

## Agenda – Petitions Committee

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Meeting Venue:

**Committee Room 1 – Senedd**

Meeting date: 2 April 2019

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

**Graeme Francis – Committee Clerk**

**Kath Thomas – Deputy Clerk**

0300 200 6565

[SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales)

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- 1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**  
(Pages 1 – 34)
- 2 Evidence Session P-05-805 Fair Deal For Supply Teachers**  
(9:00-9:40) (Pages 35 – 45)  
Kirsty Williams AM, Minister for Education  
Neil Welch – Head of Workforce Engagement, Welsh Government  
Gail Deane – Senior Policy Manager, Welsh Government
- 3 New petitions**
  - 3.1 P-05-868 Water Safety/Drowning Prevention and the effects of Cold Water Shock to be taught in all Schools in Wales  
(Pages 46 – 56)
  - 3.2 P-05-870 Let’s Get Every Young Heart Screened (Age 10-35)  
(Pages 57 – 67)
  - 3.3 P-05-871 Make baby and toddler changing available in both male/female toilets  
(Pages 68 – 75)
  - 3.4 P-05-872 Protect school funding or admit to the weakening of service provision  
(Pages 76 – 85)
- 4 Updates to previous petitions**



## **Health**

- 4.1 P-05-732 Unacceptable Waiting Times for NHS patients in A & E  
Wreccsam/Wrexham Maelor Hospital  
(Pages 86 – 90)
- 4.2 P-05-797 Ensure access to the cystic fibrosis medicine, Orkambi, as a matter  
of urgency  
(Pages 91 – 97)
- 4.3 P-05-804 We need Welsh Government funding for play!!  
(Pages 98 – 104)
- 4.4 P-05-857 Create a national task force for children's mental health  
(Pages 105 – 117)

## **Environment**

- 4.5 P-05-759 Re-open the Cwmcarn Forest Drive at Easter 2018  
(Pages 118 – 122)
- 4.6 P-05-801 Save the trees and ground in Roath Mill and Roath Brook Gardens  
before it's too late  
(Pages 123 – 124)
- 4.7 P-05-815 Control Rapidly Expanding Intensive Poultry Industry in Wales  
(Pages 125 – 132)
- 4.8 P-05-825 Protect children's lungs from harmful pollution whilst at school  
(Pages 133 – 141)

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

- 4.9 P-05-750 For single use items: introduce a Deposit Return System for drink  
containers and make fast food containers and utensils compostable  
(Pages 142 – 151)
- 4.10 P-05-803 Our natural world is being poisoned by single use plastics...it's  
time to introduce a tax!  
(Pages 152 – 153)

4.11 P-05-829 Ban Single Use Plastic Items in Wales

(Page 154)

## **Education**

4.12 P-05-862 Tackling school bullying

(Pages 155 – 158)

## **Economy and Transport**

4.13 P-05-793 Hi speed broadband to Llangenny village

(Pages 159 – 163)

**5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:**

Item 6

**6 Discussion of Previous Evidence Session**

## Petitions Committee

### Members' Brief

Date: 2 April 2019

Time: 09.00 – 11.00

Venue: Committee Room 1

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## GENERAL BRIEFING (09.00 – 11:00)

### 1. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS 09.00

### 2. Evidence session – P-05-805 Fair Deal For Supply Teachers (09.00-09:40)

#### In attendance:

- Kirsty Williams AM, Minister for Education

#### P-05-805 Fair Deal For Supply Teachers

This petition was submitted by Sheila Jones and was first considered by the Committee in May 2018, having collected 1,425 signatures (997 online and 428 on paper).

#### **Text of Petition**

*We, the undersigned, request that all supply teachers be paid fairly and have full access to training opportunities and other terms and conditions. There should be a qualified teacher in every classroom and taxpayers' money should be going directly into education and not into the pockets of private agencies.*





*Supply teachers are being exploited and teachers are leaving the profession as they cannot afford to be supply teachers. Agencies reduce teachers' pay by forty to sixty percent and teachers lose their pensions, this is public money going into the private sector for profit.*

*Lessons are being covered by unqualified staff.*

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

- Caerphilly
- South Wales East

#### **Background**

- The Committee last considered the petition on 5 March and agreed to invite the Minister for Education to attend a Committee meeting in order to provide further evidence on this issue.
- A research briefing containing relevant background has been provided.

### **3. NEW PETITIONS (09:40 – 10:00)**

#### **3.1 P-05-868 Water Safety/Drowning Prevention and the effects of Cold Water Shock to be taught in all Schools in Wales**

This petition was submitted by Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership having collected 394 signatures online and 502 on paper – a total of 896 signatures.

#### **Text of Petition**

*We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to include Water Safety/Drowning Prevention and the effects of cold-water shock to be taught on the national curriculum in Wales.*

*In 2016 we saw the launch of the first ever water safety strategy in the UK, which aims to reduce water related fatalities by 50% by 2026. Collaboration, awareness, education and prevention are the main focuses. Wales needs to respond in support.*



*The families of Cameron Comey, Luke Somerfield, Kieran Bennett–Leefe, Robert Mansfield and Jem Pendragon all support this petition in memory of their sons lost to water.*

### **Additional Information**

*Several hundred adults and children drown accidentally every year in the UK & Ireland, and Wales – having a considerable number of rivers, lakes and a wild coastline is not immune. Education and prevention are key to safeguarding our communities from needless drowning.*

*This petition also has its aims focused on healthy, educated interactions with our many open waterways in Wales, by promoting events nationally and locally where young people and the public can access organized events where they engage with social, active and safe events with clubs/organisations concerned with water based activities.*

*We also recognise that local authority cuts to swimming accessibility for all pupils (through central government pressures) and a new Welsh Baccalaureate on water safety is too wide a gap to ensure a consistent education message for all. Wales has three broad strategies (our Healthy future, Building a brighter future and Well-being of Future Generations) and have links to injury prevention and, therefore, to reducing drowning.*

*This petition is supported by many partners including; five families of young men lost to drowning in West Wales, Ferryside Inshore Lifeboat, Jonathan Edwards MP, South Wales Fire & Rescue Service, Rebecca Ramsey (campaigner for England water safety education), All Wales Water Safety Group, Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Simon Hart MP, Carmarthen Town Council, The Coracle & Netsmans Association, Gwendraeth Valley Paddlers Canoe Club, Ammanford Police Station, Carmarthen Boat Club, Brecon Mountain Rescue Team, Llansteffan Coastguard, Angela Burns AM, Carmarthen Bay Ferries, Llandysul Paddlers Canoe Centre, to name a few.*

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Carmarthen East and Dinefwr



- Mid and West Wales

### Background

- An initial response to the petition was received from the Minister for Education on 15 February.
- A research briefing on the petition and related issues has been provided.
- The petitioner has also provided further comments.

### Points for discussion

- The research brief outlines the arrangements for the new curriculum which is currently being developed. This will be available to schools from April 2019 and implemented from 2022.
- The **Minister** states that these issues are included within both the current and new curriculums. For example, during Physical Education at Key Stage 2, learners should be taught to "develop skills of water safety and personal survival" and to "swim unaided for a sustained period of time". Personal safety is also covered during PSE and the Welsh Baccalaureate includes an 'Open Water Challenge' which develops learners' knowledge of the risks associated with open water.
- During scrutiny of the curriculum reforms by the CYPE Committee, Sport Wales raised 'minor concerns' over the prominence of water safety and swimming as life skills. The Government responded that these areas will be included and that the guidance and 'supporting information' with the curriculum will also support this.
- The **petitioners** are calling for a cohesive Water Safety Plan for Wales with contributions from a range of partners. They refer to a new Water Safety Wales group set up by South Wales Fire & Rescue Service, which they hope will help drive this agenda forward.
- The petitioners make a number of recommendations for actions they would like to see taken forward, including the development of common messages and community level water safety plans.



### Potential actions

- The Committee could write back to the Welsh Government to provide the further information submitted by the petitioners and ask for its views in response.

### AND/OR

- The Committee could write to South Wales Fire & Rescue Service to seek further information about the Water Safety Wales Group and to their work on water safety and drowning prevention.

### 3.2 P-05-870 Let's Get Every Young Heart Screened (Age 10-35)

This petition was submitted by Sharon Owen having collected 3,444 signatures.

#### Text of Petition

*We call on the National Assembly for Wales to ask the Welsh Government to roll out a heart screening programme to all young people between 10 and 35 in Wales. Hundreds die each year in Wales from an undiagnosed heart condition and a simple ECG will identify most cardiac abnormalities so that conditions can be managed effectively.*

*Heart screening sessions involve a short 5-10-minute test which is quick and painless and able to detect most heart abnormalities and could save hundreds of lives in Wales. In the Veneto region of Italy, where heart screening programme has been undertaken for 25 years the number of young athletes, male and female, dying of sudden cardiac arrest fell from one in 28,000 each year to one in 250,000, according to a 2006 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.*

#### Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central



## Background

- An initial response to the petition was received from the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services on 6 March.
- A research briefing on the petition and related issues has been provided.
- The petitioner has also provided further comments.

## Points for discussion

- The Welsh Hearts charity and others offer heart screening to young people and adults. The aim of this is to detect an underlying cardiac condition.
- The **Minister's** response states that *"Population screening programmes should only be offered where there is robust, high-quality evidence that screening will do more good than harm."*
- The **UK National Screening Committee** (UKNSC) advises Ministers across the UK about all aspects of population screening. This has considered screening to prevent Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD) in 12 to 39 year olds and *"concluded the harms of screening for SCD currently outweigh the benefits."* Reasons for this include reliability of tests and uncertainties over the benefits of identifying people with risk factors.
- However, while the Government does not support whole-population screening, he states that "families of individuals with SCD should be offered individual clinical assessments" as a 'higher-risk population'.
- The **petitioners** argue that screening can save lives and that early diagnosis of problems is beneficial to patients and the NHS. They also state that the fact that some issues may never develop into severe conditions is not a reason not to do population screening.
- The charity provide details of their work in schools and in screening over 3000 young people since 2015, which they say has led to 'hundreds' being referred for further investigation.



### Potential actions

- The Committee could write back to the Minister for Health and Social Services to ask for details of current Welsh Government and NHS Wales policy and actions in relation to identifying undiagnosed heart conditions amongst young people.

### 3.3 P-05-871 – Make baby and toddler changing available in both male/female toilets

This petition was submitted by Antony Esposti having collected 125 signatures online.

#### Text of Petition

*Within Wales there are many businesses, hospitals and council run parks/sites that don't have baby changing available for use by both men and women. Normally the facilities are only available in female toilets.*

*This means that men are often forced to hunt out facilities that they can use, or on many occasions, use makeshift measures like changing their child on the floor, on top of wheelie bin lids in toilets, balancing on their laps and on benches outside.*

*We would ask the Assembly to ensure that all future renovations and new builds within areas open to the public have an area that provides a safe and clean space to change babies/allow toddlers to go to the toilet safely and as a short term measure make a standalone or drop down changing unit available.*

#### Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff Central
- South Wales Central

#### Background

- An initial response to the petition was received from the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip on 12 March.



- A research briefing on the petition and related issues has been provided.
- The petitioner has also provided further comments.

#### Points for discussion

- The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 requires every local authority to develop a local toilet strategy by 31 May 2019. This must include an assessment of their community's need for toilets (including changing facilities for babies), and must set out how the local authority proposes to meet this need.
- Welsh Government statutory guidance on the development of strategies includes consideration of the needs of parents of young children. Local authorities are also required to consult on their draft strategies.
- Building Regulations currently set no requirements for toilet or baby changing facilities. However, design guidance (applicable where these are to be provided) recommend that baby changing provision should be accessible and not in unisex toilets.
- The **petitioner** has provided further background on his experiences of trying to access baby changing facilities.
- He questions the meaning of the Government's statement that baby changing provision should not be "*in unisex toilets*" and refers to recent legislation in New York which ensures that any new or refurbished toilets had baby changing facilities available to both men and women.

#### Potential actions

- The Committee could write back to the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip to share the petitioner's comments and:
  - seek clarification about the reference made within design standards to baby changing provisions not being provided in 'unisex' toilets; and
  - ask what analysis the Welsh Government intends to do of the local toilet strategies produced by local authorities.



### **3.4 P-05-872 Protect school funding or admit to the weakening of service provision**

This petition was submitted by James Wilkinson having collected a total of 5,784 signatures.

#### **Text of Petition**

*We call upon the Welsh Government to protect funding to schools and, if they cannot, to acknowledge the impact of cuts on educational provision, particularly for our most vulnerable learners.*

*As cuts continue to council budgets, and these cuts are passed on to schools, governing bodies are being asked to make impossible decisions about which vital educational services should be removed from our schools.*

*This will mean reduced provision for pupils with additional learning needs, less support for vulnerable learners, a narrowed curriculum choice, insufficient learning resources and dilapidated buildings.*

*These are not the foundations on which schools can be expected to construct and implement a world leading educational curriculum.*

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

- Clwyd West
- North Wales

#### **Background**

- An initial response to the petition was received from the Minister for Education on 27 February.
- A research briefing on the petition and related issues has been provided.
- The petitioner was informed that the petition would be discussed but has not provided further comments.





### Points for discussion

- The large majority of funding for schools comes from local authorities. An outline of the budget setting process is contained within the research brief.
- The **Children, Young People and Education (CYPE) Committee** is currently undertaking an [inquiry into School Funding](#) and considering:
  - the sufficiency of the level of funding available;
  - the way in which funding is distributed; and
  - whether school budgets complement or inhibit delivery of the Welsh Government's policy objectives.
- Having gathered external evidence, the Committee will hold a session with the Minister for Education and the Minister for Housing and Local Government on 3 April.
- The **Minister's** letter recognises *"the pressures that local authorities are facing and our budgets reflect our continued priorities for local services, schools and social care. We have taken action to safeguard local authorities and front line school services."*
- In addition to core funding for local authorities, the Minister draws attention to *"significant grant funding"* for learners, such as £100m to raise school standards.
- £20m is also being allocated to support the introduction of the new Additional Learning Needs system and money is also being invested through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme.

### Potential actions

- As the petition has collected over 5000 signatures, the Committee may wish to consider requesting time for a Plenary debate on this subject.

### However:

- The CYPE Committee's current inquiry into School Funding is currently exploring these issues in detail and the intention is to publish a report prior to the summer recess.
- The Petitions Committee may therefore wish to write to the CYPE to share details of the petition and keep a watching brief during the course of that Committee's inquiry.



## 4. UPDATES TO PREVIOUS PETITIONS 10:00 – 10.30

### Health

#### **4.1 P-05-732 Unacceptable Waiting Times for NHS patients in A & E Wrexham/Wrexham Maelor Hospital**

This petition was submitted by Charles Dodman and was first considered by the Committee in January 2017 having collected 14 signatures.

##### **Text of the Petition**

*I am petitioning the Welsh Assembly to debate and discuss and implement measures to resolve unacceptable waiting times for the Welsh people at A & E Wrexham/Wrexham Maelor Hospital. Welsh people look undermined and demoralised by this unacceptable situation.*

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

- Wrexham
- North Wales

##### **Background**

- The Committee last considered the petition on 25 September 2018 and agreed to write to Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to ask for an update on the subject matter of the petition since previous correspondence, and for details of their response to the findings and recommendations of the Wales CHC review into patient experience in A&E and recent figures relating to waiting times at Wrexham Maelor.
- A response was received from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board on 11 March.
- The petitioner was informed that the petition would be discussed but has not provided further comments.

##### **Points for discussion**

- The Health Board has made changes to management structure to create a dedicated team focusing on emergency care. These new structures are currently being monitored and the Board suggests



updating the Committee further about performance in six months' time.

- They have provided details of their responses to the recommendations arising from the CHC review and data on patient waits which indicate an improvement to date in 2019.

#### **Potential actions**

- The Committee could accept Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board's offer for a further update on developments in six months.

#### **4.2 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 first considered by the Committee in January 2018, having collected 5,717 signatures.

#### **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** on the petition is available on the [website](#).

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

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

#### **Background**

- The petition was last considered on 29 January when the Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Health and Social Services to ask him to consider whether there is an appropriate method for providing interim access to patients who would benefit from Orkambi, in light of the resumption of discussions with the



company over the long-term availability of the medicine on the NHS.

- A response from the Minister was received on 8 March.
- A [Written Statement](#) on access to Orkambi was also published on 1 March.
- The petitioner was informed that the petition would be discussed but has not provided further comments.

#### Points for discussion

- The **Minister** has provided an update on the current situation. Vertex has agreed to submit Orkambi for re-appraisal by the Scottish Medicines Consortium and, whilst this is underway, will provide the drug at a discount. Patients will need to need to apply through the equivalent of the Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) process.
- The Minister states that “*the IPFR process is an appropriate method for providing interim access to patients who would benefit from Orkambi in Wales, whilst discussions over a full appraisal of the treatment continue.*”
- Any commercial arrangement with the Welsh NHS “*would require a clear and binding commitment to engage in a future health technology appraisal by NICE or AWMSC within a specified time (normally 12 months).*”
- The same issues over access to Orkambi exist across the UK. The **Westminster Health and Social Care Committee** recently held evidence sessions over access to Orkambi on the NHS for patients in England.
- On 8 March 2019, the Chair of the Committee wrote to the Health Secretary to outline the evidence that Committee received (a copy of this paper is included in the meeting pack). This including urging the parties involved to work urgently to reach a solution or, if the pharmaceutical company does not engage meaningfully with this process, to consider referring them to the Competition and Markets Authority.



### Potential actions

- The Committee could agree to keep a watching brief on developments in Wales and across the UK, or further information from the petitioners, the Welsh Government or Vertex Pharmaceuticals before considering what further action it could take on this issue.

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

This petition was submitted by RAY Ceredigion and was first considered in March 2018 having collected 328 signatures online.

#### Text of Petition

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

#### Assembly Constituency and Region

- Ceredigion
- Mid and West Wales

#### Background

- The Committee last considered the petition on 15 January and agreed to write to:
  - the Minister for Health and Social Services to ask for an update on the funding for play in the context of the budget for 2019/20; and
  - Play Wales to seek their views on the issue raised by the petition, information about their reviews of Play Sufficiency Assessments and Action Plans, and for their response to the comments made by the petitioners over their social campaign.
- A response from the Deputy Minister was received on 20 February.
- A response from Play Wales was received on 13 March.
- The petitioner was informed that the petition would be discussed but has not provided further comments.



### Points for discussion

- The **Deputy Minister** states that £6.7m has been allocated to local authorities to support the duty to secure sufficient play opportunities over the last six years. This financial year an additional £2m funding has been made available via the All Wales Play Opportunities Grant, including an allocation to Ceredigion Council.
- **Play Wales** suggests that additional guidance could be produced to support Welsh Government funding to ensure that local voluntary organisations can *“receive the most effective benefit.”*
- Play Wales’ analysis of the implementation of the Play Sufficiency Duty appears largely positive. However, they note that progress is “largely due” to additional Welsh Government grants.
- The cost of officer time appears to be the most significant barrier to progressing actions within Play Sufficiency Action Plans. They also reference the closure of the Communities First programme and ongoing financial pressures on local authorities.

### Potential actions

- The Committee could consider whether or not it is likely that petition’s call for ring-fenced annual funding for play is likely to be successful. If not, there may be little further which can be achieved at this stage and therefore the Committee may wish to close the petition.

OR

- The Committee could write back to the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services to ask her to consider adding to guidance accompanying future grants to ensure that local voluntary organisations receive sufficient benefit from such funding.

#### **4.4 P-05-857 Create a National Task Force for Children's Mental Health**

This petition was submitted by The National Organisation for Children's Mental Health and was first considered in January 2019 having collected 91 signatures.



### **Text of Petition**

*We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to create a National Task Force to investigate which cultural, societal, and political factors may be contributing to the number of children in Wales experiencing poor mental health; and that this National Task Force:*

- 1) Include in its membership: children; representatives from organisations working with children; representatives from all political parties represented in the National Assembly for Wales; academics involved in researching social policy, political science, culture, society, and economics;*
- 2) Is chaired by the Children's Commissioner for Wales in post when this task force is created and that they should remain the Chair of the task force for its duration, should they agree to do so (regardless of whether they remain the Children's Commissioner for Wales for the duration of the life of the task force – except in exceptional circumstances);*
- 3) Should be tasked with producing a report based upon its investigations that includes recommendations for the Welsh Government based upon its findings;*
- 4) Should have all of its recommendations examined by the Welsh Government in consultation with this National Task Force, the National Assembly for Wales, and the residents of Wales (including children).*

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

### **Background**

- The Committee last considered the petition on 29 January and agreed to:
  - write back to the Minister for Health and Social Services to provide the additional comments received from the petitioners and to ask for his response, in particular to the observations and proposals made in relation to the role of the Ministerial Task and Finish Group;



- write to the Children, Young People and Education Committee to make them aware of the petition in the context of their ongoing work on this subject following the *Mind over Matter* report, and to ask for any reflections that the Committee has in relation to the role and scope of the Ministerial Task and Finish Group; and
- request a Research Brief on the existing requirements in relation to mental health plans for children and its effectiveness.
- Responses have been received from the Minister and the Chair of the CYPE Committee.
- A further research brief has been provided.
- The petitioner has also provided further comments.

### Points for discussion

- The **Minister's** letter contains more detail about the Joint Ministerial Task and Finish Group on the Whole School Approach. A detailed programme of work has been developed up to Spring 2021.
- It is supported by a stakeholder reference group and a youth stakeholder group.
- The Minister is "*assured the groups already in place will enable us to move this agenda forward at pace, knitting the various strands of activity together; highlighting gaps in provision; and ensuring energy and resources are targeted to have the maximum benefit.*"
- The **Chair of the CYPE Committee** has outlined the range of the Committee's work on this subject. She is an observer with full rights of participation on the Ministerial Task & Finish Group, and the Committee intends to follow up on the recommendations in the Mind Over Matter report in June 2019.
- The CYPE report covered all aspects of care and circumstances faced by children, and took detailed evidence from stakeholders. The Committee is "*confident that delivery of our recommendations would address the breadth of needs and services required to support our children and young people.*"
- The Minister has also referred to an update being provided imminently to the CYPE on Government activity in this area.
- The research brief provides an overview of some of the legislation and services in this area. It also refers back to the detailed





consideration of these matters recently carried out by the CYPE Committee.

#### Potential actions

- In light of the detailed work being carried out by the CYPE Committee into the mental health of children and young people, there may be little added value which can be provided by the Petitions Committee at this time. Therefore:
    - The Committee could agree to close the petition and ask the CYPE Committee to include the petitioners on their list of stakeholders and keep them informed about their ongoing work on this subject.
- OR
- The Committee could keep a watching brief on this subject for a set period of time and seek further views from the petitioners at a later date *[though the CYPE Committee has indicated that it will retain a focus on this subject-matter throughout the remainder of this Assembly]*.

## Environment

### 4.5 P-05-759 Re-open the Cwmcarn Forest Drive at Easter 2018

This petition was submitted by The Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive and was first considered in June 2017 having collected 1450 signatures.

#### Text of petition

*We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to provide the necessary means to allow Natural Resources Wales to fully re-open the Cwmcarn Forest Drive to private cars at Easter 2018.*

Additional information is available on the [website](#).

#### Assembly Constituency and Region

- Islwyn



- South Wales East

### **Background**

- The Committee last considered the petition on 17 April 2018 and agreed to maintain a watching brief on developments and request an update from the petitioners and Natural Resources Wales in six months' time.
- An update from the petitioner was received on 19 February.
- An update from Natural Resources Wales was received on 27 February.
- The petitioner has provided a further response following NRW's update.

### **Points for discussion**

- NRW advises that £1m funding has been allocated from within their budget for the work required to re-open the Forest Drive, with the aim of achieving this in Spring 2020.
- Recruitment for a Project Manager was underway at the time of their letter.
- The petitioner's latest comments indicate that he is satisfied with the commitments made by NRW and the planned timetable for completing works and reopening the Forest Drive. The petitioner has held direct discussions with NRW.

### **Potential actions**

- In light of the commitments made by NRW, the Committee may conclude that there is little which could be gained from further scrutiny at this time and could close the petition.

OR

- The Committee could continue to keep a watching brief on this issue and seek a further update in six months' time.



#### **4.6 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 and was first considered in February 2018, 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



### **Background**

- The Committee last considered the petition on 12 February and agreed to:
  - seek the views of the campaign group on the latest developments before considering whether it can take any further action on the petition; and
  - write to Natural Resources Wales to ask them to provide indicative timescales for undertaking the reassessment.
- A response from Natural Resources Wales was received on 13 March.
- The petitioner was informed that the petition would be discussed but has not provided further comments.

### **Points for discussion**

- NRW has confirmed that it is reconsidering the delivery options for Phase 3 as a stand-alone scheme. This may require a new business case that will need the approval of the Welsh Government.
- A stakeholder meeting is planned for late March or early April, and the current indicative timescale for completing a draft business case is November 2019.

### **Potential actions**

- The Committee could keep a watching brief on the issue and request an update in six months' time.

OR

- The petition calls on the work to be paused and consideration given to 'other viable options'. The Committee may therefore conclude that the petitioners have been successful on both counts and could consider it appropriate to close the petition at this point.



#### **4.7 P-05-815 Control Rapidly Expanding Intensive Poultry Industry in Wales**

This petition was submitted by the Brecon and Radnor Branch of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales and was first considered in June 2018, having collected 4,567 signatures.

##### **Text of Petition**

*We the undersigned call on the Welsh Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to take long-term strategic action to ensure that the poultry product industry is environmentally sustainable through effective delivery of the Environment (Wales) Act, Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, the Well-Being of Future Generations Act and the Water Framework Directive (WFD).*

*Powerful agricultural drivers reinforced by BREXIT are increasing intensive egg & poultry production. The WG is ignoring the devastating environmental consequences for biodiversity, soil and water quality and avian and human disease. The public is vocal about poultry welfare but largely ignorant of the environmental impact of intensive poultry farming units (IPUs). "Free-range" egg units with concentrations of up to 2,500 birds/Ha are a particular risk (NRW report 218: Powys Poultry Pilot Study & INI nitrogen alerts 6/17).*

*Steep-sided valleys, high rainfall causing heavy nutrient run-off and populations of rare natural species make much of rural Wales wholly unsuitable for the current explosion of IPUs. After a decline from 1990, ammonia emissions have been increasing since 2010 (NAEI 2017 report for DEFRA). Critical loads of ammonia and nitrogen deposition (estimated thresholds for unacceptable damage to plant diversity) are far exceeded at some European & UK protected sites, Local Nature Reserves and Ancient Woodland. Excess phosphates threaten our watercourses (Wye & Usk Foundation 2017).*

*In failing to act on the evidence, WG, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Powys County Council (PCC) are neglecting the duty to "maintain and enhance biodiversity" (Environment Act Sec 6).*



*The WG must use its powers to control the industry:*

- *Provide proper resources for NRW to do urgent research, regulate and monitor IPU's and give better planning help to Local Planning Authorities (LPAs).*
- *Issue planning policy and guidance to LPAs to improve decisions, ensure cumulative impacts are considered and monitor and enforce planning conditions.*
- *Make the industry contribute towards the costs of regulation and monitoring and hold it to account for breach of environmental responsibility.*
- *Publish transparent public reports on progress.*

**Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Brecon and Radnorshire
- Mid and West Wales

**Background**

- The Committee last considered the petition on 29 January and agreed to:
  - write back to the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs to ask for:
    - further details of the work being taken forward on the cumulative impact of new development on sensitive habitats during 2019;
    - information over the stakeholders who will be engaged in this; and
    - a response to the request that the petitioners are invited to participate as part of this work.
  - write to the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee to share the evidence received to date in light of that Committee's current inquiry into Biodiversity;
  - provide the petitioner's analysis and the views expressed by Natural Resources Wales in their previous correspondence with committee members.
- A response from the Minister was received on 7 March.
- The petitioners have also provided further comments.



**Points for discussion:**

- The Chief Planner wrote to Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) last year and invited them to take part in work to consider how environmental impact can be better assessed. Several, including Powys County Council, will be involved in work going forward.
- A working group with a range of stakeholders is also being established and the evidence provided by the petitioners will be considered as part of this.
- The overall intention is to publish a new guidance note by the end of the year.
- The **petitioners** express a number of concerns over the make-up of the working group, including an apparent lack of environmental organisations or scientific representation.
- They are calling for measures to be taken to oblige LPAs to improve their consideration of these issues.

**Potential actions:**

- The Committee could write back to the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs to:
  - ask for a list of the membership of the working group and confirmation of its title and final terms of reference;
  - propose that the group's membership should include representation from environmental organisations and/or independent scientist(s); and
  - for further information about the interaction between this strand of work and the Intensive Agriculture Health Working Group.

**4.8 P-05-825 Protect children's lungs from harmful pollution whilst at school**

This petition was submitted by British Lung Foundation Cymru and was first considered in July 2018, having collected 159 signatures.



### **Text of Petition**

*People in towns and cities across Wales are breathing in levels of air pollution that are illegal and harmful for their health. Children are among those most vulnerable to air pollution. Their lungs are still growing, and polluted air can stunt the growth of their lungs and increase the likelihood of asthma and other health problems later on in life.*

*A freedom of information request by the BLF to local authorities in 2017 found that 68% of respondents (15 out of 22) were not monitoring air pollution within 10 metres of any of their schools.*

*We, the undersigned, call on the Welsh Government to require all Local Authorities to monitor the quality of the air children breathe whilst at school so decision-makers have the information they need to take action on air pollution.*

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Cardiff South and Penarth
- South Wales Central

### **Background**

- The Committee last considered the petition on 15 January and agreed to:
  - write to the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs to seek a response to the suggestion that powers over anti-idling zones should be devolved to local authorities, and the concerns raised that local authorities have insufficient resources to carry out adequate monitoring and improvement of local air quality; and
  - write to the Future Generations Commissioner to seek her views on the issues raised by the petition and ask what powers she has in relation to addressing the effects of air pollution on children.
- A response was received from the Minister on 14 February.
- A joint response from the Future Generations Commissioner and the Children's Commissioner for Wales was received on 12 March.





- The petitioners have also provided further comments.

**Points for discussion:**

- The **Minister** reiterates that local authorities have duties to review, report and take action to improve air quality. In response to the petitioners' concerns over resources, the Minister refers to their core funding and other sources of revenue.
- Local authorities have powers to enforce anti-idling and issue fixed penalty notices, either in the whole of their area or in certain zones.
- The Minister reiterates that the Government will consult on a Clear Air Plan for Wales later this year. She states that anti-idling zones and existing regulations will form part of this.
- The **Future Generations Commissioner and Children's Commissioner** state that they do not *currently* have legal powers to enforce policy or legislation around air quality. However, if air quality assessments (near schools or elsewhere) became a requirement for local authorities, the Children's Commissioner could review the exercise of those functions.
- The FG Commissioner is focusing on transport as one of six priority areas, including air quality.
- The Commissioners support the petition in raising the importance of air quality around schools and urge the Committee to act in this regard. They suggest that the Committee could take further evidence from Natural Resources Wales, Public Health Wales and the Health & Safety Executive.
- The **petitioners** reiterate that belief *"that Welsh Government should adopt a proactive health-focussed approach to monitoring, recognising that there is no safe level of pollution."* They want increased monitoring to lead to better informed, ambitious measures such as Clean Air Zones.

**Potential actions:**

- The Committee could write to other groups such as NRW, Public Health Wales and the Health & Safety Executive to seek their views on the petition, as suggested by the Future Generations and Children's Commissioners.

OR



- If the Committee wished to explore the issue of air quality around schools further, in advance of the Government's Clean Air Plan for Wales, it could consider taking further evidence on the petition after the Easter recess.

The following three items are grouped together for consideration

**4.9 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 the 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 aluminum 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

**4.10 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 the Friends of Barry Beaches and was first considered by the Committee in March 2018, having collected 102 signatures.

**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.*

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

- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

#### **4.11 P-05-829 Ban Single Use Plastic Items in Wales**

This petition was submitted by Ban Plastic Straws Wales and was first considered in September 2018, having collected 161 signatures.

#### **Text of Petition**

*We call on the Welsh Assembly to ban all single use plastic items within Wales; It is estimated that the UK and US alone throw away around 550 million plastic straws every day. Although each one is used for an average of just 20 minutes, they take centuries to break down. During a clean-up organised by the Marine Conservation Society last year, an average of 138 pieces of food and drink-related waste were found on every 100m of UK beaches.*

*This needs to stop and the environment needs to become a priority.*

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

- Montgomeryshire
- Mid and West Wales

#### **Background**

- The Committee previously considered the three petitions in summer and autumn 2019 and agreed to group the petitions for consideration in future and keep a watching brief on developments in Wales and the UK in relation to single use plastics.
- A [Ministerial Statement was published on 18 February](#) about single use plastics and a deposit return scheme.
- All three petitioners were invited to submit further information in relation to this. Comments have been received from the petitioners for P-05-750.



#### Points for discussion:

- The Minister's statement refers to three relevant joint consultations being held by Defra and the Welsh Government in relation to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) and a proposed tax on the production and import of plastic packaging.
- All consultations run until mid-May 2019.
- On 27 March 2019 the European Parliament [approved a new law](#) banning single-use plastic items such as plates, cutlery, straws and cotton buds sticks by 2021.

#### Potential actions:

- The Committee could agree to await the outcome of the relevant joint consultations between the UK and Welsh Governments before considering whether it should take further action on the petitions.

## Education

### 4.12 P-05-862 Tackling school bullying

This petition was submitted by the BlowforBradley Campaign and was first considered in February 2019, having collected 1,463 signatures.

#### Text of Petition

*We believe that bullying in schools is often ignored and the issue is not confronted in too many cases. Schools are required to have an anti bullying policy but too often this is merely a paperwork statement which is not acted upon.*

*We want the Welsh Assembly to produce a standard bullying framework which is enforceable by law. The after effects of school bullying often affects victims throughout their lives therefore changes are required as the current system is a failure. Schools often fail to record bullying incidents as such for fear of damaging their reputation and victims who speak out often find themselves punished themselves, harming their self esteem even more.*



*We insist that bullying is recorded and acted upon as such with better recording, cctv, reporting, compulsory parental interaction.*

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Llanelli
- Mid and West Wales

### **Background**

- The Committee last considered the petition on 12 February and agreed to write to the Minister for Education to:
  - provide the further comments received from the petitioner;
  - ask her to provide an assessment of the sufficiency of current legal duties in relation to preventing and tackling bullying in school; and
  - ask further information about when the outcome of the public consultation on anti-bullying guidance will be available.
- A response from the Minister was received on 12 March.
- The petitioner has provided further comments.

### **Points for discussion**

- The **Minister** mentions a recent meeting she has held with the petitioner, and a further meeting between the petitioner and officials.
- The Minister also sets out current legal duties, including for all schools have a school behaviour policy and that *“effective anti-bullying strategies should be central to that behaviour policy”*.
- The draft anti-bullying guidance, which was recently subject to consultation, also *“highlights that some types of bullying behaviour that constitute harassment or threatening behaviour or communication may in fact be a criminal offence.”*
- The Minister is not currently able to confirm the timescale for publishing the new guidance.
- The **petitioner** welcomes the current work in this area. However, he reiterates the petition’s demand for a standard anti-bullying framework across Wales which is legally binding. He believes that



such a framework should contain legal requirements to “*record, educate, support and deal with escalating issues*”.

- The Minister has previously stated that the Welsh Government’s approach focuses on prevention.

#### **Potential actions**

- In light of the work currently underway in relation to revising the Welsh Government’s anti-bullying guidance, and the recent consultation, the Committee could agree to await the publication of this before considering the petition again.

OR

- The Committee could write back to the Minister for Education to request a response to the specific proposal made by the petitioner for a Wales-wide anti-bullying framework, containing strengthened legal requirements for schools.

## **Economy and Transport**

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

This petition was submitted by Llangenny Village residents and was first considered by the Committee in January 2018, having collected 72 signatures.

#### **Text of Petition**

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

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

- Brecon and Radnorshire
- Mid and West Wales

#### **Background**

- The Committee last considered the petition on 29 January and agreed to write to the Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport



to ask him to provide the Committee with an update about coverage for premises in Llangenny under the successor programme to Superfast Cymru, and an indicative timeline for its connection to high speed broadband.

- A response from the Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport was received on 20 March.
- The petitioner has also provided further comments.

#### **Points for discussion**

- The **Deputy Minister's** letter states that postcodes in Llangenny are *“not scheduled to be connected under the successor programme. Openreach has determined which premises they can cover under this project based on multiple factors including value for public money, deliverable broadband speeds and delivery timeframes.”*
- The Deputy Minister outlines a range of alternative options which could be pursued by the residents of Llangenny.
- The petitioner expresses frustration with the different approach for Llangenny compared with other local villages. However, he also thanks the Committee for its efforts and indicates that he doesn't think that the Committee is able to progress this matter further.

#### **Potential actions**

- As indicated by the petitioner, the Committee may conclude that, regrettably, it does not seem possible to make further progress in relation to broadband connections to Llangenny at this time. The Committee could therefore close the petition.

## **5. Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public for the remainder of the meeting (10:30)**





## 6. Discussion of previous evidence session

Members may wish to discuss the evidence received during the earlier evidence session and agree any further action that it wishes to take on petition P-05-805 Fair Deal For Supply Teachers.

### End of the meeting

- The Committee's next meeting will be held on 7 May following the Easter recess.

# Agenda Item 2

## P-05-805 Fair Deal For Supply Teachers

This petition was submitted by Sheila Jones and was first considered by the Committee in May 2018, having collected 1,425 signatures (997 online and 428 on paper).

### Text of Petition

*We, the undersigned, request that all supply teachers be paid fairly and have full access to training opportunities and other terms and conditions. There should be a qualified teacher in every classroom and taxpayers' money should be going directly into education and not into the pockets of private agencies.*

*Supply teachers are being exploited and teachers are leaving the profession as they cannot afford to be supply teachers.*

*Agencies reduce teachers' pay by forty to sixty percent and teachers lose their pensions, this is public money going into the private sector for profit. Lessons are being covered by unqualified staff.*

### Assembly Constituency and Region

- Caerphilly
- South Wales East

Document is Restricted

# Agenda Item 3.1

## **P-05-868 – Water Safety/Drowning Prevention and the effects of Cold Water Shock to be taught in all Schools in Wales**

This petition was submitted by Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership having collected 394 signatures online and 502 on paper – a total of 896 signatures.

### **Text of Petition**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to include – Water Safety/Drowning Prevention and the effects of cold-water shock to be taught on the national curriculum in Wales.

In 2016 we saw the launch of the first ever water safety strategy in the UK, which aims to reduce water related fatalities by 50% by 2026. Collaboration, awareness, education and prevention are the main focuses. Wales needs to respond in support.

The families of Cameron Comey, Luke Somerfield, Kieran Bennett-Leefe, Robert Mansfield and Jem Pendragon all support this petition in memory of their sons lost to water.

### **Additional Information**

Several hundred adults and children drown accidentally every year in the UK & Ireland, and Wales – having a considerable number of rivers, lakes and a wild coastline is not immune. Education and prevention are key to safeguarding our communities from needless drowning.

This petition also has its aims focused on healthy, educated interactions with our many open waterways in Wales, by promoting events nationally and locally where young people and the public can access organized events where they engage with social, active and safe events with clubs/organisations concerned with water based activities.

We also recognise that local authority cuts to swimming accessibility for all pupils (through central government pressures) and a new Welsh Baccalaureate on water safety is too wide a gap to ensure a consistent

education message for all. Wales has three broad strategies (our Healthy future, Building a brighter future and Well-being of Future Generations) and have links to injury prevention and, therefore, to reducing drowning.

This petition is supported by many partners including; five families of young men lost to drowning in West Wales, Ferryside Inshore Lifeboat, Jonathan Edwards MP, South Wales Fire & Rescue Service, Rebecca Ramsey (campaigner for England water safety education), All Wales Water Safety Group, Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Simon Hart MP, Carmarthen Town Council, The Coracle & Netsmans Association, Gwendraeth Valley Paddlers Canoe Club, Ammanford Police Station, Carmarthen Boat Club, Brecon Mountain Rescue Team, Llansteffan Coastguard, Angela Burns AM, Carmarthen Bay Ferries, Llandysul Paddlers Canoe Centre, to name a few.

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

- Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
- Mid and West Wales

## Water safety/drowning prevention

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 19 Mawrth 2019

Petitions Committee | 19 March 2019

### Research Briefing:

Petition number: P-05-868

Petition title: Water Safety/Drowning Prevention and the effects of Cold Water Shock to be taught in all Schools in Wales

Text of petition: We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to include – Water Safety/Drowning Prevention and the effects of cold-water shock to be taught on the national curriculum in Wales.

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## 1. Current curriculum

In her letter to the Committee, the Minister for Education sets out the current place of water safety within the current, both in physical education under the ‘adventurous activities’ strand and through Personal and Social Education through learning about personal safety through the theme of health and emotional wellbeing. She also states that there are opportunities within the Welsh Bacalaureate relating to health and wellbeing.

## 2. New Curriculum for Wales (to be introduced from September 2022)

The Welsh Government, working with the education profession, is developing a new curriculum following Professor Graham Donaldson’s independent review of curriculum and assessment arrangements and his subsequent report, [Successful Futures](#) (February 2015).

The Welsh Government has adopted the **four purposes** of the new curriculum as recommended by Professor Donaldson. They are that all children and young people completing their schooling will be:

- Ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives.
- Enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work.
- Ethical, informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.
- Healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

The Welsh Government has also adopted the **six Areas of Learning and Experience** recommended by Professor Donaldson:

- Expressive Arts
- **Health and Well-being**
- Humanities
- Languages, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Science and Technology

The statutory introduction of the new curriculum will be in September 2022. The new curriculum will initially only be introduced in primary schools and Year 7 in September 2022, before rolling into year 8 for 2023, year 9 in 2024, and so on as the cohort moves through.

Before its statutory introduction, the new curriculum will be available for schools to feed-back, test and refine **from April 2019**, before a final version is published for school to access from January 2020. Further information on the process can be found in [this blog article](#).

Pioneer schools are collaborating with the Welsh Government, regional education consortia and experts and advisers through six Working Groups – one for each of the new Areas of Learning and Experience. These groups have produced **‘What Matters?’ statements** setting out

the latest thinking on curriculum content and key topics. The latest published draft versions of these were in [May 2018](#).

In her letter, the Minister states that the What Matters? statement of the Health and Wellbeing AoLE (not yet published) will support the delivery of swimming by specifying that learners need to experience opportunities to be physically active in a variety of environments, including around water, and need to be able to take decisions in a variety of situations and environments. However, she also notes that the new curriculum does not provide a ‘comprehensive list of detailed content’ and that it must allow professionals flexibility to choose the specific content that meets the needs of their learners.

### 3. Assembly activity

As part of their ongoing scrutiny of the Welsh Government’s curriculum reforms, the Children, Young People and Education Committee took evidence from [the Minister for Education on 10 January 2019](#). Prior to this the Committee sought the views of stakeholders on progress of the new curriculum. The [response from Sport Wales](#) said that while they were pleased with progress in the curriculum overall, they had some ‘minor concerns’ with ‘the prominence of physical activity and sport across the health and well-being AoLE and the prominence of water safety and swimming as life skills’ and:

there are concerns over the profile of Swimming from the perspective of Water safety in the current draft version [of the What Matters? statement].

When questioned on this, the Minister said:

With regard to swimming, there is reference to swimming and water safety, so there is nothing to preclude schools from pursuing swimming as a physical activity within the curriculum. So, I would argue that that is there.

Her official went on to explain:

The health and well-being AoLE will mean that learners need to be able to be physically active in and around water—so, swimming—as part of being physically active, and to be able to make safe decisions around situations in environments, including water. So, it is there.

I think the thing that we'll probably need to look at again is the guidance that goes with it and interpreting that, but, again, this is something we'll keep in touch with Sport Wales on. Sport Wales have been really close to this process and have been really close to us developing that AoLE, so it is something we'll look at with them. But, I think our view, and the view of the AoLE, is that it's there. It might be that, actually, when we come out we'll need to be clearer in terms of the supporting information that goes with it.

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-05-868  
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05326/19

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

15 February 2019

Dear David John Rowlands AM,

Thank you for your letter dated 8 February in relation to petition P-05-868 "Water Safety, Drowning Prevention and the effects of Cold Water Shock to be taught in all Schools in Wales".

Giving our children and young people the knowledge and skills they need to keep safe and well is an essential part of preparing them for life and supporting their health and well-being. It is also important that they are able to keep themselves safe in a range of physical and social environments, including in and around water.

Physical education is a compulsory part of the current curriculum for learners at Key Stage 2 (age 7-11), Key Stage 3 (age 11-14) and Key Stage 4 (age 14-16). The programme of study gives learners the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities, organised into 4 strands. One of these strands is "adventurous activities".

Through the adventurous activities strand, learners develop the skills needed to swim, be safe and feel confident in water. At Key Stage 2, this means that learners should be taught to "develop skills of water safety and personal survival" and to "swim unaided for a sustained period of time".

There are also opportunities for schools to engage with learning regarding personal safety within the personal and social education (PSE). PSE forms part of the basic curriculum for all registered pupils in maintained schools. Within the non-statutory framework for PSE, there are 5 themes, one of which is "health and emotional wellbeing".

Through the "health and emotional wellbeing" theme, learners are supported to develop an understanding of the need to exercise responsibility for personal and group safety in social settings.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

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

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

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

As mentioned in your letter, the Welsh Baccalaureate also provides learners at Key Stage 4, with opportunities to engage with challenges that support their health and well-being. In April 2017 I attended the launch of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service's Open Water Community Challenge for the Welsh Baccalaureate. This challenge develops learners' knowledge of the risks associated with open water, such as quarry lakes, reservoirs, canals and rivers; with the aim that they share that knowledge with others in their school and community.

Within the new curriculum for Wales, one of the four purposes of the new curriculum is to support children and young people to become healthy confident individuals who know how to find the information and support to keep safe and well. The four purposes will be at the heart of the new curriculum and are a starting point for all decisions on the development of the new curriculum and assessment arrangements.

The new curriculum is structured around 6 Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLE), which includes Health and Well-being. Within each AoLE are "what matters statements", these support practitioners to identify knowledge, skills and experiences that are important to a learner's understanding of the AoLE and achieving the four purposes.

As the pioneer schools developed the "what matters" statements for Health and Wellbeing AoLE, careful consideration was given to how the new curriculum could support schools to provide swimming, as part of a holistic approach to physical, mental and emotional well-being. In the case of swimming, it was recognised that its importance went beyond being a mode of physical activity; in that it provides an important element of keeping learners safe. As such, "what matters" statements within the Health and Wellbeing AoLE support the delivery of swimming by specifying that learners need to experience opportunities to be physically active in a variety of environments, including around water, and need to be able to make safe decisions in a variety of situations and environments.

Pioneer schools have worked with a range of experts in the development of the Health and Well-being AoLE, including Sport Wales, higher education institutions and Public Health Wales.

*Successful Futures* has challenged us to re-think our approach to the curriculum. It makes it clear that a high degree of prescription and detail at a national level inhibits "the flow and progression in children and young people's learning". As such, we need to ensure that the new curriculum does not provide a comprehensive list of detailed content which would quickly become complicated and overcrowded. The curriculum must allow professionals the flexibility to choose the specific content which meets the needs of their learners and reflects their local contexts. Throughout the process we have been working with practitioners to ensure the right balance between flexibility at school level and clarity at national level.

The new curriculum for Wales will be made available for feedback in April 2019. It will then be phased in from September 2022, starting with nursery through to Year 7 and will roll out year-on-year until 2026.

Yours sincerely



**Kirsty Williams AM**  
Minister for Education



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

Date: 22/3/19.

Dear David John Rowlands,

Thank you to your committee and team for the support afforded us regarding the **petition P-05-868 entitled 'Water Safety, drowning prevention and the effects of cold-water shock to be taught in all schools in Wales.'**

As an independent water safety and drowning prevention charity in Wales, the five families we support all wanted to submit this petition (in line with another family in England) increasing awareness around the dangers of open water. In Wales we are never more than a mile away from a body of open water, the cold-water threshold is considered 12 degrees or below and this is standard in Wales for most of the year.

While the final total of this welsh water safety petition is not as high as we would have liked, we are proud to have provided a marker as to record where Wales as a nation is in regards delivering on the World Health Organization's recommendations that every country should have a water safety plan and how Welsh Government and it's statutory partners are fulfilling their responsibilities in achieving this on all levels.

In the charity's and families experience over the last four years (since Cameron Comey was swept away from Carmarthen in a tidal river and was never recovered.) there is not a cohesive plan for the delivery of effective drowning prevention at this time. It is our hope that the new Water Safety Wales group set up by South Wales Fire & Rescue Service and other organizations, will drive this agenda forward – like the Water Safety Scotland group which is years ahead of Wales in its structure, interventions and activity.

In 2015 a review was published by Public Health Wales - [www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/84337](http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/84337)



where they reviewed patterns, causes and trends of child deaths in Wales (under 18, after October 2009) or where the child resided or died in Wales. Several recommendations were made and we are of the opinion that more work needs to be done before organizations like RoSPA, Water Safety Wales, the Royal Life Saving Society and others can deliver a cohesive Water Safety Plan for Wales in partnership with all who have an interest in drowning prevention work in Wales. The recommendations are below, and I would urge Welsh Government to ensure all are met.

- Organizations in Wales should have common messages on water safety, appropriate to the setting
- There are interventions that may encourage safer swimming or prevent unintended contact with water, like self-latching gates around pools
- Education on how pool-based lessons relate to open water could be included in Welsh Government efforts to ensure every child in Wales is able to swim
- Planning is needed in Wales to take forward the UK national drowning prevention strategy (2016–2026) goal of producing publicly available community-level risk assessment and water safety plans
- Holidaymakers at home and abroad could be encouraged to be more aware of water safety, supported by the tourist industry routinely providing advice and guidance on water safety
- There are opportunities to improve sharing of data, and to look at how information is communicated to support prevention, including reports by coroners
- Appropriate support for those involved in drowning events in Wales is important.

With all the austerity cuts implemented in Wales over the last 8 years or so, there is a real and enduring paucity of drowning prevention work where we see community councils, PCSO's, schools, town and county councils struggling to deliver community safety interventions and seeking support from our charity as the awareness of drowning prevention or funding is non-existent as far as they are aware. The activity we have delivered to date has spawned wider interventions and we have indeed worked with Welsh Government to deliver a new Emergency Services Slipway at Abergwili in the Towy Valley.

Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership will continue to deliver a range of interventions to maintain a voice for families who have lost their children and young men to drowning, offer financial and emotional support to anyone effected by loss, raising awareness of mental health and water related self-harm, the unwanted, repeated and consequence free vandalism of public rescue equipment in Wales, community interventions to maintain (with local councils) a dynamic water safety presence in South West Wales, community events to deliver water safety messages to all in attendance (Carmarthen River Festival) and partnership work with organizations to deliver a range of campaigns in our communities.



Kind regards,

Adam Whitehouse

Chair

Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership

# Agenda Item 3.2

## **P-05-870 – Let’s Get Every Young Heart Screened (Age 10-35)**

This petition was submitted by Sharon Owen having collected a total of 3,444 signatures.

### **Text of Petition**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to ask the Welsh Government to roll out a heart screening programme to all young people between 10 and 35 in Wales. Hundreds die each year in Wales from an undiagnosed heart condition and a simple ECG will identify most cardiac abnormalities so that conditions can be managed effectively.

Heart screening sessions involve a short 5-10-minute test which is quick and painless and able to detect most heart abnormalities and could save hundreds of lives in Wales. In the Veneto region of Italy, where heart screening programme has been undertaken for 25 years the number of young athletes, male and female, dying of sudden cardiac arrest fell from one in 28,000 each year to one in 250,000, according to a 2006 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

### **Additional Information**

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

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

## Briefing for the Petitions Committee

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 2 Ebrill 2019

Petitions Committee | 2 April 2019

**Petition number:** P-05-870

**Petition title:** Let's Get Every Young Heart Screened (Age 10-35)

**Text of petition:** We call on the National Assembly for Wales to ask the Welsh Government to roll out a heart screening to all young people between 10 and 35 in Wales. Hundreds die each year in Wales from an undiagnosed heart condition and a simple ECG will identify most cardiac abnormalities so that conditions can be managed effectively.

**Additional information:**

Heart screening sessions involve a short 5-10-minute test which is quick and painless and able to detect most heart abnormalities and could save hundreds of lives in Wales. In the Veneto region of Italy, where heart screening programme has been undertaken for 25 years the number of young athletes, male and female, dying of sudden cardiac arrest fell from one in 28,000 each year to one in 250,000, according to a 2006 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

### Background

The charity Cardiac Risk in the Young's (CRY) [website](#) states that every week in the UK at least [12 young people](#) die of undiagnosed heart conditions and in 80 per cent of cases of young sudden cardiac death (YSCD) there are no prior symptoms of a heart defect. It goes on to say that the frequency of YSCD can be 'dramatically reduced' by making heart screening available to all young people between the ages of 14 and 35. The aim of a screening programme is to detect an underlying cardiac condition. Conditions which if undetected can lead to sudden cardiac death are listed on the CRY [website](#).

CRY has carried out sessions across Wales testing young people for previously undiagnosed heart conditions. The [Welsh Hearts](#) charity also offers heart screening sessions for everyone aged 8 to 45. The Welsh Hearts website states that private heart screenings can cost around [£300](#) per person but due to donations from Welsh Hearts' supporters, individuals will only pay £65 for its screenings (as at March 2019).

The Welsh Hearts [website](#) explains why the screening it offers is limited to 8 to 45 year olds. 8 is the minimum age as the heart is still developing at this age and it is important to ensure an accurate reading is produced. The over-45's age group is most vulnerable to heart conditions that can cause a cardiac arrest and these conditions can be picked up by the screening. However, people over the age of 45 are more likely to suffer from conditions which cannot be detected by a heart screening, such as a heart attack. This means that a heart screening could come back completely normal for some heart conditions, but it unfortunately cannot rule out the possibility of a heart attack.

The Welsh Government published its [Heart Conditions Delivery Plan](#) in January 2017. The Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport made a statement on the Delivery Plan in Plenary on [7 February 2017](#). The issue of developing appropriate population-level screening for certain heart conditions was raised in response to this statement and at that point in time, the Cabinet Secretary was not aware of a sensible approach to population screening in this particular area.

## Correspondence on the petition

In correspondence to the Committee dated 6 March 2019, the Minister for Health and Social Services states the following in relation to the petition:

Population screening programmes generally can save lives through early risk identification but can also do harm by identifying risk factors that would never otherwise develop into a serious condition or complication. Screening programmes may have false negative results, so do not guarantee protection. Receiving a low risk result does not prevent the person from developing the condition at a later date. Population screening programmes should only be offered where there is robust, high-quality evidence that screening will do more good than harm.

The UK National Screening Committee (UKNSC) advises Ministers in the four UK countries about all aspects of population screening, and screening to prevent Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD) in 12 to 39 year olds has been considered by the UKNSC and is not recommended. The UKNSC concluded the harms of screening for SCD currently outweigh the benefits. Further information on this conclusion is set out in the Minister's letter, along with a link to the UKNSC review and recommendation.

The Welsh Government has said it will continue to monitor developments in this area of public health and if further evidence suggests screening is beneficial it will be given the appropriate consideration.

The Minister also states that although whole-population screening is not beneficial, families of individuals with SCD should be offered individual clinical assessments to assess their risk. This is 'cascade' casefinding in a higher-risk population rather than whole-population asymptomatic screening.



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.



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/05540/19

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

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

6 March 2019

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 14 February regarding Petition P-05-870 Let's Get Every Young Heart Screened (Age 10-35) to roll out a heart screening programme to people between the ages of 10 and 35 in Wales.

Population screening programmes generally can save lives through early risk identification but can also do harm by identifying risk factors that would never otherwise develop into a serious condition or complication. Screening programmes may have false negative results, so do not guarantee protection. Receiving a low risk result does not prevent the person from developing the condition at a later date. Population screening programmes should only be offered where there is robust, high-quality evidence that screening will do more good than harm.

The UK National Screening Committee (UKNSC) advises Ministers in the four UK countries about all aspects of population screening. It brings academic rigour and authority to what is an extremely complex area and is a world leader in its field. Screening to prevent Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD) in 12 to 39 year olds has been considered by the UKNSC and is not recommended.

The UKNSC concluded the harms of screening for SCD currently outweigh the benefits. There are uncertainties about the overall benefits of identifying people with risk factors, current tests are not reliable enough (many people would be missed and provided with false reassurance, and many would be given false positive results) and there is currently no agreed treatment for someone who has been identified at risk. If a person is incorrectly identified as being at risk, they may become anxious about their physical activity and stop exercising regularly, which could have a negative effect on their overall health. The evidence has been comprehensively reviewed and below is a link to the UKNSC review and recommendation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/screening-for-risk-of-sudden-cardiac-death-not-recommended>

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

[Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales)

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

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.

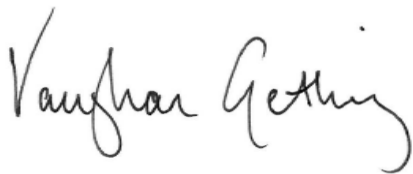
The UK NSC keeps all its policy positions under regular review. The Welsh Government will continue to monitor developments in this area of public health. If further evidence suggests screening is beneficial it will be given the appropriate consideration.

I fully support the need to address preventable causes of SCD; however, here too there is a balance to strike in the provision of health information to the public to ensure proportionality and accessibility in the messages being provided, without creating unnecessary anxiety. At a population level, it is beneficial for young people not to be discouraged from cardiovascular exercise – the benefits of which are well established.

Although whole-population screening is not beneficial, families of individuals with SCD should be offered individual clinical assessments to assess their risk. This is 'cascade' case-finding in a higher-risk population rather than whole-population asymptomatic screening. Additionally, young people who have symptoms or concerns, particularly if they are very physically active, should speak to their GP who will be able to advise them as appropriate.

The Welsh Government supports a range of NHS national screening programmes across Wales. For these programmes the NHS offers a complete service, not just a test – making sure people understand why they have been offered screening, what the outcomes might be, if there are any downsides and what their options are for each outcome. Most importantly we make sure that any care or treatment people may need is in place.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

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

27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Cover Letter

Heart screening saves lives and surely if there is a simple, pain free, easy to administer, time efficient, cost efficient method of diagnosing heart issues (on a sliding scale), preventing deaths or being able to treat sufferers sooner, this can only be a Win/Win.

The cost of a heart screening for a young person (charged by Welsh Hearts) is £65/person. Comparing this small fee to critical care for someone who has been previously undiagnosed but then needs all possible resources from the NHS, the route to take is clear.

We urge you to consider the evidence presented and move towards recommendation of this petition, for the rolling out of heart screening in young people across Wales.

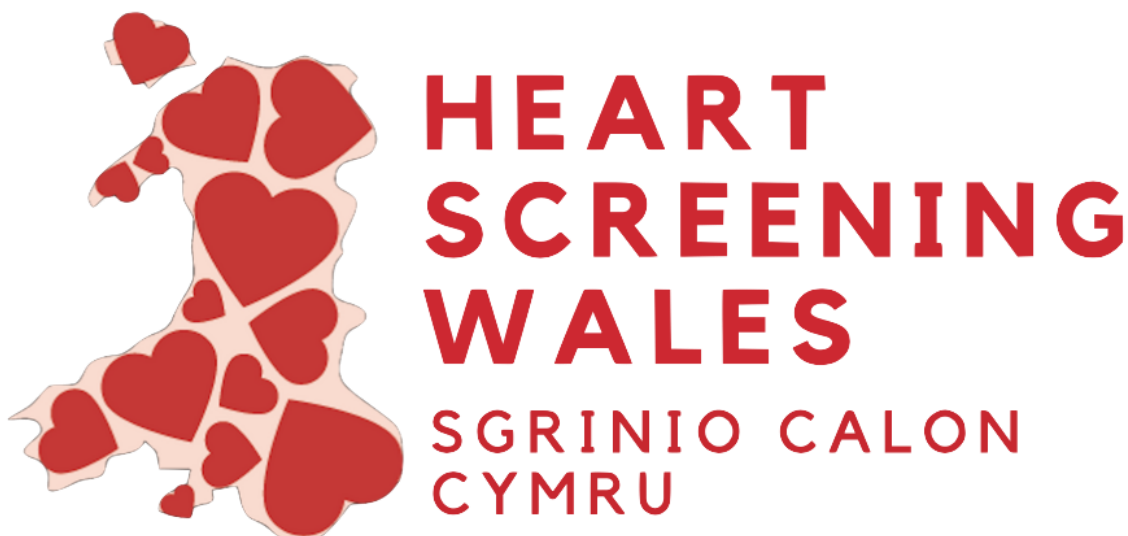
THANK YOU

**PETITION No. P-05-870**

**LET'S GET EVERY YOUNG HEART SCREENED (age 10 -35)**

To roll out a heart screening programme to people between the ages of 10 – 35 years in Wales

**SUPPORTIVE EVIDENCE** submitted by Welsh Hearts



### **Heart screening saves lives**

Identifying risk factors can only be a good thing, for those that are found to have any kind of problem. It may be that a follow up trip to the GP can deal with the matter, some may not need immediate treatment but will have regular checkups to be monitored, but for those that need further investigation they can be treated as necessary, with some cases being very serious, potentially threatening. Heart screening saves lives.

The fact that some issues may never develop into severe conditions is not a worthy reasoning for not doing screening for the masses. People die from undiagnosed heart conditions. It is a tragic fact that 12 young people a week die of undiagnosed heart problems.

Heart screening can identify a number of heart issues. The sooner a major problem is identified, the better chance the patient has. Many diagnosed heart patients do not die, but do have severe health problems, limited lifestyles, take significant quantities of medication and have many hospital appointments, admissions and surgeries. For many, the earlier diagnosis, means far less time in hospital care, far less limiting of their lifestyle and few deaths because it has been found before getting worse.

Vaughan Gething's letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019, states 'there are uncertainties about the overall benefits of identifying people with risk factors' – the 'benefits' are, that lives are saved.

When any abnormality is identified during screening, it needs to be looked at further.

Mr Gething also stating that if someone is wrongly identified, which is a negligible number, it can cause anxiety, but, their concerns can be easily alleviated by their GP or at the hospital and from all the people we at Welsh Hearts have spoken to, they all say they would prefer to know, so the issue can be dealt with.

For Mr Gethin to say a person might become 'anxious about their physical activity and stop exercising regularly, which could have a negative effect on their overall health', is not the case. Quite the opposite in fact. People who are flagged as having a potential problem, who are then told they are one of the lucky ones and do not need treatment, are elated and go out and live life to the full.

Welsh Hearts carry out screening at schools across Wales and for every school attended, at least one child has been identified as having some kind of heart issue. This may be something which has not even needed treatment, but it may have be something serious. Heart screening saves lives.

We at Welsh Hearts have firsthand knowledge and experience of undiagnosed heart issues, along with contacts who have severe heart defects and also, tragically we speak to families who have lost youngsters from undiagnosed heart issues.

Welsh Hearts have screened over 3000 young hearts since 2015, with hundreds being referred into further investigation.

Welsh Hearts have picked up some very serious heart conditions, such as Brugada, hole in the heart and cardiomyopathy.

At a recent screening at The Principality Stadium, 104 people were screened, with 3 serious heart conditions picked up.

There are 8000 cardiac arrests outside hospital in Wales, every year with only a 3% survival rate.

Hundreds of people die each year from undiagnosed heart conditions.

Population of Wales: 3.2 million people (from statswales)  
Population proposed for screening (10-35): approx. 30% population  
(from statswales) = 969k people

Most common cause of hereditary cardiomyopathy is Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM) - prevalence approx. 0.1-0.2% = 2000 people in Wales

Other screening programs (info from CRY) have an abnormality pick-up of 1% (includes other hereditary cardiomyopathies, structural cardiac disease, and premature acquired cardiac disease) = 9.7k people

Most of these cardiac conditions are either associated with premature death or morbidity and furthermore if detected early by a screening program intervention will substantially reduce mortality and morbidity. Given that these conditions affect the young there is the potential for a lifetime of loss of earnings and tax for inland revenue, together with the potential for a lifetime of social care and healthcare costs. If identified early these individuals are also less likely to burden A&E and already overstretched unscheduled care services.

Also shouldn't ignore the importance of a normal screen for the 'worried well'. A normal screen for these people gives them confidence to continue to lead a full and active life and not be afraid to exercise.

Competitive sport: The European Society of Cardiology recommend, that all children over 12 years old and all adults undertaking competitive sport should undergo sports cardiology screening every 2 years. Competitive sport is defined as any sport that involves competition or regular training (European Heart Journal (2005) 26, 516–524). Wales has a heritage of supporting rugby and football and the children and young people playing club sport should be protected by a national screening program.

Welsh Hearts have recently joined forces with the Welsh Sports Association.

CEO Victoria Ward said:

*'The collaboration with Welsh Hearts is a great opportunity to raise the profile of screening services and insure that screening is accessible and affordable to all athletes in the future. The screening sessions being offered are quick and painless, so we would encourage all our members to spread the word amongst their athletes and help us to improve heart health awareness across Wales.'*

A recent tragic example of a young man who died as he finished the Cardiff Half Marathon, only serves to show that if screening was in place across Wales, his heart problem may well have been picked up early and he could have received treatment and his family would have been saved such avoidable tragedy.

## **Heart screening saves lives**

Hundreds die each year from an undiagnosed heart condition – that's hundreds too many. A simple ECG (electrocardiogram) will identify most cardiac abnormalities so that conditions can be managed.

Welsh Hearts are pleased to be funding such a vital and life saving initiative. It is our mission to help protect and promote the heart health of young people here in Wales. Many people still associate heart disease and heart attacks with older people, however this is sadly not the case. But with screening we can make a massive difference and we will save lives.



**“This is a great initiative from Welsh Hearts that will hopefully prevent lives being lost from undiagnosed heart conditions.**

**“I’ve worked closely with Welsh Hearts for a number of years and they do a fantastic job in raising the awareness of heart conditions as well as screening across Wales.”**

**Sam Warburton**

*We call on the National Assembly for Wales to ask the Welsh Government to roll out a heart screening programme to all young people between 10 and 35 in Wales. Hundreds die each year in Wales from an undiagnosed heart condition and a simple ECG will identify most cardiac abnormalities so that conditions can be managed effectively.*

*Heart screening sessions involve a short 5-10-minute test which is quick and painless and able to detect most heart abnormalities and could save hundreds of lives in Wales. In the Veneto region of Italy, where heart screening programme has been undertaken for 25 years the number of young athletes, male and female, dying of sudden cardiac arrest fell from one in 28,000 each year to one in 250,000, according to a 2006 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.*



# Agenda Item 3.3

## **P-05-871 – Make baby and toddler changing available in both male/female toilets**

This petition was submitted by Antony Esposti having collected – a total of 125 signatures.

### **Text of Petition**

Within Wales there are many businesses, hospitals and council run parks/sites that don't have baby changing available for use by both men and women. Normally the facilities are only available in female toilets.

This means that men are often forced to hunt out facilities that they can use, or on many occasions, use makeshift measures like changing their child on the floor, on top of wheelie bin lids in toilets, balancing on their laps and on benches outside.

We would ask the Assembly to ensure that all future renovations and new builds within areas open to the public have an area that provides a safe and clean space to change babies/allow toddlers to go to the toilet safely and as a short term measure make a standalone or drop down changing unit available.

### **Additional Information**

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

- Cardiff Central
- South Wales Central

## Petitions Briefing

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 2 Abril 2019

Petitions Committee | 2 April 2019

### Research briefing: Make baby and toddler changing available in both male and female toilets

**Petition number:** P-05-871

**Petition title:** Make baby and toddler changing available in both male and female toilets

**Petition text:** Within Wales there are many businesses, hospitals and council run parks/sites that don't have baby changing available for use by both men and women. Normally the facilities are only available in female toilets.

This means that men are often forced to hunt out facilities that they can use, or on many occasions, use makeshift measures like changing their child on the floor, on top of wheelie bin lids in toilets, balancing on their laps and on benches outside.

We would ask the Assembly to ensure that all future renovations and new builds within areas open to the public have an area that provides a safe and clean space to change babies/allow toddlers to go to the toilet safely and as a short term measure make a standalone or drop down changing unit available.

In 2018, the social media campaign #SquatforChange drew attention to fathers' frustrations with the lack of baby changing facilities in male public toilets. The campaign was started on Instagram by American [Donte Palmer](#) but was quickly picked up in the UK too.

The British Toilet Association best practice [recommends](#) that "all toilets in public places should cater for the needs of parents of either sex with babies and young children", but acknowledges that "older style toilets were not designed for family, mother and young children or disabled needs and certainly not for baby changing by males".

## United States

The '[Bathroom Accessible in Every Situation Act](#)' 2016 provides that federal buildings should be equipped with baby-changing facilities and that they should be installed in men's toilets as well.

In January 2019 New York [changed legislation](#) to ensure that any new or refurbished toilets have baby changing facilities available to both men and women.

## Scotland

Part 3.12.12 of the [Scottish Building Standards](#) (2017) state:

Baby changing facilities should be provided either as a separate unisex facility or as a dedicated space within both male and female sanitary accommodation and not within an accessible toilet.

## Wales

The Welsh Government's response highlights that Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 requires every local authority in Wales to **develop a local toilets strategy**. This must include an assessment of their community's need for toilets (including changing facilities for babies and changing places facilities for disabled people), and must set out how the local authority proposes to meet this need. Local authorities will be required to consult with interested parties on their draft strategies.

Local toilet strategies need to be in place by 31 May 2019. The provisions of the 2017 Act **do not require local authorities to provide toilet facilities**, or does it prevent authorities from closing toilets. It is intended to improve the planning of provision so that alternative provisions to traditional public toilets are sought within communities, and that any decisions are taken in the context of a community's needs.

The Welsh Government has produced [statutory guidance](#) for local authorities, including consideration of the needs of parents of young children and toilet provision in future refurbishments and new builds.

The Welsh Government's response to the petition states:

**Building Regulations do not set requirements (for new build or refurbishments) for toilet or baby changing provision**, but set design standards where these facilities are to be provided. Where baby changing provision is intended, the statutory guidance and related British Standard recommend it should be accessible and not in unisex toilets.

[Part M](#) (access to and use of buildings) of the Welsh Government's Building Regulations states:

**Wheelchair-accessible unisex toilets should not be used for baby changing.** [..]

The provision of an enlarged cubicle in a separate-sex toilet washroom can be of benefit to ambulant disabled people, as well as parents with children and people (e.g. those with luggage) who need an enlarged space. In large building developments, separate facilities for baby changing and an enlarged unisex toilet incorporating an adult changing table are desirable.

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

Jane Hutt AC/AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Prif Chwip  
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JH-/051111/19

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

12<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter dated 14 February regarding the Petitions Committee - P-05-871  
Make baby and toddler changing available in both male/female toilets.

In order to improve access to toilets for all but in particular those with greatest need, the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 Part 8 ('the Act') requires every local authority in Wales to develop a local toilets strategy. These strategies should be developed following consultation with their local communities and other delivery partners and should set out their population's needs, the existing publically accessible toilet facilities in their area and how they plan to improve access to toilets by making the best use of existing facilities in both public and private sector ownership. It is within the provision of the Act that the definition of toilets includes baby change facilities and Changing Places facilities for disabled persons.

Local toilet strategies need to be in place by 31 May 2019 and each local authority is responsible for publishing and publicising its own strategy and for putting any identified actions into place. The provisions of the Act do not require local authorities or other delivery partners to provide toilet facilities nor does the provision prevent local authorities from making a decision to close a traditional public toilet or building when appropriate to do so. Instead, the intended effect is to improve the planning of provision so that alternative provisions to the traditional public toilet are sought within communities and that any decisions are taken within the overall context of meeting their communities' identified needs.

The Welsh Government has produced statutory guidance for local authorities on the issues they should consider when developing their local toilets strategies. This includes consideration of the needs of parents of young children and consideration of toilet provision

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

[Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales)

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

Pack Page 72

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.

in future refurbishments and new builds. This guidance is available via the Welsh Government website.

<https://gov.wales/topics/health/nhswales/act/publictoilets/?lang=en>

Building Regulations set no requirements (for new build or refurbishment) for toilet or baby changing provision but sets design standards where these facilities are to be provided.

Where baby changing provision is intended the statutory guidance and related British Standard recommends it should be accessible and not be in unisex toilets.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Jane Hutt AC/AM**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Prif Chwip  
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip

**P-05-871 Make baby and toddler changing available in both male/female toilets, Correspondence – Petitioner to Chair, 20.03.19**

Thank you for taking the time to consider my petition; it is something that I and many feel strongly about. As we continue to evolve as a society, having baby changing facilities often limited to female toilets causes angst and issues of safety.

I have, on many occasions, had to change my son in areas not designed for changing a baby. These range from the top of a wheelie bin and the bench outside of a restaurant I had eaten in that refused me access to the baby changing facilities because I was a man and they were in the ladies toilets.

Over the last 5 months, I have had lots of conversations with fathers who have similar experiences to me. Some of them now have second thoughts about taking their children out for fear of not being able to access changing facilities.

While it is correct that many places are starting to put changing facilities in disabled toilets, I note that in the Public Toilet act that the British Standard is that it's not in a Unisex toilet. I may have misunderstood this, but my understanding of 'Unisex' is that it is available to people of either gender, If this is the case, the British Standard is to ensure that someone is disadvantaged. Be that Man or Woman.

With the default being that the Baby changing facilities generally go into the ladies toilets, by omission then the Act seems as if it is discriminating against Men who are trying to look after and bond with their children.

New York recently changed legislation to ensure that any new or refurbished toilets had baby changing facilities available to both men and women. Often we like to show that we are ahead of the curve here in Wales (the 5p bag charge to help the economy being one) this is an opportunity to help people who look after children obtain the access that they need while out and about.

A recent ITV Wales News piece showed that Baby Changing tables could be obtained for as little as £25, these have Wheels and are able to be placed where needed.

This is a small change that could have a wide reaching impact for a lot of people's lives.

Some Links to Articles:

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/health/uncomfortable-unhygienic-dangerous-places-dads-15819227>

<https://www.itv.com/news/wales/2019-02-06/dads-call-for-baby-changing-units-to-be-available-in-all-mens-toilets/>

[https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/new-york-changing-tables-mens-restrooms\\_us\\_5c2e0fd1e4b05c88b7066d5a](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/new-york-changing-tables-mens-restrooms_us_5c2e0fd1e4b05c88b7066d5a)

# Agenda Item 3.4

## **P-05-872- Protect school funding or admit to the weakening of service provision**

This petition was submitted by James Wilkinson having collected a total of 5,784 signatures.

### **Text of Petition**

We call upon the Welsh Government to protect funding to schools and, if they cannot, to acknowledge the impact of cuts on educational provision, particularly for our most vulnerable learners.

As cuts continue to council budgets, and these cuts are passed on to schools, governing bodies are being asked to make impossible decisions about which vital educational services should be removed from our schools.

This will mean reduced provision for pupils with additional learning needs, less support for vulnerable learners, a narrowed curriculum choice, insufficient learning resources and dilapidated buildings.

These are not the foundations on which schools can be expected to construct and implement a world leading educational curriculum.

### **Additional Information**

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

- Clwyd West
- North Wales



## Briefing for the Petitions Committee

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 2 Ebrill 2019

Petitions Committee | 2 April 2019

### Research Briefing: Protect school funding or admit to the weakening of service provision

Petition number: [P-05-872](#)

Petition title: **Protect school funding or admit to the weakening of service provision**

#### Text of petition:

We call upon the Welsh Government to protect funding to schools and, if they cannot, to acknowledge the impact of cuts on educational provision, particularly for our most vulnerable learners.

As cuts continue to council budgets, and these cuts are passed on to schools, governing bodies are being asked to make impossible decisions about which vital educational services should be removed from our schools.

This will mean reduced provision for pupils with additional learning needs, less support for vulnerable learners, a narrowed curriculum choice, insufficient learning resources and dilapidated buildings.

These are not the foundations on which schools can be expected to construct and implement a world leading educational curriculum.

## 1. Summary

- The Research Service published a paper on *School Funding in Wales* in August 2018. This explains the way school funding is distributed in Wales (summarised at section 2 of this briefing, contains relevant data (summarised at section 3 of this briefing), and provides some policy context in terms of the Welsh Government's approach to providing funding to schools (briefly discussed at section 2.2 of this briefing).
- Gross budgeted expenditure on schools has increased in cash terms by 4.4% since 2010–11, which is a **8.4% decrease in real terms**.
- Expenditure **per pupil** has increased by 4.9% during this time but **decreased by 8.0% in real terms**. (See section 3)

- The **Children, Young People and Education (CYPE) Committee** is currently undertaking an [inquiry into School Funding](#). Following its gathering of external evidence, the CYPE Committee is holding a session with the Minister for Education and the Minister for Housing and Local Government on 3 April 2019.
- As part of its inquiry, the CYPE Committee is considering both the sufficiency of the level of funding available and the way in which the quantum of funding available is distributed. In doing so, the CYPE Committee is considering the extent to which the level of provision for school budgets **complements or inhibits delivery of the Welsh Government’s policy objectives**. The implementation of the **Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018** and the introduction of the new **Curriculum for Wales** are particular priority areas which the CYPE Committee has heard are perceived to be at risk from the level of funding available for schools.

## 2. The way in which school funding is distributed in Wales

### 2.1 Un-hypothecated funding for local authorities

The large majority of funding for schools comes from local authorities, which in turn receive the majority of their funding from the annual local government settlement set by the Welsh Government.

The **local government settlement is un-hypothecated**, meaning it is for each local authority to decide how to allocate their available resources to the various services they provide, including education and within that how much funding they give to schools.

There are **three main steps** to the process for setting school budgets:

- Firstly, the Welsh Government provides each local authority with its **Revenue Support Grant (RSG)**. Together with its redistributed non-domestic rates allocation, this makes up a local authority’s Aggregate External Finance (AEF). Each local authority uses this plus the money it raises from council tax to fund the range of services it provides, including education. Each **local authority’s RSG is arrived at using a formula**, based on Standard Spending Assessments (SSA) which are notional calculations of how much each local authority needs to maintain a standard level of service. SSAs are broken down into Indicator Based Assessments (IBA) which model notionally the amount needed in each service sector. ‘School services’ is one of the SSA sectors used for the IBAs.<sup>1</sup>
- Secondly, once they have decided how much of their overall budget to allocate to education, local authorities set **three tiers of education budget**:

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<sup>1</sup> SSAs and IBAs are not spending targets and the Welsh Government says they should not be treated as such. They represent a notional calculation of what the Welsh Government estimates a local authority needs to provide a standard level of service (although they are dependent on the overall quantum of funding made available by the Welsh Government for the local government settlement). They also build in an assumption of what the local authority can raise from council tax.

- The Local Authority Education Budget is for central functions relating to education, including but not wholly comprising expenditure on schools.
  - The Schools Budget contains expenditure which is directly aimed at supporting schools but considered to be more efficiently administered centrally.
  - The Individual Schools Budget (ISB) is the remainder of education funding which is delegated to schools.
- Thirdly, the local authority sets the **individual budget for each school** it maintains, apportioning the ISB according to its own locally determined formula, within the parameters set by the [School Funding \(Wales\) Regulations 2010](#).

## 2.2 Ring-fenced funding targeted at school improvement objectives

On top of the budget each school receives from their local authority, the Welsh Government uses a number of funding streams from its central education budget to support the implementation of **certain policies and priorities** or **target additional funding**. These take the form of **specific grants** distributed via the four regional school improvement consortia, such as the Education Improvement Grant (EIG), and the Pupil Development Grant (PDG). Most of the PDG, which supplements schools' income based on the number of their pupils who are eligible for free school meals (eFSM), is passported in its entirety to schools.

The **Welsh Government's approach**, in terms of how much funding it provides for schools' core budgets via the un-hypothecated local government settlement and how much it provides through targeted grants aligned to school improvement objectives, has been the **matter of some debate**. In the Fourth Assembly (2011–2016), the Welsh Government provided additional funding to local authorities to protect schools' core budgets, although in this Assembly has targeted roughly equivalent additional funding at initiatives aimed at raising school standards.<sup>2</sup> This has been a key theme of the **Children, Young People and Education Committee's current inquiry into school funding**.

## 2.3 Proportion of total quantum of funding for schools which is allocated for schools' core budgets

Of the **£2.566 billion** budgeted for expenditure on schools in 2018–19:

- £1.941 billion is delegated by local authorities to schools;
- £407 million is retained and administered by local authorities; whilst
- £219 million is channelled through hypothecated grants via the regional consortia and is treated in Welsh Government statistics as delegated to schools.<sup>3</sup> This is how the delegation rate of 84% is arrived at (see Table 1 in section 3 of this briefing).

<sup>2</sup> See chapter 5 of the Research Service's [School Funding in Wales](#) (August 2018) for more information.

<sup>3</sup> Breakdown provided in [School Funding in Wales](#) based on Welsh Government statistics.

In February 2019, the [Association of School and College Leaders \(ASCL\) issued an open letter](#) to the Minister for Education in which they criticised the ‘totally inadequate level of funding in our schools’ and the amount of funding which they say is retained by local authorities and regional consortia and does not reach the school front line.

### 3. Changes in levels of funding for schools

#### 3.1 Local Government Settlement

As explained in section 2 above, the predominant source of funding for schools budgets is provided by the Welsh Government to local authorities through the un-hypothecated Aggregate External Finance (AEF) within the local government settlement.

The [Final Local Government Settlement 2019–20](#) provides £4.237 billion AEF to local authorities). This is £10.3 million (0.2%) more than in 2018–19. The 2019–20 ‘School Services’ Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) sector is £2.239 billion, £19.4 million (0.9%) more than in 2018–19. (2018–19 figures are adjusted for transfers to ensure like for like comparison.) However, in [evidence to the CYPE Committee’s School Funding inquiry](#), the WLGA and ADEW have identified a £105 million budget gap in funding for schools in 2019–20.

#### 3.2 Budgeted expenditure on schools

The Welsh Government publishes [annual statistics](#) on the amount of funding for schools. These are on the basis of local authority budgeted expenditure on schools, although also include funding from the Welsh Government’s hypothecated grants, referred to above in section 2.

The statistics are available as total figures as well as per pupil figures. They also include the ‘Delegation rate’ which is the proportion of gross budgeted expenditure on schools that local authorities give directly to schools themselves. The information is presented in Table 1 below.

##### *Total funding*

- In financial year 2018–19, £2.566 billion gross is budgeted by local authorities for expenditure on schools. This is 0.9% higher than 2017–18 (cash terms).
- Gross budgeted expenditure fell in 2015–16 before rising again, surpassing the 2014–15 level in 2017–18 and rising further in 2018–19.
- Between 2010–11 and 2018–19, gross budgeted expenditure on schools has risen by 4.4% (£108 million) (cash terms). This is a **8.4 % decrease in real terms**. (At 2018–19 prices, using [HM Treasury GDP deflators, March 2019](#).)

##### *Per pupil funding*

- In 2018–19, £5,675 is budgeted per pupil. This is 0.8% higher than 2017–18 (cash terms).
- **Per pupil** gross expenditure is £266 (4.9%) higher in 2018–19 than 2010–11 (cash terms). This is a **8.0% decrease in real terms**. (At 2018–19 prices, using [HM Treasury GDP deflators, March 2019](#).)

**Table 1: Gross budgeted expenditure on schools**

	<u>Gross Budgeted Expenditure on schools £ Billion</u>	<u>£ Per Pupil Gross Budgeted Expenditure on schools</u>	<u>Delegation rate</u>
2018-19	2.566	5,675	84.2%
2017-18	2.543	5,628	84.2%
2016-17	2.519	5,570	84.3%
2015-16	2.496	5,526	83.8%
2014-15	2.528	5,607	82.9%
2013-14	2.519	5,594	82.3%
2012-13	2.495	5,520	81.0%
2011-12	2.470	5,451	76.2%
2010-11	2.458	5,409	75.0%

Source: Welsh Government, Statistical Bulletin: [Local authority budgeted expenditure on schools](#) (several annual editions)

Notes:

i) Covers all elements of local authority spending that relate to school provision, ie the school budget (including the ISB) plus the elements of the local authority education budget that relate to schools: ALN provision; school improvement; access to education; school transport; strategic management of schools; and other expenditure. The figures include the cost of educating pupils with statements of special educational needs who are educated out of county.

ii) Figures are on a 'gross' basis, ie including funding from all sources, thereby comprising core funding and grant funding such as the Pupil Development Grant and the Education Improvement Grant.

iii) The delegation rate is calculated by dividing the amounts delegated to schools by the gross schools budgeted expenditure. Delegation rates will vary based on the services provided centrally by local authorities. The statistical bulletin gives the delegation rate for each local authority.

iv) Data for 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2013-14 was revised by the Welsh Government in the following year's statistical release. The figures in this table are the latest, revised data.

v) The 2015-16 figure and figures for previous years are not wholly comparable due to the movement of Flying Start expenditure from Education to Social Services in 2015-16. For example, the percentage change between 2014-15 and 2015-16 was a 1.3% decrease but was a 1.0% decrease when the 2014-15 amount is adjusted to remove Flying Start expenditure.

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-05-872  
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05387/19

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

[Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales](mailto:Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales)

27 February 2019

Dear David

Thank you for your letter dated 15 February regarding the petition you have received from James Wilkinson, 'Protect school funding or admit to the weakening of service provision'. You seek my views on the issues raised before its first formal consideration.

The Welsh Government recognises the pressures that local authorities are facing and our budgets reflect our continued priorities for local services, schools and social care. We have taken action to safeguard local authorities and front line school services.

The decisions the Welsh Government has made as part of the overall budget provide local government with a realistic settlement against the background of the current financial climate and one which is improved on the indicative settlement approved in the last budget, where councils were looking at a reduction of 1% in core funding. The final settlement represents a cash increase overall, compared to 2018/19, equivalent to an increase of 0.2% after adjusting for transfers and includes a floor, fully-funded by the Welsh Government, so that no authority now faces a reduction of more than 0.3%, compared with the current year, on a like-for-like basis.

In addition to the core funding we provide to local government for the services which they provide, the Welsh Government continues to provide significant grant funding to support improved outcomes for learners in Wales. Over this Assembly term, we have committed to invest £100 million to raise school standards and more than half of this investment is prioritised towards improving teaching and learning, recognising that our teachers are our single greatest agents of change and improvement in the classroom.

In recognition of the costs associated with the introduction of the new Additional Learning Needs system we are investing £20 million to support the skills development of the education workforce to help build capacity within the system and ensure learners' needs can be met in a range of education settings – with £5.7m invested in 2019-20.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

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

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

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

This will facilitate and support the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act, which was granted royal assent in January and will transform the ALN system. It will pave the way for a new approach driving improvements in standards to ensure all learners can reach their full potential.

Curriculum reform is at the heart of our plan of action for education and we have focused funding to deliver Education in Wales. We are continuing to invest £10 million this year to support curriculum reform. We have set budgets which enable us to maintain our investment through pioneer schools and for the core development and delivery of the curriculum working with our partners. Our direct support to the curriculum, professional learning and digital pioneer schools continues to be maintained.

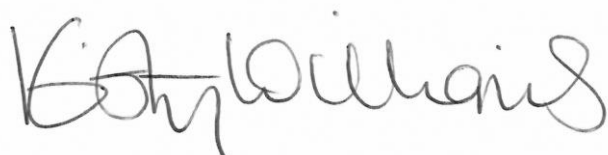
The National Approach to Professional Learning (NAPL), announced in November, will see £9 million in this financial year, increasing to £15 million next financial year, the single biggest investment in support for teachers in Wales since devolution. The funding will give schools the time and resources they need to plan ahead for the new curriculum and ensure that changes are made in a way that will prioritise the wellbeing of teachers and minimise disruption to pupils' learning. The funding will also help ensure that there is cover for staff to be released for professional learning.

Our 21st Century Schools and Education Programme represents the largest investment in our schools and colleges since the 1960s. Over £1.4 billion will be invested in Band A of the Programme, which has already significantly surpassed its target of 150 schools and colleges to be rebuilt or refurbished. A further £2.3 billion will be invested in the education infrastructure from April 2019. A key priority for Welsh Government has been to ensure that equal access to education is provided for all children and young people, including those with disabilities and additional learning needs. It is our delivery partners in local authorities and further education institutions that prioritise the projects that need to be delivered.

The original level of grant support for capital schemes was 50%. However, in November last year, after listening to our delivery partners' concerns about the pressures on their budgets, I announced an increase to the Welsh Government grant intervention rate for capital schemes from 50% to 65% of their cost. I also announced an increase to 75% for schemes affecting our most vulnerable pupils in facilities for those with additional learning needs and those in pupil referral units.

The Welsh Government will continue to work closely with local government, regional consortia and schools, within a national system, to deliver efficiencies, develop more effective ways of delivering local services and ensure that our shared vision for improving educational outcomes for learners in Wales is realised.

Yours sincerely

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

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**  
Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education

# Agenda Item 4.1

## **P-05-732 Unacceptable Waiting Times for NHS patients in A & E Wreccsam/Wrexham Maelor Hospital**

This petition was submitted by Charles Dodman and was first considered by the Committee in January 2017, which collected 14 signatures.

### **Text of the Petition**

I am petitioning the Welsh Assembly to debate and discuss and implement measures to resolve unacceptable waiting times for the Welsh people at A & E Wreccsam/Wrexham Maelor Hospital. Welsh people look undermined and demoralised by this unacceptable situation.

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

- Wrexham
- North Wales





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

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Betsi Cadwaladr  
University Health Board

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

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

Via email:  
[SeneddPetitions@Assembly.Wales](mailto:SeneddPetitions@Assembly.Wales)

**Ein cyf / Our ref:** GD/DC/RE/9162/1978

**Eich cyf / Your ref:**

**☎:** 01745 448788 ext 6364

**Gofynnwch am / Ask for:** Di Platt

**E-bost / Email:** [Di.Platt@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Di.Platt@wales.nhs.uk)

**Dyddiad / Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Mr Rowlands,

Thank you for your correspondence of 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018. At the outset of my letter I would like to apologise for the significant delay in responding.

Since our previous communication we have enacted some extensive leadership changes, and more recently we have changed the directorate structure so that we now have a dedicated management team focussing on urgent care. The new 'Emergency Quadrant' (EQ) includes the Emergency Department (ED), acute medical unit and GP assessment area. These are critical areas that support the assessment of unwell patients and ensure that we are able to support them into the hospital effectively.

We have recruited to the new directorate a range of experienced, and moreover, substantive staff. We have also added an additional level of seniority and leadership to the site in a Managing Director role who will have a leadership role in developing improvements and progressing transformational changes.

As this team are relatively new they are still evaluating our service and changes required. However we have seen encouraging signs of change in performance and importantly patient care.

The team have responded as best they can below to the recommendations in the CHC review and I would like to draw your attention to our data for the first part of this year. I would suggest that we update you again in 3-6 months' time when we will have some of the planned improvements introduced and embedded.

### **Recommendation 1: The Health Board is asked to clarify the position of a Specialist Nurse role and feed back to the Community Health Council**

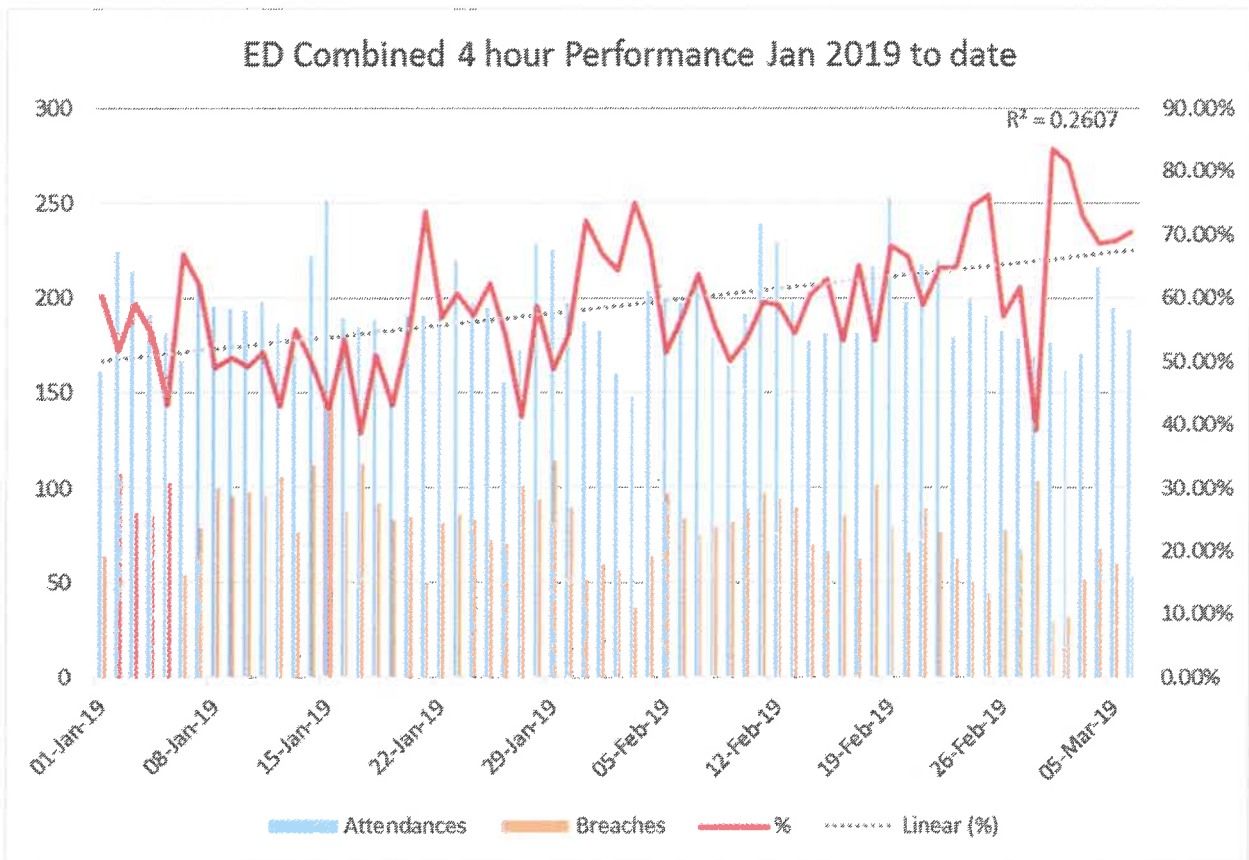
The Health Board would like to inform the Community Health Council that the Specialist Nurse role within our Emergency Department (ED) at Wrexham Maelor Hospital are Emergency Nurse Practitioners (ENPs). The ENP role is to see and treat patients with minor injury patients. There are 3 ENPs all working in full time positions and there are currently no vacancies.



**Recommendation 2: The Health Board is asked to investigate the observed performance in respect of patient waits for January 2018 and offer feedback to the Community Health Council on the findings.**

As previously reported seasonal pressures affect most Hospital ED's in the UK, with a corresponding reduction in performance.

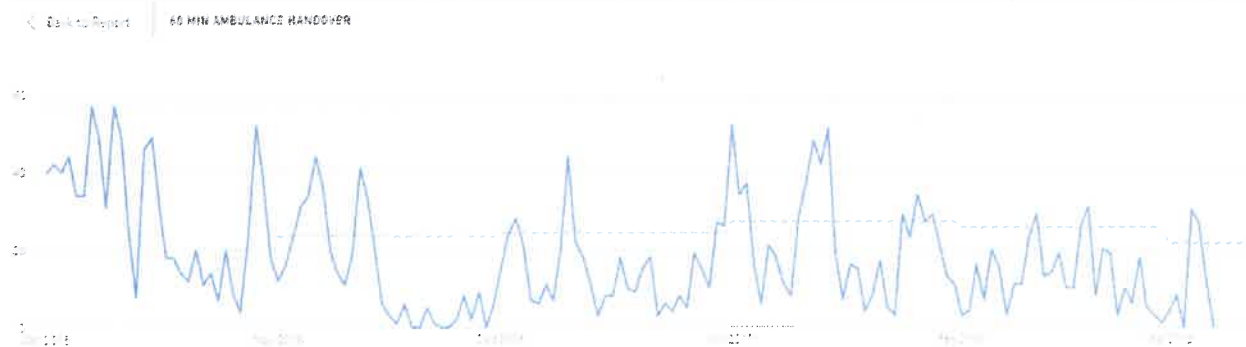
I would like to draw your attention to our current performance from January 2019 onwards which demonstrates that the trend from the beginning of the year is one of improvement.





**Recommendation 3: The Health Board is asked to investigate handover times for weeks 1 to 4 and report the findings to the Community Health Council.**

Over the last six months the tightening of process with WAST and greater control of handover has led to significant improvement in reducing long waits for the ambulances to handover patients.



We are working in partnership with WAST to ensure that we are effectively recording handover times, so that we can report the number of over 60 minute handover breaches are not total turnaround times. We are also looking to move away from 60 minutes to focus on reducing the over 15 minute patient handover numbers.

**Recommendation 4: The Health Board is asked to provide information on the training level of agency nurses in the use of the Manchester triage system or any other 'in-house' training for triage that may be provided and feedback the information to the Community Health Council.**

The Health Board can confirm that the agency nurses are not permitted to triage patients within the Emergency Department at Wrexham Maelor Hospital. Our permanent staff undergo Manchester Triage System training and undertaking the triage process for our patients once the staff member is deemed competent to triage.

**Recommendation 5: The Health Board is asked to consider feedback from patients and the visiting teams in relation to the level of ongoing communication between staff and patients. Particularly in relation to expected waiting times.**

The Health Board has considered the feedback from patients and the visiting teams. The triage nurse is ideally placed to inform the patient about the waiting times to be seen by a medical doctor at the time of triage. During the busy periods, it is imperative that our staff should communicate with patients regularly about any delays. Hence, we are currently reviewing our processes to ensure we communicate with our patients effectively on a regular basis. The ED department is in the process of introducing safety huddles which will be attended by senior staff within ED and which will support in improving our communication with our patients.



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Betsi Cadwaladr  
University Health Board

We have also installed electronic screens in the waiting area to display the waiting times to be seen by a doctor and we are currently working with our informatics department to ensure correct waiting times are displayed throughout the day.

In addition, we are continuously seeking the views of our patients and their carers about their experience in the Emergency Department. We gather this data from electronic kiosks and feedback cards. This information is helping us to continuously review our services.

I hope that I have been able to provide, through my letter, assurance about the improvements we are making, in the Wrexham Maelor hospital site. I acknowledge that we have further to go to ensure we are providing the best experience for our service users. However I can confirm that our commitment to do that is unwavering.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Doherty', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Gary Doherty**  
**Prif Weithredwr**  
**Chief Executive**

# Agenda Item 4.2

## **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



Our ref VG/05622/19

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

[Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales](mailto:Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales)

8 March 2019

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 21 February asking for clarity on an appropriate method of providing interim access to Orkambi® (lumacaftor/ivacaftor) to patients in Wales who may benefit from it.

I recently issued a Written Statement about Orkambi® which can be viewed at:

<https://beta.gov.wales/written-statement-access-cystic-fibrosis-medicine-orkambi-lumacaftorivacaftor>

As you are aware, in 2017 your Committee received evidence that Vertex Pharmaceuticals had gathered new evidence about Orkambi's clinical effectiveness since NICE's appraisal in 2016. Vertex agreed that the new evidence be appraised by the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG).

AWMSG contacted Vertex Pharmaceuticals about the new evidence again in November 2018 but the company has not yet submitted Orkambi® for re-appraisal. In December 2018, Vertex agreed to submit Orkambi® for re-appraisal and Symkevi® for appraisal by the Scottish Medicines Consortium. While the appraisals are being carried out, Vertex will provide these medicines at a discount. In order to prescribe them, clinicians will use the Peer Approved Clinical System (PACS) Tier 2 process, which is the Scottish equivalent of our Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) process.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

[Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales)

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

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.

Where medicines such as Orkambi® are not routinely available within NHS Wales, a clinician may apply for the medicine on behalf of their patient through an IPFR. IPFRs are requests to a Health Board or to the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) to fund NHS healthcare for individual patients who fall outside the range of services and treatments that a Health Board has arranged to routinely provide or commission. An IPFR is an appropriate method for providing interim access to patients who would benefit from Orkambi® in Wales, whilst discussions over a full appraisal of the treatment continue.

It is for Vertex to decide whether it wishes to enter into a specific commercial arrangement for Orkambi® with the NHS in Wales, taking account of the uncertainties and anomalies identified by NICE. Any arrangement would require a clear and binding commitment to engage in a future health technology appraisal by NICE or AWMSG within a specified time (normally 12 months).

The new Voluntary Scheme for Branded Medicines Pricing and Access, which started on 1 January requires that any discount offered to one part of the UK be made available to all parts of the UK. This does not affect the Scottish proposal which was agreed just before the Voluntary Scheme started. Any new discount offered to the NHS in Wales would therefore be available to all other parts of the UK.

Without the evidence-based approach, which includes a clear set of criteria and independent clinical experts to appraise the clinical and cost-effectiveness of new medicines, the NHS would have no way of identifying medicines which are the most cost-effective and most clinically effective and would have no way of distinguishing between them.

The evidence-based approach in place in the UK is the safest method to ensure the most effective treatments for patients and the most effective use of NHS resources.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

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





# Health and Social Care Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

Tel: 020 7219 6182 Fax 020 7219 5171 Email: [hscocom@parliament.uk](mailto:hscocom@parliament.uk)

Website: [www.parliament.uk/healthcom](http://www.parliament.uk/healthcom) Twitter: [@CommonsHealth](https://twitter.com/ CommonsHealth)

From Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, Chair

Rt hon Matt Hancock MP

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

8 March 2019

Dear Matt

## **Availability of Orkambi on the NHS**

We understand that you will be meeting Dr Jeff Leiden and other representatives of Vertex Pharmaceuticals shortly to discuss the availability of Orkambi, and other drugs for the treatment of cystic fibrosis, on the NHS. You will be aware that the Health and Social Care Committee has been considering this matter, and that yesterday we took evidence on the issues leading to the current impasse. This letter is to inform you of our conclusions having heard from clinician and patient representatives, NICE and NHS England, and Dr Leiden himself.

Our starting-point is that the best interests of patients should be paramount in the arrangements for access to Orkambi, and other treatments in the pipeline, including Symkevi and the "triple therapies" which we understand are in phase 3 development. We heard evidence both in writing from the cystic fibrosis community and in person from Oli Rayner, a CF patient, and Dr Caroline Elston, a leading clinician, of the benefits of these medicines to those living with cystic fibrosis which they do not feel have been fully captured by the evidence which NICE has considered so far. Patients are being denied access whilst the arguments rage about the returns on Vertex's investments, NICE's appraisal processes, and NHS England's understandable responsibility for managing a finite budget and the needs of all patients. We would like to see interim access agreed whilst the wider issues are further debated, as has happened elsewhere.

We were told of a significant gap between the wider benefit which patients and clinicians are describing from the drugs, and Vertex's clinical evidence which has been assessed by NICE. That gap is apparent not only in NICE's appraisal of the product, but in the views of other appraisal bodies, such as in Canada, who have not judged Orkambi to be sufficiently cost effective.

Vertex is arguing that the reason for that gap is that NICE's processes are outdated and are not suitable for the appraisal of new therapies such as the ones it has been developing for CF. The Committee recognises that NICE is an internationally respected body which has provided a model for similar appraisal bodies around the world. Vertex

needs to be able to provide evidence of the efficacy and value of its therapies on the same basis as expected of any other company and the Committee is concerned that it has stopped engaging with NICE. Furthermore, the NHS should not be expected to face costs for these drugs that simply cannot be justified by their cost benefit. In the context of finite resources, to do so would be to deny other NHS patients the benefit of effective therapies.

Vertex argues that it cannot drop its price because to do so would hinder its ability to continue to undertake research and development leading to further drug discoveries. Whilst we recognise the importance of continuing research and development in the pharmaceutical industry, we do not consider that an acceptable ground for paying far more for a drug than can be justified by its cost effectiveness. We also note the benefit obtained by Vertex from philanthropic funding bodies during the development of their products. NICE's processes are well-established and Vertex will have known, when it made investment decisions, about the approach NICE and the NHS would take to the reimbursement of its therapies. Vertex appears to have decided on the pricing of its therapies on the basis of the return it wants to make, rather than the value which they bring. NHS England is right to continue to take the wider patient population for whom it is responsible into account.

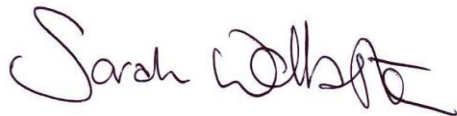
In order to reach an acceptable solution to this situation, however, flexibility needs to be shown by both sides. Vertex should re-engage with NICE on the value of its therapies. NICE and NHS England, on the other hand, need to enable Vertex to provide evidence of the benefit which cystic fibrosis clinicians, patients and their families have told us they have seen where these therapies have been made available. And access to these drugs needs to be made available as soon as possible with both sides prepared to be flexible on renegotiating as further evidence emerges over the coming years. The NHS is ideally placed to be able to provide ongoing evidence and the CF community is clearly keen to help with this.

We therefore urge you to encourage Vertex, NHS England and NICE to explore urgently how access to Vertex's drugs for the treatment of cystic fibrosis can be made available as soon as possible, alongside a plan for collecting evidence on the effectiveness of the drugs which will enable NICE to make an assessment of its value which takes into account the real-world experiences of patients and their families. We invite you to urge Vertex, at your meeting on Monday, to accept the necessity of demonstrating the worth of its therapies in accordance with the internationally-respected processes run by NICE; but in return, to assure Vertex that you will encourage NHS England and NICE to ensure that it is able to do so with high quality data which fully capture the evidence. If successful—and if Vertex cooperates with NICE in the collection of high-quality evidence—this can facilitate a flexible funding arrangement over time whereby NHS payments to Vertex reflect the evidence of clinical benefit in NHS patients. We accept that finding a mutually acceptable way through the current impasse will not be easy: it will require both sides to show even greater flexibility than they have done so far. In particular, it will require Vertex to re-engage with NICE processes; and it will require NHS England to reconsider its indication that its July 2018 proposal was its "best and final offer". But all sides were keen to assure us that they remain committed to finding a solution. We, and I am sure you, will be looking to them to demonstrate that commitment, to us and to the cystic fibrosis community, by returning to the table.

In the longer term, if Vertex cannot be persuaded to re-engage meaningfully in NICE processes, we suggest that you might want to explore the possibility of referring the company to the Competition and Markets Authority for what appears to us to be the exploitation of a monopoly position in the supply of drugs for the treatment of cystic fibrosis. We note also Steve Brine's indication in a recent debate on this issue that the Government has not ruled out the use of a Crown Use licence although we note that this would be complicated and would not result in rapid access to these drugs.

We are copying this letter to Dr Leiden, to John Stewart and Prof Powis at NHS England, and to Sir Andrew Dillon and Meindert Boysen at NICE. We urge all five of them to continue to keep at the forefront of their mind the needs of cystic fibrosis patients, and to do all they can to ensure that these therapies can be provided to them at a price which does not disadvantage the well-being of the many others who also rely on the NHS for their medical care.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Wollaston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Dr Sarah Wollaston MP**  
**Chair of the Committee**

# Agenda Item 4.3

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

This petition was submitted by RAY Ceredigion and was first considered in March 2018, having collected 328 signatures online.

### **Text of Petition**

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

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Ceredigion
- Mid and West Wales

Julie Morgan AC/AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-804  
Ein cyf/Our ref JM/05086/19

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

[SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales)

20 February 2019

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 1 February addressed to the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding your Committee's current consideration of the petition from RAY Ceredigion about funding for play. I am replying as play policy falls within my portfolio.

I note that the Committee has requested an update in respect of funding for play in 2019-20. Before I provide the update, I would like to remind you of the history of the Play Sufficiency Duty. When the duty on local authorities under the Children and Families (Wales) Measure, 2010 "to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in their area . . ." commenced, it was made clear that no designated Welsh Government funding would be allocated. However, in 2014 when the second part of the duty, which called for "local authorities to secure sufficient play opportunities in its area for children, so far as reasonably practicable . . ." was introduced, the duty was supported by the Welsh Local Government Association and local authorities on the understanding that, as and when financial support became available, it would be used to support local authorities in complying with this section of the duty.

We have continued to demonstrate our commitment by the allocation of £6.7m over the last six years. The revenue funding has been made available via the All Wales Play Opportunities Grant (AWPOG).

Furthermore, this financial year, following the reprioritisation of budgets, £2m additional funding was made available to local authorities via the AWPOG. This has included an allocation to Ceredigion County Council. The grant conditions are more focussed to allow local authorities to address the amber and red actions within their Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) action plans which they have not previously been able to achieve. Included in the £2m is £10k to each local authority to help them focus on producing a robust 2019 PSA, by the end of March 2019, with meaningful up-to-date local statistics.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

[Gohebiaeth.Julie.Morgan@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Julie.Morgan@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Julie.Morgan@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Julie.Morgan@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.

As per the original agreement, we will continue to review our funding position in the light of resources available at the time.

I hope the Committee will find this reply helpful.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie".

**Julie Morgan AC/AM**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

11 March 2019

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

Dear Mr Rowlands

Further to your correspondence dated 1<sup>st</sup> February to seek Play Wales'

- views on the issue raised by the petition generally;
- information about the reviews of Play Sufficiency Assessments and Action Plans, and
- response to the comments made by the petitioners over your social campaign.

I have provided Play Wales' response below.

**About Play Wales**

Play Wales is the national charity for children's play. We work to raise awareness of children and young people's need and right to play and to promote good practice at every level of decision making and in every place where children might play. We provide advice and guidance to support all those who have an interest in, or responsibility for providing for children's play so that one day Wales will be a place where we recognise and provide well for every child's play needs. Our team of six works across Wales – our work includes:

- Policy
- Information service
- Advice and support
- Workforce development.



One day Wales will be a place where we recognise and provide for every child's play needs

**Un dydd bydd Cymru'n wlad ble y byddwn yn cydnabod ac yn darparu ar gyfer anghenion chwarae pob plentyn**

National Office  
Baltic House  
Mount Stuart Square  
Cardiff  
CF10 5FH

Swyddfa Cenedlaethol  
Ty Baltig  
Sqwar Mount Stuart  
Caerdydd  
CF10 5FH

Tel (029) 2048 6050  
Cymraeg (029) 2043 6926  
Fax (029) 2048 9359

[mail@playwales.org.uk](mailto:mail@playwales.org.uk)  
[post@chwaraecymru.org.uk](mailto:post@chwaraecymru.org.uk)

[www.playwales.org.uk](http://www.playwales.org.uk)  
[www.chwaraecymru.org.uk](http://www.chwaraecymru.org.uk)

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cofrestrwyd yng Nghymru, Rhif.  
3507258



Llywodraeth Cynullad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

## **Our views on the issue raised by the petition**

The issues raised by the petitioner appear to relate most specifically to the funding for infrastructure and staffed playwork provision.

It is salient to note that at the time of the introduction of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010, the inclusion of the Play Sufficiency Duty was predicated on an understanding that there would be no additional funding and that local authorities would not be required to spend new money; rather to best meet the duty they should consider spending existing monies differently.

That said, Play Wales has long campaigned for specific and continued funding for play since its establishment in 1998.

It is important to note that since 2012-13, local authorities have been allocated approximately £9,000,000 by Welsh Government (through reallocated budgets) to respond to their respective local play sufficiency actions. Within their action plans, local authorities are considering and including actions which might be progressed should funding become available. So, although there are capacity and timing issues with short-term and one-off funding, it appears that most local authorities (if their local spending procedures allow) are relatively well prepared to respond when funds requiring a spend within a short time frame become available. It should be noted, however, that this might not be as effective as a commitment of the same sum of regular funding for long-term strategic actions. That said, we understand that any funding available is being used to good effect regardless of the time frame available.

Whilst there are concerns that the allocation of funding through one-off grants results in short-term actions or activity regarding grants, it is our view that this funding has enabled local authorities to respond to local play provision deficiencies. However, we are concerned that local voluntary play organisations, such as the petitioner, may not be receiving the most effective benefit from this funding. This issue might be addressed by stronger accompanying guidance from Welsh Government when funds are released.

## **Information about our reviews of Play Sufficiency Assessments and Action Plans**

Play Wales has undertaken annual analysis of the local authority play sufficiency progress reviews and action plans submitted to Welsh Government in September 2017 and June 2018. A review of full statutory Play Sufficiency Assessments submitted by local authorities was also undertaken in 2016. During each of the reviews, Play Wales has been asked to provide overview of specific areas:

- 2016 – an analysis of Matter G (Workforce Development)
- 2017 – an identification of issues, examples of good practice and challenges and barriers which might be addressed by the various Welsh Government policy areas covered in Matter I (Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas). Welsh Government also asked for information about play opportunities for disabled children with particular regard to accessibility to play areas and spaces. Information regarding this was presented in a separate paper, *Accessibility of play spaces for disabled children*.
- 2018 – actions assessed locally as progressing at red or amber level to inform the possible allocation of funding should it become available.

In these reviews, Play Wales was asked to provide an overview of:

- Progress being made in each local authority in Wales
- Progress on actions of national interest.



Analysis of the documentation indicates that the Play Sufficiency Duty continues to serve as a national driver for the planning of play provision locally. Across Wales it appears that progress has been made in terms of meeting some of the Play Sufficiency Action Plans. However, this is largely due to the additional All Wales Play Opportunities Grants allocated to local authorities by Welsh Government in February 2017 and November 2018.

Information provided in the reports and action plan varies across Wales; this is to be expected. The breadth of the Matters, the varying capacity of local authorities and the historic models of delivery across local authorities makes a pan Wales analysis problematic. That said, the cost of officer time continues to be consistently identified as the most significant obstacle to progressing actions within the Play Sufficiency Action Plans. Furthermore, it was foreseeable that increasingly severe financial restrictions are resulting in a reduction in capacity of local authorities and their partners, which is significantly impacting on the progress in addressing identified priorities.

However, the findings of the reviews indicate that despite significant and unprecedented financial pressures being faced by local authorities, there have been attempts at progressing actions throughout Wales. There appears to be good collaboration interdepartmentally within local authorities. This is most evident in those areas with a designated play sufficiency lead officer.

Local funding cuts, a national re-focus on Families First and the decision to close the Communities First programme, feature across all the progress reports as contributing to the uncertainty and challenge of sustaining levels of staffed play provision.

It is of concern to Play Wales that whilst the Welsh Government originally introduced the second part of the Play Sufficiency Duty on a 'cost neutral basis', with a clear message that there would be no further funding, there was an implicit expectation that there would be no less investment by local authorities in support of children's play.

### **Play Wales social change campaign**

The Play Wales *Playful Childhoods* campaign helps parents, carers, grandparents and community groups to give children good opportunities to play at home and in their neighbourhoods. A key aspect of this campaign was the launch, in October 2018, of a new bilingual website – [Playful Childhoods | Plentyndod Chwareus](#).

During the summer of 2018 Play Wales directly facilitated seven 'Right to Play' roadshows across Wales. We worked with local play providers to engage with the general public to discuss the right and need to play in and around communities and the importance of communities taking action to protect this right. We produced promotional materials that highlight the importance of play and signpost people to our *Playful Childhoods | Plentyndod Chwareus* website.

Our initial engagement was located in areas with a deficit of local play associations. We are currently fundraising with a view to deliver similar roadshows in other parts of Wales. In this phase of promotion and engagement, it is our plan to work with local play providers and organisations (such as the petitioner) to help them to better promote the right to play along with their local services.

At the time of the launch of the website, we circulated a bilingual media pack to a range of partners (including the petitioner), asking them to help us to spread the word about *Playful Childhoods*. As well as introducing the new website, we provided a range of resources to help in sharing the information with local networks:

- Text for websites, newsletters and e-bulletins
- Social media posts and hashtags
- Photos and graphics
- Information posters.

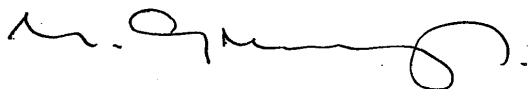
The *Playful Childhoods | Plentyndod Chwareus* campaign is a slight departure for Play Wales from previous work, which focuses on a professional and semi-professional audience. *Playful Childhoods | Plentyndod Chwareus* provides an opportunity for us to more effectively support a non-professional audience – parents and the general public – with accessible information and support.

The website is successfully reaching its target audience – parents, carers and grandparents and feedback to date is overwhelmingly positive. We are also reaching and engaging with the target audience via the *Playful Childhoods | Plentyndod Chwareus* Facebook and Instagram pages.

Since the launch, it has also become clear that the website and accompanying resources, such as the *Playful Parenting booklet*, are valuable and useful for professionals working with children and families. We have received a number of requests for hard copies of our resources and materials to create a visual display at settings such as Family Information Centres.

Should you require clarification of any of the issues or have further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Greenaway', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Greenaway  
Director

# Agenda Item 4.4

## **P-05-857 Create a National Task Force for Children's Mental Health**

This petition was submitted by The National Organisation for Children's Mental Health having collected 91 signatures.

### **Text of Petition**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to create a National Task Force to investigate which cultural, societal, and political factors may be contributing to the number of children in Wales experiencing poor mental health; and that this National Task Force:

- 1) Include in its membership: children; representatives from organisations working with children; representatives from all political parties represented in the National Assembly for Wales; academics involved in researching social policy, political science, culture, society, and economics;
- 2) Is chaired by the Children's Commissioner for Wales in post when this task force is created and that they should remain the Chair of the task force for its duration, should they agree to do so (regardless of whether they remain the Children's Commissioner for Wales for the duration of the life of the task force – except in exceptional circumstances);
- 3) Should be tasked with producing a report based upon its investigations that includes recommendations for the Welsh Government based upon its findings;
- 4) Should have all of its recommendations examined by the Welsh Government in consultation with this National Task Force, the National Assembly for Wales, and the residents of Wales (including children).

### **Additional Information**

The National Organisation for Children's Mental Health Ltd is a newly established social enterprise. Our objective is to support the development of a national culture that enables children to sustain excellent mental health by helping organisations working with and/or for them to create the best environment in which every child's mental health can flourish.

## **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

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

Document is Restricted



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/05621/19

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

[Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales](mailto:Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales)

12 March 2019

Dear David,

Thank you for your further letter of 21 February regarding Petition P-05-857 *Creating National Task Force for Children's Mental Health from the National Organisation for Children's Mental Health* I note the additional commentary that you have provided and your intention to write to the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee in order to make them aware of this petition within the context of their work.

As you are aware, the Joint Ministerial Task and Finish Group on the Whole School Approach brings together the key strategic stakeholders from across education, health, the wider public and third sectors. A detailed programme of work has been developed and we are now considering how best to take this forward and the resource implications over the life of the Task and Finish Group, which is expected to conclude in Spring 2021.

The Ministerial Task and Finish Group is supported by a stakeholder reference group to ensure the broad range of agencies with a role in delivering a whole school approach have a meaningful engagement in this programme and a Youth Stakeholder Group to ensure that children and young people also have the opportunity to directly feed in their views as activity progresses.

I should also point out that the Joint Ministerial Task and Finish Group on the Whole School Approach does not exist in isolation, and sits within broader arrangements which oversee, develop and assure approaches to improve the mental health and well-being of children. For instance the Improving Outcomes for Children Ministerial Advisory Group continues to deliver a 3 year change programme (2017-2020) and to advise on the additional targeted support that is required across Government to deliver improved outcomes for care experienced children and young people. In addition, the NHS Wales Mental Health Network was established in 2018 to drive, facilitate and enable transformational change and sustained improvement for NHS commissioned and/or delivered mental health services. The Mental Health Network balances short-term priority areas of work needing regional or all Wales solutions and the long-term commitments to transform services.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre  
0300 0604400

[Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales)

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

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.

Following consideration of the additional information provided, I remain assured the groups already in place will enable us to move this agenda forward at pace, knitting the various strands of activity together; highlighting gaps in provision; and ensuring energy and resources are targeted to have the maximum benefit.

Our formal update on progress to the CYPE Committee on activity across this area and our response to the wider Mind Over Matter report will be available in the next few weeks.

Thank you for continuing to share the information you have received.

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' and a long, sweeping tail.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

Minister for Health and Social Services

Janet Finch-Saunders AM  
Chair, Petitions Committee

19 March 2019

Dear Janet,

### **National taskforce for children's mental health**

Thank you for the Petition Committee's letter of 21 February 2019, drawing the Children, Young People and Education (CYPE) Committee's attention to **Petition P-05-857 – Create a national task force for children's mental health.**

As you are aware, the CYPE Committee has undertaken extensive scrutiny of the emotional and mental health support available for children and young people in Wales over the last 18 months. This work built on an inquiry undertaken by our predecessor committee in 2013-14 and led to the publication of our **Mind over Matter** report in April 2018. In response to Mind over Matter, the Welsh Government established its Joint Ministerial Task and Finish (JMTF) Group in September 2018. The stated aim of the JMTF Group is to accelerate the pace of change needed in this area, and achieve a whole school and whole system approach to emotional and mental health.

As Chair of the CYPE Committee I sit on the JMTF Group as an observer with full rights of participation, as does the Children's Commissioner for Wales. As a Committee, we welcome the JMTF's Group's establishment and work. We remain committed, however, to holding the Welsh Government to account on delivery in this area. To this end, we announced our intention to follow up on the implementation of our recommendations one year after their publication, and have **written recently** to the Minister for Health and Minister for Education outlining our approach.

We warmly welcome all interest in this subject and we are keen to work with organisations to ensure that the Welsh Government is held to account on its progress in this area. We are concerned, however, that as currently drafted, there is a risk the work outlined by the petitioner could duplicate the inquiry already undertaken by the CYPE Committee, and the steps being taken to deliver recommendations via the JMTF Group.

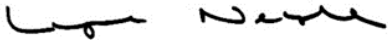
We are confident that delivery of our recommendations would address the breadth of needs and services required to support our children and young people. Our report considered all aspects of the care pathway, and the range of circumstances faced by children and young people, their parents, carers and those providing support to them. We drew on a wide range of evidence from expert stakeholders, and spoke extensively with children and young people to inform our conclusions.





As a Committee we have stated publicly that we believe progress needs to be made in this area as a matter of urgency. While we recognise that the remit of the JMTF Group is ultimately a matter for both Ministers rather than the CYPE Committee, we would be concerned if the introduction of any further complexity to its work reduced the pace of delivery of our Mind over Matter recommendations.

Yours sincerely



**Lynne Neagle AC / AM**  
**Cadeirydd / Chair**



## The National Organisation for Children's Mental Health

Preventing. Supporting. Campaigning.



21<sup>st</sup> March 2019

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders AM,

### **Ref: Petition number P-05-857 calling for a National Task force for Children's Mental Health**

We would like to thank you and all the members of the Petitions Committee for your continuing consideration of this petition which received support from every electoral region in Wales, positive coverage in the press, and support from a number of Assembly Members. Furthermore we would like to thank Vaughan Gething AM for his response to the points we raised in our feedback about the Minister's initial letter.

It is unclear from the Minister's letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019 why he does not wish to consider the proposal laid out within the petition, particularly as he is currently 'considering how best to take [the work of the Joint Ministerial Task and Finish Group on the Whole School] forward and the resource implications over the Life of the Task and Finish Group, which is expected to conclude in Spring 2021'. As this Task and Finish Group has a stakeholder reference group we believe that the process of evolving it into a National Task Force would be straightforward. Furthermore, our previous submission highlighted the reduction in resources that might ensue from the adoption of the proposal and the improvement in outcomes for children and young people with, or at risk of, mental health conditions. Additionally, the currently fragmented approach, described by the Minister as the 'broader arrangements' could be much more effective and financially sustainable if brought together into the coherent structure that a National Task Force could provide.

The Minister states that he wishes to 'knit the various strands of activity together; highlighting gaps in provision; and ensuring energy and resources are targeted to have the maximum benefit'. The establishment of a National Task Force could provide the clear and comprehensive means by which these objectives could be achieved. Available evidence suggests that the current approach is ineffective and inadequate. For example, the Welsh Government's own statistics demonstrate that the number of referrals to CAMHS has doubled over the past few years<sup>i</sup>, and the National Assembly for Wales has reported that 'the pieces of the jigsaw that need to be in place to enable children and young people to be supported outside the most specialist settings are simply not there'<sup>ii</sup>. Programmes, committees, and Task Groups might have been changed but the blueprint remains the same. This segmented approach has resulted in a disconnected strategy that is costly both in terms of children and young people's mental health and financially for the taxpayer. Furthermore, its direction of travel is the complete opposite from the objectives and aspirations laid out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

We welcome the response from Lynne Neagle AM, Chair of the Children, Young People and Education committee (CYPE). However, it is unclear from her letter precisely how a National Task Force for children's mental health would duplicate the work of her committee and the JMFT Group. Nevertheless, if as outlined above, the numerous strands of work were brought together into a single

comprehensive strategy and body (i.e. The National Task Force), then their work to date could be incorporated and utilised, potentially to much greater effect. Consequently, we remain convinced that the creation of a National Task Force for children's mental health remains a viable opportunity that could have a significant impact on preventing the continuing increase in mental health issues being experienced by children and young people throughout Wales.

If I can be of any further assistance in helping the committee reach its conclusions regarding this petition, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

*Geraint D. Evans*

Managing Director

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<sup>i</sup> <https://gweddill.gov.wales/docs/strategies/170919-prosperity-for-all-en.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/cr-ld11522/cr-ld11522-e.pdf>

# Agenda Item 4.5

## **P-05-759 Re-open the Cwmcarn Forest Drive at Easter 2018**

This petition was submitted by The Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive having collected 1450 signatures – 353 on paper and 1097 on-line.

### **Petition text:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to provide the necessary means to allow Natural Resources Wales to fully re-open the Cwmcarn Forest Drive to private cars at Easter 2018.

### **Additional information:**

In the summer of 2014 Natural Resources Wales stated that the Cwmcarn Forest Drive, also known as the Scenic Drive, would be closed for a minimum of two years from November 2014 and that this was necessary because of the infection of the Japanese larch in the Cwmcarn valley and surrounding hillsides. The removal of the larch is now almost complete and NRW are beginning to reinstate the cycle tracks and footpaths, however there does not appear to be a plan to reinstate the scenic drive, even though the vast majority of the route is undamaged. To single out private car users of the drive is unfair and unnecessary when other users will face only temporary disruption. Many of those who access the Drive via private car do so because they have limited mobility, some are families with small children, many are elderly, disabled or from our ethnic minority and immigrant communities. Failing to provide a facility for these people is discriminatory especially when there are plans, and funds available, to provide further facilities for other users. The lack of a fully accessible scenic drive deprives those people who are our most culturally and materially deprived of their main facility for health and well-being. Our organisation, the Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive wants equality of access for all users of the scenic drive and calls for the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales to provide the means to make this possible.

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

- Islwyn
- South Wales East

27 February 2019

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

Dear Mr Rowlands,

Further to our last report of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017, I can advise the Petitions Committee that we have been able to secure £1m from within the Natural Resources Wales budget to dedicate to the work required to re-open the Forest Drive.

Unfortunately, unprecedented forest fires have impacted the original timeline and work has been ongoing in clearing the damage and undertaking reparative work. This has been explained by my staff to the local community at the most recent meeting of the Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive. At that meeting we indicated that a re-opening in the spring of 2020 was now being aimed for and this appeared to have been accepted.

NRW has been working closely with the Local Authority who have a significant presence on site and with whom we wish to collaborate, to ensure that a joined-up approach maximises the benefits of both party's investments in this flagship recreation facility.

Working with the local authority and utilising their civil engineering expertise to undertake an engineering assessment of the works required, has confirmed that the funding set aside for this project should be adequate to get the Drive open again within the revised timescale.

We are committed to appointing a locally based Project Manager to support this Project and undertake the much needed regular communication with the community. We are out to recruitment for this important post and I am confident that a Project Manager will be identified within the next few weeks. Preparatory project design work has been completed by experienced NRW staff who will continue to direct the Project and make sure the new Project Manager is fully supported.

Best wishes



Clare Pillman

**Prif Weithredwr, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru**  
**Chief Executive, Natural Resources Wales**

**P-05-759 Re-open the Cwmcarn Forest Drive at Easter 2018,  
Correspondence - Petitioner to Chair, 24.03.19**

Further to my correspondence to the NAFW Petitions Committee dated 19th February 2019 I would like to confirm that I met with Derek Stephen of NRW at the Cwmcarn Forest Visitor Centre on Thursday 28th February and he confirmed the detail's later outlined in Claire Pillman's letter and fully explained the reasons for NRW's delayed appointment of a project manager to oversee the reinstatement of the Cwmcarn Forest/Scenic Drive. I was informed that NRW were undergoing a period of organisational redesign in the last months of 2019 and that during this period things were delayed but that the appointment of a project manager is now proceeding apace and the re-opened of the Drive is still scheduled for Easter 2020. As I have found Derek Stephen to be of the utmost professional integrity I am happy to accept this, along with the details of Claire Pillman's letter, and will recommend this to the Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive committee at our AGM this coming Wednesday. I hope to meet with Derek and the newly appointed project manager in the coming weeks.

Lastly I understand that there have been a number of difficulties within NRW recently and coupled with the effects of last summer's wild fires I would like to withdraw some of the more critical comments outlined in my previous email.

Please pass on my very best wishes to David Rowlands AM and the Committee members.

Kind regards

Robert J Southall

Chair Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive

# Agenda Item 4.6

## **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 and was first considered by the Committee in February 2018, 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





**Cyfoeth  
Naturiol  
Cymru  
Natural  
Resources  
Wales**

Ein cyf/Our ref:  
Eich cyf/Your ref:

Ty Cambria / Cambria House  
29 Heol Casnewydd / 29 Newport Road  
Caerdydd / Cardiff  
CF24 0TP

Ebost/Email:  
tim.England@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

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

By email: [SeneddPetitions@Assembly.Wales](mailto:SeneddPetitions@Assembly.Wales)

8 March 2019

Dear David,

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

Thank you very much for your letter of 4 March 2019.

I can confirm that we are reconsidering the delivery options for Phase 3 as a stand-alone scheme, with potentially a new business case that will need the approval of the Welsh Government.

The current indicative timescale for completing a draft Business Case for a reassessed scheme is November 2019. Please note that this is an indicative timescale, as there are currently some unknowns with regard to the scope of the reassessment.

We are arranging an all Stakeholder meeting, which will include all parties with an interest in the scheme, for late March/early April which will inform the options to be considered/reassessed.

Once finalised, the Business Case will be scored and prioritised accordingly within the flood capital programme and used as appropriate to apply for Welsh Government funding.

Yours sincerely,

**Tim England**  
**Operation Manager**  
**Natural Resources Wales**

# Agenda Item 4.7

## P-05-815 Control Rapidly Expanding Intensive Poultry Industry in Wales

This petition was submitted by the Brecon and Radnor Branch of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales having collected 2,469 signatures online and 2,098 on paper, a total of 4,567 signatures.

### Text of Petition

We the undersigned call on the Welsh Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to take long-term strategic action to ensure that the poultry product industry is environmentally sustainable through effective delivery of the Environment (Wales) Act, Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, the Well-Being of Future Generations Act and the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Powerful agricultural drivers reinforced by BREXIT are increasing intensive egg & poultry production. The WG is ignoring the devastating environmental consequences for biodiversity, soil and water quality and avian and human disease. The public is vocal about poultry welfare but largely ignorant of the environmental impact of intensive poultry farming units (IPUs). "Free-range" egg units with concentrations of up to 2,500 birds/Ha are a particular risk (NRW report 218: Powys Poultry Pilot Study & INI nitrogen alerts 6/17).

Steep-sided valleys, high rainfall causing heavy nutrient run-off and populations of rare natural species make much of rural Wales wholly unsuitable for the current explosion of IPUs. After a decline from 1990, ammonia emissions have been increasing since 2010 (NAEI 2017 report for DEFRA). Critical loads of ammonia and nitrogen deposition (estimated thresholds for unacceptable damage to plant diversity) are far exceeded at some European & UK protected sites, Local Nature Reserves and Ancient Woodland. Excess phosphates threaten our watercourses (Wye & Usk Foundation 2017).

In failing to act on the evidence, WG, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Powys County Council (PCC) are neglecting the duty to "maintain and enhance biodiversity" (Environment Act Sec 6).

*The WG must use its powers to control the industry:*

1. *Provide proper resources for NRW to do urgent research, regulate and monitor IPU's and give better planning help to Local Planning Authorities (LPAs).*
2. *Issue planning policy and guidance to LPAs to improve decisions, ensure cumulative impacts are considered and monitor and enforce planning conditions.*
3. *Make the industry contribute towards the costs of regulation and monitoring and hold it to account for breach of environmental responsibility.*
4. *Publish transparent public reports on progress.*

### **Additional information**

Our evidence is from Powys but our petition applies to all Wales.

Chair Diane McCrea confirms that NRW is shamefully under-resourced (BBC 14/12/17). NRW assesses impacts of IPU applications on European and UK nature sites and issues permits for IPU's over 40,000 birds. Improved NRW guidance (April 2017) covers cumulative impacts but assessment methods fail to prevent development where existing critical loads are exceeded.

The LPA assesses proper description of outdoor ranges and impacts on water quality, air quality, Local Nature Reserves, Ancient Woodland, landscape, residential amenity and local traffic.

LPAs lack the skills and resources for these responsibilities. PCC does not consider the cumulative impact of applications, together with all neighbouring IPU's, on the natural environment, landscape or rural residents. Schedule 2 Environmental Impact Assessment should ensure assessment of cumulative impacts but fails in practice. PCC is reluctant to award EIA status because the WG can overturn the decision (see P/2016/0608 & P/2017/0007).

CPRW has data on intensive poultry planning applications in Powys since 2011. In the last 30 months, there have been 99 APPLICATIONS involving over 3 MILLION BIRDS, of which 72 are for free-range eggs. Of the 99, only 10 have EIA status: 65 applications have been approved and ONLY ONE HAS BEEN REFUSED.

We have evidence of developments approved without contour or outdoor range mapping, close to nature reserves (71m), vulnerable ancient woodlands (adjacent) watercourses (10m) and residents (50m). Residents suffer health risks from flies, airborne ammonia, poultry dust, traffic-generated particulates and offensive smells. Environmental stakeholder and public objections are ignored, rare plant species are dying, disease risks are increasing and watercourses are failing WFD standards.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH: A unique set of POWYS IPU DATA including applications, interactive map, hot-spot map and animated chronological IPU growth display can be viewed at <http://www.brecon-and-radnor-cprw.wales>.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Brecon and Radnorshire
- Mid and West Wales

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM  
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-815  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05445/19

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

6

March 2019

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 21 February, regarding Petition P-05-815 on the regulation of the poultry industry.

The Chief Planner wrote to Welsh Local Planning Authorities last year regarding intensive agricultural developments. In his letter he invited them to take part in work to consider how the impact on the environment can be better assessed. The Welsh Government received expressions of interest from Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority. Officials have also discussed the issue with officers from Powys County Council who will be involved in work going forward.

Officials in the Planning Department are in the process of establishing a Working Group. The group will include representation from the Local Authorities as well from the farming industry, Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh Government. The draft terms of reference of the working group are:

- to consider the evidence required for the preparation of Local Development Plans
- identify the range of material considerations Welsh Local Planning Authorities should be considering, including suitable assessment methods of typical impacts
- identify appropriate sources of advice which Welsh Local Planning Authorities can draw on when determining planning applications
- suggest appropriate text to guide Local Planning Authorities when planning for intensive agriculture installations both during plan preparation and development management stages.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400  
[Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@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.

The intention is to publish a new guidance note by the end of the year.

It is important the Working Group is now given time to fully consider the evidence, including the evidence supplied by the petitioners. The Working Group will contact the petitioners directly if it requires any more information.

Regards  
Lesley

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



**BRECON AND RADNOR  
BRANCH**

25/3/19

Dear Petitions Committee,

We are most grateful to you for making the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee aware of our petition and would very much welcome a response from the CCERA committee.

Thank you for giving us the chance to respond to the Minister for EERA's reply to your questions following our previous submission.

We regret that Minister Lesley Griffiths did not give any further information to clarify her statement (14/11/18) about measures to regulate agricultural pollution.

We are very pleased to hear from Minister Lesley Griffiths that a Working Group to improve planning with respect to intensive agriculture is to be established but the information she has provided leaves us with various concerns.

### **1. What will the working group consider?**

1.1 There is no title for the Working Group and nor do the terms of reference clarify exactly what the working group will consider. Is this planning matters for:

*"all intensive agricultural developments" ?*

*"intensive livestock-farming developments"?*

*"intensive poultry-farming developments"?*

1.2 Will the interpretation of "*intensive*" be sufficiently broad to deal with environmental concerns? To give a local example: there has been an application for a (just under) 2,000 animal pig-rearing enterprise in Powys (P/2015/1152) where pigs finishing over 80Kg are reared in an "*all in – all out*" cyclical scheme allowing 1m sq. per pig. The number of just under 2,000 neatly avoids the NRW permitting threshold of 2,000. The applying agent advises the LPA that this is "*not intensive*"..

### **2. Will the working group be publicly accountable?**

2.1 It seems that the environmental concerns of the public and stakeholder NGO organisations can only be brought to the table at the discretion of participants who include:

- Farming Industry representatives
- LPAs
- NRW
- Welsh Government

There is no mention of:

- Non-Governmental Stakeholder Environmental Organisations

- representatives of the general Welsh public
- independent scientists.

We are concerned that solutions will be too strongly governed by political pressure. The short-term interests of the farming industry will not be adequately counterbalanced by any other interests. There is likely to be a strong lobby for industry self-regulation but we have seen that this is not working and will not work whenever short-term agricultural profits are at stake. In particular, overriding longer-term environmental issues concerning biodiversity, air, water and soil quality will not get the consideration they need for survival of the rural economy and ultimately of the human species.

2.2 We have frequently drawn the Petitions Committee's attention to the fact that NRW addresses impacts on designated sites and European Protected Species but impacts on vulnerable habitats, wildlife populations local nature reserves, which should be protected by LPA planning procedures, are ignored. The Working Group should find an environmental expert to represent these interests.

2.3 The impacts on rural communities will not be represented. We have not yet seen an application in Powys refused because of impact on residents and, as we described before, public objections or support for planning applications are no longer published in Powys.

2.4 Other important issues such as the tourist industry, landscape change, air quality impact on health and pressure on rural highways issues (which do not concern NRW), will not be adequately represented.

**2.5 We suggest that :**

- **Wales Environmental Link and/or Welsh Wildlife Trusts**
- **at least one independent scientific expert, with relevant experience**

**be invited onto the working group so that there is better public accountability.**

Also that a means of hearing from "grass roots" people and of assessing the impact of existing intensive livestock units on rural communities is developed to aid the Working Group's deliberations.

### **3. Will the working group really engage key decision makers in LPAs?**

3.1 The minister has cited the Brecon Beacon National Park Authority and the Pembrokeshire Coast NP Authority as the only bodies expressing an interest. It sounds as though Powys LPA has been advised to get involved. As this is a big issue for Powys, we trust that the attendee will be an experienced person from an appropriately senior level of decision-making.

3.2 While we warmly welcome Powys' participation, our communications with the Petitions Committee have repeated several times that so far the Chief Planner's letter does not seem to have made any difference at all to Powys planning decisions.

### **4. Will there be measures to oblige LPAs to improve?**

4.1 Better informed planning will have financial implications for LPAs and require better specialised staffing and external advice.

LPA's make essential income out of planning application fees and the public have frequently questioned whether the consistent approval of intensive livestock units is influenced by economic interests in ensuring more applications keep coming through. It will be an impossible uphill struggle to change practice unless LPAs are helped with expertise and finance.

4.2 Experience of LPA response to the Chief Planner's letter of 12/6/18 persuades us that LPA's will not heed generalised planning advice unless effective measures are put in place to oblige them to do so and even then there will have to be some meaningful objective criteria against which to measure decisions. The Working Group should recognise that the public has no effective recourse for planning



failures which directly affect them because the legal costs of challenging planning decisions are exorbitant.

## **5. How will the work of the “working group” be integrated with that of the “intensive agriculture health working group” ?**

5.1 These two groups were mentioned in the 8/1/19 Welsh Assembly exchange below. We do not know which group will consider the impacts of ammonia, dust particles and the combination of these with increased traffic emissions on the health of rural or urban residents.

5.2 We have written to the Welsh Government for clarification about these two groups on 6/3/19 and our query was forwarded to the WG Planning Department but so far we have received no reply. We do not know whether there are yet one or more working groups on agricultural pollution as mentioned by Lesley Griffiths in her statement of 14/11/18. The public can be forgiven for feeling excluded and that they do not know exactly what is going on.

### ***Brecon and Radnorshire Branch: Campaign for the Protection of Ruarl Wales***

#### ***8/1/2019 Welsh assembly***

##### ***Russell George AM***

*Can I thank you for your answer, First Minister, and wish you a happy new year and every success in your new role? I did raise this with the previous Cabinet Secretary for planning, in regard to IPUs, and I had an answer that was entirely satisfactory, because the then Cabinet Secretary confirmed to me that the chief planning officer would write to all local planning authorities offering that guidance, and I was pleased with that. Can I now suggest that Welsh Government officials, Natural Resources Wales and officials from the Welsh Local Government Association and local planning authorities do convene a meeting together, to discuss how this new guidance is implemented in practice, because there are overlapping factors, such as air pollution, water pollution and manure management plans? When I've spoken to NRW, they have certainly said that they would welcome such a meeting as well. Is this something that you would consider?*

##### ***First Minister***

*I thank the Member for that supplementary question and for his introductory remarks. I've seen the letter that was sent as a result of his previous discussion with my colleague Lesley Griffiths. And he will have seen that, in that letter, it ends by inviting interested parties to come forward to take part in the more detailed work, to see whether specific guidance is necessary in relation to intensive poultry units. **I'm pleased to be able to tell him that two groups have been established as a result. The first, an intensive agriculture health working group, has already met, and that involves Public Health Wales and NRW, together with the Welsh Government. That will inform the work of a second group, which will look at the overall approach of planning authorities in dealing with the sorts of matters that Russell George has identified in terms of nitrate pollution, odorous emissions and the cumulative impact of those things. That second group will meet with the intention of publishing a new guidance note in these matters by the end of this calendar year.***

#### **Interesting reading:**

<https://climateandcapitalism.com/2019/03/19/broiler-chickens-the-defining-species-of-the-anthropocene/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/22/ukmiss-almost-all-2020-nature-targets-official-report-admits>

# Agenda Item 4.8

## **P-05-825 Protect children's lungs from harmful pollution whilst at school**

This petition was submitted by British Lung Foundation Cymru, having collected 159 signatures.

### **Text of Petition**

People in towns and cities across Wales are breathing in levels of air pollution that are illegal and harmful for their health. Children are among those most vulnerable to air pollution. Their lungs are still growing, and polluted air can stunt the growth of their lungs and increase the likelihood of asthma and other health problems later on in life.

A freedom of information request by the BLF to local authorities in 2017 found that 68% of respondents (15 out of 22) were not monitoring air pollution within 10 metres of any of their schools.

We, the undersigned, call on the Welsh Government to require all Local Authorities to monitor the quality of the air children breathe whilst at school so decision-makers have the information they need to take action on air pollution.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Cardiff South and Penarth
- South Wales Central

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM  
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-825  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05268/19

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee

[SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales)

13 February 2019

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 1 February regarding petition P-05-825 in which the British Lung Foundation is calling for measures to protect children's lungs from harmful pollution whilst at school.

The Automatic Urban and Rural Network (AURN) is managed by the Environment Agency on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Devolved Administrations.

Local Authorities have statutory duties under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 to review, report and where necessary take action to improve air quality in their areas. The Welsh Government provides Local Authorities with core funding, which they allocate to air quality depending on local priorities. In 2019/20 Local Authorities in Wales will receive £4.2 billion in core revenue funding and non-domestic rates to spend on delivering key services, in addition to the revenue received through council tax, sales, fees and charges.

Under The Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (Wales) Regulations 2003, Local Authorities can stop the commission of statutory idling offences and issue fixed penalty notices in respect of such offences. It remains the decision of each Local Authority to determine whether it will enforce these offences and if so whether this is throughout the whole of their area or only in certain zones.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400  
[Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@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.

The Welsh Government will consider all measures to improve air quality. We intend to consult on a Clean Air Plan for Wales later this year. In developing this plan, we are considering future responsibility and accountability for tackling air quality across local government and other public bodies to enable effective action. We will also consider the potential for anti-idling zones and an associated review of existing regulations. We welcome the opportunity to engage with stakeholders, including the British Lung Foundation, in exploring the most effective solutions to achieve clean air.

Regards  
Lesley

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

By email

12/03/2019

RE: P-05-825 Correspondence from the Chair of the Petitions Committee

Dear Petitions Committee,

Thank you for your letter dated 1 February 2019 regarding the Petition to protect children's lungs from harmful pollution whilst at school.

As this issue relates to the rights of children, we believe that it also falls within the remit of the Children's Commissioner for Wales. Therefore, after discussions between our two teams, we have decided to issue a joint response to your letter dated 1 February 2019.

We recognise the importance of this topic and the health impacts air quality has on the well-being of current and future generations in Wales and we welcome the Petitions Committee's consideration of the issue. You might like to know we recently issued a [joint statement](#) supporting the school children strike for climate change - an issue closely linked to air quality.

We would like to start by explaining our main duties and powers. The duty of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales is to promote the sustainable development principle (acting in a way that ensures that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs). The principal aim of the Children's Commissioner is to safeguard and promote the rights and welfare of children in Wales, and she is required to have regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in doing so.

We do not currently have the legal powers to enforce any policy or regulations around air quality. Should the actions called for in the petition be accepted by the Welsh Government however, this may change.

Both Commissioners set their work plans in response to consultation with members of the public and professionals in Wales and have a duty to deliver against those plans. Unfortunately, neither Commissioner has the level or expertise or resources to carry out detailed research on this topic.

The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales' office participated in workshops with the third sector and Welsh Government to challenge Welsh Government to use the Well-being of Future Generations Act fully in the design of their new Air Quality Strategy following on the court case from Friends of the Earth.

In terms of alternative levers for addressing the effects of air pollution on children, the Commissioners have the powers to provide advice or assistance to public bodies. The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales can also encourage best practice, promote awareness of the Act, encourage collaboration. However, such advice is not mandatory for public bodies to follow. She can also conduct statutory reviews and provide recommendations to public bodies on how to improve the way in which they look at the long-term impact of the things they do in line with their well-being duty. However, these recommendations can only be for the future and would not affect the decisions reviewed.

Given the huge remit of The Well-being of Future Generations Act, the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales has carried out a consultation exercise and determined six areas to focus her work on. These are planning, transport, housing stock, adverse childhood experiences, alternative health models, and skills for the future.

Air quality is clearly closely linked to her focus on transport. The Commissioner's recent report, [Transport Fit for Future Generations](#), calls for a modal shift to sustainable transport in order to address a plethora of issues, including air quality.

The call for sustainable transport to improve air quality was also included in the new [Planning Policy Wales](#), where the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales worked with Welsh Government to ensure the policy contributed to the well-being goals and that the Well-being of Future Generations Act was fully embedded in it.

As part of her duty to promote the sustainable development principle, the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales also has to monitor and assess the extent to which the public bodies listed in the Well-being of Future Generations Act are meeting the well-being objectives they have set for themselves. There are 10 local authorities and 7 public services boards which reference air quality in either the steps they plan to take to achieve their well-being objectives or as a measurement of their progress. The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales is currently in the process of reviewing the first set of annual reports public bodies have published on the progress of meeting their well-being objectives. This work will conclude shortly, and we will publish an overview report this summer. Advice on setting and meeting well-being objectives will also be set out in the Future Generations Report that the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales must publish in 2020.

Welsh Ministers have a duty to have due regard to the UNCRC in the exercise of their functions under the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011. There are no 'set' criteria in respect of how to give due regard to the UNCRC, but it requires more than just a passing thought. On a practical level the Children's Commissioner would expect children's rights to be integrated into every aspect of decision making and for there to be evidence of this having taken place.

The Children's Commissioner has published [The Right Way](#) which is a practical guide to taking a children's rights approach to the work of any public bodies including the Welsh Government and local authorities. There are five principles of a children's rights approach: embedding, equality and non-discrimination, empowerment, participation and accountability.

In addition, the Commissioners have jointly published a [range of materials](#) including a self-assessment toolkit that allows public bodies to consider how their work upholds both the Future Generations legislation and children's rights. These points do not have to be mutually exclusive provided there is a thorough and careful consideration of the issues. Done well, an integrated assessment in whatever format can consider issues such as air quality and children's health in the context of both. A child's right to be healthy and active and to be kept safe is also compatible with cohesive communities and a healthier Wales, and the expectations for involvement and participation can also be closely aligned, just as examples.

The Children's Commissioner's legal remit allows her to review the exercise of functions of specific public bodies including local authorities. As noted above local authorities are not currently required to undertake air quality assessments near schools, but if this action was supported, the Children's Commissioner would be able to review the actions of any local authority in respect of this. The legal power is worded such that she would have to produce a report of findings and recommendations, and then if the relevant body had not responded within 3 months, she may enquire further as regards compliance with the report and advise that should they not respond within a further 3 months she can publish such failure as deemed appropriate.

Research by UNICEF in 2018 led to the publication of the paper '[A breath of toxic air: UK children in danger](#)'. This states that "[c]hildren are particularly vulnerable to the health impacts of toxic air.....The youngest and poorest children are carrying the weight of this burden." They make a number of recommendations including child friendly urban areas and a network of clean air zones, the expansion of air quality monitoring and data collection to better reflect children's exposure, ensuring that children's rights are at the centre of policy making, and that all information is disseminated in an accessible and child-friendly way, and detailed research into the health impacts and risk for all children – broken down by age, disability, gender, ethnicity and socio-economic background.

We are in regular contact with Friends of the Earth Cymru who are conducting work on air quality in Wales and they have advised us that there are local groups that use air pollution monitoring tubes to get a snapshot of the air quality in their local area. This is also available to schools with a pack and there is more information about it [here](#). However, Friends of the Earth said that these are just samples and there is no available data providing a full picture of air quality around schools. Their recommendation is that more monitoring and information are necessary to assess the situation.

The Royal College of Physicians has produced a report called '[Every breath we take: the lifelong impact of air pollution](#)'. One of the recommendations in this report calls for local government to monitor air pollution effectively, especially in major urban areas and near schools.

King's College London has produced a report that explores the effects that air pollution can have on children's health. You can find more information on that [here](#).

We believe it would also be beneficial to hear the views of Natural Resources Wales, Public Health Wales and the Health & Safety Executive on air quality and its effect on children in Wales and also to find out what work they may be doing to improve the situation.

Finally, we believe that monitoring air quality around school would be only the first step towards improving this issue and protecting children from suffering the impacts of air pollution. We need to think long-term and safeguard the current and future generations of Wales and we cannot do that without getting a full picture of what air quality is like around schools. Therefore, we urge the Committee to act now to ensure that we are aware of the quality of air children in Welsh schools are breathing.

Thank you again for seeking our views on this very important issue. We hope you find this letter useful. We would be grateful if you could let us know about any action you decide to take as a result of this petition.

Yours sincerely,



Sophie Howe  
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales



Sally Holland  
Children's Commissioner for Wales



25<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Petitions Committee,

We are grateful for the response from the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales and the Children's Commissioner for Wales to our petition calling for enhanced air quality monitoring outside schools to better inform the interventions councils take to tackle localised air pollution.



We welcome reference to UNICEF's 2018 report 'A Breath of Toxic Air', among others. We would like to highlight additional research and evidence in relation to children's exposure to air pollution.

Children's lungs are particularly at risk. Air pollution exposure during pregnancy is linked with low birth weight and premature birth, which impacts on children's lungs.<sup>i</sup> Children exposed to severe air pollution are five times more likely to have poor lung development,<sup>ii</sup> and increased infection susceptibility.<sup>iii</sup> In addition, children's height negatively affects their roadside NO<sub>2</sub> intake,<sup>iv</sup> with everyday pollution linked to increased airway inflammation.<sup>v</sup>

It is clear from the number of sources referenced in the Commissioners' letter that leading health and environmental charities concerned with air pollution support our calls for greater monitoring outside schools.

The Welsh Government's current guidance adopts a risk-based approach to monitoring and adopting measures to tackle localised air pollution problems. As referenced in an earlier letter, we believe that Welsh Government should adopt a proactive health-focused approach to monitoring, recognising that there is no safe level of pollution. This places the burden of demonstrating that air pollution levels are as low as practically possible - a commitment made by Welsh Government - on authorities, rather than the public and communities bearing the burden of demonstrating significant exposure to toxic air.

We recognise that resource for air quality work in Local Authorities is increasingly limited. However, with broader health implications associated with exposure to toxic air, long-term thinking would suggest taking account of future health challenges and impacts resulting from early exposure to toxic air, in line with public bodies' well-being duty. In addition, we would question whether resources can be maximised across Public Services Boards where air pollution has been recognised as a priority.

We welcome the Future Generations Commissioner's reference to calls for modal shift to sustainable transport to address a range of issues, including air quality. Road transport accounts for 80% of NO<sub>2</sub> emissions which accounts for more than 11,600 Life Years Lost and 1,124 attributable deaths annually. Any measures which reduce the levels of toxic air are to be welcomed, however these measures are only likely to achieve compliance with EU limits and do not recognise that there are no safe levels of air pollution and any level of exposure represents a significant risk to public health. Increased monitoring will better inform the scope of ambitious measures such as Clean Air Zones to achieve the greatest impact.

Finally, if our efforts to tackle air pollution are to deliver meaningful positive public health change, we need to rethink our current approach of managing localised air

25<sup>th</sup> March 2019

pollution problems in isolation. Evidence suggests that air pollution, poor health and deprivation stressors can combine as a ‘triple jeopardy’ to disproportionately affect high-risk population groups. <sup>vi</sup>

We need a new public health-driven approach to risk assessment which places air quality in a broader context, encourages policy and practice integration and helps create opportunities for more effective, efficient and collaborative ways of working. Doing so can inform universal action to reduce air pollution risks for everyone and enhanced targeted action to address specific problems in communities where air quality and/or public health is poorest. Enhanced air quality monitoring will help support a public health-driven approach to risk assessment.

We thank the committee for their ongoing work in considering our petition.



Rhys Taylor  
Policy and Public Affairs Officer, British Lung Foundation Cymru  
Rhys.taylor@blf.org.uk  
07703829141

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<sup>i</sup> Pedersen M et al, (2013) *Ambient air pollution and low birthweight: a European cohort study (ESCAPE)*, The Lancet Respiratory Medicine, Volume 1, No. 9, p695-704 p.695

<sup>ii</sup> Anderson, J. et al (2012) *Clearing the Air: A Review of the Effects of Particulate Matter Air Pollution on Human Health*. J Med Toxicol, Volume 8, pp. 166-175. p.170

<sup>iii</sup> Macintyre, E.A et al. (2014). *Air pollution and respiratory infections during early childhood: An analysis of 10 European birth cohorts within the escape project*. Environmental Health Perspectives, 122(1), 107-113. p.112

<sup>iv</sup> Kenagy, H.S. Lin, C. Wu, H. Heal, M.R. (2016) Greater nitrogen dioxide concentrations at child versus adult breathing heights close to urban main road kerbside Air Qual Atmos Health. 2016;9:589-595. Epub 2015 Sep 15.

<sup>v</sup> Sara D. Adar et al (2015) *Adopting Clean Fuels and Technologies on School Buses: Pollution and Health Impacts in Children*. Am J Respir Crit Care Med p.1417

<sup>vi</sup> Brunt, H. and Jones, J.S. (2019) *A pragmatic public health-driven approach to enhance local air quality management risk assessment in Wales, UK*. Environmental Science & Policy pp.18-26

# Agenda Item 4.9

## **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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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## WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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**TITLE** Consultations on Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging and a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers

**DATE** 18 February 2019

**BY** Hannah Blythyn, Deputy Minister for Housing & Local Government

Plastic waste and packaging waste are important issues that are high on the political and public agenda. In the UK, we generate 2.3 million tonnes of plastic packaging waste every year and when it comes to packaging waste as a whole, we generate around 11.5 million tonnes annually in the UK<sup>1</sup>. Wales is leading the way on recycling and waste management. As well as improving the collection of household and business wastes, we are investing in reprocessing infrastructure and are committed to developing the market for recycle in Wales.

Wales is a world leader in recycling but we want to go further and build on what we have already achieved. We need to work collectively and in collaboration with others to address global issues such as, minimising the amount of packaging we use and incentivising better design of products and packaging, so that it can be reused or more easily recycled. Over recent months, we have been working with the UK Government and the other devolved administrations to develop joint consultations on Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging and a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers. In doing this, I have carefully considered and taken account of Members' insightful contributions on these issues, alongside a range of other evidence.

These joint consultations will be issued today. The consultation documents and response forms are available on the links provided below.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/consultation-on-reforming-the-uk-packaging-produce>

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environment/introducing-a-deposit-return-scheme>

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<sup>1</sup>[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/778594/UK\\_Statistics\\_on\\_Waste\\_statistical\\_notice\\_Feb\\_2019.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/778594/UK_Statistics_on_Waste_statistical_notice_Feb_2019.pdf)

The first consultation, which applies to the UK as a whole, relates to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging. EPR schemes are meant to ensure that producers bear the waste management cost of the products they place onto the market. This is in line with the 'polluter pays' principle. Currently, in the UK, it is estimated that producers pay approximately only 10% of the overall cost of recycling their packaging waste.

It is clear that this contribution will need to rise significantly, and the consultation document contains proposals for how this can be achieved, managed and monitored. The main purpose would be to ensure full net cost recovery for managing packaging waste, providing a potential source of revenue to Local Authorities. Another important aim of EPR would be to incentivise producers to improve packaging design, for example by making it easier to reuse or recycle their packaging. This would help to further improve waste management, stimulate economic opportunities in Wales, and support our ambition to become a truly circular economy.

The second consultation, which applies to England, Wales and Northern Ireland, relates to a deposit return scheme (DRS) for drinks containers. The Scottish Government consulted on proposals for a DRS last year.

I am keen to explore whether a DRS for drinks containers could work for Wales, given our already high recycling rate and as the only UK nation that sets statutory targets for Local Authorities. I would like to hear views from all sectors, stakeholders and the public on these proposals as I want to understand the likely impact on local authority income and recycling rates and also on businesses, including large and small retailers. If a DRS is to be introduced in Wales, citizens will be expected to pay a deposit on drinks containers and have to manually return empty containers to collection points in order to claim back their deposit, rather than just sorting and separating their household waste collections for kerbside collection by their council.

The proposals in the consultation documents are the first steps towards the design of an integrated, strategic approach to managing packaging waste and I hope you will encourage your constituents to read and respond to the consultations.

Another related UK-wide consultation is also being published by HM Treasury today in relation to a proposed tax on the production and import of plastic packaging. It is proposed that this tax will apply to plastic packaging which does not contain at least 30% recycled plastic. The consultation is available at this link.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/plastic-packaging-tax>

There is widespread public interest and engagement around waste and packaging. I hope to see a high level of interest in these consultations from people in Wales and I welcome your support in encouraging responses to this important engagement.

**P-05-750 - For single use items: introduce a Deposit Return System for drink containers and make fast food containers and utensils compostable, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 11.03.19**

Additional information for the National Assembly for Wales Petition Committee:

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

Gill Bell, Head of conservation Wales, Marine Conservation Society, March 2109

**Key ask: What we want is a Deposit Return System for all drinks cans and bottles in Wales that would be harmonised with systems in Scotland and England to reduce confusion for consumers and maximise return and recycling.**

**Definition of a Deposit Return System (DRS)** - A scheme whereby consumers pay a small deposit on each single use drinks container, e.g. plastic and glass bottles, aluminium cans. which is then fully refunded when the containers are returned.

**Why do we need one?**

In the MCS 2018 Great British Beach Clean survey, volunteers collected almost 21,000 items of drinks related litter, equating to 42 items /100m, making up almost 7% of total litter. (includes plastic drinks bottles and bottle tops, aluminium drinks cans and glass bottles)

**Do they work?**

Deposit return systems operate in around 40 other countries and regions around the world from Croatia to Australia, Canada to Fiji and are credited with increasing recycling to levels of over 80% and reducing litter. DRS also create a more certain supply of affordable, high-quality recycled materials for manufacturers to use.

**How is it funded?**

Set up costs usually borne by the producers, ideally through a dedicated not for profit group. The costs of running systems of this sort are met by a small fee on producers, typically on each product they produce, the value of the recyclable materials recovered and unredeemed deposits.

**How would it work?**

Any scheme would need to be designed with local conditions in mind to achieve the most appropriate and effective system. One of the key issues is to establish the way in which such a system could work most effectively with local authorities' existing services, as it already does in places like Lithuania, Norway and Canada.

**What's a Reverse Vending Machine (RVM)?**

A machine that accepts used, empty drinks containers and returns money or a credit note to the user.

**Would businesses have to have a RVM?**

No, shops could either choose to have a RVM or take clean bottles and cans back by hand. In Norway there are 15,000 outlets and only 3,700 have RVMs.

RVMs can be purchased, leased or supplied at no cost in which case a proportion of the handling fee is paid to the supplier. If bought outright, the handling fees generated by the volume of cans and bottles neutralise any up-front costs and potentially increase product sales by creating greater footfall through stores. Smaller retailers can collect empties over the counter, refuse to accept dirty empties or opt out completely if they simply don't have space.

### **What about small retailers?**

Small retailers generally take back over the counter and give money back directly. They do not have to have an RVM.

A report from Zero Waste Scotland suggested using RVMs in outlets accepting more than 500-600 containers per day. This is the level at which it becomes more cost effective to invest in a RVM than to collect and store uncompacted containers<sup>1</sup>.

### **Should all businesses take back containers?**

As a basic principle all retailers should take part and accept containers that they sell. There may be a case for retailers with very small floor space to be excluded. However, they should have the option to take part if they want to.

### **What about on-line sales/deliveries?**

Returning empties via online delivery vans is the most efficient and convenient solution here. It's especially important that people with mobility issues are able to return their drinks containers to the person who delivers their shopping. Countries such as Norway and Germany have hygienic systems that work this way already. The main system is to supply the customer with a sealable bag for empties, tagged with a barcode specific to the customer. In this way refunds can go straight to the customers' account.

### **Would businesses loose revenue?**

Retailers receive a handling fee for each container they collect. This is to cover the costs of funding, installing, maintaining and operating the collection point. The level of the handling fee is usually calculated by the scheme operators in cooperation with the retailers. Increased footfall to a shop can lead to an increase in sales.

### **Would Councils loose revenue?**

Research indicates that council would benefit. Although councils do get some revenue from the sale of recyclable material, much of the material collected at kerbside is of low quality and attracts low prices. A study of the effects of a DRS on English local Authorities found that<sup>2</sup>

- Savings, of up to a few hundred thousand pounds per year, are likely to occur for individual Local Authorities in England even for currently very well performing authorities.
- Savings for lower performing authorities would be higher as there would be a greater shift away from disposal.

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<sup>1</sup> Eunomia (2015) A SCOTTISH DEPOSIT REFUND SYSTEM Final Report for Zero Waste Scotland

<sup>2</sup> Eunomia (2017) Impacts of a Deposit Refund System on Local Authority Waste Services. **Report for KBT, MCS, CPRE, SAS, RELOOP** <https://www.mcsuk.org/media/eunomia-report-on-drs.pdf>

- Savings in the management of street scene services of over £50k per year in the case of more densely populated Local Authorities areas could be expected.

A study looking at the implications across the world on local authority systems found that in each case bringing a DRS had positive effects.<sup>3</sup>

### **What about costs to cafes/pubs etc?**

DRS can save businesses such as cafes, restaurants and bars substantial sums. Using DRS means they'd no longer need to pay for collections of cans and bottles. Instead, collections would be free and they would be paid a small sum (the handling fee) for each item returned.

### **What should be the deposit level?**

We think between 15p and 20p deposit would be enough to see a very good return rate, but it's important that this amount can be changed in the future if necessary, to take into account drops in return rates and increased costs of living. An equivalent situation might be the bag charge in Ireland which was raised when bag sales started to rise. It will be equally important that the deposit is the same across the UK.

### **What materials should be included?**

We think it's very important that any system be universal, and not provide incentives for manufacturers to switch to materials without deposits to avoid taking part and distorting the market. Instead, the system should give producers an incentive for using materials that are easy to recycle and have a high content of recycled materials. Containers of all materials that drinks are sold in, should be given a 'price' for producers, according to how recyclable they are. Provision should be made for the inclusion of new materials.

### **What sizes of containers should be included?**

All sizes of drinks containers should be included. Limiting a DRS by size could lead to serious distortion of the market as producers seek to avoid their responsibilities by changing the size of the container. This has happened in other countries such as Germany where deposit system applies to containers up to 3l in size – there, some companies have manufactured bottle of 3.1l and even 3.001l to escape the system. In the Netherlands, bottles of 500ml and above are included so there are now bottles of 499ml on the market.

The so called 'on the go' option is a watered-down ineffective version of a comprehensive system which would decrease the efficiency and cost effectiveness of a system and would not lead to the best rates in reduction of littering or increases in high quality recycling.

### **What about biodegradable /bioplastics?**

Whilst these can look and behave like plastic, it is often important to ensure they are kept separate from plastic in the waste stream as they are recycled differently.

Bio- based, 'biodegradable' or compostable plastics are not a solution to the plastic pollution crisis and will continue to pose risks to wildlife if they leak into the ocean or terrestrial environments. In line with the waste hierarchy, reduction should come as the first option rather than replacing conventional

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<sup>3</sup> <https://reloopplatform.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Fact-Sheet-Economic-Impacts-to-Municis-9May2018.pdf>



plastics with other single-use items and packaging. However, where no alternatives are available all fast food containers and utensils, should be compostable, with clear labelling and a dedicated waste stream.

Calling something compostable or biodegradable may also give the impression that it is ok to litter that item. Additionally, such plastic can cause problems for conventional plastic recycling systems.

Oxo-degradable plastics should be banned altogether in line with the current EU proposals.

### **What about drink cups - the 'Latte levy'?**

Welsh Government have committed to look at this as part of their waste review. Cups may be better dealt with through a separate system for cup take back at outlets that sell hot and cold drinks together with a levy/charge on single use cups to encourage use of reusables.

Disposable cups should firstly be dealt with by encouraging reduction in use and uptake of reusable cups together with a levy/charge on single use cups. Any cups left in the system could be incorporated into a similar DRS type system specifically for cups

### **Are DRSs a form of producer responsibility?**

Yes, additionally a deposit return system will show the highest success when complimented with comprehensive EPR requirements on all packaging as the current PRN system means producers are only responsible for about 10% of the cost of recovery of any packaging they put on the market.

### **Key asks for a DRS in Wales:**

- Include as a minimum glass and plastic bottles and aluminium drinks cans of all sizes - Limiting a DRS by size could lead to serious distortion of the market as producers seek to avoid their responsibilities by changing the size of the container. The same goes for limiting a DRS to certain materials only - this would just encourage a shift to materials not included in the system.
- Limiting a DRS would also decrease the efficiency and cost effectiveness of a system and would not lead to the best rates in reduction of littering or increases in high quality recycling.
- The system will need to be future proofed – i.e. take into account the need to potentially change deposit levels and consider the introduction of new materials/drinks onto the market.
- The basic day to day running and administration of any system should be carried out by an industry led not for profit (Operating Company) with transparent audit trails and lines of accountability.
- The Operating Company would need to organise an open and transparent system which would set the fees, ensure maximum participation, ensure proper records kept, audits taken, fraud minimised and public reports made as well as organising the logistics of any scheme and publicising the scheme to the public.
- The Operating Company should maintain ownership and income generated by sales of material as then they have a greater incentive to get as much material going through the system as possible. Any monies raised should be used to achieve additional benefits to the system
- A board made up of representatives from Government(s) and other bodies such as the NRW/EA/SEPA should be responsible for regulating the Operating Company. This board should not include producers, retailers or others who have a commercial interest in the system.
- Retailers should receive a handling fee for each container returned.
- Return should be back to retail rather than centralised depots, although other businesses/bodies e.g. train stations, leisure centres should be able to host a RVM if they wish.

- As a basic principle all retailers should take part and accept containers that they sell. There may be a case for retailers with very small floor space to be excluded. However, they should have the option to take part if they want to.
- Unredeemed deposits should go back into the system and should not be used for other purposes e.g. donation to charity – this creates a perverse incentive for the system to fail. Raising funds for environmental work could be done through a donate option at the point of return.

# Agenda Item 4.10

**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

# Agenda Item 4.11

## **P-05-829 Ban Single Use Plastic Items in Wales**

This petition was submitted by Ban Plastic Straws Wales having collected 161 signatures.

### **Text of Petition**

We call on the Welsh Assembly to ban all single use plastic items within Wales; It is estimated that the UK and US alone throw away around 550 million plastic straws every day. Although each one is used for an average of just 20 minutes, they take centuries to break down. During a clean-up organised by the Marine Conservation Society last year, an average of 138 pieces of food and drink-related waste were found on every 100m of UK beaches.

This needs to stop and the environment needs to become a priority.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Montgomeryshire
- Mid and West Wales

## **P-05-862 Tackling school bullying**

This petition was submitted by BlowforBradley Campaign having collected 1,463 signatures.

### **Text of Petition**

We believe that bullying in schools is often ignored and the issue is not confronted in too many cases. Schools are required to have an anti bullying policy but too often this is merely a paperwork statement which is not acted upon.

We want the Welsh Assembly to produce a standard bullying framework which is enforceable by law. The after effects of school bullying often affects victims throughout their lives therefore changes are required as the current system is a failure. Schools often fail to record bullying incidents as such for fear of damaging their reputation and victims who speak out often find themselves punished themselves, harming their self esteem even more.

We insist that bullying is recorded and acted upon as such with better recording, cctv, reporting, compulsory parental interaction.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Llanelli
- Mid and West Wales



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-862  
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05517/19

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

[Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales](mailto:Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales)

12 March 2019

### **Petition P-05-862 – Tackling school bullying**

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 4 March requesting further information on the above petition following the meeting of the Petitions Committee on 12 February.

I recently met with the petitioner and we discussed similar points to those set out in his letter to you. The petitioner also accepted my offer to meet with my officials to discuss the detail of the consultation on the draft anti-bullying guidance. My officials are considering the feedback the petitioner provided during this meeting alongside the other responses we have received to the consultation and the feedback gathered from the engagement events we have held.

You ask about our assessment of the sufficiency of current legal duties in relation to preventing and challenging bullying in schools; our overarching approach in Wales focuses on prevention, with respect and positive behaviour central to this. That said, the revised draft guidance does set out the current legal duties. In particular, it is a legal requirement that all schools have a school behaviour policy. The expectation is that effective anti-bullying strategies should be central to that behaviour policy and be developed and put into effect by everyone in the school, including the pupils.

The draft guidance also highlights that some types of bullying behaviour that constitute harassment or threatening behaviour or communication may in fact be a criminal offence. Where school staff or parents feel a criminal offence may have been committed they can and should take immediate action and report it to the police. It is then for the police to decide whether to investigate and prosecute.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

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


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

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

As part of the recent consultation on revised anti-bullying guidance we have spoken with children and young people, schools, local authorities and voluntary organisations to understand the challenges they face in dealing with bullying. We have engaged widely to ensure that the guidance is as effective and impactful as possible.

The consultation closed on 15 February and my officials are currently analysing the responses and feedback from the engagement events we held. Once this task is complete, I will be in a better position to confirm the timetable for publishing the new guidance and supporting resource toolkit.

Yours sincerely

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

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**  
Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education



**P-05-862 Tackling school bullying, Correspondence – Petitioner to Chair,  
18.03.19**

Dear Sir,

Thank you for forwarding me the prompt and efficient response from the Education Minister.

Whilst a lot of work has gone into the study/consultation I would like to make the following observations:-

1/ The current review is only going to result in recommendations and guidance for schools to adopt. Current shortcomings within schools make it obvious that guidelines and recommendations are simply not enough. An across the board, standard framework must be implemented and be legally binding.

2/ The suggestion that schools and parents should report areas of bullying to the police when the act involves an illegal act. Evidence to date suggests that schools do not do this and discourage parents from doing so. In some cases parents and pupils have been heavily discriminated for taking action 'outside' the schools internal procedure.

3/ Many schools are not recording bullying as such for fear of damaging their reputations or league standing. This results in victims suffering repeatedly as action is not being taken to address their bullying.

4/ Whilst the new 'recommendations' are very well intended and the result of much studying, it is felt that until a standard framework is set (a same for all policy) with a legal requirement to record, educate, support and deal with escalating issues victims will continue to suffer whilst bullies continue to operate.

Bullying needs tackling, lives are being ruined even lost, a new approach is required - sooner rather than later.

Regards

Byron John

#blowforbradley Campaign

# Agenda Item 4.13

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

This petition was submitted by Llangenny Village residents and was first considered by the Committee in January 2018, having collected 72 signatures.

### **Text of Petition**

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

### **Additional information**

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

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Brecon and Radnorshire
- Mid and West Wales

Lee Waters AC/AM  
Dirprwy Weinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth  
Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-793  
Ein cyf/Our ref LW/05205/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM  
Chair - Petitions committee  
National Assembly for Wales

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

20 March 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 1 March regarding Petition P-05-793 and the availability of superfast broadband to Llangenny village.

I am sorry to hear that the residents of Llangenny are still without access to a fast, reliable broadband connection.

Whilst it is difficult to give an accurate update on connectivity without a specific postal address my officials have checked the following postcodes with BT (please let me know if there are any further postcode areas to be considered):

NP8 1EY  
NP8 1HE  
NP8 1TB  
NP8 1HF  
NP8 1HD  
NP8 1EU  
NP8 1HA  
NP8 1HB  
NP8 1TD

BT has confirmed the above postcode areas are not scheduled to be connected under the successor programme. Openreach has determined which premises they can cover under this project based on multiple factors including value for public money, deliverable broadband speeds and delivery timeframes.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

[Gohebiaeth.Lee.Waters@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lee.Waters@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lee.Waters@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lee.Waters@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.

Fibre is not the only answer to faster broadband speeds. In order to reach those premises currently unable to access fast broadband, a range of interventions are needed. These interventions are based on delivering a step change in speeds rather than focussing on particular technologies.

We are continuing to make the case for ongoing investment in digital infrastructure in Wales. This includes encouraging private sector operators to expand their own networks in addition to public sector interventions. Where we cannot provide fibre through large scale, publicly funded roll-outs, we are committed to providing support to individuals, businesses and communities to help them access the broadband speeds they need through other means.

There are a number of ways for Llangenny residents to get faster broadband to their premises. To get faster broadband now, the options are:

- Our [Access Broadband Cymru](#) scheme which provides grants to fund (or part-fund) the installation costs of new broadband connections for homes and businesses in Wales (it does not include monthly rental costs). New connections through this scheme must deliver a step change in speed - with at least double current download speeds. The amount of funding received is dependent on the speed of the new connection. For further information, please contact 0300 025 8887 or [broadband@gov.wales](mailto:broadband@gov.wales)
- If you have a business, support is available to connect you to an [ultrafast service](#). The business focused UCV Scheme is also available for businesses wishing to upgrade an existing connection to an ultrafast service (100+Mbps downstream, 30+Mbps upstream). The scheme provides up to £10,000 to fund (or part-fund) the installation costs of new ultrafast connections but does not include monthly rental costs. For further information, please contact 0300 025 8887 or [broadband@gov.wales](mailto:broadband@gov.wales)
- Support is also available from the UK Government's Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme. Gigabit vouchers can be used by small businesses and the local communities surrounding them to contribute to the installation cost of a gigabit capable connection. Businesses can claim up to £2,500 against the cost of connection either individually or as part of a group project. Residents can benefit from the scheme with a voucher worth £500 as part of a group project. Further information is available at <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>
- Community Fibre Partnerships (CFPs) - A CFP is where Openreach work with a local group representing two or more premises to bring superfast, or ultrafast, to an area. Where possible they bring together funding from local authorities, [Government voucher schemes](#) and other [grants](#) to help make things affordable. Further information is available at <https://communityfibre.openreach.co.uk/>
- Residents can also check the [other services](#) available; they may be able to receive standard broadband, cable broadband or wireless broadband. Please follow the link for further information

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/advice/ofcom-checker>

If residents have any difficulty getting advice from the grants team, or if they would like further advice on working with their neighbours to access the Community Fibre Partnerships fund, please let me know and my officials will be happy to try and assist.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Lee Waters AC/AM**

Dirprwy Weinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth  
Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport

**P-05-793 – Hi speed broadband to Llangenny village, Correspondence –  
Petitioner to Chair, 23.03.19**

I see the response from Lee Waters and regrettably I see that we are destined to remain without a cable connection to this village (and no doubt many other rural villages in Wales) for many years. Along with the poor mobile and 4G reception it makes communication and business very difficult in rural communities. The village of Llanbedr which is a similar size and just 3 miles away was chosen for connection and it is completely unclear why that is the case when we weren't.

I travel widely on business and for holidays and it is embarrassing to find that most developing countries have far better 4G and mobile signal in their rural communities than we do whatever the terrain. This means rural populations are "doing business" rather than driving young people away and becoming retirement areas.

Thank you for your efforts to resolve this issue but I don't think you can progress the matter further

Regards

Duncan Forbes