

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: Tuesday, 7 November
2017

Meeting time: 09.15 – 10.51

This meeting can be viewed
on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/4367>

Attendance

Category	Names
Assembly Members:	David J Rowlands AM (Chair) Rhun ap Iorwerth AM Janet Finch-Saunders AM Neil McEvoy AM David Rees AM (In place of Mike Hedges AM)
Witnesses:	Lesley Griffiths AM, Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs Neil Hemington, Welsh Government Joanne Smith, Welsh Government
Committee Staff:	Graeme Francis (Clerk) Kayleigh Imperato (Deputy Clerk) Kath Thomas (Deputy Clerk)

1 (9.30) Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and



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Rhun ap Iorwerth AM and Neil McEvoy AM to the Petitions Committee.

Mike Hedges AM sent his apologies and David Rees AM attended as a substitute.

2 New petitions

2.1 P-05-781 Port Talbot Community Against the Super Prison

David Rees declared the following relevant interest under Standing Order 17.24A:

He is in support of the petition as it directly affects his constituency.

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

- the Business Committee to request time for a debate in Plenary at the earliest opportunity; and
- the Ministry of Justice to inform them of the petition and that the Committee will be requesting a debate in Plenary.

2.2 P-05-782 Build a Chepstow Bypass to Remove the Bottle Neck from the M48 onto the A48

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to await the views of the petitioner on the response received from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure before considering further action on the petition.

2.3 P-05-783 Ensuring Equality of Curriculum for Welsh Medium Schools e.g. GCSE Psychology

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to await the views of the petitioner on the responses received from the Welsh Government and Qualifications Wales before considering further action on the petition.

3 Updates to previous petitions

3.1 P-04-682 Routine Screening for Type 1 Diabetes in Children and Young People

The Committee considered the responses from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services, local health boards and professional bodies, and agreed to invite the Cabinet Secretary to a future Committee meeting to provide further evidence prior to producing a report on the petition.

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

The Committee discussed the lack of a response from the Welsh Local Government Association to the Committee's correspondence, and agreed to write a further letter to the WLGA expressing their disappointment and to ask for an urgent response to the letter dated 3 August.

Following the meeting, a response from the WLGA has been received.

3.3 P-05-760 Stop Compulsory Welsh Language GCSE

The Committee considered correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Education and agreed to close the petition in light of the unequivocal commitment expressed by the Cabinet Secretary to the compulsory study of the Welsh language at GCSE, and her answers to the concerns raised by the petitioner.

3.4 P-04-688 TATA Steel Port Talbot Power Plant

The Committee considered correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure and agreed to await the views of the petitioner on the latest information before considering closing the petition, in light of the information received and further funding committed by the Welsh Government in the draft budget for 2018-19.

3.5 P-05-738 Public Petition for the Dinas Powys By-Pass

The Committee considered correspondence from the Vale of Glamorgan Council along with further comments from the petitioner and agreed to write to the Vale of Glamorgan Council to request an update when the results of the WelTAG Stage 2 report have been considered by the Council's Cabinet.

3.6 P-05-748 School Buses for School Children

The Committee discussed the lack of response from the Welsh Local Government Association to the Committee's correspondence and agreed to write a further letter to the WLGA expressing their disappointment and asking for an urgent response to the letter of 24 July.

3.7 P-05-758 Statue to Honour Billy Boston

The Committee considered correspondence from the petitioner and agreed to ask the petitioner to provide the Committee with a further update on the project in due course.

3.8 P-05-776 To recognize the three hundredth anniversary of Williams Pantycelyn

Rhun ap Iorwerth declared the following relevant interest under Standing Order 17.24A:

He is in contact with the lead petitioner regarding the matter.

The Committee considered correspondence from the Arts Council for Wales and agreed to write to the petitioner to share information about the recent event in the Senedd and the answers given by the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure, and ask if he knows of any suitable organisations or individuals who could bring forward concrete proposals.

3.9 P-05-742 Stop Forsythia Closing

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and 3Gs Development Trust to ask for an

update on the current and future provision of services for young people at Forsythia Youth Centre.

3.10 P-05-715 A Ban on the Manufacture, Sale and Use of Snares in Wales.

The Committee considered correspondence from the petitioner and agreed to close the petition given the issue has recently been the subject of detailed attention by the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee, and that the Welsh Government has accepted that committee's recommendations.

3.11 P-05-773 Don't Fill Landfill!

The Committee considered correspondence from the petitioner and agreed to write to Cardiff Council to share the petitioner's comments on the recycling bags used in Cardiff and her proposal that stickers should be placed on black bins to raise awareness that waste in them is destined for landfill.

4.1 P-04-472 Make the MTAN law

The Committee heard evidence from Lesley Griffiths AM, Neil Hemington and Joanne Smith.

The Cabinet Secretary agreed to investigate further, comments attributed to the planning inspector during an appeal hearing over an application for an opencast mine at Varteg Hill, and write to the Committee.

4.2 P-04-575 Call in All Opencast Mining Planning Applications

The Committee heard evidence from Lesley Griffiths AM, Neil Hemington and Joanne Smith.

The Cabinet Secretary agreed to investigate further, comments attributed to the planning inspector during an appeal hearing over an application for an opencast mine at Varteg Hill, and write to the Committee.