciding whether to take further action on this issue.

2.5 P-05-726 Give Rate Relief to Local Authorities for Leisure and Cultural Facilities

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to seek further detail from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government about the plans to explore improvements to non-domestic rates, and whether there will be an opportunity for the petitioner to contribute views to this.

2.6 P-05-727 Funding for the Education Workforce Council Registration (EWC) Fee for Learning Support Workers in Schools

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

- await the view of the petitioner; and
- request further information from the Cabinet Secretary for Education about the process for deciding individual subsidy levels for 2017-18, and whether there will be an opportunity for the petitioner to contribute their views to this.

2.7 P-05-728 Protect Families First Funding

Mike Hedges declared the following relevant interest under Standing Order 17.24A:

The petitioners are known to him but he has no involvement with petition.

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and, following the confirmation in the draft budget that funding for Families First will be maintained in 2017-18, the Committee agreed to await a response from the petitioner before deciding whether to take further action on this issue.

3 Updates to previous petitions

3.1 P-04-628 To improve access to Education and services in British Sign Language

Mike Hedges declared the following relevant interest under Standing Order 17.24A:

He has met with the petitioners as the constituency Assembly Member for Swansea East.

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to the Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language to request an update on the issues raised by the petition following his recent meeting with the petitioners.

3.2 P-05-707 Teachers' Training Must Include Statutory Training in Autism

Neil McEvoy declared the following relevant interest under Standing Order 17.24A:

The petitioner is known to him.

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to:

- await the petitioner's views on the detailed responses received from the Welsh Government; and
- seek the view of The National Autistic Society on the issues raised by the petition.

3.3 P-04-683 Trees in Towns

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to share the response received from Natural Resources Wales with the petitioner and seek their views before deciding the next steps to take.

3.4 P-05-714 Include a Mynachdy and Talybont Station as Part of the Cardiff Metro Proposal

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure to request further detail on the potential location of any new station at Gabalfa, as well as how and when proposals for new stations will be developed.

3.5 P-04-564 Restoration of Inpatient Beds, Minor Injuries Cover and X-Ray Unit to the Ffestiniog Memorial Hospital

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to:

- seek a copy of Healthcare Inspectorate Wales's conclusions on health care in the Ffestiniog area to inform the Committee's further consideration of this petition; and
- write to Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to seek an update on the latest situation.

3.6 P-04-621 Stop Closure of Consultant-led Maternity Unit at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to seek the current views of the petitioner before deciding on the next steps to take.

3.7 Paper to note