

Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:
Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date:
29 November 2011

Meeting time:
09:30

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



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Agenda

- 1. Introduction, apologies and substitutions 9.30**
- 2. New petitions 9.30–9.40**
 - 2.1 P-04-344 Freshwater East Public Sewer (Page 1)
 - 2.2 P-04-345 Rail and Bus Links between Aberystwyth and Carmarthen (Page 2)
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3. Updates to previous petitions 9.40–10.30

Housing, Regeneration and Heritage

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- 3.2 P-03-306 Save Barry Theatre (Pages 16 – 18)

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Environment and Sustainability

3.4 P-03-313 The Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2011 (Pages 50 – 51)

Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and European Programmes

3.5 P-04-333 Stop neglect and abandonment of horses and ponies by enforcement of microchipping laws (Pages 52 – 76)

4. Minister for Health and Social Services – oral evidence session 10.30–11.00

Welsh Government witnesses

Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Health and Social Services

Andrew Walker, Head of Capital Estates and Facilities

Andrea Nicholas-Jones, Head of Older People Strategy

Helen Howson, Senior Health Strategy Advisor and Head of Community Health Strategy and Development

4.1 P-03-136 Parking in Heath and Birchgrove (Pages 77 – 94)

4.2 P-03-221 Improved NHS Chiropody Treatment (Pages 95 – 105)

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5. Papers to Note

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PET(4)-07-11 p1a

P-04-344 Freshwater East - Public Sewer

Petition wording

We the undersigned householders of Freshwater East, ask the Welsh Government not to take enforcement action against Dwr Cymru Welsh Water concerning the installation of a public sewer in Freshwater East.

Petition raised by: Royston Thomas

Date petition first considered by Committee: 29 November 2011

Number of signatures: 106

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PET(4)-07-11 p2a

P-04-345 Rail and Bus Links between Aberystwyth and Carmarthen

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to restore and/or improve rail and bus links between Carmarthen in the county of Carmarthenshire and Aberystwyth in the county of Ceredigion.

Supporting information:

They may be in adjoining counties, but the train ride from Carmarthen to Aberystwyth is a marathon that takes more than six hours. The Manchester and Milford Railway line, which linked Carmarthen and Aberystwyth, came to Tregaron in 1866 from a southerly direction. It served as a 'regular' route between the towns of Carmarthen and Aberystwyth and linked South Wales to North Wales, a link which sadly no longer exists in such a straightforward route, since Lord Beeching's report on reshaping British Railways resulted in many line closures in the 1960s. Today, with the growth of Aberystwyth and Lampeter as some of Britain's most prestigious universities, along with the beauty of many seaside towns, such as Aberaeron, Welsh residents are calling for this train route to be re-established. It would make travel for commuters easier, quicker and safer as a railway connecting main western towns could reduce traffic and accidents on rural roads, statistically the most dangerous.

Petition raised by: Craig Owen Lewis

Date petition first considered by Committee: 29 November 2011

Number of signatures: 555

PET(4)-07-11 p3a

P-04-346 Free Childcare for 3-4 Year Olds in Wales

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that free childcare for 3-4 year olds is delivered more flexibly across Wales allowing parents, and in particular working parents, to choose when and where they access the free childcare.

Supporting Information:

All three and four year olds are entitled to 15 hours of free nursery until they reach compulsory school age however many parents living in certain local authority areas in Wales are unable to utilise this free childcare due to the restrictions in place.

For example, parents living in the Vale of Glamorgan are only able to redeem free childcare at nurseries attached to schools and this childcare is split into 2.5 hours a day from Monday to Friday. In Newport Council however parents are offered a wrap around service whereby 12.5 hours are available for parents to use against childcare provided in either a nursery school or private nursery setting of their choice. This essentially means that working parents in certain local authority areas who are unable to drop and collect their children for 2.5 hours of childcare a day are being discriminated against and losing out on free childcare whilst parents in other areas are receiving a disproportionate amount of money towards their childcare costs. I would urge the Welsh Government to standardise this system so that parents in all local authority areas can use a wrap around service thus making the free childcare accessible to all including working parents.

Petition raised by: Zelda Smith

Date petition first considered by Committee: 29 November 2011

Number of signatures: 67

Agenda Item 2.4

PET(4)-07-11 p4a

P-04-347 Property and Asset Review

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly and the Welsh Government to carry out an Asset and Property Review of their respective buildings and or properties to reduce the number of properties that are underutilised and to use the capital saved to fund the 21st Century Schools Programme.

Supporting information:

The National Assembly have offices in Princess Drive, Colwyn Bay, whilst the Welsh Government have offices at Llandudno Junction which are underutilised and partially empty. There is no justification in these financially straightened times for Welsh taxpayers to fund two buildings so close to each other. It is appreciated the WG and the NAW are 2 separate organisations but there is no reason why they cannot share the same building. The same situation probably arises in other areas of Wales as well

Petition raised by: Cllr Arfon Jones

Date petition first considered by Committee: 29 November 2011

Number of signatures: 19

PET(4)-07-11 p5a

P-04-348 Recycling Targets for Health Boards

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to recommend to the Minister for Health that she introduce legally binding recycling targets for Health Boards in Wales at a similar level to that imposed on Local Authorities.

Supporting Information

A recent Freedom of Information request indicated that the Maelor Hospital in Wreccsam disposed of 1200 tonnes of waste last year (which does not include electrical units WVEE). Only 3% of that waste is recycled and 55% goes into landfill including all food waste. This lack of commitment to recycling is unacceptable and with several local facilities available it is also inexcusable. The total cost of removing waste from the Maelor annually is in the region of £350,000 and if this reflected across Wales then the cost is probably in the region of £5 million.

Petition raised by: Cllr Arfon Jones

Date petition first considered by Committee: 29 November 2011

Number of signatures: 29

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PET(4)-07-11 p6a

P-04-349 Welsh-medium Provision – Caerphilly

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Minister for Education and Skills at the Welsh Assembly Government to afford urgent priority to the bid submitted by Caerphilly County Borough Council for monies to finance the badly needed additional Welsh medium secondary provision by 2013.

Petition raised by: Ben Jones

Date petition first considered by Committee: 29 November 2011

Number of signatures: Approximately 1,200

Supporting information:

Caerffili County Borough is faced with an urgent issue, according to population trends, it is estimated that the borough will an increase of approximately 700 children wanting Primary School Welsh medium places by 2016 and nearly 1000 extra children wanting Comprehensive Placements by 2020. This means that the borough needs to build at least one more primary and one more secondary school.

Caerffili County Borough Council had submitted plans under the Twenty First Century Schools Programme and like other authorities was deeply disappointed when the Minister for Education announced a delay in the programme until 2014 and a change in criteria.

Caerphilly County Borough has submitted an updated bid which gives value for money as it utilises the empty buildings at the site of the previous Saint Ilan school in Caerffili.

We need an urgent answer from the Government as the current Comprehensive School does not have sufficient space and some children will have to be turned away as soon as September 2013.

PET(4)-07-11 p7a

P-04-350 Retain the services of Sporttrain in Rhondda and Cardiff

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to retain the vital community services that Sporttrain provide in Rhondda and Grangetown. These services are:

- Employment training for young people;
- Engagement training for NEET young people;
- Community learning;
- Welfare, support and counselling services for young people;
- Community sports coaching and activities for young people.

Petition raised by: Gareth Holohan

Date petition first considered by Committee: 29 November 2011

Number of signatures: Approximately 2,000

Supporting information:

Sporttrain's centres in Rhondda and Grangetown are to be closed in January 2012 removing a vital service for young people and leaving a hole in these communities.

The potential impact upon levels of youth engagement, employment, crime and health in these areas could be significant.

Sporttrain act as an important platform for young people who have no alternative direction in life including those who are unable to engage with school, college, training or employment by providing the support and skills that they need to turn their lives around.

Many local employers recruit directly from Sporttrain as experience has proven that our young people have the skills, attitude and ethos required to be effective employees. Employers have expressed their concern that the removal of Sporttrain's service would lead to a shortage of young people with the necessary skills in the area.

Organisations who work directly with young people including Careers Wales, Social Services and Youth Offending Teams have expressed that "Sporttrain are the most effective solution available for many of the young people that they deal with".

Removing Sporttrain's service will directly impact upon young people who are most in need including those who:

- Are long-term NEET;
- Have a learning difficulty;
- Have the lowest skill levels;
- Present the most personal and emotional issues;
- Have been convicted of crimes.

Community Leaders, Communities First and Local Police Officers have all expressed their concern that the removal of Sporttrain's services would have a negative impact in terms of levels of anti-social behaviour and crime; which have improved through the presence of Sporttrain in the heart of their communities.

We urge the National Assembly of Wales to listen to the voices of these young people and to heed the warnings provided by the independent agencies that work directly with young people in these communities

PET(4)-07-11 p8a

P-03-263 List Stradey Park

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Minister for Heritage to grant listed status to Stradey Park, in order to protect the heritage of this world famous rugby ground and cultural icon for the people of Wales.

Supporting information:

The petition to list Stradey Park was inspired by calls that “*something should be done*” to protect the heritage at this world famous location. It is significant that these calls have continued after the Scarlets have moved across Llanelli to their new stadium. Stradey Park is clearly more than just a place where rugby was watched – it is part of local culture and national heritage.

A cultural icon can be defined as anything that is readily recognised, and generally represents an object or concept with great cultural significance to a wide cultural group. It may come to be regarded as having a special status as particularly representative of a particular group of people or a period in history.

Stradey Park is synonymous with the support of a Welsh community for its rugby club in the 20th century – it is undoubtedly a cultural icon.

Stradey Park has gained worldwide fame, not only for the exploits of the players who took to the famous turf, but also for the fervent support supplied by those who crammed into the stands and terraces surrounding it during the matches, and at half-time and full-time onto the pitch itself.

That support became world renown as typically Welsh, an image strengthened by songs celebrating famous victories at Stradey, such as the Max Boyce song “9-3” about the support of the community at Stradey for the 1972 victory over the All Blacks – the last by any club side in the world. “All roads led to Stradey Park”, “The day the pubs ran dry” and “I was there” all conjure up images of Stradey Park on that day and Llanelli captain Delme Thomas being carried off the pitch by fellow players, surrounded by thousands of supporters.

Stradey Park invokes images of Welsh working men completing a shift in the tinsplate works, docks or mines before playing a match in front of thousands of fellow workers of Tinopolis. The famous “sosbans” that were placed on the Stradey posts were a direct reference to Llanelli’s main export – Tinsplate – and in particular the “Stamping” Works located less than a mile from Stradey Park where saucepans were made and exported worldwide.

Stradey Park has always been known as the “most Welsh” of Welsh grounds, not least for its Welsh language scoreboard and Welsh language singing on the terraces. “Sosban Fach” is known throughout the world after it was

adopted and sung by supporters due to the “sosbans” on posts. A gymanfa ganu was held in 1972, before the All Blacks game.

Typical of a rugby ground being at the heart of a Welsh community, Stradey Park has seen many non-rugby events including hosting several other sports and annual Guy Fawkes night fireworks displays.

On 15th November 2007 the funeral of Ray Gravell was held on the Stradey Park pitch. This unique event in Welsh history – described by some in the press as “a Welsh state funeral” – was attended by 6000 mourners including leading figures in Welsh political, sporting and cultural life, with many thousands of people lining the streets outside. Images of the coffin standing on the pitch, flanked by the Eisteddfod sword bearer and the assembled tribute makers were broadcast live on S4C.

There is no doubt that Stradey Park is of great cultural and historical significance to Wales. It was a modern day battle field and particularly representative of the Welsh passion for rugby in the 20th century. The petition has achieved in excess of 3500 signatures made more significant because this was a heritage petition not a rugby petition. The petition was collected on shop counters throughout Carmarthenshire and even without much publicity it has attracted signatures because people believe that the Stradey Park pitch should be saved to mark the location and its heritage.

Although the petition is named “List Stradey Park”, and there are many that would like to see the whole stadium saved, it is generally accepted that listing Stradey Park would mean listing the Stradey Park pitch and retaining it as open space within any development. This modern day battlefield is what makes it unique because of the events that have taken place on it, obviously rugby successes and the momentous Ray Gravell “state funeral”, but also the famous Stradey Park half-time and full-time pitch invasions where families would play where their heroes had just played.

To list a sports pitch would probably require a new listing category or an amendment to an existing category. As tourism becomes ever more important in Wales, key locations of modern Welsh heritage such as Stradey Park need to be protected, so the need for the National Assembly to direct Cadw to create or adapt a listing category for sports pitches is evident.

Once a location like Stradey Park is lost under a development it becomes almost worthless. Perhaps a few tourists may be attracted to read an interpretive panel or blue plaque near the site, but the benefit to the local economy would be negligible. Places like Stradey Park need to be preserved to allow them to be marketed as tourist locations of modern Welsh heritage for the 21st century. Tourists want to be able to take to the pitch, not just read about it.

As well as the 3500+ signatures and a Facebook group of over 520 members, several local organisations including Llanelli Town Council and Llanelli Rural Council support the aims of the petition to protect the Stradey Park pitch. However none of these groups has the power to deliver that protection.

The petition has received international support, as well as support from other parts of Wales and the UK showing clearly that Stradey Park is of national importance. Locally, the petition has also received the support of former Llanelli, Wales and Lions greats such as Delme Thomas and Phil Bennett.

A website supporting the petition can be found at www.stradeyparkpetition.co.uk. Further information to support a listing, from the kind provision in 1879 of land within its boundary walls by the Stradey Estate, through to the closure of the ground in October 2008, can be supplied.

Petition Raised by: Mr V Jones

Petition first considered by Committee: November 2009

Number of signatures: 4383

P-03-263 Save Stradey Park

The purpose of the petition

This petition was submitted by Mr V Jones in March 2010 and collected 4383 signatures:

'We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to grant listed status to Stradey Park, in order to protect the heritage of this world famous rugby ground and cultural icon for the people of Wales.'

Petitioners made the case that Stradey Park was a Welsh cultural icon and should be preserved for tourists and the local community alike. Petitioners felt that although listing Stradey Park may need a new listing category, or changes to an existing one, it was crucial to protect the park which was one of the 'key locations of modern Welsh heritage.'¹ The petitioners have been clear that they would not expect the buildings at Stradey Park to warrant listed building status: it is the pitch that should be preserved.

The petitioners approached Cadw in 2005 and report that a Cadw officer 'agreed that Stradey Park had the history that warranted recognition – probably as part of the "Historic Parks and Gardens" register – but the pitch did not meet the criteria as they currently stood.'²

Listing of Stradey Park and the non-statutory Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest

The Committee wrote to the Minister for Heritage in May 2010 to seek his views on the petition. His response³ recognised and understood the support for the cultural significance of the pitch to be marked in some way. He felt this would be best achieved by including the site on the non-statutory Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. Although this in itself would not protect the pitch, it would help inform the local authority in charge of planning's assessment of development affecting the area and could affect its decision to allow planning permission to the developers who have applied to build houses on the site. However, he also pointed out that in the case of Stradey Park the value of this would be limited given the outline consent which already exists.

The Minister explained that in order for the pitch to be included on the register, Cadw would need to assess Stradey Park but this was not done before the local authority considered the planning permission application. The local authority could have deferred the planning process in order for the assessment to take place but although Cadw officials confirmed with the local authority that in their view the pitch has historic interest, the local authority has indicated that it will not reconsider the historic importance of the site until such time as it has been placed on the register.

¹ Supporting information received from the petitioners alongside the petition

² Email from petitioner to Committee Staff, 17 May 2010

³ Letter from Minister for Heritage to the Petitions Committee, 24 May 2010

In November 2010, the Committee received an extensive response from Carmarthenshire County Council on this issue⁴. The letter states that it had already held a public inquiry at its own expense to consider an application by residents to designate Stradey Park pitch as a village green. This application was subsequently refused. The letter also sets out the council's assertion that the petition is 'wholly misconceived' as the 'Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Acts 1990 (the statutory provision which is relevant in this matter) only provides the means to list **buildings** of special architectural or historic interest.' (*County Council's emphasis*) and therefore it is 'simply not possible on either a legal or practical basis to grant listed status to Stradey Park.' The letter goes on to point out that 'no additional statutory controls follow the inclusion of a site in the Register.'

The petitioner's strong response⁵ to the Council's letter restates he chose to use the term 'list' as it is more recognisable to the public, but that what is called for is the inclusion of the Stradey Park pitch on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

In July 2010, the Minister for Heritage stated that:

'the principles of selection which Cadw applies in assessing sites for inclusion on the non-statutory Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest already encompass places of recreation. This would extend to sporting venues, although no specific criteria for making stand-alone assessments of sports grounds has been compiled nor any sites evaluated.'⁶

The local planning authority told the Committee that sporting grounds 'cannot be regarded as places of recreation but are by their nature sporting grounds used primarily by a private sporting club.'⁷

The Minister did add in his letter of July 2010 that Cadw is considering how the sporting heritage of Wales could be more readily recognised.

The latest correspondence on this issue⁸ was sent by the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage on 31 August 2011 and reiterates that Cadw is still in the process of developing its guidance on the protection of sports heritage sites. The Minister also mentions in his letter the forthcoming Heritage Bill that the Welsh Government intends to introduce for consideration in 2014-15. He states that 'consideration of detailed guidance on locally important and sporting heritage will form part of the debate' surrounding that Bill.

Non-statutory local listing

The Committee wrote to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing in June 2010 to ask if, in her view, local listing of historical sites should be a material view in planning

⁴ Letter from Carmarthen County Council to the Petitions Committee, 1 November 2010

⁵ Email from HV Jones to Petitions Committee support staff, 12 November 2010

⁶ Letter from Minister for Heritage to Petitions Committee, 8 July 2010

⁷ Letter from Carmarthenshire County Council to the Petitions Committee, 11 January 2011

⁸ Letter from Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage to Petitions Committee 31 August 2011

decisions. Her response⁹ confirmed that unlike the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Interest which is held by Cadw, local listings are for local authorities to draw up, and to adopt a policy that would allow local buildings or places of special interest to be protected as a result of their inclusion on such local lists.

However, as the local authority concerned has already indicated that it will not reconsider the historic importance of Stradey Park unless it is placed on a register by Cadw, voluntary local listing is unlikely to be an option for Stradey Park.

In July 2010, the Minister for Heritage wrote to the Petitions committee stating:

‘Local authorities have a statutory duty to designate conservation areas and may compile lists of buildings of local interest which would be a material consideration in any planning application. Cadw expects to be in a position to publicise draft guidelines for local designation later in the year... There are currently no plans to place a statutory duty on local planning authorities to compile a local list but I hope that those authorities without one will see the benefit, voluntarily, of doing so and will back this up with appropriate planning policies to protect these important historic assets and help maintain an element of local distinctiveness in the urban and rural environment’¹⁰

In November 2010, the Minister for Heritage advised¹¹ the Committee that Cadw had begun to prepare draft guidelines on local lists for local planning authorities’ use and that they were expected to go out to consultation in the spring of 2011. However, a further letter from the Minister in March 2011¹² stated that officials were now working on guidance that would be fuller than originally planned. This guidance would be, in part, informed by research being undertaken by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales into the history of sport in modern Wales. The Minister stated in his letter that research was expected to be published in October 2011 and Cadw expects to consult on its comprehensive guidance on the protection of sports heritage at that time. However, the Welsh Government now anticipates that the consultation will not take place until April 2012.¹³

The calling in of the planning decision

The Welsh Government told the Committee¹⁴ that although it had intended to ‘call in’ the planning permission decision for Stradey Park, the call in notice had subsequently been withdrawn as the letter calling in the application was flawed in that the reasons for the decision to call in the application were not as clear as they could have been. Instead, the Welsh Government issued a direction under Article 14 of the Town and Country Planning

⁹ Letter from Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing to Petitions Committee, 30 June 2010

¹⁰ Letter from Minister for Heritage to Petitions Committee, 8 July 2010

¹¹ Letter from Minister for Heritage to Petitions Committee, 2 November 2010

¹² Letter from Minister for Heritage to Petitions Committee, 29 March 2011

¹³ Telephone call between Welsh Government Committee Business Unit and Committee staff, 24 November 2011

¹⁴ Letter from Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing to Petitions Committee, 11 January 2011

(General Development Procedure) Order 1995 – commonly referred to as a ‘stopper direction’ – that meant that the local authority could not issue approval of the plans until such time as the Welsh government had further considered ‘calling in’ the application. The Minister subsequently confirmed¹⁵ that both the direction and the ‘call in’ had been withdrawn. In any case, it is worth noting that the reservations regarding the application related to concerns regarding a potentially increased risk of flooding, rather than the protection of the Stradey Park pitch.

Comments from other stakeholders in the Stradey Park pitch

Correspondence from the Llanelli RFC Scarlets Former Players Association¹⁶ lists the details of agreements it has with the developers of Stradey Park and with Carmarthenshire County Council which combine to create a ‘virtual Llanelli Heritage Trail.’ They do not make any reference to the loss of Stradey Park pitch.

Possible future action for Stradey Park pitch

Given the clear stance of the local planning authority, which has stated in correspondence to the Committee that they consider the matter to have been held in abeyance for a considerable period of time and that there is nothing left of worth on the site to merit any Preservation Orders being made, the possibility of non-statutory local listing of Stradey Park seems slight.

The petitioner has requested that the petition should stay open until Cadw has decided whether or not to amend the criteria and allow inclusion for historic sports pitches on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. He also noted that the pitch area is included in phase three of the development and so it could be in excess of 5 years until it is built on. The petitioner recognises that should Stradey Park pitch be included on the register by then, it would be up to the developers to amend their plans or not. However, until such time as Cadw’s draft guidelines are released for consultation, it is difficult to say if they will make provision for stand-alone sports grounds to be included on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest or if they will only make provision for them to be included on local lists.

Committee Service November 2011

¹⁵ Letter from Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing to Petitions Committee, 25 February 2011

¹⁶ Letter from Llanelli RFC Scarlets Former Players Association to Petitions Committee, 28 February 2011

Agenda Item 3.2

PET(4)-07-11 p9a

P-03-306 Save Barry Theatre

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to protect and preserve the Theatre Royal, Barry so that it can still be developed and used as a theatre, cinema and Community Arts and Cultural Centre.

Petition raised by: Theatre Royal Arts and Cinema Trust

Number of signatures: 142

Supporting information:

The Theatre Royal has been central to the community of Barry since 1910. It closed its doors in April 10th 2008 when the lease expired and since then has remained empty.

TRACT has campaign tirelessly to reopen the Cinema for the past three years which culminated into a offer at the full market value to purchase the property in 2009. Unfortunately this offer was rejected and the building remains boarded up and empty.

A statement was made on behalf of Hafod Housing regarding redeveloping the site as an Extracare Facility which has met with fierce opposition from the community as a whole however, no planning application has been filed to our knowledge.

The Theatre Royal was opened in 1910 provided an important role to the community firstly as a performing theatre staging a range of entertainment given by touring and local companies. The transition from stage to cinema use was made in the 1930's. In the 1900's the history of the building included visits from General Booth, the leader of the Salvation Army and Samson billed as the strongest man on earth.

Local connections included Victor Sylvestor who was organist and musical director in the late 20's early 30's who is related to a local businessmen working in the town today. In 1910 completion of the Theatre Royal advertising curtain was given to Mr Leon Hook, sign artist. The Hook sign writing business is in its fourth generation in the town.

The Theatre Royal is older than the towns Memorial Hall. Parts of the old theatre still remaining include, the stage, proscenium, dressing rooms,

basement corridors and the possibility of other undiscovered areas as they have been bricked up. When opened the theatre had a room garden on top of the shops to the side of the building. It was agreed to be entered on the Vale of Glamorgan Council County Treasure List in April 2008 and it is also on the at risk list with the Theatres Trust London.

Rather than see a change of use or redevelopment, we believe the buildings 100 year heritage is of a significant value that can be related through its history. In preserving this, it is something the community could fully recognise and appreciate while utilising the amenities it is still capable of providing.

Dear Sarita, Many thanks for your e.mail. Unfortunately, despite all our efforts to save the Theatre Royal, the Vale Council planning committee agreed to allow a planning application for the site submitted by Hafod Housing to be passed. As a result of this, the theatre building will now be demolished to make way for an extra care housing facility. This was an extremely disappointing outcome for the Save Our Cinema Association group as a great deal of work had gone into our campaign, and knowing interest had been shown from independent cinema operators to reopen the building. This is such a loss to the local community. Your help during our campaign was very much appreciated. Regards, Paul.

PET(4)-07-11 p10a

P-04-335 The Establishment of a Welsh Cricket Team

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to support the establishment of a Welsh international cricket team.

Petition raised by: Matthew Richard Bumford

Date petition first considered by Committee: 11 October 2011

Number of signatures: 187

Supporting information:

Whereas Scotland and Ireland gained associate membership of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and went on to compete in World Cups, Wales has failed to do so. In fact, no Welsh player has played international cricket for over five years as a result of being affiliated to the England Cricket Board. Recently the England and Wales cricket team played several "home" games in the capital of Wales, although no Welsh players were present. It would be unacceptable in other sports, like rugby, for a team comprised entirely of non-Welsh people, playing under a non-Welsh flag, with the badge of another country on their chest, to ostensibly play a "home" game in the Welsh capital. This would simply not be acceptable for other sports and should not be so for cricket. The current arrangements do not foster the game of cricket in Wales and are to its detriment because there is a lack of opportunity for Welsh cricketers to play at the highest level. At present Wales is completely unrepresented in international cricket and this must change with the establishment of an Welsh international cricket team.

Towards a National Future for Welsh Cricket – Jonathan Edwards MP

Introduction

It has been an issue of contention for supporters of cricket in Wales for many years that current arrangements mean that a Welsh national team is not allowed to compete in global International Cricket Council (ICC) one day and Twenty20 tournaments. Wales, a cricketing nation with a proud and venerable tradition, finds itself conspicuous in its absence on the global stage, whilst countries with arguably less of a tradition and a weaker player base have graced competitions in both formats of the game. A Welsh national team has not graced the global stage since the inaugural ICC tournament in 1979, although the Welsh Women's team has competed in international tournaments as recently as 2005.

The creation of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) in 1997 to govern the game in both countries has had undoubted benefits, not least the historic staging of an Ashes Test match in 2009, and the remarkable development of Sophia Gardens into a World Class cricket centre.

However, the inclusion of Wales within the ECB structure has created an open sore in relation to the legitimate international ambitions of Welsh cricket supporters and players.

- Wales has twice as many clubs as Scotland and four to five times as many as Ireland.
- Wales has a cricketing grass roots equivalent to New Zealand and a total population similar to New Zealand, who is a full member of the ICC and test playing nation.
- Between 1993-2002, a Welsh team competed in the British Isles national Championship consisting of a Scottish, Irish, Welsh and England (amateur) team.
- Wales has a stronger population of club cricketers and fans far greater than any Associate ICC member, and greater than full members Zimbabwe and New Zealand.ⁱ

Reasons for a Welsh National Side

- Proper representation demands that Wales has its own national cricket side able to compete in world competitions. The England cricket team does not represent Wales. It does not amount to a GB team nor to something akin to the British and Irish Lions. Instead, it is an England team, exhibiting all the

symbolism of England, in which Welsh players compete on a very rare basis as if they themselves were English.

- There is demand for a Welsh team as demonstrated by a recent Wales Online poll in which over **80% of participants supported the creation of a Welsh side**. Both Ireland and Scotland have competed in recent World tournaments and even Jersey and Guernsey are associate ICC members. If Scotland, Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey and England are all able to support national sides there seems little doubt that Wales could do the same.
- A Welsh national side competing in showpiece events would be an incredible boost for the development of the game in Wales. Instead of very sporadic selection for ECB teams, a full squad of Welsh players, if qualification is secured, would participate - an incredible incentive for young cricketers.
- A Welsh team competing in a cricketing World Cup could be a key economic driver as a significant boost to brand Wales. The current England (and Wales) team in no way promotes Wales, which is disappointing because the potential reach of cricket dwarfs other major sports in Wales. India alone has a population of over one billion people and is earmarked as a key 21st century economic area for developing relations by the UK Government.

Bottom Lines

- Glamorgan's status as a first class county must be maintained - Glamorgan was formed in 1888 and since 1921 has been a participant in the English County Championship. As a result Glamorgan gets a share of the ECB's approximate £40m a year county allocation. Any negotiations on the creation of a Welsh national side would need to ensure that Glamorgan's position is suitably protected together with ECB domestic funding. However, it is disingenuous by those opposed to the creation of a Welsh national side to argue that Glamorgan's status would be endangered. David Collier, the Chief Executive of the ECB, has already stated that with a Welsh team Glamorgan would be welcome to continue in the English County system and as such would continue to receive the funding available to other counties. Furthermore, Holland, Ireland and Scotland, despite being national teams, compete in the English system in various competitions. In other sports Swansea is in the top tier of the football pyramid, playing in the English Premier League, and yet Wales has one of the oldest football associations in the world.
- Sophia Gardens status as Test venue cannot be jeopardised – Under both proposed models for the creation of a Welsh national one day team Welsh players would be eligible to play test cricket for England. Glamorgan would continue to play first class cricket. Therefore there is no reason why Sophia

Gardens couldn't continue to bid successfully for England games. There are no ICC rules barring test nations from playing home games in other ICC member countries. Abu Dhabi often hosts international games and Pakistan currently play home games on foreign soil.

Two possible avenues

1 - The ECB to be allowed to enter two teams for one day and Twenty20 ICC competitions – The ECB represents two distinct sporting nations and should be allowed to field a Welsh and English team with an England team automatically qualifying for global competitions and a Welsh team competing against other Associate and Affiliate members for qualification. This would require the ICC making special provision for the unique position Wales finds itself in. This is the simplest solution but may face hostility from other ICC members.

2 – For the Cricket Board of Wales to seek ICC status – This scenario has the advantage that support from the ECB and ICC is not necessary i.e. if the Welsh Government decides to set up a Welsh team the ECB and ICC would not prevent it. In this scenario it is highly likely that Wales, due to its strong player base and tradition, would be granted Associate Membership like Scotland and Ireland.

Qualifying for Global tournaments

The ICC is currently holding a review of its structures and is considering changes to the qualification systems for ICC global tournaments. It is likely that a new Welsh side would enter tournaments conducted by ICC Europe. As of October 2011, the principal competition structure for senior men is a three tier Twenty20 championship, leading to places in a global qualifying tournament and potentially to the World Twenty20 tournament itself. Rankings from this competition also determine access to the 50 over World Cricket League (WCL). There are currently nine European countries in various divisions of the WCL with Scotland, Ireland and Holland in Division 1.ⁱⁱ

A Welsh side would start at the beginning of the competitions and it is anticipated that it would take two to three years based on player availability to reach the higher divisions and be eligible for lucrative Higher Performance Programme (HPP) funding and a potential qualifying tournament for a World cup.ⁱⁱⁱ

Player Eligibility

The ICC has strict rules on who is allowed to play for any country, and there can be little doubt that separate Welsh membership would give rise to some issues that need to be noted. The main criteria are:

1. the *Player* was born in the relevant country;
2. the *Player* is able to demonstrate (by his/her possession of a valid passport issued by the relevant country) that he/she is a national of the relevant country; or
3. the *Player* is a *Resident* of the relevant country, in other words:
 - 3.1 the *Player* has resided in the relevant country for a minimum of 183 days in each of the immediately preceding two years (female *Players* only);
 - 3.2 the *Player* has resided in the relevant country for a minimum of 183 days in each of the immediately preceding four years (male *Players* only); or
 - 3.3 the *Player* has resided in the relevant country for a minimum of 183 days in each of the immediately preceding seven years (male *Players* only).

In addition to these criteria, there are some additional requirements for eligibility to play for an Associate or Affiliate member, with some global events being excepted. These 'development criteria' are:

4. the *Player* has played in a minimum of 50% of the domestic league matches that his club team was scheduled to play within the relevant domestic structure in any 3 of the preceding 5 domestic league seasons;
5. the *Player* has spent a cumulative total of at least 100 working days in the relevant country coaching cricket, playing cricket or working in the administration or development of cricket in that country in the immediately preceding 5 years; or
6. the *Player* has previously represented the relevant country at Under-19 level or above after satisfying the additional *Development Criteria* in these *Regulations* or similar requirements under predecessor eligibility regulations.

At least one of these must be satisfied for the player to be eligible to play for an Associate or Affiliate member, with the exception of the World Cup and World T20, other full ODIs, the Intercontinental Cup, and global qualifying tournaments.

There are further rules governing movement between one country and another: in summary, a male player seeking to transfer to an Associate or Affiliate member may not have played international cricket for any other member in the preceding four years, while there is no such restriction on a player moving from an Associate or Affiliate member to a Full member. **In other words, an Irish player could appear for Ireland and England on consecutive days, but would then have to wait for four years before requalifying to play for Ireland (as Ed Joyce of Ireland has recently done).**

In the particular circumstances pertaining to Wales, especially the existence of Glamorgan as an English first-class county, player eligibility would need careful definition, but in many respects the situation is little different from that in Ireland or Scotland – or, for that matter, in the Netherlands. Young Welsh cricketers could continue to aspire to play for England, if that is their wish, and playing for Wales in the meantime need be no barrier to that ambition; having once played for England, however, they would be barred for playing again for Wales for at least four years.^{IV}

Therefore there are no current eligibility barriers in the event of Welsh ICC membership for Welsh players being able to play test cricket for England if selected. If anything, the existence of a Welsh nation team gives Welsh players a choice that would be to their benefit, thus removing another argument by opponents of a Welsh team.

In the event of the creation of a Cricket Board of Wales sponsored Welsh team, in the interests of the game in Wales, there would need to be an agreement with the counties for the release of players to enable a significantly strong Welsh side to reach the higher echelons of the qualifying pyramid as soon as possible.

Funding

Welsh cricket, via grants and direct fee payments, is in receipt of £2.2m in funds from the ECB. Welsh cricket also receives £550,000 funding from Sport Wales. With Glamorgan continuing to be a part of the First Class scene and Welsh players eligible for ECB test selection there is a clear case for the continuation of current ECB sponsorship. Any move towards ICC status would require careful bridging arrangements either from the ECB or ICC until Wales would qualify for full ICC funding. The ECB currently funds Scotland, Ireland, Jersey and Guernsey so the same should apply to Wales.

The potential sums available if Wales were to gain High Performance status should be substantially more than current ECB and Sports Council for Wales funding.^V

Welsh international matches would also provide an income stream in gate receipts, merchandise, sponsorship and TV revenue.

Role of ECB

Any movements towards the creation of a Welsh team would require the consent of the ECB. In the event of a dispute between the CBW and ECB the ICC would support the current governing body unless the Welsh Government was to announce that it did not recognise the ECB. This should not be an issue as David Collier has

already stated that setting up a Welsh team is a matter for Wales, meaning the ECB would not stand in its way. The future direction of the game in Wales should be a matter for cricket people in Wales and the ECB should and will respect those wishes.

Conclusion

Sport is for players and supporters, both of whom strongly support the creation of a Welsh cricket team. There are some issues that must be negotiated to establish a Welsh team but there are no reasons strong enough to prevent such a move. A Welsh team can exist whilst securing Glamorgan's first class status and Sophia Gardens' test status and given our passion for cricket and the depth of our club scene it is likely that Wales will quickly move up the world rankings to become a team that qualifies for international competitions. At present Welsh people are the only people in the British Isles who play no international cricket and this must change. This paper is, therefore, aimed as a starting point in a debate about the future of Wales as a cricketing nation.

ⁱ Michael Blumberg, former editor Cricket World

ⁱⁱ Professor Rod Lyall

ⁱⁱⁱ Professor Rod Lyall

^{iv} Professor Rod Lyall

^v Richard Holdsworth, ICC Development Manager Europe

Questions you may wish to consider in responding

1. Do you feel that the action called for is reasonable and/or feasible?

I believe the action is both reasonable and feasible. The Cricket Board of Wales (CBW) must take the lead, I believe the ECB would struggle to partition to the ICC to have two representative sides.

2. Is there evidence to support the assertion that the current arrangements mean that Welsh cricketers do not have access to the same opportunities as cricketers from other UK nations?

I don't believe the Welsh cricketers are disadvantaged when seeking to play International cricket. It may be easier for Irish or Scottish cricketers but Welsh cricketers, if good enough, can still go on and represent England.

3. What are the barriers to establishing a Welsh international cricket team?

The biggest barrier for me and a barrier that needs to be crossed carefully is the subject of Glamorgan Cricket. If the ECB is supportive of CBW's development into a National team then that would be the way to go, as Glamorgan would still retain its status and funding.

4. Should the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) team play home games in Wales? What are the arguments for and against this?

I can see no reason for the ECB not to play matches in Wales, unless a Welsh National side is accepted. They have had Welsh players playing for them in the past and I'm sure there will be more Welsh players playing for England in a few years. As Robert Croft always says "when I play for England, for me it's like playing for the British Lions" England have had captains from England, Scotland, Wales and most recently Ireland.

Matthew Maynard

Former Glamorgan Captain, Coach & Player.

Former England Cricket Assistant Coach, Player & Captain of the England 6's Team.

Currently Head Coach of the Nashua Titans Cricket Franchise in South Africa

16/11/11

National Assembly for Wales

Submission to Petitions Committee

Application Of Wales for Independent ICC Membership

1 The application is desirable, feasible and should be an imperative.

2 Welsh cricketers have the same opportunity to play Test cricket as Scots and Irish by playing for England. However Scots and Irish cricketers have a much greater opportunity to play International Limited Over Cricket and possibly to compete in World Cups. Should Ireland and Scotland achieve Test status one day then their advantage over Welsh cricketers will be much greater.

3 The barriers to establishing a Welsh International team are largely illusory except that they remain entrenched in the minds of several leading officials of Glamorgan CCC and Welsh Cricket Board. There is a financial adjustment to be made as a result of the Welsh Cricket Board and Glamorgan CCC separating which will not be made up by ICC until such time as Wales achieves senior Associate status and or reaches a World Cup. Sponsorship and Sport Wales may fill this hole. It may be that a phased reduction in the Glamorgan CCC/ECB support of Cricket Wales could be negotiated rather than a straight cut off.

4 If there is a good sport business reason for ECB to stage a Test match at Cardiff then surely they will wish to pursue this option. There are plenty of precedents of neutral locations staging both Test matches and ODIs eg Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Nairobi, Toronto, Tangiers. and recently England hosted a Series between Australia and Pakistan.

5 Wales has a much stronger and numerous recreational cricket sector than Scotland and Ireland combined. Indeed its recreational and youth cricket is comparable in terms of numbers with New Zealand and West Indies and not

far short of Sri Lanka. It is many times bigger than Test playing Zimbabwe. It has a well established coaching structure.

6 Wales has better facilities and infrastructure than any Senior Associate member of ICC. It already has one Test ground, several others that have staged 1st Class and Limited Over County Cricket. It has several hundred good club grounds as well independent school, some company and private cricket grounds as well as an MCCU.

7 Wales competed for a decade in the Triple Crown Competition with Ireland and Scotland and an England Club Cricket XI (sometimes called NCA, ECB, Amateur etc) . This side did not win the competition but performed creditably enough. This was in effect Wales 2nd XI as no Glamorgan Staff cricketer played.

8 Wales has already competed (without Glamorgan CCC players) in the 1979 ICC Trophy when Argentina was refused visas. Wales with Glamorgan players has defeated England in an ODI in recent years.

9 Wales already has a substantial cricket fan base in terms of spectators and TV viewers and Radio listeners far exceeding any Associate and probably matching New Zealand and West Indies. This provides a realistic basis for sponsorship and revenue leading to a potential sustainable full time professional set up to complement Glamorgan CCC.

10 The position of Glamorgan CCC remains unchanged whether or not Wales achieves independent ICC status. Glamorgan CCC is a member of and guarantor of ECB. It receives funding from ECB primarily for competing in ECB competitions. There is some funding supposedly for development which may be lost if Wales achieves cricket independence. Likewise Cricket Wales Minor County competes in the ECB Minor County Competitions and presumably will continue to receive a share of MCA's funding.

11 The status of the Cardiff MCCU may need to be reviewed but since its funding comes from MCC and not ECB not much need change here. There

may be an opportunity for expanding the facility under ICC and ECC auspices as it will be unique for an Associate to have such an institution and there could be a European Cricket element here.

12 There will need to be some agreement between Glamorgan CCC and an independent Cricket Wales/Welsh Cricket Association of which it will be a member to release Welsh players for ICC competitions. As the vast majority of ICC international competition takes place in the Northern Hemisphere Winter, independent Wales will add to the opportunities to play for Glamorgan players.

13 Local Glamorgan players will need to make known whether they aspire to play for England or Wales. Unless Wales was to achieve test status quickly England would continue to poach or 'borrow' any outstanding Welsh cricketers just as they have Scots and Irish.

14 This writer believes passionately that local cricket clubs whether just cricket clubs or multiple sports clubs are a very positive social force in every community that has one or more. Welsh youngsters, good at sport, are much more likely to persevere with cricket if there is a Wales National team than if the only National Representative team is England and thus grow to love the game whether they make it to the top or settle into club cricket.

15 England and Wales Cricket Board has always been an anomaly from its outset and its decision to call itself ECB. From a calligraphy point of view eliminating the W is madness as it allows much more interesting logo design. It also sends a signal that Wales is unimportant to ECB. ECB has done precious little to promote the game throughout Wales. ECB is indifferent to Welsh national aspirations at a time of mounting Welsh self awareness and pride.

16 An independent Cricket Wales/Welsh Cricket Association/Wales Cricket Board has the opportunity of seizing the momentum of Welsh Nationalism together with strong existing cricket activity at all levels to fast develop an

independent International team which will be at the forefront of senior Associates challenging for Test status.

17 The propensity of the Welsh people to support their national team augurs well for an independent Cricket Wales irrespective of whether they play Papua New Guinea or India.

18 An independent Cricket Wales/WCA/WCB provides both ECC and ICC with an additional country in which to play international competitions on grounds of outstanding quality compared with most senior Affiliates.

I do urge the National Assembly For Wales to support the application for independent membership of the the International Cricket Council and to support the new independent Cricket Board For Wales.

Michael Blumberg November 16th 2011

Michael Blumberg is the former editor and founder of Club Cricket Weekly Newspaper and, Club Cricket Monthly and Cricket World Monthly magazines as well as the website Cricketworld.com. He has played club cricket for fifty years in UK and also in some thirty plus other cricket countries. He is a member of the Cricket Writers Club.

One of his editorial specialities was ICC affairs and new cricket countries. He had a hand in many a new country's application to ICC from Vanuatu to Greece. He reported extensively on the former Triple Crown Competition in which Wales competed. He also help set up and reported on a Welsh Club Cricket sponsorship with Welsh Brewers. Throughout his 17 year tenure with Club Cricket and Cricket World he wrote on Welsh Club Cricket, Welsh Leagues, Welsh Club Cricketers, Glamorgan CCC and Glamorgan cricketers.

Response to the Petitions Committee Call for Evidence on the Establishment of a Welsh Cricket Team

Sport Wales Consultation Response

Simon Jones, Public Affairs Manager, Sport Wales

11/16/2011

Sport Wales is the national organisation responsible for developing and promoting sport and physical activity in Wales. We are the main adviser on sporting matters to the Welsh Government and are responsible for distributing National Lottery funds to both elite and grassroots sport in Wales. We aim to not only improve the level of sports participation at grassroots level but also provide our aspiring athletes with the support required to compete successfully on the world stage

1. Do you feel that the action called for is reasonable and/or feasible?

We would like to take this opportunity to emphasise that the establishment of a Wales cricket team and the decision to take membership of the ICC rather than the ECB is a matter for the governing body of cricket, Cricket Wales, and we would be supportive of their decision on this matter. Any discussion around this issue would need to be framed by what is best for cricket in Wales on both a participation and elite level.

Recently the Cricket Board of Wales and the Welsh Cricket Association merged to form a single governing body that oversees both the junior and adult recreational game in Wales. We welcomed this decision to provide more joined up governance for the game in Wales and are continuing to work with the new governing body, Cricket Wales, to develop the game further. In 2011/12 Sport Wales has provided over £550,000 of funding to Cricket Wales for this purpose. The grant we provide is also supplemented by funding directly from the ECB, which is outlined in the response to the committee made by Cricket Wales.

The governing body has also been working to continue to develop a close working relationship with Glamorgan CC, which represents the professional game in Wales. We have been very pleased with how both agencies have worked together to ensure that there is a joined up pathway for those wanting to play cricket in Wales.

At present both Cricket Wales and Glamorgan CC are of the view that the establishment of a Welsh cricket team would not be in the long term benefit for the growth of the game in Wales and we support this position.

2. Is there evidence to support the assertion that the current arrangements mean that Welsh cricketers do not have access to the same opportunities as cricketers from other UK nations?

We do not believe that this is currently the case, as talented cricketers are supported by both Cricket Wales and eventually Glamorgan CC if they reach that standard. We recognise the wider issue with regard to the England & Wales cricket team being referred to exclusively as “England” and the acronym for the England and Wales Cricket Board being the ECB, does lead to the perception that Wales is overlooked. In fact Wales has a strong history of providing players to the international side and currently both James Harris and Tom Maynard, both of whom are products of the Glamorgan Academy, are in the England development squad with aspirations of making the senior side.

We would be concerned if the establishment of an independent Wales team would see Glamorgan alienated from the County Championship. There is every chance that this could result in Welsh professionals opting to play for English counties resulting in a dip in focus and standards in Wales.

3. What are the barriers to establishing a Welsh international cricket team?

For Wales to have representative teams of its own, it would have to break with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and become affiliated to the International Cricket Board (ICC) instead. This would have significant funding implications as Glamorgan CCC and Cricket Wales who collectively receive up to £2 million funding per annum from the ECB. If Wales was ratified as an associate member of the ICC it may expect to receive a significantly smaller grant. The reduction of funding would undoubtedly have a significant negative impact on both the professional and recreational game in Wales.

The quality and regularity of competition that a representative Wales international team would be exposed to would be significantly inferior to the standard of competition enjoyed by Glamorgan in the County Championships. Wales would start at the bottom rung of the international cricket ladder and it may be some time before they achieved test / one day international status. Other small cricketing nations (e.g. Ireland and Scotland) are thought to struggle for meaningful, appropriate competition between major events (i.e. the Cricket World Cup).

4. Should the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) team play home games in Wales? What are the arguments for and against this?

They do. There was an ashes test at the SWALEC stadium in 2009 and it has recently been announced that a further ashes test will be held here in 2015. The bid for the 2015 Ashes Test included an ambitious plan for the future of the game in Wales to ensure that a sporting legacy remains following the game.

Further to these test matches, one day internationals and twenty-twenty matches against other nations have also been held in Cardiff, all helping to boost the profile of cricket in Wales. If Wales were to become an independent cricket nation then such matches are highly unlikely to be held in Cardiff.

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Wales and International Cricket: Some Key Issues

There can be no doubt that in both men's and women's cricket Wales could be one of the top six countries in Europe if its administrative structure could be adjusted to enable proper national sides to be fielded and official international fixtures to be played. More drastic changes would be needed to allow Wales to become an Associate member of the ICC since the links to the England and Wales Cricket Board would need to be changed for either the CBW or the WCA to be recognised as the official governing body. If Wales is serious about international cricket on a par with Scotland and Ireland, however, these issues will need to be addressed.

Roy Morgan, *Encyclopedia of World Cricket* (Cheltenham 2007), 237

Unquestionably, the current status of Welsh cricket is in many respects anomalous. Although there have been periods in which a Welsh national team has been regarded as an international side on the same basis as those of other countries – even participating in the first-ever ICC Trophy in 1979, despite the fact that Wales was not an Associate member of the International Cricket Council – this has never become an established practice, and for most purposes cricket in Wales forms a minor part of the England and Wales Cricket Board (significantly, referred to both by itself and by others as the ECB).

It should not be thought, however, that this is a unique anomaly, or that the relationship between national status in cricket and political statehood is self-evident. Rhodesia played in South African domestic cricket until 1979-80, for example, and many Rhodesian players represented South Africa at Test level. The West Indies has always been a consortium of many territories, only corresponding to a national entity during the lifetime of the West Indies Federation (1958-62). At present, players from the US Virgin Islands and the Dutch territory of Sint Maarten are considered eligible to play for West Indies domestic teams, and could presumably be selected to play for the West Indian 'national' side. As in rugby union, Ireland is also a transnational entity in cricket, comprising both the Republic and the UK territory of Northern Ireland.

Conversely, Scotland has since 1994 been an Associate member of the ICC, although it is a constituent part of the United Kingdom. Having previously been linked to the English Test and County Cricket Board, the predecessor of the ECB, the Scottish Cricket Union decided in 1992 to seek separate ICC membership, joining as an Associate member at the same time as Ireland. The intervening years have seen both countries more than replace their former funding from England with substantial ICC funding, much of it coming through their participation in the ICC's High Performance Program.

The fact that Wales is not an ICC member evidently has more to do with the particular history of Welsh cricket than it has with any political constitutional arrangements. A key factor is the existence of Glamorgan County Cricket Club, formed in 1888 and since 1921 a participant in the English County Championship. This has given cricket in Wales both a professional dimension which has been absent in Ireland and Scotland, and a structural interface with the English game. As one of the current 18 first-class counties, Glamorgan CCC derives substantial financial benefits from its membership of the ECB, and any change to the status quo would need to ensure that Glamorgan's position was suitably protected.

Founded in 1969, the Welsh Cricket Association is responsible for the amateur game in Wales, and is one of the constituent elements of the Cricket Board of Wales, formally the governing body of Welsh cricket. Any negotiations between the Welsh cricket authorities, the ECB, ICC and any other relevant parties would presumably be conducted by the CBW, whose views are therefore likely to be crucial.

Implications of ICC membership: cricket

There are at present three categories of ICC membership, although this is one of the topics covered by the governance review currently being undertaken on behalf of the ICC Executive Board by Lord Woolf. (He is expected to report early in 2012.) They are:

1. **Full** members, comprising the ten Test-playing nations. They dominate the ICC's decision-making processes, and take the lion's share of the money generated by the sport.
2. **Associate** members, including Scotland, Ireland, the Netherlands and some 32 other countries where cricket is well established. Jersey and Guernsey also fall into this category. There are established criteria for Associate membership, covering organisational, infrastructural and playing factors. Normally, a country must have been an Affiliate member for at least three years before it can become an Associate, but there is provision for this requirement to be waived.
3. **Affiliate** members, where cricket is played and there is a recognised sole governing body.

It seems clear that Associate membership would be the most appropriate level for Wales to enter, although there would probably need to be confirmation of the national sides' playing strength before this could be achieved.

It is important to recognise, however, that the membership categories are only in part a determinant of playing status. The most striking case is Afghanistan, which does not (yet) satisfy the criteria for Associate membership but which has through the achievements of its national team qualified for the High Performance Program and gained the right to play full ODIs and to participate in the first-class Intercontinental Cup competition. On the other hand, Test status is a jealously-guarded closed shop, and entry to global events like the World Cup and World Twenty20 tournament is tightly restricted.

As an ICC member, Wales would participate in regional tournaments conducted by ICC Europe, including the men's Twenty20 championship, European 50-over and 20-over championships for women, and a range of youth competitions down to under-15. The exact format of these events has changed significantly over the past two years as a result of financial constraints and a shift in emphasis towards the Twenty20 format; discussions at global level may or may not produce further changes here.

As of October 2011, the principal competition structure for senior men is a three-division European Twenty20 championship, leading to places in a global qualifying tournament and potentially to the World Twenty tournament itself. Rankings in T20 also determine access to a regional qualifying tournament for the World Cricket League, a global 50-over competition which at present comprises eight divisions. This, too, is likely to be reviewed as a result of the debate about qualification for the World Cup and World T20, but it is reasonable to assume that the WCL will continue in some form, and that there will continue to be a regional qualifying process.

There are at present nine European countries in various divisions of the WCL: Ireland, the Netherlands and Scotland in Division 1, Italy in Division 3, Denmark in Division 4, Guernsey in Division 5 (having recently won promotion), Jersey in Division 6, Germany in Division 7, and Norway in Division 8. Wales would presumably need to qualify for the lowest division via the European T20 competition, and then work their way up: depending on the issue of player eligibility (see below), it might be anticipated that it would take two or three years for them to find their level in the upper

divisions, and hence to have a chance of reaching a qualifying tournament for the World Cup and/or entering the lucrative HPP.

As indicated above, none of this need have any direct implications for Welsh cricketers' continued access to the higher echelons of the game via the ECB's competitions. There is no reason why Glamorgan should not remain a first-class county, or why Wales should cease to enter a team in the Minor Counties championship, or Wales Women cease to play in the Women's County Championship. By the same token, Welsh youth teams could continue to take part in the ECB's age-group competitions. After all, Scotland and the Netherlands play in both the Clydesdale Bank 40 League (men) and county championship (women), with Ireland also participating in the latter.

Implications of ICC membership: player eligibility

The ICC has strict rules on who is allowed to play for any country, and there can be little doubt that separate Welsh membership would pose certain questions. The main criteria are:

1. the *Player* was born in the relevant country;
2. the *Player* is able to demonstrate (by his/her possession of a valid passport issued by the relevant country) that he/she is a national of the relevant country; or
3. the *Player* is a *Resident* of the relevant country, in other words:
 - 3.1 the *Player* has resided in the relevant country for a minimum of 183 days in each of the immediately preceding two years (female *Players* only);
 - 3.2 the *Player* has resided in the relevant country for a minimum of 183 days in each of the immediately preceding four years (male *Players* only); or
 - 3.3 the *Player* has resided in the relevant country for a minimum of 183 days in each of the immediately preceding seven years (male *Players* only).

In addition to these criteria, there are some additional requirements for eligibility to play for an Associate or Affiliate member, with some global events being excepted. These 'development criteria' are:

4. the *Player* has played in a minimum of 50% of the domestic league matches that his club team was scheduled to play within the relevant domestic structure in any 3 of the preceding 5 domestic league seasons;
5. the *Player* has spent a cumulative total of at least 100 working days in the relevant country coaching cricket, playing cricket or working in the administration or development of cricket in that country in the immediately preceding 5 years; or
6. the *Player* has previously represented the relevant country at Under-19 level or above after satisfying the additional *Development Criteria* in these *Regulations* or similar requirements under predecessor eligibility regulations.

At least one of these must be satisfied for the player to be eligible to play for an Associate or Affiliate member, with the exception of the World Cup and World T20, other full ODIs, the Intercontinental Cup, and global qualifying tournaments.

There are further rules governing movement between one country and another: in summary, a male player seeking to transfer to an Associate or Affiliate member may not have played international cricket for any other member in the preceding four years, while there is no such restriction on a player moving from an Associate or Affiliate member to a Full member. In other words, an Irish player could appear for Ireland and England on consecutive days, but would then have to wait for four years before requalifying to play for Ireland (as Ed Joyce has recently done).

In the particular circumstances pertaining to Wales, especially the existence of Glamorgan as an English first-class county, player eligibility would need careful definition, but in many respects the situation is little different from that in Ireland or Scotland – or, for that matter, in the Netherlands. Young Welsh cricketers could continue to aspire to play for England, and playing for Wales in the meantime need be no barrier to that ambition; having once played for England, however, they would be barred for playing again for Wales for at least four years.

Anyone contracted to play for Glamorgan would, presumably, qualify to play for Wales, either by birth or after a period of residence; such a player would arguably also satisfy eligibility criterion 5, and therefore meet the development criteria.

There is, however, a considerable difference between eligibility and availability, as Associate countries with county-contracted players know very well. Ireland, Scotland and the Netherlands have all had problems securing the release of their county-contracted players during the English season, even though there is in theory a mandatory release system which should work in their favour. In Ireland's first-ever ODI against England they were unable to field their first-choice wicketkeeper because he was not released by his county; the reason was that he was the deputy to the England keeper, who had naturally been released to play!

It should, therefore, be assumed that for many tournaments the Welsh national side would look more like the team which plays in the Minor Counties Championship; it could scarcely be anticipated that Glamorgan would release their entire squad for a European Division 3 or Division 23 Twenty20 tournament in mid-season, even if all the players were deemed eligible. On the other hand, there are several top Welsh cricketers who play for counties other than Glamorgan.

Implications of ICC membership: finance

Others are better qualified than I am to speak on this matter, but again there is need for a degree of caution: while substantial funding can become available through the ICC's development programmes, much of it needs to be earned on the field, and this would certainly not happen overnight. Furthermore, much of the ICC's funding is earmarked for specific purposes, such as participation in tournaments, and its use is tightly controlled.

Any negotiations with the ECB would therefore need to be very carefully handled if the threatened loss of income were to be avoided, and at the very least there would need to be bridging arrangements in place until such time as Wales could play a full part in the global game and derive the appropriate benefits, such as Scotland received.

Conclusion

In the end, it is for Welsh cricket to determine its own future, and to decide whether the possible financial consequences of ICC membership and the difficulties which might well accompany any renegotiation of the relationship with the ECB would be outweighed by the advantages of Wales establishing an autonomous identity in international cricket. It is not a simple question, but it is a debate which undoubtedly ought to take place.

(Professor) Rod Lyall
October 2011



CRICKET WALES CRICED CYMRU

Abigail Phillips
Clerk to the Petitions Committee
The National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

11th November 2011

Dear Ms Phillips

c/o Glamorgan Cricket
SWALEC Stadium
Cardiff
CF11 9XR
Telephone (029) 2041 9341
Facsimile (029) 2041 9389

RE: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WELSH INTERNATIONAL CRICKET TEAM

Cricket Wales is the national governing body for junior and senior recreational cricket in Wales and is recognised as such by Sport Wales and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). 230 clubs, leagues and associations from across the length and breadth of Wales are affiliated to Cricket Wales.

The following views are provided by Cricket Wales in response to the questions raised in the petition relating to the establishment of a Welsh International Cricket Team.

1 Do you feel that the action called for is reasonable and/or feasible?

The action called for is neither reasonable nor feasible. Cricket Wales chooses to affiliate to the ECB rather than the International Cricket Council (ICC), for very good reasons. These include:

- It provides the opportunity for eleven Welsh age group teams (from U11 boys to a senior Welsh women's team), to play over 150 games of representative cricket of an excellent standard against English County Boards, each summer (see fixtures attached). This programme develops our most talented young cricketers. If we were in membership of the ICC rather than the ECB then we would only be able to play a limited number of fixtures against the likes of Ireland, Scotland and the Netherlands who are not as strong as teams like Yorkshire, Lancashire and Warwickshire. Women's and girls' fixtures would be even more adversely affected.
- The ECB provides Cricket Wales with funding to play the above games and to undertake many other initiatives that enable the sport to develop in Wales. This funding is used to strengthen cricket within communities throughout Wales including projects for seniors, juniors, boys, girls and those with a disability. Through this funding over many years (and that provided by Sport Wales), cricket plays an important role in Welsh communities.
- Recently Cricket Wales has secured enhanced funding from the ECB's Cricket Foundation and Chance to Shine programme, which will enable a part-time Community Coach to be appointed in every Local Authority in Wales. This funding has been matched by Sport Wales with the long term target being to double the number of junior club teams by 2020. This initiative would not be possible if Cricket Wales were part of the ICC.
- Cricket Wales is part of the ECB's coach education programme which is world-leading amongst cricket nations. The ICC coach education programme is at a more developmental stage.
- Being part of an England and Wales body provides Cricket Wales with the opportunity to gain expertise and support in other specialist areas which would be far more difficult to

deliver if we were a stand-alone cricket nation. Complex areas such as the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and facility development fall into this category.

- 2 Is there evidence to support the assertion that the current arrangements mean that Welsh cricketers do not have access to the same opportunities as cricketers from other UK nations?

No. In fact, Welsh cricketers have the opportunity to play professional cricket week-in-week-out for Glamorgan County Cricket Club and to play Test, One-Day-International and Twenty20 cricket for England. If cricketers from Ireland/Scotland are good enough to play for England then they are not allowed to play for Ireland/Scotland at the same time. Recent examples include Ed Joyce and Eoin Morgan.

Most Scottish and Irish players are semi-professional cricketers who week-in-week out, play at a lower standard than county cricketers such as those who play for Glamorgan County Cricket Club. The high-profile ICC Cricket World Cup only takes place every four years.

If Cricket Wales was to join the ICC instead of the ECB then the most talented Welsh cricketers would seek to join English Counties so as to be eligible for England. It would therefore be extremely difficult for Wales to develop a strong team.

- 3 What are the barriers to establishing a Welsh international cricket team?

The formation of a Welsh international cricket team would require Cricket Wales to affiliate to the ICC rather than the ECB. All of the benefits outlined in response to question 1 would be lost to a greater or lesser extent.

Even if funding was available from the ICC (instead of the ECB), that funding would not go very far as most age-group and senior fixtures would involve international travel.

A Welsh international cricket team would lead to the demise of Glamorgan County Cricket Club since over time they would almost certainly lose funding from the ECB, not be allowed to enter ECB County events and not be given the opportunity to host England international matches at the SWALEC Stadium. All young Welsh cricketers represent Wales at age-group level with the goal of one day playing for Glamorgan and England. The loss of Wales' professional cricket team (Glamorgan) would have a devastating effect on the health of the game in Wales.

- 4 Should the ECB team play home games in Wales? What are the arguments for and against this?

Yes, the ECB should play home games in the new SWALEC Stadium since it provides great profile for cricket in Wales and also vital income to Glamorgan County Cricket Club and the local economy. Everyone involved in cricket in Wales has the opportunity to be inspired by live cricket of the highest possible standard.

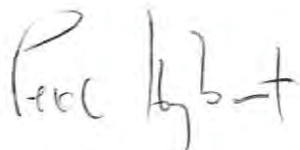
Cricket Wales played an important role in helping Glamorgan Cricket secure a 2015 England Ashes test match at the SWALEC Stadium, through the joint development of an ambitious plan for the future of the game in Wales.

England should play home games in Cardiff because it is an 'England and Wales' team. The Welsh flag was flown at the last Ashes Test Match in Cardiff. It is perhaps a case for the England and Wales Cricket Board to be renamed 'Cricket England and Wales' with the acronym changing from the ECB to CEW.

It is understandable that there will be calls for a Welsh international cricket team but the creation of such a team would have an enormously detrimental impact on the sport in Wales.

Should representation from Cricket Wales be required to further explain the above points, then I will gladly make myself available.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Hybart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Peter Hybart
Director of Cricket

Consultation on the Establishment of a Welsh National Team – Matthew Bumford – Principal Petitioner

Point 1. I think the action called for is both reasonable and feasible. It is currently the case that in the British Isles alone there are teams from Scotland, Ireland, the Isle of Mann, Jersey and Guernsey. There is of course the England (and Wales) team also but no Welsh person has played for it in over half a decade. Given that Wales has a cricketing population on par with New Zealand, a full test playing nation, and more than four times the number of clubs as Ireland, who regularly appear in the World Cup, then I think it is self-evident that Wales would be a successful cricketing nation. In sum, if Scotland, Ireland, the Isle of Mann, Jersey and Guernsey are all able to support national teams then it is clearly both reasonable and feasible to assert that Wales could also.

Point 2. As noted in point 1, cricketers from other nations/islands in the UK have a national team that they are able to play in. In Wales this is not the case. Instead cricketers must attempt to play for the England cricket team. This presents difficulties for several reasons. The first of these is that Glamorgan is not a fashionable county for selection for the England team. This may seem subjective but the facts speak for themselves; since 1921, when Glamorgan became a First Class county, it has produced just 16 Welsh Test players of the 650 players capped for England and only 11 One Day International players. This is a very poor return from almost a century of cricket. Furthermore, the lack of a national team for Wales means that a glass ceiling exists for Welsh cricketers that is very difficult to break through. At present, up until the under-19 age group players are able to play for a Welsh side, with Welsh women able to carry on after the age of 19. Good players are then fed into the Glamorgan system and hopefully end up playing for the Glamorgan first team. For most cricketers this is as high as they can get. Irish and Scottish cricketers are able to play in World Cricket League competitions, where they hone their skills against international teams of similar ability, whilst Welsh cricketers do not. Hence in the years since establishing their own teams Ireland have played 70 One Day Internationals and Scotland have played 49. They both now find themselves in World Cricket League Division One, regularly appear in World Cups and, in the case of Ireland, are now pushing for full membership of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and test status. This would be the case for Wales also had we chosen to set up our own teams when Ireland and Scotland did.

I also believe that the real question is not whether Welsh cricketers have the same opportunities as cricketers from elsewhere but whether they should have the opportunity to play for Wales. Some may argue that the England cricket team is sufficient representation for Wales but I vehemently disagree. The team is referred to as England in common usage (not England and Wales), the acronym for the England and Wales Cricket Board is the ECB, games begin with a rousing rendition of Jerusalem (the unofficial national anthem of England) without Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau nor God Save the Queen (as the anthem of the UK), and the team is represented by the English Flag of Saint George. In essence all of the symbolism and talk of the team is very English with no Welsh representation. It may be tempting for some to try and make the team more Welsh through something as irrelevant as a change in the ECB acronym but this will make no difference. By playing for England a Welsh person is being asked to dress up as an English person and represent England. This is distinctly different from the British and Irish Lions, where all four nations are represented in the badge and the Team GB, which reflects all of the nations that make up the UK. Welsh cricketers

should, therefore, be given a choice and given the opportunity to play for a team that represents them and not be forced to play for a team that most likely does not.

Point 3. The barriers to establishing a Welsh cricket team are Glamorgan and the Welsh Cricket Board because both believe that money from the ECB is more important than Wales representing herself and would rather see Wales being “represented” by the English team described above in which no Welsh players actually play and Wales gets no mention. This fixation with funding from England is in itself based on a fallacy because the ECB would continue to provide funding for Wales in the event of us establishing a team, as it does for Scotland, Ireland, Holland and the island teams of the UK. The International Cricket Council (ICC) would also provide funding and has recently announced new funding, such as the Bigger Better Global Game campaign, to encourage new nations to take up cricket, and there is also the Higher Performance Programme funding that is available to nations as they rise up the ranks of world cricket. It is, therefore, likely that Wales will not be financially worse off than before we had a team, meaning that rather than being reliant on English funds alone we will benefit from a mix of ECB and ICC funding.

The other major barrier is Glamorgan who seem convinced that they will not survive as a First Class county if there is a Welsh team, even though the ECB have made it clear that Glamorgan can continue to play in the English County League if a Welsh team is established. Again, Glamorgan’s view does not stand up to scrutiny. The first reason that they believe they will not survive is because they fear that they would lose players to the Welsh team when international competitions are being held. It is true that they would have to allow some players to play but it is also disingenuous to suggest that all Welsh players would come from Glamorgan. Many of Wales’s best cricketers do not play for Glamorgan and it is also likely that players from outside Wales, who have a connection to Wales, will want to play for the team, as is the case with Scotland and Ireland, for example.

The second barrier with Glamorgan is the possibility that Sophia Gardens will no longer be able to host England test matches. The first thing to be said about this is that it is financially irresponsible to base a county’s future on hosting English test matches. The test match system means that tests essentially go out to tender and counties/grounds then bid to host them. Such is the logic of Glamorgan that they bid a huge sum of money to host an England vs. Sri Lanka test match in 2011 that saw crowds of less than 1000. They have now failed to pay the ECB the £2.5 million debt that they owe for hosting that match, meaning they have been stripped of the 2012 West Indies test match that they were due to hold. This means the next test match in Wales will not be held until at least 2013. We, therefore, now find ourselves in a situation where Welsh cricket is in debt to the ECB rather than profiting from being a part of it.

It is also always assumed that there will be no money to be made from having a Welsh team. Again, I do not see why this should be the case. What we observe in rugby is that crowds at regional rugby are quite low, whilst virtually every rugby international in Wales is a full-house. I believe it likely that this would be the case for cricket. Whereas a person may not go and watch Glamorgan play Somerset it may be the case that they will go and watch Wales play home nations like England/Ireland/Scotland etc. and touring sides such as Australia and South Africa. So a Welsh team may open up cricket to an audience in Wales that did not follow it previously. This would then lead to merchandise and sponsorship deals that would mean that Welsh cricket starts to generate money.

Furthermore, with regards to economic exposure, Paul Russell, Chairman of Glamorgan CCC, has stated that the reason why they spent £3.2 million (including £1 million from the Assembly) to host the 2009 Ashes test match in Cardiff was to show off Wales. Surely, the best way to show off Wales to economic target countries such as Australia and India is not to have them play England in our country but to invite them to play Wales instead. Also, when Wales then go and play elsewhere they will be ambassadors for our country rather than England going to represent us without any sign or mention of Wales.

Point 4. I am not against England playing cricket matches in Cardiff. In cricket it is often the case that countries play in other countries (Pakistan and Afghanistan, for example, play their home games in countries such as the United Arab Emirates and England due to the security situation in their countries). What I am against is an England team arriving and claiming to play a “home” game in Cardiff when it is obvious to everybody that the England team is not a Welsh team. If it was genuinely an England and Wales team with Welsh players and Welsh symbolism then the case would be different, but as this will never be the case then it would be in the best interests of everybody if we set up our team. England will then be welcome to play in Wales but under the understanding that they are not representing Wales.

The final thing I think we should note is that several Welsh national teams do already exist. As stated earlier female cricketers in Wales already have their own team. There are also several male Welsh national teams up until the under-19 age group, after which players must suddenly forget playing under the Welsh Dragon and start playing under the Flag of St. George and the English 3 Lions. There is also the Wales Minor Counties team, which plays in a lower league than Glamorgan. Even Glamorgan have recognised the need for a Welsh national team by playing their games all over Wales and changing their name to the Welsh Dragons. Glamorgan, therefore, now has a confused role of claiming to represent Wales but only in the English county leagues.

It is clear that the Welsh public want there to be a senior-male national team, but one playing other countries not minor counties. The change that needs to be made is not a big one. All of the structures are already in place except for the team itself and it is clear where the sources of funding for a Welsh team will come from. Richard Holdsworth, when Regional Development manager for ICC Europe gave his blessing to a Welsh team and even wrote a paper on the matter (which has already been submitted), David Collier, the Chief Executive of the ECB, has also stated that the ECB does not oppose establishing a Welsh team and in Scotland and Ireland they are very keen on establishing the team so that they can begin playing Wales on a regular basis. So the only opposition to Wales becoming a team is emanating from the few individuals who benefit from the status quo. We cannot let fear and the vested interests of a few individuals stand in the way of the legitimate aspirations of Welsh cricket and so the sooner we set up our own team the sooner we can take our rightful place on the global stage, and in order to do that we must get the support of the elected representatives of the Welsh people in our National Assembly.

Hi Abigail, I'm a Scottish cricket writer, with the Herald, who was talking to some of my friends in Wales. They mentioned that some people in their homeland were talking about canvassing for Wales to be given separate status with the ICC and asked if I could support this idea, which I am delighted to do so.

This could have many benefits, both for Wales and the other Associate members. Scotland have taken great strides in the last 20 years and Ireland have fared even better, whether in developing a string of outstanding county players, such as Eoin Morgan, Ed Joyce and Niall O'Brien, or recording some terrific results at the World Cup, including memorable wins over Pakistan in 2007 and England this year.

I think, with English cricket currently among the strongest organisations, if not THE strongest in the world, that this would be the right time for Wales to seek separate membership of the ICC. I believe that this would have major benefits, including the following:

1)It would enable Scotland and Ireland to join forces with Wales in a tournament, which might offer possibilities such as rugby's Celtic League. There is always keen competition when these countries meet in rugby and I have doubt - after watching the Scots beat Ireland in a memorable match in Edinburgh this summer - that the same interest and excitement could be generated in cricket.

2)It would allow Wales to move away from a situation where all their best talent is immediately swallowed up by England. This might still happen in some cases, but Wales has the benefit of a professional county in Glamorgan, and no shortage of development streams, so the next logical step, given the introduction of devolution, is for Wales to go their own way in cricket and other sports.

3)Cricket needs to expand its own horizons and the more countries there are in Europe, the better the prospect of expanding and generating interest in a European League (which would not include England).

I am firmly of the opinion that this would be a positive step forward for Welsh cricket and believe, as I do with Scotland, that we have to work with the ICC to nurture the sport at Associate level.

Yours sincerely
Neil Drysdale

SHOULD WALES BECOME AN ICC MEMBER?

I am Mahendra Mapagunaratne - Barrister - at - Law from Toronto, Canada.
I am an independent cricket analyst and have been intrigued by the ongoing debate in Wales on whether or not Wales should apply for membership of the International Cricket Council (ICC)

To the average cricket playing country the proposition of joining cricket's world governing body would seem non-negotiable. However the presence of Glamorgan County Cricket Club (Glamorgan) in the English County Championship and the upgrading of Sophia Gardens as SWALEC Stadium with a view to hosting Test matches complicates matters for Wales making this topic an emotionally charged issue between Glamorgan and the rest of Wales.

As an outsider I am in no mood to take sides but would like to rationally place herein facts and figures spiced with reasonable arguments on this subject for the consideration of the Welsh Assembly.

1) UNILATERAL ASSUMPTION

My first observation is that Glamorgan is a mere county of Wales and questions arise when Glamorgan unilaterally attempts to assume that it represents the 'whole' of Welsh cricket. I have yet to hear a satisfactory explanation given by anyone as to how Glamorgan could be considered the Spokesman of Welsh cricket. If the reasoning and logic is a case of 'money speaks' then one would similarly have to bear the bullying tactics of India as the wealthiest cricket playing nation at ICC level.

2) LACK OF CHOICE

Wales is a proud democracy and it is disturbing to note that Welsh cricketers have not been given the choice of which country to represent -Wales or England? On what basis does Glamorgan and Cricket Board of Wales (CBW) assume that the majority of Welsh cricketers wish to represent England and not Wales?

This conclusion by both Glamorgan and CBW is amazingly presumptuous considering no formal Referendum or Opinion Poll has been held among Welsh cricketers to decide as to which country they wish to represent.

3) PERCEIVED FEARS

The two greatest fears among Glamorgan and CBW officials when considering ICC membership for Wales is the stoppage of funding from ECB and drying up of international fixtures for the newly upgraded SWALEC Stadium.

Funding

I have personally communicated with Mr David Collier - Chief Executive of England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and he has assured that Glamorgan would continue playing in the English County Championship even in the instance of Wales becoming a member of ICC. That should assuage any fears held by Glamorgan on funding.

Who would fund the rest of Welsh cricket is the next logical question. The answer to that lies in several sources. Sport Wales apart one must not forget the fact that Wales has an excellent chance of directly becoming an ICC Associate Member and gaining valuable funding from ICC.

Besides with a Welsh national team playing international cricket there is every chance that benefactors in Wales - especially the business enterprises would come forward to sponsor Welsh cricket.

Commercial enterprises in Wales would be willing to sponsor matches by a Welsh international cricket team when they have the opportunity to advertise to billions of eyeballs on Television in the Indian sub-continent.

Just the other day a prominent figure in Scottish cricket informed me that should Wales becomes an ICC member they would be willing to stage an annual Celtic Cup among Wales, Ireland and Scotland under a lucrative Television deal. Television deals these days run into millions of dollars and I dare say Wales would gain none of these lucrative benefits if it takes the easy route and remain as it is - doing nothing.

Status of SWALEC Stadium

Anyone with an inside knowledge of international cricket would testify to the fact that third party hosts of international cricket is nothing unusual. Way back in 1912 England hosted the first Test Championship between England, Australia and South Africa. In recent times even Lord's has hosted Test matches between Pakistan and Australia. Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates have staged third party internationals for years.

There is no ICC regulation to the contrary that SWALEC cannot bid to host England's Test and One Day International (ODI) matches as long as Wales has the funds to outbid rival English venues.

Player Eligibility

Player eligibility is another fear expressed by Glamorgan and England. What would happen if someone plays international cricket for Wales? Would he be lost to Glamorgan and England? The answer is an emphatic NO. Those who express such fears do so due to ignorance and they should be advised to read the ICC Player Eligibility Rules linked below. There is no qualification or waiting period required for a player from a non Test playing nation (Welsh International) to play for England. However if that player turns his back on England and wishes to play for Wales again he would have to endure a waiting period of 4 years. What this means is that England is in an advantageous position due to its Test status.

Glamorgan may fear that Wales would grab all its players for Welsh internationals. This again is an unfounded fear considering international cricket does not encompass the whole English summer - especially for a non Test playing would be Associate nation as Wales and also due to the fact that Glamorgan is not the only county producing cricketers in Wales. There are plenty of other counties in Wales producing players of quality. These are mere details and petty concerns considering the larger picture. Suffice to say Glamorgan never complains when Glamorgan players are on England duty! I ask from Glamorgan - why this petty mindedness towards your own kith and kin?

4) SCOTLAND & IRELAND

If doomsayers in Glamorgan are to be believed, should Wales becomes an ICC member, Welsh cricket would collapse due to the cutting of funding from ECB. Scotland and Ireland - once part of the ECB set up proves otherwise.

No one denies the fact that Scotland and Ireland have not only gone on to become one of the 6 High Performance Countries in the ICC drawing millions of dollars but they have also competed at World Cups, enhanced their finances, player and spectator bases, improved infrastructure and

as if to taunt Wales even play against England under lucrative television deals. None of these achievements would have been possible if Scotland and Ireland remained under the control of ECB.

Ireland has played 70 ODIs and Scotland 49 ODIs on its own and cricket in neither country has collapsed nor their coffers rendered bankrupt by cutting ties with England.

Wales easily fulfils ICC Associate Membership criteria from an infrastructural and administrative stand point and has the ability to bypass the lower Affiliate Membership to directly become a higher ICC Associate Member just as Scotland and Ireland did.

Glamorgan CCC Chairman Mr Paul Russell has stated that the reason for Cardiff to stage England matches at considerable cost running into millions is to 'showcase' Wales. If that is the argument, would it not showcase Wales better had Wales played international cricket at Cardiff on its own? How can a team of eleven English players 'showcase' Wales?

5) AFGHANISTAN

As a means of discouraging Wales some opponents create a fear psychosis by stating that all Wales as an ICC member would be doing would be playing against the lower ranked ICC members. This is not the reality. War ravaged third world nation Afghanistan with no cricket stadium and proper funds and literally with no cricket tradition qualified from the lowly ICC Affiliate Membership Status to the ICC World Twenty20 Tournament in the West Indies in 2010 by winning the qualifying tournaments within a short span of 2 years.

What prevents Wales with a cricket tradition of more than 100 years and a first class infrastructure and an administration from emulating or doing better than Afghanistan?
Or is it that Wales is economically worse off than Afghanistan?
Or is it that Wales which feeds a first class county in English cricket is a lesser breeding ground of cricketing excellence than Afghanistan?

6) STUNNING STATISTICS

- 1) Is the Assembly aware that only 16 Welsh players have played Test cricket since the induction of Glamorgan into the English County Championship in 1921 (90 years back) and that just 11 Welsh players have played ODI cricket for England since the very first ODI in 1971?
- 2) Is the Assembly aware that if you take out the 6 years for the Second World War - in 84 years Glamorgan has produced just one Test player every 5.25 years and one ODI player for England every 3.63 years since the first ODI in 1971?
- 3) Is the above statistic worthwhile to have Wales in ECB from a playing perspective?

7) WALES PAYS MILLIONS TO ENGLAND

The popular belief is that England sustains Welsh cricket with funds. But how many are aware that hosting England matches at the SWALEC Stadium is the result of a competitive bidding process with bids running into millions of pounds?

While Glamorgan generated 3.2 million pounds (including 1 million from the Welsh Assembly) to pay England for the privilege of hosting the 2009 Ashes Test against Australia, it lost the bid to host the Test against West Indies in 2013 since Glamorgan was not able to pay the bid deposit of 2.5 million pounds on time for the Sri Lanka Test during the just concluded summer.

Winning bids to stage Test matches at Cardiff is a lottery and one wonders the long term sustainability of staging Test matches at Cardiff due to spectator apathy for Test cricket unless England's rivals are either Australia and possibly India.

It was estimated that crowds of less than 1000 per day watched the England - Sri Lanka Test at Cardiff this summer.

How often do you get an Australia or India match in Cardiff and what guarantee is there that Cardiff would get these blue riband matches when it has to compete against 7 or 8 Test match Stadia in England including the likes of Lord's, The Oval, Headingley, Trent Bridge and Old Trafford - all well established Test match venues with populations brought up on Test match cricket for generations?

No less a person than Glamorgan chairman, Paul Russell has questioned Cardiff's viability as a Test venue admitting to "conceptual difficulties" in marketing a venue in Wales as a home of English cricket.

See news item:

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/england/content/story/521382.html>

Is SWALEC Stadium therefore a good enough reason to block Wales from becoming an ICC Member?

8) TASK FOR WELSH ASSEMBLY

It is my considered view that the Welsh Assembly should:

[a] Request Sport Wales to stage a Referendum among ALL cricketers in Wales to gauge their **allegiance** if given the **choice** between Wales and England **in ODI cricket**

[b] Call for evidence from **both Scotland and Ireland** who have cut ties with ECB to become independent members of ICC to understand how they have managed to flourish devoid of funding from England.

[c] Request an **official from ICC Europe** to detail the financial benefits for Wales as an ICC member. (A similar request maybe made to **Sport Wales**)

[d] Request **documentation from Glamorgan and ECB** under Right to Information on the following:

- 1) Funds transferred to ECB by Glamorgan CCC to win bids to stage Test matches and ODI matches over the years
- 2) The number of Welsh players who have played Test cricket and ODI cricket for England since the establishment of Glamorgan CCC in 1921 and the corresponding number for England during that period

9) SUMMARY: EFFECTS OF WALES BEING AN ICC MEMBER

[1] Wales' primary objective as an ICC Member would be to play ODI and T20I cricket

[2] Glamorgan would remain within the English County Championship

[3] ICC regulations would certainly allow Cardiff to host third party Test and ODI matches between England and other countries

[4] England would be able to utilize Welsh international players according to ICC Player Eligibility Rules and no less Glamorgan would be able to do the same.

[5] Glamorgan would continue generating funds from ECB and Wales would be generating funds from ICC, Sport Wales, Television and Sponsorship deals, Gate attendance and Merchandise

10) ADDENDUM

1/ Interview by Glamorgan CCC Chairman Paul Russell -

<http://www.spinricquet.com/2011/07/14/spin-chat-to-paul-russell-chairman-of-glamorgan-ccc/>

2/ Glamorgan penalized for failing to pay the guarantee fee of 2.5 million pounds to ECB

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/sports/cricket-news/glamorganccc/2011/07/01/cricket-swalec-test-match-loss-is-confirmed-91466-28974279/>

3/ List of Welsh players who have played Test cricket for England

http://cricketarchive.com/Glamorgan/Records/Miscellaneous/GLAM_TEST_CRICKETERS_STATS.html

4/ List of Welsh players who have played ODI cricket England

http://cricketarchive.com/Glamorgan/Records/Miscellaneous/GLAM_ODI_CRICKETERS.htm

5/ ICC Player Eligibility Rules

<http://static.icc->

[cricket.yahoo.net/ugc/documents/DOC_5F00BDA78B77363CAE461644EC9C1688_1281866239978_416.pdf](http://static.icc-cricket.yahoo.net/ugc/documents/DOC_5F00BDA78B77363CAE461644EC9C1688_1281866239978_416.pdf)

6/ ICC Associate Membership Criteria

<http://static.icc->

[cricket.yahoo.net/ugc/documents/DOC_9FDF982555EAB31CA424FBA08A631BB6_1296741767375_801.pdf](http://static.icc-cricket.yahoo.net/ugc/documents/DOC_9FDF982555EAB31CA424FBA08A631BB6_1296741767375_801.pdf)

Agenda Item 3.4

PET(4)-07-11 p11a

P-03-313 Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2011

Petition Wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to undertake further consultation with hobby breeders and not to implement the proposed Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2011 until this has been completed.

It is evident from the drafting of the proposed legislation there was a fundamental ignorance of the position of hobby breeders in Wales, many of whom have international reputations as breeders of sound healthy dogs that are fit for function. The composition of the committee who drew up this proposed legislation, was fundamentally flawed as it took no account of the numerous hobby breeders resident in Wales. All hobby breeders welcome any method to clamp down on unscrupulous puppy farmers. It is our contention that adding more legislation to that which is already there & not effectively enforced, is counter productive in the efforts to curtail the activities of unlicensed puppy farmers & their reprehensible practices.

Submitted by: Colin Richardson

First considered by the Committee: 25 January 2011

Number of signatures: 825

Hi Sarita

we have had one meeting with officials from the CVO. WE are not sure whether they will take on board what we have suggest. They have said that they will be coming back to us before they issue a revised Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs)(Wales) Regs 2011.

We will have to wait and see what happens at the moment, certainly we came away from the meeting feeling that they were only going through the motions, in fact one of the CVO staff was openly hostile and another quite dismissive.

Our expectations of influencing any of their preconceived ideas is quite low.

Kind regards

Colin

Agenda Item 3.5

PET(4)-07-11 p12a

P-04-333 Stop neglect and abandonment of horses and ponies by enforcement of microchipping laws

Petition wording:

The Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies has been inundated with calls for assistance from concerned members of the public, horse owners and the Police for horses found abandoned, neglected and injured. Many have been injured from wandering on to the roads causing great risk to Motorists.

None of these horses are microchipped which has been a legal requirement for foals born after July 2009 which means the owners cannot be traced. We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure effective enforcement of microchipping and Equine passports as laid down in the 2009 Legislation.

Petition raised by: The Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies

Date petition first considered by Committee: 11 October 2011

Number of signatures: 2114

Update: The Committee will consider this petition for the first time.

Alun Davies AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Amaethyddiaeth, Bwyd, Pysgodfeydd a
Rhaglenni Ewropeaidd
Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and
European Programmes



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-333
Ein cyf/Our ref AD-/05269/11

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA
committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

18 October 2011

P-04-333 Stop Neglect and Abandonment of Horses and Ponies by Enforcement of Microchipping

Thank you for your letter dated 7 October 2011 regarding the petition submitted by the Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies. Your letter, addressed to the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, has been passed to me for reply as responsibility for Equine Identification sits within my portfolio.

Enforcement of the Equine Identification (Wales) Regulations 2009 falls to local authorities who are also tasked with enforcing those provisions that are in place to protect the welfare of equines. The Welsh Government does not have any enforcement powers but continues to work with both enforcement authorities and the third sector to ensure that owners and keepers of equines are aware of their responsibilities in regard to both welfare and identification.

In response to concerns raised over the numbers of abandoned and dumped equines on common land my officials have met with local authorities, commoners and welfare organisations to identify a way forward. Guidance on how to deal with stray, dumped, or abandoned ponies was developed in partnership with the organisations concerned and aims to provide a consistent approach for those involved in such cases, particularly when dealing with horses and ponies dumped on common land. The guidance sets out the procedure that needs to be followed on discovering stray or abandoned animals and those organisations that need to be contacted. In addition, the guidance also provides an Emergency Services Protocol that sets out the procedures to be followed when responding to emergency incidents that involve trapped or injured equines.

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
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Beor
with
Alun

Alun Davies AC / AM

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Amaethyddiaeth, Bwyd, Pysgodfeydd a Rhaglenni Ewropeaidd
Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and European Programmes

Dear Sirs,

In response to P-04-333 I would like to submit the following comments:

Current Equine Passport Legislation is not being enforced in Wales as robustly as is needed. There exists a real problem of both abandoned and illegally grazing equines across Wales. Legislation was introduced in 2009 with the intention of identifying every equine with an owner. When welfare problems arise identification of an owner would assist those persons or organisations involved in dealing with abandoned and illegally grazing equines as well as abuses of the 2006 Animal Welfare Act.

There also needs to be a clear strategy for animals which are found to be abandoned where no owner can be traced.

Welfare Charities have done much to assist Local Authorities in policing the 2006 Animal Welfare Act. Providing training, a collection, transport and rehoming service. Nearly always services are provided free of charge. The relationships built between the two respective arms of the equine welfare network across Wales, should be further enhanced. However the failure to enforce fundamental Passport / Microchip legislation will not benefit these relationships nor our ability to enforce the 2006 Act.

Kind Regards



Philip York
Head of Equine Operations
Bransby Home of Rest for Horses

Background

I am Chairman of The Welsh Local Authorities Animal Health and Welfare Panel. I am also Lead Officer for the UK Animal Health and Welfare Panel on Welfare, Transport, Import/Export and Equine Issues.

I sit on a number of DEFRA project boards which includes Equine Passports. I also represent local authorities on the National Equine, Health and Welfare Strategy along with various other national groups.

Equine passport legislation was first introduced into the UK in January 1998. In February 2005 the legislation changed to introduce new European regulations.

On the 1st October 2009 the legislation again changed to bring Wales into full compliance with commission regulation 504/2008. This saw the introduction of micro-chipping of equines.

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to enforce Animal Health Legislation and all local authorities in Wales normally allocate this duty to the Trading Standards Service or Environmental Health Service under the umbrella of the Public Protection Department.

Local authorities receive payment for undertaking statutory responsibilities from central Government by way of the R.S.G. if new legislation would require resources to be provided by Local Authorities to enforce the legislation.

At the time of the introduction of equine passport legislation DEFRA stated:-

“This legislation will not place any burdens on local authorities and therefore workload will not increase. No extra monies will be allocated to local authorities or enforcement. In addition we would like to see a light touch enforcement policy”.

Following the foot and mouth disease outbreak of 2001 local authorities received extra funding under an agreed framework (which covered the extra workload resulting from the outbreak).

The funding enabled local authorities to appoint staff for both enforcement activities and data input. This funding continues until 2015 but is now on yearly reductions. 2011/12 being the first year and this reduction amounted to 30%, next year sees a further 16% reduction.

These reductions along with the general cuts for local authorities is resulting in staff losses in Animal Health and Welfare. There was another source of income for this local authority function which ended on 31st March 2011. This was to fund the “Companion Animal Welfare Enforcement Scheme”.

Following the introduction of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 which is a non-statutory function but local authorities along with Police are given powers to enforce it was direct funding from Welsh Government for a period of three years.

The funding applied to baseline work and special projects. As a consequence Wales was seen to be leading the UK on Animal Welfare and both The Welsh Government and Welsh

Local Authorities were held in high esteem by other Governments, but more importantly by welfare organisations and the general public.

Within Wales a considerable amount of work undertaken centred on equines. Two major projects were undertaken both of these lasting for the lifetime of the scheme.

“Operation Mustang” being undertaken by Cardiff which looked at strays and tethered horses and horses placed on land which they had no right to be on.

“Is Equine Welfare a Problem in North East Wales” was led by Wrexham and shared with Denbighshire and Flintshire.

This project was chosen as a result of prosecutions taken under the act. Four major equine prosecutions occurred within the two of the counties and one just in England.

One of the two prosecutions in Wrexham although a successful resulted in the owner of the equines being sent to prison the authority ended up being out of pocket by £180,000. The project quickly became all embracing due to statutory and non-statutory work being inseparable. The report was submitted to Welsh Government O.C.V.O. on 31st March 2011.

The findings show major problems not only with welfare but equine ID and passports.

Questions you pose

1) Do you feel that the action called for is reasonable and/or feasible?

I believe the action called for is both reasonable and feasible but does not go far enough.

There are a number of reasons why we need stronger enforcement within the equine sector but it should be looked at as a broader issue than just the petition.

Due to the petition only concentrating on micro-chipping it must be appreciated if the rest of the legislation is not enforced the micro-chip is valueless.

Micro-chips show the following detail:

Country of Origin	1 st three digits
Manufacturer	2 nd three digits
Identification	last nine digits

The details of micro-chips would only be useful for tracing purposes if the breeder still owns the equine or when an equine has changed ownership the passport was returned to the issuing P.I.O. or change of detail.

The passport / micro-chip are genuine

The equine has only one micro-chip implanted

Action is called for due to a number of reasons:-

Passports and micro-chips are primarily required by legislation to protect the human food chain.

They can assist in disease control by identifying owners so allowing tracing of movements and locations to be arrived at quicker. (Becoming more important was exotic equine disease becoming nearer to Wales).

Tourism and Trade

Wales relies heavily on tourism welfare incidents could persuade the public to shy away from visiting and holidaying in Wales.

Trade is estimated to be worth approximately £3000 per equine in Wales. This represents a significant income if this was threatened due to disease outbreak and controls applied. It could prove catastrophic to the Welsh Equine Industry.

The Tri-Partite Agreement between France, Ireland and the UK only requires equines to be moved on their passport, health inspection and certification is not required.

This again relies on the chip and passport being genuine and complete.

Local authority enforcement highlights many problems in these areas and produces a mindset that the system is unreliable.

I believe Question Two is answered by the same answer as given to Question One.

Question 3

What are the barriers to enforcing micro-chipping?

The main barrier to enforcing micro-chipping is that the whole of the legislation requires enforcement. You cannot just take one article from the regulation and enforce that in isolation. Each article relies on one another.

The reasons have been explained for the barriers in the opening background remarks. Lack of resource provided to local authorities to enforce. Lack of Government interest in the equine sector until the exotic equine diseases start to appear in Europe appear to me to be the main barriers.

I would be prepared to give evidence in person.

1. Do you feel that the action called for is reasonable and/or feasible?

Local Authorities have had a duty to enforce the Horse Passport Wales Regulations since its introduction in 2005. However without an increase in funding levels, the Local Authority approach has to take into consideration resources and associated priorities. The introduction of the requirement to microchip foals and other equines born after July 2009 has not brought with it increased funding for enforcement either. There has been no direction from central government to increase levels of enforcement within the current priorities and therefore Local Authorities have to consider what is feasible on a local level within current resources.

2. Do you feel that microchipping is being effectively enforced?

Local Authorities are reactive in their enforcement practices rather than pro active due to the resource issue. There is no evidence to show that there have been increased demands placed on Local Authorities to investigate horse passport complaints. Any investigation undertaken may not result in prosecution, as it may not be considered appropriate or in the public interest.

3. What are the barriers to enforcing microchipping?

There are numerous barriers that Local Authorities are faced with when enforcing the Horse Passport Regulations, not just the microchipping aspect. There are resource implications for Authorities. These investigations can also be timely, and take months getting through the court system, only to be considered minor technical offences.

There is currently no requirement to register as an equine premise / keeper so the numbers and movements are therefore unknown.

There is no central database that maintains a register of all equines. Tracing the passport issuing organisation, and having integrity in the system is not always straight forward. Obtaining information from these parties, can prove difficult and hinder enforcement.

There is no requirement for keepers to keep a record of movements or sales, which does not assist with microchipping enforcement, nor would it in a disease situation.

Passport Issuing Organisations only require the purchaser to notify them of a transfer of ownership. If the buyer does not do this, and the horse passes hands several times, the new owner becomes untraceable, and enforcement action can be difficult. If the seller and purchaser had to notify the authority of the sale, then

this would make things easier. If there was a fine imposed for failing to do so, as with a car log bog, then I believe this would encourage keepers to ensure the records are up to date.

The current low value of some horses, means that ownership is sometimes handed over many times and proving the transaction took place can be extremely difficult.

Stray horses are problematic for Local Authorities. Whilst there is an expectation for LA's to deal with stray animals, currently there is only a responsibility on them to deal with stray dogs. External agencies can become frustrated with this, and can often say that there is a welfare problem, rather than a straying issue in order to get the matter resolved. If a central database was introduced then it would be useful for landowners to be given access to identify owners of stray horses in order to deal with this problem.

Annwyl Rhodri

Diolch am eich neges.

Please find below some points of information to consider in respect of the proposed Petition:

- Weatherbys has had a mandatory microchipping rule for over 10 years, significantly predating the Legislation. It is not understood to have been difficult to impose.
- Microchipping is being enforced by UK Passport Issuing Organisations at point of passport issue, in the majority of cases. For a list of Passport Issuing Organisations please see www.nedonline.org.uk. The barriers to enforcement of passport Legislation at a local level could very likely be ones of insufficient resource/cost of implementation and lack of awareness about the equine species by enforcement bodies. It is likely that equine organisations may be able to assist with awareness raising on a practical level if required. Please contact us to facilitate this if you see fit.
- There are many events where equines collect to compete or show, where adherence to passport Legislation could be checked. The more examples there are of passport checks being effected, the greater the awareness is likely to become of the Legislative requirement.
- Microchipping has been mandatory for every horse at first registration, since July 2009, whether it is a foal or not (this therefore means adult horses which were not passported prior to July 2009).
- It may be the case that in the situations you refer to in your letter, a targeted approach could be considered. Perhaps a practical, cost-effective solution could be provided whereby, for example, a Passport Issuing Organisation in conjunction with local vets (microchips may only be inserted by a veterinary surgeon) may be able to offer a packaged solution for microchipping and passporting where there are large numbers of unidentified equines in a population which give rise to concerns about welfare and public safety.

CC BHIC committee, if you have anything to add please do let me know.

Kindest regards

Jan

Jan Rogers
Head of Equine Development

British Equestrian Federation

P-04-333 Stop neglect and abandonment of horses and ponies by enforcement of microchipping laws



Petition wording:

The Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies has been inundated with calls for assistance from concerned members of the public, horse owners and the Police for horses found abandoned, neglected and injured. Many have been injured from wandering on to the roads causing great risk to Motorists.

None of these horses are microchipped which has been a legal requirement for foals born after July 2009 which means the owners cannot be traced. We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure effective enforcement of microchipping and Equine passports as laid down in the 2009 Legislation.

The Response of The British Horse Society

1. The British Horse Society (BHS) is also responding on behalf of the British Equestrian Federation (BEF).
2. The BHS represents the interests of the 4.3 million people in the UK who ride or who drive horse-drawn vehicles. With the membership of its Affiliated Riding Clubs and Bridleway Groups, the BHS is the largest and most influential equestrian charity in the UK.
3. The BHS is committed to promoting the interests of horse riders and owners and the welfare of horses and ponies through education and training.
4. The BEF is the national governing body for horse sports in the UK, affiliated to the Federation Equestre Internationale. The BEF is an umbrella organisation representing the interests of riders, vaulters and carriage drivers in Great Britain via 18 independent member bodies.
5. Our response to the three questions as set out in the consultation letter dated October 2011 are as follows:

Question 1 - Do you feel that the action called for is reasonable and/or feasible?

Answer - It is considered that the action is reasonable and urges the National Assembly to identify the necessary resources to enforce the legislation. Many of the horses that have not been microchipped in accordance with the legislation are those that are more likely to end up being

slaughtered in the abattoir. Consequently failing to enforce the microchipping legislation is failing to protect the human food chain.

Question 2 - Do you feel that microchipping is being effectively enforced?

Answer - The law regarding micro chipping and horse passports is not being effectively enforced. There are a considerable number of young horses in Wales that do not have a microchip. It was recently reported in the press in South Wales that there were several hundred horses belonging to one individual many of which had no microchips or passports. It is understood that no legal action has been taken against this individual.

Question 3 – What are the barriers to enforcing microchipping?

Answer - The main problem to enforcing microchipping and horse passports appears to be the limited resources that are available to local authorities to enforce the current legislation, and the lack of officers in some Trading Standards departments with the necessary equine knowledge.

6. The BHS is prepared to give evidence in person to the Committee.

Dated 15 November 2011

Mark Weston
Director of Access, Safety and Welfare,
The British Horse Society.

To whom it may concern

As Veterinary Surgeons providing veterinary care to the horses and ponies rescued by the Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies (SWHP) we have close professional contact with many rescued horses and ponies which, contrary to legal requirements, are frequently not microchipped. This means that positive identification of their owners is extremely difficult. If, as the law requires, all adult horses and ponies are passported and microchipped, owners would be aware that they could be identified and held responsible for their animals. They would, therefore, be more likely to take better care of their animals. As most of the animals are in an advanced state of neglect by the time that they reach the care of the SWHP, we believe that enforcing this legislation would lead to a huge improvement in animal welfare.

Currently, while many horses are being passported and microchipped these animals are in the care of the responsible horse-owning population. Little attempt appears to be made to ensure that the law is enforced effectively among the less responsible owners.

Unfortunately, correct passporting and microchipping, while not expensive, is often not justified in the minds of many owners of animals, particularly when the animals themselves have a low economic value. However, if these animals were required to be individually identifiable it may discourage the indiscriminate breeding of large numbers of unwanted animals, and encourage more responsible horse management.

R.J.Fisher, MRCVS, (Director) and E.Jones, MRCVS, (Manager), Abbey Equine Clinic, Llanover, Abergavenny.

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES'
PETITIONS COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO
STOPPING THE NEGLECT AND
ABANDONMENT OF HORSES AND PONIES
BY THE ENFORCEMENT OF
MICROCHIPPING LAWS**

Response from the Farmers' Union of Wales

November 2011

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES' PETITIONS COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO STOPPING THE NEGLECT AND ABANDONMENT OF HORSES AND PONIES BY THE ENFORCEMENT OF MICROCHIPPING LAWS

Response from the Farmers' Union of Wales

INTRODUCTION

1. The Farmers' Union of Wales welcomes this opportunity to contribute to the Petitions Committee's Inquiry into stopping the neglect and abandonment of horses and ponies by the enforcement of microchipping laws, with particular reference to the issues faced by farmers and graziers caused by the abandonment of unidentified equines on farm land in Wales.
2. The Union previously responded¹ to the Welsh Government consultation on 'European Commission Regulation EC No. 504/2008 – Equine Identification' which outlined the regulations for the compulsory microchipping of equines in Wales.
3. The main impetus for EC Regulation 504/2008 was to strengthen the link between the animal and the information contained on its passport, particularly any medical treatment it had received, as a means of providing traceability for equines destined for the food chain. In a UK context, the amount of horse meat consumed is very low and the export trade of equines destined for human consumption in other countries is insignificant.
4. Therefore, the Union believed that the Regulations would only serve to increase bureaucracy and costs for keepers of horses and, once implemented, create significant welfare problems across Wales.

Questions

Question 1

Do you feel that the action called for is reasonable and/or feasible?

5. The Union believes that overriding reason why this petition was raised was due to the increasing number of horses and ponies being abandoned and neglected particularly on areas of common land in South Wales.
6. The FUW strongly condemns any cruelty which is inflicted on either domestic or farm animals and believes that agriculture in Wales has some of the highest animal welfare standards in the European Union. These welfare standards are not only enforced in legislation but also by the Cross

1

http://www.fuw.org.uk/tl_files/FUW/article_images/ConsultationResponses/Consultation%20response%20Equine%20Identification.pdf

Compliance standards which farmers have to adhere to as part of their Single Farm Payment contract.

7. The Union believes that the imposition of the 2009 Regulations requiring all foals born after July 2009 (in addition to adult horses not previously identified) to be microchipped is one of the major reasons why an increasing number of horses and ponies are being abandoned as owners either do not want to or are not able to afford a passport or pay for microchipping. The current economic climate is certainly contributing to this problem which is of increasing concern to the Union.
8. Abandoned equines represent a significant issue for graziers and/or the grazing associations on a number of commons on which many are being abandoned. Often the owners of these horses do not have any grazing rights on the common which then impacts on the legitimate graziers' ability to graze their own stock and the lack of identification means there is no means of tracing the owner.
9. In many situations, the graziers are left with no option but to remove these abandoned equines. However, due to the requirements of the Equine Identification Regulations it is not possible to dispose of these animals without the expense of microchipping and obtaining a valid passport. This can be extremely expensive for graziers as they have to bear the costs of meeting the Regulations before they can be moved or sold.
10. The cost of microchipping a horse varies depending on the price charged by the local vet but it is in the region of £25 to £35 pounds² with an application for a horse passport costing £25³.
11. The Union believes that a derogation should be sought from the Regulations to allow graziers to remove these animals from the area of land on which they have been abandoned for welfare reasons, without the need to incur the costs of microchipping and passporting these animals.
12. Concerns have also been raised by members regarding the need to microchip horses, as part of submitting a retrospective application for a passport, particularly those older horses owned and kept on the farm for most of their lives which will never leave or enter the food chain.
13. While the Union accepts that these horses will need to have a passport, it believes that they should be exempt from the requirements of microchipping.
14. The FUW also believes that the stricter enforcement of the Regulations will, at a time of severe budget cuts, inevitably lead to an increase in costs for Local Authorities and the Welsh Government without actually removing the root cause of the issue which is owners abandoning their horses as they are not willing, or can't afford to, adhere to the Regulations.

² <http://www.horseandhound.co.uk/news/397/198227.html>
³ http://www.bhs.org.uk/Horse_Care/Passports/FAQS.aspx

Question 2

Do you feel that microchipping is being effectively enforced?

15. The Union firmly believes that the microchipping Regulations are being effectively enforced within the agricultural sector. As part of the Inspection process for the Single Farm Payment, any equines present on the farm, require valid passports and, if applicable, need to be microchipped.
16. The Union also believes that the microchipping Regulations are being effectively enforced as part of the sale of horses and ponies, either privately or through auctions, including specialist auctions for semi-feral horses and ponies.

Question 3

What are the barriers to enforcing microchipping?

17. The Union believes that the main barrier to enforcing the microchipping Regulations is the difficulties posed in identifying the owners of animals which have been abandoned.
18. As outlined above, this represents a significant issue for farmers especially if the animal has been abandoned on agriculture or common land.
19. The Union also believes that any increased enforcement would have considerable cost implications for owners, Local Authorities and the Welsh Government with only minimal improvements in compliance with the Regulations.

17th November 2011

Our Ref/Ein Cyf:
Your Ref/Eich Cyf: P-04-333
Date/Dyddiad:
Please ask for/Gofynnwch am:
Direct line/Llinell uniongyrchol:
Email/Ebost:

17 November 2011
Simon Wilkinson
029 2046 8657
simon.wilkinson@wlga.gov.uk



Mr. Rhodri Wyn Jones
Team Support – Petitions Committee
Committee Service
National Assembly for Wales

Dear Mr Jones,

**WLGA response to National Assembly for Wales Petitions
Committee Consultation: P-04-333 STOP NEGLECT AND
ABANDONMENT OF HORSES AND PONIES BY ENFORCEMENT
OF MICROCHIPPING LAWS**

The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) represents the 22 local authorities in Wales, and the three national park authorities, the three fire and rescue authorities, and four police authorities are associate members.

It seeks to provide representation to local authorities within an emerging policy framework that satisfies the key priorities of our members and delivers a broad range of services that add value to Welsh Local Government and the communities they serve.

I am pleased to provide this information on behalf of the twenty two local authorities in Wales.

1. Do you feel that the action called for is reasonable and/or feasible?

The WLGA believes that the action called for is reasonable. However, it is not considered feasible without appropriate funding being made available to local authorities to ensure enforcement happens in a timely, consistent, appropriate and proportionate manner.

Legislation has been in force since 2009 making it a requirement to microchip foals and any other equines not already identified and supported by a valid passport. It is the duty of the local authority to enforce this legislation. What is reasonable and feasible would depend on many factors locally - none more relevant than the available resource and strategic and operational priorities of both local and central government.

Steve Thomas CBE
Chief Executive
Prif Weithredwr

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Ffacs: 029 2046 8601

www.wlga.gov.uk

Since equine identification was introduced in 2005, local authorities have received no funding for this area of work. Hence most do what they are able, within their current resource levels.

2. Do you feel that microchipping is being effectively enforced?

It may be considered that the legislation it is not being effectively enforced but based on the resource available most local authorities are hamstrung into being reactive rather than proactive in their enforcement duties.

Due to conflicting local and national priorities, lack of resource and the “better regulation” agenda; local authorities increasingly visit and inspect premises on an intelligence led basis.

It would appear that few incidents relating to equines are being reported to local authorities. There are however hot spots of activity in Wales, where the level of horse related incidents create significant problems for under resourced local authorities – and consequently the public, businesses and communities generally.

Local authorities must also to consider the public interest tests during any investigation which may lead to prosecution - it can be the case that appropriate action for an incident has been taken, however, this may not always be through formal action in the courts.

3. What are the barriers to enforcing microchipping?

- Resources
- No requirement to register equine premises makes the scale of the problem an unknown quantity
- Lack of knowledge by some sectors - e.g private keepers and in some cases professionals - vets not asking for passports when treating.
- Not having a central database of owners/keepers and moves can hinder enforcement. It is resource and time intensive for enforcement officers to contact all issuing bodies in order to prove offences.
- No requirement for keepers to keep records of sales / transfer of ownership.
- The requirement to notify issuing body of "change of ownership" only relates to the buyer and not the seller. If the buyer doesn't do this then the new keepers can often become untraceable and consequently no enforcement action can be taken. The seller has no obligation to keep or report these details, unlike cattle, sheep and pigs which have to be recorded and reported by both parties.
- The return of the ID document only relates to a sale - proving a transaction took place can be impossible in some instances.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Wilkinson
Regulatory services Policy Officer
Welsh Local Government Association



Bronaeron, Felinfach, Lampeter, Ceredigion. SA48 8AG

ALP/jw

15th November 2011

Ms A Phillips
Clerk to the Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Ms Phillips

Petition from the Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the above petition.
Please find enclosed two letters from Council members of this Society.

Yours sincerely


Anna L Prytherch
Principal Officer

Encs.

Anna Prytherch

From: Kathleen Jones <annfrongoch@live.co.uk>
Sent: 31 October 2011 17:24
To: Anna Prytherch
Subject: Petitions Committee of the National Asembly

Hi Anna

I only have a couple of points I would like to make re the above.

Firstly I do not believe that the WPCS has any liability as far as these strays are concerned. However, if it was proven that members of the WPCS have been found dumping these ponies they should be dealt with.

I personally believe that the action called for is reasonable and feasible. Times are changing, in view of increase in traffic on the roads and the speed which traffic moves these days, it would surely make sense for the Government to give grants towards fencing off the more notorious areas which have most traffic to try and lessen the accidents to these ponies.

I believe that it is only now that the cost of microchipping is coming through to owners and in view of the present economic climate it is hitting people hard and they are dumping these ponies instead of going to the cost of registering and microchipping them. I think that the government should make it known that they will not tolerate this behaviour and when they find ponies without microchips they should give the owners 2 weeks to claim the pony and pay the cost of registering and microchipping them and also give them a hefty fine. If they do not come forward the pony should then be sold to cover their expenses. This should then make them understand that it is not economically viable to breed unwanted unregistered ponies. Up till now no serious effort has been made to stamp out this practice. It is not fair on the owners who act responsibly and keep their ponies and stallions in a proven breeding policy when these mongrels are let out amongst them to create havoc.

K A Jones

Dear Sir or madam:-

Response to assembly gov. Petitions Committee
consultation re Society for the Welfare of Horses
and ponies petition to Welsh assembly gov.

However ruthless the assembly gov., and their
fellow U.K. administrations, may be in their enforcement
of the Equine Passport/micro-chip regulations they
can only enforce on the honest people while those
who flout the law cannot be apprehended in a
democracy.

The logistics of enforcement on these people is
highlighted by the recent enforcement of the law at
Dale Farm! The sheer cost would be impossible for
Trading Standards of County Councils to bear.

The insertion of micro chips and their subsequent
reading require that the animal is physically restrained.
I am not sure about the animal welfare and/or Health
and safety consequences of this exercise.

micro chips are reputedly unreliable, their reading is
via unreliable machinery, and it requires the reader person
to be within feet of the animal. No-one knows how
long these chips will last, will those inserted in 2011 still
be readable in 20 or 30 yrs time?

The sensible alternative is of course freeze-branding
or even hot branding. These brand/marks can be
read with the naked eye without stress to animal or man,
and are believed permanent and very difficult, if not impossible
to tamper with.

Yours faithfully,

Page 73

B. R. Davies

C. R. DAVIES, HAFDRE STUD



THE SOCIETY FOR THE WELFARE OF HORSES & PONIES

The Horse Hospital

15th November 2011

Dear Sirs

I first became involved with this Charity some forty years ago and in that time developed it with my late husband into the well respected charity that it is today, where the need for our services is greater than even.

In recent years we have seen a surge in multiple equine ownership through indiscriminate breeding. In 90% of the cases we have brought in, there is no microchip and whilst in the majority of cases we know the owners, this cannot be proven for a case to be brought against them for cruelty, neglect and breaking the law.

When horses in large numbers are illegally dumped on land without the owner's permission it is usually on badly fenced land. The result is that these horses easily break out in search for food and cause chaos and danger to themselves and humans on the highway. Considerable police time is taken up by these situations. Sadly it is a tragedy waiting to happen. It also means that the Landowner is responsible for the welfare of these animals which he doesn't even want on his land and which were put there without his agreement.

It is really time that the micro-chipping laws which are in place be enforced. It will take time and money to set up but I believe Wales should lead the way (This is a National problem).

We are currently dealing with a situation near Cardiff Airport where 100 young colts were dumped. It is alleged that the owner has now removed 70 and taken them to West Wales and has left 35 behind. There is no water in this field and we are having to monitor it. This owner is well known throughout the U.K. and particularly to Welfare and Trading Standards Officers throughout Wales.

There needs to be a central database along with passports to control this abuse and wilful neglect. In two cases we have found a microchip which has been implanted by the owner, which is illegal. But there is no record of this and it is not a known number.

With colts fetching less than £10 it means that it is not cost effective to castrate (approx £150), passport and microchip (from £50.00).

I have briefly outlined my thoughts on the need for the micro-chipping law to be enforced and would welcome the opportunity to invite your Petitions Committee to Coxstone to see first-hand what we have to deal with on a daily basis.

We believe that the strict implementation of the micro-chipping law would make a huge difference to the serious welfare issues that exist. Whilst it would be costly to set up, in the long term it would save valuable resources not just of the police, fire service and charities like ours, but also the local authorities; monitoring, rounding up and being ultimately responsible for these animals and any veterinary treatment. I am enclosing some photographs of some of our recent cases and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

REGISTERED CHARITY No 266247

Chairman: Mrs J MacGregor, MBE. Secretary: Mrs A Davies Patron: Sir Robert Hayman-Joyce

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jennifer MacGregor, M.B.E
Chairman



MRS TIGGYWINKLE Before and After Pictures



ELOISE Before and After Pictures

For the Attention of the Committee Clerk

Dear Sirs,

Re: The Society for The Welfare of Horses and Ponies Petition for the Microchipping Laws to be enforced.

We write in support of the Petition calling on the Welsh Assembly Government to implement the microchipping laws.

Having been associated with this Charity for more than 15 years we have seen a great increase in the numbers of cases we are called to attend and subsequently have to take into our care.

These past three years have also seen large groups of horses, particularly colt foals dumped illegally on land ranging from Industrial Estates, council land and privately owned fields. These groups can range in numbers from 10 to 70 and indeed last year we were inundated with calls from the Bridgend area where the number of horses were in the region of 200 some getting loose on the road. The majority of neglect is not caused through lack of funds but indiscriminate over breeding where there is no market for these equines.

The amount local authorities must be spending out of public funds to take care of some of these situations is surely substantial. We are constantly receiving reports of loose horses on the roads and in some cases being killed or badly injured, it is only a matter of time before there is a human tragedy. Valuable Police time is also being taken up in receiving reports of these horses and also having to remove them from busy highways.

In the past eighteen months there have been instances where we have had to involve the help of the Fire Service. In one case 15 Fire Officers spent approximately eight hours with three Rescue vehicles working into the night (please see photograph of Martina send under separate cover)

Last Autumn the Fire Service again came to our rescue when a young colt was found in a stream taking approximately ten fire officers two hours to manually winch the animal which was in a dreadful condition to the surface where it required immediate life saving attention. Due to the dedicated care and expertise received from SWHP both animals have made a full recovery.

There is a real urgency for the Microchipping laws to be enforced and we feel certain that it would help control the appalling indiscriminate breeding that abounds and which would subsequently reduce the amount of abuse and neglect found in equines.

Whilst it will take some time and thought to set up a suitable enforcement programme it is a situation that needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency and we would urge the Petitions Committee to take this Petition forward.

As Trustees we would very much like to invite the Petitions Committee to visit SWHP Horse Hospital to see the work first hand and to have the opportunity to discuss our concerns more fully.

We look forward to hearing from you in due course and in the meantime would be pleased to answer any further questions or assist in any way. We are also forwarding under separate cover some newsletters which highlight some of our work.

Our thanks once again for your interest in this matter

Sian Lloyd

Stuart Davies

Trustee

Trustee

PET(4)-07-11 p13a

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.

Petition raised by: Cllr. Ron Page

Petition first considered by Committee: 22 May 2008

Number of signatures: 500+

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/05302/11

Naomi Stocks
Clerk Petitions Committee
National Assembly For Wales
Cardiff
CF991NA
committee.business@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

20th June 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, and requesting that the subsequent Assembly Committee be kept advised of these issues through the Committee Clerk.

Local Health Boards (LHB) have been issued instruction to develop and implement sustainable travel plans for their major sites by 31 March 2009 and selected community sites by 31 March 2010. These plans were to include appropriate annual targets informed by site facilities, audits and user travel surveys, and be submitted for Welsh Government ratification.

The LHB were also informed that an annual report of performance on the sustainable travel plans for both major and community sites would be required on an annual basis. The annual report can take the form of an 'Action plan' for ease of reporting and monitoring. These action plans should demonstrate continuous improvement against the targets and objectives set in the site travel plans, from 2009/10.

Cardiff and Vale are due to submit their updated Action Plan for UHW on 1st July and Welsh Government officials will be scrutinising the plan at that stage.

Yours Sincerely
Lesley Griffiths

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
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

12th 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>Internal Launch completed.</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. Completed 2010</p> <p>Completed 2011 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	

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. Project Rejected
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 Completed Autumn 2010 Improved shower/changing facilities have been provided in Ty Dewi Sant. Completed

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. Completed Active Travel maps are currently in production. Revised target date – June 2010 Completed Additional maps produced covering UHW, Whitchurch, Rookwood, and UHW, CRI & St Davids Completed
		Offer cycle skills training and maintenance via CTWales		Patient Environment		Basic cycle maintenance demo undertaken as part of "Bike to Work Week". Completed No funding available for on-going dedicated training provision. Completed 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. Completed and on-going . 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. Completed and on-going annually Site specific timetable developed with Cardiff Bus. Received February 2010 – Completed 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 Completed – 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. Completed – 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. Completed – 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 Completed – 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. Completed - 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 Completed – 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	

The Petition Committee and the Health Minister: November 29th 2011

A petition has been before the petitions committee for the last three and a half years without any resolution.

The motivation for bringing the petition was the problem caused by vehicles, used by people going to Heath Hospital, being left on the streets nearby. Since the petition was raised the situation has greatly worsened, caused in part by the additional services that have been brought to the hospital. These additions include the PET scanner, the construction of the Woman's unit, neurosurgery, neurosciences, and the new medical school. Work on the children's hospital is still ongoing.

At last there is some movement, insomuch that the Minister for Health is due to answer questions from you in the Senedd.

This is now a crucial juncture as, dependent on the answers given by the Health minister to *relevant enquiries* raised by the petitions committee, **you** ought to be able to decide a way forward for yourselves. Your conclusion might be either that the petitions committee does indeed have a role to play, or that there is nothing further you can do.

It is extremely important that the questions asked of the minister are relevant, and that they get to the heart of the problem. When Heath Residents Association raised queries at a liaison meeting with hospital authorities in relation to the Sustainable Travel Plan, the chairman of that meeting said that it was not our place to scrutinize them by asking in-depth questions. Even though the questions arose from the plan itself, were straightforward, and had been forwarded in advance of the meeting.

So, prior to your meeting with the Health Minister, Heath Residents Association is laying out our concerns, and some examples of the questions we would liked asked at your meeting.

1. **The Sustainable Travel Plan**

From the outset this plan was flawed. The hospital committee charged with the responsibility to compile the report worked for 12 months before issuing copies to the ward Councillors and others. Two days later it was presented to Heath Residents Association, but in the meantime it had had to be substantially changed. (Your committee had been supplied with copies of the Introduction previously)

A lot of the **facts** in the introduction were found to be wrong, and were subsequently altered, but because of the shortness of time we received the document without the body of the report having been checked. We submitted **nine** pages of queries and questions outlining the errors, and the report was amended again prior to being handed to the Health Minister.

Yet this is the document that is being relied upon as a basis for sensible discussion.

Possible QUESTION

Does the health Minister believe this is a reliable document to work from?

a) How the Survey was conducted

The Sustainable Travel Plan starts by saying that it *“has been developed to generate benefits to the Trust, the staff, patients and visitors and for the wider community”*.

To achieve this, the survey would have to be quite wide- ranging to encompass all those mentioned. What took place was quite different. The so called survey was in fact only a request to those wanting a permit for parking within the hospital grounds to apply by returning the issued form. It had nothing to do with how the staff got to work, or what form of transport visitors used, and did not address any of the problems of the wider community.

Possible QUESTION

Does the Health Minister feel that the way the “survey” was carried out satisfactorily addressed the quoted reasons given for developing the plan?

b) STAFF NUMBERS

The number of hospital staff quoted in the Sustainable Travel Plan is 8,000 but its accuracy is questionable. Over the years attempts have been made to determine how many people are actually employed on site. The lowest estimate is 10,000 (this figure includes 1,000 students).

The hospital site is occupied by a number of different groups and a more definitive answer has never been forthcoming. The site is occupied by the Hospital, the Dental Hospital, and the University. The total figure of people who use the site should have been the major

starting point for the plan but this appears not to be the case. How one can work out transport requirements without knowing how many one is providing it for is a mystery is not common knowledge.

Possible QUESTION

Does the Health Minister agree with the above observations? If so, how has she attempted to obtain the necessary statistics?

c) HOW THE OBJECTIVES SET OUT IN PARA 2.3 WERE TO BE ACHIEVED

In this section we look at the new ideas being considered by the Authority that will enable them to achieve the objectives set out.

- i) **New Bus Routes** - We do not believe there are any new bus routes. Recently when the Authority decided to exclude all staff living within a 7 mile radius from holding permits, it was found that there were no buses running from near their homes to the hospital at the times they needed, especially early in the morning and late at night.
The reception desk of the hospital was recently asked for a timetable and route planner for buses to and from the hospital. The receptionist stated they used to have them but had not had any for the last 3 or 4 months.
- ii) **Park and ride services** – Although this was included in the original plan, to date there are no park and ride services to the hospital. The only one being talked about is at Pentwyn. This facility would only be able to take a very small percentage of staff, and if it ever comes to fruition, it cannot be seen as the answer to all problems.
- iii) **Introduction of inter hospital shuttle** – At a liaison meeting with the hospital HEALTH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION were given to understand that this was already up and running. When asked as to its usefulness, they were unable to say as it had never been monitored.
- iv) **New and Improved Cycle routes** – This is quite easy to deal with, there are none, only additional signs showing the Taff trail.
- v) **More Priority for Pedestrians, cyclist and buses-** There is no evidence that any of this has been introduced.
- vi) **More car parking for patients and visitors** - There is no sign of any progress in this area. In fact it is probably true to say that

with the increase of services at the hospital, proportionately there are less parking places.

- vii) **Car parking reviews and allocation of permits** –Permits have recently been re-issued (1st November 2011). It is not known whether any review has taken place, and more likely the process was carried out because the number of permits issued was previously over the prescribed limit (3,500).
- viii) **(Tighter control over parking on the streets** – The hospital states that this factor was considered even though they had no jurisdiction, and that they would work with the Local Authority. Recent observation shows that the congestion on the roads around the hospital, and in the park adjacent to it, has got **substantially** worse. We have made requests for Petitions Committee members to see this for themselves and the same invitation has been offered to the Health Minister, but all requests have been turned down. In a recent survey carried out by Cardiff Council the Heath area had by far the highest return requesting the introduction of residential parking into streets already affected by congestion. This, even though residents realise they will have to pay for this system. The employees at the hospital tell of their frustration in finding a parking space, even in the official car park within Heath Park, which is now always totally filled. This leads to staff from the hospital using all other parts of the park, resulting in would-be park visitors not being able to come. The Council are now coming up with recommendations that will restrict parking within the park, the consequence being that bone fide park visitors may find themselves having to pay – the only park in Cardiff where this will happen. Of course it will also mean more cars on our roads.
- ix) **Development of purposeful and focused communications package-** Since the meeting of 2010 and the reorganisation of the hospital we have not had meetings with the management and therefore it would be difficult to comment on this.

QUESTION

What gives the Health Minister any expectation that the Sustainable Travel Plan can possibly play any part in alleviating the problems to the residents of Heath?

Staff already have an extremely stressful job, what will be done to alleviate the added problem of how to get to work and where to park?

The next part of this report will deal with the targets set out in the Sustainable Travel Plan.

- a) **Car Parking** -A long term target to reduce staff car parking requirement. In the first year to achieve reduction of 400 staff vehicles entering the site. (para 9.1)
- b) **Car sharing**- In the first year to increase car sharing by 12% rising to 15% by March 2011. (para 9.2)
- c) **Public transport**- In the first year without any improvements to increase passengers by 3% increasing to 10% over a period of 3 to 5 years. (para 9.3)
- d) **Cycling**- To achieve a figure of 5% of staff regularly cycling to work (para 9.4)
- e) **Motorcycles**- To set a target of 2% of users by 2010
- f) **Walking** – To increase the number of walkers to 5% within 2 years. (para 9.6)

Possible QUESTIONS

What action has been carried out to see whether any of the above targets have been met and what method was used?

What are the results?

The difficulty with these questions being answered goes right back to how the initial report was compiled. Only 4940 staff members filled in the questionnaire requesting a permit to park. To ascertain whether the above results have been achieved a survey of the same 4940 people would be necessary.

In the recent re-issue of permits any member of staff could apply, whether or not they lived within the 7 mile limit. The policy was that those living within the limit would not have a permit unless they could show that *their vehicle was used for work*. No personal reasons were to be taken into consideration, although this, by necessity has had to change.

If this is taken to its logical conclusion then this meant of the 4940 who applied in 2009, half would be disqualified from holding a new permit. The document

clearly states that of the 4940 people who responded 50% lived within the 7 mile radius.

The result of this would be that 2470 respondents to the 2009 permit release would now have to find other ways of getting to work or else park outside the hospital.

In conclusion

What will you, the petitions committee, do?

Will you accept the Sustainable Travel Plan as it stands or will you agree that it leaves a lot to be desired?

Will the petition committee's questions to the Health Minister be probing, based on an in-depth knowledge of the Plan, or will there just be questions for questions sake? (Having watched many Parliamentary Committees enquiring into matters, it is good to see their knowledge of the subject and the in depth and probing questions that they ask. They are also willing to state when they are not satisfied with answers, their dismay at the lack of information forthcoming and the failure by anybody in the attention to detail.)

The Health Minister has recently been reported as stating that there will be consequences for the Health Board if they don't meet their targets. Does this apply to this matter or is the Sustainable Travel Plan just a paper exercise?

Recently Heath Residents' Association held a meeting for members when they were invited to ask questions of a selected panel on the problems caused by Hospital parking. The Health Minister was invited but declined the offer. We have also asked to meet her but this has also been declined.

Julie MORGAN AM, present at the meeting, stated that she felt the **Petitions Committee had learned lessons and would now be more effective**. She also stated that she thought that your meeting with the Health minister on the November 29th would give definitive answers.

Mr. Neil PAUL, the manager at UHW in charge of the Sustainable Plan, who was also at the meeting, stated that the main reason for restricting permits to 4000 *was on the grounds of safety*.

Mr Paul Hollard, Deputy Chief Executive of Cardiff and Vale UHB was asked whether it would be feasible to construct more car parks on the site. *He answered that he would have to say yes, but funds were limited.*

The roads and park within the Heath area have been overwhelmed by cars directly linked to UHW for many years. Recently, due in part to the relocation of services to UHW and the re-issuing of permits, the problems have increased. This is not just a case where residents want their own parking space in front of their house; *it is a paramount case of safety*. Much of the congestion is on main roads and great difficulty is experienced when trying to enter or exit properties. Problems arise for household visitors, especially the elderly or those with young children, who have to park great distances from the relatives or friends they are visiting in the area.

Heath Park is now just a car park for the hospital and the indiscriminate parking will one day result in an emergency vehicle being prevented getting to the location on the park where it is required. The council are working on proposals to alleviate this problem by resurfacing and lining out parking areas and they will also look to introduce limited waiting in areas that should be retained for park users.

We believe that the hospital authorities have done nothing to address these problems either for their staff, patients and visitors or the wider community. We firmly believe that the Welsh Government have a responsibility to oversee them.

What will the hospital authority do to show that the sustainable travel plan is not just a paper exercise? How will they bring about a resolution to these problems?

If an accident does happen or a clinical procedure could not proceed because staff had not been able to get to work how long will it take before we hear the infamous words "lessons will be learned"?

The first minister has stated that this government will be judged on its success to deliver for the people of Wales – well know this -we are those people to which he refers.

PET(4)-07-11 p14a

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

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

Petition first considered by Committee: 9 June 2009

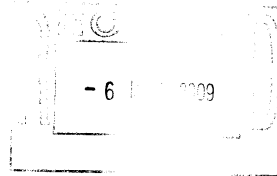
Number of signatures: 49

Supporting information:

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CF37 4TR.



Val Lloyd AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA.



5-5-09

Dear Val Laloyd

Re: Footcare in Cynon Valley

GDI

I am writing to you on behalf of the above, Fifty Plus Older People's Forum. We have petitioned in the area for better, affordable Footcare; which involves older people who are represented in the Forum, and those who are housebound.

David Davies one of our members highlighted this issue when he realised the NHS were referring to Toe Nail cutting etc: as a social need and not a medical one. This has brought the issue to our attention as we all currently pay for such a service in our own homes as it isn't readily available on the NHS.

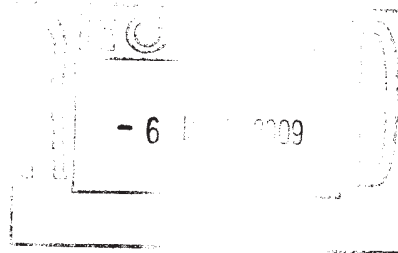
After considerable research we find that some GP Surgery's offer Chiropody/Podiatry service in some part of Wales and even some parts of RCT. However, we feel once again this is a post code lottery, service for some and not for others.

We have met with Age Concern Cymru who have printed a document on this subject 'Little steps can make a Big Difference' and are carrying out some research to consider this issue. Falls Prevention – the new strategy takes into consideration that falls can happen if that person has long toe nails/hard skin/in-growing toe nails which are untreated. Routine foot care services are a simple and inexpensive way of preventing problems and avoiding the necessity of more expensive hospital based interventions. To prevent falls and improve foot care, more funding should be made available to voluntary organisations for example, the 'Wellbeing Regeneration' organisation in Burryport, who are a Social Enterprise offering an affordable service to house-bound older people.

Sian Jones
Forum Development Officer
Principality House
Rear of 31 Taff Street
Pontypridd
CF37 4TR.



Val Lloyd AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA.



5-5-09

Dear Val Laloyd

Re: Footcare in Cynon Valley

GDT

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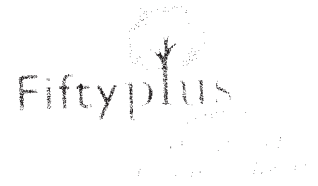
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We the Older People's Forum in Cynon Valley, present the petition, and would like you to address this issue of Footcare – Post Code Lottery in Wales.
It has been proven over time, that prevention is better than cure, so please can you help and prevent future accidents/diseases/conditions by endeavouring to look at the issue; is it Medical or Social Care for Chiropody/Podiatry services in Wales?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Sian Jones
On behalf of Cynon Valley Forum.



Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Petitions Committee

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Lesley Griffiths AM,
Minister for Health and Social
Services
Welsh Government
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: P-03-221

14 July 2011

P-03-221 Improved NHS Chiropody Services

The Committee have been considering a petition which calls for improvements to chiropody services available on the NHS.

We are aware that the previous Minister launched a consultation on a scoping report into social footcare and that commitments were made that the petitioners would be involved in this consultation exercise. At our recent meeting on 12 July, we considered the enclosed correspondence from the petitioner raising concerns about the consultation process. We would like to highlight these concerns with you.

Additionally, the Committee would welcome details on the findings from the consultation process and ask how the consultation findings will lead to improvements in the provision of NHS chiropody services.

Thank you for your continued consideration of this petition.

Yours sincerely

William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee

Enc: Correspondence from the petitioner

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Ffôn / Tel: 029 2089 8998
E-bost / Email: petition@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Mr. Rhodri Wyn Jones

Ref: P-03-221

Thank you for your letter of 3 June, 2011 addressed to my predecessor, Sian Jones.

By way of background, the Cynon Valley 50+ Older People's Forum have been diligent in pursuing this matter from the beginning. We were led to believe that we would be a consultee on the Foot Care Scoping Study, due to be published in the summer of 2010. Since September, 2010 I have sent at least 5 emails and made as many phone calls to officers of WAG to obtain a status on the Footcare Scoping Study. On 8 March, 2011, I wrote to Andrea Nicolas Jones:

Dear Andrea Nicholas-Jones,

I write again on behalf of the 5 50+ Forums in Rhondda Cynon Taff asking about the status of the Footcare Scoping Study, originally due to be published last summer.

On 24 February 24, 2011 I wrote you:

**'Dear Andrea,
When I talked to your colleague a few weeks ago, he kindly told me to expect news of the publication of the study 'soon'.
I have just visited the WAG website, and have found nothing mentioning news of the Footcare Study.
Please advise me as to what I should tell the Cynon Valley 50+Forum (113 members) on 15 March, when they next meet and ask me about the status of this document?
Sincerely,'**

I did not receive a response to the email.

I have reviewed the Minutes of the Petition's Committee dated 1 March 2011 on this matter, and they refer to a 'forthcoming consultation exercise'

I phoned your office today and was informed by your colleague that the Scoping Study should be published 'before the election period'. When I asked about the post publication consultation period, I was informed that it might be 'shortened'.

On behalf of the Forums in RCT, I am concerned that the post-consultation period will not allow enough time for our public, voluntary Forums, most of which meet in alternate months, to respond in a meaningful way.

Please provide the Forums with an expected timetable for publication and post publication consultation.

Because this issue is vital to the Cynon Valley 50+ Forum that meets on 15 March, I would appreciate a response by next Monday.

Yours truly,

Anthony M. D'Anna
50+ Forum Support Officer

I did not receive a response to this email.

Because I was getting nowhere with WAG, I turned to Cwm Taf LHB.

On 14 March, 2011 I wrote the following email to Nicola Davies, Cwm Taf LHB:

Hi,

This is a follow up to Claire's email prompted by my phone call to her this afternoon

I have been doggedly pursuing the Foot Care Scoping Study which was due to be published by Gwenda Thomas's office last summer. Apparently it is still with her office and due to be published 'for consultation before the election.'

As the election is in May, I am trying to get a copy of the Study in sufficient time to allow the Forums an opportunity to participate in the consultation.

On 1 March, 2011, the NAW's Petition's committee met, and according to its minutes:

'P-03-221 Improved NHS Chiropody Treatment

The committee considered an update to this petition.

Actions

The committee agreed to:

- Write to Cwm Taf Local Health Board to ask that they involve the petitioners in the forthcoming consultation exercise on social footcare;

- Write to the Minister for Health and Social Services to request that the Committee be kept informed with on the progress of the consultation’.

Do you know what ‘forthcoming consultation’ the Petitions committee is referring to? How do we assure the Cynon Valley Forum, the original petitioner, are kept in the loop?

Cheers,

Anthony M. D'Anna
50+ Forum Support Officer

I did not receive a written response to this email either.

However, I was assured that if the Cynon Valley Forum provided its response through the Cwm Taf Local Health Board, our comments would be included as consultees.

I am forwarding that to you now in the attachments entitled ‘Responses to Social Footcare in Wales Scoping Study’.

Please confirm that this is the correct approach.

Anthony M. D'Anna
50+ Forums Support Officer

Age Concern Morgannwg Ltd
Principality House
Rear of 31 Taff Street
Pontypridd
CF37 4TR
Tel: 01443 490870
Fax: 01443 490679

From: Tony D'Anna
Sent: 24 May 2011 16:12
To: Denise Jenkins
Cc: 'Rhian Webber (Cwm Taf Local Health Board - Executive Directorate)'
Subject: Response to the Scoping Study

Dear Denise,

Attached are the responses of the Cynon Valley 50+ Forum Foot Care Campaign to the Foot Care Scoping Study.

Members have asked that these responses be forwarded directly to the appropriate departments in Welsh Government.

Can you advise as to the best way to do this?

Yours truly,

Anthony M. D'Anna
50+ Forums Support Officer

Cynon Valley 50+ Older People's Forum

Responses to
'Social Foot Care in Wales'
June, 2010

The Social Footcare Campaign of the Cynon Valley 50+ Older People's Forum met on 19 May, 2011, reviewed the report and has the following responses to the 'Social Foot Care in Wales' Scoping Study.

- A. The Social Footcare Campaign was first publicised in October, 2008. The Cynon Valley 50+ Forum filed a supporting petition with the National Assembly in early 2009. The Cynon Valley 50+ Forum was identified as a stakeholder. Why did it take nearly two years to complete this report?
- B. Why did it take over eight months after completion to release the report for consultation on or about 31 March, 2011?
- C. As we understand it, the responses are due by the end of May, 2011. Why aren't volunteer member organisations such as the Forums, which meet monthly, at best, given more time to formulate a response?
- D. Recommendation 12 states: "**Where charges for social foot care are made to individuals, these should range between £10 and £15 per visit**". We disagree because in our experience, some services charge less. For example, Wellbeing Regeneration charged £6.50 for toenail cutting. Some people get home visit footcare for £10.00.
- E. Sentence 4 of Paragraph 85 should be modified to include those with impaired eyesight [partial blindness] among those at risk of injury.

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 Cynon 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

Agenda Item 4.3

PET(4)-07-11 p15a

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

Petition raised by: National Osteoporosis Society 7 July 2009

Petition first considered by Committee: 7 July 2009

Number of signatures: 22

P-03-222 National Osteoporosis Society 12/03/10

As part of the Petitions Committee's current consideration of P-03-222, I would be grateful if you could bring members' attention to new evidence which has emerged regarding the provision of Fracture Liaison Services in Wales.

The All-Wales Osteoporosis Advisory Group (WOAG), supported by the National Osteoporosis Society, has recently launched a report entitled the 'All-Wales Audit of Secondary Prevention of Osteoporotic Fractures 2009'. This highlights a national shortfall in services for people with osteoporosis and/or at risk of fractures in Wales. I attach a copy for the Committee's information.

The audit shows that of the Welsh NHS hospitals that receive fracture patients, only a quarter provide an FLS for outpatient fracture patients. Just 40% provide an FLS for inpatient fracture patients. The report also describes how Health Boards and local authorities can make net cost-savings over a five-year period if they implement the National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People falls and fractures standard.

I also attach a copy of a separate information sheet: this outlines the level of fracture services currently provided at each Welsh NHS hospital currently receiving fracture patients.

I hope that the Committee finds this update useful. In light of the current review of the NSF for Older People, I have shared this information with Health Inspectorate Wales. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or require further information.

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Petitions Committee

Cynulliad
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National
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Wales



Lesley Griffiths AM,
Minister for Health and Social
Services
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Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: P-03-222

14 July 2011

P-03-222 National Osteoporosis Society

The Petitions Committee are currently considering a petition which calls for the full implementation of the Falls and Fractures Standard in the National Service Framework for Older People and for universal provision of Fracture Liaison Services across the Welsh NHS.

The previous Minister for Health and Social Services stated that the first phase of the NSF had been largely achieved, but there was an acknowledgment that there is variation in service provision for fractures and falls. The Committee was informed that work would be taken forward to develop and share good practice across Wales.

At our recent meeting, we agree to seek an update on this work and to seek clarity on whether all LHBS do provide or have plans to provide an FLS. For those LHBS that do not provide such services, what are the barriers to implementation? Additionally, we would like an update on the review of the National Service Framework for Older People.

Thank you for your consideration of this petition.

Yours sincerely

William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee

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Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
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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%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400

Correspondence: lesley.griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Printed on 100% recycled paper

Dear Abigail,

Thank you for updating me on the status of our petition. A cost-benefit analysis of Fracture Liaison Services has been conducted by the All-Wales Osteoporosis Advisory Group (WOAG). This was published in December 2009 and is available on pages eight and nine of the following online document:

<http://www.nos.org.uk/document.doc?id=564>. We would be delighted for this document to be placed on public record.

WOAG is an independent body, comprised of healthcare professionals with an interest in osteoporosis from across Wales. The National Osteoporosis Society is also represented on the group. The aims and objectives of WOAG include the provision of advice and guidance on matters related to osteoporosis. The current chair of WOAG is Dr Mike Stone.

WOAG estimated that the cost of establishing universal access to Fracture Liaison Services across Wales in 2010 and treating patients according to NICE Technology Appraisal 161 for five years thereafter was £2.8 million. The savings for NHS and social care attributable to fractures averted is estimated at £3.0 million, the majority being delivered during the first three years.

Since the report was written, the cost of prescribing Alendronate, a generic bone protecting treatment recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) as the first-line treatment for osteoporosis, has fallen. Other bone-protecting treatments are also coming off patent, which means that the overall cost of providing a Fracture Liaison Service will also now be lower.

The Committee may also be interested in the health economic analysis of fracture prevention services undertaken by the UK Department of Health for England in 2009. This is available online at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_110099.pdf. This provides an analysis of the fractures prevented and net cost-savings achieved at both national and local levels (examining a population of 320,000, the average population size served by an English primary care trust).

I hope that this is useful; please do let me know if you have any queries or would like any further information.

Kind regards
Jeanette

Jeanette Owen
Country Development Manager
Wales, Northern Ireland & I.of Man

National Osteoporosis Society

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-03-156
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/06848/11

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee

William.powell@wales.gov.uk

11th

November 2011

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your further letter of 20 October on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding funding to deliver the clinical standards for Sleep Apnoea services in Wales.

The Strategy Document for Sleep Disordered Breathing Services was jointly issued by the National Service Advisory Group (NSAG) and my Medical Director in February this year. Health Boards are responsible for the implementation of clinical best practice and must ensure they are making adequate provision from their extensive discretionary allocations to deliver the required standards.

Kind regards
Lesley

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

Agenda Item 5.2

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-03-205
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/06843/11
William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

 November 2011



Thank you for your letter of 17 October concerning Abergavenny livestock market and my consultation about the possible repeal of the Abergavenny Improvement Acts 1854-71.

I confirm safe receipt of the copy-evidence submitted to your committee which I will consider alongside other responses I receive on the matter.

I will write to you again following the outcome of my consultation.



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

Briefing for the Petitions Committee discussion on shared space
15.11.2011

From: The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (Guide Dogs)

Prepared by:

Andrea Gordon
Public Policy Manager, Wales

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association
Building 3, Eastern Business Park
off Wern Fawr Lane
St Mellons
Cardiff
CF3 5EA
Website: www.guidedogs.org.uk

Introduction

Guide Dogs' vision is for a society in which blind and partially sighted people enjoy the same freedom of movement as everyone else. Our purpose is to deliver the guide dog service and other mobility services, as well as breaking down barriers - both physical and legal - to enable blind and partially sighted people to get around on their own terms.

Shared surface streets are where the road and pavement are built at the same level, removing the kerb, and with cars, buses, cyclists and pedestrians sharing the same surface; sometimes controlled crossings (such as pelican crossings) are also removed. The scheme is said to work through reliance on eye contact to negotiate priority.

Guide Dogs believes shared surface streets create issues for many groups of people including -

- Guide dog owners and long cane users, who use the kerb as navigation clue to know where they are in a street, and who are unable to make eye contact with drivers of vehicles or cyclists.
- Disabled and elderly people, who have to share the same space with noisy and intimidating vehicles and bicycles,.
- Young children who no longer know where they can safely cross the road. I.e. without a kerb, how do they know where to stop?

Update on shared surface streets in Wales

Guide Dogs and our partners have had some success in raising awareness of our concerns around shared surface streets in Wales: In Cardiff, for example, we work closely with the council through its Access Officer, and the Cardiff Access Focus Group (CAFG). The CAFG is made up of local disabled people with a shared interest in the city, and in particular issues that affect their access to public facilities such as transport, shopping, libraries, and the many new developments in the city. This positive dialogue has resulted in some exemplars of inclusive environments such as the new layout in High Street, where tactile and colour contrasted paving has been used to separate areas where vehicles can go from those where they cannot, so pedestrians feel safe.

Sadly, however, this good practice is not common place, and in our recent submission to the Enterprise Committee, (below), we give examples of what happens when, in spite of excellent high level commitment to equality of opportunity and engagement, (and the new equality legislation), disabled people, and, in particular, blind and partially sighted pedestrians, are excluded from consultation processes and ultimately put in danger by changes to the public realm.

We wish to make the Committee aware that our work on shared surfaces continues, and that even in time of such financial constraint, retro fitting of measures to protect vulnerable pedestrians cannot be ruled out. We would, of course, recommend that this is avoided by a commitment from local authorities to early and inclusive engagement, and the development of streets that are safe and accessible to all pedestrians.

Extract from our submission to the Enterprise and Business Committee begins here:

Enterprise and Business Committee enquiry into the regeneration of Town Centres

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for the inquiry are:

- What approaches have been followed to successfully deliver and finance the regeneration of town centres in Wales? Are there lessons to be learned from elsewhere?

- How does the Welsh Government use the levers at its disposal to assist in the regeneration of town centres in Wales?
- How are the interests and activities of communities, businesses, local authorities and Welsh Ministers identified and coordinated when developing and implementing town centre regeneration projects?

Response to point 1 from Guide Dogs

1. The roles the Welsh Government and local authorities play in the regeneration of town centres.

In this regard, we would draw the Committee's attention to the Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Strategy, "Turning Heads". This is an example of an over-arching strategy which should inform regeneration projects and so it is interesting to note what the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has to say about how this should happen.

"Turning Heads: A Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020' outlines the vision for the Heads of the Valleys regeneration work, in the context of the Wales Spatial Plan. It defines Equal Opportunities as a core element of the work and makes a firm commitment to dealing '...proactively with barriers to participation and success' and to not discriminate against any individual or group."

The EIA goes on to say,

"All activities involve partnerships with different organisations. For example, town centre funding is directed through local authorities. Regeneration activity also takes place in partnership with the third sector and through consultants. Ultimately the stakeholders are the residents, potential residents and visitors to the area."

Unfortunately, we have examples of where consultation and engagement, within the Heads of the Valleys area, is not taking place. A public consultation on plans to regenerate the centre of Aberdare was undertaken by Rhondda Cynon Taff Council in June 2011. A month before, a meeting was held with a group of blind and partially sighted people where specific issues of concern were identified and minuted. The consultants engaged by the Council, Capita Symonds, were represented, and the minutes record heated debate about proposed shared surface areas for pedestrians and vehicles and unsegregated pedestrian and cycling routes through the town.

The proposal to reduce some kerbs to 25mm upstands met with strong opposition from the group. Blind and partially sighted people rely on kerbs to tell them where the footway ends and the road begins, so when kerbs are reduced to this extent, or taken away completely, as in shared surface streets, blind and partially sighted pedestrians can wander into the path of vehicles without being aware of the danger. The Capita Symonds consultant did agree to report back, but when the public exhibition was held the 25mm kerbs were still there on the plans.

To date, no specific feedback has been given to the group, and the engagement process, such as it was, is clearly flawed: The meeting referred to here was held far too late in the planning process; the plans presented were all in print with no accessible alternative versions even discussed; the public exhibition, which a local Guide Dog Owner went to on behalf of the group, was entirely inaccessible and based on complex plans displayed on boards attached to the wall of the church where the exhibition was held. This made explaining the proposed new development even harder: The detailed explanation required to describe the plans was hampered by the physical inaccessibility of the diagrams and pictures set up, as they were, for maximum visual impact.

We would therefore have no hesitation in stating that the consultation process was tokenistic and fruitless, and that engagement, as required under the Council's equality duties, failed. It is significant that no EIA had been considered, so it is hard to see what influence the "Turning Heads" strategy had on the process.

Sadly, there is a similar situation taking place in Abertillery, where changes to the town centre mean that local blind and partially sighted people are afraid to walk their usual routes unaccompanied.

“It’s a regular walk for me and my dog, and since they started working there the contractors have been very helpful, taking me around all the obstructions and lorries. Now they’ve moved to another spot, I can’t manage it on my own, and I have to get my wife to come with me. That’s ridiculous, I’ve got a dog to be independent, and I didn’t know they were turning it into a no-go area for me!”
Mr N, Guide Dog Owner, Abertillery.

We close this point with another extract from the “Turning Heads” EIA:

Consultation with Equalities Groups

“It is our responsibility to ensure that the views of men and women, disabled people, people from different ethnic backgrounds, with different religious beliefs (including non-belief) and different sexual orientation are taken on board and responded and used to influence our decision making. We recognise that there is a need to identify gaps in our activity where consultation or involvement with equalities groups is not currently taking place.

Those gaps may be filled by undertaking our own consultation activity or by involving disabled people as part of our work directly. However they may also be filled by working with Local Authorities or other partners to ensure that they are able to provide us with information about how they have sought the views of different equalities groups and responded to the different needs identified.

The evidence suggests that input from consultation activity with excluded groups should inform the development of,
Master Plans, Equality Statements (see SP1) and HARPS.

In addition to this all documentation including for example grant offer letters, project proposal forms should be reviewed for inclusion of productive equality and diversity actions. This would ensure not only that the issue of consultation and involvement is addressed but that the process is used to develop productive outcomes and that commitment to doing so becomes contractual.”