

## Agenda – Petitions Committee

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Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: 13 March 2018

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

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### 1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(Pages 1 – 34)

### 2 New petitions

2.1 P-05-802 Protecting Class Sizes in Design and Technology Classrooms and Workshops

(Pages 35 – 45)

2.2 P-05-803 Our natural world is being poisoned by single use plastics...it's time to introduce a tax!

(Pages 46 – 54)

2.3 P-05-804 We need Welsh Government funding for play!!

(Pages 55 – 64)

### 3 Updates to previous petitions

#### Health

3.1 P-05-736 To Make Mental Health Services More Accessible

(Pages 65 – 67)

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

(Pages 68 – 73)

#### Education



Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales

## **The following two items are grouped together for consideration**

- 3.3 P-05-757 Remove the Obligation on Schools to Hold Acts of Religious  
Worship  
(Pages 74 – 77)
- 3.4 P-05-765 Keeping Current Guidelines for Religious Assemblies  
(Pages 78 – 79)
- 3.5 P-05-788 Remove the compulsory aspect of Welsh Baccalaureate  
(Pages 80 – 85)
- 3.6 P-05-789 Review support for asylum seekers accessing further education  
(Pages 86 – 90)

## **Welsh Language**

- 3.7 P-05-724 Rights to Primary Health Care in Welsh  
(Pages 91 – 93)

## **Economy and Transport**

- 3.8 P-04-688 TATA Steel Port Talbot Power Plant  
(Pages 94 – 95)
- 3.9 P-05-690 Resurfacing of the A40 Raglan–Abergavenny Road  
(Pages 96 – 105)
- 3.10 P-05-701 Road Safety Improvements Along the A487 Trunk Road between  
Cardigan and Aberystwyth, to Include Passing Places  
(Pages 106 – 109)

## **The following three items are grouped together for consideration**

- 3.11 P-05-721 Penegoes Speed Limit Petition  
(Pages 110 – 111)
- 3.12 P-05-767 A487 Trunk Road Through Tre–Taliesin: Urgent Need for Effective  
Speed–Calming Measures  
(Pages 112 – 115)

3.13 P-05-792 Petition to extend the 40mph speed limit in Blaenporth.  
(Pages 116 – 119)

3.14 P-05-770 Reopen Crumlin Railway Station  
(Pages 120 – 121)

### **Local Government and Public Services**

3.15 P-05-781 Port Talbot Community Against the Super Prison  
(Pages 122 – 124)

### **Leader of the House**

3.16 P-05-793 Hi speed broadband to Llangenny village  
(Pages 125 – 128)

3.17 P-05-798 Male domestic violence victim support services to be  
independently run & funded  
(Pages 129 – 132)

## **4 Paper to note**

4.1 P-04-479 Tywyn Memorial Hospital X-ray & Minor Injuries Unit Petition  
(Pages 133 – 135)

**5 Evidence Session – P-05-750 For single use items: introduce a  
Deposit Return System for drink containers and make fast food  
containers and utensils compostable**  
(10.00 – 10.30) (Pages 136 – 145)

- Gill Bell, Petitioner, Head of Conservation Wales, Marine Conservation Society

**6 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the  
public from the remainder of the meeting**

**7 Discussion of previous evidence sessions**

Document is Restricted

# Agenda Item 2.1

## **P-05-802 Protecting Class Sizes in Design and Technology Classrooms and Workshops**

This petition was submitted by Aled Dafis having collected 338 signatures online.

### **Text of Petition**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that all schools in Wales fully adopt BS4163:2014 as a requirement as opposed to a recommendation, in order to protect the health and safety of both students, teachers and technicians.

Following networking meetings for Design and Technology teachers within the ERW region, it has become apparent that the financial pressures on schools give rise to a situation where Design and Technology teachers are increasingly being asked to teach classes larger than 20 pupils as recommended in BS4163:2014 "Health and safety for design and technology in educational establishments – Code of Practice". Increased class sizes invariably lead to higher risk of pupils getting injured in workshop environments.

### **Additional Information**

The BS4163:2014 Code of Practice clearly states as follows:

"9 Management of the teaching environment

9.1

General

The number of learners in any one work area should be carefully considered to ensure safe working and effective supervision.

In England and Wales, there should be a maximum of 20 learners with one competent, qualified teacher in any one work area.

In Scotland and Northern Ireland, there should be a maximum of 20 pupils for all classes in practical subjects"

**Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Ceredigion
- Mid and West Wales

## Briefing for the Petitions Committee

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 13 Mawrth 2018

Petitions Committee | 13 March 2018

### Research Briefing:

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Petition number: **P-05-802**

Petition title: **Protecting Class Sizes in Design and Technology Classrooms and Workshops**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that all schools in Wales fully adopt BS4163:2014 as a requirement as opposed to a recommendation, in order to protect the health and safety of both students, teachers and technicians.

Following networking meetings for Design and Technology teachers within the ERW region, it has become apparent that the financial pressures on schools give rise to a situation where Design and Technology teachers are increasingly being asked to teach classes larger than 20 pupils as recommended in BS4163:2014 "Health and safety for design and technology in educational establishments – Code of Practice". Increased class sizes invariably lead to higher risk of pupils getting injured in workshop environments.

The BS4163:2014 Code of Practice clearly states as follows:

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The number of learners in any one work area should be carefully considered to ensure safe working and effective supervision.

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# 1. The Welsh Government's view

## 1.1 The British Standards Institution (BSI) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

The British Standards Institution (BSI) is [a private company incorporated by Royal Charter](#). The [British Standards Institution \(BSI\)](#) is 'recognized as the UK National Standards Body (NSB) by the UK Government'. It acts as the UK's representative on international standards bodies, such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). It receives funding from the [UK Government's Department for Business, Innovation & Skills \(BIS\)](#) for this international work.

15% of BSI's revenue, comprising £59.4million in 2016, stems from 'standards development and publishing'. The BSI notes that

More than 95% of the standards we published were the British implementation of European or international standards

As part of that strand of its work, BS4163:2014 "[Health and safety for design and technology in educational establishments – Code of Practice](#)" is not publically available free of charge, but is available to purchase online.

The Welsh Government's letter to the Committee highlights its view of the code of practice, which is

BSI Standards represent the condensed knowledge of a group of people who have experience or expertise regarding a given subject; they are often written voluntarily. The one cited...is a code of practice **which offers advice and guidance**.

The Welsh Government notes that the responsibilities for health and safety in schools is outlined by the [Health and Safety at Work Act 1974](#) and the associated [Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999](#). Responsibility for health and safety is a not devolved and related regulations are enforced by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). The Welsh Government reports that expects schools to follow 'guidance on health and safety issued by the HSE'.

The HSE provides guidance on '[sensible health and safety management in schools](#)' online. HSE provides a [health and safety checklist for classrooms](#) as well as other resources. The responsibility for ensuring that the HSE guidance is followed in classes sits with the head teacher, while the governing body has a 'key role in making sure risks are managed effectively on site'.

## 1.2 Welsh Government Guidance

The Welsh Government notes that it has published [guidance on measuring school capacity](#), last updated in 2011. This guidance is 'intended to provide a robust and consistent method of assessing the capacity of schools'. However, it does not 'prescribe the number of pupils



(or staff) that could use a space for teaching or study’, but provides an overall assessment of available teaching space.

## 2. The Design and Technology Association campaign

The Design and Technology Association (Data) is

a membership organisation providing advice, support and training for those involved in teaching design, engineering and technology. We work closely with government, awarding bodies, Ofsted and other regulators, advising on the curriculum and lobbying on behalf of the subject.

On 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015 Data, with the support of the Royal Society of Arts, launched its [Designed and Made in Britain...?](#) campaign. It summarises [the main issues](#) facing design and technology courses as

There is a shortage of qualified teachers; government accountability measures prioritise other subjects; teachers cannot access CPD; and GCSE numbers are declining.

In general Data’s campaign is focused on the UK Government, calling for changes to the English school curriculum and accountability measures. It calls on individuals to write to their local Member of Parliament to lobby them on the issues raised by the campaign, [and to sign its petition](#).

## 3. Design and Technology teaching in Wales

In summary, the number of teachers trained and teaching design and technology, and related subjects, in Welsh schools has remained stable over the last five years. However there has been a drop in the number of GCSE entries into those subjects in the corresponding period.

Furthermore, while StatsWales [Welsh Government] data does not provide a percentage breakdown of subjects, it is worth noting that there were 258,869 GCSE entries in 2013/14 and 273,805 entries in 2016/17. Entries for craft, design and technology courses have fallen in absolute and relative terms in the last five years (see section 3.2).

### 3.1 The number of design and technology teachers

The Education Workforce Council produces annual statistics on the teaching workforce in Wales. Its latest update was published in March 2017. Using this statistical digest, the following tables have been produced. It highlights the number of ‘ITET [initial teacher education and training] subject trained’ teachers.

**Table 1 - Number of EWC registered secondary teachers in Wales by the ITET trained subject**

ITET subject trained	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Design &amp; Technology</b>	844 (5.9%)	833 (6%)	878 (5.9%)	872 (5.9%)	855 (5.8%)
<b>Design Studies</b>	275 (1.9%)	268 (1.8%)	268 (1.8%)	255 (1.7%)	240 (1.6%)

The statistical digest also highlights the number of secondary school teachers registered with EWC by subject taught. This data shows the following

**Table 2 - Number of EWC registered secondary teachers in Wales by the subject taught**

<b>ITET subject taught</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Design &amp; Technology</b>	984 (6.2%)	957 (6.0%)	902 (5.9%)	888 (5.8%)	848 (5.7%)
<b>Electronics</b>	20 (0.1%)	21 (0.1%)	17 (0.1%)	19 (0.1%)	17 (0.1%)
<b>Engineering</b>	12 (0.1%)	13 (0.1%)	14 (0.1%)	14 (0.1%)	14 (0.1%)

In Tables 1 and 2, the percentage next to the total number of teachers, highlights the percentage of the overall teaching workforce that figure represents.

### 3.2 The number of GCSE entries for design and technology GCSEs

StatsWales provides data on [GCSE entries and results \(pupils in Year 11 /pupils aged 15\) by subject group](#). Using that data, the following table has been produced.

**Table 3 - GCSE entries (pupils in Year 11/pupils aged 15) by subject group**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
<b>Craft, Design &amp; Technology</b>	8,573	8,029	7,543	6,938
<b>Applied Engineering (VQ)</b>	396	436	515	373

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-802  
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/00155/18

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee.  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

21 February 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 29 January regarding Petition P-05-802 Protecting Class Sizes in Design and Technology Classrooms and Workshops from Mr Aled Dafis.

Health and safety is not devolved to the Welsh Government and the responsibilities in schools are derived from the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the associated Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. Legislation requires the employers (governing bodies/local authorities) to assess and manage risk this in the case of schools this is usually enforced by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Responsibility for the health and safety of pupils lies with the governing body of the school, either as the employer of school staff or because it controls school premises; in many instances the governing body is both. It is expected that schools will follow guidance on health and safety issued by the HSE. BSI Standards represent the condensed knowledge of a group of people who have experience or expertise regarding a given subject; they are often written voluntarily. The one cited by Mr Dafis is a code of practice which offers advice and guidance; there is a cost associated with this publication.

The organisation of the classes is the responsibility of the headteacher and governing body they have a key role in making sure risks are managed effectively on site. It is expected that appropriate risk assessments will be made of the area and number of pupils that can be taught.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

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[Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The number of pupils that may be taught in a school or school work area is determined in Wales through a capacity calculation exercise as detailed in the **Measuring School Capacity in Wales guidance**. This calculation is intended to provide a robust and consistent method of assessing the capacity of schools.


In the case of secondary schools, capacity is based on the size of teaching spaces; all types of rooms which can be used for teaching or study are included. The capacity calculation depends on the type of room, with more space per pupil allowed in rooms used for practical subjects. The formula applies an utilisation factor which varies with the age range of the school. This reflects the fact that, in secondary schools, not all rooms can be fully used all the time because of the variety of subjects taught and the varying sizes of teaching groups, particularly in sixth forms.

The pupil place is a notional unit of measurement based purely on the size and type of the space. It does not prescribe the number of pupils (or staff) that could use a space for teaching or study.

The guidance was revised in October 2011 (a link is attached below).

<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/circulars/0906measuringcapacity/?skip=1&lang=en>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'.

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education

**P-05-802 Protecting Class Sizes in Design and Technology Classrooms and Workshops – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 07.02.18**

Thank you for your e-mail on the 28/2, which included a copy of Ms Kirsty Williams AM's letter to Mr David John Rowlands AM relating to the petition in question.

Firstly I would like to thank Ms Williams for her time in replying, and for giving this important matter her attention. I would like to make a few short comments in relation to her letter.

1. I accept that Health and Safety is not devolved to the Welsh Government, but in this particular case of protecting pupils within Design and Technology Workshops and Classrooms, there is an element of the protection and well-being of children, which I believe is a matter devolved to the National Assembly for Wales.
2. I also accept that the responsibility for the health and safety of pupils lies with the governing bodies of schools, but it is evident that many governing bodies are happy for class sizes to be in excess of the guidelines set out in BS4163:2014 – a code of practice that is recognised by the HSE and quoted on their website.  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/woodworking/standards.htm>
3. I'm pleased that Ms Williams states that "It is expected that schools will follow guidance on health and safety issued by the HSE". In essence this is exactly what is requested by this petition, that the Welsh Assembly ensures that this happens in all schools across Wales. This is already the case in Scotland – Schools (Scotland) code 1956 Regulation 15(2) – and in Northern Ireland – Regulation 15 of the Secondary School (Grant Conditions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973, where student numbers in practical subjects are capped at 20. This information is listed in BS4163:2014 – Section 9.1
4. As regards the number of pupils that may be taught in a school or school work area, this detailed guidance for Design and Technology areas is set out in DfES document Building Bulletin 81, as linked to from the 21st Century Schools website :  
<http://21stcenturyschools.org/guidance/schooldesign/design-guidance-by-schools/secondary/basicteachingindex/designandtechno/?lang=en>  
In fact, Building Bulletin 81 recommends a maximum class size of 18 for secondary schools with a 10% D+T element in KS3+4 – see page 20

In essence, the aim of this petition is to ensure that our students are taught in as safe an environment as possible, whilst gaining the best possible experiences from their Design and Technology education whilst at school. This in my opinion can only be ensured if the Welsh Assembly make sure that all recommendations within BS4163:2014 (and any subsequent versions) are adopted in full by all schools in Wales.

A particular case that remains at the forefront of my mind is of a student that had to have a finger amputated due to a horrific accident with a belt sander in a school in Islington Borough Council in 2014. This sad event should have never happened, and would not, had all recommendations in BS4163:2014 been adhered to.

<http://press.hse.gov.uk/2017/london-council-fined-after-school-injury/?ebul=hsegen&cr=5%2F02-mar-17>

Many Thanks for your time in considering this issue.

Yours Sincerely  
Aled Dafis

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Good morning, following my previous e-mail i would like to add the following information to further support my petition.

The Design and Technology Association (DATA) has long supported the notion that class sizes should be limited to a maximum of 20 pupils. Their website clearly describes what is expected in terms of the guidance set out in BS4163:2014  
<https://www.data.org.uk/for-education/health-and-safety/maximum-number-of-pupils-taught-within-dt-workshops-and-studios/>

The page is clear in it's entirety, but I believe that the closing passage is particularly pertinent

"There is often an assumption that because an issue is described as 'advice' or 'not mandatory' that employers and employees can regard them as 'optional' or indeed ignore them. Where a formal, written risk assessment has been carried out in accordance with HSE and other professional requirements, proper regard and action needs to be taken as appropriate to the level of risk identified. Should an employer or employee fail to do what is reasonably practicable and an accident or incident occur which may be found to be partially or wholly contributory to any injury sustained, they may be found culpable."

Many thanks again for your time in discussing this important issue.

Yours sincerely

Aled Dafis

# Agenda Item 2.2

**P-05-803 Our natural world is being poisoned by single use plastics...it's time to introduce a tax!**

This petition was submitted by Friends of Barry Beaches having collected 102 signatures online.

## **Text of Petition**

The evidence is there for those who want to see...our addiction to single use "throw away" plastic is poisoning our natural world.

Sea birds are eating plastics, fish are eating plastics, shell fish are eating plastics and we, therefore, are eating plastics.

The production of single use plastics are increasing year upon year, yet only 9% of plastics are recycled in the world.

Since large scale production of plastics began in the 1950's, we have produced 8.3 billion tonnes...equivalent to the weight of one billion African elephants! And that figure is expected to reach 34 billion tonnes by 2050!!

None of this plastic has biodegraded over this time, its just got smaller and smaller, making it nearly impossible to remove!

We urge the Welsh Government to introduce a tax on all single use plastics similar to the very successful 5p charge on single use carrier bags.

It's time to take action.

## **Additional Information**

Friends of Barry Beaches are a voluntary group, set up seven years ago, who's aim is to remove litter, much of it plastic, from Barry's five main beaches. We strive to recycle as much as we can.

We need to design our packaging and single use containers so that they biodegrade easily within our environment.

## **Assembly Constituency and Region**



- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

## P-05-803 Single Use Plastic Tax

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 13 Mawrth 2018  
Petitions Committee | 13 March 2018

### Research Briefing:

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Petition number: P-05-803

Petition title: Our natural world is being poisoned by single use plastics...it's time to introduce a tax!

Text of petition: The evidence is there for those who want to see...our addiction to single use 'throw away' plastic is poisoning our natural world.

Sea birds are eating plastics, fish are eating plastics, shell fish are eating plastics and we, therefore, are eating plastics.

The production of single use plastics are increasing year upon year, yet only 9% of plastics are recycled in the world.

Since large scale production of plastics began in the 1950s, we have produced 8.3 billion tonnes...equivalent to the weight of one billion African elephants! And that figure is expected to reach 34 billion tonnes by 2050!!

None of this plastic has biodegraded over this time, it's just got smaller and smaller, making it nearly impossible to remove!

We urge the Welsh Government to introduce a tax on all single use plastics similar to the very successful 5p charge on single use carrier bags.

It's time to take action.

### Background

Single use plastics, or disposable plastics, are designed to be used once and thrown away or recycled. They are typically items such as plastic bottles, drinking straws, coffee cups and take-away food packaging. Recent media coverage, notably the [BBC Blue Planet II](#) series, has highlighted the scale of plastic debris in our oceans as a result of our 'throw-away' culture. The impact of single use plastic on the marine environment is evidenced by its prevalence in

beach litter surveys. The [Marine Conservation Society's 2017 Beachwatch Report](#) showed “tiny bits of plastic were the most commonly found item” on beaches across the UK.

A 2017 report [Single Use Plastic and the Marine Environment](#) by [Eunomia](#) for [Seas at Risk](#), calculated the quantity of ‘on-the-go’ single use plastic waste “as these are most likely to escape normal waste collection systems”. Key findings from the research include:

- many of these items either do not need to be made from plastic (e.g. glass and paper alternatives exist), while others are used unnecessarily (e.g. drinking straws);
- measures to reduce plastic consumption enjoy a high level of public support, which increases after the measures are implemented;
- solutions to reduce consumption of single-use plastics exist, and have been running in multiple places around the world; and
- drastically reducing consumption of key single-use plastic items would effectively eliminate a major source of marine pollution in all of Europe’s seas.

The aim of a tax on single use plastic would be to encourage a reduction in its use. Waste policy (including recycling) is a devolved issue. As such, the UK Government develops policy for England and it is for the devolved administrations to develop and implement their own policies and approach, within the framework of the EU requirements. The Welsh Government’s [Towards Zero Waste strategy](#) (2010) sets out its policy in this area.

A tax on single use plastic would be in keeping with Welsh Government Towards Zero Waste Strategy by delivering on ministerial priorities toward developing a ‘[circular economy](#)’, where plastics never become waste and contribute positively to the economy.

### **Carrier bag charge**

Reducing consumption of single use plastic through taxation has already been delivered in Wales. On 1 October 2011 Wales became the first country in the UK to introduce a statutory requirement to charge on most single use carrier bags. Since then, Scotland, Northern Ireland and England have brought in similar approaches of charging shoppers a minimum of 5p per carrier bag used.

Originally the Welsh Government published a voluntary agreement which encouraged retailers to donate their net proceeds to good causes. However the [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#) now requires retailers to donate their net proceeds from the sale of carrier bags to charitable purposes which relate to environmental protection or improvement and, which directly or indirectly benefit the whole or any part of Wales. This is intended to mitigate against the impact of the use of the carrier bag.

In 2016 the Welsh Government published a [Post Implementation Review of the Single Use Carrier Bag Charge in Wales: Emerging Findings Report](#). The review found that:

- single use carrier bag use has declined by 71% since the change was introduced;

- a rise in the use of 'bags for life' and other reusable bags has meant an overall reduction in all bags of 57%;
- the net benefit of the single use carrier bag charge was between £28 million and £32 million; and
- as a result of the donations to good causes, it has been estimated that social benefits of between £27 million and £35 million have accrued through environmental, health and employment benefits.

## Developments in England

On 11 January 2017, the UK Government published its [25-Year Environment Plan for England](#), outlining ten goals for improving the environment using a 'natural capital' approach, including:

Work towards eliminating all avoidable waste by 2050 and all avoidable plastic waste by end of 2042.

A recent Research Service [blog](#) provides an overview of the plan, and discusses how it might impact Wales.

## Developments in China

Wales exported over 40,000 tonnes of waste last year to be recycled ([Plenary](#), 09 January 2018). A European Commission document [A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy](#) states "More than 85 % of the exported plastic waste is currently shipped to China". China's decision to impose tighter waste import controls, including stopping the import of plastic waste for recycling, forces Wales to be more proactive in reducing consumption of single use plastics.

[WRAP UK](#) explores what impact these restrictions will have for the UK in an [Open Letter on China's Waste Import Restrictions](#).

## Welsh Government action

On 14 March 2017, in response to a [plenary debate on recycling](#), the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children, Carl Sargeant AM, stated "a more radical approach like... additional charges or preventing the use of single-use food and drink containers" would be considered as part of the Towards Zero Waste policy refresh to be undertaken in 2018

In a [written statement](#) on 27 September 2017, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths AM, stated that "as a Government we accept more needs to be done to improve our recycling rate still further and tackle litter and the issues associated with a 'throw away' society and 'disposable' culture". She suggested that, in order to address this issue the aim should be to "prevent litter entering the environment in the first place", and to "to value the resources we all too often take for granted". She announced a study into Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to assess possible options, saying:

I have commissioned a study to assess possible interventions to increase waste prevention, increase recycling and reduce land and marine based litter. Producer responsibility schemes such as the current schemes in place in the UK will be included in the research. Deposit Return Schemes will also be included. The research will also assess the likely environmental, economic and social impacts of potential extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes, including any potential unintended consequences

The Minister for the Environment, Hannah Blythyn AM, answered questions from Members in [Plenary](#) on 17 January 2018 on the subject of plastic packaging, where she indicated the Welsh Government were awaiting the outcome of the EPR study before deciding how to proceed. The First Minister confirmed in [Plenary](#) on 09 January 2018 the outcome of the EPR study "...will report in February". At the time of writing this briefing the study had not been published.

The Welsh Government recently considered a disposable plastic tax as one of four [potential new taxes](#) to be introduced under the new powers contained in the [Wales Act 2017](#). The Welsh Government's [tax policy report](#) gives more detail on the shortlisting.

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Mark Drakeford AM, announced in a [Plenary statement](#) on 13 February 2018 that the disposable plastic tax would not be taken forward, a 'vacant land tax' having being chosen instead. He said:

UK Government will launch a call for evidence about how it will address the issue of single-use plastics, including through the use of tax. Whatever its merits, that announcement creates, I believe, a roadblock in the path of any Wales-only proposal.

In a Welsh Government statement delivered in [Plenary](#) on 27 February 2018, the Minister for the Environment discussed the Welsh Government's action on single use plastics:

And we have secured Wales' involvement in the UK Government's call for evidence about how it will address the issue of single use plastics, including through the use of tax.

Alongside this, we will continue to work on a potential standalone disposable plastics tax for Wales.

Following a 2016 [UK wide consultation](#) on banning the manufacture and sale of microbeads, a type of micro plastic, in wash-off cosmetics, the Welsh Government has [consulted](#) on how the ban should be carried out in Wales. In particular the consultation considered how the ban could be implemented and enforced in Wales. The consultation ended on 8 January 2018, the [summary of responses](#) document sets out the next steps:

If the Welsh Ministers approve the legislation the ban on the manufacture and sale of products containing plastic microbeads will come into effect from 30 June 2018.

More information on microbeads can be found in a 2017 Research Service [blog](#).

## National Assembly for Wales action

On 5 April 2017, Simon Thomas AM led a [Members Legislative Proposal debate on a Waste Reduction Bill for Wales](#). The motion focused on deposit return schemes, a ban or levy on

polystyrene (non-recyclable) packaging and placing new requirements on food producers and retailers to reduce unnecessary packaging.

The proposal received cross-party support, and the motion passed with 34 for, 0 against and 12 abstentions.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

Mark Drakeford AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-803  
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/00051/18

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

13 February 2018

*Deu David,*

Thank you for your letter informing me of the petition from The Friends of Barry Beaches in relation to taxing single use plastics. I have today announced my intention in relation to each of the four shortlisted taxes I set out on 3 October, which included a potential disposable plastics tax. There has been considerable interest in, and support for, a tax on disposable plastics in Wales.

Since the original shortlist, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the Autumn Budget that the UK Government will launch a call for evidence this year about how it will address the issue of single use plastics, including through the use of tax.

I have discussed the call for evidence with UK Treasury Ministers. As a result we have secured Welsh involvement in the process. The call for evidence will be published before Easter, and we will contribute to the analysis of the findings following the call for evidence, and share Welsh views on the development of policy options. Wales has the third best recycling rates in the world – we are at the forefront of the waste agenda and have much to offer in terms of our extensive experience and research capability.

We will also continue to work on a standalone disposable plastics tax for Wales. This remains an option for Wales and will be informed by the results of a study on extended producer responsibility, which the Minister for Environment is leading on, and I understand is due to report shortly. This study focuses on key commonly used food and drink related packaging types and includes an analysis of deposit return schemes and taxes.

Best wishes,

Mark.

**Mark Drakeford AM/AC**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance



# Agenda Item 2.3

## **P-05-804 We need Welsh Government funding for play!!**

This petition was submitted by RAY Ceredigion having collected 328 signatures online.

### **Text of Petition**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to provide annual designated funding to provide financial support to all Local Authorities in fulfilling their duty in line with their Play Sufficiency Assessments in order to avoid further closure of open access play provision such as RAY Ceredigion

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Ceredigion
- Mid and West Wales

## Briefing for the Petitions Committee

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 13 Mawrth 2018

Petitions Committee | 13 March 2018

### Research Briefing: We need Welsh Government funding for play

Petition number: P-05-804

Petition title: **We need Welsh Government funding for play**

Text of petition: We call on the National Assembly for Wales to provide annual designated funding to provide financial support to all Local Authorities in fulfilling their duty in line with their Play Sufficiency Assessments in order to avoid further closure of open access play provision such as RAY Ceredigion.

#### Legal position

Wales was the first country to legislate for children's play, under the [Children and Families \(Wales\) Measure 2010](#). Section 11 of the Measure requires local authorities to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in its area for children and to secure sufficient play opportunities, so far as reasonably practicable. Local Authorities are also required to publish information about play opportunities in their areas and keep this information up to date.

To support Local Authorities to undertake their duties, the Welsh Government produced [Wales: A Play Friendly Country, Statutory Guidance](#) on assessing for and securing sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas. The guidance gives details as to the nine matters which local authorities need to take account of in this regard. It does not specifically reference funding. One of these 'matters' relates to 'Charges for play provision'. It includes the following:

Play opportunities in open spaces and outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces (Matter C) will, other than in exceptional circumstances, be free of charge to children and any accompanying adults. Supervised provision both for playwork provision and structured recreational activities (Matter D) may incur a cost to children and their families. This could be through voluntary contributions, entry charges and payment or subscriptions for activities. A further cost could be for transport to these opportunities (Matter F). Any charges will clearly affect whether a wide range of play opportunities are available for all children and therefore the sufficiency of provision for a particular area. It should

be appreciated that even relatively small costs for low income families with several children can mean that opportunities are not available to these children.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should show which play opportunities involve a charge and the amount of that charge. It should take into account the extent to which any charges

affect the sufficiency of play opportunities for:-

- Children living in low income families.
- Children living in areas of deprivation.
- Children living in rural areas.
- Disabled children or children with particular needs.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment and Play Action Plans should show the extent to which Local Authorities take charges into account for these children and their families and the measures used to mitigate these circumstances including:

- Provision of no cost opportunities for children to play.
- No or low charges for Local Authority premises used for play provision.
- **Grants or subsidies for play providers. [Bold is our emphasis]**
- Subsidised transport costs for children travelling to play opportunities.

Information of no or low cost play provision will be accessible via the Family Information Service available in each local authority area.

## Ceredigion's Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan

The website of the Family Information Service includes a [summary of the Play Sufficiency Assessment for 2016](#) alongside [Ceredigion's Play Action Plan 2017-19](#). The summary document states:

A lack of funding or capacity resulted in some deterioration, for example:

In 2013 the Local Authority was working in partnership with RAY Ceredigion to deliver the Child's Play project and "offer play provision which offers a rich play environment." The Child's Play project enabled a high level of excellent play provision across the county. Play provision was severely compromised when the Child's Play project ended in December 2014. (Status changed from Green to Amber)

Conclusion

We are making slow and steady progress towards the provision of sufficient play opportunities for children and young people in Ceredigion despite the current economic climate.

It goes on to say:

We will now be looking to the future and linking our Play Sufficiency Assessment requirements to the development of the new Wellbeing Plans required under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act. This gives us an opportunity to re-position play within the wider wellbeing agenda as part of the Public Service Board priorities.

## Welsh Government funding for play

Funding for local authority play provision primarily comes from the Revenue Support Grant but there is also grant funding provided to some national organisations. Further detail is set out below:

### Revenue Support Grant

The [Welsh Government's website](#) states:

Well over 80 per cent of local authority spending is met from support provided to local authorities in the form of Revenue Support Grant (RSG), non-domestic rates and a variety of grants provided for specific policy purposes in areas such as education and transport.

It also states:

The Welsh Governments distributes RSG to local authorities using a commonly agreed formula. Local authorities are responsible for deciding how they spend their allocation of RSG on the services for which they are responsible, which includes schools. **The underlying principle of the local government settlement is that funding is not earmarked for particular services. The Welsh Government does not set targets for local authority expenditure. [Bold is our emphasis]**

### Welsh Government grant funding

In November 2018, as part of scrutiny of the Draft Budget 2018–19, the Welsh Government provided a [paper](#) to the Children, Young People and Education Committee. In respect of funding for play it referred to:

Providing local authorities with **£2.3m** funding each year since 2012 to support local authorities to meet gaps identified through their childcare sufficiency assessments and their play sufficiency assessments.

Referring to past funding it outlined that the Children and Families Delivery Grant (CFDG) from October 2014 to 30 September 2017. One aim of this grant was to increase opportunities for children in Wales to play. The grant for play awarded to Groundwork Wales ended in September 2017. The grant for Play Wales were extended to March 2018. The Welsh Government explain:

Wales was the first country to place play on a statutory basis in recognition of its significant contribution to children and young people's physical, social and cognitive development and wellbeing. Play Wales has a strategic role in supporting local authorities to deliver their statutory duties in relation to play and in supporting the Welsh Government to take the play agenda forward in Wales. It was in recognition of this that I decided to extend the funding for Play Wales beyond September 2017 for a further 6 months, bringing the total amount of funding to £360k in 2017–18. I am currently considering a business plan to provide future support to Play Wales from 2018–19 onwards.

## RAY Ceredigion

[Ray Ceredigion](#) is a registered charity which runs a range of activities for children. The Charity Commissions [website](#) states:

RAY Ceredigion supports children and young people out of school and those that work or volunteer with them including in open access play and childcare settings. We work to increase understanding of and to support children and young people's right to play, leisure and recreation. RAY Ceredigion covers the county of Ceredigion in West Wales.

The website also states that its income in the year ending March 2017 was £194.5K compared to an income in February 2014 of £406.1K. Its [Statement of Financial Activities](#) in the year ending March 2017 provides further details of this income.

## National Assembly for Wales

The Children and Young People Committee of the Third Assembly published a [report on Safe Places to Play and Hang Out](#) in 2010.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.



Eich cyf/Your ref Petition P-05-804  
Ein cyf/Our ref HID/00120/18

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

5 March 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 9 February seeking my views on the petition instigated by RAY Ceredigion about funding to support local authorities to meet their play sufficiency duties in line with their Play Sufficiency Assessments.

In November 2012, the Welsh Government commenced the first part of the duty under section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010, Play Opportunities for Children. This part of the duty requires local authorities to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities for children in their areas, in accordance with regulations. The Play Sufficiency Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2012 set out the requirements of the assessments and the matters they need to take into account.

Welsh Ministers commenced the second part of this legislation on 1 July 2014, which places a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas, so far as reasonably practicable, having regard to their assessments. The duty also requires local authorities to publish and keep up to date information about play opportunities for children in their areas.

The Welsh Government places great value on play and its importance in the lives of children in our society. Children have a fundamental right to be able to play. It is central to their enjoyment of life and contributes to their health and well-being.

We have demonstrated our commitment by the allocation of just under £5 million since 2013-14 to support local authorities to meet their play sufficiency duties. I am pleased to report that local authorities have been able to provide significant benefits to their communities through the use of the funding. Ceredigion County Council has allocated approximately £35,000 from this funding to RAY Ceredigion for the provision of play sessions throughout this period. This includes the allocation of £7,155 under the Welsh Government's All Wales Play Opportunities Grant during the current financial year.

RAY Ceredigion has also benefitted from our Families First funding, receiving approximately £112,000 to provide play sessions for Ceredigion County Council since 2013-14. The organisation has recently been invited by the Council to quote for services in 2018-19 under the grant.

Local authorities also have the discretion to use their Welsh Government Out of School Childcare Grant funding for play-related purposes. The Out of School Childcare grant contributes to the delivery of a range of Welsh Government priorities, outlined in the Early Years & Childcare Plan and the Tackling Poverty Action Plan. It supports local authorities in offering sufficient out of school childcare in their local area. This enables better outcomes to be achieved for the people of Wales.

In utilising this funding, local authorities should address the needs of their local population and are encouraged to:

- identify and meet gaps in provision based on the results of their Childcare Sufficiency Assessments and Play Sufficiency Assessments;
- improve childcare and play provision; and
- support the childcare and play workforce with training as required.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw', with a horizontal line underneath it.

**Huw Irranca-Davies AC/AM**

Y Gweinidog Gofal Cymdeithasol a Phlant  
Minister for Children and Social Care

☎  
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📞  
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RAY CEREDIGION

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## PETITION submitted 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### We need Welsh Government funding for play!!

“

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to provide annual designated funding to provide financial support to all Local Authorities in fulfilling their duty in line with their Play Sufficiency Assessments in order to avoid further closure of open access play provision such as RAY Ceredigion

”

### Message of Petition

£20 million was invested in play across Wales under the Big Lottery Child's Play programme creating 10 infrastructure projects - £1 million was invested in Ceredigion. Of these 10 infrastructure projects 3 remain shortly to become 2 as RAY Ceredigion faces closure. As the timeline below shows the Childs Play project was a project shaped by the Welsh Government to deliver on Welsh Government strategy.

This highlights 2 failures on behalf of Welsh Government:

1. A failure of Welsh Government to secure the play provision created under the Child's Play programme DESPITE an increase in legislation supporting a sufficiency of play. In fact since the Child's Play project play provision in Wales has DECREASED, for example all 7 open access play sites in Cardiff have CLOSED, and the world renowned open access play delivered in Wrexham fights for survival
2. A failure on behalf of Welsh Government to fund the duty imposed on local authorities to provide sufficiency of play provision other than irregular and inconsistent amounts of underspend which allow local authorities a matter of weeks to allocate (eg this year some local authorities have turned down this money due to the difficulties of the timescale within which it is offered) – this has been counted by Minister Iwan Rhys-Iwan in his letter of 05-03-2018 as if it was planned spend that local authorities could rely on. Instead this type of unreliable 'last minute' funds mitigates against a sustainable source of finance for play and in no way compensates for secure designated funds for play. Families First funding is mentioned by Minister Iwan Rhys-Iwan in his letter, and we have been fortunate to be able to use this for play sessions in Ceredigion – however this has been the only regular funding for play, and it has taken a certain amount of 'programme bending' to enable this which in many counties has not been replicated – Families First funding for play is not universal and is not a reliable income stream as guidelines are interpreted differently on the links between Families First and play across Wales.

Children in Wales are not being best served by the Welsh Government and we call on members to work towards funding this element of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure in future annual budgets.



# Background to Petition - Play Timeline in Wales

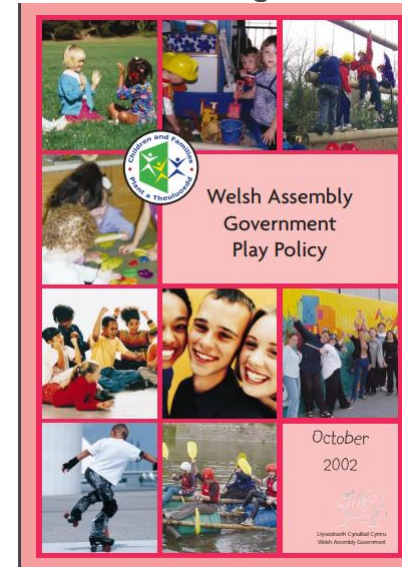
## 2002 Welsh Assembly Government Play Policy

<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/3291781/?lang=en>

The Policy was announced in a plenary session of the Welsh Government on 22 October 2002, and believed to be the first in the world.

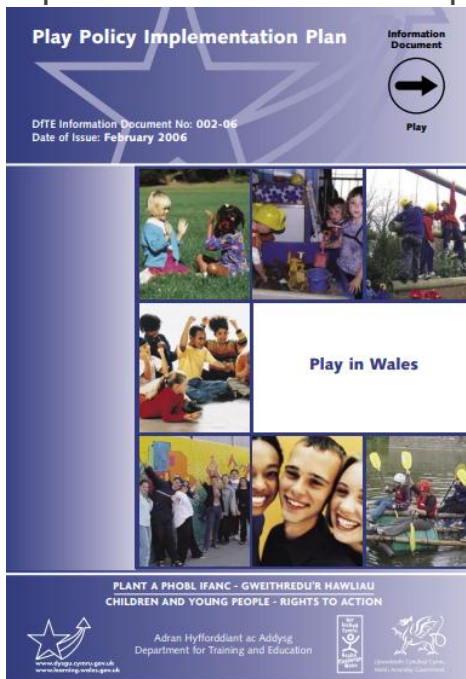
Jane Hutt, Minister for Children in Wales, spoke to the Government:

*At all levels of government we should consider the impact of our decisions on children's opportunities to play ... The Assembly Government is committed to ensuring that all children have access to rich, stimulating play experiences, with safeguards from inappropriate risk ... ,*



## 2006 Welsh Government Play Policy Implementation Plan

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/departmental/sell/pdf/wellbeinghealth/Policy-Implementation-Plan-2006.pdf>



The Big Lottery Fund has consulted on priorities for its programmes, agreed with the Assembly Government. It is now developing a new programme on Children's Play and Active and Healthy Families that will • develop new and stimulating play opportunities for children; • promote the long-term strategic development of play provision across Wales; and • develop joined up approaches to promote healthy eating, exercise and play among children and families. The Programme has an overall budget of approximately £20 million, and will incorporate dedicated funds for play development and for new play provision. Action: The Big Lottery Fund will work with the Welsh Assembly Government and key stakeholders working on play and healthy lifestyles to ensure that the programme meets local and national priorities and has a clear strategic impact. (Page 7)

## 2007 – 2015 Big Lottery Healthy Families programme: Child's Play

Promoting healthy and active lifestyles among children and families

<https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/wales/healthy-families-childs-play>

Healthy Families



£20 million across Wales – 10 projects covering all 22 local authorities with only Powys and Ceredigion permitted to apply as single counties, all other counties had to apply as a bi or tri county projects – this was to recognise how far behind we were in developing a play service.

Ceredigion received £1 million between 2008 and 2014, RAY Ceredigion lead applicant on behalf of county, RAY established and managed the first team of playworkers, resourced them with vehicles, training, equipment etc. No continuation funds available at the end of the project in December 2014 – leading to loss of 7 of the 10 original projects

## 2010 Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2010/1/pdfs/mwaen\\_20100001\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2010/1/pdfs/mwaen_20100001_en.pdf)

‘The Welsh Government recognises that to achieve its aim of creating a play friendly Wales and to provide excellent opportunities for our children to play it is necessary for local authorities, their partners and other stakeholders to also work towards this purpose. Therefore a section on Play Opportunities was included in the [Children and Families \(Wales\) Measure 2010](#).

The Play Sufficiency Duty comes as part of the Welsh Government's anti-poverty agenda which recognises that children can have a poverty of experience, opportunity and aspiration, and that this kind of poverty can affect children from all social, cultural and economic backgrounds across Wales.’

Section 11 of the Measure places a duty on local authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their area.

*Gill Byrne, 06-03-2018*

# Agenda Item 3.1

## **P-05-736 To Make Mental Health Services More Accessible.**

This petition was submitted by Laura Williams, which collected 73 signatures.

### **Text of the Petition**

To make mental health services more accessible the Government should ensure that no-one who approaches a mental health service should be turned away without help. Anyone who goes to their GP or any other health care professional who is experiencing a mental health problem should be automatically referred to the crisis team who should act immediately. The onus should not be on the individual to contact the Crisis Team on their own. There should also always be a one to one therapy option, rather than group therapy.

Many people will know I haven't had an easy time with life or with mental illness; I suffer with depression, anxiety, PTSD and OCD. Recently, I've hit rock bottom and have screamed for help but have been let down by mental health services who I thought would help, instead they have let me down majorly.

I want my experience to help others around Wales and to get the help they need.

### **Assembly constituency and Region.**

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

**P-05-736 To Make Mental Health Services More Accessible –  
Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee, 06.03.18**

Hi Kayleigh,

This is a bit long but here's my feed back from what I watched and read in the transcript

What I heard was unbelievable all I've heard is let's chuck money at these services. I also heard him say "I'm trying to be sensitive about her situation" there are many others who are also in a sensitive situation.

Vaughan getting AM said we're investing in crisis care when? And how much? How is he going to make sure these services are properly improved.

He then goes on to say next budget round will also go into trying to improve crisis care Aswell so he's gone back on his words that he first said. The whole mental health service needs reinvestment and new management strategy put in place to progress and develop these services.

It seems to me none of my questions were answered by the AM instead he kept going off topic and talking about money constantly.

As Janet said people are going into her office not 1 or 2 people but floods of people crying for help and they still are not getting the help.

There is lack of communication within the whole mental health service, people don't communicate letters get lost waiting times are longer than ever.

I have to wait 18 months to even see ptsd for any kind of treatment at the moment I'm waiting to be assessed again by them it's already been 4 months and I'm still waiting for an assessment.

I'm also back and for to hospital with constant panic attacks and none of the doctors understand if anything if you have another illness they go on to say oh that's related with your mental health when no it isn't.

A lot of doctors nurses gps police officers are not trained in mental health therefore do not understand our needs.

The system is still letting individual people down all you have to do is turn on the news and you will see how many suicides there are each year the rate is increasing year by year.

Gps need to start working with there patients instead of describing medication constantly if you spoke to 20 mental health patients 19 of them would be on medication because the doctor does not know how to deal with it.

To get even assessed by charities like mind it's a 12 month waiting list cruse bervemeant is even longer.

When you go to see a gp they should see the warning signs of a mental health patient.

Instead they do not see the warning signs and leaflets are given.

I want crisis care leaflets to be stopped I don't want the patient to ring crisis care themselves I want the gps to on behalf of the patient if they see the patient struggling.

I feel like the AM hasn't really read my petition and what I want changing instead he's going off what's he's seen and heard.

I'm the meeting I heard since my petition there has been quite a few petitions handed in about mental health services this just shows how many people are being let down by the whole service.

I want this petition to go further. And I want people to understand my petition properly instead of money being chucked at these services and that's it.

I would like my petition debated and if possible I would like to also be there to speak up not just for me but for the many hundreds if not thousands in wales who are also suffering but scared to come forward and tell my story.

I can't thank you all enough for backing my petition all the way this is something that needs I be sorted sooner than later.

I look forward to hearing the outcome.

Laura Williams

# Agenda Item 3.2

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

This petition was submitted by Rhian Barrance having collected 5,717 signatures online.

## **Text of Petition**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to call for a resolution to ongoing negotiations between NHS Wales, the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group, the Welsh Health and Specialised Services Committee and Vertex Pharmaceuticals regarding access to the cystic fibrosis medicine, Orkambi, as a matter of the utmost urgency.

## **Additional Information**

418 people in Wales have cystic fibrosis (CF). CF is a life-shortening, inherited disorder. The median age at death for a person with CF in 2016 was just 31 years of age. CF is caused by mutations in the CFTR gene which result in the build-up of thick, sticky mucus in the lungs and other organs. Gradually, this build up causes chronic lung infections and progressive lung damage. The treatment burden for a person with CF is high and daily life can be a struggle.

Orkambi is a precision medicine that 40% of people in the UK with CF could benefit from. While conventional CF treatments target the symptoms, precision medicines tackle the underlying genetic mutations that cause the condition. Though Orkambi is not a cure, it has been found to slow decline in lung function – the most common cause of death for people with CF – by 42%.

In July 2016, the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) recognised Orkambi as an ‘important treatment.’ They were, however, unable to recommend the drug for use within the NHS on grounds of cost effectiveness and a lack of long-term data.

In June 2017, the Cystic Fibrosis Trust organised a day of national protest at the Senedd, Stormont, Holyrood, Downing Street and online to demand an end to the deadlock. Since the protests, the Welsh Health and Specialised

Services Committee (WHSSC) have presented the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) with the portfolio approach developed by the drug's manufacturer, Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to call for a resolution to these ongoing negotiations between NHS Wales, the AWMSG, WHSSC and Vertex Pharmaceuticals as a matter of the utmost urgency. It is essential that a fair and sustainable method of reimbursement is found for Orkambi and for the exciting pipeline of future treatments.

People in Wales have been waiting too long for this transformative drug. They deserve better.

**Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

Vaughan Gething AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau  
Cymdeithasol  
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Our ref VG/00375/18

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

[government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

21 February 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your further letter of 31 January regarding Petition P-05-797 about access to the cystic fibrosis medicine, Orkambi® (lumacaftor/ivacaftor).

As I noted in my earlier letter, the All-Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) has repeatedly contacted the pharmaceutical company, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, and has strongly encouraged them to make a submission to the AWMSG for appraisal. Whilst Vertex has agreed in principle to submit clinical data for appraisal by AWMSG, they have not committed to any firm date for doing so. If the manufacturer refuses to provide evidence about how well their medicine works, AWMSG cannot appraise it and cannot therefore issue a recommendation to make the medicine routinely available or not.

My officials have informed AWMSG that additional longer term clinical data appears to be available and AWMSG will contact Vertex again, as a matter of urgency, and ask them once again to submit their evidence.

Yours sincerely,

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre  
0300 0604400  
[Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

**Pack Page 70**

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.



# Cystic Fibrosis our focus

## e-Petition: Ensure access to the cystic fibrosis medicine, Orkambi, as a matter of urgency

1. Orkambi is only one of a new class of medicines for cystic fibrosis. These new precision medicines work in a completely different way to today's treatments. Today's treatments are indiscrete, aggressive, and take between three and five hours out of each and every day. Tomorrow's treatments could be different. Accessing Orkambi a critically important next step in revolutionising cystic fibrosis care into a genuinely stratified and personalised model. By 2020, it is estimated that 90% of cystic fibrosis patients could be eligible for new precision medicines. Yet, we have been waiting for two and a half years for this next step. Patients still cannot access Orkambi. We have been waiting whilst people's health, life expectancy and quality of life are declining. Last year, the median age of death for people with cystic fibrosis was 31 years.
2. There has been no process and no sign of progress for the hundreds of people with CF who could benefit in Wales. To date no-one has been held accountable for securing access to these new treatments in Wales since NICE appraised Orkambi in July 2016. The correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary states that the manufacturer of Orkambi, Vertex has, as yet, failed to engage with the AWMSG to the detriment of patients. We need our representatives to publicly hold Vertex to account if this is true. We need debate in a public forum to show that the Welsh government is actively driving forward a deal on behalf of Welsh citizens.
3. This month Vertex submitted new Patient Access Schemes to NHS England and NHS Scotland for access to precision medicines for cystic fibrosis. In addition to Orkambi, it could include access to Symdeko, the next precision medicine

for cystic fibrosis – approved by the FDA two weeks ago and due for EMA marketing authorisation this month. We are informed the approach has secured access in the Republic of Ireland and the Netherlands. However, we have heard nothing as to whether this approach is being considered in Wales, or if Vertex have made this offer for patients in Wales.

4. There is a strong mandate for this petition. In addition to the 5715 people who signed this e-petition before it closed in December 2017, over 12,000 people from Wales have signed a separate community led petition to secure UK access to precision cystic fibrosis medicines. Westminster MPs are debating this issue on Monday 19 March. However, it is the Welsh government who can secure access for the patients in Wales represented by those 12,000 signatories. Only Wales can negotiate and secure a Welsh solution for Welsh patients. We need public debate about how we will transform cystic fibrosis care in the future.

## **Cystic Fibrosis**

Cystic fibrosis is a life-shortening genetic condition that affects over 10,400 people in the UK. The condition primarily affects the lungs and digestive system. The condition requires a huge burden of daily treatments including nebulisers, physiotherapy and pills to help control symptoms. Children and adults with cystic fibrosis spent on average 3–5 hours on treatment every day.

Last year, half of all people who died with cystic fibrosis were **under the age of 31**.

## **Precision Medicines**

Standard cystic fibrosis treatment aims to lessen symptoms and complications. However, progressive damage still occurs, meaning symptoms and complications increase with age.

Precision medicines tackle the underlying cause of cystic fibrosis rather than just managing the symptoms. Orkambi has been shown to slow decline in lung function

by 42% and cut the number of infections requiring hospitalisation by 61%. This gives people more control over their lives and greater quality of life.

## **Portfolio Approach**

This month Vertex submitted a new Patient Access Scheme to NHS England and NHS Scotland.

The offer is described by Vertex as a ‘portfolio approach’. We are informed the approach is similar to that adopted in the Republic of Ireland and the Netherlands. Vertex states this approach would allow access to existing and new Vertex medicines within a set budget for the NHS.

## **Using the UK CF Registry to deliver a fair deal**

The UK CF Registry is sponsored and managed by the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. The UK CF Registry offers population level coverage for people with cystic fibrosis in the UK. Anonymised, aggregated data from the registry are used as the evidence base for commissioning NHS care and post-marketing pharmacovigilance for the European Medicines Agency (EMA).<sup>1</sup>

In reimbursement decisions, the UK CF Registry could offer real world evidence of efficacy using observational comparative cohort models. The UK government could access this data, using it to inform a fair deal for cystic fibrosis medicines now and in the future.

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<sup>1</sup> Data Resource Profile: The UK Cystic Fibrosis Registry, Taylor-Robinson D, University of Liverpool. 2017.

# Agenda Item 3.3

## **P-05-757 Remove the Obligation on Schools to Hold Acts of Religious Worship**

This petition was submitted by Rhiannon Shipton & Lily McAllister-Sutton having collected 1,333 signatures.

### **Petition text:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to pass a law that removes the obligation on Schools to hold acts of religious worship.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region.**

- Cardiff South and Penarth
- South Wales Central

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-757 and P-05-765  
Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-(P) / KW/0145/18

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA  
[SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales)

22 February 2018

Dear David,

I wrote to you in August 2017 regarding the two petitions (P-05-757 and P-05-765) on the subject of collective worship in schools.

The question raised by the petitions concern some complex matters involving Human Rights, UNCRC and discrimination. Consideration of those matters is still on-going. I will provide a substantive response as soon as possible.

I will send you a further update in the coming months.

Yours sincerely

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

**P-05-757 Remove the Obligation on Schools to Hold Acts of Religious Worship – Correspondence from Richard Harris to the Committee, 05.03.18**

Dear Petitions Committee,

Given the YouGov poll of people's beliefs in the UK in December 2016 which gave the statistic that only 28% of adults believe in a god or higher power and that 38% do not believe in any god or higher power (atheist), with a further 20% believing in some sort of spiritual power not associated with the concept of a god or gods and the remaining 14% being unsure (agnostic), and that of that 28%, many of these will not be Christian; it seems inappropriate for our children to be subjected to Christian based daily collective worship at school by default. Given also that church attendance is likely to fall below 10% of the population within the next couple of years if it hasn't done so already (10.3% in 2013) there is clearly no justification for this rule other than the as a devious mechanism for the establishment to try to indoctrinate our children to get the church numbers back up.

Community spirit is something worth fostering in schools but it seems more culturally relevant to force them to sing Beatles songs than hymns. My child's school, without the need to inform us, invited a Pentecostal church to conduct its collective worship for them and given that this is a sect with practices (particularly glossolalia) considered controversial and not in keeping with the Bible's teachings by most mainstream Christians and with their rather archaic views on things like evolution and homosexuality, which go against accepted scientific thought and human rights laws respectively, I think is a real issue and a big oversight in transparency and judgement. Realising that the idea of collective worship is that it is non-denominational, there is no definition of what this means or how it is should be applied or controlled in the rules. Though an Ofsted inspector will make a judgement based on what is presented to them on that day, that is just their subjective opinion based on a potentially non-representative sample.

Collective worship is also taking valuable time out of the school day which could be used for more relevant and educational purposes. Given these points, if the establishment is still set to reject the idea of removing Collective Worship for an increasingly multicultural and atheistic/antitheistic population, then the awareness and transparency of activities should be increased and the default position should be non-attendance forcing schools to seek consent from parents and preventing secrecy and/or apathy from being the driver.

If church numbers are falling, maybe that is as a result of improved education as there has always been a direct correlation between level of education and likelihood

of believing in God and maybe it's time that this should at least be accepted as the direction of the modern world if not embraced as something that we can be proud of in the modern world.

Thank you for your consideration,

Richard Harris

# Agenda Item 3.4

## **P-05-765 Keeping Current Guidelines for Religious Assemblies**

This petition was submitted by Iraj Irfan, having collected a total of 2,231 signatures – 2,209 signatures online and 22 paper signatures in an alternative petition.

### **Petition text:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to keep religious assemblies in state schools in Wales as ‘opt-out’ and ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’, while considering ways to ensure that they continue to be relevant to people of different faiths and no faith.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central



**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-757 and P-05-765  
Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-(P) / KW/0145/18

Llywodraeth Cymru  
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National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA  
[SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales)

22 February 2018

Dear David,

I wrote to you in August 2017 regarding the two petitions (P-05-757 and P-05-765) on the subject of collective worship in schools.

The question raised by the petitions concern some complex matters involving Human Rights, UNCRC and discrimination. Consideration of those matters is still on-going. I will provide a substantive response as soon as possible.

I will send you a further update in the coming months.

Yours sincerely

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

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

# Agenda Item 3.5

## **P-05-788 Remove the compulsory aspect of Welsh BaccaLaureate**

This petition was submitted by Katharine Drinkwater having collected 60 signatures online.

### **Petition text**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to remove the compulsory aspect of the Welsh BaccaLaureate and review the structure of the course to ensure it is fit for purpose. Currently it includes a task that encourages underage gambling and fiscal irresponsibility.

Our children deserve the right to excel in a global arena. Around 70% of their studies are already compulsory subjects and the Welsh BaccaLaureate takes away opportunities from them as they cannot study all the subjects they want to pursue. This 'qualification' may cater to box ticking exercises but does not help Welsh students achieve their potential (please see excerpt from a WG report that follows). This will have a detrimental effect on the rest of their lives and future career prospects. Give children studying in Welsh schools the same opportunities as those from the other home nations and make Welsh education something to be proud of again.

### **Additional information**

The following is taken from The Welsh Governments own report into the WBQ (The Welsh BaccaLaureate Qualification, January 2015) states – The findings of WISERD's report were primarily two-fold. It concluded that the WBQ was enormously valuable in preparing young people for higher education, quite possibly due to the weighting given to it by the UCAS tariff. At the same time, the report supported a previous finding in a 2011 report specifically on Cardiff University that the WBQ Core was not equivalent to an A grade at A-level. Furthermore, it concluded that students with the WBQ were more likely to withdraw from university and less likely to achieve a 'good degree' which is defined as a First Class or Upper Second Class. The report argues that these two findings may be related. It concludes that having the WBQ seems to improve the probability of getting in to university, all other things being equal; but this advantage seems to come at the expense of successful university outcomes.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Islwyn
- South Wales East

Kirsty Williams AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf / Your ref  
Ein cyf / Our ref : MA(P)/KW/4648/17

Lynne Neagle AM  
Chair  
Children, Young People and Education Committee

23 January 2018

Dear Lynne,

I am happy to provide further information regarding the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (WBQ).

### The status of the Welsh Baccalaureate at post-16

I encourage schools and colleges to move towards universal adoption of the redesigned WBQ in two main ways: the wealth of supporting evidence and through planned performance measurement.

Firstly, the *Review of Qualifications for 14 to 19-year-olds in Wales*, Estyn<sup>1</sup> and *Qualifications Wales*<sup>2</sup> were clear that the WBQ is valuable - even more so where there is full adoption as there is often a broader range of activities in these colleges and schools for young people. The new WBQ Skills challenge Certificate is a Level 3 graded qualification and has added extra rigour to the qualification. The development of the WBQ was itself evidence-based and involved HEIs, employers and experts from across the UK. This approach is working and there is broad support for the WBQ. *Qualifications Wales* noted in their report in March last year that, '*In general, there is widespread support for the Welsh Baccalaureate and its aims of developing learners' skills and experiences for further study and employment.*'

Secondly, with regards to monitoring arrangements, as part of the planning and funding arrangements, the Welsh Government collects data on the planned WBQ take-up from local authorities and further education institutions and we monitor these figures through the year. In this process, I expect them to report to us on their approach to reaching full adoption by 2019/20.

---

<sup>1</sup> Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification provision at level 3 in secondary schools. Estyn, July 2012

<sup>2</sup> Review of the implementation of the new Welsh Baccalaureate from September 2015. *Qualifications Wales*,

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Therefore, we will expect the WBQ to be offered in the programmes of learning for all 16-19 learners. My predecessor issues a Ministerial Written Statement in 2014 noting a transition period with an expected year-on-year increase of take up. This has been further clarified in the guidance you noted to being full adoption to deliver the WBQ for enrolment in 2019/20.. Until then, we won't be imposing financial penalties for failure to meet this target. I have not yet reached a conclusion on the monitoring or incentivisation of the WBQ from 2019/20.

With respect to the 'where appropriate' point, the guidance document, *The post-16 Welsh Baccalaureate: recording and measuring outcomes* clearly notes that "...the aim is that those learners entering the post-16 Welsh Baccalaureate will be entered at **the appropriate level for the learner.**" My annual letter to the post-compulsory school sector outlining my priorities also makes clear the appropriateness of the WBQ. For instance, I would not expect learners to sit a post-16 WBQ at Level 2 if they have already achieved this level. I am happy to share this letter with the Committee.

Headteachers and principals are expected to use their professional judgement in determining the right learning programme for their learners, which will include considerations of the young person's well-being and their ability to reach their potential. There are no criteria that can accurately determine who these apply to beyond the exemptions in this guidance, and school and college leaders are best placed to reach those decisions.

In terms of future encouragement, as part of the new suite of post-16 performance measures, we will be including measures for WBQ achievement, although no final decision has yet been made on when these will be published for individual schools and colleges.

### The view of universities

The purpose of my letter to university vice-chancellors was to update them on changes on the WBQ to reassure them of the added rigour in the reformed qualifications. I did not request responses. Officials had previously tested the admissions policies with universities and their faculties, and I have asked officials to keep this updated. In the meantime, they are engaging with Russell group, and other, universities to brief and reassure admissions officers and respond to any questions regarding the value of the WBQ. UCAS note that phasing in of the WBQ as a national entitlement will increase take-up, meaning that admissions tutors will see a number of iterations of the Welsh Baccalaureate:

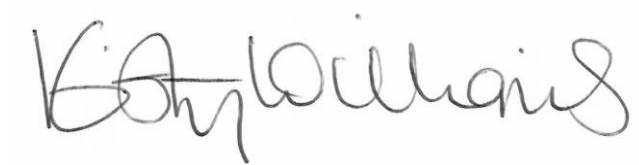
We know that a number of Russell Group universities, are clear that they value the WBQ and are taking an increasingly flexible approach to recognising it in their offers. Those that don't accept as a specific entry requirement still value it for the broader skills and experiences that it gives the young person, and it can enhance applications.

As a final point on this, I would remind the Committee that the value of the WBQ goes beyond university entry.

Qualifications Wales review

In March 2016, Qualifications Wales led and published their *Review of the implementation of the new Welsh Baccalaureate from September 2015*. Within that review was a recommendation for them to review how the Skills Challenge Certificate is assessed and structured. I understand that the review will be published in the new year. This evidence will help the Welsh Government keep the WBQ under review.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education

**P-05-788 Remove the compulsory aspect of Welsh Baccalaureate –  
Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee, 01.03.18**

Hi Graeme,

I know I sent through comments previously so you can certainly include those and I've added some below if that's easier for you.

The Minister is being disingenuous when she says children are 'encouraged' to study Welsh Bac, schools are judged on this qualification in the league tables so have little or no option other than to demand all students study the subject and do not give a choice to them, no one outside of education that I have spoken to has ever been made aware that it is not compulsory. As for the comment of "Let me reassure you that the current specifications for the Welsh Baccalaureate at Key Stage 4 and post 16 do not sanction any behaviour or content that is detrimental to learners' wellbeing; including gambling or the encouragement of fiscal irresponsibility."

I'm unsure if the Minister has ever looked at the tasks being set, in my original petition statement I clarified that the first task set for my daughter asked the children to 'imagine you've won £1000 on a scratchcard and plan a fun day' – how is 'imagined' gambling and the subsequent frittering of what is, in scratchcard wins, a highly unlikely large sum of money.

If the Welsh Bac is indeed only 'encouraged' then parents and children must be made aware of this fact and MUST be able to decline to study it. And for those children who do decide that this subject will enhance their education and future prospects, the content must be examined to ensure that nothing is included that could cause them difficulties in the future.

I am very happy to join you in a session if you would like any further detail or clarification of any point.

Graeme, if you need anything else or are unsure of anything, please let me know, thank you for your help,

Very best wishes

Katharine

# Agenda Item 3.6

## P-05-789 Review support for asylum seekers accessing further education

This petition was submitted by Gulnar Sohail having collected 78 signatures online.

### **Petition text:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to review the Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA), the Financial Contingency Fund (FCF) and the Welsh Government Learning Grant (WGLG) to allow for more asylum seekers to be able to participate in further education.

### **Additional information:**

In these difficult times when inflation is on the rise and daily items getting more and more expensive for UK citizens too, it is almost impossible for asylum seekers to progress further in their higher / access education. We (Asylum seekers) are just given just over £5 a day from Home Office and from this amount they have to buy food, clothing, daily transport costs and the list is ongoing. Even if we try somehow (by cutting down on food or any other important things) the transportation cost for the whole course including any other charges like registration, child care are just too much to digest. My point is that there should be no discrimination between an asylum seeker and any other person living in Wales if both are trying to go to college for higher education / access courses. If a Welsh person is getting FCF and WGLG then an asylum seeker should also receive these both or any other related help which will enable them to move forward in their lives. Because of previously mentioned costs I have seen so many asylum seekers turned down their plans to go for higher education. It also means that they will be doing nothing fruitful as work is not permitted and sitting at home will make them more frustrated. I also would like to mention a recent example when a destitute (whose asylum case is refused and his / her cash support and house from Home Office has been withdrawn) has committed suicide. He was living in this situation for some time and he was not able to make use of his life. I believe if he was given an opportunity he might not have gone that far. Enabling more asylum seekers into education will not only give them some purpose for life but it will also enrich the community where they live. After all when we get our residence permit we will be independent and free to



work and this education will help us in many ways to shape our families and communities in much better ways.

**Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Swansea East
- South Wales West



## Welsh Refugee Council

120 – 122 Broadway  
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Phone: 02920 489 800 | Fax: 02920 432 999

David J Rowlands AC/ AM  
Cadeirydd/ Chair  
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru  
Bae Caerdydd  
Caerdydd  
CF99 1NA

27<sup>th</sup> February 2018

### **Petition P-05-789 Review support for asylum seekers accessing further education**

Dear Mr Rowlands,

Further to your letter dated the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2017, I am writing to provide the Welsh Refugee Council's view on the matter raised by Gulnar Sohail in his petition, "support for asylum seekers accessing further education".

The Welsh Refugee Council believes that people seeking asylum should have access to further education, as access to further education contributes to health, integration and community cohesion outcomes. In line with Prosperity for All and with our national Wellbeing objectives, we believe that young people should be supported to make the most of their potential and that we should be rewarding ambition and encouraging learning for life. Barriers to such should be addressed and access to further education should not be inhibited by an individual's economic background.

In the last quarter of 2017, there were approximately 2,888 asylum seekers living in Wales<sup>1</sup>. Asylum seekers in the United Kingdom have no right to work, no recourse to public funds, with those claiming support under Section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act entitled to a weekly allowance of £36.95. This allowance can be terminated abruptly, contributing to the problem of destitution amongst people seeking asylum, to which Gulnar Sohail refers in petition.

The Welsh Refugee Council hold that, even when it is available, Section 95 support is insufficient to allow a person seeking asylum to meet the costs of attending Further Education. In January 2018 the

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<sup>1</sup> Data taken from the number of asylum seekers claiming support under Section 95 of the 1999 Immigration and Asylum Act. Office of National Statistics. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2017-data-tables>

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#### **Wrexham**

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UK Registered Charity No: 1102449  
Company Number: 4818136



Welsh Refugee Council ran a focus group in partnership with Swansea City of Sanctuary on the theme of 'access to education', at which a number of people seeking asylum were present. When asked whether they were able to access Further Education, participants replied that the combined costs associated with accessing college, including travel; course registration fee; resources (including books and stationery); exam fees; and childcare, often rendered enrolling on a Further Education course financially unviable.

The Welsh Refugee Council considers access to Further Education for people seeking asylum to be essential to successful integration in Wales. As people seeking asylum have no right to work, many have ambition to study in order to occupy their time constructively as they await a decision on their case. For people seeking asylum for whom English is not a first language, access to Further Education and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes is an essential component of their integration into local communities. The Welsh Refugee Council are particularly concerned that young people aged 16-19 may not be enrolling in Further Education due to the associated costs, and that their lack of participation at Further Education level may significantly impact their future prospects for employment and enrolment in Higher Education.

If we are to realise the full potential of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, then we must harness the clear ambition and passion to learn that exists amongst communities of people seeking asylum and ensure that people have fair and equitable access to learning opportunities.

For the reasons listed above, the Welsh Refugee Council unilaterally supports calls to extend eligibility for the Welsh Government Learning Grant for Further Education and the Education Maintenance Allowance to people seeking asylum and living in Wales.

Access to further and higher education was recently raised at a meeting between members of the Welsh Refugee Coalition and Julie James AM. Julie James expressed interest in the issues outlined in this letter and particularly the call to extend the eligibility of EMA grants. Welsh Government agreed to explore this call, including costs, in more detail. Welsh Refugee Council support Welsh Government in this endeavour and would be happy to provide evidence and insights as and when these are helpful.

If you have any further questions or would like clarification or additional evidence related to the above, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Iona Hannagan Lewis  
Researcher – Education and Employment

on behalf of  
Salah Mohamed  
Chief Executive Officer



# Agenda Item 3.7

## **P-05-724 Rights to Primary Health Care in Welsh**

This petition was submitted by Cymdeithas yr Iaith, having collected 766 paper signatures.

### **Text of the Petition**

We call upon the Welsh Government to look again at the proposed Standards in the health field, to include primary health service providers such as surgeries and pharmacies, to ensure that people have full and robust rights in this all-important area.



Ein cyf/Our ref ARD/05457/16

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee.  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff Bay  
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government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

February 2018

*Dear John,*

I am pleased to take this opportunity to update the committee on the Welsh Government's response to petition P-05-724 – Rights to Primary Health Care in Welsh.

The petition was considered along with all the other responses to the consultation on the draft Welsh Language Standards (Health Sector) Regulations held between July and October 2016. In response to the concerns raised about primary care I have amended the Regulations so that, with the exception of standard 19 (a body making telephone calls), they now also apply to primary care services provided directly by local health boards. This will provide a clearer framework for the local health boards.

I do not consider it reasonable or proportionate to place standards on local health boards that would make them responsible for failures to comply by independent primary care providers. I therefore consider, with the agreement of the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services, the most reasonable and proportionate way of placing Welsh language obligations on independent primary care providers is through the contractual arrangements between them and local health boards. This will ensure a consistent approach for all contractors and will create obligations which are enforceable by local health boards. Officials will start discussions with the contractors' representative bodies to agree the obligations in due course.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I have laid the Welsh Language Standards (No.7) Regulations 2018 before the Assembly today.

*Yours Sincerely*  


**Eluned Morgan AC/AM**

Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes  
Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning

# Agenda Item 3.8

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

This petition was submitted by Peter Bamsey, having collected 531 signatures.

### *Text of the Petition*

*We the undersigned call upon the Welsh Government to use all levers at its disposal, including financial levers, to support the completion of a new power plant planned for Port Talbot steels works. The construction of this plant will create jobs and when it is operational it will reduce emissions, reduce Tata's running costs and help to safeguard vital jobs in the area.*

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Aberavon
- South Wales West



**P-04-688 TATA Steel Port Talbot Power Plant – Correspondence from the  
Petitioner to the Committee, 25.02.18**

Dear Kayleigh,

I would like the petition carried forward for two main reasons.

1. The building of a new power plant would drastically reduce air emissions into the town of Port Talbot.
2. The power plant would make the integrated plant more efficient and also secure the longevity of Steelmaking in Wales.

Best Regards

Mr.Bamsey

# Agenda Item 3.9

## P-05-690 Resurfacing of the A40 Raglan–Abergavenny Road

This petition was submitted by Sara Jones, having collected 22 signatures. The petition also collected 142 signatures on an alternative e-petition website

### *Text of the Petition*

*This petition calls on the Welsh Government to replace the old concrete surface on the A40 road from Raglan to Abergavenny with whispering tarmac.*

*The Noise Action Plan (2013-18) states that this road is a priority, after the consultation responses received and the measurements taken. Yet no progress has been made despite repeated calls from residents, the local County Councillor, Assembly Member and Member of Parliament.*

*We, the undersigned, state that this road should be given immediate priority, given the numerous concerns raised from both public and representatives and that it has been identified under the existing Welsh Government Noise Action Plan.*

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Monmouth
- South Wales East



Ein cyf/Our ref KS/00263/18

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee.

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

*Dear David,*

13 February 2018

Thank you for your letter of 25 January regarding P-05-690 Resurfacing of the A40 Raglan-Abergavenny Road.

Following completion of the Noise Action Plan Priority Area (NAPPA) assessments in 2012, the South Wales Trunk Road Agent (SWTRA) commissioned a study in June 2015 to review in further detail the 16 Priority 1 NAPPA sites, which includes several on this section of A40. The study concluded that:

'The sites assessed are all adjacent to concrete carriageways. Whilst a low noise surfacing inlay or overlay may prove to provide acceptable noise reduction, the existing condition of the concrete carriageways is questionable and so only a full reconstruction is deemed to provide a satisfactory long term solution. Due to the logistical challenges and costs associated with reconstructing relatively short sections of carriageway, it was considered that noise barriers would provide a simpler and less disruptive solution in the shorter term. This is discussed further in the Cost/Benefit Analysis section below.

Should a programme of concrete carriageway renewal be adopted by the Welsh Government, the current NAPPA sites would further benefit from the noise reducing properties of low noise surfacing. Therefore, this study focused mainly on the feasibility of noise barriers according to the topography of the site and the line of sight from the noise sensitive receptor to the road...'

The concrete carriageway sections have still not deteriorated to a point where full renewal or replacement is necessary. There are also difficulties with regards to the A40 in that laying an asphalt surface layer on top of the concrete surface is not feasible, as it would potentially require the redesign and full replacement of a number of the existing assets, including the safety barriers and carriageway drainage. An additional surface layer would also reduce the headroom clearance at a number of the bridges that cross the A40.

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

As noted in my previous response, noise fencing has been considered as part of an initial design assessment for noise mitigation at this location. However, mitigation measures are being implemented on a priority basis with progress dependent on available funding. The following link provides further information:

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/noiseandnuisance/environmentalnoise/noisemonitoringmapping/noise-action-plan/?lang=en>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a stylized flourish below the name.

**Ken Skates AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport

**P-05-690 Resurfacing of the A40 Raglan-Abergavenny Road -  
Correspondence from Nick Ramsay AM to the Committee, 05.03.18**

Dear Members of the Petitions Committee,

I understand that the Committee is once again due to consider a petition relating to noise levels from the concrete surface of the A40 dual carriageway in my constituency between Abergavenny and Raglan.

I wrote to the committee in May last year when the petition was first considered, and have set out my response at that time below. My constituents living close to the A40, and particularly in the village of The Bryn, are still of the firm view that a noise barrier is not an acceptable solution. They are requesting that the old concrete road surface is replaced with quieter "whisper tarmac".

I would be grateful if the views of my constituents, with whom I have campaigned for many years for a new road surface, are seriously considered.

My letter of last May is below:

"To the Petitions Committee

Meeting 23rd May 2017 Ref: FW P-04-690

I was disappointed to see a letter dated 2nd May 2017 from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure to Mike Hedges AM as Chair of the Petitions Committee (ref KS/01166/17) regarding the road surface on the A40 in my constituency.

I have been campaigning with constituents for many years for the old concrete surface of the A40 between Abergavenny and Raglan to be resurfaced to reduce noise levels for local residents. This remains one of the very few sections of noisy concrete Trunk Road surface in Wales, and needs to be resurfaced as a matter of priority. Following the results of the 2013-18 Noise Action Plan I was led to believe that the road was to be resurfaced at last, but we are still waiting for this to happen.

The Cabinet Secretary's letter of 2nd May 2017 refers to yet another noise survey and seems to imply that the work required to resurface the A40 between Raglan and Abergavenny is to be delayed yet again.

This matter deserves priority given the length of time this campaign has been running and in view of the previous findings and assurances provided to carry out resurfacing rather than other lesser noise mitigation schemes."

Kind regards

Nick

Nick Ramsay AM

**P-05-690 Resurfacing of the A40 between Abergavenny and Raglan –  
Correspondence from David T C Davies MP to the Committee, 07.03.18**

I understand the above petition, originally submitted in July 2016, is to be further discussed on Tuesday 13 March 2018.

Residents of The Bryn, Bryngwyn and smaller hamlets have been campaigning for over 10 years for the A40 between Abergavenny and Raglan to be resurfaced with 'whisper tarmac'. It is now 2018 and strong arguments remain for this stretch of trunk road to be treated as a priority case.

The excessive amount of tyre noise generated from the concrete A40 dual carriageway, which was built in 1981, is persistent (day and night) and invasive. It makes it impossible for local people to enjoy their gardens or even to sleep with windows open. There are further concerns that once the Heads of the Valleys widening scheme is complete, noise levels will get dramatically worse due to an even higher volume of traffic accessing the A465 via the A40.

While the Welsh Government seems to be favouring a limited form of noise barrier/fencing, this has been roundly rejected by all involved as being inappropriate and unlikely to resolve the whole problem. Any such barrier would be very weather dependent, as well as having to be extensive i.e. a mile or so in either direction of The Bryn on both sides of the carriageway, and similarly at Bryngwyn and other various points along the A40.

It remains the strong opinion of these affected and long-suffering communities that the only way to alleviate A40 noise pollution is to resurface the entire highway.

Regards David Davies

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David T.C. Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with some capital letters.

**David T C Davies MP  
Member for Monmouth**

**P-05-690 Resurfacing of the A40 Raglan-Abergavenny Road – Views of local residents**

I would like to register our feelings regarding the A40 bypass at The Bryn, Abergavenny, my husband was born and brought up at The Bryn and we have lived near the road for over 30years. The noise from the road is constant throughout the day and during the night until 3am when it stops for roughly an hour.

The noise during the day spoils our enjoyment of our garden during the summer when we can hear the traffic joining the A40 at the Hardwick roundabout and continues past our house at The Bryn for a number miles towards Raglan or visa versa. We are unable to hold conversations when in the garden and are unable to open our windows during the night because of the constant noise.

We would greatly appreciate having the road resurfaced with the whisper tarmac so that we can once again enjoy our garden.

Regards

---

Dear Sir or Madam

We understand that the above petition, that was submitted in July 2016 by Sara Jones our County Councillor, is to be further discussed on 13/03/2018. With this in mind, we understand that we are allowed to make further representations to you, prior to that date.

We have been campaigning and petitioning successive ministers in The Welsh Government for nearly 15 years, to have the section of dual carriageway between Raglan and Abergavenny resurfaced with "whisper tarmac", thereby reducing significantly, the level of road noise generated by traffic. This road was completed in 1981 and is made of concrete. This material generates an excessive amount of tyre noise when traffic travels over it. The two major causes being the "riffle" effect of the surface and the "thump" crossing expansion joints between the slabs of concrete, both creating excessive noise.

The road noise affect all the communities alongside the A40, as it is weather directional. The Bryn and Bryngwyn are the larger populations beside the A40 but there are many smaller hamlets and individual properties. All have to be treated as the whole, and in the same way.

The noise is constant day and night, affecting people's health. In summertime people find it impossible to sleep with windows open. We all entitled and have a right under European legislation to a "peaceful and quiet life". Penpergwm House is a Residential Home for the Elderly situated alongside the A40. Residents suffer a

great deal from excessive road noise. Any solution to the noise problem must ensure there needs are met.

The resurfacing of the A40 was given priority status in previous noise surveys and was confirmed in writing to our AM, Nick Ramsay, and our MP, David Davies. The progress was dependant on funding availability. We were all advised at the same time that any/all funds and any extra funds that may become available from other projects etc., would all go towards the dualling of the A40.

This statement was brought into question when funding was suddenly made available to the A55 project in North Wales!

Once this dualling scheme is complete, it will mean that the A40 is the second route/second choice route from the West Wales ports to London, the Midlands and the North, resulting in increased volumes of traffic and associated noise. Noise levels will increase!

The road noise is persistent and invasive, affecting peoples live and health and yet the Welsh Government does nothing except issue platitudes often through juniors, indicating that they have little interest and that we should just "put up with it". No minister has ever visited the site to evaluate the problem for themselves. They do not have to suffer the problem!

The only way to resolve the noise problem is to resurface the complete highway, from Abergavenny to Raglan, which would require major works, including problems with bridge clearances, drainage systems and crash barriers, etc., but it is the only realistic way.

Limited noise fencing was offered, but rejected by residents as being too little, inappropriate, unsuitable and unlikely to solve the whole problem. Long stretches of fencing at the Bryn would be needed, to the extent of a mile in both direction, and in some areas on both sides. A similar approach would be needed at Bryngwyn, with smaller stretches at other locations. this would be extremely costly and not necessarily effective.

Such fencing may severely restrict the views from the A40 of the Welsh Countryside, which would be objected to by Welsh Tourism.

Finally, it would seem that the Welsh Government is blind to needs/requirements of it's residents.

---

Dear Sir

I am writing to add the concerns of my husband and myself to the petition that originally was presented to you by our County Councillor Sara Jones on 21 July 2016 and is being debated again on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018.



We live at [The Bryn] in a well insulated house with triple glazing, but are still aware of the increasingly loud noise of the A40 as it runs passed The Bryn.

When we built the house we were able to sleep with windows open, use our balcony and garden with out undue stress. Unfortunately this is no longer the case. Even through the triple glazing we are aware of constant heavy traffic particularly in the early morning.

We appreciate that the road was in place when we built here and accepted the level of road noise at that time. However, the volume of noise on the concrete surface, especially of heavy vehicles, has increased beyond imagining and is now at an unacceptable level. The sound of vehicles travelling over concrete and hitting the edges of the sections is in no way 'background noise' that can be ignored.

The road is frequently being repaired indicating that it has reached its end of life span and when the Heads of the Valleys road upgrade is completed there will be many more heavy vehicles along the A40 between Raglan and Abergavenny causing further deterioration to the surface.

When driving along the A40 in front of the castle at Raglan recently we noticed that it has been resurfaced with whisper tarmac. May I respectfully ask 'Why has not the same consideration been given to the road that affects many in the larger area around the road, and particularly those of us in The Bryn?'

---

We live in the village of The Bryn adjacent to the A40 dual carriageway, which is a concrete surfaced road. Our bungalow is less than 100metres from the road. We find the constant traffic noise very disturbing, especially through the night, particularly if the wind is blowing from the NW.

Almost every night we are wakened between 4-4.30am when convoys of HGVs use the road, and find difficulty in getting back to sleep. This is particularly bad on Monday mornings.

We are concerned that the noise will increase after the completion of the A465 improvements when HGVs will use this road as an alternative to and from the M4 to West Wales, avoiding the congestion between junctions 24 & 33 of the M4.

Most of the villagers are finding the noise a constant disturbance. This problem has been in existence for several years, and it was previously agreed that the surface should be replaced with whisper tarmac but this hasn't materialised. Can this be done and also soundproof fencing be erected as a matter of urgency?

Trusting that you will give this your utmost attention,

---

To the Petitions Committee.

You will know that there have been various communications with you in the past about the noise generated by traffic on the A40 dual carriageway between Abergavenny & Raglan.

We have been residents of The Bryn for 54 years, long before this road was constructed & always enjoyed the peace & solitude of the country.

When the road was first opened the traffic noise was bearable because traffic volume was low & there were times during the night when there was virtually no traffic at all.

Unfortunately the concrete road surface makes traffic noise much louder than it would be with a "whisper " surface. As traffic has increased substantially over the years, the noise has become constant day & night, to the point where in Summer months in particular we (together with other residents ) cannot open our bedroom windows at night. Gardening is no longer a pleasant pastime as it is impossible to enjoy the garden with the incessant, intrusive noise from the A40.

The volume of traffic will only increase when the work to dual the A465 is finally completed as this will make a continuous motorway / dual carriageway link from the North & the Midlands to West Wales.

The A40 has never been fully resurfaced since it's construction & we suggest that after over 30 years that time has come & the surface of choice should be "whisper ".

If the noise continues at it's present level & increases as traffic increases, then the detrimental effects on the local population will be profound.

Sleep deprivation & stress caused by undue levels of noise are well known causes of ill health both physical & mental.

We hope this Committee will take note of these facts presented here when this matter is debated on 13.3.2018.

The Bryn,

---

Chairman of Senedd Petitions Committee

Dear Sir

**Re: Petition P-05-690 Petitions Committee 13.3.18**

I have been a resident of The Bryn for nearly four years and in that time the resurfacing of the A40 Dual Carriageway Abergavenny–Raglan–Newport has been raised many times culminating in another hearing before your Committee on 13 March 2018. The petition has been tendered by Mrs Sara Jones, County Councillor for Llanover Ward of the Monmouthshire County Council. Mrs Jones is our local representative on that body.

The recent snow and its after effects has given the village a welcome respite from most of the traffic noise emanating from the dual carriageway, the surface of which was laid approximately 35 years ago in concrete pads which have now long passed their sell by date and are breaking up. These pads cause additional traffic noise where movement of the pads add to the overall increase in noise.

Successive attempts have been made for the A40 to be upgraded to a tarmac “whisper” surface to help alleviate noise pollution, a surface not available some years ago, however, tarmac was available. The A40 is one of the last major concrete highways to be upgraded. A recent upgrade of one such was the A55 in North Wales which received funding. With the upgrade and completion of the new works to the A465 this will bring more traffic, heavier traffic to the A40 thereby increasing noise levels even further. The position with increased noise levels is further exacerbated in warmer/summer weather when windows are left open and there is a difficulty for residents in sleeping. The traffic is marginally less during the night/early hours of the day but increases from about 5 am with all the heavy delivery traffic/through traffic. This situation has become intolerable, I and the residents of The Bryn are asking the Welsh Assembly to reconsider the whole position of resurfacing the A40 and fund the upgrade with the new quiet tarmac in the very near future.

Yours faithfully

# Agenda Item 3.10

## **P-05-701 Road Safety Improvements Along the A487 Trunk Road between Cardigan and Aberystwyth, to Include Passing Places**

This petition was submitted by Maldwyn Lewis, having collected 93 signatures online and 750 paper signatures.

### **Text of the Petition**

Following numerous incidents along the A487 Trunk Road particularly between Cardigan and Aberystwyth, I petition the Welsh Assembly to make improvements along this coastal road, including passing places at various locations, in order to alleviate the build up of traffic behind slower moving vehicles. I'm of the opinion that having strategically located passing places would reduce driver frustration and risk taking when attempting to overtake.

When this Fishguard to Holyhead Trunk road is closed due to an incident, the alternative diversion route is along minor roads which can be a nightmare especially when Heavy Goods Vehicles, buses and coaches meet each other in opposite directions.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Mid and West Wales
- Ceredigion

**P-05-701 Road Safety Improvements Along the A487 Trunk Road between Cardigan and Aberystwyth, to Include Passing Places – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 23.02.18**

Of interest and in response to your e mail

Please find details regarding discussion on freight and its importance in commerce in mid and west wales.

I urge the committee to follow up matters in relation to improving the A487 through Ceredigion.

Attracting business, to West Wales is difficult at best, sparcity of population and high cost of distribution hinders investment from major manufacturing companies.

The County would greatly benefit if a North South route was evolved via the A487 linking Cardigan/ Fishguard to North Wales or North Wales via A487 to Aberystwyth and the A486 through Carmarthen to Cardiff. In fairness the A486 has been greatly improved.

Please keep me informed of your outcome, and your findings in relation of your survey's.

*Maldwyn Lewis*

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**Ceredigion County Council – Press release**

Joining together to launch new vision for freight

A vision for how freight transport across Mid Wales and the Marches could be improved to support economic development and operational efficiency was launched on Wednesday 21 February.

The Growing Mid Wales Partnership and The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership, together with the Welsh Government and councils on both sides of the border, jointly commissioned the new strategy. It includes recommendations on how to improve the experience of businesses moving freight within and through the region, whilst enhancing the quality of life for

residents near to key freight corridors and reducing environmental impacts. Both rail and road options are included.

The launch of the strategy in Welshpool marks a high point in an on-going collaboration between the two regions which started in 2016. As a collaborative process, the commissioning and development of the strategy has been managed by a steering group of officers from both sides of the border. Growing Mid Wales is a regional partnership comprising of representative bodies from across the private, public and voluntary sector in mid Wales namely Ceredigion, Powys and South Gwynedd.

Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn, Chair of the Growing Mid Wales Partnership and Ceredigion County Council Leader, said, “Whether we’re considering a largely single carriageway road network and its impact on journey times and reliability; the effect of agricultural vehicles on the network; or the high levels of congestion experienced in many of our towns and villages, the picture is very similar on both sides of the border. Simply, good road and rail links are necessary for our businesses now and to support future growth both here in Mid Wales and in the Marches.”

If fully implemented, it is anticipated the strategy could provide benefits to operators of heavy goods vehicles (HGV) worth at least £149m. This would be achieved through a series of highway enhancements focused on increased opportunities for safe overtaking; improvements to alleviate bottlenecks; and changes at certain key locations to allow 44 tonne HGVs to operate across the whole of the freight network.

Councillor ap Gwynn, added: “It, therefore, made perfect sense to take a co-operative approach, consulting our businesses including freight operators, and our local communities, to better understand the shared barriers to economic growth and how we can work together to overcome them.”

The consultation process involved input from a wide range of businesses and local councils via online surveys; business workshops in Ludlow and Newtown; and telephone interviews with key shippers, road hauliers, infrastructure managers and policy-makers.

A full copy of the Marches and Mid Wales Freight Strategy can be found at:  
<http://www.tracc.gov.uk/index.php?id=137&L=0> or  
<http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/democracy/how-the-council-works-in-partnership/growing-mid-wales/>

Online link: <http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/news/joining-together-to-launch-new-vision-for-freight/>

# Agenda Item 3.11

## **P-05-721 Penegoes Speed Limit Petition**

This petition was submitted by Isabel Bottoms, Peter Bottoms and Sarah Holgate, having collected 298 paper signatures.

### **Text of the Petition**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales urge the Welsh Government to introduce a 30 miles per hour speed limit throughout the village of Penegoes (from the Penegoes village sign entering from Machynlleth, to the other side of the Maesperthi Caravan Park's Proposed new entrance) on the A489 road towards Newtown; and a 40 miles per hour speed limit from Machynlleth to Pengoes.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region:**

- Montgomeryshire
- Mid and West Wales



Ken Skates AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-721, P-05-767 & P-05-792  
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/00261/18

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee.

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

February 2018

*Dear David,*

Thank you for your letter of 25 January regarding P-05-721 Penegoes Speed Limit Petition, P-05-767 A487 Trunk Road Through Tre-Taliesin: Urgent Need for Effective Speed-Calming Measures; and P-05-792 Petition to extend the 40mph speed limit in Blaenporth.

The Speed Limit Review is a three year rolling programme of work focused on over 600 locations across the Welsh trunk road network. We are committed to looking at the entire trunk road network during this Review and have a list of locations that have been drawn to our attention by the public which will include the sites above. However, due to the nature and size of the Review, we are unable to give exact timescales for the assessments.

The results will be made available online and any works arising from the wider review will be programmed over the next three years, following consultation with the local communities.

*Yours ever,  
Ken*

**Ken Skates AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport

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[Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

# Agenda Item 3.12

## **P-05-767 A487 Trunk Road Through Tre-Taliesin: Urgent Need for Effective Speed-Calming Measures**

This petition was submitted by Antony Foulkes, having collected 52 signatures online.

### **Petition text:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to introduce effective traffic speed-calming measures along the A487 Trunk Road which flows directly through the middle of the neighbouring villages of Tre-Taliesin and Tre-r-ddol, and to consult and seek the views of local residents living in these villages.

### **Additional information:**

The A487 is the major North to South Wales Trunk road running along the breadth of the West Wales Coast. This Trunk Road carries high and increasing volume of speeding vehicles and heavy goods traffic into and through the narrow middle of the Ceredigion villages of Tre-Taliesin and Tre-r-ddol. In late 2016, villagers formed the A487 Taliesin Action Group. This local action group has met and communicated closely with the LLangynfelyn Community Council, Dyfed Powys Police, Ceredigion County Council and the local Member of Parliament to undertake an analysis of the issues and potential solutions. The group have also raised their concerns and offered to meet and share their views with the North West Wales Trunk Road Agency, but this invitation has not been accepted to date.

It important that villagers who live day to day with the speeding traffic are listened to and their views fully taken into account by the Welsh Government, in order for effective speed calming measures which safeguards the villagers and road users, to be planned and implemented.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Ceredigion
- Mid and West Wales

Ken Skates AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-721, P-05-767 & P-05-792  
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/00261/18

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee.

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February 2018

*Dear David,*

Thank you for your letter of 25 January regarding P-05-721 Penegoes Speed Limit Petition, P-05-767 A487 Trunk Road Through Tre-Taliesin: Urgent Need for Effective Speed-Calming Measures; and P-05-792 Petition to extend the 40mph speed limit in Blaenporth.

The Speed Limit Review is a three year rolling programme of work focused on over 600 locations across the Welsh trunk road network. We are committed to looking at the entire trunk road network during this Review and have a list of locations that have been drawn to our attention by the public which will include the sites above. However, due to the nature and size of the Review, we are unable to give exact timescales for the assessments.

The results will be made available online and any works arising from the wider review will be programmed over the next three years, following consultation with the local communities.

*Yours ever,  
Ken*

**Ken Skates AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

## **P-05-767 A487 Trunk Road Through Tre-Taliesin – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 07.03.18**

Dear Petitions Committee

Thank you for sending the Minister's further response and for again considering our Petition. The Minister's response is immensely disappointing leaving us feeling disenfranchised and devalued. It also illustrates a startling failure of the democratic process in Wales.

Briefly, you will recall that we had asked to meet with the Minister's "Agent" so that we could share the evidence-based findings resulting from this local community's extensive consultation activities on road safety on the Trunk Rd through Taliesin. This will include the findings of the fully embedded community speed camera watch programme operated in partnership with Dyfed Powys Police. Our endeavours have taken place over the past 18 months and can also be traced back to public demonstrations along this hazardous stretch of road since the 1990s.

Our aim has always been to help inform the Welsh Government in its future planning for road safety along this stretch of the Trunk Rd. We had originally been told by the Welsh Government that this stretch of road is under review within the current financial year. Now, it is apparent from the Minister's latest letter that this may take three years and his stated intention that there will be consultation with local communities, seems vague, and in our situation effectively ignores vital contemporary evidence collected by the local community.

How on earth can the Welsh Government expect to undertake an accurate risk assessment if it avoids consulting with the community experiencing road safety issues every single day and who have themselves carefully analysed the current local circumstances. We have clear evidence that there is excessive speed on a frequent and daily basis on this road, with 80% of all traffic exceeding 36mph in a 30mph speed limit, with speeds recorded in excess of 60mph at a junction within the 30mph speed limit. Should there be a serious accident along the Trunk Rd then the government will surely become exposed as it has not listened and discussed with the local community in a reasonable and timely fashion and therefore has not carried out its duty of care.

A further impact of failing with us has been to heighten the concern and tension within the local community and no doubt increases the cost to the tax-payer of an unnecessarily prolonged process. The common-sense approach to have taken with

our local community would have been to have met with us on-site, struck up a constructive dialogue and advise of the next steps and plans.

Instead, we are left with little faith in the competence of the welsh government. This loss of faith has been further compounded in the past few weeks whereby the welsh government installed a speed camera and recording straps at the very point where extensive street lighting works were being carried out and traffic lights were in place. Speed was therefore at a stop or crawl at this point. The workmen carrying out the lighting works were as perplexed by this as we were in the village. A little while after installing them, the camera and recording straps were removed presumably as someone had recognised the error, which inevitably had caused unnecessary public cost and again highlights the need of the welsh government to engage, listen and consider the local community's evidence.

We are sorry to have to bother the Petitions Committee again on this matter, but you will sense our frustration and concern that the Minister seems unable to grasp that his 'Agent' must engage with the local community if they are to undertake accurate risk assessment and effective which safeguards the members of our community.

Yours sincerely

Antony Foulkes  
On behalf of the Taliesin community

# Agenda Item 3.13

## P-05-792 Petition to extend the 40mph speed limit in Blaenporth.

This petition was submitted by Rosemarie Chaffers-Jones having collected 74 signatures on paper and 1 signature online.

### Text of Petition

*We the undersigned do hereby petition the Welsh Assembly to extend the 40mph speed limit on the A487 to the parish boundary where the 50 mph limit begins.*

*At present the 40mph limit ends before what was the local school at Lon-Yr-Ysgol road. The school has now closed, however the children are still here as they are now picked up at the Lon-Yr-Ysgol bus stop where they wait, sometimes accompanied by parents with toddlers, for the school bus. In the afternoon, when they are dropped off at the end of the day it is a different situation in that the children have to negotiate the A487 from the opposite side of the road.*

*The speed limit at the point where the children have to cross the road is 60mph and traffic, which has been released from the 40mph zone, speeds up and very often overtakes on this straight stretch of road. On the far side of the road there is no slow children crossing sign, no bus stop sign, no bus shelter to give motorists warning of pedestrians crossing.*

*This is also the point where the disabled access ramp is positioned on both sides of the road which is used not just by disabled but also parents with pushchairs and the elderly with walking frames etc.*

*There has already been one fatality on this stretch of road and just last week another big vehicle crashed off the road and through the hedge breaking down a large section of fence.*

*I believe it is only a matter of time before we lose a child.*

*Since the road speed limit was set, a solar farm has been built with access onto this stretch of road and additional traffic. Also the old school buildings have become a business park with a chip shop, a chiropractor, carpet warehouse, car wash and more to come.*

*This has all led to an increase in heavy traffic turning into and attempting to exit Lon-Yr-Ysgol.*

*This petition requests that the Welsh Assembly puts the safety of our children first and foremost and extend the 40mph zone to include the entire stretch of the A487 within the parish boundary.*

## **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Ceredigion
- Mid and West Wales

Ken Skates AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-721, P-05-767 & P-05-792  
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/00261/18

David John Rowlands AM  
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February 2018

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The results will be made available online and any works arising from the wider review will be programmed over the next three years, following consultation with the local communities.

*Yours ever,  
Ken*

**Ken Skates AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400  
[Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.



# Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council



Eifion Evans  
Prif Weithredwr  
Chief Executive

Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa, Aberaeron. SA46 0PA  
www.ceredigion.gov.uk

David J Rowlands AM  
Chair of the Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dyddiad  
Date

14 February 2018

Gofynnwch am  
Please ask for

Rhodri Llwyd

Llinell uniongyrchol  
Direct line

(01545) 572434

Fy nghyf  
My ref

RLL/BB/Hwys2

Eich cyf  
Your ref

Ebost  
Email

technical.services@ceredigion.gov.uk

Dear Sir

## **Petition P-05-792 Petition to Extend the 40mph Speed Limit in Blaenporth**

I refer to your letter dated 25 January 2018 regarding the petition received in respect of a request to extend the speed limit at Blaenporth.

Ceredigion County Council is not aware of any records of any fatalities at this particular location, although it is aware of a fatal RTC nearby at Penparc.

The Authority has not undertaken a specific assessment in terms of the safety of children accessing school buses at this location in relation to speed on the A487.

It is the Authority's view that a lower speed limit by signage alone would not be appropriate on what is a straight section of road with good visibility, and that there may be other measures (such as the provision of a drop-off/layby alongside the southbound carriageway and/or additional signage) that could be considered for this location.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rhodri Llwyd'.

**For Rhodri Llwyd  
Group Manager – Highways Service**

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Cewch ateb Cymraeg i bob gohebiaeth Gymraeg ac ateb Saesneg i bob gohebiaeth Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English. Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and correspondence in English will be answered in English. Corresponding in Welsh will not involve any delay.

Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive :  
Cyfarwyddwyr Strategol / Strategic Directors :

Eifion Evans  
Barry Rees  
Dysgu a Phartneriaethau / Learning and Partnerships  
Sicrhau, Amddiffyn a Ffordd o Fyw / Care, Protection and Lifestyle

# Agenda Item 3.14

## **P-05-770 Reopen Crumlin Railway Station**

This petition was submitted by Michael Davies, having collected 208 signatures online.

### **Petition text:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to reopen Crumlin railway station. We believe Crumlin could be a significant public transport hub. Its key location would provide the main multi-modal interchange point between the enhanced Ebbw line rail services and the main mid-valley Regional Bus Rapid Transport route. The site for the station has good access to the main highway network, a substantial car park and space for buses. Long distance walking and cycling routes are accessible from the site. We note that Crumlin has a street with the poorest air pollution outside London and that improving public transport links is necessary to improve public health. We urge the Welsh Government to assess the case for reopening a railway station in Crumlin and to consider adding it to the next priority list of proposals for new stations in Wales.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Islwyn
- South Wales East

**P-05-770 Reopen Crumlin Railway Station – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 05.03.18**

**Petitions Letter.**

Thank you for your latest letter regarding the petition to re-open a train station at Crumlin in Caerphilly inviting further comment from me.

The committee should be aware of the recent High Court judgement in favour of ClieEarth regarding the need for Welsh Government to produce a plan to reduce air pollution.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind the committee that the most polluted street in the UK outside of London is a stone's throw from the proposed site for the station at Crumlin.

In order to reduce air pollution there must be an urgent shift to public transport. This judgement plus the potential benefits which may well be supported by the City Deal provides the ideal opportunity and impetus to develop this project, and I would welcome support.

I would urge the committee not to miss this opportunity to press the Welsh Government into action.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Davies', enclosed in a light grey rectangular box.

Mike Davies

# Agenda Item 3.15

## **P-05-781 Port Talbot Community Against the Super Prison**

This petition was submitted by The Port Talbot Super Prison Protest Group, having collected 1,263 signatures online and 7,528 on paper – a total of 8,791 signatures.

### **Petition text:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government not to release or sell land to the UK government for the development of a super prison in Baglan.

The UK Government, with the support of the Welsh Government, proposes to build a 1600 capacity mens' 'super prison' on Baglan Moors.

The site is near to homes and local facilities, local businesses and will place significant strain on roads and health services in the area. The site is in an enterprise zone and designated for economic use as well as being in a flood risk area.

Wales already has a large surplus of prison places with its existing prisons.

This prison would bring with it all of the associated problems with large prisons and there has been no guarantee from either government on what protections would be put in place to help Port Talbot cope with such a large number of prisoners.

There is no long term guarantee that the new prison would remain housing category C prisoners. It could be changed in future to hold more dangerous criminals.

Port Talbot can do better than this and our town deserves much more. Will you sign the petition and tell the UK Government and the Welsh Government, NO to a super prison in Port Talbot?

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Aberavon
- South West Wales

Alun Davies AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a  
Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public  
Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-781  
Ein cyf/Our ref ARD/00083/18

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee.  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

2104  
February 2018

*Dear David,*

Thank you for your letter of 25 January regarding the petition P-05-781 Port Talbot Community Against the Super Prison.

You will be aware from recent questions in the Senedd and the public release of an exchange of letters between the Welsh Government and the Ministry of Justice, that no planning permission has yet been sought by the Ministry of Justice for the construction of a prison in Port Talbot and no formal request for the sale of any land has been received.

As such, there is currently nothing on which the Welsh Government has been asked to make a decision.

*Yours ever  
Alun*

**Alun Davies AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
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[Correspondence.Alun.Davies@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Alun.Davies@gov.wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

## **P-05-793 Hi speed broadband to Llangenny village**

This petition was submitted by Llangenny Village residents having collected 72 signatures online.

### **Petition text**

We, the residents of Llangenny village in Powys call upon the National Assembly for Wales to ensure that Welsh Government manage their contract for hi speed broadband in Wales with BT in such a way that Llangenny village is connected to hi speed by 31st December 2017.

### **Additional information**

At present residents in our village experience regular loss of service or speeds as low as 0.01Mb/s. Several residents run businesses or voluntary organisations from home and need hi speed broadband. The current service is completely unacceptable.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Brecon and Radnorshire
- Mid and West Wales

**P-05-793 Hi speed broadband to Llangenny village – Correspondence from the Petitioner to Committee, 01.02.18**

Thank you for advising me of the outcome of the Committee.

BT advised several residents in the village that broadband would be installed within times ranging from 3–4 months. They also advised our AM, Kirsty Williams back in October that hi speed would be installed in five months.

However, since the conclusion of their multi million pound public contract with Welsh Government on 31<sup>st</sup> December, they have amended their website and now record that our village **wont be getting hi speed broadband at all**. As I indicated in previous correspondence, I don't believe they **ever** intended to include our village in their plans and they have lied to our public representative.

This behaviour is utterly unacceptable from an essential public infrastructure provider in receipt of millions of pounds of public funding on behalf of Welsh Government.

So in your letter to them, please can you pick up these falsehoods and ask them to explain themselves.

There is apparently now a new stream of funding being proposed so they have an opportunity to redeem themselves. see link here <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-42861041?SThisFB>

Yours sincerely

Duncan Forbes

**Duncan Forbes**

**Julie James AC/AM**  
Arweinydd y Tŷ a'r Prif Chwip  
Leader of the House and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-793  
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/00114/18

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee.

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

6 February 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 25 January enclosing further comments from the residents of Llangenny Village following my response of 28 November regarding the provision of high speed broadband services to the village.

The latest information we have from BT in relation to the roll-out of superfast broadband to the village is that although it is now complete a period of up to eight weeks remains before an order can be placed with an internet service provider. This is while a commissioning process takes place.

I appreciate that this news will continue to raise frustrations but hope that the confirmation of availability within the next two months will bring some relief.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie".

**Julie James AC/AM**  
Arweinydd y Tŷ a'r Prif Chwip  
Leader of the House and Chief Whip

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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[Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales](mailto:Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.



**BY EMAIL**

David Rowlands AM  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018

Dear Mr Rowlands,

**PETITION P-05-793: 'Hi speed broadband to Llangenny village'**

Thank you for your letter to Ed Hunt dated 25 January 2018, regarding broadband speeds in Llangenny Village (Petition P-05-793).

Overall, the Superfast Cymru programme has been a success with more premises than we anticipated in 2012 given access to superfast broadband. Openreach has also invested significantly more than originally planned, supporting a Welsh supply chain and creating over 300 new full-time roles.

To a great extent, the programme closed on 31 December 2017. Our plans change from time to time and unfortunately this has impacted Llangenny. I appreciate the frustrations associated with poor connectivity and at Openreach we wish to do more. The Welsh Government is already planning a successor project to extend fast, reliable broadband. The UK Government has also outlined plans to introduce a universal minimum speed broadband service and there are schemes like our [Community Fibre Partnerships \(CFP\)](#) programme for those people that aren't prepared to wait. [Grants](#) are also available from Welsh Government to help fund such schemes. Openreach would be very glad to work with the Llangenny community on this.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Finney  
Head of Public Affairs

Cc Ed Hunt, Director NGA Wales and West

# Agenda Item 3.17

## **P-05-798 Male domestic violence victim support services to be independently run & funded**

This petition was submitted by Tom Embling having collected 138 signatures online.

### **Text of Petition**

Male domestic violence victim support services to be independently run & funded separately from Women's Aid Cymru & all associated.

The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is: "Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality."

Domestic Abuse can effect anyone. With more Male victims/survivors seeking help, advise, support & safety than ever before. It is important that Male victims deserve independent support & funding from such gender bias groups as Women's Aid Cymru & all associated.

Male victims/survivors deserve support/help specific to their needs, while still maintaining their dignity, & providing them and their children safety equal & parallel to that which women currently receive.

### **Additional Information**

Current Domestic Abuse statistics across Wales & England, indicate that Domestic Abuse will affect 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men in their lifetime.

Domestic Abuse/Violence is a problem that can effect anyone so surely it should be:

"Putting people & their children first."

There is no greater gap in availability of services & support just based on someone's gender across Wales & UK.

Attitudes need to change because no person (& their children) should continue so publically & shamefully be denied safety & support because of their gender in Wales, in this day & age.

Please support this to help support others.

**Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Bridgend
- South Wales West

**P-05-798 Male domestic violence victim support services to be independently run & funded – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 23.02.18**

Thank you for the chance to respond to the views of Julie James AC/AM. I would firstly like to thank Neil McEvoy AM for speaking up about this response and highlighting just some of the issues facing people in Wales today.

**DOMESTIC ABUSE/VIOLENCE IS NOT GENDER BASED. DOMESTIC ABUSE/VIOLENCE CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE.**

Julie James's response outlines clearly the reason for the petition.

To support and uphold that the UK Government definition is simply as above please let me draw your attention to the Welsh Governments stance voiced and represented in the letter, and the solution my petition offers.

If this is the stance of the Welsh Governments view, it truly highlights the difficulties facing people across Wales and society in general.

I will call into question the Welsh Governments difficulties with Julie James' letter very briefly.

- **LIVE FEAR FREE WEBSITE.** "This website is also an important resource for the Live Fear Free Helpline which is managed by Welsh Women's Aid but wholly funded by Welsh Government."
- **THE DYN PROJECT.** Has Welsh Woman's Aid full membership. Also Julie James points out in response "The Dyn project **provides accessible support to all men who experience domestic abuse in Wales regardless of age; gender; race; religion or sexual orientation.**" The fact its offered to all men regardless of gender is extremely reassuring.
- **THE SCREENING OF MALE CALLERS.**
- The Welsh Government does treat it as gender based. Not only Julie James's response, but ultimately the management and allocations of funding, support, services, refuges,....etc. This Governed by Welsh Women's Aid who;
- **"WELSH WOMAN'S AID, PUTTING WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST."**

Also a college of mine was able to produce an almost identical letter, received in response to the discrimination of "screening male callers."

So I would like the context of the petition duly noted, & then read as what it is asking for, & please recognise Julie James' response is only confirmation of this.

Its distressing the inequality, discriminatory, stereotypical, consistently unchallenged failings, sexist views & continued supportive stance in the Welsh Government on such a gender neutral issue. Please understand I'm offering a solution, or at least pointing out the need of one. Julie James's letter only supports what my petition is asking for very clearly, but how sadly ironic. Her continued supportive view of current male domestic abuse services available in Wales particularly in light of recent findings is somewhat misplaced & unjust. While personally I do honestly feel Welsh Women's Aid do greatly needed things for female victims. I'm not, in anyway suggesting or asking for them to receive less funding. However for a male victim unfortunately its inappropriate for them to 'manage' the support, funding & services offered. Evidence of this is available.

I will of course supply research, data, information, evidence etc. Further along the petitions process. However this is my 'positive' response to Chief Whips recommendations.

Once again thank you all.

Wales prides itself on building for the future of the Welsh people, so why in this area is no progression ever accepted, when it can effect us all. Perhaps change could be start of the solution? Until acceptance, improvement/progression will always be an unachievable goal!

Please remember: **DOMESTIC ABUSE/VIOLENCE CAN EFFECT ANYONE.**

Kindest regards

Tom Embling.

The Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff, CF99 1NA

## Agenda Item 4.1

1st February 2018

Re Petition P-04-479

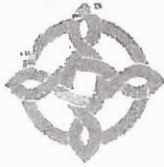
Tywyn Hospital x-ray & Minor Injuries Petition

Dear Clerk to the Committee,

I am writing to inform you that unfortunately we have had no response to letters written on -the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2017 and -the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2017 to BCuHB seeking an explanation of -the fact that the Minor Injuries Unit at Tywyn Hospital remained closed at -the weekends throughout the year. In a letter written on -the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2017, from Gary Doherty, Chief Executive to Mike Hedges, Chair of National Assembly Wales, the Health Board pledged their intention to open -the Minor Injuries Unit in Tywyn Hospital for seven days per week from April to September. Being quite satisfied with this response as, -the petitioners, agreed to the provision of services along with -the Petition's Committee and the petition was closed. BCuHB however, failed to provide -the services and we now write to you as we remain concerned about the increase in population by seasonal visitors between April and September and whether the lack of provision of **Back Page 133** Case will continue this year.

Yours sincerely, *Alwyn Iwan*





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

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Betsi Cadwaladr  
University Health Board

Block 5, Cariton Court  
St Asaph Business Park  
St Asaph  
Denbighshire  
LL17 0JG

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF991 NA

Ein cyf / Our ref: GD/FfJ/CR/2893/625

Eich cyf / Your ref:

☎: 01745 586384

Gofynnwch am / Ask for:

Dyddiad / Date: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Dear Mr Hedges

**Re: P-04-479 Tywyn Hospital X-ray & Minor Injuries Petition**

Thank you for your letter dated 1 February 2017 requesting a response to the latest comments from the petitioner and the latest position in relation to access to minor injuries services in the Tywyn area, including outside of the opening hours of Tywyn Hospital. I apologise that there has been no response from the Health Board to this question put by the Petition Committee in 2015. I hope that this letter provides the clarity you are seeking.

#### Brief Background

The drive behind the changes to community services proposed by the Health Care in North Wales Changing strategy (2012), was the aim to provide consistent and sustainable healthcare services with the same opening times within 40 minutes' drive for as many people as possible in North Wales.

The strategy designated ten hospitals as "hubs" in local areas, where a broad range of services could be delivered consistently and safely. Using these hospitals as the "hubs" means that services such as X-ray and Minor Injuries are available within 40 minutes' drive for nearly all of the population in North Wales. In North West Wales minor injuries services are provided at each of the "hubs" seven days a week (8am to 8pm currently) and X-ray services are available five days per week Monday to Friday.

With regard to the community of Tywyn, the nearest hub is Dolgellau and Barmouth Hospital, which is a 19 mile journey taking 31 minutes. It was agreed that, in addition to the hub arrangement being in place, Tywyn MIU would stay open for a reduced period in recognition of the rurality of the area. The opening period would be increased at peak seasonal times. Both of these factors reflected the low level of use of the MIU. The Tywyn Minor Injury Unit currently sees on average 3 to 4 patients per day.

In terms of providing a response to the Petition Committee's question of how BCUHB has addressed the CHC's recommendation of providing the population of Tywyn with a strategy for accessing alternative Minor Injuries Services outside the opening hours of Tywyn Memorial Hospital, this is outlined below:

#### Tywyn Area – Access to Minor Injuries Services

Cyfeiriad Gohebiaeth ar gyfer y Cadeirydd a'r Prif Weithredwr / Correspondence address for Chairman and Chief Executive:  
Swyddfa'r Gweithredwyr / Executives' Office  
Ysbyty Gwynedd, Penrhosgarnedd  
Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2PW

Gwefan: [www.pbc.cymru.nhs.uk](http://www.pbc.cymru.nhs.uk) / Web: [www.bcu.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.bcu.wales.nhs.uk)



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

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Betsi Cadwaladr  
University Health Board

- The Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) in Tywyn Hospital is open 7 days per week from April to September 10am to 6pm and 5 days per week from October to March.
- The Health Board also has a LES (Local Enhanced Service) in place with the Tywyn GP Practice for the provision of minor injury services (five days per week).
- Dolgellau Hospital MIU (nearest hospital hub is 31 minutes away) is open 7 days per week from 8am to 8pm. The MIU opening hours will be extended from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 in Dolgellau Hospital initially until 10pm and within a couple of months until midnight 7 days per week on a permanent basis. There is a telehealth link to ED in the Dolgellau MIU for specialist doctor opinion, as and when required.
- Outside of Tywyn MIU's opening hours, there is local access to MIU services in Dolgellau Hospital until 8pm 7 days per week and from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 until 10pm and subsequently until midnight seven days per week.
- Outside of Dolgellau MIU's opening hours i.e. between 8pm and 8am currently (and between midnight and 8am in due course), people in Tywyn and across North Wales wishing to access alternative Minor Injuries Services have the following choices:
  - Self care or review / follow-up with GP / MIU following day
  - Telephone NHS Direct for advice
  - Present at the nearest Emergency Department
- Those in need of a minor illness service out of hours of course should contact GP Out of Hours – nearest OOH Doctor is located in Dolgellau Hospital.

In terms of communicating the routes of access to local minor injuries services in the Tywyn area, the Health Board will publicise the above in Tywyn Medical Centre and within Tywyn Hospital and MIU.

The Health Board is continuing to work closely with GP Out of Hours services, Welsh Ambulance Service and Community Nursing services to ensure there is an appropriate, integrated community response available at all times.

I trust that this covers the issues raised in your letter by the petitioner.

Yours sincerely

**Gary Doherty**  
Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive



# Agenda Item 5

## **P-05-750 For single use items: introduce a Deposit Return System for drink containers and make fast food containers and utensils compostable**

This petition was submitted by Marine Conservation Society having collected 1,993 signatures.

### **Petition text**

The Marine Conservation Society calls on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to act upon the globally responsible Wales goal within the Well Being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015. Build on the excellent results achieved by the carrier bag charge, by implementing two further actions that would help Wales to achieve a zero waste, circular economy. Namely:

1. Introduce a deposit return system in Wales for all single use beverage containers such as glass and plastic bottles and aluminium cans.
2. Legislate that all fast food containers and utensils, as well as take-away cups and lids, if not reusable or refillable or collected for recycling in store, are fully compostable.

Deposit return systems are already in operation in over 40 countries around the world and have been proven to reduce litter, increase recycling by creating a more certain supply of affordable, high-quality materials, reduce costs for Local Authorities and create jobs.

Fast food wrappers and takeaway cups are a common litter item on our streets and making them refillable/reusable, easily recyclable or compostable would reduce litter.

Manufacturing new drinks containers and fast food containers and cups use up huge amounts of energy, which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. The more we recycle, and the less we litter, the better for our environment and our economy.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region.**

- Ross-on-Wye
- Herefordshire

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