

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: Tuesday, 23 January 2018

Meeting time: 09.18 – 10.43

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

<http://senedd.tv/en/4522>

Attendance

Category	Names
Assembly Members:	David J Rowlands AM (Chair) Rhun ap Iorwerth AM Janet Finch–Saunders AM Mike Hedges AM Neil McEvoy AM
Witnesses:	Paul Apreda, Petitioner Dr Sue Whitcombe, Chartered Psychologist
Committee Staff:	Graeme Francis (Clerk) Kayleigh Imperato (Deputy Clerk) Kath Thomas (Deputy Clerk)

1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies.



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2 New petitions

2.1 P-05-794 Lowering the Voting Age to Sixteen

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to await the publication of the public consultation on electoral reform and encourage the petitioners and other supporters to submit their views to this.

2.2 P-05-795 Causing Nuisance or Disturbance on NHS Premises

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to await a further response from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services before considering any further action on the petition.

2.3 P-05-796 Calling on the Welsh Government to Ban The Use of Wild Animals in Circuses in Wales

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.

2.4 P-05-797 Ensure access to the cystic fibrosis medicine, Orkambi, as a matter of urgency

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write back to the Minister for Health and Social Services to share the information provided by the petitioners and ask whether the more recent long-term data referred to could form part of any further consideration by the All-Wales Medicines Strategy Group, before considering whether to take oral evidence on the issue.

3 Updates to previous petitions

3.1 P-04-667 Roundabout for the A477/ A4075 Junction

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to await a further update from the petitioners in relation to their correspondence with haulage firms before considering any further action.

3.2 P-05-722 Protect Special Educational Needs

The Committee agreed to close the petition in light of the previous offer of engagement from Neath Port Talbot County Council, and because no response has recently been received from the petitioner.

3.3 P-05-787 Save the Future Generation of Wales

The Committee agreed to close the petition in light of the satisfaction of the petitioner with the information provided by the Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning and thank him for his engagement with the petitions process.

3.4 P-05-742 Stop Forsythia Closing

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the petitioners to ask for an update on current provision at Forsythia Youth Centre and whether they have been part of discussions with the Council about the future of the Centre.

3.5 P-05-766 Make a Vegan Option Compulsory In Public Canteens

The Committee agreed to close the petition as it is difficult to see how the Committee can take the petition forward in the absence of contact from the petitioner.

3.6 P-05-764 Better Mental Health Services for Adults

The Committee considered the history of the petition and agreed to consider the issues raised by the petition as part of its forthcoming evidence session with the

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services on petition P-05-736 To Make Mental Health Services More Accessible.

3.7 P-05-784 Prescription drug dependence and withdrawal – recognition and support

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to:

- invite individuals affected by this issue, health boards, the British Medical Association and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society to provide further written evidence on the issues raised by the petition; and
- write to the Health and Social Care Committee to ask whether it has considered these issues in recent work, or intends to in forthcoming inquiries.

3.8 P-05-790 Tackle Rough Sleeping

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to make the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee aware of the petition as part of its current Inquiry into rough sleeping in Wales, and forward the petitioner a copy of that Committee's report once it's available.

3.9 P-05-778 Protect the Razor Clams on Llanfairfechan Beach

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to forward the petitioner's comments to the Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural affairs and ask for further details of the research study and stock assessment survey work, including who will be conducting it and the timescales for the results.

4 Evidence Session – P-05-751 Recognition of Parental Alienation

The Committee considered the evidence received and agreed to invite the Minister for Children and Social Care and CAFCASS to give evidence to a future meeting, and to consider gathering further evidence on the petition as part of a future discussion on the Committee's forward work programme.