

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: Tuesday, 17 January 2017

Meeting time: 09.00 – 09.42

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/3943>

Attendance

Category	Names
Assembly Members:	Mike Hedges AM (Chair) Gareth Bennett AM Janet Finch–Saunders AM Dai Lloyd AM
Witnesses:	
Committee Staff:	Graeme Francis (Clerk) Kath Thomas (Deputy Clerk) Jessica England (Deputy Clerk) Sam Mason (Legal Adviser) Lisa Salkeld (Legal Adviser)

Transcript

View the meeting [transcript](#) (PDF 303KB) [View as HTML](#) (103KB)



Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
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Wales

1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

2 New petitions

2.1 P-05-718 NHS Wales Pay

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the petitioner to seek their views on the information received from the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport.

2.2 P-05-723 Establish Proportional Representation Voting System for Welsh Local Council Elections

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to defer its consideration until after the conclusion of scrutiny on the Wales Bill, and consider the detailed views of the petitioner at that stage.

2.3 P-05-729 Removal of M4 Speed Restrictions at the Brynglass Tunnels

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure to enquire whether a full assessment of the impact of the introduction of the variable speed limit has been carried out, and ask for any findings to be shared with the Committee.

2.4 P-05-730 Local Government Finance and Funding

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government to ask whether, and how, the petitioners will be able to engage in the development of proposals on local government reform.

2.5 P-05-731 Land & Access Lane Sale at Abercwmboui

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

2.6 P-05-732 Unacceptable Waiting Times for NHS patients in A & E

WreccsamWrexham Maelor Hospital

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to await the view of the petitioner, and to write to Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to ask what steps are being taken to improve A&E waiting times at Wrexham Maelor Hospital.

2.7 P-05-733 No Further Actions on Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ) In Wales At All

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to await the view of the petitioner on the Welsh Government's response before deciding whether to take further action on this issue.

3 Updates to previous petitions

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

The Committee considered the latest correspondence from the petitioner and expressed their disappointment, having not received a response to previous correspondence sent to the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. The Committee agreed to write again to the Health Board seeking:

- their response to the latest comments from the petitioner, and;
- information about access to minor injuries services in the Tywyn area, including outside of Tywyn Hospital's opening hours.

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

The Committee considered correspondence from the petitioner and agreed to close the petition given that the petitioner has confirmed that, because the potential changes that were the subject of the petition have not happened, they feel they have reached a successful conclusion on this issue.

3.3 P-04-663 Food in Welsh Hospitals

The Committee considered correspondence from the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee and agreed to await that Committee's report on hospital catering and patient nutrition, and to seek the views of the petitioner at that point.

3.4 P-04-676 Establish a Welsh Language Champion in our Communities in Wales

The Committee considered the correspondence from the Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language and the petitioner and agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner for his engagement. In doing so the Committee agreed to share the offer made by the petitioner to support the development of community language champions with the Welsh Government and One Voice Wales.

3.5 P-04-681 Allow Public Recording of Local Government Meetings

The Committee considered the response from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government and agreed to seek further information on how he intends to implement compulsory recording of proceedings.

3.6 P-05-728 Protect Families First Funding

The Committee considered comments from the petitioner and agreed to close the petition on the basis that the budget for Families First will be maintained for 2017-2018.

3.7 P-05-721 Penegoes Speed Limit Petition

The Committee considered correspondence from the petitioner and agreed to share the results of the traffic monitoring scheme with the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure, seeking his views and asking if this information could be taken into account as part of ongoing work on the safety of this stretch of road.

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:

5 P-04-668 Support Yearly Screening for Ovarian Cancer (CA125 blood test)

6 Forward Work Programme