

## Petitions Committee

---

Meeting Venue:  
**Committee Room 1 - Senedd**

---

Meeting date:  
**27 September 2011**

---

Meeting time:  
**09:15**

---

Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



For further information please contact:

**Abigail Phillips**  
Committee Clerk  
029 2089 8393  
[petition@wales.gov.uk](mailto:petition@wales.gov.uk)

---

### Agenda

---

#### **1. Introduction, apologies and substitutions**

#### **2. New petitions**

- 2.1 P-04-329 Control of noise nuisance from wind turbines (Pages 1 - 2)
- 2.2 P-04-330 A Welsh-language Record in our Assembly (Pages 3 - 4)
- 2.3 P-04-331 Filming and Recording of Council Meetings (Page 5)
- 2.4 P-04-332 Local Authority Spending Details over £500 (Page 6)

#### **3. Updates to previous petitions**

##### **Health and Social Services**

- 3.1 P-03-150 National Cancer Standards (Pages 7 - 10)
- 3.2 P-03-136 Parking in Heath and Birchgrove (Pages 11 - 19)
- 3.3 P-03-219 Pharmacies in Barry (Pages 20 - 21)
- 3.4 P-03-221 Improved NHS Chiropody Treatment (Pages 22 - 23)
- 3.5 P-03-222 National Osteoporosis Society (Pages 24 - 25)

- 3.6 P-04-327 Keep Our Community Hospital (Pages 26 - 28)
- 3.7 P-03-301 Equality for the transgender community (Pages 29 - 32)
- 3.8 P-03-292 Public Toilet Provision (Pages 33 - 34)

### **Local Government and Communities**

- 3.9 P-03-162 Road Safety in Llanspyddid (Pages 35 - 36)
- 3.10 P-03-316 Make maintenance of existing School Crossing Patrols a non-negotiable part of WAG Transport Grant to local councils (Pages 37 - 38)

### **Environment and Sustainable Development**

- 3.11 P-03-273 Transportation of Wind Turbines in Mid Wales (Pages 39 - 42)
- 3.12 P-03-302 Compost processing plant (Pages 43 - 44)
- 3.13 P-04-324 Say No to Tan 8 - Windfarms & High Voltage Power Lines Spoiling our Community (Pages 45 - 55)
- 3.14 P-04-326 No to Incineration (Pages 56 - 62)

### **Housing, Regeneration and Heritage**

- 3.15 P-04-320 Social Housing Policy (Pages 63 - 65)

### **Education and Skills**

- 3.16 P-03-124 Cysgliad (Pages 66 - 68)

### **Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science**

- 3.17 P-03-307 Design for Innovation in Wales (Pages 69 - 70)
- 3.18 P-03-271 Business Rates in Narberth (Pages 71 - 72)
- 3.19 P-03-286 Ceredigion Business Rates (Pages 73 - 74)
- 3.20 P-03-204 Public Accountability and Consultation in HE (Pages 75 - 80)

### **Children and Social Services**

- 3.21 P-03-236 The Charter for Grandchildren (Pages 81 - 90)

## **P-04-329 Control of noise nuisance from wind turbines**

### **Petition wording**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to pass a statute controlling the noise nuisance from wind turbines during anti-social hours. We ask for the implementation of respite periods during which time turbines would be switched off.

### **Background**

This petition was raised by James Shepherd Foster and collected 1074 signatures. Supporting information provided by the petitioner is included below.

In addition to human health, the measure would also protect nocturnal creatures, bats, owls, etc. Jonathan Edwards MP has called for a measure such as this. Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM as called for a measure similar to this. This would not affect, or be affected by TAN 8, because TAN 8 does not deal with health implications of turbines. Also it only requires turbine plate capacities as a value, and not the efficacy of the turbines themselves. Wales has a long history of neglect of Health and Safety issues, leading to large parts of the community having restricted lives. During development, the hearing of the young should not be left to chance, and until substantial and medically accepted research points to a relaxation of the times and distances set out in this petition, we should err on the side of caution.

## **P-04-330 A Welsh-language Record in our Assembly**

### **Petition wording**

We are concerned about the status and use of the Welsh language in the National Assembly. Welsh is now an official language in Wales, and we are very proud of this development. Nevertheless, the decision to allow the Record—a document of the highest symbolic importance—to become, essentially, a monolingual English document, after having been entirely bilingual since 1999, runs counter to this development and denigrates the official status of the Welsh language.

We therefore call on the National Assembly for Wales to return to a policy of providing a fully bilingual Record, so that the people of Wales can read the Assembly's proceedings in their own language, be that Welsh or English. This is a matter of principle and of respecting the fundamental linguistic rights of the people of Wales.

### **Background**

This petition was raised by Catrin Dafydd and collected 1334 signatures. Supporting information provided by the petitioner is included below.

Dear

We Demand a Fully Bilingual Cofnod

As an Assembly member you will be aware of the decision made during the third Assembly to cease the production of a fully bilingual version of the Record of Proceedings (Cofnod), and of the fact that the decision was unpopular among the public in Wales as well as with Assembly Members from all parties. I'm writing to you as a member of Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg, to ask you to support the return to a policy of providing a fully bilingual Cofnod so that the people of Wales can choose to read the Assembly proceedings in their own language, whether it is English or Welsh. We have written to the Commission and the Llywydd on this matter and we would be grateful if you could add some extra pressure.

Welsh has now been confirmed as an official language in Wales through the Welsh Language Measure 2011, something we welcome most warmly, as do you I'm sure. The decision to let the Cofnod – a document of huge symbolic importance – to now become a mostly English-only document after it has been thoroughly bilingual since 1999 goes against this development and tramples the official status of Welsh in Wales.

We all heard recently that the level of Welsh spoken in the Assembly has deteriorated significantly, and I'm sure you would wish to address this problem. We have no doubt that the lack of a bilingual Cofnod contributes towards this problem, since a bilingual context is needed in order for the use of Welsh to feel natural in the Chamber and elsewhere. There is a risk that the Welsh language will become no more than an ornament and a tokenism in the Assembly. This would undermine the language throughout Wales.

The lack of a bilingual record is a matter of concern to us and other people from all over Wales have said they wish to campaign on this matter. We understand also that the Welsh Language Board is investigating the matter under the Welsh Language Act 1993. If the Assembly itself cannot comply with its Welsh Language Scheme, what hope is there for other organizations throughout Wales?

We understand there is an intention to present a Bill to protect the Welsh language in the Assembly. This is a much-needed step and we will be keeping a keen eye on those developments. However, ensuring a fully bilingual Cofnod will be a basic requirement of the rhetoric of a 'truly bilingual organization' that is so often used with no consideration for what this means. A bilingual record is needed as a starting block, and other developments built upon that. This is a matter of principle, respecting the linguistic rights of the people of Wales at the most basic of levels.

Lastly, I would like to remind you: when the Assembly first stopped producing a bilingual Cofnod, members of all parties came together to voice their concerns and sought to ensure it would continue in a fully bilingual format. I therefore urge you to reverse the decision taken by the previous Assembly regarding this crucial matter.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Catrin Dafydd  
Swyddog Polisi



# Agenda Item 2.3

## **P-04-331 Filming and Recording of Council Meetings**

### **Petition wording**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to place a statutory requirement on all local authorities in Wales to record, broadcast or livestream all Council meetings which are open to the public, via their existing websites to ensure openness and transparency. This requirement should allow members of the public, as responsible observers, to record or film such meetings without the need for prior permission and to re-use the material freely to provide a direct and wider line of communication to the electorate.

### **Background**

This petition was raised by Jacqui Thompson and collected 223 signatures.



## **P-04-332 Local Authority Spending Details over £500**

### **Petition wording**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to place a statutory requirement on all local authorities in Wales to publish details of all spending over £500 in the interest of openness and transparency. The details should be published online and in a format accessible to the public with the freedom to re-use the data.

### **Background**

This petition was raised by Jacqui Thompson and collected 77 signatures.

# Agenda Item 3.1

## P-03-150 National Cancer Standards

### Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to investigate whether Local Health Boards have the necessary strategies and action plans in place to deliver the target to comply with the National Cancer Standards by March 2009 in RCT and throughout Wales, as a matter of urgency.

### Link to petition:

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=869>

**Petition raised by:** Rhondda Breast Friends

**Number of signatures:** The e-petition collected 43 signatures. In addition Rhondda Breast Friends have developed a charter regarding improvements required to cancer care services, supported by 1,475 signatories.

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 9 July 2008, 6 November 2008, 13 January 2009, 10 February 2009, 31 March 2009, 24 November 2009, 19 January, 23 March and 27 April 2010, 15 June, 30 November 2010, 25 January, 15 March and 29 March, 12 July 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Minister for Health and Social Services.

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Y our ref P-03-150  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05790/11

William Powell AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee

[Petition@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Petition@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

*W.P.*  
July 2011

*Dear Bill,*

Thank you for your letter dated 14 July on behalf of the Petitions Committee about compliance with the National Cancer Standards.

The target for achieving compliance was revised to the end of September 2010. Local Health Boards (LHBs) reported in November that levels of compliance had improved significantly and the former Minister for Health and Social Services wrote to AMs in December 2010. A copy of that letter is enclosed.

The current position is that LHBs have been asked to re-assess their levels of compliance as at the end of 2010-11 and report the outcome to their Boards. They are expected to share their reports with my Medical Director by the end of July.

We want people to survive cancer so the NHS in Wales must provide high quality and effective cancer care. We are developing a national delivery plan for cancer to set out what improvements we plan to deliver between now and 2015, how we will measure success and the key actions that will form the basis of our strategy.

*Regards*  
*Lesley*

**Lesley Griffiths AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)  
Page 9

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: [lesley.griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk)  
Printed on 100% recycled paper

**Edwina Hart MBE OStJ AM**  
 Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
 Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
 Welsh Assembly Government

Our ref: MB/EH/0797/10  
 Your ref:

To: All Assembly Members  
 National Assembly for Wales  
 Cardiff Bay  
 Cardiff  
 CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd  
 Caerdydd CF99 1NA  
 Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg: 0845 010 4400  
 Ffacs: 029 2089 8131  
 E-Bost:Correspondence.Edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Cardiff Bay  
 Cardiff CF99 1NA  
 English Enquiry Line: 0845 010 3300  
 Fax: 029 2089 8131  
 E-Mail:Correspondence.Edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

22 December 2010

Dear Assembly Members

I am writing to inform you of the outcome of the revised target I set for NHS Wales, of achieving full compliance with the National Cancer Standards, by the end of September.

The table below reflects the overall position by NHS organisations and Wales as a whole, for the Standards that are generic to each set of Standards and for the cancer site specific Standards.

NHS Body	% compliance Generic standards	% compliance Cancer site specific standards
Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board	100	98.0
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Local Health Board	100	97.6
Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board	93.8	96.4
Cardiff & Vale University Local Health Board	96.0	94.0
Cwm Taf Local Health Board	100	84.0



Hywel Dda Local Health Board	100	95.0
Velindre NHS Trust	100	99.1
<b>All Wales % compliance</b>	98.7	94.6

These results suggest that cancer services across Wales are now largely well organised with appropriate lead clinicians in place, who have a responsibility for cancer services and/or multidisciplinary cancer teams, which discuss patient cases and the findings of the annual assessment process at LHB Board level.

I have written to NHS Chairs to say that I expect these levels of compliance to be sustained and where appropriate, improved further. Paul Williams, Chief Executive of NHS Wales, is writing to NHS Chief Executives for their formal commitment on timescales for when those remaining areas of non compliance will have been addressed.

The Welsh Assembly Government's policy document *Designed to Tackle Cancer in Wales*, sets formal policy aims on achieving comparable incidence and survival rates for cancer that are among the best in Europe, by 2015. Cancer survival rates are improving in Wales and although rates for some common cancers are lower than the UK average, there are signs that the gap is closing. UK survival rates remain lower than the best in Europe. Wales has a lot to do over the coming few years.

In the future, I intend to move to a system where the NHS is more able to report on the effectiveness of its cancer services in terms of outcomes for people with cancer. To this end, the NHS Wales Medical Director will be working with the CSCG Cancer Site Advisory Groups, which collectively are in effect the National Specialist Advisory Group for cancer, to develop a core set of clinical outcome and patient focused quality measures. These will help us to track our progress towards achieving our aims for 2015.



# Agenda Item 3.2

## **P-03-136 Parking in the Heath and Birchgrove areas of Cardiff Petition wording**

'We would ask the Welsh National Government to:

1. Advise the Cardiff and Vale NHS trust to:

- provide sufficient parking on site for its staff and visitors by seeking suitable areas for hospital parking on site and on land such as the derelict area north of the allotments opposite Heath Hospital on the other side of Eastern Avenue
- decentralise some of the services already on the Heath site and
- cease selling hospital land in Cardiff and the surrounding area for housing.

2. Recommend Cardiff County Council to:

- refuse planning permission for further development on the Heath Hospital site unless a unit is removed from the site which has an equal traffic impact
- discourage multi-occupation development in the area and
- introduce limited time parking in streets within walking distance of Heath hospital.

3. Consider within the Assembly the introduction of a system which would allow local groups to appeal to the Assembly when the council gives planning permission for a development which residents consider will exacerbate the problem of parking in the area.'

### **Link to petition:**

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=862>

**Petition raised by:** Cllr. Ron Page

**Number of signatures:** 500+

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 22 May, 9 July, 2 October, 6 November 2008, 13 January, 27 January, 17 March, 8 December 2009, 23 March, 13 July, 16 November 2010, 11 January, 25 January, 8 February, 1 March, 29 March, 21 June 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Minister for Health and Social Services.

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref MB/LG/05424/11

Naomi Stocks  
Clerk Petitions Committee  
National Assembly For Wales  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

committee.business@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

12<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Dear Naomi,

**P-03-136 Parking in Heath and Birchgrove**

My predecessor Edwina Hart AM, received a letter from Christine Chapman AM dated 30 March 2011 regarding the above issue, more specifically Sustainable Travel Plans for the University Hospital of Wales, and requesting that the subsequent Assembly Committee be kept advised of these issues through the Committee Clerk.

I wrote to you on 20 June to inform you that Cardiff and Vale University Health Board were due to submit their updated Action Plan for the UHW site on 1st July and that my officials would be scrutinising the plan at that stage.

My officials have now received and scrutinised the Action Plan for the UHW Sustainable Travel Plan and a copy is enclosed for your reference.

Regards

**Lesley Griffiths AC / AM**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence.lesley.Griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk  
Printed on 100% recycled paper



## University Hospital of Wales Sustainable Travel Plan – 2011/12

## Action Plan

No.	Task	Action	Requirement	Action Lead	Date	Update
1	Car Sharing	<p>Joint Launch of Car Share Scheme</p> <p>Review existing arrangements</p> <p>Liaise with Cardiff Council and Cardiff University</p>		Patient Environment/ Cardiff University	Apr/May 09	<p>Car share scheme is open to all employees via Internet. Potential for joint promotion with Cardiff University to be pursued.</p> <p><b>Internal Launch completed.</b></p> <p>Car share scheme renewed for 2011-12. Cardiff Council and University have their own schemes.</p> <p>Car share banner produced for use at Car Share promotional events.</p>
		Investigate possibility of dedicated parking spaces for active car sharers		Patient Environment/ Facilities	May-09	Discussions are on-going with PFI contractor. Spaces can be made available but "policing" is an issue to be resolved.
		Establish guaranteed ride home scheme		Patient Environment	May-09	This will be put in place when the above issues have been resolved
		Review monitoring of car share registered numbers to establish impact of marketing		Patient Environment	Nov-11	
2	Complete Travel Plans for each Trust Hospital Site.	Undertaken Staff Travel to Work/Car Park Surveys		Facilities / Patient Environment	Mar-10	<p>A survey is currently underway using the South East Wales Travel Alliance (SEWTA) survey facility. This will inform the requirement for submitting travel plans for 2010. <b>Completed 2010</b></p> <p><b>Completed 2011</b> using SEWTA online survey tool</p>
		Liaise with Cardiff Council. Involve Staff Organisations, Public Transport Operators, Patient Groups (CHC's).				Regular meetings are undertaken with Councils, Operators and User/Patient
		Undertake regular site audit (to include cycle counts)		Patient Environment	On-going	



## University Hospital of Wales Sustainable Travel Plan – 2011/12

## Action Plan

No.	Task	Action	Requirement	Action Lead	Date	Update
3	Develop a Bus Inter-Change at UHW	Finalise and Approve Detailed Design Work for Bus Shelters/Canopy Revise Parking Arrangements for Taxis Provide a Uniformed presence to police traffic during the working day with the ability to issue Fixed Penalty Fines Agree service commencement with operators		Planning & Asset Management Patient Environment Patient Environment Facilities Patient Environment	Feb-09 Mar-09 Mar-09 April/May 09	Following detailed investigation and consultation with Council/operators this project was considered inappropriate given the confines of the area and potential impact on bus timetabling. <b>Project Rejected</b>
4	Cycling	Implement salary sacrifice scheme for assisted cycle purchase  Improve cycle secure storage and changing/shower facilities		Patient Environment/ Human Resources  Patient Environment	Oct-10  Sep-10	Following detailed research and financial advice, a scheme has been selected for Board approval. It is anticipated that once approved the scheme will take 3 months to implement. Revised target date – Sept 2010 Revised target date – Oct 2011 – due to HMRC revised guidance (Autumn 2010) and collaborative approach taken with Cwm Taf HB  Funding (£10k) was secured via the Cardiff Sustainable City Grant Scheme in December 2009. Additional cycle storage facility will be provided. Revised target date – June 2010 Proposal under consideration to create enclosed compound for cycle/motor cycle storage. Additional covered cycle storage also provided <b>Completed Autumn 2010</b> Improved shower/changing facilities have been provided in Ty Dewi Sant. <b>Completed</b>

## University Hospital of Wales Sustainable Travel Plan – 2011/12

## Action Plan

No.	Task	Action	Requirement	Action Lead	Date	Update
		Promote travelling expense incentivisation for cyclists				This will be clarified in relation to the launch of the Salary Sacrifice Scheme. Revised target date – Sept 2010 Revised target date – Oct 2011 – due to HMRC revised guidance and collaborative approach taken with Cwm Taf HB Promotion of cycle rate continuing
		In partnership with Sustrans Cymru, improve internal and external signage of safe cycle routes and develop safe cycle route maps		Patient Environment / Sustrans Cymru	Jul-09	Route signing completed for routes to and from the Taff Trail. <b>Completed</b> Active Travel maps are currently in production. Revised target date – June 2010 <b>Completed</b> Additional maps produced covering UHW, Whitchurch, Rookwood, and UHW, CRI & St Davids <b>Completed</b>
		Offer cycle skills training and maintenance via CTWales		Patient Environment		Basic cycle maintenance demo undertaken as part of "Bike to Work Week". <b>Completed</b> No funding available for on-going dedicated training provision. <b>Completed</b> Cycle training & maintenance sessions undertaken for UHB staff Sept 2010, May & June 2011. Other planned for Sept 2011
		Work with Sustrans Cymru on an "on the ground" project to promote cycling		Patient Environment / Sustrans Cymru		Number of cycle promotional events held in Concourse as part of on-going project. <b>Completed and on-going</b> . Active Travel site audit undertaken Sept 09. Travel champion training undertaken Sept 2010 Collaboration with Health & Wellbeing Group

## University Hospital of Wales Sustainable Travel Plan – 2011/12

## Action Plan

No.	Task	Action	Requirement	Action Lead	Date	Update
		Organise "Bike to Work Week" event		Patient Environment		Basic cycle maintenance demo undertaken as part of "Bike to Work Week". June 09 - Completed June 10 - Completed June 11 - Completed
5	Public Transport	Seek to introduce discounted bus tickets  Explore potential for discounted annual tickets for Arriva trains Wales on Valley Line routes  Develop, with Council, site specific bus timetable		Patient Environment  Patient Environment  Patient Environment / Council	On-going  Oct-11  On-going	Salary deduction scheme in place. <b>Completed and on-going annually</b>   Site specific timetable developed with Cardiff Bus. Received February 2010 – <b>Completed</b> Council timetabling format has changed to include bus/rail mapping guide. These are distributed to all sites.
6	Communication	To develop a Communication/Marketing Action Plan for all aspects of improving publicity and arrangements to existing and future staff, patients and their visitors		Patient Environment	Oct-09	This will be undertaken in 2010 when certain facilities are in place – cycle shelters, active travel maps, Intranet, salary sacrifice, etc. Until then, Intranet and Admin. E-mails continue to be used. A resource of promotional/marketing material has now been established including promotional banners for Car Sharing, Cycle Skills, Cycle Maintenance and Sustainable Travel and Transport. Given the progress now achieved, communication plan to be implemented. Revised target date Oct 2011



University Hospital of Wales Sustainable Travel Plan – 2011/12

Action Plan

No.	Task	Action	Requirement	Action Lead	Date	Update
		To maintain an up to date Transport & Travel Web Page as part of the Patient Environment Department Web Site		Patient Environment	On-going	Intranet page regularly updated but currently under review to reflect organisational changes and travel opportunities Revised target date – July 2010 Revised target date (due to structure changes) – August 2011
		Improve new starter induction information		Patient Environment / OD&T	Jul-09	HR have moved to on-line induction programme and meeting arranged to establish transport/travel links <b>Completed</b> – Travel Alternatives flyer provided to all new starters
7	To further improve Public Transport Services	To meet at 6 monthly intervals with each of the Public Transport Operators in reviewing their existing provision of Commercial and Supported Services and in liaison with Local Councils agree any revision of services to coincide with the half yearly revised Public Transport Guides that will be produced for each major Hospital Site To explore potential to utilise Cardiff East Park & Ride, and to bring further services onto site e.g. Newport Bus		Patient Environment	On-going	Meetings have taken place and maps/guides produced. <b>Completed</b> – regular meetings held Discussions on-going with Newport Bus to bring X30 service onto site
				Patient Environment	Sep-11	Discussions are on-going with Cardiff Council

## University Hospital of Wales Sustainable Travel Plan – 2011/12

## Action Plan

No.	Task	Action	Requirement	Action Lead	Date	Update
8	Powered Two Wheelers (Motorbikes)	Review on-site motorcycle parking facilities		Patient Environment / Estates	May-09	Completed - Motorcycle parking has been reviewed but funding issues are hampering development Proposal under consideration to create enclosed compound for cycle/motor cycle storage. <b>Completed</b> – Autumn 2010
		Explore, with Vinci Park, options for secure undercover parking in the multi-storey car park		Patient Environment /Facilities	Jun-09	Completed - Motorcycle parking has been reviewed but funding issues are hampering development <b>Completed</b> – Autumn 2010 – alternate arrangements in secure cycle compound
9	Walking	Review of site walking facilities		Patient Environment/ Estates	May-09	Review of walking facilities undertaken as part of site audit and recommendations under review. <b>Completed</b> - Sept 09. Access to north end of site and crossing provided Autumn 2010
		Develop plan detailing walking routes to site and improve signage	£2,500 (Active Travel Maps funded out of £10k grant)	Patient Environment	Aug-09	Walking routes will be identified on the Active Travel Maps. Revised target date – June 2010 <b>Completed</b> – June 2010
		Work with Sustrans Cymru on an “on the ground” project to promote walking		Patient Environment / Sustrans Cymru	Aug-09	Completed - Number of walking promotional events held in Concourse as part of on-going project. Travel champion training undertaken Sept 2010 Collaboration with Health & Wellbeing Group

## University Hospital of Wales Sustainable Travel Plan – 2011/12

## Action Plan

No.	Task	Action	Requirement	Action Lead	Date	Update
		Seek to establish a walking "buddy" system		Patient Environment / Facilities	Sep-09	Under review as part of the Sustrans project. Also linked to Health and Wellbeing Group. Option to manage under the car share scheme but funding implications Collaboration with Health & Wellbeing Group
10	Car Parking	Reissue Car Parking Permits		Patient Environment	Sep-11	Following the issuing of staff questionnaires that link to the sustainable travel plan the UHB in collaboration with Vinci Park Cardiff and Cardiff University are going through a re-permitting exercise for the allocation of permits to park on site at the University Hospital of Wales. This is necessary in order to ease congestion on site and to allow public transport easier access and egress to and from the site.
11	Equality	Undertake Equality Impact Assessment		Patient Environment	Mar-12	

## **P-03-219 Pharmacies in Barry**

### **Petition wording**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh government to save our local high street pharmacies. Our intention in submitting this petition is to point out the current anomalies of the present system of 'neighbourhoods' as they stand with regard to relocating pharmacies in Wales.

No pharmacy is allowed to make a 'minor' relocation as defined by the Pharmacy Regulations 1992 unless it falls within the defined neighbourhood

### **Link to the petition:**

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=889>

**Petition raised by:** Aneurin Evans Chemists Ltd. and Judith Evans Pharmacies

**Number of signatures:** 3000+

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 23 June, 6 October, 8 December 2009, 1 February, 23 March, 27 April 2010, 8 February and 15 March, 12 July 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Minister for Health and Social Services.



Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-219  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05791/11

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions Committee  
committeebusiness@Wales.gov.uk

15  
August 2011

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your letter dated 14 July regarding Petition P-03-219 Pharmacies in Barry, requesting details of the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group to review the NHS Pharmaceutical Services Regulations.

The Task and Finish Group's report was published in September 2009 and recommended the Regulations be reviewed. Here is a weblink to the report:  
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/home.cfm?orgid=498>

The Pharmaceutical Services Strategic Delivery Group has established a sub-group with the task of looking specifically at the Regulations. The sub-group's initial findings were presented both to the principal stakeholders, and to my predecessor. The sub-group's initial findings indicated it was necessary to seek views of a wider group of interested parties through a consultation, which as you indicate is to begin in September.

This sub-group will report their recommendations to me once the consultation has been completed, and they have reviewed the responses.

Regards

**Lesley Griffiths AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff

CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

Page 22

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: lesley.griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Printed on 100% recycled paper



## **P-03-221 Improved NHS Chiropody Treatment**

### **Petition wording**

We the Cynon Valley 50 plus Older People's Forum wish to present a petition for improved Chiropody Service (footcare) to be available on the NHS especially for Older People who are housebound in the RCT area:

Please sign our petition

### **Link to the petition:**

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=893>

**Petition raised by:** Cynon Valley 50 plus Older People's Forum

**Number of signatures:** 49

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 9 June, 22 September and 24 November 2009, 19 January, 23 March, 11 May, 29 June 2010, 1 March, 29 March, 12 July 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Minister for Health and Social Services.

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-221  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05794/11

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

15  
August 2011

Dear Bill,

**P-03-221 Improved NHS Chiroprody Services**

Thank you for your letter of 14 July.

I have noted your comments and the response from Gynon Valley 50+ Older People's Forum.

Senior officials are still considering consultation responses and will be reporting back to me with outcomes soon.

Regards  
Lesley

**Lesley Griffiths AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff

CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

Page 24

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: Lesley.Griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Printed on 100% recycled paper

## **P-03-222 National Osteoporosis Society**

### **Petition Wording**

The National Osteoporosis Society calls upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh government to fully implement the Falls and Fractures Standard in the National Service Framework for Older People, ensuring that patients with and at risk of fragility fractures are identified, assessed and treated by Fracture Liaison Services (FLS) in all of the new Local Health Boards. We would like a FLS to be linked to every hospital that receives fragility fractures, and ask that the Welsh government insists upon universal provision of FLS's across the NHS in Wales

#### **Link to petition:**

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=894>

**Petition raised by:** National Osteoporosis Society

**Number of signatures:** 22

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 7 July 2009, 6 October 2009, 24 November 2009, 29 June 2010, 12 July 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Minister for Health and Social Services.

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-222  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05792/11

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

15  
August 2011

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your letter of 14 July.

The National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People is moving into the next phase of implementation through a series of 'Position Statement' papers. Following the 2009 audit by the Welsh Osteoporosis Advisory Group (WOAG), which showed an under provision of Fracture Liaison Services in Wales, the first substantive 'Position Statement' paper will address this issue.

The NSF Project Manager has been working closely with WOAG and the National Osteoporosis Society over the last few months. Another audit is underway so that the contemporary situation can be understood. It is anticipated that the 'Position Statement' paper, which will set out specific areas for action by the Health Boards across Wales, will be published in the Autumn.

A review of the NSF by Health Inspectorate for Wales and Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales is underway. This work has been delayed and it will be important for this to be published to support the next phase of the NSF.

Regards  
Lesley

**Lesley Griffiths AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

Page 26

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: lesley.griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk  
Printed on 100% recycled paper

## **P-04-327 Keep our Community Hospital**

### **Petition wording**

We the undersigned call upon our National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Assembly Government to look into and address the proposed closure of Blaina and District Hospital by the local health board.

### **Link to petition:**

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=1286&optionId=0>

**Petition raised by:** Mandy Howells

**Number of signatures:** 40

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 12 July 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Aneurin Bevan Health Board and the Minister for Health and Social Services.



GIG  
NHS

Bwrdd Iechyd  
Aneurin Bevan  
Health Board

Our Ref: AG/RB/jr  
Your Ref:

Direct Line: 01495 765072  
Email: Andrew.goodall@wales.nhs.uk

14 July 2011

William Powell AM  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

**Re P-04-327 Keep our Community Hospital – Blaina and District Hospital**

Aneurin Bevan Health Board noted that the Petitions Committee of National Assembly for Wales was to discuss the above petition at its next meeting.

I thought I should write to you to ensure that you and the Committee were aware that Blaina and District Hospital following public consultation and, as part of a long standing agreement, closed nine months ago.

If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Andrew Goodall**  
**Prif Weithredwr/ Chief Executive**

**Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board**  
Bloc A  
Ty Mamhilad  
Ystad Parc Mamhilad  
Pontypwl  
Tor-faen NP4 0YP  
Ffôn: 01495 765016

**Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board**  
Block A  
Mamhilad House  
Mamhilad Park Estate  
Pontypool  
Torfaen NP4 0YP  
Tel: 01495 765016



*Mae croeso I chi ysgrifennu yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg*  
You are welcome to correspond in English or Welsh



Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05677/11

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

25<sup>th</sup>  
July 2011

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your letter dated 5 July on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding the above Petition from Mandy Howells in respect of the closure of Blaina and District Hospital.

The planning and provision of health services for local populations is the responsibility of the Local Health Board (LHB), in this case Aneurin Bevan LHB is responsible for the planning and provision of these services including those previously provided by Blaina and District Hospital. These are difficult decisions to make and Local Health Boards are best placed to do so, given their local knowledge.

I understand from Aneurin Bevan LHB that, following public consultation, Blaina and District Hospital closed nine months ago.

Regards  
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

# Agenda Item 3.7

## **P-03-301 Equality for the transgender community**

### **Petition wording**

We the undersigned call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that the transgender community is given equal support and direct assistance, as given to comparable communities such as Sexual Orientation support groups, to promote equality and awareness for the transgender community.

### **Link to petition:**

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=898>

**Petition raised by:** Sophie Morris

**Number of signatures:** 113

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 28 September 2010, 11 January, 1 March, 29 March, 21 June, 12 July 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Health and Social Care Committee, the Minister for Health and Social Care and the British Medical Association Wales.





William Powell AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

13 July 2011

Dear William,

**Petitions: P-03-292 Public Toilet Provision and  
P-03-301 Equality for the Transgender Community**

Thank you for your recent letter referring the above petitions to the Health and Social Care Committee.

At its meeting this morning, the Committee agreed that it would undertake two short, focused inquiries over the summer and return to its longer term programme at the start of the autumn term, when the legislative timetable would be clearer.

The Committee felt that both petitions raised important issues and agreed that it would consider them as potential inquiry topics when agreeing its longer term work programme in the autumn.

I will write to you again in the autumn, once the Committee has had an opportunity to consider the petitions in more detail and is able more fully to take account of the other strands in its workload.

Yours sincerely

*Mark Drakeford*

**Mark Drakeford AM**  
**Committee Chair**

09 August 2011

**P-04-301 Equality for the Transgender Community**

Firstly thank you for giving the BMA General Practitioners Committee Wales opportunity to comment on the above.

Training on equality and diversity forms part of the GP training curriculum and all trainers in Wales have to complete training on this subject also.

On the whole we believe that the training is adequate to supply the needs.

GPC Wales believes that all patients should be treated equally and more often than not transgender patients need specialist treatment for psychological problems while waiting for surgery and are referred to the relevant professionals.

If you need anything further from me please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Best Regards  
Donna

Mrs Donna Martin  
Committee Executive Officer  
General Practitioners Committee (Wales)  
British Medical Association Wales

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-301  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05795/11

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

19<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your letter of 14 July. The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) is carrying out a fundamental review of the Wales Gender Dysphoria policy, definitive pathway and service model. This was commissioned by the previous Health Minister and is being undertaken in collaboration with representatives from the Transgender community. The project is developing a planning strategy for specialised gender identity services, and will examine the current arrangements for assessment, making recommendations to the WHSSC Joint Committee on the future service models for patients resident in Wales. The project is in the early stages and WHSSC is currently reviewing and refining the project aims, scope and timeframe.

WHSSC have established an interim arrangement with West London Mental Health Trust (WLMHT) for the assessment of patients with Gender Dysphoria. Referrals to this service are managed through a gatekeeping arrangement, in which a referring clinician will refer via the designated gatekeeper in their Local Health Board to ensure that the patient meets the agreed access criteria. If the gatekeeper approves the referral, it is forwarded to WHSSC who authorise funding for the referring clinician to refer into WLMHT.

The current waiting times for outpatient assessments are approximately six months, however this is not a Körner speciality and as such is not subject to Welsh Government waiting times targets. There are assessment services provided and commissioned by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board for their local residents, however my understanding is that as these services are not standalone and provided either as part of the general psychiatric or psychosexual services, they have waiting times in excess of six months.

With regard to the guidance note issued to English GPs, I will share this with WHSSC in the context of their review and await the outcome.

Regards  
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence.lesley.Griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk  
Printed on 100% recycled paper

# Agenda Item 3.8

## **P-03-292 Public Toilet Provision**

### **Petition wording**

We, the undersigned, call upon the National Assembly for Wales to investigate the health and social well-being implications resulting from public toilets closures and to urge the Welsh Government to issue guidance to local authorities to ensure adequate public toilet provision.

### **Link to petition:**

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=887>

**Petition raised by:** Cllr Louisa Hughes

**Number of signatures:** 430

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 15 June, 13 July, 30 November 2010, 1 March, 29 March, 21 June, 12 July 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Health and Social Care Committee.



William Powell AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

13 July 2011

Dear William,

**Petitions: P-03-292 Public Toilet Provision and  
P-03-301 Equality for the Transgender Community**

Thank you for your recent letter referring the above petitions to the Health and Social Care Committee.

At its meeting this morning, the Committee agreed that it would undertake two short, focused inquiries over the summer and return to its longer term programme at the start of the autumn term, when the legislative timetable would be clearer.

The Committee felt that both petitions raised important issues and agreed that it would consider them as potential inquiry topics when agreeing its longer term work programme in the autumn.

I will write to you again in the autumn, once the Committee has had an opportunity to consider the petitions in more detail and is able more fully to take account of the other strands in its workload.

Yours sincerely

*Mark Drakeford*

**Mark Drakeford AM**  
**Committee Chair**

# Agenda Item 3.9

## **P-03-162 Road Safety in Llanspyddid**

### **Petition wording**

We, the undersigned, hereby petition the Welsh Assembly Government to improve road safety in the village of Llanspyddid, Brecon, Powys through implementation of traffic calming measures such as a reduction in the current speed limit, improved roadside lighting and improved signage on the A40.

### **Link to petition:**

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=875>

**Petition raised by:** Llanspyddid Residents Association

**Number of signatures:** 67

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 6 November 2008, 13 January, 2 March, 24 November 2009, 19 January, 23 March, 25 May, 16 November 2010, 25 January, 29 March, 21 June 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Minister for Local Government and Communities.



Carl Sargeant AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau  
Minister for Local Government and Communities



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-162  
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/05463/11

William Powell AM  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@wales.gsi.gov.uk

19 July 2011

I am responding to your letter of 29 June regarding petition P-04-162, which is about road safety in Llanspyddid.

I can confirm that the road marking works are now complete and we intend to finish updating the road signing during this summer.

**Carl Sargeant AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau  
Minister for Local Government and Communities

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: Carl.Sargeant@wales.gsi.gov.uk  
Printed on 100% recycled paper

# Agenda Item 3.10

## **P-03-316 Make maintenance of existing School Crossing Patrols a non-negotiable part of WAG Transport Grant to local Councils**

### **Petition wording**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to make it a condition of acceptance of any Welsh Assembly Government Transport Grant, that the relevant council continues to employ School Crossing Patrols to safeguard our children. In particular, maintaining the existing number and location of patrols as existed in 2010 and that the status of these patrols not change unless approved by the majority of parents at the relevant schools.

### **Link to petition:**

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=924>

**Petition raised by:** Mr C Payne

**Number of signatures:** 229

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 1 March, 29 March, 21 June 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Minister for Local Government and Communities.



Carl Sargeant AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau  
Minister for Local Government and Communities



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-316  
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/05464/11

William Powell AM  
Chair Petition's committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

19 July 2011

Thank you for your letter on 29 June about a petition received from Mr C Payne in relation to school crossing patrols.

As explained previously, responsibility for the operation and management of the school crossing patrol service sits with the local authorities. It is a matter for the local authorities to make their own informed decisions on the provision of such a service based on local circumstances and policies. The decision of the level of cover at individual sites also rests with the local authorities.

The Welsh Government's Safe Routes in Communities funding is allocated to projects that improve accessibility and safety and encourage walking and cycling within communities. It is a capital grant which funds infrastructure such as pedestrian crossings, new walking and cycling routes, new or improved street lighting, traffic calming and cycle facilities such as stands and lockers. In some instances School Crossing Patrols might no longer be considered necessary because other road crossing facilities have been provided. Local authorities must be able to exercise discretion where patrols are located based on need. We are not able to make it a condition of Safe Routes in Communities funding.

**Carl Sargeant AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau  
Minister for Local Government and Communities

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: Carl.Sargeant@wales.gsi.gov.uk

*Printed on 100% recycled paper*

# Agenda Item 3.11

## **P-03-273 Transportation of wind turbines in Mid Wales**

### **Petition wording**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to issue guidance to Local Planning Authorities to ensure that communities are properly consulted on wind farm developments, that impact on road infrastructure is properly assessed and that the broader effects of traffic disruption on sectors such as tourism are properly considered before any development is approved to take place. We believe the only way this can be properly concluded is by way of a public inquiry.

### **Link to the petition:**

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=873>

**Petition raised by:** Welshpool Town Council

**Number of signatures:** 1

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 19 January 2010, 23 March 2010, 25 May, 13 July, 28 September, 16 November 2010, 25 January 2011 and 29 March, 12 July 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Environment and Sustainability Committee and the Volunteers for Abergorlech, Llansawel and Rhydymerau.



William Powell AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee

15 July 2011

Dear William,

**Petitions: P-03-273 Transportation of wind turbines in Mid Wales  
P-04-324 Say No to TAN 8 – Windfarms and High Voltage**

Thank you for your letter regarding the above petitions. You will recall that the Environment and Sustainability Committee considered your letter at its meeting yesterday, and agreed that the specific petitions should be included in the terms of reference for its inquiry into energy policy and planning in Wales. The Committee will issue a consultation asking for written evidence over the summer and will hear oral evidence during the Autumn term.

I will write to you again once the Committee has concluded its inquiry.

Yours sincerely

**Dafydd Elis-Thomas**  
Cadeirydd / Chair

Bae Caerdydd  
Caerdydd  
CF99 1NA

Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

GALAR's evidence to P-03-273 Transportation of wind turbines in mid Wales.The Petition

**We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to issue guidance to Local Planning Authorities to ensure that communities are properly consulted on wind farm developments, that impact on road infrastructure is properly assessed and that the broader effects of traffic disruption on sectors such as tourism are properly considered before any development is approved to take place. We believe the only way this can be properly concluded is by way of a public inquiry.**

GALAR would support the above petition. While the Petition title sites mid Wales specifically, the petition itself refers to Local Planning Authorities and communities, which would be common to all areas subject to being on route to the SSA as determined by TAN 8.

We would support the call for a public inquiry, and ask that the inquiry investigates the following areas:-

- That a Traffic Impact Assessment<sup>1</sup> be made on all SSA's as determined in TAN 8, and on any further areas designated to meet WAG onshore windfarm plate capacity requirements. This TIA should determine the suitability of routes, and whether those routes can be used without adversely affecting other users and residents along the routes.
- If the selected routes are found to be inadequate then upgrading, or alternative traffic infrastructure should be in place prior to developments commencing. Unclassified roads and classified roads which form part of communities would have to be assessed as to impact before, during, and after the developments have taken place, to ensure change is minimal and the tourism and recreational features of routes are maintained.
- The inquiry should investigate methods of traffic assessment and movement. Simple traffic counting statistics employed at the moment are of little use. Wind Farm construction imposes a special encumbrance on rural road networks. Even developments below 50 MW create thousands of vehicle trips. These vehicles are predominantly slow moving heavy goods vehicles occupying road networks at peak traffic times. All the SSA's have been designated in rural areas, least suited to handle industrial plant traffic.
- The SSA's have also sought to concentrate developments in confined areas of the country side. There is no mechanism in place to coordinate traffic between developments on the SSA. WAG looking to have all SSA developments completed by 2017, but there is no plan to control traffic by sequential installation.
- The inquiry should also investigate route values in terms of emergency vehicle operation<sup>2</sup>, animal movements, and the potential tourist growth over the six year period.
- Rural unclassified roads are a major tourist attraction, and recreational amenity in West and mid Wales, providing walkers, cyclists, equestrian and light access vehicles approach to the village communities. The very areas which Local Planning Authorities, through UDP's and LDP's, recognise as primary growth potential for a stronger rural economy<sup>3</sup>. The inquiry should be aware that many of these roads have historical associations with Wales over the

<sup>1</sup> The TIA is at present made after approval by the Local Planning Authority under 50MW and by the IPC above 50MW  
[See online footnote 1](#)

<sup>2</sup> In SSA G the unclassified road designated by all developers, is the most direct and fastest access to Carmarthenshire hospital services for three rural communities. [See online footnote 2](#)

<sup>3</sup> This is also the ambition of the DEFRA supported National Ecosystems Assessment. [See NEA Report \(Footnote 3\)](#)

last two centuries, as drovers trails, cattle and local market associations. Many have only been paved in living memory. Their preservation is of paramount importance, both as amenity attraction and a source of rich biodiversity, (especially in heavily farmed and over forested areas).

- The inquiry should take evidence from Local Planning Authorities, and academia in respect of ecology and civil engineering. Construction methods, as proposed in the developers EIA's are not good enough to protect our biodiversity, ecology, or the future of our rural economies which lies in tourism. SSA areas are set to become ad hoc industrial development sites. Construction methods employed should be of the highest environmental standards and meet best practise to conserve biodiversity, and where possible reduce traffic impact.
- Traffic impact on tourism must be a major factor, in consideration of a application. Defra, the NEA, UDP, and the LDP's recognise tourism as the primary source of development of rural economy in Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government should enact legislation that protects this economic activity from development which has little or no local benefit.

We look forward to the petitions committee putting these points forward, and recommending to the Welsh Assembly Government a Public Inquiry which will provide the basis for legislation in this area.

GALAR  
15 September 2011



# Agenda Item 3.12

## **P-03-302 Compost processing plant**

### **Petition wording**

We call upon the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to call upon the Environment Agency (Wales) to take action to suspend operations at Bryn Composting, Gelligaer until such time as the operators can satisfy the Environment Agency (Wales) that they can resume operations in a way that will end the serious nuisance of odour pollution that blights the lives of local residents currently."

### **Link to the petition:**

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=900>

**Petition raised by:** Cllr Hefin David

**Number of signatures:** 642

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 12 October, 16 November 2010, 11 January, 1 March, 29 March, 21 June 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Petitioner.

Dear William

I would like to thank your committee (and its predecessor in the previous Assembly led by Christine Chapman) for the work that you have done to help find ways to resolve the odour problem at Bryn Ltd.

Since the petition was first submitted, the Environment Agency have introduced an Odour Management Plan which contains some stricter enforcement powers and the requirement for the introduction of stronger management controls at the site.

Unfortunately, this has still not wholly ended the odour problem and I am aware of the latest complaints on the 27th June which were reported to the EA by residents. I understand that the EA has the power to suspend activity for a period of time where odour is reported and I will be investigating whether this is occurring at appropriate intervals at the next meeting of Caerphilly County Borough Council's Bryn Compost Liaison Group which takes place in early September.

Since our last correspondence, the EA has introduced vastly improved communication processes and now writes directly to complainants, copying in local councillors and our AM and I think that this is directly attributable to the correspondence from your committee.

The problem remains ongoing but I recognise the legal limitations imposed on the regulator and I would say that they have made progress as far as is currently possible, though this is a continually evolving situation. It seems from the correspondence from the EA that they are now willing to consider suspension of activity where they are able to acquire appropriate evidence. We will press them to take action as and when it appears necessary and we will scrutinise the extent to which they are using their regulatory power to the full.

I believe that this progress has been made because of the ground level campaigning, led by residents and which we have been involved in as local councillors and the unstinting commitment of our AM Jeff Cuthbert who set up the original liaison group and later arranged a meeting between us, the then Minister Jane Davidson and the senior management of the EA. The correspondence from your committee has added a great deal of momentum to the process and has greatly aided communication between the EA and residents.

I hope that we will see an end to the dreadful odour problem soon and if not, I maintain that the EA should suspend activity at the site, as requested in our original petition.

Sincerely,

Cllr Hefin David  
St Cattwg Ward

# Agenda Item 3.13

## **P-04-324 Say No to Tan 8 - Windfarms & High Voltage Power Lines Spoiling our Community**

### **Petition wording**

The Welsh Assembly Government Technical Advice Note (TAN) 8:- Planning for Renewable Energy (2005) document provides advice and guidelines which without doubt result in the desecration of our beautiful Mid-Wales Countryside. Following these guidelines, will spoil our beautiful landscape, increase health risk from electro-magnetic radiation, damage tourism which is one of the main employment sectors, devalue properties and cause major environmental damage.

When the technical advice note popularly known as TAN 8 was issued by the Welsh Assembly Government in 2005, the local population did not truly grasp the scale of what it meant to the inhabitants of Mid Wales.

The Technical Advice Note TAN 8 will allow hundreds of huge wind turbines to be built upon wind farms within our communities.

As a result of the construction of these wind farms the National Grid will be obliged to construct power transmission lines to carry the power to where it is needed, although it is recognised that the National Assembly for Wales are not involved in the decision to route these power lines.

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to undertake a major review of the TAN 8 policy to include more public consultation.

### **Link to the petition:**

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=1017>

**Petition raised by:** John Day

**Number of signatures:** 3249 signatures. Associated petitions collected over 13,500 signatures.

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 12 June, 21 July 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, the Environment and Sustainability Committee and the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Volunteers for Abergorlech, Llansawel and Rhydcymerau.

John Griffiths AC /AM  
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy  
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-324  
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/05689/11

William Powell AM  
Chair Petition's committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA  
committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

14 July 2011

*Dear William,*

Thank you for your letter of 29<sup>th</sup> June regarding the Petition P-04-324 "No to TAN 8". I am happy to restate the Welsh Government's strongly held view that whilst the scale of the National Grid proposals for grid reinforcement in Mid Wales is unacceptable, we remain fully committed to the principles of strategic planning for large scale wind farms as set out in TAN 8.

It is a commercial fact that onshore wind is currently the most mature form of renewable energy technology and it is also a fact that Wales has one of the most abundant wind resources in Europe. As a consequence it is inevitable that commercial developers will seek to build wind farms in Wales, particularly as the UK Government continues to offer advantageous financial support for clean energy, and we must ensure that our policy protects our most valued and cherished landscapes.

TAN 8 seeks to restrict the proliferation of large scale wind farms across Wales by limiting such developments to seven Strategic Search Areas (SSAs) which account for less than 4% of the area of Wales. The SSAs were derived as a result of independent technical and empirical research and were assessed against issues such as grid and transportation constraints. Our policy was also informed by a range of relevant stakeholders.

We believe that this approach offers the best way forward in terms of meeting our commitments to reduce carbon emissions and our international obligations, whilst optimising the output of clean energy. I should also remind you that applications for development within the SSAs require consent either from the UK Government or from the local planning authority and will require Environmental Impact Assessment. There is no presumption that all wind farms proposals located in the SSAs will be approved and they should be determined on their merits

On 17<sup>th</sup> June my colleague the First Minister issued a Statement which reinforced our view that the SSAs had a finite capacity and that there were maximum levels of development. I subsequently issued a letter on 6<sup>th</sup> July outlining in more detail the maxima for the SSAs

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: John.Griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk  
Printed on 100% recycled paper

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

and called upon all bodies responsible for determining applications for wind farm development in the SSAs to respect our policy.

There are many technical issues associated with the efficacy of wind power and associated concerns, which we have considered as part of our policy development, and I would be happy to provide you with detailed responses to these technical aspects separately.

We believe that the planning policy framework which we have established is fit for purpose.

*Best wishes,*

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

**John Griffiths AC / AM**

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy  
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development





William Powell AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee

15 July 2011

Dear William,

**Petitions: P-03-273 Transportation of wind turbines in Mid Wales  
P-04-324 Say No to TAN 8 – Windfarms and High Voltage**

Thank you for your letter regarding the above petitions. You will recall that the Environment and Sustainability Committee considered your letter at its meeting yesterday, and agreed that the specific petitions should be included in the terms of reference for its inquiry into energy policy and planning in Wales. The Committee will issue a consultation asking for written evidence over the summer and will hear oral evidence during the Autumn term.

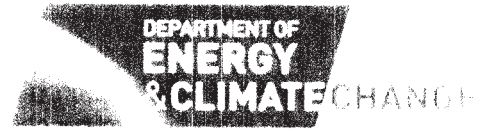
I will write to you again once the Committee has concluded its inquiry.

Yours sincerely

**Dafydd Elis-Thomas**  
Cadeirydd / Chair

Bae Caerdydd  
Caerdydd  
CF99 1NA

Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA



**Charles Hendry MP**

**Minister of State**

Department of Energy & Climate Change  
3 Whitehall Place  
London  
SW1A 2AW

[www.decc.gov.uk](http://www.decc.gov.uk)  
[ps.charles.hendry@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ps.charles.hendry@decc.gsi.gov.uk)

**Your ref:** P-04-324  
**Our ref:** PO2011/12961/AP

Mr William Powell  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

15 August 2011

Dear Mr Powell,

Thank you for your letter dated 29 June to Chris Huhne, about a petition on TAN8 which your committee is considering. I am replying as this matter falls within my portfolio, and I apologise for the lengthy delay in doing so.

As you rightly point out in your letter, the Welsh Assembly Government is responsible for the TAN8 policy. Therefore, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on the merits or otherwise of this policy. In view of this, my comments are limited to some of the generic points made in supporting information regarding onshore wind and Grid reinforcement.

#### Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)

You raise questions about health issues surrounding windfarms, high voltage transmission lines and substations. The main measure to protect the public health relating Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs) is compliance with independent exposure limits. The exposure limits in the UK are set by an international body called ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection) and the UK has adopted these 1998 guidelines in terms of the 1999 EU Recommendation. These guidelines prevent all established health effects of EMFs on the public, with a safety margin. The topic of high voltage power lines and EMFs was addressed by the Stakeholder Advisory Group on ELF (Extremely low Frequency). EMF (SAGE) in their First Interim Assessment. A key proposal in the first SAGE Interim Assessment was whether planning "corridors", i.e. restrictions on buildings close to power lines, should be introduced (see: <http://www.emfs.info/Related+Issues/property/UK/>).

However, SAGE's own cost benefit analysis of the proposal did not support the high cost option of creating corridors around power lines on health grounds. The Government therefore considered that option to be disproportionate in the light of the scientific evidence base on the potential health risks arising from exposure to extremely low frequency electromagnetic fields and decided not to take forward this action. The Government did develop with industry however, two voluntary codes of practice requiring the industry to optimal phase dual circuit high voltage overhead lines wherever reasonable and possible. This is a technical matter related to the design of power lines that can help reduce the magnetic fields produced. These were published in February 2011 on DECC's website (see: [http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting\\_energy/consents\\_planning/codes/codes.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/consents_planning/codes/codes.aspx)).

There has been some scientific research into health effects and the proximity of overhead power lines including the SAGE first Assessment and more recently the SAGE second Assessment that addresses lower voltage lines and substations. The Government response to this second Assessment is expected in the Autumn.

Available scientific research could imply an effect on health at levels lower than the current guideline levels, including childhood leukaemia as you have mentioned, neurodegenerative diseases, miscarriages and depression. The Department of Health are advised by Health Protection Agency (HPA) who state that the balance of scientific evidence to date suggests that exposure to electromagnetic fields below international guideline levels is not harmful to the health of the general population and the link with childhood leukaemia is weak and unproven. However both the Department of Health and Health Protection Agency support international research in this area and keep emerging science under review and maintains a precautionary approach.

With regard to your concerns about corona discharges and high voltage power lines. You have already highlighted the National Radiological Protection Board's (a predecessor organisation to the Health Protection Agency) report from 2004 on Particle Deposition in the Vicinity of Power Lines and Possible Effects on Health: Report of an independent Advisory Group on Non-ionising Radiation and its Ad Hoc Group on Corona Ions in 2004. Documents of the NRPB: Volume 15, No. 1  
<http://www.hpa.org.uk/Publications/Radiation/NPRBArchive/DocumentsOfTheNRPB/Absd1501/>.

That report concluded that the potential impact of corona ions on health will depend on the extent to which they increase the dose of relevant pollutants to target tissues in the body. It is not possible to estimate the impact precisely, because of uncertainties about:

- (a) the extent to which corona effects increase the charge on particles of different sizes, particularly within buildings;
- (b) the exact impact of this charging on the deposition of particles in the lungs and other parts of the respiratory tract;
- (c) the dose-response relation for adverse health outcomes in relation to different size fractions of particle.

However, it seems unlikely that corona ions would have more than a small effect on the long-term health risks associated with particulate air pollutants, even in the individuals who are most affected. In public health terms, the proportionate impact will be even lower because only a small fraction of the general population live or work close to sources of corona ions.

#### Noise:

You highlight the issue of wind turbine noise and its alleged impact on health. It is the Government's view that wind farms do not have a direct effect on the public health. We are aware of the study commissioned by the American Wind Energy Association "Wind turbine Sound and health effects". The findings of this were that noise caused by wind farms can make some people ill however, in 2007 a Government-backed study carried out by the University of Salford found that only one wind farm in the UK was ever found to present a noise nuisance to residents and the issue has since been resolved.

The Government does however recognise that noise impacts are a contentious area and can be a cause of concern. We are committed to ensuring there is clear and informative guidance to planner and developers so that noise assessments are carried out effectively as part of the planning application process. On 23 June 2011 the UK Government published a report commissioned from consultants Hayes McKenzie on matters arising from the consideration of noise impacts when determining wind farm applications in England. This report, which was peer reviewed, recommended that best practice guidance is required to confirm, and where necessary, clarify the way ETSU-R-97 (Government guidance) should be implemented in practice. We are currently in discussions with the Institute of Acoustics who have offered to lead a working group on best practice guidance. My officials are working closely with their counterparts in the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure consistency across all parts of the UK.

A copy of the Hayes McKenzie report is available at:

[http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting\\_energy/wind/onshore/comms\\_planning/noise/noise.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/wind/onshore/comms_planning/noise/noise.aspx).

### Efficiency of onshore wind farms

You underlined concerns regarding the efficiency of wind turbines. For conventional generators, efficiency is the delivered energy expressed as a percentage of the fuel input to the generator. However, given that the fuel source for wind is limitless, and free, its efficiency does not have the same meaning as for conventional power stations.

The load factor provides a measure of the amount of electricity generated by wind turbines compared to the theoretical maximum output under ideal wind conditions. A 2009 paper published by the DECC *Load factors for wind technologies*,<sup>1</sup> suggests that the annual capacity factor for wind power in the UK (long term average of over 27%) compares favourably to that of Germany (around 20%).

Wind is low carbon at the point of generation, in that it does not emit any carbon dioxide at the same time as it generates. Wind generation can displace generation from fossil fuel plant. If it replaces coal generation, it can reduce emissions in the UK power sector by about 0.9 kgCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh of generation; if it replaces gas generation it can reduce emissions by about 0.4 kgCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh; grid average emissions were about 0.45 kgCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh in 2009.

### Intermittency of Wind Energy

Wind is an intermittent, or variable, source of energy, although turbines individually generate around 70-80% of the time and variations are predictable on the whole.

Moreover, due to the UK's excellent wind profile and the geographical dispersion of wind farms, the chance of the wind not blowing across any of our wind farm sites at a given time is unlikely to occur for more than a few days a year. Winds offshore are generally stronger and more consistent than onshore, so the development of a larger, more geographically dispersed offshore wind fleet will add diversity and mean that we capture wind output where the wind is blowing.

Increasing amounts of intermittent electricity generation are likely to have implications for the way supply and demand are balanced in future. Beyond 2020 it is possible that tools and technologies such as demand side management, electricity storage and interconnection as well as more conventional forms of flexible generation will play a greater role. The Government will explore how electricity supply and demand can most efficiently be managed in future through the Electricity Systems Policy set out in the Electricity Market Reform White Paper.

### Carbon Footprint of Wind Turbines

In response to your point on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions I would point out that electricity generated from wind power has one of the lowest carbon footprints, compared with other forms of electricity generation. As with other low carbon technologies, nearly all the emissions occur during the manufacturing and construction phases, arising from the production of steel for the tower, concrete for the foundations and epoxy/fibreglass for the rotor blades. These account for 98% of the total life cycle CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Wind turbines typically generate for 20-25 years. Emissions generated during the operation of wind turbines are, relatively, extremely small and arise from routine maintenance inspection trips. They include the use of lubricants and transport to and from the site<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Statistics/publications/trends/articles\\_issue/564-trendssep10-renewable-electricity\\_article.pdf](http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Statistics/publications/trends/articles_issue/564-trendssep10-renewable-electricity_article.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology Note (Postnote) 268 which is available for downloading at: <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/upload/postpn268.pdf>.



The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology has compared the carbon footprint of different electricity generating technologies. This is the total amount of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases emitted over the full life cycle of generating plants. This footprint is expressed in terms of grams of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per kilowatt hour of generation (gCO<sub>2</sub>eq/kWh). Whereas the carbon footprint of fossil fuel generation range from around 500 - 1000gCO<sub>2</sub>eq/kWh, wind power's carbon footprint is just 4.5gCO<sub>2</sub>eq/kWh.

Actions to decarbonise our energy supply must be complemented by measures to reduce demand and increase energy efficiency. The supporting information enclosed with your letter highlights two recommendations in the Committee on Climate Change 'The Renewable Energy Review' report which could lead to significant benefit. I am pleased to say that we are taking forward ambitious actions in both of the areas identified.

On 10 March, we announced details of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) to provide long-term financial support to encourage the uptake of renewable heat. For commercial, industrial and community heating we have RHI tariffs starting this year. For household heating we have an RHI premium payment for this year and next, until the Green Deal comes in October 2012, at which point RHI tariffs begin for domestic too, with a ring fenced amount of over £10m dedicated to the household sector. More details are available on our website at [www.decc.gov.uk/rhi](http://www.decc.gov.uk/rhi).

Our Green Deal will revolutionise energy efficiency in British properties by establishing a framework to enable private firms to offer consumers energy efficiency improvements to their homes, community spaces and businesses at no upfront cost, and recoup payments through a charge in instalments on the energy bill. Further information on the Green Deal can be found at: [http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/tackling/green\\_deal/green\\_deal.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/tackling/green_deal/green_deal.aspx).

We are also working with other EU Member States and the European Commission to reduce the energy consumption of products, through the introduction of both EU-wide Ecodesign and Energy Labelling measures<sup>3</sup>. One particular aspect of these policies is to encourage the improvement of, or if that fails, the removal of the worst performing products from the market. Ecodesign and Energy Labelling together provide a framework for achieving this aim via a series of evidence based individual regulatory or voluntary implementing measures which are targeted at individual energy using and energy related products.

Ecodesign sets minimum product standards, aimed at reducing the environmental impact of products, including the energy consumption, throughout their entire life cycle. Energy Labels provide clear and easily recognisable information for consumers on the performance of a product, raising awareness on the real energy use of the product, in order to influence their buying decisions.

EU measures have been agreed for 11 product categories so far, in addition to cross cutting measures on the "wasteful" standby mode. Taken together, the energy labelling and Ecodesign measures are expected to deliver annual savings of over 7 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2020, with annual average savings of £850m over that period in the UK alone.

Finally in setting out the Government's approach to renewable energy including development of windfarms, it is important to recognize the scale of the challenge to our energy security that we face over the medium and longer-term.

As indigenous resources decline, the UK is increasingly dependent on fossil fuel imports, leaving us more exposed to risks from rising global demand, limitations on production, supply constraints and price volatility. At the same time, we will lose around a quarter (around 20GW) of our existing electricity generation capacity as old or more polluting generation plant close.

---

<sup>3</sup> Ecodesign for Energy Using Products Directive. See: [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/ecodesign/ecodesign\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/ecodesign/ecodesign_en.htm).



To ensure security of supply, create jobs, keep the cost to consumers manageable and realise the large carbon savings compared to fossil fuel generation, we will need new low-carbon generating plant to replace this. This is likely to be located in more peripheral areas of the country compared to current conventional fossil fuel plant. We therefore cannot escape the fact that this will need to be connected through expansion and reinforcement of the transmission network in those areas where infrastructure is currently less developed, and this will be needed for all new generation not just onshore wind.

Yours sincerely,

*pp Stephen Burke*

**CHARLES HENDRY**

## **Galar's submission with regard to e-Petition P-04-324: Say No to Tan 8 - Windfarms & High Voltage Power Lines Spoiling our Community**

### **The Petition**

The Welsh Assembly Government Technical Advice Note (TAN) 8:- Planning for Renewable Energy (2005) document provides advice and guidelines which without doubt result in the desecration of our beautiful Mid-Wales Countryside. Following these guidelines, will spoil our beautiful landscape, increase health risk from electro-magnetic radiation, damage tourism which is one of the main employment sectors, devalue properties and cause major environmental damage.

When the technical advice note popularly known as TAN 8 was issued by the Welsh Assembly Government in 2005, the local population did not truly grasp the scale of what it meant to the inhabitants of Mid Wales.

The Technical Advice Note TAN 8 will allow hundreds of huge wind turbines to be built upon wind farms within our communities.

As a result of the construction of these wind farms the National Grid will be obliged to construct power transmission lines to carry the power to where it is needed, although it is recognized that the National Assembly for Wales are not involved in the decision to route these power lines.

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to undertake a major review of the TAN 8 policy to include more public consultation

**GALAR supports** the request for a major review to TAN 8 asks the petitions committee to consider the following points:-

- TAN 8 was written under the constraints of Town and country planning acts, and therefore no offshore energy sources were considered. The potential for offshore energy in Wales is far greater than onshore. A reviewed TAN8 should take into account all areas of Wales inclusive of the seabed to 12 nautical miles from the shore.
- The strategic search areas available were chosen, not for their viability, but as areas of poor quality land, assessed from an agricultural viewpoint. The NEA report published this year recognises these areas of having very significant value in ecology terms as being carbon sink areas, although many of those areas are under threat of turning to carbon source after years of forestry mismanagement, producing inferior timber. A reviewed TAN 8 should look at land value from an ecological viewpoint.
- TAN 8 set out criteria in topics such as plate capacity and visual impact, that should be adhered to in an SSA, and also on the basis of these plate capacities, the ability, local to the SSA of being able to accept grid infeed. Developers have ignored these guidelines, which has led to a situation where massive pylon structures are required to transport infeed vast distances, (typically 40 Km) to an industrial point acceptable to the grid. The only way, with a conventional wind turbine, to increase plate capacity; is to increase the height to

blade tip. For every metre higher vertically the linear distance between the turbines increases by a factor of 8, because of the air turbulence created by the larger rotors. Air turbulence transmits sound, the greater the turbulence, the greater the distance. The larger the turbine in relation to land mass the worse the visual amenity. All these guidelines set out in TAN 8 final report 2006 have been ignored to the detriment of rural residents. Yet Local Planning has been under duress from WAG to accept the developers disregard for TAN 8. A review of TAN 8 should set limits to which the developer must adhere, or lose the entitlement to resubmission.

- TAN 8 passed the responsibility of the EIA to the developer. This has led to poor standards of habitat protection, ignoring completely seasonal breeding and feeding and development of hard standings and other concrete or quarry product footprint far higher than required. The reason for passing on this responsibility is purely cost and abdication of responsibility. A reviewed TAN 8 must take the EIA out of the developer's hands and put it firmly into the control of the building inspectorate, to avoid jerry building, and poor habitat protection.

### General Comments

- 1) Ove Arup made a very good job of the TAN 8 Final Report to Carmarthenshire County Council. From an engineer's viewpoint it is an easy report to see how they were trying to give reasonable visual amenity while providing an acceptable plate capacity, and their conclusions on other site factors. Had not recommendations been ignored, there would be less contention. However, the firm should not make policy decisions that rightly belong with WAG. Their advice should have been mitigated with local involvement in SSA's
- 2) Hydrology should pass from TAN 8 to TAN15, and TAN 15 should be strengthened. Flood from upland sources is a threat throughout Wales, and cannot be left in the hands of companies with little experience, or the will, to spend money on undertaking a thorough job, its direction, inspection, and approval should rest with the Environment Agency.
- 3) DECC are a non elected body, charged with promoting wind energy by the Westminster Government. They are too politically involved to be considered having a balanced view on renewable energy. Wales is well blessed in academic expertise, in matters regarding global warming and renewable energy, we are a devolved nation and should have our own unbiased, science based committee, regarding green energy, carbon sink technology and recycling.
- 4) TAN 8 should be reviewed to examine all forms of energy, (fossil and renewable), carbon capture, and recycling to form a cohesive policy. It should be noted however that the interdependence with England, especially in the border counties, requires a fundamental rethink and equitable sharing of the burdens green energy imposes on the economies of the respective countries.

We would like to add our thanks to the petitions committee for considering our submission, and if there is any further help or evidence to support the decision making process, we would be honoured to help.

GALAR

16 September 2011

## **P-04-326 No to Incineration**

### **Petition wording**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to revise its planning policy and policy on residual waste to provide a presumption against the building of incinerators, which send most of the carbon from waste into the air as CO<sub>2</sub>, emit ultra-fine particles that can be damaging to health, and create toxic ash. We believe that incineration is bad for the environment and bad for people.

### **Link to petition:**

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=1019>

**Petition raised by:** Friends of the Earth Cymru

**Number of signatures:** 1299 (An associated petition collected 13,286 signatures))

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 21 June 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Minister for Environment and Sustainability.

John Griffiths AC /AM  
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy  
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-326  
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/05688/11

William Powell AM  
Chair Petition's committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA  
committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

28 July 2011

*Dear William*

**P-04-326 No to Incineration**

Thank you for your letter of 29 June 2011 concerning the petition received from Friends of the Earth in respect to the Welsh Government's policy on energy from waste (EfW) in Wales.

In June 2010 the Welsh Government published "Towards Zero Waste", the overarching waste strategy document for Wales. The draft document was issued for full public consultation from 29 March to 22 July 2009, and was accompanied by a sustainability appraisal (incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment) and a Health Impact Assessment.

The final version of Towards Zero Waste sets our strategic direction for waste and resources in Wales, aligning with "One Wales: One Planet the Sustainable Development Scheme for Wales".

Our main targets within Towards Zero Waste are:

- By 2025, we intend to have made a substantial reduction in waste produced, and also reduced landfill to as close to zero as possible, maximising recycling to at least 70% across all waste streams and minimising the production of residual waste – phasing it out of landfill sites to high efficiency EfW plants

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: John.Griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk  
Printed on 100% recycled paper



- By 2050, we aspire that as a minimum we will be living within our environmental limits (one planet living) and aiming to phase out residual waste through actions on sustainable consumption and production

The Welsh Government's policy preference for high efficiency EfW plants to manage the residual municipal waste left after high levels of recycling is based on evidence drawn from the sustainability appraisals carried out for the three Regional Waste Plans, and on several life cycle assessment studies, including ones carried out to support the recent consultation on the draft Collections, Infrastructure and Markets Sector Plan. Of the various residual waste treatment options modelled (which included treatment technologies favoured by others, for example mechanical biological treatment), high efficiency EfW performed the best in sustainable development terms including in respect of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Welsh Government's policies on waste, including those on the use of EfW were endorsed, in respect of the consultation draft of Towards Zero Waste, by the National Assembly in Plenary on 19 May 2009 and, in respect of the final version of Towards Zero Waste, by Cabinet on 15 March 2010. All responses to the consultation on the revised waste strategy and associated sector plans were taken very seriously, and the views of opponents of EfW and others are regularly taken into account and considered.

In respect of concerns expressed on the impact of EfW plants on health, the Welsh Government is guided by the public bodies tasked with ensuring the protection of human health and the environment. In this instance we place strong weight on the considered and expert views of bodies such as the Health Protection Agency (HPA), Health Protection Wales and the Environment Agency (EA). They base their views on the evidence available to them and their analysis of it. Based on the expressed views of the HPA and EA, and the level of protection afforded by the issuing and enforcement of an environmental permit, the impact of modern well regulated EfW plants is likely to be very small, if detectable and will not cause significant adverse effects on human health or the environment. This conclusion is also based on Health Impact Assessments that were carried out during the development of the three Regional Waste Plans, Towards Zero Waste, and the associated sector plans, all of which were subject to public consultation.

The Welsh Government is robust in its commitment to preventing waste, maximising recycling and minimising the residual waste that requires treatment. Towards Zero Waste sets challenging and stringent waste prevention and recycling targets and the Welsh Government has made the recycling targets statutory for local authorities under the Waste (Wales) Measure 2010. The Welsh Government is the only UK administration to make such recycling targets statutory – demonstrating its commitment to recycling as a priority after waste prevention. These statutory recycling targets effectively cap the amount of residual municipal waste sent to energy recovery, ensuring that the priority is given to recycling. Local authorities face financial penalties for not meeting the recycling targets. Wales has thus done more than the other UK nations to minimise the proportion of municipal waste that goes to EfW plants.

Wales is also currently the only country in the UK where every local authority provides a separate food waste collection service. Currently 82% of households in Wales have a separate food waste collection service, and this should reach 90% by the end of this year. This is waste that will be diverted away from both landfill and incineration.

We must meet the Article 5 EU Landfill Directive targets to reduce the landfilling of biodegradable municipal waste and the use of EfW for the remaining residual waste uses technologies tried and tested in mainland Europe where EfW plays a significant role in management of municipal waste, often at levels higher than the 30% level we have planned



for. The EU countries with the highest levels of recycling also tend to have the highest levels of energy from waste, and lowest levels of landfill.

Although the Welsh Government has given a clear signal that it finds high efficiency EfW a sustainable technology for the management of residual municipal waste, local authorities are free to choose for themselves which technology they should use. The Welsh Government's Residual Waste Procurement Programme that supports local authority procurement consortia (of which Prosiect Gwyrdd is one example) provides a National Evaluation Framework for the local authority consortia to use to evaluate bids from tenderers. Deliverability, bankability and track record of technologies are some of the criteria used to assess the bids. Therefore the type of technologies advocated for example by Friends of the Earth (such as mechanical biological treatment) and others are free to be included in tender solutions and, if proposed, would then be judged on their merits against other bids using other technologies.

Ministers have and will continue to meet groups who wish to discuss the formulation and review of policy with us. For example, in relation to EfW, my predecessor, Jane Davidson, and her officials held a round table discussion on EfW policy in July 2008. Attending were representatives of Friends of the Earth, the Environment Agency, two waste consultancies and Cardiff University Engineering Department. This meeting, together with responses from the consultation on both Towards Zero Waste and the Municipal Sector Plan, Part 1, helped shape the Assembly Government's policies on EfW that were published in Towards Zero Waste in June 2010. The meeting discussed the various merits of different technologies for managing residual municipal waste, and Friends of the Earth (FoE) put their case for their preferred technology, mechanical biological treatment (MBT). Welsh Government representatives explained why this was not the technology preferred by the Welsh Government, on the grounds of greenhouse gas emissions and cost.

The Minister again met senior representatives of FoE including Gordon James, Director Wales, on 2 December 2010. There was no new evidence put forward by FoE in respect of EfW and the Minister confirmed the Assembly Government's approach set out in Towards Zero Waste.

The attached Annex provides further more detailed information on the additional points raised by FoE.

I hope this provides the response that you require. Please contact me again should you require anything further.

*Best wishes,*



**John Griffiths AC / AM**

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy  
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Encl: Annex addressing the FoE points



## ANNEX

### Climate change

The 2006 Eunomia report was taken into consideration and has been previously discussed with FoE. Life cycle assessment (LCA) modelling carried out for the development of the 2008 Regional Waste Plans and for the Welsh Government shows that EfW performed better in greenhouse gas emission terms than other treatment processes, for example mechanical biological treatment. The LCA model used met relevant ISO standards.

The UK National statistics authority published its annual emissions statistics for 2009 which show that landfills in the UK emitted 15.9 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e (million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent), whilst energy recovery from waste fuels were responsible for 0.3MtCO<sub>2</sub>e.

### Toxic emissions and air pollution

EfW facilities are the most highly regulated industrial plants in the UK in terms of their emissions to atmosphere and are required by law to monitor the levels of any substances emitted, including all particles and dioxins.

All EfW plants must comply with the European Union's Waste Incineration Directive (WID). This directive ensures that the gases (flue gases) produced by the facility and released into the air are thoroughly cleaned and constantly monitored. Emission levels allowed by the directive are a lot stricter than those for coal fired power stations. The Environment Agency regularly checks that each facility has cleaning systems that are in good working order and that records are kept of all emissions.

In respect of the control of ultra-fine particle emissions from incinerators, the Environment Agency (EA) controls total particulates, which includes both PM<sub>10</sub>s and PM<sub>2.5</sub>s (ie. particles of a 10 micron and 2.5 micron size respectively; one micron is a millionth of a metre), through an emission limit value incorporated in the environmental permit for the installation. The EA, when determining permit conditions, ensures that the impact assessments make the conservative assumption that 100% of the WID dust emission limit value is PM<sub>2.5</sub>s, which is the "worst case". Assessments made in this way are checked (using dispersion modelling) against the PM<sub>2.5</sub> UK Target Value of 25 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) has a position statement on the impact on health of emissions to air from municipal waste incinerators. After reviewing the latest literature in 2010 the HPA's general position remains unchanged: "Modern, well managed incinerators make only a small contribution to local concentrations of air pollutants. It is possible that such small additions could have an impact on health but such effects, if they exist, are likely to be very small and not detectable." The HPA continue to review all available literature/evidence regarding incineration on a frequent basis. The following link is for the HPA's website and includes links and references to a number of detailed documents and research papers carried out by independent scientists and medical professionals regarding the health impacts of emissions from municipal waste incinerators  
<http://www.hpa.org.uk/ProductsServices/ChemicalsPoisons/IntegratedPollutionPreventionControlIPPC/ippcIncineration/> .

Regarding incinerator bottom ash (IBA), this can usually be processed and recycled as a secondary aggregate with the main area of application being road construction; it can also



be used in masonry blocks. The proportion of IBA to incoming waste is, on average, about 20% by weight.

The fly ash is a much smaller proportion, at around 2.5% by weight of the incoming waste. The fly ash is normally taken by sealed tanker to a secondary treatment plant, and then to a hazardous waste landfill. It is classed usually as hazardous because it is very alkaline, but this means it could also be used in other industrial processes to neutralise acidic materials.

Hazardous waste should ideally be managed in the nearest appropriate installation permitted to handle that waste, but commercial and/or economic reasons mean this may not always be practical. Planning policies in Wales encourage the development of hazardous waste facilities in Wales, but recognise that due to economies of scale and commercial considerations, it is acceptable for hazardous waste to be managed outside of Wales. Notwithstanding the above, Wales manages the majority of its hazardous waste arisings within Wales, and imports more waste for treatment than it exports (mainly to England). Of the hazardous wastes produced in Wales, around three-quarters of all these wastes are reused, recycled or recovered.<sup>7</sup>

### **Disincentive to recycling and waste reduction**

The Welsh Government places a very high priority on waste prevention and recycling, and aims to strictly limit the amount of non-recyclable waste that is sent for energy recovery. Its policies, targets and actions are robust, and are specifically aimed at reducing the amount of residual waste produced in Wales – a key aim of “Towards Zero Waste”.

The Welsh Government has set all local authorities legally-binding targets of 70 per cent recycling by 2025, which means no more than 30 per cent of Wales' municipal waste could be used for EfW. Wales is the only country in the UK to set such statutory recycling targets.

Our priority is to reduce waste and recycle everything which can be recycled. For waste left after recycling, EfW is higher up the waste hierarchy than landfill. EfW is not an alternative to recycling. Using non-recyclable waste as a resource makes economic and environmental sense, and that high-efficiency EfW plants are a better option than burying waste in landfill

EfW is an integral part of the management of waste in most EU countries, with many European cities containing large EfW plants sited in their midst. EU countries and regions that have the highest level of recycling almost without exception have the highest levels of EfW and lowest of landfill. Many are most held up as exemplars of sustainable waste management in terms of their high recycling levels. For example, Flanders has levels of 70% recycling, close to 30% EfW, and close to zero landfill. Denmark has 30 EfW plants supplying heat to neighbouring properties. Germany and most of the Scandinavian countries also have significant levels of EfW.

### **Inefficient energy production**

EfW plants can range in thermal efficiency from around 20% to 80% depending upon the relative mix of electricity production and heat use; the highest efficiencies are generated from heat only plants. In comparison, coal fired power stations in the UK have a typical efficiency of 36-39% on electricity production only, with little use of CHP in the sector. Gas fired power stations range from c.42% (Open Cycle Gas Turbine) to a theoretical maximum of c.60% (Closed Cycle Gas Turbine), again with little use of CHP evident within the sector.



Anaerobic digestion (AD) is already strongly supported by the Welsh Government through the Food Waste Treatment Procurement Programme, and via grants from the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). Welsh Government policy is for the separate collection of all food waste and for it to be sent to AD plants, and not incinerators or landfills. 82% of households in Wales have a separate collection service for food waste, and this should rise to 90% by the end of the year.

### **Economics and inflexibility**

Within the waste infrastructure procurement programme, each of the food waste treatment hubs and residual waste treatment consortia are setting Guaranteed Minimum Payment (GMP) levels (based on a minimum tonnage).

A GMP is required to raise funding for each project – whether from internal corporate finance, or external project finance. Bidders will use this payment level to recover fixed costs and make their required rate of return. The lower the tonnage upon which the GMP is based the higher the gate fee will be for that price band. The lower the tonnage upon which the GMP is based the greater the perceived risk of the project to bidders and consequently this would likely be reflected in a higher gate fee bid for all bands.

Projections relating to the future levels of contract waste arisings are being made by the local authorities taking into account future household/population numbers and local demographics. In the case of the food waste projects this includes an assessment of capture rates. For the residual waste projects it assumes that Welsh Government recycling targets will be achieved (with a contribution from bottom ash recycling).

In framing their residual waste treatment procurements, local authorities were advised to be aware of the Welsh Government's waste reduction targets set out in Towards Zero Waste. As such, local authorities are using their own judgement on likely future tonnages of residual waste arisings in their area and the treatment capacity they need to procure.

The minimum tonnage level upon which each project sets its minimum payment varies for each project, but is typically c. 70-80% of the lowest annual projected level of contract waste. This level is fixed for the 15 or 25 year contract period for food waste and residual waste projects respectively. In each case, the hub/consortium must be satisfied that this level is set such that it will not be breached i.e. that projects will always have more waste available than the minimum.

The contracts contain a comprehensive change protocol to provide flexibility to manage change and the allocation of risks and costs between the different parties. Examples of potential changes include change in law, authority change and contractor change.

### **Job creation and socio economic effects**

The Welsh Government's policy preference is for recycling and that is why it has set a recycling target of 70% for all wastes, the highest level of any UK nation. Recycling can create up to 250 jobs for 100,000 tonnes of waste. However for the waste that can't be recycled EfW can create between 20-40 jobs per 100,000 tonnes as opposed to landfill which creates approximately 10.

Many European cities have large incinerators in their midst where they are valued for their job creation and for dealing sustainably with the waste that society produces. Many are the subject of civic pride, and enhance the socio-economic health of their area.



# Agenda Item 3.15

## **P-04-320 Social Housing Policy**

### **Petition wording**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to review its Social Housing policy in relation of the indigenous population of the country.

### **Link to petition:**

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=924>

**Petition raised by:** Adam Brown

**Number of signatures:** 45

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 21 June 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage.

Huw Lewis AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth  
Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-320  
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/05334/11

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@wales.gsi.gov.uk

19 July 2011

Dear William

**P-04-320 - Social Housing Policy**

Thank you for your letter of 29 June regarding the 45 signature petition from Adam Brown on social housing policy in Wales in relation to the indigenous population.

Local authorities, in conjunction with Housing Associations/Registered Social Landlords are statutorily responsible for meeting the housing needs of the local population. They are required by law to allocate housing to applicants in accordance with a published allocation scheme, which is available to members of the public. Social landlords are responsible for setting their own rules governing such schemes and the Welsh Ministers cannot intervene in the allocation of social housing, provided those allocation policies remain within the law and are carried out in accordance with published guidance.

Local authorities are required to comply with the Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002) and the Welsh Government's *Code of Guidance on the Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness*. Registered Social Landlords must comply with the Welsh Government's *Regulatory Code for Housing Associations in Wales*.

A Welsh Government report published in 2009 entitled *The effects of recent migration on local authorities' allocation of housing and actions under homelessness legislation* found that the net pressures created by migration on access to social housing were not as great as public perceptions.


The report made recommendations on the importance of local authorities raising awareness on allocations amongst local communities, producing allocations schemes which are easy to access and understand and publish information about lettings.

In the light of these findings and other legislative changes, we have recently reviewed the *Code of Guidance for Local Authorities on Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness*. This document sets out guidelines that local authorities should follow when drafting their allocation policies for social housing. The consultation on the revised Code of Guidance closed on 30 June and the responses are currently being analysed by my officials.

The new draft Code of Guidance recommends that local authorities consult more with local residents when developing allocation policies and also feed back to residents on who is being housed. The draft Code reinforces the flexibilities local authorities have within the allocation legislation to meet local pressures. They are able to take other factors into account when prioritising applicants such as waiting time and local connection. However the new Code will remind local authorities and registered social landlords that their policies must comply with the Equality Act 2010 and for this reason we will be urging them to carry out Equality Impact Assessments.

We anticipate that the final Code of Guidance will be available before the end of this financial year and that local authorities will revise their allocation policies accordingly.

I hope this information will be of some assistance to you and the Petitions Committee.

Your Sincerely  


**Huw Lewis AC / AM**

Y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth  
Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage

## P-03-124 Cysgliad

### Petition wording

We the undersigned call upon the National Assembly for Wales to request that the Welsh Assembly Government makes available, for free download, the Windows version of the Cysgliad Welsh dictionary/thesaurus.

#### Link to petition:

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=861&optionId=0>

**Petition raised by:** Alun Evans

**Number of signatures:** 11

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 11 June, 2 October, and 20 November 2008, 31 March, and 19 May 2009, 19 January and 28 September 2010.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Minister for Education and Skills.



Leighton Andrews AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau  
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-124  
Ein cyf/Our ref LA/05252/11

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

29 July 2011

*Dear William,*

Thank you for your letter of 1 June about the above petition. I am sorry for the delay in replying, but this issue is closely linked to our work on developing a new Welsh language strategy, the draft of which referred to the possibility of providing software developed using public money, to the user, free of charge.

Since assuming responsibility for Welsh language policy, I have had an opportunity to discuss the draft strategy with a wide range of organisations, including during a meeting of the Ministerial Advisory Group on the Welsh Language Strategy, which met on 6 July.

In considering the responses to the strategy consultation (held between December 2010 and February 2011), and following discussions held between the Welsh Language Board and Canolfan Bedwyr (the developers of the Cysgliad software), it will be necessary for the Government to consider this matter further, in liaison with the Board and other interested parties. This work will be undertaken as we continue to develop the Welsh language strategy.

I shall write to the Petitions Committee again, however, as soon as this matter is resolved.

*Yn sicelys  
Leighton Andrews*

**Leighton Andrews AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau  
Minister for Education and Skills

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay

Caerdydd  
**Page 68**

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: leighton.andrews@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Printed on 100% recycled paper



Leighton Andrews AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau  
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyfl/Your ref P-03-124  
Ein cyfl/Our ref LA/05252/11

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

July 2011

Diolch am eich llythyr dyddiedig 1 Mehefin am y ddeiseb uchod. Mae'n ddrwg gennyf am yr oedi cyn ateb, ond mae'r mater yma'n gysylltiedig â'n gwaith ar ddatblygu strategaeth iaith newydd. Roedd y strategaeth drafft yn cyfeirio at y posibilrwydd o ddarparu meddalwedd a ddatblygwyd gan ddefnyddio arian cyhoeddus, i'r defnyddiwr, yn rhad ac am ddim.

Ers cymryd cyfrifoldeb dros bolisi iaith Gymraeg, yr wyf wedi cael cyfle i draffod y strategaeth ddrafft gydag ystod eang o sefydliadau, gan gynnwys yn ystod cyfarfod o'r Grŵp Cynghorï'r Gweinidog ar y Strategaeth Iaith Gymraeg, a gyfarfu ar 6 Gorffennaf.

Wrth ystyried yr ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad ar y strategaeth (a gynhaliwyd rhwng Rhagfyr 2010 a Chwefror 2011), ac yn dilyn trafodaethau a gynhaliwyd rhwng Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg a Chanolfan Bedwyr (datblygwyr y meddalwedd Cysgliad), bydd angen i'r Llywodraeth ystyried y mater hwn ymhellach, mewn cysylltiad â'r Bwrdd a phartion eraill â diddordeb. Bydd y gwaith hwn yn cael ei wneud wrth i ni barhau i ddatblygu'r strategaeth iaith Gymraeg.

Byddaf yn ysgrifennu at y Pwyllgor Deisebau eto, fodd bynnag, cyn gynted ag y bydd y mater hwn wedi ei ddatrys.

**Leighton Andrews AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau  
Minister for Education and Skills

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff

CF99 1NA  
**Page 69**  
Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: Leighton.Andrews@wales.gsi.gov.uk  
Printed on 100% recycled paper

# Agenda Item 3.17

## **P-03-307 Design for Innovation in Wales**

### **Petition wording**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Assembly Government to consider the potential significant role for design in future innovation, public service and social enterprise policies and programmes. This is in the light of increased commitment to design agenda by other nations around the world and in preparation for a new Innovation Policy due to be published by the European Commission. This imminent new policy is likely to include a broader definition of innovation that embraces services in the public & private sectors and social enterprise on equal terms with traditional research and development (R&D).

### **Link to petition:**

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=908>

**Petition raised by:** Gavin Cawood

**Number of signatures:** 369

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 16 November 2010, 11 January and 1 March, 12 July 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Enterprise and Business Committee.



**Y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes  
Enterprise and Business Committee**

William Powell, Chair  
Petitions Committee,  
National Assembly for Wales

18 July 2011

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 12 July 2011 referring three petitions to the Enterprise and Learning Committee.

At our meeting on 13 July, the Enterprise and Learning Committee agreed to undertake an inquiry into Town Centre Regeneration, and we will therefore ensure the issue of Business Rates is included as part of this inquiry.

The Committee also noted the petition on Design for Innovation in Wales, and will consider this petition further when we scope a potential future inquiry into Innovation Policy.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew RT Davies AM  
Chair, Enterprise and Business Committee

Bae Caerdydd  
Caerdydd  
CF99 1NA  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

# Agenda Item 3.18

## **P-03-271 Business Rates in Narberth**

### **Petition wording**

We the business ratepayers of Narberth call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Assembly Government to conduct an impact assessment on how businesses in the town will be affected by the changes in rateable values. This assessment should include effect on jobs and business closures.

### **Link to petition:**

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=871>

**Petition raised by:** Narberth Chamber of Trade

**Number of signatures:** 91

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 19 January, 1 February, 27 April, 25 May, 29 June 2010, 8 February, 1 March, 29 March, 21 June, 12 July 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Enterprise and Business Committee



**Y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes  
Enterprise and Business Committee**

William Powell, Chair  
Petitions Committee,  
National Assembly for Wales

18 July 2011

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 12 July 2011 referring three petitions to the Enterprise and Learning Committee.

At our meeting on 13 July, the Enterprise and Learning Committee agreed to undertake an inquiry into Town Centre Regeneration, and we will therefore ensure the issue of Business Rates is included as part of this inquiry.

The Committee also noted the petition on Design for Innovation in Wales, and will consider this petition further when we scope a potential future inquiry into Innovation Policy.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew RT Davies AM  
Chair, Enterprise and Business Committee

Bae Caerdydd  
Caerdydd  
CF99 1NA  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA



# Agenda Item 3.19

## **P-03-286 Ceredigion Business Rates**

### **Petition wording**

We the business rate payers of Ceredigion, call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Assembly Government to conduct an impact assessment on how businesses in Ceredigion will be affected by the changes in rateable values.

This assessment should include effects on jobs and business closure.

### **Link to petition:**

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=878>

**Petition raised by:** Ceredigion Business Ratepayers

**Number of signatures:** 68

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 19 January, 1 February, 27 April, 25 May, 29 June 2010, 8 February, 1 March, 29 March, 21 June, 12 July 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Enterprise and Business Committee.



**Y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes  
Enterprise and Business Committee**

William Powell, Chair  
Petitions Committee,  
National Assembly for Wales

18 July 2011

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 12 July 2011 referring three petitions to the Enterprise and Learning Committee.

At our meeting on 13 July, the Enterprise and Learning Committee agreed to undertake an inquiry into Town Centre Regeneration, and we will therefore ensure the issue of Business Rates is included as part of this inquiry.

The Committee also noted the petition on Design for Innovation in Wales, and will consider this petition further when we scope a potential future inquiry into Innovation Policy.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew RT Davies AM  
Chair, Enterprise and Business Committee

Bae Caerdydd  
Caerdydd  
CF99 1NA  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

# Agenda Item 3.20

## **P-03-204 Public Accountability and Consultation in Higher Education**

### **Petition wording**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh government to introduce an open and transparent system to scrutinise the standards of service and value for money offered by the Higher Education sector in Wales, and to ensure changes in service levels are subject to public consultation.

### **Link to petition:**

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=885>

**Petition raised by:** Trevor Mayes

**Number of signatures:** 13

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 22 September 2009, 8 December 2009 and 1 February 2010, 25 May, 13 July, 12 October, 16 November 2010, and 29 March, 12 July 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Minister for Education and Skills and the Petitioner.

Leighton Andrews AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau  
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-204  
Ein cyf/Our ref LA/05568/11

William Powell AM

[committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

29 July 2011

P-03-204 Public Accountability and Consultation in Higher Education

Thank you for your letter dated 14 July enquiring about the Welsh Government's response to the Independent Review of Higher Education Governance in Wales (the McCormick Review) and public consultation within the higher education sector.

The McCormick Review Panel's Report *Achievement and Accountability - The Independent Review of Higher Education Governance in Wales* was published in March.

The Review's findings were supported by evidence which included detailed research on trends and issues in higher education, and comparative systems of national governance. The panel undertook interviews with chairs of governing bodies, institutional leaders, external experts and key stakeholders. In addition, there were two formal written consultation exercises, one of which received a submission from the Petitioner.

The Welsh Government's proposals in response to the Review's recommendations were considered by Cabinet on 26 July. These proposals will address the need for reform of national governance, improvements in institutional governance, and changes to the legislative and regulatory framework. The changes being proposed will also address several Manifesto commitments. In particular, the need to strengthen the governance of higher education institutions by introducing more external challenge at council level and by ensuring that the learner experience and the learner voice are central to the good governance of higher education institutions in Wales.

Consultation on the proposed changes will be undertaken in Autumn 2011. Once the proposals have been finalised, it is my intention to incorporate any legislative changes required into the Welsh Government's second Education Bill (Structures, Governance and SEN).

Committee members may be aware that I have recently received advice from the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) on proposals for restructuring the Welsh higher education sector. Earlier this month I published HEFCW's report in full. I intend to seek representations from stakeholders and the public on the Council's recommendations over the course of the summer. I will be inviting all interested stakeholders to comment on the analysis and recommendations set out in the HEFCW report before reaching an initial view on the most appropriate structure for the future. Before any final decisions are made in relation to individual higher education corporations, further consultation will be undertaken with the institutions affected.

With regard to public consultation within the higher education sector I have previously stated that higher education institutions, as independent and autonomous bodies, are responsible for their own academic and administrative affairs. It is the responsibility of individual institutions to ensure that they consult with all relevant stakeholders on the issues of academic, staffing and structural changes arising from institutional mergers.

*Yn eiddo*



**Leighton Andrews AC / AM**

Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau  
Minister for Education and Skills



Mr T W Mayes  
3 Tan y Castell  
Llwyn-y-Groes  
Tregaron  
SY25 6QB  
Email: trevormayes1@gmail.com

Thursday, 18 August 2011

To: The Petitions Committee National Assembly for Wales

Re: P-03-204 Public Accountability and Consultation in Higher Education

I am pleased that the Petitions Committee has written to the Minister for Education Life Long Learning and skills with regard to my concerns relevant to the review of higher education governance and the issue of public consultation is going to be addressed.

However, the report 'Accountability and achievement' does not fully address the depth nor the seriousness of the issues involved. While I made a submission to the review, my request to give oral evidence was ignored and the evidence given was not published, unfortunately, this means that the public are not fully informed of what goes on inside these institutions, the reasons for the recommendations made, or the way in which our money is spent. This leads to questions regarding the scrutiny of any legislation that is going to be passed and whether Universities Wales is going to make any real difference.

With regard to the issue of public accountability, deregulation of higher education has left it open not only to abuse of position and risk taking but also the concealment of any maladministration. Currently the process of being able to take action in theory and actually doing it in practice do not exist. Under the Local Government Act 2000 the Auditor General was able to take over a higher education institution on the grounds of financial mismanagement, this was repealed under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 when HEFCW took over this responsibility via a Memorandum of Understanding leaving the Wales Audit Office to verify if this had been done. This depends on the Wales Audit Office being told the whole story and if there is any doubt then there is no process whereby this can be verified.

Regulation of university governance and financial management are two separate things and as far as Lampeter and Trinity St David are concerned HEFCW has failed to address both. Therefore, with the proposed Universities Wales the power of intervention to take over a failing university is a positive step backwards. However, the Auditor General should have the power of direct investigation and intervention with regard to financial mismanagement. The Public Audit Act also took away the right of public complaint to the Auditor General and in my view this should also be reinstated.

It has been proposed that many Welsh universities will merge in the future, however; there are issues and lessons to be learned from the way in which the merger of the University of Wales Lampeter and Trinity University College was conducted. I am therefore seeking an assurance that Universities Wales will consider these issues and matters of accountability will be addressed.

I have complained to HEFCW on a number of issues and have asked for explanations, none of which was forthcoming including the following:

1. There was no required public consultation on the merger and I asked for the reasons why.
2. I complained that the review of Lampeter by Haines Watts Corporate Finance which contained some very disturbing information was deliberately withheld from the governors of Trinity University College, the BBC and the public. A complaint to the Information Commissioner was partially upheld, but the exemption that it was withheld for commercial reasons was allowed although I may make a further complaint in light of new information.
3. If such a report was withheld for commercial reasons from the shareholders of a private university then those responsible would have committed a criminal offence and found themselves in court. The public as stakeholders have every right to know what led to the failure of Lampeter, what is being done about it and for those responsible to be held to account and not paid off. I can only assume that the merger would not have taken place if the public knew what was going on and that public money could be better spent.
4. Following on from this I complained that while Welsh universities are in the public sector and therefore not subject to the same criminal law, there had been a failure to comply with the 'Seven Principles of Public Life'. The public have every right to expect the same standards of propriety from a Quango trusted with public finances as the private sector.
5. I raised the issue of the illegal payment of expenses to senior office bearers at Lampeter contrary to UK government guidelines and charity law, and in my opinion the concealment of this maladministration has led to a breach of Royal Charter contrary to the Charity Act 2006. I asked why HEFCW had dismissed previous complaints without investigating the matter according to its procedures.
6. Members of an external organisation have been instrumental in these matters and in my view acted in its own interests and in which the Chair of HEFCW holds high office, he should have considered his position as is custom and practice. Public declaration of interests is not in itself an excuse for failing to do this. If after consideration the Chair considered that his involvement did not affect his duties then it is a properly considered decision. The fact is he did not consider then at all is contrary to the proper conduct of such matters.
7. This also relates to my complaint that Lampeter obtained £18 million pounds of taxpayers' money by deception in that it failed to tell the truth regarding my objections to the Privy Council who have no powers of investigation or intervention. They had to obtain the Royal Charter in order for the merger to go ahead and was conditional upon receiving public funding. Telling lies to obtain money under any circumstances is fraud.
8. I asked for an explanation as to why HEFCW had not used existing powers to withhold public funds from Trinity St David until these matters had been investigated and appropriate action taken.
9. Not only was I totally dissatisfied with the responses from HEFCW who failed to address or answer any of the above issues, I was told that any further complaints would be ignored and I was also misled with regard to HEFCW's complaints procedure.
10. This led to another complaint concerning the CEO and Chair abusing their positions regarding the way in which these matters had been handled and their actions were in my view an act of concealment.

11. I referred the matter to a complaints panel and on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2011 a preliminary meeting dismissed all my complaints as being vexatious. This in effect prevented any form of accountability and these issues from being made public. I have been on this occasion correctly told that I can now refer the matter to the Public Services Ombudsman.

I would be very grateful if the Petitions Committee would ask the Minister if he considers such conduct of public business unacceptable or if he also thinks that any complaint concerning these issues is vexatious. Is similar conduct is going to apply to future merges. If the Minister does not consider this conduct acceptable what does he intend to do to remedy this situation and prevent it from happening again.

I have also complained about the conduct of HEFCW to the Auditor General and I am waiting for a reply although I accept that a full decision cannot be made until my complaint to HEFCW had run its course.

These matters raise serious public concerns regarding the elite culture within higher education that considers itself above any form of public accountability, and in turn raises the question of the membership of the proposed Universities Wales. Are independent members of the board going to be independent of higher education and bring in real world standards and ethics? What process of public complaint and whistle blowing is Universities Wales going to be put in place to incorporate an 'effective' remedy in keeping with Article 13 of the European Commission on Human Rights ECHR.

I am greatly concerned by the recommendation of the review 'Accountability and achievement' that Universities Wales is to be the regulator under the Charity Act 2006. The Charity Commission is totally independent of government and the review should not have made the assumption that it can simply assume this role. I will take up this matter with the Charity Commission using the recent complaint to HEFCW as a reason why it is not in the public interest for Universities Wales to take up this position and for the Charity Commission to remain the regulator. I am concerned that my complaint concerning Trinity St David being in breach of its Royal Charter, which could lead to it losing its charitable status, will go the same way as my complaints to HEFCW.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Mayes

# Agenda Item 3.21

## **P-03-236 The Charter for Grandchildren**

### **Petition wording**

We call upon the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to adopt The Charter for Grandchildren and to make the Charter mandatory for professional workers who are employed in the welfare of children.

### **Link to petition:**

<http://senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=899>

**Petition raised by:** Grandparents Apart Wales

**Number of signatures:** 19

**Previously considered by the Committee on:** 6 October, 8 December 2009, 27 April, 29 June, 28 September 2010, 21 June 2011.

**Update:** Correspondence has been received from the Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services (Ministerial statements included) and the Petitioner.



Gwenda Thomas AC / AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Plant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-236  
Ein cyf/Our ref GT/05213/11

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

16<sup>th</sup> July 2011

*Dear William,*

Thank you for your letter dated 29 June on behalf of the Petitions Committee, requesting information on the Welsh Government's evidence to the Family Justice Review.

The Family Justice Review was commissioned by the the Ministry of Justice, the Department for Education and the Welsh Government. Given the Panel was established to be independent and asked to provide recommendations to Government, it was not appropriate for the Welsh Government to submit evidence. I have enclosed copies of my Ministerial Statements of January and June 2010 which you may find helpful in providing additional context.

I am however keen to ensure that the Welsh context is fully recognised and in particular that the rights and voices of children are reflected in this important work. I am particularly pleased therefore that Keith Towler, the Children's Commissioner for Wales, is the Wales representative on the Panel ensuring this is a key priority and strongly advocating the voice of children in Wales.

Evidence gathering and consultation has been extensive, including an event in Wales in September last year for key stakeholders during which Helen Mary Jones AM, David Melding AM and Darren Millar AM presented evidence in their roles as Assembly Committee Chairs, as well as an open discussion consultation event held at the end of May.

Consultation on the Panel's Interim Report Review ended on 23 June and the Final Report is scheduled to be presented to Ministers during the Autumn at which point we will determine our response to the final recommendations. I will ensure that the Committee receives a copy of the Final Report to assist in your consideration of this Petition.

Yours sincerely,

**Gwenda Thomas AC / AM**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Plant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: Gwenda.Thomas@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Printed on 100% recycled paper



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

---

## WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT

---

**Title:** Family Justice Review

**Date:** 20 January 2010

**By:** Gwenda Thomas, Deputy Minister for Social Services

As part of my role as co-chair of the National Family Justice Board, I have agreed with the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Jack Straw MP) and the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls MP) a review of the family justice system in England and Wales.

The family justice system involves life changing decisions for many thousands of children and their families each year at a cost to the taxpayer of over £800m. There have been some important elements of reform in recent years. But we need to be certain that the system, as it is currently set up, supports parents as fully as possible in establishing and maintaining a co-operative approach to agreeing future arrangements when relationships break down, and does not unwittingly cause additional stress at what will already be a difficult time. It is also important to ensure that valuable court time is focused on protecting the vulnerable from abuse, victimisation and exploitation and that the system is being managed as effectively as possible.



The review will be conducted by a panel, comprising four representatives independent of UK and devolved Government and senior representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Department for Children, Schools and Families, and the Welsh Assembly Government..

The review will be asked to make recommendations in two core areas: (1) what steps can be taken to promote informed settlement and agreement; and (2) whether improvements need to be made to the way in which the family justice system is managed.

It will be guided by the following principles:

- The interests of the child should be paramount in any decision affecting them (and, linked to this, delays in determining the outcome of court applications should be kept to a minimum)
- The court's role should be focused on protecting the vulnerable from abuse, victimisation and exploitation and should avoid intervening in family life except where there is clear benefit to children and vulnerable adults in doing so
- Individuals should have the right information and support to enable them to take responsibility for the consequences of their relationship breakdown
- Mediation and similar support should be used as far as possible to support individuals themselves to reach agreement about arrangements, rather than having an arrangement imposed by the courts
- The processes for resolving family disputes and agreeing future arrangements should be easy to understand, simple and efficient
- Conflict between individuals should be minimised as far as possible

Copies of the full terms of reference are attached at Annex A.

The review will have an impact on families in Wales and CAFCASS CYMRU whose primary functions are to safeguard and promote the welfare of children involved in Family Proceedings and give advice to any court about applications made to it.

Members will recall that on 9 December 2009 the National Assembly for Wales considered the recommendations of the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee's Report on the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service Cymru (<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=157038&ds=12/2009>).

We have asked for the review panel to provide a final report to respective Government leads in 2011.



## Family Justice Review – Terms of Reference

The Secretaries of State for Justice and Children, Schools and Families and the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Health and Social Services have commissioned a review of the family justice system in England and Wales.

The following guiding principles have been identified which are intended to provide a framework within which the review's work should be undertaken:

- The interests of the child should be paramount in any decision affecting them (and, linked to this, delays in determining the outcome of court applications should be kept to a minimum)
- The court's role should be focused on protecting the vulnerable from abuse, victimisation and exploitation and should avoid intervening in family life except where there is clear benefit to children or vulnerable adults in doing so
- Individuals should have the right information and support to enable them to take responsibility for the consequences of their relationship breakdown
- Mediation and similar support should be used as far as possible to support individuals themselves to reach agreement about arrangements, rather than having an arrangement imposed by the courts.
- The processes for resolving family disputes and agreeing future arrangements should be easy to understand, simple and efficient
- Conflict between individuals should be minimised as far as possible

The review should assess how the current system operates against these principles and make recommendations for reform in two core areas: the promotion of informed settlement and agreement; and management of the family justice system.

Specifically, this will include examination of the following issues:

- The extent to which the adversarial nature of the court system is able to promote solutions and good quality family relationships in private law family cases and what alternative arrangements would be more effective in fostering lasting and positive solutions
- Examination of the options for introducing more inquisitorial elements into the family justice system for both public and private law cases
- Whether there are areas of family work which could be dealt with more simply and effectively via an administrative, rather than court-based process, and the exploration of what that administrative process might look like

- Examination of the roles fulfilled by all of the different agencies and professionals in the family justice system, including consideration of the extent to which governance arrangements, relationships and accountabilities are clear and promote effective collaboration and operational efficiency

The review will be conducted by a Panel, comprising four independent representatives and senior representatives from MoJ, DCSF and the Welsh Assembly Government (as relevant for devolved matters). The Panel will be assisted in its work by an expert consumer and stakeholder group, made up of experts from across the family justice system, academics and consumer specialists. Membership of the Panel and Advisory Group will be approved by Ministers.

In examining these matters the Panel will be required to obtain and consider the views of key stakeholders, including children and families, the judiciary, family lawyers, Cafcass practitioners and social workers. The review will also be expected to engage in wide consultation, to draw on relevant family justice research studies and literature, consider available qualitative and quantitative data and take into account international comparisons.

The review should take account of value for money issues and resource considerations in making any recommendations. Recommendations should be costed and have regard to affordability.

Following examination of available research and evidence, the Review Panel is expected to report the likely timeframes for moving Review forward within a three-month period following the Review's announcement. A final report setting out the Review's findings is expected to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Justice, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Health and Social Services in 2011.

**Rhodri Wyn Jones**  
**Cymorth Tim** – Pwyllgor Deisebau  
**Team Support** – Petitions Committee  
**Gwasanaeth y Pwyllgorau**  
**Committee Service**  
**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**  
**National Assembly for Wales**

**Frank Bradfield**  
Grandparents Apart Wales

**PET (4) -01-11 Agenda 21-06-2011**

Dear Rhodri

**A Charter for Grandchildren**

**18<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

We thank the committee for their two years of deliberations regarding the above petition, and it is still our desire to have children's rights enhanced and protected, and the motivation for this has not diminished in anyway since we petitioned the National Assembly Petitions Committee in July 2009.

In fact when one deals with the anguish of parents and the extended family, regarding issues that affect them and their grand/children one appreciates that there is something radically wrong with our society today that we ourselves appear to be creating mainly by default..

As a charity we welcome many of the proposed changes the Family Justice Review Panel suggest, but would have liked to have seen equal parenting given more prominence and not belittled as we felt it was. Mediation we think should be compulsory and that cases should be time limited unless there is sound reason for it being otherwise. Conflicts within families that cannot be resolved in less than five years are completely indefensible. Family Law as it stands and we include the Children's Act 1989 in this, is just being used as another money earner for those who practice in law as we have evidence which proves that Court Orders are not enforced, and when broken the people who suffer such injustice can only return to the same court to have the same Court Orders reissued again, all to the advantage of the lawyers – but of detriment to the children. That is a woeful fact and in any other department of justice would be totally unacceptable.

Many family charities have written regarding their interpretation and aspirations of the Interim Report of the Family Justice Review, and we agree with them when they write in support of the Articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, but we would go further especially in response to **paragraph 99** and the section under **Private Law**, where it is stated that:

**“Where the marriage has irrevocably broken down, couples seek to divorce and also need to resolve any outstanding financial issues. Where a separation involves children, arrangements need to be made for their care and decisions must be reached about parenting post-separation. These are difficult emotive issues for anyone to resolve and often bring high**



**tension and distress. The family justice system cannot be expected to fix all of these difficulties. Instead, for those unable to resolve an issue by any other means, it must focus on ensuring the process achieves the best outcome possible, or the least detrimental, for those involved especially children.”**

The weakness in our opinion in this section of private law in the Interim Report, is that the children's interests are only brought to the fore after the separation of the parents, and such vital decisions are then taken regarding the children's future at the time of their parents' most difficult and stressful period as they have to adjust to a different lifestyle and cope with the trauma that separation sometimes brings.

This section of Private Law goes on to state the difficulties that this presents to the courts and agencies, and we argue that had the child's future, wellbeing and protection been agreed and enshrined in a Child's Contract before the birth of the child, then the court would have in their domain the defined guidelines of the parents wishes for their child prior to separation. The Child's Contract would be part of a parental agreement agreed by both parents contemplating parenthood and recognised in law.

We petitioned for a Charter for Grandchildren, as some children we feel are not given the highest priority in many cases when their parent's separate or divorce, yet their welfare is paramount and universal. We hear about decisions taken in the best interests of the child, but, where the blood relations are not even consulted in any of the decisions regarding the child and then to add to their misery and anxiety, they are denied information on the child. In short they are totally ignored by the authorities.

We have cases where the grand/children have been taken away from their family and their relatives who are completely innocent of any wrongdoing; subsequently, are then denied any future contact with their grand/children including generic information. We fail to see how this can have a beneficial effect on the mind of a child, and we reiterate that this happens in too many cases where the authorities appear to have their own specific agenda which dictates that their action is in the best interests of the child and In many cases this has been proven not to be so, at a cost to those involved, both emotionally and financially

We believe such action taken by the authorities will someday haunt this nation and the signs are there at present for all to witness as the children who feel unloved, deprived of the security and stability of their family, which they are made to feel has denied them so, misguidedly, seek solace and affection in the group culture which is a natural progression of development, that they have confidence in for their protection, and seen by many of them as a statement of expression.

Our petition for a charter for grandchildren would protect young people and children.

- When children have difficulties or problems they would expect people to get to know them, to speak to them and listen to what they have to say.
- The charter would be there for children to be taken seriously, and for them to be involved in the decisions that affect the quality of the circumstances in their life.



- Children should have their privacy respected, and have people that are responsible to them examining their lives as a whole.
- The charter would have people thinking carefully about how to use the information held on children and to put children in touch with the right people, by having Children's Agencies using their power to help strengthen families.
- The charter would help children be safe because in essence when children are given the highest priority then the right things happen.

Our petition was submitted one year prior to the Family Justice Review Panel calling for evidence which we were pleased to give, and in truth we see our petition as a way forward and its principles clearly supported in many areas by the Family Justice Review's Interim Report.

The proposals of the Family Justice Review recognise the need for change but deal mainly with the issues of courts and Family Law and our proposed Charter for Grandchildren single-mindedly is all about the wealth and future of our nation namely the children and how to care for their protection and welfare within the family which will benefit society as a whole.

We would hope that the Petitions Committee of the National Assembly of Wales supports the need for a Charter for Grandchildren and this charter to be mandatory for the use of people who work in children agencies, and we look forward to their decision.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Bradfield,  
Grandparents Apart Wales