

Agenda – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – The Senedd

Meeting date: 15 May 2018

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

Graeme Francis – Committee Clerk

Kath Thomas – Deputy Clerk

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1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

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2 New Petitions

2.1 P-05-812 We call for the Welsh Government to encourage trusts to implement the NICE guidelines for Borderline Personality Disorder or justify why they do not do so

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2.2 P-05-813 Ban the USE of LARSEN TRAPS (Multi Corvid Traps)

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2.3 P-05-814 All New Builds In Wales To Have Solar Panels

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3 Updates to previous petitions

Economy and Transport

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

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

(Pages 70 – 73)

3.3 P-05-716 Free Train Transport for school pupils with Arriva Trains Wales

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The following three items are grouped together for consideration

- 3.4 P-05-721 Penegoes Speed Limit Petition
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- 3.5 P-05-767 A487 Trunk Road Through Tre-Taliesin
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- 3.6 P-05-792 Petition to extend the 40mph speed limit in Blaenporth
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- 3.7 P-05-770 Reopen Crumlin Railway Station
(Pages 85 – 87)

Environment

The following two items are grouped together for consideration

- 3.8 P-05-750 For single use items: introduce a Deposit Return System for drink containers and make fast food containers and utensils compostable
(Pages 88 – 92)
- 3.9 P-05-803 Our natural world is being poisoned by single use plastics...it's time to introduce a tax!
(Pages 93 – 98)
- 3.10 P-05-796 Calling on the Welsh Government to Ban The Use of Wild Animals in Circuses in Wales
(Pages 99 – 105)
- 3.11 P-05-801 Save the trees and ground in Roath Mill and Roath Brook Gardens before it's too late
(Pages 106 – 117)

Health

- 3.12 P-05-768 A call for the return of 24 hour Consultant led Obstetrics, Paediatrics and SCBU to Withybush DGH
(Pages 118 – 127)

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

(Pages 128 – 133)

Education

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

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Petitions proposed for closure

3.15 P-04-526 Please make Senedd TV accessible to deaf people

(Page 138)

3.16 P-04-683 Trees in Towns

(Page 139)

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

Pantycelyn

(Pages 140 – 141)

3.18 P-05-783 Ensuring Equality of Curriculum for Welsh Medium Schools e.g.

GCSE Psychology

(Pages 142 – 143)

4 Evidence session – P-05-799 Change the National Curriculum and teach Welsh history, from a Welsh perspective, in our Primary, Secondary and Sixth form Schools

(Pages 144 – 161)

Elfed Wyn Jones, Petitioner

Dr Elin Jones

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the remainder of today's business:

6 Discussion of Previous Evidence Session

**7 Consideration of Summary – P-04-628 To improve access to
Education and services in British Sign Language**

(Pages 162 – 170)

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 2.1

P-05-812 We call for the Welsh Government to encourage trusts to implement the NICE guidelines for Borderline Personality Disorder or justify why they do not do so

This petition was submitted by Keir Harding having collected 812 signatures.

Text of Petition

No Longer A Diagnosis of Exclusion, a document that highlighted the mistreatment of those diagnosed with personality disorder was published in 2003.

The NICE guidelines for Borderline Personality Disorder were published in 2009. 9 years on less than half of Welsh trusts provide services that comply with the guidelines. This compares to 84% of trusts in England.

People with this diagnosis have frequently come from backgrounds of maltreatment, neglect and abuse.

1 in 10 people with this diagnosis will die by suicide.

The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide found that of the 1 in 10 people who ended their lives over the period of their study, none were receiving NICE recommended care.

Experts in the field warn that trusts without specialist services will be over reliant on out of area private treatment. This view was supported by representatives of trusts without specialist services at the Personality Disorder Cymru conference in Cardiff in 2016.

We must do more to support the survivors of abuse who have been let down enough already.

We must do more to protect the Welsh tax payer by providing effective community services rather than expensive out of area placements.

We call for the Welsh Government to direct trusts to implement the NICE guidelines for Borderline Personality Disorder or justify why they do not do so.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Wrexham

- North Wales

P-05-812 Implement NICE guidelines on borderline personality disorder

Pwyllgor Deisebau | 15 Mai 2018
Petitions Committee | 15 May 2018

Research Briefing: NICE guidelines on borderline personality disorder

P-05-812 Implement NICE guidelines on borderline personality disorder

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We call for the Welsh Government to direct trusts to implement the NICE guidelines for Borderline Personality Disorder or justify why they do not do so.

1. NICE guidelines on borderline personality disorder

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) published [*Borderline personality disorder: recognition and management*](#) (Clinical guideline [CG78] in January 2009.

The guideline describes borderline personality disorder as follows:

Borderline personality disorder is characterised by significant instability of interpersonal relationships, self-image and mood, and impulsive behaviour. There is a pattern of sometimes rapid fluctuation from periods of confidence to despair, with fear of abandonment and rejection, and a strong tendency towards suicidal thinking and self-harm. Transient psychotic symptoms, including brief delusions and hallucinations, may also be present. It is also associated with substantial impairment of social, psychological and occupational functioning and quality of life. People with borderline personality disorder are particularly at risk of suicide.

The guideline makes recommendations for the treatment and management of borderline personality disorder in adults and young people (under the age of 18) who meet criteria for the diagnosis in primary, secondary and tertiary care.

The guideline sets out [key priorities for implementation](#) which includes the accessibility and general ethos of services and the roles of assessment, care planning, psychological treatments, drug treatments and specialist personality disorder services.

In terms of psychological treatment and drug treatments the guideline says:

The role of psychological treatment

- When providing psychological treatment for people with borderline personality disorder, especially those with multiple comorbidities and/or severe impairment, the following service characteristics should be in place:
 - an explicit and integrated theoretical approach used by both the treatment team and the therapist, which is shared with the service user
 - structured care in accordance with this guideline
 - provision for therapist supervision.

Although the frequency of psychotherapy sessions should be adapted to the person's needs and context of living, twice-weekly sessions may be considered.

- Do not use brief psychotherapeutic interventions (of less than 3 months' duration) specifically for borderline personality disorder or for the individual symptoms of the disorder, outside a service that has the characteristics outlined in 1.3.4.3.

The role of drug treatment

- Drug treatment should not be used specifically for borderline personality disorder or for the individual symptoms or behaviour associated with the disorder (for example, repeated self-harm, marked emotional instability, risk-taking behaviour and transient psychotic symptoms).

The guideline also recommends the provision of specialist personality disorder services:

- Mental health trusts should develop multidisciplinary specialist teams and/or services for people with personality disorders. These teams should have specific expertise in the diagnosis and management of borderline personality disorder [...]

[...]

The size and time commitment of these teams will depend on local circumstances (for example, the size of trust, the population covered and the estimated referral rate for people with borderline personality disorder).

Together for Mental Health

The Welsh Government has a 10 year strategy to improve mental health and well-being, [Together for Mental Health](#) (published in 2012). A [delivery plan for 2016–2019](#), the second of three, was published in October 2016.

There is further information on borderline personality disorder on the [Mind website](#).

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-812
Ein cyf/Our ref VG/00996/18

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

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

2 May 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 20 March on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-05-812 - *Implement the NICE guidelines for Borderline Personality Disorder* submitted by Kier Harding.

A study from 2006 estimates that 1 in 20 people are affected by Personality Disorder. There is no single approach to treatment, and many people recover fully without any intervention. For others, psychological therapies are often helpful in the form of talking therapies.

We are continuing to implement our commitment to improve access to psychological therapies. This is why over the last three financial years we have announced £6m annual investment in psychological therapies across all ages in both specialist and local primary mental health support services. The National Psychological Therapies Management Committee is producing an action / implementation plan to assist health boards to assess their current position and to make improvements locally.

Thank you again for writing to me on this matter. I hope you have found my reply helpful.

Yours sincerely,

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

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

Pack Page 44

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

P-05-812 We call for the Welsh Government to encourage trusts to implement the NICE guidelines for Borderline Personality Disorder or justify why they do not do so –

Correspondence from Petitioner to Committee, 08.05.18

For the attention of the Welsh Assembly Petitions Committee

Thank you for giving this petition your consideration. I note the response from the health secretary and while I shall make some specific points below I also enclose a blog written on the subject which will cover the points in more detail. It was first published about 6 weeks ago and has been read around 1000 times.

With specific reference to the Health Secretary's letter:

- While “many people recover fully without any intervention” may be true, this petition is about borderline personality disorder specifically. Around 2% of the population would meet the criteria for this diagnosis. 1 in 10 people given this diagnosis will die by suicide. These figures are too high.
- NICE produced guidelines requiring trusts to develop specialist services in 2009. Less than half trusts have done so.
- Borderline Personality Disorder is recognised as the most stigmatised diagnoses within mental health. It is widely acknowledged that those with this diagnosis are excluded from mainstream services. An example of this exclusion is that less than half of Welsh trusts have specialist services compared to 84% in England.
- Where Welsh trusts have ignored the NICE guidelines for 9 years, they are likely to continue to exclude this group of service users unless there is pressure to do otherwise.
- Money for psychological therapy without a direction to meet the needs of excluded groups is likely to result in money being spent in the usual places.
- This client group has been excluded long enough. They are frequently people who have lived through childhood neglect and abuse. Despite this their histories are forgotten, the focus is on what is ‘wrong with

them' and they tend to get blamed for the difficulties that they live with.

- If the ethical argument for not offering help is not enough, trusts without specialist services are over reliant on private services at a cost of over £150,000 per person per year.
- Trusts with specialist services have significantly reduced this expenditure.
- This is one of the few areas where more could be done with less. Ethical, compassionate support at a fraction of the cost that trusts are currently spending. I recently presented on this to the British Personality Disorder Conference in Cardiff in March and would be happy to expand on this for the committee members.

Again, Many thanks for looking into this matter,

Keir

Beam Consultancy – Providing Illumination & Support
Keir Harding – Clinical Lead

March is upon us and this is my first blog of this year. The main reason for that is that I've been desperately trying to get my dissertation finished and any writing that has not contributed to that 18,000 word total has felt like a betrayal. Anyway, it's handed in now and it's time to cast my eyes upon the land of my fathers as the British and Irish Group for the Study of Personality Disorder Annual Conference is coming to Cardiff on March 20th. With this in mind, it's worth looking at how Wales responds to the needs of those diagnosed with personality disorder and how we compare to our neighbours on the other side of Offa's Dyke.

In some ways, Wales has been quite pioneering in this field. While the NICE guidelines for borderline personality disorder were published in 2009, Wales laid out its own blueprint for services in 2005 calling for the provision of specialist services that were integrated into current provision. This was echoed in the NICE guidelines 4 years later. With Welsh Government guidelines and the National Institute for Clinical Excellence requiring trusts to provide specialist services you would assume that Wales would have ploughed ahead. You would be mistaken...

In 2017 Oliver Dale and his colleagues undertook a review of the provision of personality disorder services in England. They found that 84% of trusts provided a specialist service. In Cardiff in 2016, at a conference that gathered people from all the trusts in Wales, we very quickly replicated Dale's study. We found that less than half of Welsh trusts (3/7) had specialist services. This was odd because 2 had services that were recognised as being very effective while areas that didn't have specialist services talked about "the privatisation of PD" - how those diagnosed with a personality disorder were 'not their business' and were sent to expensive independent hospitals miles away.

Given the potential for specialist services to reduce the amount of people sent (and they go under the mental health act so they are literally sent) out of area I began to wonder why the Welsh Government wasn't pushing trusts to follow NICE guidelines, or even its own guidelines. I wrote to the Health Secretary asking if he could encourage trusts to follow his own and NICE guidelines or explain what they were doing that was better. The disappointing response was:

"I hope you will understand that neither the Cabinet Secretary nor Welsh Government officials can intervene in health boards' day-to-day operations"

This seems to me to be a preposterous answer. Not least because one of the Welsh Health trusts is under 'special measures'. This is defined as "Current arrangements require significant change. Welsh Ministers may take intervention as set out in the NHS (Wales) Act 2006." So in contrast to the answer I received, Ministers can not only ask why NICE guidelines are not being followed, they can take intervention to remedy it. In this case they merely choose not to.

If over half of Welsh trusts were refusing to provide treatment for people with cancer I suspect someone at the assembly would pick up the phone. If half of Welsh trusts declined to offer services to war veterans I'm convinced someone at the assembly would write a letter. Over half of Welsh trusts are ignoring Welsh Government guidelines and NICE guidelines for people diagnosed with personality disorder and the government doesn't even see it as within its remit to ask why.

We can have lots of ideas about why this might be. We could say it's because specialist services cost money, but the evidence is that they save money by reducing the need for expensive Out of Area placements. We might conclude that personality disorder remains a diagnosis of exclusion in Wales and that for some reason this is acceptable. Those in mental health tend not to shout very loud for their rights to be upheld. Those diagnosed with personality disorder are probably the most stigmatised and excluded within mental health. They are easy to ignore, easy to forget about and potentially paying £200,000 a year for them to be sent out of area is for some reason a better option than having to work with them at home. We can do better than this.

I wasn't particularly satisfied with the answer I received, so I emailed again. Part of my letter said:

"I take your point that neither the cabinet secretary nor government officials can intervene in the day to day running of health boards, but I wonder if the Welsh government could avoid being complicit in the exclusion of people diagnosed with personality disorder by strongly encouraging trusts to follow its own guidance. My understanding is that NICE clinical guidelines continue to apply in Wales so I'm curious why it's acceptable for less than half of Welsh trusts to follow them. Given that trusts have been sued for not following NICE guidelines would it be prudent for the Welsh Government to call on trusts to justify why they are not following the guidelines rather than have to pay the legal bills when somebody opts to take matters to court?"

I welcome the extra money that the Welsh Government has put into primary care however the clientele I was speaking of tend to manage their distress with potentially lethal self harm. This is generally not seen as a primary care role and an absence of specialist services means that they get sent to largely

unsuccessful out of area placements at a cost of around £200,000 a year. This is £1,000,000 to treat 5 people where a specialist team at a fraction of the cost could provide better treatment without the necessity to send Welsh people to England”

My response to this one was equally uninspiring. I was told that despite seeing no role for itself in highlighting that less than half of its trusts follow NICE guidelines for a particularly stigmatised group, the government had signed a pledge to reduce stigma. I feel like actions might have spoken much louder than words here.

I was also told “The Welsh government’s main role is to set the strategic direction for health services and hold the NHS to account”. For me ‘Strategic Direction’ might include writing guidance. ‘Hold the NHS to account’ might include ensuring that guidance is followed. I’m baffled why this is the case for some areas of health but not the realm of personality disorder.

The reply finished with **“Health boards must regularly review their services to ensure they meet the needs of their resident population you may, therefore, wish to consider contacting the individual health boards directly on this matter”** – my interpretation of this was “We have produced guidance, NICE has produced guidance, half of our trusts are ignoring it and if you want to know why, you can ask them yourself”. Again, this seems an incredibly vague interpretation of setting strategic direction and holding the NHS to account.

I did an experiment and opted to contact one of the health boards to find out why they didn’t follow NICE guidelines. They replied that Dialectical Behaviour Therapy was available in some areas and that intervention was offered through generic services. “That’s not what I asked” I replied, “Where are the specialist services that NICE recommend?” They replied something along the lines of “We know we’re not following the NICE guidelines and we’re working on it as a priority”. Given that it’s 13 years on from the Welsh government guidance and 9 years from the NICE guidance you have to wonder how far down the list of priorities it must have been. There is also the worrying response that “we need additional funding to create specialist services” when the reality is that a service could be paid for immediately by not sending one or two people out of area. If the health boards are happy to

spend £1,000,000 providing treatment to 5 people for a year, why not provide therapy to hundreds of people in the community for the same money?

Frustrated and wanting to know the extent of the problem the trust was ignoring I tried one more time. A freedom of information request asked:

1. How much does the Health Board spend on residential treatment for people diagnosed with a personality disorder?
2. How many acute beds are utilised by such patients who are often stuck on acute wards?

This resulted in the response:

“Unfortunately, the Health Board is unable to respond to your request for information as we do not record data on personality disorders to this level of detail.”

“This level of detail” is an interesting phrase. Another interpretation of this is “People we pay over and above £200,000 per year to receive treatment in private hospitals, we don’t even record what we are paying for”.

No Longer A Diagnosis of Exclusion was a document published 15 years ago highlighting the discrimination people diagnosed with personality disorder experienced within mental health services. 15 years on, despite an early call for better service provision, the Welsh dragon must hang its head at the ongoing systemic discrimination that goes on. This is a client group of whom 10% will die by suicide. The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by people with a Mental Illness found that none of the 10% who died over the period of their study were receiving care that was consistent with NICE guidelines. Perhaps a high proportion were living in Wales where for some reason the NICE guidelines don’t apply or, for this client group, there is no will for trusts to implement them.

It was about 2 years ago that I asked the Welsh government to encourage trusts to follow the guidance it had written around personality disorder, let alone the NICE guidelines that apply across England and Wales. That 84% of English trusts have a specialist service compared to our 43% is shameful indeed. It would be less shameful if we saw it as a travesty to be addressed rather than an issue to contact individual trusts about if you are interested.

I've asked Mind Cymru, Time to Change Wales, Hafal, Gofal and other groups with an influential voice to try to make some noise about the current exclusion of this client group in Wales. Perhaps with the British and Irish Group for the Study of Personality Disorder Conference coming to Cardiff in March, the Welsh Government might reassess it's position on encouraging trusts to follow its own guidance. Perhaps it might start counting the amount of money spent on sending people to England for treatment they don't want. Perhaps 15 years on it might reread No Longer A Diagnosis of Exclusion and consider that the difficulties experienced by those diagnosed with personality disorder have a legitimate place in our health service after all. I hope they do.

Agenda Item 2.2

P-05-813 Ban the USE of LARSEN TRAPS (Multi Corvid Traps)

This petition was submitted by Victoria Kragiel having collected 1,943 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to BAN the USE, Sale & Manufacture of LARSEN TRAPS (Multi Corvid Traps).

The Larsen trap is a cage bird trap where a live wild decoy bird, (call-bird), is kept trapped inside one compartment to encourage another bird to come down to it. When another visiting bird lands on top s/he falls through a one way gate or false floor into a compartment, where s/he awaits their fate.

Larsen traps were invented in Denmark but are now BANNED in that country, as they are now considered inhumane and extremely cruel.

Larsen traps are mostly used by gamekeepers & smallholders to trap magpies, crows & other corvids. The bird suffers a terrifying ordeal by being trapped day and night without food, water or any shelter from the elements, which causes extreme distress.

Because they use a captive wild bird (technically contrary to the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act) these traps have to be used under the terms of a "General Licence" issued by Natural Resources Wales, where magpies, crows, jays, jackdaws and rooks can be trapped.

The wild "decoy call-birds," with their most vital instincts frustrated & abused by confinement, suffers a most terrible fate. Close to the ground they are terrorised by predators and watch as fellow birds are brutally killed in front of them. A number end up being found dead through neglect. Legally, the trapped decoy call-bird should have food, water, shelter & a perch & the 'trap' inspected at least every 24hrs, but, this is not the case. We have witnessed crows left to die without food & water and found dead rotting corpses of the previous decoy call-birds, who are permanently wired inside until they die of starvation or stress.

We have witnessed birds with broken beaks and cut heads where they have tried to escape. We have witnessed brutality, mutilation & maiming where the gamekeeper has cut wing flight feathers to stop the decoy bird from escaping.

Additional information

The trapping continues throughout the summer months, consequently thousands of chicks starve to death in their nests due to their parent birds being trapped.

Larsen traps are indiscriminate and can trap non target birds or mammals. Although illegal, Pigeons are sometimes used to attract birds of prey who are also then killed.

Trapping wild birds in live bird traps & the use of live decoy call-birds causes untold stress to the unfortunate birds.

We urge that this persecution of wildlife be stopped.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

P-05-813 Larsen Traps

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 15 Mai 2018
Petitions Committee | 15 May 2018

Research Briefing:

Petition number: P-05-813

Petition title: Ban the USE of LARSEN TRAPS (Multi Corvid Traps)

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We urge that this persecution of wildlife be stopped.

Background

A Larsen trap is a type of cage trap, designed by a Danish gamekeeper (Christian Larsen) in the 1950's, primarily as a magpie trap. The traps are designed to catch all corvid species (i.e. crows, magpies, jackdaws, jays, rooks) at all times of the year. The most common version is cuboid, with a base measuring around 80–100cm. The trap mechanism involves a spring door to each catching compartment which, when set, is held open by a split perch. A previously caught magpie or crow (or sometimes food) is kept in the decoy compartment, and this attracts territory holders who see the decoy as an intruder. To enter the trap, birds the size of a magpie or crow drop onto the perch. The perch gives way, and the bird's momentum takes it past the bottom of the door, which flips up, capturing the bird. The bird is caught alive.



Image of a Larsen trap by Roger Cornfoot. Licensed under the Creative Commons.

In 2016, Scottish Natural Heritage published a [report into the use of corvid cage traps in Scotland](#). Corvid trapping routinely occurs in many countries as a form of pest control. The report says the practice is undertaken by farmers to protect livestock, feedstuff and crops; by game managers to protect breeding birds and their young; and sometimes by conservation managers for similar reasons. It says it may also be undertaken to prevent the spread of disease and also to reduce the risk of bird collisions with aircraft.

General license

The use of Larsen traps in Wales is covered by a [general license](#). Natural Resources Wales (NRW) issues general licenses to allow certain actions to be carried out (that would otherwise be illegal) without the need to apply for a specific license. Each general license is issued for a particular purpose and some are limited to certain species only.

Under the [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#) (as amended) NRW annually issues a '[License to kill or take certain wild birds to prevent serious damage to agriculture, forestry or fisheries, or prevent the spread of disease](#)'. The license authorises persons to carry out a range of activities against the birds of the species listed (crow, dove, jackdaw, jay, magpie, feral pigeon, rook and woodpigeon) by shooting, by use of a cage trap or net or by any other method not prohibited by Section 5 of the Act. The license permits this activity in circumstances where the licensee is satisfied that all appropriate legal, non-lethal methods of control such as scaring or proofing are either ineffective or impracticable.

The license also states that any birds killed in accordance with the license must be killed in a quick and humane manner. It also says that any bird held captive prior to being killed must be killed out of sight of other captive birds. A condition of the general license issued by NRW is that all relevant animal welfare legislation, including the [Animal Welfare Act 2006](#), must be complied with. The Welsh Government response to the petition states “there is a duty of care on all animal keepers to protect the welfare of animals in their care, whether on a permanent or temporary basis”. The license also sets out that decoy birds must be provided with adequate food and water at all time, appropriate shelter and a suitable perch that does not cause discomfort to the bird’s feet. Each cage trap must be physically inspected at least once every day at intervals of no more than 24 hours, except where this is not possible because of severe weather conditions. An inspection must be sufficient to determine whether there are any live or dead birds or other animals in the trap. At each inspection any dead animal, including any dead bird, caught in the trap must be removed from it. When the trap is not in use it is required to be removed from site and stored in such a manner to prevent its accidental use.

The [license notes](#) state that cage traps should not be used during severe hot or cold weather, or when such conditions can be reasonably anticipated. It recommends that any cage trap used under the license should carry a tag or sign that gives the number of the local Wildlife

Crime Officer for the area, and also a unique code that allows the owner to be identified by the police.

Under the Act, the maximum penalty for an offence is a level 5 fine (£5000) and/or a six month custodial sentence.

Stakeholder views

The RSPB is [not opposed](#) to legal, site-specific control of magpies by the legal use of Larsen or other cage traps as long as the general license conditions are strictly adhered to. In a briefing provided to the Research Service, RSPCA Cymru expresses a number of concerns about the use of Larsen traps. It recognises that there are legal structures in place to regulate the use of the traps, but suggests that the regulations are poorly enforced. As previously stated, the license conditions outline that the use of such traps is only permitted if all appropriate legal, non-lethal methods of control such as scaring or proofing are either ineffective or impracticable. The RSPCA is concerned that there is no requirement to demonstrate this to NRW before operating under the licence. It suggests that it is difficult to obtain evidence that authorised persons have complied with this condition. It suggests that legislation should be changed to improve enforcement of license conditions, and recommends that such traps should be registered with the local police.

Welsh Government action

The Welsh Government has not issued any statements on the issue of Larsen traps. As discussed above, licensing of such activity is administered by NRW under a general license. The Welsh Government response to the petition reiterates the information provided in this briefing. It concludes that “animals and birds should be protected and those who choose to break the law should be prosecuted”.

National Assembly for Wales action

To date, there has been no consideration of the use of Larsen traps in the National Assembly for Wales.

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



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-813
Ein cyf/Our ref HB/00342/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA
government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

23 April 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 27 March regarding the petition you have received from the Action Against Wildlife Persecution requesting a ban on the use, sale and manufacture of Larsen Traps (Multi-Corvid Traps).

All wild birds and their eggs and nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this Act birds cannot be taken or killed, nor their eggs or nests taken or destroyed (when in use or being built) except under licence. The disused nests of some birds (Golden eagles, White-tailed eagles and Ospreys) are also protected.

However, it is recognised a number of common 'pest' species (e.g. Carrion crow (*Corvus corone*), Jackdaw (*C. monedula*), Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*), Magpie (*Pica pica*) and Rook (*C. frugilegus*)) can cause sufficient damage to warrant control. Therefore, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) issue a number of General Licences which allow authorised persons to kill or take these 'pest' species using certain specified methods (e.g. shooting or cage trapping) for specified purposes.

General Licences were issued in 2018 by NRW for the following purposes: preserving air safety, conserving flora and fauna and to prevent serious damage to agriculture, forestry or fisheries, and to prevent the spread of disease. These four licences can permit the use of Carrion crow, Jackdaw, Jay, Magpie and Rook as decoy birds in Larsen traps.

Live birds used in Larsen traps to attract other birds are captive (i.e. kept) and therefore fall within the scope of, and protection conferred by, the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (as amended). There is a duty of care on all animal keepers to protect the welfare of animals in their care, whether on a permanent or temporary basis.

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

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

Ensure welfare, sets out the needs of animals to include;

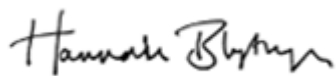
- a suitable environment;
- a suitable diet;
- ability to exhibit normal behaviour patterns;
- to be housed with, or apart from, other animals (as necessary); and
- the need to be protected from pain, suffering injury and disease.

A condition of the General Licences issued by NRW is 'all relevant animal welfare legislation must be complied with at all times, including the Animal Welfare Act 2006'.

Other conditions include a requirement to check traps at least once a day at intervals of no more than 24 hours and for non-target species (except for invasive non-native species included in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) to be released immediately upon discovery.

I strongly believe the way we treat our birds and animals is an important reflection of the values of our society. Animals and birds should be protected and those who choose to break the law should be prosecuted.

Yours Sincerely,



Hannah Blythyn AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd
Minister for Environment

Agenda Item 2.3

P-05-814 All New Builds In Wales to Have Solar Panels

This petition was submitted by Harriet King having collected 72 signatures.

Text of Petition

Ensure all new build houses in Wales are fitted with Solar Panels to improve our carbon footprint and help the environment.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Vale of Clwyd
- North Wales

All New Builds In Wales To Have Solar Panels

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 15 Mai 2018

Petitions Committee | 15 May 2018

Research Briefing:

Petition number: 814

Petition title: All New Builds In Wales To Have Solar Panels

Text of petition:

Ensure all new build houses in Wales are fitted with Solar Panels to improve our carbon footprint and help the environment.

Background

New build homes must meet certain standards as required by Building Regulations. The Welsh Government publishes a range of Approved Documents that provide guidance about compliance with specific aspects of the Building Regulations in some of the more common building situations.

The Building Regulations require that new buildings meet certain minimum energy performance requirements. Neither Building Regulations, nor the guidance in [Approved Document L](#), require solar panels to be installed in new residential buildings.

The introduction of [feed-in-tariffs](#) (FIT) by the UK Government allowed owners of electricity-generating renewable energy technologies, such as solar panels, to be paid for the electricity they generate. This encouraged the uptake of renewable energy. However, the rates of FITs have been reduced and this may have affected the viability of some renewable energy installations. Tariffs have been published for the period up to March 2019. It is not clear what will happen after that point.

Welsh Government action

The Welsh Government has announced that a review of Part L of the Building Regulations (conservation of fuel and power) is underway. A consultation on proposals is expected to take place later in 2018. Whatever the outcome of the review, the Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs notes that it will not mandate a particular technology to be used as the Building Regulations are “fuel neutral”.

The Cabinet Secretary has provided a detailed letter to the Chair commenting on this petition.

National Assembly for Wales action

In March 2016, the Assembly’s Environment and Sustainability Committee published its report, [*A Smarter Energy Future for Wales*](#).

The Committee made a number of recommendations that are relevant to this petition, including:

- Urgently revise Building Regulations to ensure that all new houses are built to 'near zero' energy standards; and
- Develop local supply chains to support renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency measures.

The Assembly’s Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee is currently conducting an [inquiry into low carbon housing](#). The Committee’s report and recommendations have not yet been published, but it has received some evidence relating to solar power. In its [written evidence](#) to the Committee, Community Housing Cymru highlighted the [Active Homes development](#) in Neath Port Talbot where homes are being built with integrated solar photovoltaic roofs and solar collecting wall cladding. Power generated can then be stored on-site using batteries; the approach is also known as *buildings as power stations*. This project is also noted in the Cabinet Secretary’s letter which comments that if the project is successful, there is the possibility of extending the construction system to a further 1,200 homes as part of the Swansea Bay City Deal.

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



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-814
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00712/18

David John Rowlands AM

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

24 April 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 27 March, regarding petition P-05-814 All New Builds In Wales to Have Solar Panels.

The petition requests all new build houses in Wales are fitted with Solar Panels to improve our carbon footprint and help the environment.

Last year the UK Government ratified the Paris Agreement, signed by 195 international governments. The agreement sets both the context for tackling the causes and consequences of climate change and for the decarbonisation of the global economy. Here in Wales we have strengthened our action on climate change through the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, which sets a decarbonisation framework for Wales with a minimum of 80% reduction by 2050 and a supporting carbon budgeting framework. Wales has made great progress in decarbonising power supplies. Since 2010 electricity generation from renewable sources has trebled and last year provided 32% of our electricity. Our Wellbeing Goals require us to do this in a way to deliver maximum opportunities for communities and minimises the costs.

In September 2017 I announced the following ambitious targets for energy generation in Wales:

- Wales to generate 70 per cent of its electricity consumption from renewable energy by 2030
- 1 gigawatt (GW) of renewable electricity capacity in Wales to be locally owned by 2030
- Renewable energy projects to have at least an element of local ownership by 2020

A key element of Wales' decarbonisation will be the energy mix we generate. Solar photovoltaic (solar PV) is an important part of the energy mix in Wales. There are already almost 49,000 solar PV installations across Wales, generating 10% of the total electricity from renewables.

If we are to limit the impact on energy bills from new energy generation we need to invest in low cost, low carbon, generation and flexibility technologies such as storage. Grid improvements and smart technology will also play key roles in the roll out of renewable technologies.

I have spoken frequently regarding the impact of UK Government's decisions in 2015 to exclude onshore wind and solar technologies from Contracts for Difference auctions and to reduce levels of Feed in Tariffs, which have caused a dramatic reduction in the viability of renewable energy projects. I wrote again on this to the UK Government last November, setting out a common position on support for renewable energy in Wales, signed by a range of Welsh stakeholders. The statement set out our collective view of the economic, social and environmental benefits from enabling the continued deployment of onshore wind and solar developments in Wales and strongly urged restoring this support. I wrote again recently in connection with the consultation on the Contracts for Difference mechanism and will continue to press the UK Government to restore support for the most affordable technologies, providing a route to market for more renewables and minimising the costs to bill payers.

Over the last few years Welsh communities and businesses have benefited from adopting renewable technologies. Farmers, rural and urban businesses, homes and communities have all taken control of their energy use and invested in generation, providing more certainty around their bills and helping Wales on its decarbonisation journey. This has both secured jobs in those organisations and created skilled posts in delivery and maintenance.

Using our buildings to generate energy will play an important part in our drive to decarbonise Wales. Our academic institutions are leading in this field looking into the opportunities solar technologies provide. Swansea University's Specific innovation centre has constructed the UK's first energy-positive classroom. Plans have been approved which will see the same approach adopted in 16 new homes to be built by social housing group Pobl, in Neath Port Talbot. The concept uses a combination of solar cells, battery storage and a revolutionary steel frame which draws solar-heated air through tiny perforations for heating and warm water. If the Neath project is successful, there is the opportunity to roll out the system to a further 1,200 homes, as part of the £1.3bn Swansea Bay City Deal.

Whilst we very much encourage this "buildings as power stations" approach, solar generation has a specific profile. This could lead to significant over-supply in summer with limited supply during high demand winter months. As generation is most efficient when used at source, we encourage the installation of solar PV for self use or local use. In future we expect to see closer matching of local supply with demand, using smart technology, demand side management and storage, in order to avoid increasing peaks and troughs which will be expensive to manage.

Our climate change and carbon budgeting responsibilities mean we need to take every opportunity to reduce our existing emissions. It is, therefore, important for the impact of new development to be minimised which is why I have announced my intention to review Part L (Conservation of fuel and power) of the Building Regulations starting this year.

Our last Part L consultation in 2012 (changes implemented in 2014) incorporated a preferred option for a 40% improvement to building regulation energy efficiency requirements for new housing. The consultation responses expressed concerns regarding the impact of the proposed changes on an already depressed housing market which was seriously affected by a downturn in the economy at the time. The changes brought forward following the consultation introduced an 8% improvement over previous requirements for new housing, the main difference from the 40% improvement being no on site renewable energy requirements (solar photovoltaic (PV) was used as proxy) were necessary to achieve the target. The 8% improvement could be achieved by improvements to the building fabric.

In contrast, the 20% improvement we implemented in 2014 for new non domestic buildings puts us ahead of other parts of the UK whilst giving real encouragement to the installation of renewables such as solar PV.

The housing market has changed since 2012, with house builders registering increased profits and the capital cost of solar PV reducing. We are currently in the process of concluding a procurement exercise to appoint a lead consultant to inform the Part L review. It is envisaged the scoping study for the review will be completed this summer, consultation on proposals are currently planned to take place later this year.

The Building Regulations are technology and fuel neutral so we do not prescribe or prohibit any particular form of heating or energy generation. This means the emission targets we set for new buildings do not act as a barrier to innovation. The part L review will not, therefore, mandate a particular technology (such as solar PV), however, it could through improved emissions targets, encourage the use of renewable energy technologies as they become more cost effective.

Our national planning policies, as contained in Planning Policy Wales (PPW) complement the building regulations by supporting the development of renewable energy. PPW states the planning system in Wales should facilitate new development which enables decarbonisation. It promotes sustainable building design principles as being integral to the design of new development. We have published design guidance which gives advice on how these principles can be incorporated into new development proposals.

We have extensive permitted development rights in place so solar panels can be fitted to existing residential properties without the need for planning permission. We will shortly be consulting on options to increase the scope for non-domestic buildings to install solar panels on their roofs without the need to seek planning permission.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs

Agenda Item 3.1

P-04-688 TATA Steel Port Talbot Power Plant

This petition was submitted by Peter Bamsey and was first considered by the Committee in April 2016, having collected 531 signatures.

Text of Petition

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

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Aberavon
- South Wales West

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-688
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/00886/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions Committee

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

16 April 2018

Thank you for your further letter of 23 March on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding the Tata Steel Port Talbot power plant.

To date we have announced £8 million of funding towards an £18 million investment by Tata in the improvement of the power plant at Port Talbot to reduce energy costs and cut carbon emissions. We are continuing to work closely with Tata Steel on other specific packages of potential support. The detail of those discussions is commercially confidential.

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

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

Agenda Item 3.2

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

This petition was submitted by Maldwyn Lewis and was first considered by the Committee in September 2016, having collected 93 signatures online and 750 paper signatures.

Text of the Petition

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

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

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Mid and West Wales
- Ceredigion



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-701
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/00887/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.

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

Dear David,

16 April 2018

Thank you for your letter of 23 March regarding Petition P-05-701 Road Safety Improvements Along the A487 Trunk Road between Cardigan and Aberystwyth, to Include Passing Places.

In the first year of the Pinch Points Programme, feasibility and investigative work on safe overtaking opportunities has been carried out on the A470, A487 (including the A487 Fishguard to Aberystwyth route), A483 and A44 road corridors. This work has been centred on establishing the topography and environment of the existing road corridors and the extent to which they can be adapted to contain safe overtaking sections, climbing lanes or bend improvements. In developing potential schemes we are also trying to achieve relatively low environmental impact and maximum journey time benefit for the capital costs involved.

The Programme is currently in the WelTAG (Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance) Stage 1 process and a stakeholder workshop involving Powys and Ceredigion County Councils is taking place on 11 April. Scheme options will become clearer later this year.

We co-funded the Marches and Mid Wales Freight Strategy and supported the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership and the Growing Mid Wales Partnership in taking forward this work. Ensuring the efficient movement of freight whilst minimising negative impacts on the environment and residents is vital to our economic prosperity and to connect Wales with the world.

The Freight Strategy was launched at a successful event held in Welshpool on 21 February. The Strategy rightly highlights the importance of the transport network for businesses and we will continue to work to identify opportunities which will build on our aspirations for economic growth.

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

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

To that end we have funded further work, again in partnership with stakeholders in the Marches and Midlands, to develop a framework to appraise the priorities identified in the Freight Strategy Action Plan in order to inform future delivery plans in both England and Wales.

Yours ever,
Ken

Ken Skates AC/AM

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

**P-05-701 Road Safety Improvements along the A487 Trunk Road between
Cardigan and Aberystwyth –
Correspondence from Petitioner to Committee, 09.05.18**

Many thanks for your e mail.

I write pleading with the petitions committee to put into action a planned system of works in order to improve the road safety along the backbone of Ceredigion.

I understand that Mr Skates recently attended a joint meeting with Powys discussing thr Mid Wales economy and it is imperative for developing the economy, we have a fit for purpose network.

The safety concerns are on going with many serious accidents happened since my initial contact.

I therefore plead that the matter is given your utmost efforts to improve our vital link North South.

My sincere and kindest regards

Maldwyn Lewis

Agenda Item 3.3

P-05-716 Free Train Transport for school pupils with Arriva Trains Wales

This petition was submitted by Elin Tuckwood and was first considered by the Committee in November 2016, having collected 937 signatures on an alternative e-petition website

Text of Petition

Here in the UK we are entitled to free education so surely we should be allowed free, safe transport to and from school? the answer to this is yes for many years Arriva trains Wales have been providing Treorchy Comprehensive pupils with Free train transport which is a huge benefit to those who live outside the catchment areas, however recently this has changed they have now called for all pupils to buy a train pass to get to and from school and these prices range from £19.95 to £32.90 per school term. For some parents with more than 1 child this can work out to be very costly and because these passes are provided through Arriva Trains Wales the school is unable to help parents with this funding. Arriva trains have stated that this is for safety precautions however children who have these designated train passes are in front of a "protective" metal barrier closer to the platform edge and the children that do not have these passes are in this small enclosed barrier space which actually causes more of a safety hazard due to overcrowding in such a small space. By being allowed free train transport once again every pupil will be able to have a fair chance to gain an education and will be able to go on to what they want to do in life we will all be treated as equal and money will not be a major concern for anyone.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Rhondda
- South Wales Central



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

Please ask for : Mainstream School Transport

My Ref : 101004259615//CN

Date : 11 October 2017

Dear Mr Rowlands,

Petition P-05-716 Free Train Transport for School Pupils with Arriva Trains Wales

Thank you for your letter of 5 October 2017, regarding the petition from Elin Tuckwood that is seeking the provision of free, safe transport following the withdrawal of the above provision in June 2016.

The criteria used by this Council to determine the eligibility to receive free school transport is based on walking distance, measured by the shortest, available walking route, with free transport being provided to secondary school learners whose home address is more than two miles from the nearest or catchment school. The efficient use of resources dictate the mode of transport provided and in this case, safe and stress free travel is solely provided by contracted school buses, which operate from Blaencwm, Blaenrhondda, Gelli, Maerdy, Tynewydd, Ynyshir and Ystrad.

The provision of free train transport to Treorchy Comprehensive School was a long standing arrangement between the school and the train operator, to which the Council has had no direct involvement. It was promoted by the school primarily for the benefit of learners who lived outside of the school's catchment area, who were not entitled to the Council's free school transport.

However in 2014, the Council did express concern to the school following the receipt of complaints from concerned parents that issues of overcrowding on the trains and the station platforms were possibly being exacerbated by some pupils, who were in receipt of free school transport on the Council's contracted services, choosing instead to use the train. The Council operates a strict "no pass no travel" policy on its contracted transport and it was therefore suggested that it might be appropriate for the school and the train operator to put in place some form of entitlement control for the arrangements that they had put in place.



I would also add that in May 2016, the Council's Integrated Transport Unit was approached by a number of parents, Councillors and the local MP, all of whom were attributing the Arriva Trains Wales announcement that it was replacing free train transport with a chargeable Educational Season Ticket to the Council's withdrawal of funding from school transport. However it was easy to see how this conclusion had been reached, as the train operator was claiming that "The increase in pupils travelling (by rail) is partly a consequence of the local authority reducing road transport subsidy to local families...." This statement was totally untrue. There had been no change in the Council's funding in this area, nor in its school transport provision, and although it had been under review during the spring / summer of 2015, the ongoing, unchanged provision was confirmed on 16 March 2016.

This provision, which continues to be predicated on one of the most generous eligibility criteria in the country, forms part of the largest school transport operation in Wales. Sufficient capacity is provided on the contracted school buses for the 415 pupils who live within the Treorchy Comprehensive School catchment area and who are two miles or more from school. The rail arrangements therefore remain a matter for the school and the train operator.

I trust the foregoing is of assistance in clarifying the Council's position.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Bradshaw
Chief Executive

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

20 October 2017

Contact reference number: ATW-171005-BGY

Dear Mr Rowlands

Many thanks for the further correspondence from the Petitions Committee relating to free train transport for school pupils attending Treorchy School. Also, please accept my apologies regarding the non response to your letter of 24th May, as there is no record of that being received by us. I will address the question within it in this response also.

Ms Tuckwood says that she does not see any safety aspects taking place at Treorchy station. I outlined in my response of 24th April 2017 that we employ safety stewards who operate crowd management barriers at the platform entrance at Treorchy Station. This arrangement was put in place following an updated risk assessment at the station where crowding concerns on the platform had been raised. Safety incidents at the platform-train interface represent one of the biggest safety risks on Britain's railways today.

Since the introduction of that system at Treorchy, our monitoring of the environment shows that this safety risk has been eliminated. I recognise that the pupils themselves may not have been aware of this safety hazard which may contribute to Ms Tuckwood's assertion that she doesn't see any safety aspects taking place however, I and our Safety team am very satisfied that we have mitigated a significant risk.

Ms Tuckwood refers to free transport provision for those living within 3 miles of school. This must be a bus offering via the local authority. There is no such requirement for ATW rail services.

Ms Tuckwood refers to staff on the train being rude and ill-mannered. We would always regret any such behaviour however our conductor colleagues are routinely well regarded during customer satisfaction surveys and mystery shopping exercises. We would address any individual complaints as they were advised to us. I have personally travelled on this school train recently and was very disappointed to have to intervene on two occasions on that journey - one with a pupil climbing over seat backs and the other where one pupil decided to attack another pupil and myself and some other adults on the train had to intervene.

We have since had some other instances of bullying on the train and are liaising with the school on this. Where a bullying pupil is identified, they will have a warning and if there is a further incident, we will seek a banning order from the train. This will help create a safe and secure environment for others.

David Rowlands AM
Chair
National Assembly for Wales
Petitions Committee

-2-

20 October 2017

Ticket earnings support the cost of running our overall operations in the same way that it does for other retail or service providers. We carry many school and college pupils across our network with very little issue.

I recognise that because we offered free travel for such a long time to the pupils of Treorchy School this has created the perception that it should be a right. We provided free travel as a generous goodwill gesture, however the significant costs to deliver the platform safety operation means that we could no longer sustain the provision of the benefit.

With reference to the question about the size of the enclosure, my Safety team have reviewed the operation and consider it is entirely appropriate for the environment.

We have had a good take-up of the discounted scholar season ticket although are aware that some pupils choose not to pre-purchase and therefore have to queue to buy on each occasion. We would encourage season ticket purchase as it is the most cost effective option and will reduce that queuing time.

I hope this addresses the further questions raised.

Yours sincerely



Lynne Milligan
Customer Services Director

P-05-716 Free Train Transport for school pupils with Arriva Trains Wales – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 05.05.18

To whom it may concern,

At this current moment in time I still hold the viewpoint that train transport to and from Treorchy comprehensive school should become free once again. Although Arriva repeatedly state this charge is for safety reasons and to employ additional staff, I haven't once seen the staff look attentive when pupils are on the platform and are quite rude to the children waiting behind the barriers, shoving the 'protective' barriers in close proximity of the pupils. For those who pay on the day the queue at the ticket office is unbearable with pupils not being able to board the train due to the lines being too long which causes an inconvenience to the parent of these pupils also. In terms of the carriages they are still as full as they were when train transport was free and Arriva have not used the money that they gain from the passes to make sure there are more carriages on for pupils which I would have expected if the money was going to good use. I find the staff on the platform to be quite rude and do not seem to be concerned about the safety aspects, which might add is why they are employed. Personally I think that Arriva should consider taking away these passes so that pupils can get to and from school stress free rather than being worried about money, which I am aware is a huge concern with some parents as they cannot afford the passes being issued out. At this moment in time I fail to see how the money from the pupils is helping towards safety aspects where as the barriers are causing more of a safety risk than preventing it and the staff do not seem to be aware of any safety precautions despite that being their job.

Yours sincerely, Elin Tuckwood

Agenda Item 3.4

P-05-721 Penegoes Speed Limit Petition

This petition was submitted by Isabel Bottoms and was first considered by the Committee in December 2016, Peter Bottoms and Sarah Holgate, having collected 298 paper signatures.

Text of the Petition

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

Assembly Constituency and Region:

- Montgomeryshire
- Mid and West Wales

Agenda Item 3.5

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

This petition was submitted by Antony Foulkes and was first considered by the Committee in July 2017, having collected 52 signatures online.

Text of Petition

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

Additional information

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

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

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Ceredigion
- Mid and West Wales

Agenda Item 3.6

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

This petition was submitted by Rosemarie Chaffers-Jones and was first considered by the Committee in January 2018, having collected 74 signatures on paper and 1 signature online.

Text of Petition

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Ceredigion
- Mid and West Wales

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Your ref: P-05-721, P-05-767, P-05-792
Our ref: KS/00885/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair
Petitions Committee

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

16 April 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 23 March regarding developing a programme for the Speed Limit Review.

The review will be looking at road safety issues at over 600 sites across Wales. Due to the scale of the review and supporting evidence to be gathered, this will take some time.

As such, there are no specific dates set for any one location to be looked at. However, all of the comments that we have received previously will be taken on board as part of this process when specific areas of the trunk road are reviewed. The results of the review will be made available online and any works arising from the wider review will be prioritised, as funding allows, for a programmed completion over the next three to four years.

As part of the review process site visits would be carried out and any identified improvements would be shared with the community for comment prior to implementation.

Any further comments can be forwarded to Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales.

*Yours ever,
Ken*

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales

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

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

Agenda Item 3.7

P-05-770 Reopen Crumlin Railway Station

This petition was submitted by Michael Davies and was first considered by the Committee in September 2017, having collected 208 signatures online.

Petition text:

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

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Islwyn
- South Wales East

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-770
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/00884/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.

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

16 April 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 23 March regarding petition P-05-770 to reopen Crumlin railway station.

Crumlin was considered as part of the Phase 1 of new rail station prioritisation work which saw 46 proposed locations reduced to twelve sites across Wales selected for Phase 2 work which will see further scheme development work undertaken during 2018. Although Crumlin was not shortlisted it will remain on the long list of potential sites for consideration in the future.

Yams euer,

Ken

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales

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

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

09/05/2018

[REDACTED]

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

Dear Mr Rowlands,

Re-opening Crumlin Railway Station.

Thank you for your recent letter about my petition.

The re-opening of the station at Crumlin was at the last Assembly a priority for the Welsh Government. The passenger use of this line has far exceeded all expectations and the regeneration of the Valleys is dependent on modernisation of transport links, which is claimed to be an aim of the current administration.

Since the last elections this project has been mysteriously removed from their priority list without an explanation. The Welsh Government has never set out their reason for doing so. I would request again that the petitions committee press the minister to reinstate this development as a priority or, in the very least, set out for scrutiny the justification of the process and the specific reasoning for demoting it.

I also extend my invitation to you to visit Crumlin to see for yourself the opportunity this project offers.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Davies

Agenda Item 3.8

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

This petition was submitted by Marine Conservation Society and was first considered by the Committee in May 2017, having collected 1,993 signatures.

Text of Petition

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

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

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

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

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

Assembly Constituency and Region.

- Ross-on-Wye
- Herefordshire

Hannah Blythyn AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd
Minister for Environment



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-750
Ein cyf/Our ref HB/00324/18

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

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales.

23 April 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter asking for an update on the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) study.

As you are aware, the study was put in place to examine the potential of introducing EPR schemes for key types of plastic food and drink packaging, including Deposit Return Schemes (DRS) and single-use packaging such as fast-food packaging. I am currently considering outputs from the study and will ensure the committee has sight of it once it is published.

We will be working with Defra and the other devolved administrations to consider the opportunity of introducing a UK based deposit return scheme (DRS) that would cover Wales.

Yours Sincerely,

Hannah Blythyn AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd
Minister for Environment

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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Gohebiaeth.Hannah.Blythyn@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Hannah.Blythyn@gov.wales

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

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

David J. Rowlands AM
Chair
Petitions Committee

30 April 2018

Dear David,

Tackling plastic pollution

Thank you for your letter of 23 March 2018 in which you outline your consideration of two petitions relating to reducing plastic pollution:

- P-05-750 For single use items: introduce a Deposit Return System for drink containers and make fast food containers and utensils compostable
- P-05-803 Our natural world is being poisoned by single use plastics...it's time to introduce a tax!

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee noted this letter at our meeting on 26 April 2018. We have already identified tackling plastic pollution as an area in which we are interested. Like you, we are also awaiting the publication of the Extended Producer Responsibility research study that has been commissioned by the Welsh Government to inform our thinking.

We are awaiting further detail on the UK Government's commitment in their 25 year environment plan - [A Green Future](#) - to eliminate avoidable plastic waste by end of 2042, and how they intend to achieve this.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his [Spring Statement 2018](#) that he will launch a call for evidence for 'how the tax system can help drive the



technological progress and behavioural change we need' to reduce plastic pollution.

Progress on this issue is moving quickly. Just last week there was the launch of the UK Plastics Pact between local governments, manufacturers, retailers and third sector organisations to 'make single use plastics a thing of the past'.

We plan to carry out further work once the results of these initiatives are better known. I will keep you updated on the progress of our work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hedges". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Mike Hedges AM

Chair of Climate Change, Rural Affairs and Environment Committee



Agenda Item 3.9

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

This petition was submitted by Friends of Barry Beaches and was first considered by the Committee in March 2018, having collected 102 signatures online.

Text of Petition

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

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

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

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

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

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

It's time to take action.

Additional Information

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

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

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

David J. Rowlands AM
Chair
Petitions Committee

30 April 2018

Dear David,

Tackling plastic pollution

Thank you for your letter of 23 March 2018 in which you outline your consideration of two petitions relating to reducing plastic pollution:

- P-05-750 For single use items: introduce a Deposit Return System for drink containers and make fast food containers and utensils compostable
- P-05-803 Our natural world is being poisoned by single use plastics...it's time to introduce a tax!

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee noted this letter at our meeting on 26 April 2018. We have already identified tackling plastic pollution as an area in which we are interested. Like you, we are also awaiting the publication of the Extended Producer Responsibility research study that has been commissioned by the Welsh Government to inform our thinking.

We are awaiting further detail on the UK Government's commitment in their 25 year environment plan - [A Green Future](#) - to eliminate avoidable plastic waste by end of 2042, and how they intend to achieve this.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his [Spring Statement 2018](#) that he will launch a call for evidence for 'how the tax system can help drive the



technological progress and behavioural change we need' to reduce plastic pollution.

Progress on this issue is moving quickly. Just last week there was the launch of the UK Plastics Pact between local governments, manufacturers, retailers and third sector organisations to 'make single use plastics a thing of the past'.

We plan to carry out further work once the results of these initiatives are better known. I will keep you updated on the progress of our work.

Yours sincerely,

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

Mike Hedges AM

Chair of Climate Change, Rural Affairs and Environment Committee



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

Correspondence from Petitioner to Committee, 08.05.18

Dear Assembly Members,

The volunteers of Friends of Barry Beaches would like to register their plea to the National Assembly of Wales to please take action to finally help stop the rising tide of single use plastics entering our marine environment.

Just over a week ago, on the mayday bank holiday, I took an evening walk along the main beach at Barry Island which alas was strewn with single use plastics and other litter (see attached photos). This litter would be picked up by the incoming tide and entering our marine environment...this scene is repeating itself on every popular Welsh beach!

This winter I had the opportunity to work for the British Antarctic Survey on one of the most remote islands in the world in the South Orkney islands. Alas the beaches here also had single use plastics amongst the seals and penguins.

We believe that the people of Wales want their elected representatives to finally take action to stop this plastic tide.

These two petitions from FoBB and MCS complement each other as not all single use plastics lend themselves to a deposited return system.

The tax should be made at source to allow biodegradable alternatives to be economically viable.

The whole world is waking up to the damage single use plastics are doing to our natural world. BBC's Blue Planet has awoken public opinion.

Please make Wales a better and cleaner place by finally taking action.

Rob Curtis

Chairman and co-ordinator of Friends of Barry Beaches



Agenda Item 3.10

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

This petition was submitted by Linda Evelyn Joyce Jones and was first considered by the Committee in January 2018, having collected 1,517 signatures online and 1,737 on paper. An associated petition on another website also collected 3,144 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the Welsh Assembly to ask the Welsh Government to ban the use of wild animals in circuses in Wales. Animal Welfare (except hunting and animal experimentation) is a devolved matter in Wales.

In December 2015 Rebecca Evans AM (then Deputy Minister for Farming and Food) said "The Welsh Government believes there is no place for the use of wild animals in circuses".

Under her instructions the WG commissioned a independent report which took evidence from over 600 experts in the field. This report was published in July 2016, and the conclusions it reached were clear.

The report stated "The scientific evidence indicates that captive wild animals in travelling circuses do not active their optimal welfare requirements set out under the Animal Welfare Act of 2006". The report also stated" Life for wild animals in travelling circuses and mobile zoos does not constitute either a "good life" or a "life worth living".

In December 2016 Lesley Griffiths AM (Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs) stated that the WG were working towards a licensing system , similar to the one currently operated by DEFRA in England. It should be noted that this system was put in place by the UK Government in 2011 as a temporary measure until a ban was put into place.

It can clearly be shown by the licensing documents available in the public dominion that this licensing system fails the animals. The two animal circuses currently licensed by DEFRA have repeatedly breached the conditions of their licenses, and had them suspended at one time or another.

In a poll carried out by RSPCA Cymru 74% of the Welsh public wanted this outdated practice banned. They also submitted a petition to The Petitions Committee of the Welsh Assembly in 2015.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Arfon
- North Wales



Briefing document

Banning the use of wild animals in circuses by utilising Section 12 of the Animal Welfare Act

74 PERCENT OF THE PUBLIC IN WALES SUPPORT A BAN ON THE USE OF WILD ANIMALS IN CIRCUSES¹

RSPCA Cymru decreed 14 February 2018 as a momentous day for animals, following the Welsh Government's announcement confirming their plans to "bring forward legislation to ban the use of wild animals in circuses in Wales"². The case for a ban has already been made however, RSPCA Cymru would encourage the use of Section 12 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to swiftly bring in regulations allowing a ban to come into force.

Background

RSPCA Cymru has long campaigned for an end to the use of wild animals in circuses in Wales, having been a key campaign since the creation of the National Assembly, with the issue being raised at RSPCA events, receptions and briefings since 2006, especially RSPCA Cymru's 'Wild Animal Welfare Indicator'³ report and 'Delivering for a Decade: 10 years of the Animal Welfare Act in Wales 2007 - 2017'⁴.

After the prospect of a ban being introduced by the UK Parliament in the 2010/2015 parliamentary session - with the consent of Assembly Members - failing to materialise, RSPCA Cymru launched a petition in 2015 calling for a ban in Wales ([Petition 04-653](#)).

The petition, which received 7,700 signatures from May 2015 to October 2015, was submitted to the Chair of the Petitions Committee. Subsequently the Welsh Government commissioned a scientific review, 'The Welfare of Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses', published in July 2016. The review concluded that "the evidence would therefore support a ban on using wild animals in travelling circuses and mobile zoos on animal welfare grounds".⁵

In 2013 a licensing system was introduced for circuses in England. However, the RSPCA is strongly opposed to the licensing of wild animals in circuses as they offer little protection for wild animals used in a circus environment which cannot, by its very nature meet the needs of the animals. The UK Government has stated in their review of the licensing regulations that when they expire in January 2020, "the Government does not intend to renew the Regulations as it intends to ensure that a legislative ban is introduced by then. The Regulations will then be allowed to expire."⁶ On 6 March, Trudy Harrison MP, will

¹These figures are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 1,036 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 19–22 August 2015. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative (politically) of all Welsh adults (aged 18+).

² <http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2018/MobileAnimalExhibits/?lang=en>

³ <http://politicalanimal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Wild-animal-welfare-indicators-bilingual.pdf>

⁴ <http://politicalanimal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/RSPCA-delivering-for-a-decade-report-Bilingual.pdf>

⁵The welfare of wild animals in travelling circuses, Harris et al, 2016 pp2-4

http://politicalanimal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/The_welfare_of_wild_animals_in_travelling_circuses.pdf

⁶www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683306/wild-animals-circuses-post-implementation-review-feb2018.pdf

be introducing her Ten Minute Rule Motion to the House of Commons to make “provision for a bill to prohibit the use of wild animals in travelling circuses”⁷ which the RSPCA understands may receive UK Government support to progress.

Support for a ban

A concern for RSPCA Cymru is the recurrent theme from members of the public that they believe that the use of wild animals in circuses has already been banned in Wales. It is therefore encouraging that a YouGov Poll for RSPCA Cymru found that 74 percent of the public in Wales support a ban on wild animals performing in circuses in Wales.¹ The RSPCA Cymru petition has now reached in excess of 9,000 signatures, all from Wales, which has been gathered online and through a series of street stalls and events across Wales.

A ban is also supported by scientific evidence which clearly demonstrates that life within a travelling circus is likely to have harmful effects on animal welfare. Placing an animal in surroundings unsuitable for the species can cause serious stress and behavioural problems with potentially debilitating effects for each and every animal involved. Crucially the Welsh Government review by Professor Harris *et al.* ‘The welfare of wild animals in travelling circuses’ conclusively states that “available scientific evidence indicates that captive wild animals in circuses and other travelling animal shows do not achieve their optimal welfare requirements, as set out under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, and the evidence would therefore support a ban on using wild animals in travelling circuses and mobile zoos on animal welfare grounds.”⁸

The complex needs of wild animals can never be adequately met in a circus environment with regular transport, cramped and bare temporary housing, forced training and performance all unavoidable realities for the animals in a travelling circus environment. The forced movement, human handling, noise, vibration, cage motion and confinement that are part and parcel of transportation are well documented sources of stress in a wide range of species. The cumulative⁹ effect of frequent transport events is a significant welfare problem for circus animals, and is one that cannot be overcome due to their itinerant nature. The vehicles used to transport animals from site to site are limited in size to the maximum dimension legally allowed on roads. This, coupled with the need to easily erect and dismantle enclosures and their contents, greatly limits both the size and complexity of environment that circus animals can be provided. For example, enclosures are on average a quarter of the size as the minimum recommended by zoos¹⁰. Circuses, and other entertainment or educational shows akin to circuses, are simply unable to provide wild animals with the standard of housing and care expected in modern zoos, which themselves are not without welfare problems, leading to an impoverished life³. Furthermore, circuses are purely for entertainment, making the ‘costs’ to animal welfare even more unacceptable.

In light of this, a growing list of other European countries including Austria, Greece and Malta have already banned animal performances in circuses, and most notably Scotland and the Republic of Ireland introducing bans from January 2018. A ban also receives wide political support with Plaid Cymru, the Welsh Conservatives and Welsh Liberal Democrats including a ban in their manifestos for the elections to the National Assembly for Wales 2016.

Introducing a ban under the Animal Welfare Act

The power to introduce a ban lies with the National Assembly for Wales - either under Section 12 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 or via primary legislation. RSPCA Cymru has always believed that there are sufficient grounds, with respect to animal welfare, to support a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses and the issue has been a devolved competency under the Government of Wales Act 2006. However,

⁷<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmagenda/fb180222.htm>

⁸ The welfare of wild animals in travelling circuses, Harris et al, 2016. p4
http://politicalanimal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/The_welfare_of_wild_animals_in_travelling_circuses.pdf

⁹ Opinion of the Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (2004) on a request from the Commission related to the welfare of animals during transport. EFSA Journal 44: 1-36

¹⁰ Iossa G, Soulsbury CD, Harris S (2009) Are wild animals suited to a travelling circus life? Animal Welfare 18: 129-140

primary legislation can be a complex and lengthy process whereas the Animal Welfare Act 2006 offers an ideal route, which was utilised in 2010 when Wales led the UK and joined eight other countries in the World by introducing a ban on the use of shock collars. More than 10 years ago, during the creation of the Animal Welfare Act, the banning of wild animals in circuses was raised as a clear example of how the Act can take direct action to improve animal welfare and a framework was designed for regulations to be easily introduced under Section 12.

In Scotland, the Scottish Government chose to introduce a ban on wild animals in circuses using primary legislation, laying the Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Scotland) Bill in May 2017, as a means to ban the practice on ethical grounds. The Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Roseanna Cunningham MSP, stated that the bill “makes a clear statement to the world that the Scottish people respect the innate character of wild animals and will not tolerate their subjection to a nomadic lifestyle as a spectacle for entertainment”.¹¹ The Bill received Royal Assent on 24 January 2018.

However, the Irish Government used Section 3 of the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013¹² - similar to Wales’ Animal Welfare Act 2006 and Section 12 - to introduce the Circuses (Prohibition on Use of Wild Animals) Regulations 2017 which were signed into law on 9 November and came into effect on 1 January 2018. The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed TD, said “The use of wild animals for entertainment purposes in circuses can no longer be permitted. This is the general view of the public at large and a position I am happy to endorse. This is a progressive move, reflective of our commitment to animal welfare”.¹³

The Minister also welcomed the fact that local authorities in Ireland had been “reflecting societal concern on the issue”¹³ by prohibiting the use of public land for circuses which contain wild animals - replicating actions that have been taken by local authorities across Wales where, as of 2016, 45% of local authorities who responded to an RSPCA Cymru survey have implemented a ban on council land.

Conclusion

Despite circuses still being legally allowed to use wild animals since the Animal Welfare Act came into the force over ten years ago, the campaigning, Government consultations and research conducted since then has ensured that the next steps, in bringing in a ban, are supported by independent, scientific research and overwhelming public and political agreement. The Welsh Government’s own independent scientific report leaves no room for confusion that using wild animals in circuses is bad for welfare.

The examples in Scotland and Ireland clearly show that it is possible to implement bans through either primary legislation on ethical grounds or utilising existing legislation on a welfare basis; which was significantly quicker for the Irish Government, saving vital parliamentary time.

RSPCA Cymru would encourage Assembly Members and the Welsh Government to consider introducing a ban through Section 12 of the Animal Welfare Act, utilising the act for its intended purpose, responding quickly to the public’s concerns and reduce the burden on parliamentary resources.

It is essential that Wales keeps pace with the other nations of the UK and the only acceptable solution to protect the welfare of wild animals in a circus environment is to implement an outright ban on this practice.

¹¹ http://www.heraldsotland.com/news/15784912.Scotland_bans_use_of_wild_animals_in_travelling_circuses/

¹² <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2013/act/15/enacted/en/html>

¹³ <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/press/pressreleases/2017/november/title,112524,en.html>

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

Correspondence from Petitioner to Committee, 01.05.18

Hello, hope you are well. As requested:

Petition calling on the Welsh Government to ban the use of wild animals in circuses in Wales.

For the Petitions Committee meeting 15/5/2018.

Thank you for considering this as an agenda item this morning. As I write the two remaining travelling circuses that currently use wild animals are making their way to Wales. Peter Jolly's Circus will be in Welshpool, with Circus Mondao heading for South Wales. Remaining in Wales until mid July.

Thomas Chipperfield with his show "Big Cats Live", has on appeal been refused a circus licence to tour England by DEFRA. With The UK Government stating that they "are determined to bring a ban into force by January 2020". He can however still come to Wales, he has indicated he intends to tour this year.

I wish to thank those Members who took part in the debate on the 7/3/18, which was triggered by my petition which I presented to your Chair David J Rowlands AM in January. Members of all parties spoke passionately, each one favouring a ban.

I was pleased that Lesley Griffiths AM in her capacity as Cabinet Secretary for Energy Planning and Rural Affairs remained in the chamber to hear the debate and then chose to respond. It was wonderful to hear that she shared our concerns and did think that travelling circuses that use wild animals have no part in a modern Wales.

While I understand the need for consideration of the best way to bring a ban into place, I am dismayed to note that a firm timescale has yet to be announced. I welcome the Cabinet Secretary's announcement that a statement will be released in the Summer. But as the information above

shows yet again circuses that use wild animals are touring our proud Country. Every year since 2015 we have had statements released on this subject by the Welsh Government, and every year the animals remain on the road in Wales.

I note that Lesley Griffiths did share the information in her response that the former Minister for Environment and Rural Affairs Rebecca Evans AM had looked at bringing legislation forward in 2015 via the Animal Welfare Act. But Rebecca and her advisers ruled out this way forward.

It seems every other country around us, Scotland, the Republic of Ireland and even England are standing up and making it clear how they feel. My late Father Richard Arthur Wyn Jones, instilled in me a firm belief that once we – Cymru had our own Parliament we would be able to set our own agenda and standards that others would see and indeed follow. This is a matter devolved to our Assembly, an Assembly I know Members believe passionately in. This isn't a political issue to my mind, but an animal welfare issue.

So I would like to ask you today to consider contacting Lesley Griffiths AM Cabinet Secretary for Energy Planning and Rural Affairs to see if any more progress has been made in establishing a firm timescale for legislation to be brought forward by the Welsh Government.

Once again I thank you for considering this matter today.

Linda Joyce-Jones 1/5/2018. Arfon Constituency, Caernarfon Gwynedd.

Agenda Item 3.11

P-05-801 Save the trees and ground in Roath Mill and Roath Brook Gardens before it's too late

This petition was submitted by Tamsin Davies having collected 8,700 signatures on paper and another petition website.

Text of Petition

As local residents, we believe that the planned flood works in Roath Mill Gardens and Roath Brook Gardens in Penylan, Cardiff are unnecessarily destructive.

We have seen the devastation of Waterloo Gardens and oppose Phase 3 of Natural Resources Wales' Roath Flood Scheme, which will widen the brook in Roath Mill and Roath Brook Gardens and see the felling of over 30 trees in an area where there has never been any flooding in the past.

We want to save the trees and ground in Roath Mill Gardens and Roath Brook Gardens in order to preserve the character of the area, minimise ecological damage and protect the habitats of our local wildlife.

We believe that Natural Resources Wales have not properly considered all options available, have misled the public with inaccurate figures during their consultation period and that it is, in fact unnecessary to bulldoze park grounds in order to widen the channel of the brook and remove mature trees in the process.

We call on the Welsh Government to urge National Resources Wales to stop work at Roath Mill and Roath Brook Gardens and consider the other viable options available to mitigate the perceived flood risk to this area.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff Central
- South Wales Central

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

24 April 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter about our Roath Flood Scheme in Cardiff and the petition to save trees and ground in Roath Brook Gardens and Roath Mill Gardens, as discussed at the Petitions Committee on 27 February 2018.

I would like to begin by restating that we at Natural Resources Wales are passionate about protecting and enhancing the environment. Indeed, it is our core purpose, but our duties also include protecting people and property from flooding about which we are also passionate. As such we certainly recognise and identify with the concerns of those who live in the community or use Roath Park Gardens. I wish to reassure you that we would not remove trees unless, in our assessment, it was absolutely necessary. And even then, we would, as in this case, make up for it by replanting replacement trees and planting more trees nearby, as with the 200 saplings we have planted in Roath Recreation Ground.

Please find our reply to each of your questions below.

- 1) Your response to the petitioners' proposal that the current risk of flooding should be recalculated following the completion of Phase 1 and 2 work*

In our opinion the flood risk at Roath Brook Gardens (Phase 3), does not need recalculating following completion of Phases 1 and 2. This is because the risk and measures required to manage it will not change following the completion of Phases 1 and 2.

Properties on Alma Road and Cressy Road are liable to flood solely and directly by flooding from Roath Brook Gardens. These properties would not be flooded by any other flood route at the onset of flooding, such as from Waterloo Gardens. Hence modelling the flood risk from Roath Brook Gardens separately from the downstream parks, is in our view unnecessary, since there is a clear, discrete flood risk from Roath Brook Gardens. These Phase 3 works will reduce the risk of properties being flooded from this distinct risk.

- 2) Further details about the methodology of the options appraisal conducted during the design of the scheme and the results of that appraisal*

Our appraisal followed the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management appraisal guidance which is available here for reference:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-appraisal-guidance>

At the outset of this project we identified a long list of fifteen flood risk management options and considered their initial feasibility. From this assessment, four flood risk management options were short listed for further investigation: Various engineering solutions were considered for each. Options were also considered in combination to achieve the most efficient scheme.

As with all flood management schemes we appraised options on their technical, economic, environmental and social factors, to comprehensively evaluate the benefits, costs, impacts and risks of each. Consultation with stakeholders, such as Cardiff Council, CADW and the community, also informed this initial process, from 2012.

The preferred option selected was to construct new raised defences, with elements of increasing channel conveyance to increase the flow of water away from the potential flood area. The Environmental Report submitted with our planning application provides further details on this process in section 3.2:

https://planning.cardiff.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal= CARDIFF_DCAPR_11_4012.

We consider that our appraisal process was thorough and delivered the best outcome, especially given the many and varied requirements of a complicated flood alleviation scheme. As you will be aware this scheme went through the full Cardiff Council planning process before receiving permission to proceed in April 2016.

3) An update on the outcomes arising from recent discussions with the local community

We continue to have productive discussions with the Roath Brook Trees campaign group to find a way forward.

In addition, we also continue to receive correspondence from residents who wish us to progress and implement this scheme.

After listening to the views of the community and the concerns of the campaign group we have agreed to pause tree felling and construction in Roath Brook Gardens and Roath Mill Gardens, (specifically Phase 3 of the Roath Flood Scheme), for four months from March to July.

This pause will allow the campaign group to further scrutinise our modelling, specifically the hydrology and hydraulic model used to predict the flood risk, and the options appraisal that selected the current design. The campaign group will review Phase 3 and if appropriate submit new evidence. We have committed to listen to the concerns of the campaign group

and to consider any new evidence they might submit to us prior to making a decision on how to progress.

We remain confident of our assessment of the flood risk to the Pen-y-lan and Roath communities and of the need to complete this scheme. We are committed to better protecting the 60 properties affected and those exposed by Phase 3 of this overall scheme. And as this pause allows, we are willing to listen to the community and consider any new evidence.

4) Information about how schemes are prioritised on an all-Wales basis, particularly taking account of the views of the local community

Flood risk management project prioritisation is sophisticated, taking account of a wide array of factors, including flood risk, economic justification, deliverability and funding availability.

Since 2014 we have used a Wales-wide Communities at Risk Register (CaRR), to inform this process: England and Scotland use a similar prioritisation process. This draws on national scale modelling and a preliminary flood risk assessment process to provide a picture of flood risk across Wales. It identifies and ranks areas of interest for us to investigate further in feasibility studies. The CaRR is a very broad high-level tool with a relatively low resolution, functioning by river catchment and communities. It is not appropriate to use this tool at a local scale, i.e. by street, as requested by the campaign group. The data sources are too coarse for such assessment and it would create an inconsistent comparison to other communities in the ranking.

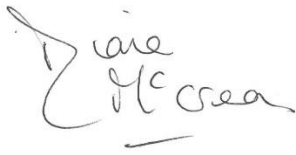
Feasibility studies of individual flood risk areas within a community enable us to understand the specific flood risk, based on property damage, disruption and risk to life, and develop projects as and where necessary. Capital investments are then justified on individual detailed business cases which comply with the economic justification rules of UK Treasury. This can be irrespective of a community's position on the CaRR. Each project undertakes a detailed analysis of the flood risk to individual homes, businesses and infrastructure and follows the appraisal process to identify a preferred option. All projects are then still subject to Welsh Government prioritisation and funding settlements for each financial year.

I hope that these responses give you the answers you were seeking. We would of course be happy to answer any further questions.

Finally, having viewed the recording of the committee meeting, we feel it is important to point out that several of the statements and comments made by committee members, in public, were factually incorrect and some had little basis in evidence.

Given that we are an evidence-based organisation, and as detailed above, this scheme has been proposed based on careful analysis of the best evidence and due process, we are disappointed that these factually incorrect comments are now a matter of public record. Please see our concerns on the attached addendum which we have included so that a balanced and accurate record exists publicly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane McCrea". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Diane McCrea MBE
Cadeirydd, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Chair, Natural Resources Wales

Addendum to response to National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee regarding Roath Flood Scheme, 24 April 2018.

Key concerns regarding representation of NRW's Roath Flood Scheme at National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee on 27 February 2018.

1) Consultation

We have undertaken extensive consultation since 2013, which has shaped the project. Please refer to the "Key Consultation Events" document: https://nrwcms001.azurewebsites.net/media/683562/roath-flood-scheme-key-public-consultation-events_dec-17.pdf. This summarises our consultation events, such as public drop in sessions, stalls at the annual Waterloo Gardens summer fete, newsletters and press coverage, alongside an online and social media presence, which we planned to be as effective as possible. Assembly Members and local Councillors were also involved throughout.

Whilst this was an extensive consultation process it is unfortunate that it has not been as effective as we had thought, and that the campaigners did not raise their concerns at an earlier, more opportune time in the process.

It was incorrectly stated that "initial consultation was incorrect".

We have however acknowledged that an error existed on some consultation material between October 2016 and March 2017 about the number of properties at risk during a 1 in 5 annual probability flood. The project began in 2012 and we stress that information included in the 2015 detailed planning application and in extensive consultation material leading up to this was correct.

Therefore, we do not believe that this error, which was apparent for less than 6 months, impacted the consultation process significantly, as the majority of project planning was complete by this time. Planning permission for this scheme had already been granted in April 2016 despite some key campaigners objecting to the planning application.

We believe that during the committee's proceedings it was incorrectly stated that NRW changed the flood risk from a 1 in 20 chance to a 1.7% annual probability, (1 in 60).

Aside from the error we recognise, we are not aware of any other errors in our extensive consultation materials, so this statement is erroneous. The pre-scheme risk of properties flooding remains at a 1 in 20 chance – for clarity these properties are at Waterloo Gardens, and not Roath Brook Gardens. We have tried to be transparent

throughout the consultation process, with the production of flood maps from the outset of the scheme clearly showing the areas at Low, Moderate, and High flood risk in the area. We have always shown the High flood risk around Waterloo Gardens, with a Medium flood risk at Roath Brook Gardens, and this has not changed throughout the scheme's progression. We have certainly not tried to mislead people as has been claimed.

We are pleased to see how passionate some of the community are regarding the Park Gardens and their environment. But there are also others in the community who are deeply concerned about the risk of flooding. It is likely that equally passionate people would be concerned about any alternative option. Through our appraisal process we have chosen the option that we believe has the least overall impact.

Whilst the committee has seen the petition, please bear in mind that signatories are not restricted to local Pen-y-Lan residents. Hence the statement that the scheme is clearly not supported by the bulk of the population cannot be verified. The numbers of local and affected residents for or against the scheme has not been quantified.

We have been contacted by local residents stating that the silent majority of residents at flood risk support the scheme, however this is similarly unverified.

2) Flood Risk Prioritisation

It was stated that there are 150 schemes in Wales that are ahead of the Phase 3 works. We are not aware of any evidence to support this statement and would welcome understanding the basis of this claim. The Roath scheme in its entirety, that is all three phases, is ranked 17th on the Communities at Risk Register. The Phase 3 works have not been assessed individually, as this tool is not suitable for a street by street assessment.

3) Roath Flood Scheme Proposal

The statement that half of Roath Brook Gardens and Roath Mill Gardens are to be ripped out is untrue. We would advise the committee to view the approved planning application in detail, which shows only soft 'green' engineering works proposed in Roath Brook Gardens and Roath Mill Gardens (i.e. there are no concrete walls). It is our ambition to ensure that the parks will remain an oasis for people and wildlife, with several environmental enhancements installed as part of the scheme, such as kingfisher nesting boxes and bat boxes, and the replacement of trees, many of which are nearing the end of their life.

We do not believe we have "got it wrong" but have correctly assessed the flood risk, selected the best option and designed it sensitively, to improve Pen-y-Lan and the Park Gardens for future generations.

P-05-801 Save the trees and ground in Roath Mill and Roath Brook Gardens before it's too late – Correspondence from Petitioner to Committee, 10.05.18

**Response on behalf of Roath Brook Trees campaign group
to letter from NRW and Addendum dated 24th April 2018**

We are pleased that NRW acknowledge that they will not remove trees unless “absolutely necessary”. We remain confident that far from being absolutely necessary the removal of the trees from Roath Mill Gardens and Roath Brook Gardens is in fact absolutely unnecessary and we remain committed to proving to NRW’s satisfaction that the flood protection, that they profess to be required, is not necessary or alternatively can be carried out at far less cost to the environment.

We accept that NRW are planting 200 saplings at Roath Park. However their broad generalisation that the removal of up to 38 mature trees is made up for by the planting of 200 saplings in Roath Recreation Ground only evidences once more NRW’s failure to recognise the genuine concerns of residents. The planting of trees in Roath Recreation Ground not only has no impact whatsoever on the loss of amenity value of the neighbouring parks¹ (see further point 2 below) but, perhaps more alarmingly, given NRW’s status as the body charged with protecting our environment, completely fails to acknowledge the environmental impact of the removal of just one mature tree:

“We know that some of the key ecosystem services delivered by trees – such as air quality and urban cooling, to name but two – are positively correlated to canopy size. This is why there has been such an emphasis on increasing canopy cover in recent years. To fully ‘replace’ the canopy volume of a mature tree in the short term would likely require the planting of hundreds of trees in the vicinity of the original – an impossibility in an urban environment with all of the challenges and restrictions on space that we have to contend with. Canopy targets will not be met by tree planting alone; retention of existing trees is just as important.”²

1. Current risk of flooding should be recalculated following the completion of Phase 1 and 2 work
4. Information about how schemes are prioritised on an all-Wales basis

The campaign group did not request that the flood risk be recalculated by itself (as suggested in NRW’s response 1). The request which has been made consistently and which was repeated in our response to the Petitions Committee of 19th February (see paragraph 3.6) was that “*NRW recalculate the Communities at Risk Register in light of the work to be completed on Phases 1 and 2 and explain, in light of that, why the Phase 3 works should be prioritised over other areas at greater risk within Wales.*”

¹ See for example “UK Parks save NHS more than £111 million a year”, Guardian 7th May
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/07/uk-parks-save-nhs-111m-year-study-suggests>

² the Arboricultural Association website at <https://www.trees.org.uk/Press/Pages/Retaining-trees-and-footways-a-tree-officer’s-view>

This is no more than a request for NRW to do what they have done previously: to use the CaRR tool to assess the risk to the “Roath” community once the phase 1 and phase 2 works have been completed. If the analysis of Roath as a community is useless now, it was similarly useless when the calculation was originally done.

The Response of 19th February also set out the basis of the calculations used by the Campaign Group to place the community between 100 and 150 on the CaRR. Rather than NRW simply recalculating the position of Roath, using information wholly in their possession, they seek to criticise the methodology of the Campaign Group or suggest micro-analysis (which has not been requested) is not possible.

The key questions of NRW remain: What position would Roath be in the CaRR after the completion of Phases 1 and 2 work? Could the projected spend of £500k be better utilised elsewhere?

The apparent refusal of NRW to answer these questions is telling but also concerning given it is wholly reliant on Welsh Government funding for this projects and similar, more pressing, projects elsewhere.

2. Further details about the methodology of the options appraisal

We continue to believe that the option appraisal process was entirely flawed as, whilst it assessed the benefits, costs, impact and risks of each option it completely failed to take into account the environmental impact and cost of the option chosen.

As stated in paragraphs 3.7 to 3.11 of the response of 19th February we believe that NRW should, on all future projects and any re-evaluation of this project, carry out an assessment of the environmental costs of the works utilising the iTree method or similar methodology³.

Further and subject to the outcome of the discussions referred to in 3. below it is likely that the Campaign Group will require NRW to carry out the options appraisal again should the ultimate scheme design need to take account of a significantly reduced rainfall figure.

The campaign group are also likely to require the input of Cardiff Council into any such appraisal process, given their ownership of the relevant facilities including Roath Park Lake (the Council have failed to engage at all with the campaign group despite numerous requests and the current pause).

3. Recent discussions with the local community

The campaign group agree that discussions with NRW have, following an initial period of complete inertia (when the NRW message was that the works would carry on regardless) have been constructive. The current hiatus in the works is welcomed by the campaign group, and it is hoped that NRW will pay due regard to the findings of the hydrologist engaged by the campaign

³ <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/management-practices/tp4-neighbourhood/green-spaces/urban-trees/?lang=en>

group whose credentials they have endorsed. Those initial findings, which are due to be discussed with NRW, appear to demonstrate that more up to date and accurate rainfall and flood data is available which could result in no works, or less invasive works being required.

However the fact that the campaign group have had to engage a hydrologist, after months of campaigning has demonstrated a fundamental inequality in the current system, and in how local voices are heard. The campaign group are fortunate in having a variety of professionals able to devote both time and money to the cause, and in possessing individuals willing to stand in the park to prevent tree felling until NRW and/or Welsh Government were willing to listen. The petition itself would have been to no avail had NRW not been convinced to pause works. In order to continue to fight to protect the parks the Campaign group has raised over £2,900 through crowdfunding backed by over £1,500 raised through community events. Other less affluent areas may be unable to raise such funds to be able to effectively enable their voice to be heard, or to question what may be imposed upon them.

Conclusion

We have commented further upon NRW's addendum below, however given NRW's commitment to being an "*evidence-based organisation*" and their reliance on a careful analysis of "*best evidence and due process*" we would request the Committee to ensure NRW:

- Reassess the community of Roath after Phases 1 and 2 and confirm its position on the CaRR;
- Objectively consider the finding of the hydrologist appointed by the Campaign Group; and
- If works are deemed necessary carry out a proper consultation providing full details of the flood risk and evaluating, amongst other costs, the true environmental cost of the works.

We would also ask the Committee to consider how similar campaigns can be better supported in the future.

Further Comments on the Addendum

1) Consultation

NRW have been asked on numerous occasions through formal FOI requests to set out, by reference to their “Key Consultation Events” the actual flood risk communicated to the public at those events. NRW have repeatedly refused the request to do so. It is submitted by the Campaign Group that this is because of the vague unspecified nature in which the risk was presented.

Whilst NRW have accepted an error existed in some materials between October 2016 and March 2017 the extent of such an error has still not been acknowledged, despite numerous requests. By way of example the campaign group have recently discovered that a letter written to a significant number of local residents on behalf of NRW in September 2016 also contained a similar error about the extent of the flood risk. In any event the more troubling conclusion from this error is that in the face of this NRW continue to contend that the initial consultation was correct (and presumably informed residents). However their own project manager, and numerous NRW staff laboured under a completely false, and hugely exaggerated, apprehension of the true flood risk for over six months at a key time for the project, pronounced that to the public, and stood uncorrected by any other member of NRW management or staff. A suggestion that residents and others had been fully informed by this time is therefore simply inconceivable.

NRW have also accepted that at no time did they ever communicate the discrete flood risk relating to Phase 3 works (on which they now rely at section 1 of their letter) to residents.

Whilst it is therefore noted that there are those in the community who are concerned about flood risk, many of these are likely to be ill-informed, and may not even understand whether their property is at risk let alone the extent of that risk. NRW’s own statement that they have not misinformed residents about the Roath Brook Gardens work because they have always said it is Medium Risk fails to acknowledge the fundamental fact that they will remain at Medium Risk even after the work is complete evidencing the complete lack of worth of such a statement.

The suggestion that there may exist a “*silent majority of residents at flood risk*” (even if acknowledged as unverified) is simply embarrassing for an alleged “*evidence-based organisation*”. The petition, strength of support in the parks and continued financial support for the campaign speaks for itself. NRW will themselves be aware of the feedback at workshops held by them which was overwhelmingly (and in the region of at least 90 to 95%) against the works being carried out.

NRW’s own suggestions as to what the community may or may not understand, or may or may not want, points only to one logical conclusion: a fresh consultation based on clear and objectively based facts.

2) Flood Risk Prioritisation

NRW are referred to paragraph 3.4 of the Response of 19th February. Any further analysis of Roath's new position in the CaRR is a matter entirely in the hands of NRW.

3) Roath Flood Scheme Proposal

The committee are invited to view the current status of works during phase 1 and 2 and the trees planted as part of Phase 3 and reach their own conclusions.

Roath Brook Trees Campaign Group, 10th May 2018

Agenda Item 3.12

P-05-768 A call for the return of 24 hour Consultant led Obstetrics, Paediatrics and SCBU to Withybush DGH

This petition was submitted by SWAT (Save Withybush Action Team) and was first considered by the Committee in July 2017, having collected 759 signatures online and 2,773 on paper – a total of 3,532 signatures.

Text of Petition

SWAT has fought for the retention of safe, effective and accessible secondary health care services for the people of Pembrokeshire since 2005. A previous petition failed to retain Consultant led Obstetrics, Paediatrics & SCBU at Withybush DGH. The Health Minister and Hywel Dda Health Board unjustly removed 24 hour Emergency Consultant led Obstetrics, Paediatrics & SCBU from Withybush DGH in 2014 and left the people of Pembrokeshire with an unsafe, inequitable and poorly accessible third class health option for, in particular, mothers, babies and children.

On behalf of SWAT and the people of Pembrokeshire I call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that Consultant Obstetrics, Paediatrics & SCBU provision be immediately returned to pre 2014 levels. SWAT and the people of Pembrokeshire do not agree with the centralization of services onto the Glangwili site.

The Health Board was obliged to carry out Equality Impact assessments and these have clearly shown that a whole swathe of the most vulnerable in our society have been and are being put at risk by these changes. In particular the most vulnerable, the very young, pregnant women, the economically challenged and those with disabilities have been profoundly affected and continue to be. The Health Board have all this documented in their assessments but they seem to be unable or unwilling to find remedies for these issues.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire
- Mid and West Wales



Cyngor Iechyd Cymuned Hywel Dda
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Ty Myrddin
Heol Yr Hen Orsaf
Caerfyrddin SA31 1BT

Hywel Dda Community Health Council
Suite 5, 1st Floor
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Carmarthen SA31 1BT

Ffôn / phone: 01646 697610

20 April 2018

David J Rowlands AC/AM
Cadeirydd/ Chair
National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee

Sent via email SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

Dear Mr Rowlands,

Petition P-05-768 A call for the return of 24 hour Consultant led Obstetrics, Paediatrics and SCBU to Withybush DGH

We're grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this important topic which is being considered by the Petitions Committee.

The CHC has been involved in the service changes relating to Women and Children's services for over 5 years. This work has involved scrutiny of plans, involvement in consultation, implementation, public engagement, visiting, report writing, complaints advocacy, as well as contributing to an independent review.

We remain involved in both informing and scrutinising the continued development of these services.

Ffôn | Tel: 01646 697610

e-bost | e-mail: hyweldda@chcwales.org.uk
gwefan | web: www.communityhealthcouncils.org.uk/hyweldda/

Since the service changes, our CHC's commentary on their impact has been broadly reflected in our November 2015 report to the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health which is attached.

Our report was produced to support an invited visit of the Royal College to review the Health Board's arrangements for Women and Children's services following the service changes. It sets out our involvement on this topic prior to that date, the actions we took and what we concluded. To bring out one key point:

"Hywel Dda CHC in representing the interests of patients and the public wants the delivery of safe, high quality healthcare as close to home as possible. Any expert or technical judgement on the clinical safety of services must, necessarily rest with others".

With an enduring focus on patient safety, which lies at the heart of both sides of this argument, it remains an important message. Following our report, the Royal College returned to Hywel Dda in September 2016 to follow-up progress on the recommendations in its own report.

Immediately prior to this we undertook our own hospital visits to hear directly from new mums, dads and families to understand their views and experiences. In essence we saw services that were settling and becoming more established following the changes but with continued concerns around facilities and accessibility for people who lived longer distances from Carmarthen.

We undertook further visits to speak with the public in summer 2017 and more recently in March of this year. These visits showed significant praise for staff and improvements on certain issues that we had raised, but also showed that maternity and paediatric units could become very busy which unsettled parents.

We didn't pick up substantial concerns around safety. However, what was clear hearing from parents in PACU at Withybush hospital was their understandable frustration at seeing their unwell child being subjected to an enforced journey to Glangwili hospital after a few short hours in a large and well equipped unit.

Accepting this, we did note that parents tended to praise the smooth handover between hospitals if a transfer was necessary.

It was also noted that the PACU unit was underutilised at times given that it was more child and family “friendly” compared to the A&E department. We attach the 2017 report. The March 2018 report will be available shortly.

To conclude our current outlook for the Committee’s consideration:

- In the longer term (and depending on the outcome of the public consultation launched yesterday), the emergence of Hywel Dda Health Board’s “Transforming Clinical Services” programme is important.

With 3 options being discussed (including a potential new-build hospital sited between Carmarthen and Haverfordwest), and a broader discussion looking at system-wide change within Hywel Dda, to some extent it supercedes the Glangwili versus Withybush centralisation debate.

- There is a continued sense of loss and inequity amongst many people in Pembrokeshire following the 2014 changes. Whatever the outcome of the public consultation, in the interim, we see Women and Children’s services which are under pressure:
 - Despite its continuing efforts to recruit new staff, the Paediatric Ambulatory Care Unit (PACU) in Withybush continues to operate on reduced hours due to further Paediatric Consultant shortages. The Health Board needs to find a sustainable solution to this. Parents are understandably frustrated by a unit which is new and well thought of, but open too briefly.
 - The “Phase 2” building works planned for Glangwili hospital, which earlier this week received approval of funding, could partially reduce the concern that people travelling to the hospital report around poor or makeshift facilities and parking.

The overall question as to whether 24 hour Consultant led Obstetrics, Paediatrics and SCBU should return to Withybush DGH is bound by the complex practicalities of clinical staffing.

The original stimulus to move services was initiated by the Welsh Deanery's decision-making relating to requirements for training junior doctors.

The Deanery removed all paediatric junior doctors and obstetric and gynaecology junior doctors from Withybush hospital leaving a workforce gap that the Health Board said it could not fill.

As a lay organisation, the CHC does not have the clinical or technical expertise to determine what a realistic staffing solution to allow services to return to Withybush hospital would look like. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health did not identify this as a realistic possibility in its review.



We understand the continued sense of inequity and inconvenience that many local people feel.

There is:

- A need for improvements to be made in existing services in the short term to medium term (as referred to in the attachments)
- An immediate opportunity through the current public consultation "Our big change" for people to have their say and influence the health board's decisions around whole-system changes to the NHS in Hywel Dda for the long term. This includes women and children's services.

We hope this is a helpful summary and would be pleased to answer any further questions should members of the committee have any queries related to CHC scrutiny that has taken place since 2014.

Yours sincerely,

  J A Thomas

Sam Dentten Alyson Thomas
Joint Chief Officer

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**P-05-768 Return of 24 hour Consultant led Obstetrics, Paediatrics and SCBU
to Withybush -
Correspondence from Petitioner to Committee, 08.05.18**

Dr C Overton

Chairman SWAT

8th May 2018

David Rowlands AC/AM

Chair Petitions Committee

National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff Bay

Cardiff

CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Rowlands

Re Petition P-05-768

I would like to respond to the latest offering from Hywel Dda but really there is no point. It appears that they are expecting the committee to drop this petition because it has become superseded by the new consultation currently underway in Hywel Dda area. I would argue that there is more urgency now than ever before because not only will they be making it much worse for already disadvantaged groups, they will be adding to those groups misery and suffering should option C proceed. I'm sure you are better placed than me to know if there is the odd £200 million available to build a new hospital, as in options A and B, but I doubt it is available which leaves us with option C.

It appears they couldn't be bothered this time around and just have resent you an old document from 2015 and a routine inspection report from the CHC, a group that is no longer independent of the Health Board, since changes made in approximately 2009 to the role and function of CHCs by Welsh Government.

I implore you to remember why this petition has been submitted. We presented true figures pre and post August 2014 and the audit showed how much worse the perinatal figures have become post service changes which happened in August 2014. You have a chance to do the right thing and stop any further folly by Hywel Dda and Welsh Government. The people of Pembrokeshire and their babies should matter as much as every other citizen of Wales.

On behalf of the SWAT Team and the people of Pembrokeshire I ask you to stop this madness and reverse the original service changes before any more damage is done. Centralisation works in cities but not in very rural areas.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Overton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr Chris Overton

Chairman SWAT

Agenda Item 3.13

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

This petition was submitted by Rhian Barrance and was considered by the Committee for the first time in January 2018, having collected 5,717 signatures online.

Text of Petition

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

Additional Information

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

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

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

In June 2017, the Cystic Fibrosis Trust organised a day of national protest at the Senedd, Stormont, Holyrood, Downing Street and online to demand an

end to the deadlock. Since the protests, the Welsh Health and Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) have presented the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) with the portfolio approach developed by the drug's manufacturer, Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

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

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

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref VG/01050/18

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

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

17 April 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 23 March regarding Petition P-05-797 about access to the cystic fibrosis medicine, Orkambi®.

As stated previously the All-Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) had already contacted the pharmaceutical company, Vertex Pharmaceuticals and strongly encouraged them to make a submission for appraisal. Whilst Vertex has agreed in principle to submit clinical data for appraisal by AWMSG, they have not committed to any firm date for doing so. If the manufacturer refuses to provide evidence about how well their medicine works, AWMSG cannot appraise it and cannot therefore issue a recommendation to make the medicine routinely available or not. There have been discussions with Vertex on the most effective approaches to appraisal for the additional license extensions for Orkambi® to treat different types of cystic fibrosis, due to come on-stream over the next few years but no appraisal can be carried out without evidence of the medicine's efficacy.

My officials have informed AWMSG that additional longer term clinical data appears to be available and AWMSG have subsequently contacted Vertex again. However, I repeat, the onus is on Vertex to submit their evidence for appraisal. I am at a loss to explain why Vertex have not already sent any evidence - existing or new - to AWMSG for appraisal.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales

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

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

I will keep the Petitions Committee updated on developments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V'.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services

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

1 May 2018

Dear Mr Rowlands,

Re: Petition P-05-797 - Ensure access to the cystic fibrosis medicine, Orkambi[®], as a matter of urgency

Thank you for your letter of 23 March 2018 regarding the aforementioned petition, requesting information about the current status of discussions concerning access to Orkambi[®] (lumacaftor/ivacaftor) in Wales.

Since the beginning of this year, Vertex has had several productive discussions with NHS Wales All Wales Medicines Procurement regarding proposals for making our medicines for cystic fibrosis available for eligible NHS Wales patients. This followed meetings last year with key executive agencies of the Government in Wales, including the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC), and the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG).

We entered the discussions in good faith and, whilst the details of these discussions are commercially confidential, we can report that we have made good progress in advancing our shared ambition to provide access to our medicines as quickly as possible to people with cystic fibrosis in Wales. This included providing a fully costed proposal for all Vertex medicines to NHS Wales at a meeting on 21 February 2018 and following this up with written confirmation of the details on 9 March 2018.

Disappointingly, recent staffing changes in NHS Wales Procurement have meant that a meeting confirmed to take place in early April to discuss those proposals was cancelled by NHS Wales. This staffing issue has, we understand, effectively halted all ongoing procurement discussions, which includes our negotiations. It is unclear as to when and with whom the discussions can re-start.

For people with cystic fibrosis every day counts. Vertex is, therefore, eager to resume discussions as a matter of urgency. I have written to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services to request his intervention in re-starting the discussions and we hope that the Committee can also support this in your scrutiny of the Government.

We remain committed to continuing to work with all stakeholders to find a solution allowing access to our medicines for people with cystic fibrosis in Wales. We welcome the interest that the Petitions Committee is taking in ensuring that this issue is urgently addressed and remain at your disposal to brief you further if required.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Oliver
UK Country Manager
Vertex Pharmaceuticals

Pack Page 132

Cystic Fibrosis a fight we must win

Cystic Fibrosis Trust response to Vertex and Minister Letters regarding the Petition P-05-797 Access to Cystic Fibrosis medicine Orkambi

The Cystic Fibrosis Trust is campaigning to ensure the precision medicine Orkambi, manufactured by Vertex Pharmaceuticals, is made available to patients with cystic fibrosis (CF) living in Wales as soon as possible.

We are therefore encouraged to hear that the Welsh Health Minister Vaughn Gething and NHS Wales acknowledge the importance and urgency of appraising new cystic fibrosis medicines for use on the NHS in Wales.

However, the Trust is concerned that description by the Minister and the manufacturer of the current state of progress, outlined in separate correspondence to the Petitions Committee, is inconsistent.

Although both the Minister and Vertex both acknowledge that there have been meetings to discuss access to Orkambi in Wales, the Trust is disappointed to learn that there are no further meetings planned and must conclude that progress has stalled, which can only result in further delay for people with cystic fibrosis in Wales to access proven, effective and first-in-class medicines.

The Cystic Fibrosis Trust notes that Vertex claims to have provided “a fully costed proposal for all Vertex medicines to NHS Wales at a meeting on 21 February 2018”, which is not recognised in the Minister’s correspondence but would be of significant public interest and importance.

Welsh citizens deserve to be provided with the latest and most accurate information the Welsh Government holds.

The Trust is calling for an intervention from the Petitions Committee to enable an opportunity for the Welsh Assembly to clarify with the Minister the current circumstances in relation to access to Orkambi and gain an understanding of the forward process. We believe there is a strong public interest in providing transparency and accountability across the issue, which is demonstrably of significant importance and urgency to thousands of Welsh citizens.

Every day, week or month that passes has severe implications for those living with CF both in the short and longer term. This includes impact on quality of life, irreversible lung damage and ultimately life expectancy. People with cystic fibrosis simply do not have time to wait for negotiations to conclude, let alone begin or fail to progress.

Agenda Item 3.14

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

This petition was submitted by Gulnar Sohail and was considered by the Committee for the first time in December 2017, having collected 78 signatures online.

Text of Petition

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

Additional information

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

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

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Swansea East
- South Wales West



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-789
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/00205/18

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

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

April 2018

Thank you for your letter of 23 March requesting an update on my commitment to consider extending the eligibility criteria for the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) to include asylum seekers.

As is noted in Gulnar Sohail's petition, asylum seekers are provided with very limited financial assistance from the UK Government whilst they await the outcome of their asylum claim. Asylum seekers are also denied the right to work during this period, which means that many become isolated without the opportunity to fulfil their potential and harness their skills to support their new community in Wales. The Welsh Government is committed to the principle of becoming a 'Nation of Sanctuary' and we are currently consulting on proposals to try to make this a reality: <https://beta.gov.wales/nation-sanctuary-refugee-and-asylum-seeker-plan>

Those draft proposals include a commitment to "*explore possible changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance and Financial Contingency Fund to enable asylum seekers to be eligible from the September 2019 term.*" It is too early to confirm whether this change is possible but we are continuing to explore this during the consultation period.

You will appreciate that any policy change needs to be evidence based and the equality impacts fully assessed. I have asked my officials to fully explore the impacts of introducing a new residency category to the EMA Scheme and Financial Contingency Fund rules.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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CF99 1NA

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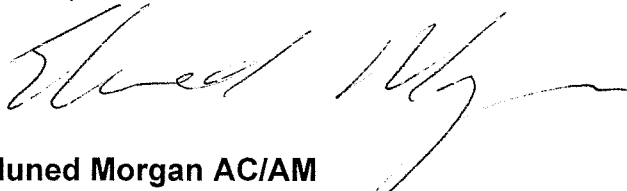
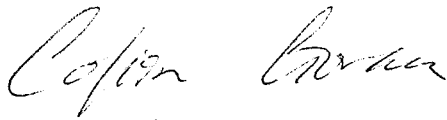
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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

The earliest this could be implemented would be for academic year (AY) 2019/20. Part of the policy review will look at whether this should be applied only to new students or include continuing students.

You will be pleased to note that I have also asked my officials to review the eligibility criteria for the Welsh Government Learning Grant (Further Education).

I can assure you that I recognise the assets which asylum seekers already possess and want to ensure they are able to integrate into our communities as quickly and effectively as possible. It is in nobody's interest to prevent individuals learning English or Welsh, seeking to better themselves and adding to the diversity of our communities.



Eluned Morgan AC/AM

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

Agenda Item 3.15

P-04-526 Please make Senedd TV accessible to deaf people

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to provide subtitling and signed language access to televised debates and proceedings, to enable the 300,000 with hearing loss and deafness in Wales to follow the democratic processes hearing people already enjoy.

Petition raised by: Mervyn James

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 21 January 2014

Number of signatures: 25

P-04-683 Trees in Towns

This petition was submitted by Coed Cadw Woodland Trust, having collected 2,258 signatures.

Text of the Petition

- *I support the aspiration that every city, town and village in Wales should benefit from at least 20% tree canopy cover, matching the leafy suburbs of the best places to live*
- *I call on the Welsh Government to support this by establishing a challenge fund for tree planting to improve the environment where people live*
- *This should particularly support the planting of native trees, that can provide a habitat and nectar source for pollinators, and also fruit trees, that will provide a sustainable source of food.*

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff South and Penarth
- South Wales Central

Agenda Item 3.17

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

This petition was submitted by Aled Gwyn Job, having collected 545 signatures online.

Petition text:

We call on the Welsh Government to recognize and commemorate the three hundredth anniversary of the birth of William Williams, Pantycelyn this year (1717-2017). We believe that Williams Pantycelyn has laid the foundations for the modern Wales through all his hymns (over 900), his various literary works (90), and his tireless mission work for the gospel through the whole of Wales for 40 years. The Methodist Reformation of the 18th century, in which Williams played such a key part, led to the establishment of the first national organization in the history of Wales in 400 years, namely the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists (1811). That in turn triggered a series of further educational, social and political reforms which were instrumental in creating the Modern Wales. Pantycelyn therefore is more than just one of the major figures of the faith tradition in Wales. He is one of the major figures of our national story as Welsh people. It is incumbent upon the Welsh Government to recognize his immense contribution to our nation and we call on the Government to arrange an appropriate celebration once the members have returned to Cardiff in September.

Additional information:

We note that the Welsh Government has organized similar celebrations to mark the contributions of two other prominent Welshmen recently. Last year, the contribution of the children's novelist Roald Dahl was celebrated, and the previous year, the contribution made by the poet Dylan Thomas. Vast sums of Welsh tax payers' money was spent on these events.

With this precedent having been set twice recently, we believe that it would be inexcusable for our national government to refuse to recognize the contribution of Williams Pantycelyn in the same manner.

With all due respect to Dylan Thomas and Roald Dahl, and their individual contributions in the appropriate fields – their contributions to Welsh life cannot be compared with that of the Sweet Songster, William Williams.

There has been fierce public reaction to the recent fiasco of "The Iron Ring" and the idea of spending £400,000 to celebrate the conquest of Wales by Edward I with a piece of art at Flint Castle. The complaint repeatedly expressed by members of the public was how on earth the Welsh Government could be so ignorant and insensitive in relation to Wales's own history?

The celebration and commemoration of the life and work of Williams Pantycelyn in an appropriate manner would indicate that the Welsh Government is sympathetic to our nation's history.

One idea that we would like you to consider is to transfer the funding allocated to the Iron Ring and erect a majestic piece of art in Llandovery to commemorate the Sweet Songster.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Arfon
- South Wales West

Agenda Item 3.18

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

This petition was submitted by Chris Evans and was first considered by the Committee in November 2017, having collected 652 signatures online.

Text of Petition

I call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to prevent Qualifications Wales (QW) from continuing to discriminate against Welsh-medium learners, and ensure linguistic equality in terms of school curriculum.

In 2015, the WJEC decided to drop GCSE Psychology because candidate numbers were relatively small (37 centres – 5 of which were Welsh medium with 144 Welsh medium applicants each year). Because of this, an invitation was extended by Qualifications Wales to the English Awarding Bodies; AQA, OCR, Pearson-Edexcel, to offer this subject, and others e.g. Economics, in Wales.

Unfortunately, and astoundingly, there was no pressure to offer these subjects in Welsh. Qualifications Wales' response to this is to say that the English Boards would refuse to offer subjects in Wales altogether if they were forced to offer a Welsh language option, and that they seek to ensure 'the widest choice of subjects to learners in Wales' (QW Newsletter, December 2016).

'The widest choice of subjects to learners in Wales' unless you are following a Welsh medium education! In September, there will be no year 10 Psychology GCSE course running in my school for the first time since 2009, while the English-medium school a few miles away, start a new GCSE Psychology course in English through AQA. The only reason that I can't offer this subject is because we teach through Welsh. There are four other Welsh centres in the same position.

Psychologists need to be able discuss their subject in Welsh. By depriving Welsh medium pupils of the opportunity to study Psychology GCSE through Welsh, we will lose 144 students per year who would have had the potential of contributing to Psychology – as a teacher, lecturer, therapist, researcher etc. in Welsh with confidence because the relevant terminology familiar to them.

Additional information:

144 candidates sat the unit 2 Psychology WJEC GCSE paper in Welsh to finish the course in 2015, with 5 centres teaching it, so there is the potential for significant numbers, not just a handful. I have arranged that three experienced Psychology examiners are available to work for any English Board, so that translation of candidate's scripts (solutions) would not be needed, just the translation of the paper itself.

The only English Board that even considered the application to provide a Welsh paper (from myself, not QW), was Pearson, but in the end they refused, saying it 'would require Welsh speakers at every level of the production of the papers'. This is nonsense because that doesn't even happen in the WJEC, where the Chief Examiner and the Subject Officer don't speak Welsh!

I don't blame the English Boards, because why should they go to the trouble when they don't have to? Qualifications Wales is to blame for their limp policy, which does not protect the rights of Welsh-medium learners. Surely it would have been possible to create an element of competition between the English Boards by giving priority to those open to the idea of offering a Welsh option, but they did not attempt to do this at all.

This is totally unacceptable in the modern Wales. If English Awarding Bodies are allowed to offer subjects in Wales, it must be made clear that they need to offer a Welsh paper when there is a reasonable request to do so.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Wrexham
- North Wales

Agenda Item 4

P-05-799 Change the National Curriculum and teach Welsh history, from a Welsh perspective, in our Primary, Secondary and Sixth form Schools.

This petition was submitted by Elfed Wyn Jones having collected 5,133 signatures online and 661 on paper – a total of 5,794 signatures.

Text of Petition

We are calling on the National Assembly for Wales to change the Curriculum and teach Welsh history, from a Welsh perspective, in our Primary, Secondary and Sixth form Schools.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Dwyfor Meirionnydd
- Mid and West Wales

Points for presentation to Petitions Committee

The petition states: “We are calling on the National Assembly for Wales to change the Curriculum and teach Welsh history, from a Welsh perspective, in our Primary, Secondary and Sixth form Schools.”

1. The current (2008) Programme of Study for History gives a central place to local and Welsh history, within a broader context. It is itself based on the previous versions of the Curriculum and on the principles of the first reports from 1989 onwards.
2. Freedom has always been given to teachers to interpret these requirements according to the needs and interests of their pupils, the location of the school etc. However, in response to the concerns expressed by teachers that there was too much content in the History Programme of Study, each revision of the Curriculum removed content, but kept the skills of History, as defined since 1988 as Chronological Awareness, Knowledge and Understanding, Interpretations of History, Historical Enquiry and Communication. The 2008 Order placed the main emphasis on enquiry, providing a framework of 'big questions' to structure the teaching approach.
3. Consultation with teachers suggested that GCSE courses and their approach to assessment had a significant influence on the history taught at Key Stage 3, and even in primary schools. It may be relevant here to note that the history of Wales was an option within the GCSE syllabus, although it had been a compulsory element in the previous O Level syllabus. It may be that this was perceived as reflecting its status, and influenced the approach taken to the history of Wales in schools more generally. A new GCSE syllabus for Wales has now been developed, which integrates Welsh history into the wider historical context, but it is too early to say whether this will have any impact on the approach taken to teaching the history of Wales pre-14.
4. Comments by university teachers suggest that the history of Wales as a subject is also at risk in that sector. Reference has been made to new students lacking knowledge and interest in it as a subject, which may reflect their previous experience. The history of Wales is also optional at AS and A2 level.
5. The new National Curriculum currently being developed, based on the recommendations of the Donaldson Report: history will become part of the humanities area, which also includes geography, religious education, business studies etc. It is not clear at present how much space history will have within this new system, nor what sort of history is being considered.

6. Five years have elapsed since the Report on the Cwricwlwm Cymreig and History was published. Although it had a favourable reception, and although the then Minister for Education announced he accepted all its recommendations, I am not aware of any guidance having been given by the Government during these years on the teaching of history, apart from that provided by Professor Donaldson's Report, *Successful Futures* (2015).
7. Unfortunately, although there is an entirely appropriate emphasis in that Report on improving the situation of the Welsh language, there is a disappointing failure to address the cultural, social or historical context of the language (and see my detailed comments on this in the accompanying document, *Donaldson Response Final*).
8. The response to this petition, which resembles the response during the consultation process in 2012–13, suggest that there is a significant degree of public dissatisfaction with what is perceived to be a failure by schools to teach the history of Wales effectively at present. The lack of clear guidance by the Government, together with the passage of time since the publication of the Report on the Cwricwlwm Cymreig and History is likely to intensify this.
9. The lack of any reliable and objective evidence for the history being taught in schools in Wales adds to the problem. Detailed research was done into the sort of Welsh history being taught to pupils 11–16 – but that was twenty years ago. I am not aware of any research into the subject having been done since then, and consequently any discussion of the topic is based on conjecture and personal experience.
10. Because of this lack of objective evidence, and the strong feelings on the subject, there is a danger that history teaching in Wales may become a political issue. Since there is plenty of opportunity in the existing Curriculum to teach the history of Wales, it is not clear why there is so much public dissatisfaction with the current provision. Teaching the history of Wales may possibly be perceived by some teachers – and some politicians too, perhaps – as teaching nationalist propaganda. But developing the skills of enquiry and evaluating evidence is a powerful weapon against such brainwashing. The history of Wales is also much more complex and ambiguous than some believe it to be. Wales has from earliest times been a multi-cultural country, where more than one language was spoken, and more than one religion followed. The proper teaching of history does not provide easy answers, not one version of the past – but it does encourage us to think, to ponder and to ask questions. It gives us the opportunity to understand and accept different ideas and beliefs, to value discussion, the exchange of ideas and the evaluation of assertions – and by doing so, to come to value democracy, not

as something that happens a long way away from us, but as something that developed and exists in our own locality.

Comments on 'Successful Futures', Professor Donaldson's independent review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales

Preface

I have limited my observations to those sections of the Review which deal with the curriculum in general and also with history. I have tried to identify within it the recommendations of the Report on the Cwricwlwm Cymreig, history and the story of Wales (1), and commented where appropriate on the approach taken to these. I have not addressed other issues such as assessment, school structure etc. unless they are relevant to the Cwricwlwm Cymreig and/or history.

I realise that this Review is only a basis for change. It makes recommendations regarding the foundations of the education system in Wales, and does RCCH not attempt to present the finished edifice. But the nature and security of a building is decided by its foundations, and these recommendations are the criteria which will be used by those constructing the next National Curriculum for Wales. In my view, some of the changes proposed for the curriculum in Wales are not securely grounded in Wales itself. Consequently I am very concerned about the quality and Welshness of a new curriculum for Wales established on this Review.

General

1. There is much to welcome in Professor Donaldson's Review, and one cannot disagree with the basic principles it sets down with regard to the curriculum in general. These are essentially the principles that inform the Foundation Phase and they, together with some of the other national curricula cited in the Review, also informed Curriculum 2008, with its emphasis on the learner and on developing skills across the curriculum. Consequently, Professor Donaldson's recommendations are in this respect a natural progression from previous developments in the National Curriculum in Wales, especially the Foundation Phase. They are an evolution rather than a revolution, and should not entail a fundamental change in the general principles of the curriculum in Wales. All this is entirely consonant with the recommendations of RCCH.

1 *The Cwricwlwm Cymreig, history and the story of Wales*, Welsh Government, 2013. ISBN

Cwricwlwm Cymreig

2. It is also very encouraging to see the consultation exercise undertaken as part of the Review showed such support for the Cwricwlwm Cymreig, the Welsh language and culture, and the concept of a Curriculum for Wales. This provides a firm foundation on which to build on the recommendations of the RCCH. It is good to read in the Review that
 - the curriculum should be 'authentic: rooted in Welsh values and culture ...' (p.14);
 - that the evidence from the discussions with stakeholders held by Professor Donaldson and his team showed clearly 'a firm commitment to the Welsh language and bilingualism, to the principle of comprehensive, inclusive education, and to the inclusion of a Welsh dimension in the education of all children and young people' (p.15);
 - and that the response to the call for evidence showed clear general support for 'the Foundation Phase, the Welsh language and bilingualism... and the focus on Welsh identity and the Curriculum Cymreig ' (ibid.).

It was also very encouraging to see that this was particularly evident in the consultation responses from young people.

3. However I am concerned that the Review itself appears to limit consideration of the Welsh dimension to language and culture only. This occurs as early as p. 19, when the support shown in the consultation responses to the Welsh dimension, and the focus on Welsh identity and the Cwricwlwm Cymreig is re-worded as support for 'Welsh language and culture' only. The same misleading interpretation (or misunderstanding) is also found on p. 24, and again in the Conclusions on p. 105, which refer to '... the importance attached to the Welsh culture and language ...' without any further reference to a broader Welsh dimension.
4. In the conclusions to his Report, Professor Donaldson says 'It is important to have a clear definition of what we mean by 'the curriculum'' (p. 106). It is impossible to disagree with that. Unfortunately, this Report does not attempt to define the Welsh dimension to the curriculum, nor mention it in any

context wider than the cultural, nor refer to it in any cross-curricular context. I see here a real danger of restricting to the language and culture alone that Welsh perspective which should be the basis of a real Curriculum for Wales. There is much more than that to the current Cwricwlwm Cymreig. The absence of any definition of the Welsh dimension is thus contrary to one of the fundamental principles of Professor Donaldson's Report, and also the recommendation of RCCH that the 'next national curriculum for Wales should take as its starting point the ideas and ideals embodied in the current Cwricwlwm Cymreig and build upon these as the foundation of the next National Curriculum for Wales rather than as an addition to it. It should have a Welsh dimension and an international perspective'(quoted by Professor Donaldson on p.24). He appears to ignore another recommendation in RCCH that the 'starting point in the development of the new curriculum' should be a clearer definition of the Welsh perspective. It is possible, of course, that Professor Donaldson believes that the references in his Report to the Welsh language and culture constitute such a definition, but if so, this does a grave disservice to the whole concept of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig and to current good practice.

5. It is impossible to disagree with the statement that 'there is no single, universal template for a 'good' curriculum - much depends on local and national conditions, values and culture' (p.17) nor with the basic principle of subsidiarity outlined on p.14 and which is discussed in more detail on pp.98-9. It is essential that what is taught in our schools reflect the values, culture and views of society, and these vary from area to area. But who will define national values and culture? Who is going to define the Welsh dimension now? It would be difficult to define these in a way which would please everyone, but without a definition there remains a basic problem. For example, the report refers to the need for a curriculum which includes 'all of the learning experiences and assessment activities planned in pursuit of agreed purposes of education.' (p.6) and one which is 'rooted in Welsh values and culture and aligned with an agreed set of stated purposes' (p.14), and to the OECD's criticism of the lack of 'a convincing set of overall aims and purposes' in Wales (p.21). As noted above, Professor Donaldson's report provides a clear and focussed outline of the principles of learning and teaching, which are very similar to those of the basic principles of the 2008

Curriculum, and which correspond with those of other innovative curricula across the world. But this could be the basis of the curriculum of any one of those countries: it makes no attempt to define the characteristics of Wales, or address the consultation responses which showed such appreciation of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig and the Welsh dimension.

6. The discussion on the elaboration and development of the Areas of Learning and Experience refers to establishing 'central development teams' to create 'for each Area of Learning and Experience, Outcome Statements for each Progression Step', noting that among the 'elements to be taken forward' by these teams will be 'advice on the incorporation of relevant elements of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig within the Area of Learning and Experience' (p. 95). Once again, the principle is sound, and similar to what has always been done in developing the curriculum from the beginning, but in the absence of any definition of the Welsh dimension in the Report, not any discussion of it, or any attempt to exemplify it, the task of these development teams will be very difficult. Does the reference to the Cwricwlwm Cymreig suggest that the present Cwricwlwm Cymreig should be used as the criterion? Or will the development teams follow the lead of this Report, which seems to take 'the language and culture' as being synonymous with the Welsh dimension?
7. Similarly, although reference is made to the need to develop teacher capacity (p. 18, pp. 96–98) and no clear guidance is given on how this would be done in the context of the Welsh dimension of learning and teaching. Some obvious opportunities to exemplify such a dimension are missed in the Report. The examples which are provided in the body of the Report do not reflect any Welsh dimension; consider for example the discussion of the Expressive Arts, pp. 43–4. It is quite a surprise not to see any reference in this context to the eisteddfodic tradition at least, especially in a document which is to be the basis of a Curriculum for Wales. When we turn then to an example of a cross-curricular study, that of a local river (p.88), we find an entirely appropriate reference to Vitava by Smetana, but no reference at all to any Welsh music. The international perspective is appropriately exemplified here, but where is the Welsh dimension?

8. When the broader characteristics of the Areas of Learning and Experience are discussed (p. 38) the need for a Welsh dimension as well as an international perspective is noted, but no reference is made to this in the following Recommendation 4. When the Humanities are defined (pp. 46–7), very general references are made to 'fascinating contexts' for learning about 'people, place, time and belief' and 'understanding ... historical, geographical, political, economic and societal factors ... in their own locality, Wales and the world in a range of times, places and circumstances' (p.46). This is the only reference to Wales, and no attempt is made to discuss the Welsh dimension or to exemplify it. A paragraph is given to the local dimension (p. 46) and another to religious education (pp.46–7) There is no reference to the Welsh dimension in the relevant Recommendation 9.
9. The place of the Welsh language in the curriculum is discussed (pp. 58–60); the key part played by the language in the formation and preservation of 'cultural identity' is emphasised (p. 58) , and Professor Sioned Davies' Report is quoted when referring to the problems which arise in trying to teach the language to young people who 'do not regard the subject as being relevant or of any value to them' (p. 59). Professor Donaldson's Report was an opportunity to provide a context for the Welsh language which would help to make it relevant to such young people. The lack of a clear definition of the Welsh dimension to education in Wales, or of its exemplification, has already been noted. Its absence will not make the task of these teachers any easier. In addition, Recommendation 24 refers to the importance of the Welsh language in achieving 'a good understanding of the cultural life of Wales in the past and present' (p. 60): it would be possible to interpret this, together with the deficiencies noted above in the treatment of the Welsh dimension in Professor Donaldson's Report, as implying that it will be teachers of Welsh who will be expected to take the main responsibility for the Welsh dimension in the curriculum.

Summary

It is difficult to have confidence in a meaningful Welsh dimension being central to any future Curriculum for Wales based on this Report, in which no attempt is made to

- define such a dimension except as 'language and culture',
- nor to exemplify it,
- nor to refer to it, even when there are obvious opportunities to do so.

History

10. One of the fundamental changes recommended is the creation of a learning continuum from 3–16 (Recommendations 10–15, p.56; discussion of the principles, pp. 52– 55). Once again, Professor Donaldson's report proposes a development rather than a radical change. It was always the aim of the National Curriculum to establish such a continuum from 5–14, and that is the reason why the Attainment Levels of the current Curriculum are intended to be used by both the primary and the secondary sectors. It did prove difficult to bridge the transition from one Key Stage to the next, especially that between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3. The difference between the subject skills of history, as defined in the Level Descriptions, and the assessment aims of GCSE have also proved a stumbling block to those trying to ensure continuity and progression in history between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 (see RCCH, Recommendation 2.5). The establishment of a learning continuum 3–16 is therefore a welcome development.

11. I would also welcome the principle of structuring the content of the curriculum into Areas of Learning and Experience, rather than individual subjects (Recommendation 4, and discussion of the principles pp. 33–38). The idea of combining subjects which have been traditionally taught separately is central to the present Foundation Phase, and it was the basis of the work of generations of primary teachers. It provides an opportunity to make cross-curricular teaching a reality, and by doing so to promote learners' skills and their ability to apply their learning in new contexts. The decision to include history in the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience is a matter of concern, however.

12. The Foundation Phase introduces the skills of history and geography together with those of science in 'Knowledge and Understanding of the World'. This is an area of study which deals with the finding, recording and evaluation of evidence, and drawing conclusions based on this process. I

find it regrettable that Professor Donaldson did not build on this when making his recommendations for learning beyond the Foundation Phase. Combining geography, history and Religious Education is painfully reminiscent of the approach that used to be taken in Welsh schools forty years ago. The description of the main features of the Humanities (pp. 46–7) does not give appropriate attention to the specific skills of the individual subjects, especially, in this context, the analytical and evaluative skills of history. This Report indicates that learning and understanding are the essence of the humanities, rather than investigation and evaluation of evidence.

13. The report on the Cwricwlwm Cymreig and Welsh History noted the limited evidence for the way in which the Cwricwlwm Cymreig and the history of Wales are presented in our schools ². This continues to be the case. The task group received a number of consultation responses which criticised the lack of local and Welsh history in the schemes of work of some schools. In the year that has elapsed since their report was presented, members of the task group have received more comments from individuals who are concerned about the nature of the history that is being taught, and that in part because of the delay and uncertainty caused by the decision to hold a full review of the curriculum. Members of the task group have been told that lacking clear guidance, several schools have stolen a march on the review, and have revised their schemes of work to include history, geography and Religious Education under the Humanities umbrella. Some have also decided to invest in commercial products such as ‘Cornerstones’, which do provide clear and definite guidelines, but ones which are based on the National Curriculum for England.

Elin Jones

² See RCCH, Section 1, p. 6. and Recommendation 1.4, and also Section 2, pp.12- 19, and Recommendations 2. 3, 4.

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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Agenda Item 7

P-04-628 Access to BSL for All

Petition wording

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to improve access to Education and services in British Sign Language to improve the quality of life for Deaf people of all ages.

Improve Access for families to learn BSL: When a child is diagnosed as being Deaf/hard of hearing parents should be offered free/subsidised BSL lessons (BSL level one costs approximately £300 per person). By using speech alone, Deaf children struggle/fail to develop communication skills missing important milestones. Learning other languages through BSL (English/Welsh) will improve the child's understanding and comprehension.

Introduce BSL on the National Curriculum: Deaf Children and young people who are taught BSL at an early age will have better access to their education and an improved wellbeing. BSL should be available in schools and taught by qualified Deaf teachers, for all to learn as this would achieve better access for all in society. We believe that BSL should be offered as a language for all learners as a qualification. GCSE Welsh (and other modern languages) are not always offered to Deaf students: this also needs to be improved.

Improving access to Education in BSL for Deaf Children and Young People: currently they have limited access to Education in BSL, and often experience under qualified support. There is a massive gap in the education of Deaf children, as many are wrongly treated as having a Learning Disability. This has a negative impact on their development in life, reducing independence with poor education, resulting in under-employment. They need adequately qualified Communication Support Workers available in school.

Making Services and resources accessible in BSL for Deaf young people: enabling BSL users to access information in their preferred language via digital resources to services such as Education, Health care, Social Services and public transport, giving them equality to access as an equivalent to Welsh Language access.

Organisation: Deffo!

Lead petitioner: Cathie Robins-Talbot

First considered by the Committee:

Number of signatures: 502 online signatures. 660 paper signatures . total
=1162 signatures

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