

Agenda – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: 11 June 2019

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

Graeme Francis – Committee Clerk

Kath Thomas – Deputy Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest
(Pages 1 – 39)

2 New petitions

2.1 P-05-880 Wales is Rapidly Losing its Musical Reputation and Heritage
(Pages 40 – 48)

2.2 P-05-881 Fix our planning system
(Pages 49 – 62)

2.3 P-05-883 National Welsh History Week
(Pages 63 – 70)

3 Updates to previous petitions

Education

3.1 P-04-522 Asbestos in Schools
(Pages 71 – 73)

3.2 P-05-788 Remove the compulsory aspect of Welsh Baccalaureate
(Pages 74 – 76)

3.3 P-05-834 All Schools Should be Welsh Medium and Teach Welsh History
(Pages 77 – 78)

3.4 P-05-862 Tackling school bullying
(Pages 79 – 81)



Health and Social Services

- 3.5 P-05-797 Ensure access to the cystic fibrosis medicine, Orkambi, as a matter of urgency
(Pages 82 – 85)
- 3.6 P-05-804 We need Welsh Government funding for play!!
(Pages 86 – 89)
- 3.7 P-05-825 Protect children's lungs from harmful pollution whilst at school
(Pages 90 – 103)
- 3.8 P-05-831 End the unfairness and discrimination in the financial support for victims of the contaminated blood scandals who were infected in Wales
(Pages 104 – 107)
- 3.9 P-05-870 Let's Get Every Young Heart Screened (Age 10-35)
(Pages 108 – 115)

Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

- 3.10 P-05-852 Introduce a Licence to manage land for game bird shooting in an attempt to end raptor persecution
(Pages 116 – 118)

Politics

- 3.11 P-05-818 Introducing a Register of Lobbyists in Wales
(Pages 119 – 121)

Equality

- 3.12 P-05-836 Gender Pay Gap Reporting
(Pages 122 – 124)

Economy and Transport

The following two items will be considered together

3.13 P-05-838 Support the M4 Relief Road Black Route

(Pages 125 – 126)

3.14 P-05-850 Protect the Gwent Levels and stop the proposed M4 motorway

(Pages 127 – 135)

Housing and Local Government

3.15 P-05-843 More Third party rights in planning appeals

(Pages 136 – 145)

3.16 P-05-858 Fire sprinklers are for life, not a fast buck!

(Pages 146 – 149)

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

Item 5

5 Consideration of options paper: P-05-828 Presumption in favour of rural schools

(Pages 150 – 155)

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 2.1

P-05-880 Wales is Rapidly Losing its Musical Reputation and Heritage

This petition was submitted by Active Music Services having collected 1,745 signatures online and 481 on paper, a total of 2,226 signatures.

Text of Petition

* We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to produce an urgent National Plan for Music Education with dedicated central funding in line with the rest of the UK. This will ensure that affordable musical instrument and vocal tuition is available as a right for all children in Wales.

* The Music Services in Wales are integral to the development of Music Education as part of the creative curriculum across all domains.

* The contribution made by the Music Industry and Music Services to the economy and the well-being of the people of Wales is too important to ignore.

* Young people in Wales studying music at A-level has halved in 10 years while GCSE entries have fallen by 40%.

* Austerity is not an excuse for the Welsh Government to allow the decline of Music Services. Austerity should be the reason to invest in the equality of access for all and the sustainability of our communities.

Please sign this petition to support the campaign to stop the decline of Music Education in Wales.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cynon Valley
- South Wales Central

Wales is Rapidly Losing its Musical Reputation and Heritage

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 11 Mehefin 2019

Petitions Committee | 11 June 2019

Research Briefing:

Petition number: P-05-880

Petition title: Wales is Rapidly Losing its Musical Reputation and Heritage

Text of petition: We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to produce an urgent National Plan for Music Education with dedicated central funding in line with the rest of the UK. This will ensure that affordable musical instrument and vocal tuition is available as a right for all children in Wales.

- The Music Services in Wales are integral to the development of Music Education as part of the creative curriculum across all domains.
- The contribution made by the Music Industry and Music Services to the economy and the well-being of the people of Wales is too important to ignore.
- Young people in Wales studying music at A-level has halved in 10 years while GCSE entries have fallen by 40%.
- Austerity is not an excuse for the Welsh Government to allow the decline of Music Services. Austerity should be the reason to invest in the equality of access for all and the sustainability of our communities.

1. Background

While music is currently a subject in the national curriculum, music services are intended to support and enhance the teaching of music in schools by providing children and young people with opportunities to learn a wide range of instruments, to develop singing and to perform in ensembles, choirs, and other groups, on school premises, in the wider community, and at regional and national level. Extra-curricular instrumental and vocal tuition is delivered by peripatetic staff, outside lessons but during school hours.

The provision and funding of non-statutory music services is the responsibility of local authorities. Welsh Government funding is supplied through the Revenue Support Grant, and authorities make decisions based on their local priorities.

2. Welsh Government Action

Against the background of pressures on local authority music service budgets, the Music Services Task and Finish Group was established in March 2015 by Huw Lewis, then Minister for Education and Skills. The [Report of the task and finish group on music services in Wales](#) [PDF 539KB] was published in July 2015. The report provided a snapshot of music services across Wales and highlighted the challenges to continued delivery of high quality music services. This included sustaining and developing high quality music services provision in the context of reduction in school and local authority budgets and of competing priorities. There have been two progress reports, [Music services task and finish group: one year on](#) [PDF 362KB](April 2017) and [Music services task and finish group: final progress report](#) [PDF 541KB]

As set out in the Minister for Education's letter to the Committee, the Welsh Government has provided an additional £3m over the years 2018–19 to 2019–20 to support music service provision.

3. Assembly activity

Previous Petition

In June 2015, the Petitions Committee considered a petition ([P-04-637 To Protect the Future of Youth Music in Wales](#)) from Friends of Bridgend Youth Music which asked the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to protect musical tuition in schools and in particular to:

- Reinstatement of central ring-fencing of budgets for professional instrumental tuition in schools;
- Implement a national strategy to reverse the decline of Youth Music in Wales;
- Offer the children and young people of Wales their right to receive an education that develops their unique personalities, talents and abilities to the full.

After correspondence with the Minister for Education, the WLGA and WJEC, the Committee considered there was nothing further they could do to take the issue forward. The petition was closed in 2016.

Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee Inquiry

Following a public vote, the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee undertook an inquiry into funding for and access to music education. Their report, [Hitting the Right Note](#) [PDF 1MB] was published in June 2018. The Committee's overarching recommendation was that the Welsh Government should transfer responsibility for the delivery of music services to an arms-length, national body which should be core funded by the Welsh

Government. [The Welsh Government accepted this recommendation in principle](#), subject to the outcome of a feasibility study to identify and assess options for delivery of music services.

The Committee also recommended that the Welsh Government should prepare a National Action Plan for Music. While the Welsh Government rejected the recommendation, the Minister for Education agreed that she would extend the feasibility study to examine creation of a plan for music education (rather than music in general).

In her letter to the Committee, the Minister confirms that a contract has been awarded to undertake the feasibility study, and the study will include whether there should be a National Plan for Music Education.

4. Provision in England and Scotland

England

In November 2011, the Department for Education and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport published, [The Importance of Music, A National Plan for Music](#). The Government stated that the aims of the national plan were to enable children from all backgrounds and every part of England to have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument; to make music with others; to learn to sing; and to have the opportunity to progress in developing their musical abilities.

The national plan for music applies to all schools including academies and free schools and it remains part of the current Government's music education policy. The national plan will run until 2020.

Following an application process run by Arts Council England, 123 music education hubs were appointed and began work in September 2012. Hubs are federations of local organisations with an interest in music education. They may include schools and other educational organisations, as well as arts and music organisations. The Department for Education said that the function of music education hubs would be to 'improve the quality and consistency of music education across England both in and out of school'.

Music education hubs receive funding from several different sources. They receive central government funding allocated according to a formula which reflects total pupil numbers and the number of pupils in each area who are eligible for free school meals. Arts Council England operates as the fund holder on behalf of the Department for Education for this central funding. In the 2018/19 financial year, the Department for Education provided £75 million of funding to music education hubs.

The second largest contributor to music education hubs' budgets were schools. The third largest contribution in 2018/19 to music education hubs' budgets was from parents. Local authority grants and contributions signified a much smaller proportion of music education hub funding.

Scotland

In Scotland, instrumental music tuition is considered by local authorities to be a discretionary service separate and complementary to the music curriculum, a similar position to that in Wales. Each local authority manages its own Instrumental Music Service and each is able to set its own fees (if any), hire charges for instruments and, where charges apply, any exemptions or concessionary rates. The Scottish Parliament published a report, [A note of concern: The future of instrumental music tuition in schools](#) in January 2019. The report noted that

The Committee respects the democratic right of local authorities to take decisions about local expenditure and acknowledge the financial choices they face. However, the Committee believes in principle that music tuition should be provided free of charge in every local authority.

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

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-880
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/06020/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Assembly Member for Aberconwy
Chair - Petitions committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff
CF99 1NA
Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

7 May 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 30 April regarding the petition from Active Music Services.

I note that the petition calls on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to produce a National Plan for Music Education with dedicated central funding in line with the rest of the UK and provides a number of examples to support it.

We are committed to providing children and young people with access to high quality universal access to music education across Wales.

The Welsh Government is not directly responsible for the provision of music services; this is the responsibility of local authorities, who receive funding through the Revenue Support Grant. However, I recognise the current pressures facing music services and the need to take action as soon as possible.

That is why I have provided additional funding of £3 million to support music service provision across Wales in 2018-19 and 2019-20. In 2018-19, £1.5 million was provided directly to local authorities to prioritise as they see fit according to local needs, against a range of suggested criteria towards the provision of high quality, universal access to music education for all learners. The suggested criteria cover a range of areas where the funds can be spent and include:

- Ensuring access for pupils in receipt of free school meals.
- Purchasing new and endangered instruments.
- Ensuring pupils have access to lessons, exams and courses.
- Covering costs of attendance at orchestras, choirs and bands.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
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.

- Initiating a 'rock and pop' ensemble.

In 2019-2020, £1.5 million will be allocated to music education following consideration of the outcomes from the study into future delivery of music services.

I also made available £100,000 in 2018-19 for the National Youth Arts Wales to support the important work they are doing and increase opportunities for our young musicians.

The Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee inquiry on funding for and access to music education: *Hitting the Right Note*, sets out 16 recommendations focused on improving music service provision across Wales.

My officials are currently taking forward work to address the recommendations within the report. This includes undertaking a consultation exercise with key stakeholders in the music sector across Wales to discuss the proposal of a feasibility study. Following this work, officials have procured an independent contractor to carry out a feasibility study to identify and assess options for the future delivery of music services in Wales.

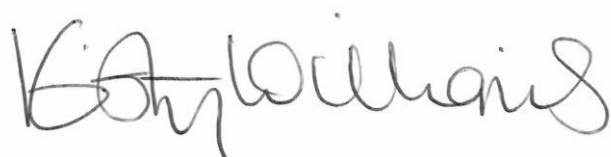
Some of the recommendations within the *Hitting the Right Note* report refer to a National Plan for Music, which the Committee later confirmed as being a National Plan for Music Education. Consequently I agreed for the feasibility study to explore the creation of a national plan for music education.

The objectives of the feasibility study are to:

1. Review existing evidence and generate new evidence to identify existing methods of delivery of music education services across Wales.
2. Identify best practice in existing methods of delivery of music education services across Wales.
3. To consider alternative models of music services and identify the needs and demands for such services, recommend support needed to support alternative services
4. Review existing evidence and generate new evidence to consider the feasibility of options available for delivery of music education services across Wales. This will need to:
 - a. Consider whether responsibility for delivery should be transferred to a single national 'arms-length' body and present options for what form this body should take and funding options for any proposal.
 - b. Identify and consider what other options for delivery of music services across Wales could be feasible and deliverable.
5. To consider whether a National Plan for Music Education should be prepared, and if so identify and recommend the content of any National Plan for Music Services education.

Consultancy Coop have been awarded the contract to undertake this study, we anticipate this will be completed and a report available in August.

Yours sincerely



Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



ACTIVE MUSIC SERVICES

Music Consultancy & Choral Music Centre

Senior Consultant: Dinah Pye AGSM, Dip. Ed, CFPS
Welsh Woman of the Year Winner

3.6.19

Dear Petitions Committee

Petition:P-05-880

The following documents are relevant to the above petition.

- 1 Task & Finish Report - published in 2015 and response from the Welsh Government in 2019.
- 2 Hitting the Right Note - WG Cultural report published in July 2018.
- 3 All correspondence from Active Music Services (AMS), Music Education Council (MEC), CAGAC, WLGA, ADEW as well as organisations and individuals to the Cabinet Minister for Education Kirsty Williams, the Chair of the Cultural Committee Bethan Sayed and Lord Elis Thomas.
- 4 All minutes since 2015 of meetings held between civil servants, AMS, MEC, CAGAC, ADEW, WLGA relevant organisations and individuals.
- 5 Terms & Reference for the Feasibility Study currently in progress.

On page 6 of the Welsh Government education policy document there are two pyramids (Diagram 1 & 2) setting out the progressive structure for delivering music education in Wales to 3-19 year olds.

Quote 1: Music making in schools and individual/group tuition provided by music services - potentially reaching every child.

Quote 2: Skills development through music services pyramid and opportunities with external organisations.

With a continuing call for music services to be delivered by local government it is increasingly disappointing that the Welsh Government continues to allow the creeping privatisation of services, closure of services, continuing redundancies and the disruption of the delivery and access for too many young people across Wales.

The need to establish a National Plan with secure funding in line with the rest of the UK with a suitable model for all children is now urgent if the Welsh Government is to maintain it's legal obligations.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Dinah Pye'.

HEAD OFFICE

HEULWEN, Hirwaun Road, Hirwaun, Aberdare, CF44 9HW, South Wales, UK
UK Tel: 01685 813318 International Tel: +44 1685 813318

E: info@activemusicservices.co.uk

www.activemusicservices.co.uk

ACTIVE MUSIC SERVICES

CLOSURE STATEMENT FOR PETITION COMMITTEE

The 2,224 signatories to this petition are calling on the Welsh Government to act swiftly in providing a National Plan with a ring fenced budget for all pupils across the whole of Wales that will continue to provide the entitlement to free music tuition as a core subject to the age of 14 and beyond in order to underpin the important heritage, access and financial support so that ALL pupils continue to have the equal opportunity of reaching the standard required to participate in the National Youth Orchestra and Choir and beyond.


A Senydd debate involving all AMs is required urgently to obtain a clear picture of the current unacceptable situation.

The National Youth Orchestra of Wales was set up in 1945 and was the first in the world. It has since then, along with the National Youth Choir, provided equal opportunities and a first-class training experience for Wales' young musicians. Today due to numerous factors there is a serious decline in young musicians reaching the level required to participate musically or financially in these organisations.

For the last five years stakeholders and specialists have been providing the Welsh Government with information regarding the lack of a National Plan for Music and sustainable funding. The outcome being that several music services are being reduced, closed, teachers made redundant or forced to be self employed. England, Scotland and Northern Ireland all have a plan or strategy with funding as Wales continues to rely on goodwill to sustain its heritage.

Last July, following the launch of HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE by the WG Cultural Committee the Secretary for Education Kirsty Williams announced that a Feasibility Study would be produced within six months. By February 2019 this had not materialised and a Co-operative Consultancy has only just been appointed to produce a report sometime in the future.

After much pressure on the Government to release funding put aside for music the decline has been temporarily stemmed with a limited short term budget but with further redundancies announced on 17.5.19 the future situation remains bleak and unresolved.



Agenda Item 2.2

P-05-881 Fix our planning system

This petition was submitted by Ruth Parker having collected a total of 250 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to fix our planning system; new developments need to be sustainable.

Planning Policy Wales paragraph 4.2.15 states that 'planning authorities must ensure that land is genuinely available or will become available to provide a five year supply of land for housing...' For land to be regarded as genuinely available it must be a site included in a Joint Housing Land Availability Study.

The five year housing supply is putting undue pressure on local authorities at the cost of building unsuitable developments. The JHLAS is flawed: it does not take into account empty houses or the amount of second homes in the area. As a result of the shortage of land, councils feel the need to allow planning permission even if they are aware of infrastructure issues. If councils reject planning permission, the Welsh Planning Inspectorate overrules their decisions at appeal.

Developers are aware of the loopholes in the system and can flaunt a community's vulnerability through large speculative developments outside the Local Development Plan. As these developments are outside the LDP, the sustainability of the area in terms of well-being of the economy, health, transport, and environment are not scrutinised in detail. Even if residents highlight local and national studies/ statistics of an area, their voices are not being heard at appeal level. The Welsh Government need to define 'robust' evidence.

The Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 was brought in place to prevent unsustainable development in order to ensure that our future generations would have a chance of a reasonable future. Communities feel that policy and practice does not reflect this.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Aberconwy
- North Wales

Petition: P-05-881 Fix our planning system

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 11 Mehefin 2019
Petitions Committee | 11 June 2019

Research Briefing:

Petition number: P-05-881

Petition title: **Fix our planning system**

Petition text:

We call on the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to fix our planning system; new developments need to be sustainable.

Planning Policy Wales paragraph 4.2.15 states that 'planning authorities must ensure that land is genuinely available or will become available to provide a five year supply of land for housing...' For land to be regarded as genuinely available it must be a site included in a Joint Housing Land Availability Study.

The five year housing supply is putting undue pressure on local authorities at the cost of building unsuitable developments. The JHLAS is flawed: it does not take into account empty houses or the amount of second homes in the area. As a result of the shortage of land, councils feel the need to allow planning permission even if they are aware of infrastructure issues. If councils reject planning permission, the Welsh Planning Inspectorate overrules their decisions at appeal.

Developers are aware of the loopholes in the system and can flaunt a community's vulnerability through large speculative developments outside the Local Development Plan. As these developments are outside the LDP, the sustainability of the area in terms of well-being of the economy, health, transport, and environment are not scrutinised in detail. Even if residents highlight local and national studies/ statistics of an area, their voices are not being heard at appeal level. The Welsh Government need to define 'robust' evidence.

The Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 was brought in place to prevent unsustainable development in order to ensure that our future generations would have a chance of a reasonable future. Communities feel that policy and practice does not reflect this.

Background

The Welsh Government's national planning policy is set out in Planning Policy Wales (PPW), the latest edition of which, Edition 10, was published in December 2018. The main driver for revising PPW was to bring it in line with the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* and 'placemaking' is a central new feature. PPW describes placemaking as:

"Placemaking" is a holistic approach to the planning and design of development and spaces, focused on positive outcomes. It draws upon an area's potential to create high quality development and public spaces that promote people's prosperity, health, happiness, and well being in the widest sense.

Placemaking considers the context, function and relationships between a development site and its wider surroundings. This will be true for major developments creating new places as well as small developments created within a wider place.

Placemaking should not add additional cost to a development, but will require smart, multi-dimensional and innovative thinking to implement and should be considered at the earliest possible stage. Placemaking adds social, economic, environmental and cultural value to development proposals resulting in benefits which go beyond a physical development boundary and embed wider resilience into planning decisions.

PPW is supported by a number of Technical Advice Notes which provide more detailed guidance on particular aspects of planning policy. This petition is concerned with Technical Advice Note (TAN) 1: Joint Housing Land Availability Studies.

PPW states that, as part of the development plan process, planning authorities need to understand their local housing markets and the factors influencing housing requirements in their area over the plan period (paragraph 4.2.3), and that:

4.2.6 The latest Welsh Government local authority level Household Projections for Wales, alongside the latest Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) and the Well-being plan for a plan area, will form a fundamental part of the evidence base for development plans. These should be considered together with other key evidence in relation to issues such as what the plan is seeking to achieve, links between homes and jobs, the need for affordable housing, Welsh language considerations and the deliverability of the plan, in order to identify an appropriate strategy for the delivery of housing in the plan area. Appropriate consideration must also be given to the wider social, economic, environmental and cultural factors in a plan area in order to ensure the creation of sustainable places and cohesive communities.

Also:

4.2.15 **Planning authorities must ensure that sufficient land is genuinely available or will become available to provide a five-year supply of land for housing** judged against the general objectives, scale and location of development required in the development plan. This means that sites must be free, or readily freed, from planning, physical and ownership constraints and be economically viable, in order to support the creation of sustainable communities. For land to be regarded as genuinely available it must be a site included in either a **Joint Housing Land Availability Study (JHLAS)** or, until a JHLAS is required to inform the first Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), in the housing trajectory agreed as part

of an adopted development plan. The housing trajectory demonstrates how the planning authority will maintain a five-year supply of housing land over the plan period. [Research Service emphasis]

TAN 1 states:

6.2 The housing land supply figure should also be treated as a material consideration in determining planning applications for housing. Where the current study shows a land supply below the 5-year requirement or where the local planning authority has been unable to undertake a study ... , the need to increase supply should be given considerable weight when dealing with planning applications provided that the development would otherwise comply with development plan and national planning policies.

This paragraph effectively means that if a Local Planning Authority (LPA) cannot demonstrate that it has at least a 5-year land supply for housing then “the need to increase supply should be given considerable weight when dealing with planning applications”. This would make it more difficult for LPAs without a 5-year land supply to refuse applications for planning permission for development on land not earmarked in the Local Development Plan (LDP) for housing, if the proposed development otherwise complied with planning policy.

However, paragraph 6.2 of TAN 1 has been temporarily disapplied.

In May 2018, the then Cabinet Secretary for Energy Planning and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths AM, who was then responsible for planning, announced [a review of the delivery of housing through the planning system](#). The review commenced in July 2018 with a ‘call for evidence’.

The Cabinet Secretary [issued a written statement](#) on the call for evidence which stated that:

As a result of the current housing land supply position across Wales some Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are receiving ‘speculative’ applications for housing on sites not allocated for development in LDPs. This is generating uncertainty for communities and is to the detriment of the plan-led system.

Therefore, she said:

... paragraph 6.2 of Technical Advice Note (TAN) 1: Joint Housing Land Availability Studies [has been dis-applied]. This removes the paragraph which refers to attaching “considerable” weight to the lack of a 5-year housing land supply as a material consideration in determining planning applications for housing.

As a result of the dis-application of paragraph 6.2 of TAN 1, it will be a matter for decision makers to determine the weight to be attributed to the need to increase housing land supply where an LPA has a shortfall in its housing land.

The dis-application of paragraph 6.2 of TAN 1 takes effect from 18 July 2018.

On 4 October 2018, the [then Cabinet Secretary was asked by the Assembly’s Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee](#) how long this dis-application will last. The Cabinet Secretary stated that the dis-application is ‘still viewed as being temporary’ but no definitive timescale was given. A Welsh Government official later informed the Research Service that ‘a period of a year is reasonable’.

The letter to this Committee from the current Minister for Housing and Local Government, Julie James AM, states that the call for evidence stage is now over and consideration is being given to the next stage, including an indicative timescale for completing the review. She states that the next stage is likely to involve reviewing aspects of national planning policy for housing and related guidance in the [Development Plan Manual](#).

Joint Housing Land Availability Study

The Joint Housing Land Availability Study (JHLAS) is the mechanism for LPAs to demonstrate they have a 5-year housing land supply by providing an agreed statement of housing land availability for planning purposes. Guidance on how to prepare JHLAS is provided in TAN 1.

JHLAS must be produced annually with a base date of 1 April. LPAs must establish Study Groups of key stakeholders (ideally relevant local authority departments (e.g. housing), house builders' representatives, land owners, Registered Social Landlords, statutory undertakers, infrastructure providers and appropriate others) to ensure that each JHLAS is based on realistic and appropriate evidence.

[TAN 1 provides further information](#) on the JHLAS process including site categorisation and the formula for calculating housing land supply.

As noted in the Minister's letter, the JHLAS is a monitoring tool for maintaining sufficient deliverable land to provide for housing need. It therefore does not take account of issues such as empty or second homes. The Minister's letter states that LPAs should take account of wider issues such as these when assessing their local housing market and considering the housing requirement to be set out in their LDPs.

Planning appeals

The Minister's letter provides a succinct description of the planning appeals process in the context of this petition:

... Planning Inspectors will determine any appeals on the basis of the relevant local and national policies. People who are interested in the outcome of a planning application have an important role to play in the planning process. Local planning authorities and Planning Inspectors must take into account any relevant view on planning matters expressed by local residents and any other third parties. However, local opposition to a proposal is not on its own grounds for refusing planning permission.

Welsh Government action

The Welsh Government has temporarily disapplied paragraph 6.2 of TAN 1 as part of its review of the delivery of housing through the planning system, as discussed above.

The Minister has written to the Committee in relation to this petition, the contents of which are referred to above.

National Assembly for Wales action

Assembly questions

There have been a number of written and oral question in the Assembly on the issue of TAN 1 and the 5-year land supply issue in recent years. Since the disapplication of paragraph 6.2, Andrew R T Davies AM submitted a Written Assembly Question on 3 October 2018:

Given that 19 out of the 25 local planning authorities cannot meet the Welsh Government's requirement for there to be a five-year supply of housing land, how long will the temporary removal of paragraph 6.2 last? (WAQ77228)

The then Cabinet Secretary responded on 9 October 2018:

A decision about whether or not to reinstate paragraph 6.2 of TAN 1 will be made as part of the full review of the delivery of housing through the planning system which I launched on 18 July with a 'call for evidence'.

Committee inquiry

The Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee is undertaking and inquiry into empty properties. The terms of reference are to examine:

- The extent to which empty properties impact on the supply of affordable housing in Wales;
- The impact of empty properties on communities in Wales and challenges faced by local authorities dealing with the problem;
- The extent to which local authorities have the legislative powers they need to deal with empty properties;
- Examples of best practice in turning empty properties into affordable, energy efficient homes; and
- The extent to which the changes introduced by the *Housing (Wales) Act 2014* giving local authorities discretion to charge council tax premiums on empty homes have been utilised, and the effectiveness of this policy.

The Committee has issued a consultation and an online survey to help it gather evidence. The consultation closes on 31 May and the survey closes on 19 June. The Research Service has published a blog article on the issue of empty homes.

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.

Julie James AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-05-881
Ein cyf/Our ref: JJ/05861/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair - Petitions committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

15 May 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 30 April regarding the petition calling for the Welsh Government to “fix our planning system”, in particular in relation to housing land supply requirements and ensuring that new developments are sustainable.

Sustainable development and the creation of cohesive communities are central to the Welsh Government’s planning policy. The latest edition of *Planning Policy Wales*, published in December last year, is based on contributing to achieving the goals of the Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015. *Planning Policy Wales* focuses on place-making as a key element to deliver on the aspirations of the Act and drive both plan making and development management decisions.

I recognise that local planning authorities without a five-year housing land supply may receive speculative planning applications for housing developments. Planning authorities should determine all such applications in accordance with the relevant policies in their adopted development plan, including the principles of sustainable development. The lack of a five-year housing land supply may be one of the considerations in determining a planning application; however applications which do not meet the relevant policy requirements may be refused by the Authority. Likewise, Planning Inspectors will determine any appeals on the basis of the relevant local and national policies. People who are interested in the outcome of a planning application have an important role to play in the planning process. Local planning authorities and Planning Inspectors must take into account any relevant view on planning matters expressed by local residents and any other third parties. However, local opposition to a proposal is not on its own grounds for refusing planning permission.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales

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

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

The Joint Housing Land Availability Study (JHLAS) process is not intended to take account of issues such as empty properties. The JHLAS is a monitoring tool which aims to ensure that local planning authorities maintain sufficient available and deliverable land to enable the provision of the housing which they have identified their communities need. Local planning authorities should take account of wider issues such as empty properties when undertaking their assessment of their local housing market and considering the housing requirement to be set out in their Local Development Plans.

The Welsh Government is currently undertaking a review of the delivery of housing through the planning system which includes consideration of the five-year housing land supply policy and the JHLAS process set out in Technical Advice Note 1 (TAN 1). As part of this review, paragraph 6.2 of TAN 1 has been dis-applied to alleviate some of the immediate pressures on local planning authorities when dealing with speculative planning applications for housing. This removes the paragraph which refers to attaching considerable weight to the lack of a five-year housing land supply as a material consideration in determining planning applications for housing. As a result, it is for the decision-maker (whether this is a local planning authority or a Planning Inspector) to determine the weight to be attributed to the need to increase housing land supply where an authority has a shortfall. The first stage of the review, a 'Call for Evidence', closed last October and consideration is currently being given to the next stage, including an indicative timescale for its completion. The next stage is likely to involve reviewing aspects of national planning policy for housing and related guidance in the *Development Plans Manual*.

Yours sincerely,



Julie James AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government

Planning Reform

Planning has always been a contentious issue throughout British history. There is no right to the access of adequate housing enshrined in UK legislation and sadly many face homelessness as a result. There is a demand for housing but there is also a need to build responsibly. The implications of poor developments are more far reaching than one might expect and the consequences to that community can be devastating as a result.

The effects of planning on the environment has been hotly debated over decades. Academics undertook research spanning 10 years and published 'The Resource Management Series' in the 1980s. This series contained three books:

1. Water Planning in Britain by Dennis J.Parker and Edmund C.Penning-Roswell
2. The Countryside: planning and change by Mark Blacksell and Andrew Gilg
3. Countryside conservation by Bryn Green

These studies looked at resource analysis both in the natural and social sciences. They mirrored the public's concerns about declining environmental standards, man's detrimental impact on the ecosystem, spatial and temporal allocation of resources, and the capacity of the Earth to sustain further growth in population and economic activity. As a result the Town and Planning Act 1990 was introduced to improve issues such as flooding due to poor developments.

What is so frightening is that despite the numerous comprehensive studies conducted to influence politicians to make sound policies based on fact, the reality is that we have a planning system still deeply flawed. It appears that the very Act put in place to protect communities is now being deregulated. We all know that Green Belt is no longer safe and despite more houses supposedly being built, many cannot afford to buy or even rent them. Time is running out and unless these issues are addressed our only legacy for our future generations will be that we failed to act and caused their ruination.

As a case study I will be referring to the development of 110 houses on Marl Lane / Pentywyn Road in the county of Conwy (application 0/43059). Below are the key issues felt by our community due to our personal experiences:

1. Planning Policy issues
2. The Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 is not enforceable
3. Lack of Transparency/ evidential issues
4. Developments are not sustainable
5. Loss of best and most versatile agricultural land
6. Not enough social housing
7. Houses classified as "affordable" are not

A lot of these issues are interconnected but I will try and expand on these issues specifically.

Planning Policy

Planning Policy Wales Edition 10 was implemented in December in the middle of the planning inquiry awaiting a decision for Marl Lane/Pentywyn Road. The public, the county and the developer all put their arguments at the inquiry using edition 9. I have done a more

comprehensive report on my views to PW 10 (3 A4 pages) where I raise many concerns which I have summarised below:

- Planning Policy Wales Edition 10 is more difficult to navigate through. Compared to Edition 9, it is less accessible to the general public in terms of finding relevant information and understanding how legislation and policy is applied.
- PPW Edition 10 is not clear on what is mandatory and what is advisory. Although there are links to legislation, legislative requirements are not explained and specific sections of legislation are not identified. Unless a person has access to legal databases (which is not the general public), finding what legislation is relevant is difficult.
- PPW 10 does not clearly show what is required from Local Authorities in terms of appraisals and assessments.
- There are loopholes concerning greenfield sites.
- PPW 10, para 4.2.15 states 'planning authorities must ensure that sufficient land is genuinely available or will become available to provide a five-year supply of land for housing...' How is this policy in line with the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015? Land is a finite resource and currently there is a shortage of agricultural land to meet the needs of the population. The JHLAS studies are currently flawed as calculations produce unrealistic targets.
- Tan 1, para 6.2 (which was not part of PPW 9) which required 'considerable weight' for housing applications that did not meet the 5 year supply was dis-applied. The reason for this was that a consultation paper produced quite a strong reaction from councils across Wales who felt the pressure to allow applications at the expense of sustainability. Yet the flawed JHLAS study has now become policy under para 4.2.15.
- PPW 9 (para 4.3.1) required evidence to be scientific and this has been reduced to the ambiguous term of 'robust' in PPW 10.

In conclusion, PPW 10 attempts to take a more holistic view and adhere to the principles and objectives of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 but at closer inspection, it is in fact a deregulated policy which allows developers to abuse the system.

The Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 is not enforceable

This Act requires public bodies to carry out sustainable development. This interlinks with developments not being sustainable, transparency and evidential issues.

In the case of Marl Lane/Pentywyn Road, residents raised concerns over the sustainability of the development. The Well-Being study for the area shows that we have a higher older age population, a higher than average population with long term illness and in-work families suffering from poverty. Economically there are few well paid jobs. The boundaries of schools were actually changed because the closest was at capacity and the new school situated over 1.8 miles away from the new development is full according to local knowledge. The planning officers did not present this information to councillors, it was the residents who found the statistics and presented them to council. The local councillors as a result found in our favour. This decision was then overturned by the Planning Inspectorate at appeal.

Residents wanted to challenge the decision but were advised by our solicitors and counsel (as we had raised money in the hope of conducting a Judicial Review) that we did not have a strong enough case. There does not seem to be a legal requirement for evidence produced at these inquiries to be of any quality. Thus, decisions are based on opinions and not fact and this is deemed legally acceptable in our system. Our Health Board actually responded to the Council and stated that they had concerns about providing an adequate

service due to several developments outside of the Local Development Plan being granted planning permission. However, they failed to object or ask for any financial contributions from the developers. This means that despite the fact that there are statistics of 1 GP to 3161 patients (which is nearly double the Wales average) we are now left without a remedy as a community. We were told by counsel that, if the Health Board had failed to reply, we might have had a case. An ambiguous reply is still evidence a Planning Inspectorate can rely on.

Lack of Transparency/ Evidential issues

During the planning application process for Pentwyn / Marl, including at the enquiry itself in September 2018, it was largely the residents who drew attention to the many flaws in the documents submitted to support the application by Beech Developments. Some of these contained factual errors and most were significantly lacking in detail. Examples include: 1) the initial tree survey (conclusion: not a lot there, just some old hedge); 2) the habitat survey, carried out in January, the time of year when they are least likely to gain any significant observations; 3) the traffic survey, carried out in less than one hour at non-peak time (mid-morning); 4) the soil surveys which contained errors (which went unnoticed and un-challenged by the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs).

Most, if not all, of the above mentioned “surveys” were undertaken by preferred contractors from outside Wales, and all were ***chosen by the Developer***. Some of the same contractors have worked on other sites for the same Developer (e.g. Sychnant Pass and Llys Marl), all of which have been successfully granted planning permission. Surely a fairer system would be that the surveyors required for any potential development in future are ***chosen by the Planning Authority***. This would remove potential conflicts of interest and potential bias. Preference should be given to local-based contractors.

Admittedly, there may not currently be a sizeable “pool” of potential contractors in Wales, but if it was compulsory for Planning Authorities in Wales to preferentially choose contractors based in Wales, this would be a potential growth area and provide employment opportunities. For example, local Universities (e.g. Bangor and Aberystwyth) could be encouraged to design courses and qualifications to include habitat surveys, soil surveys etc. These are potential graduate employment opportunities for Wales currently being lost to contractors based as far-afield as Exeter.

On a practical note, many of the 1000+ residents who objected to the Pentwyn / Marl development found the sheer amount of documentation on the Conwy (CCBC) Planning Explorer very difficult to negotiate. There were many hundreds (if not thousands) of pages and documents, with none of them indexed. Why not introduce a filing system on the Explorer, with key words such as: CCBC documentation, Developer submissions, Resident’s submissions, Health, Transport, Schools, Environment, Soil etc? At times it was impossible to find specific documents, except by trial and error, scrolling through hundreds of pages. The system, at least in CCBC, could be significantly improved.

Loss of best and most versatile agricultural land

A study titled ‘The best use of agricultural land’ conducted by the University Cambridge found that there is a potential additional demand for up to 7 million hectares of land to meet a growing UK population’s food, space and energy needs while increasing the area needed to protect and enhance the nation’s natural capital.

Concerns were raised about the cumulative effect of loss of agricultural land; this is not the first piece in Conwy alone to be developed. The Marl/Pentwyn site was classified overall

as grade 3a land (good) despite it containing some areas of grade 2 (very good) soil. This fact was largely “hidden” in the soil reports. Grade 2 is the highest grade of soil available in almost the whole of Wales, as Grade 1 (excellent) is extremely rare. The Planning Inspectorate (para 47 of his decision) concluded that the loss would amount to a minor adverse impact. A Freedom of information request reveals that the Welsh Government have no figures on how much agricultural land has been developed. If the Welsh Government does not have figures on how much agricultural land (let alone good to excellent land is being developed), how will they know when the critical point in terms of loss of land has been reached? According to the Cambridge study it is estimated that there is a shortfall of 7 million hectares of land; Wales only has 2 million hectares and only 285,000 hectares (14%) of that is actually good to excellent in grade (1, 2 and 3a). It is alarming that developments are being permitted on good agricultural land considering its sparsity.

Not enough social housing /Houses classified as “affordable” are not

Innovative solutions need to be developed to address the issue of the lack of housing and affordability of housing. Once land receives planning permission its value becomes hugely inflated and it is this price that is being passed onto the buyer or tenant of rental properties. The theory that building more houses will reduce prices does not work in the housing market. Why would developers deliberately flood the market and reduce their profits? Company directors are actually under a legal duty under the Companies Act 2006 to promote the success of its company. A company’s prerogative is to generate profit which is therefore in conflict with the society’s need for affordable homes.

Would an Expropriation Act such as that in the Netherlands provide a solution to the UK’s housing crisis? The Expropriation Act provides specific public law authorities to seek to expropriate property if this is in the public interest and strict criteria must be met before this is done.

Conclusion

Our community is not against development and many other residents, like ourselves, who oppose controversial plans seem to be tarnished and branded as NIMBYs. Our community wants responsible developments that encourages communities to flourish. As it stands, many communities across Wales are losing precious green spaces to ill suited developments while brown field sites are left derelict. Unless there is investment in the economy and infrastructure to our areas it is likely that residents in our communities that are already struggling will slip further down the social mobility ladder. Rapid urbanisation without careful planning can lead to the increase in poverty. The Victorian slums of the past may soon become our future. We hope that the members of the Assembly will give this topic the time it deserves and represent Wales and its people. The ideal of “sustainable development” encapsulated in the Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 are admirable but legislation is meaningless unless enforced by the bodies that created them.

Agenda Item 2.3

P-05-883 National Welsh History Week

This petition was submitted by Phil Rowe having collected a total of 86 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to establish a National Welsh History Week.

The aim is to create and promote a celebratory and historically accurate week of learning and educational opportunities about the history of Wales that is more honest than the sanitised British history that many of us took from school and does not seek to bias the information to offer a favourable view of any party.

To challenge the stereotypical and inaccurate historical fantasies of Wales and how it came to be within the hierarchy of modern day Britain.

Through understanding our actual history, promote the importance of Welsh language and culture, its place within modern Britain, and bring about discussion on how we should seek for it to be perceived not only within Wales, but within the other countries of the British isles and the wider world.

Additional Information

Many people in Wales (myself included) grow up with inaccurate assumptions and ideas of how Wales came to be, and of 'races' within the British Isles.

A more complete understanding of who we are and how we arrived where we are today can better place us as a population to consider where we want to be in the future.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Neath
- South Wales West

National Welsh History Week

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 11 Mehefin 2019

Petitions Committee | 11 June 2019

Research Briefing:

Petition number: P-05-883

Petition title: National Welsh History Week

Text of petition: We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to establish a National Welsh History Week.

The aim is to create and promote a celebratory and historically accurate week of learning and educational opportunities about the history of Wales that is more honest than the sanitised British history that many of us took from school and does not seek to bias the information to offer a favourable view of any party.

To challenge the stereotypical and inaccurate historical fantasies of Wales and how it came to be within the hierarchy of modern day Britain.

Through understanding our actual history, promote the importance of Welsh language and culture, its place within modern Britain, and bring about discussion on how we should seek for it to be perceived not only within Wales, but within the other countries of the British isles and the wider world.

Many people in Wales (myself included) grow up with inaccurate assumptions and ideas of how Wales came to be, and of 'races' within the British Isles.

A more complete understanding of who we are and how we arrived where we are today can better place us as a population to consider where we want to be in the future.

1. New curriculum

In his letter to the Committee, the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism outlines the opportunities to learn about the history of Wales that are in the current curriculum, through Programme of Study for History. The Welsh Government [published the draft new curriculum on 30 April 2019](#). The statutory introduction of the new curriculum will be in September 2022.

Learning in the new curriculum will be organised in six ‘Areas of Learning and Experience’ (AoLEs) rather than narrow subject boundaries. Within these, statements of ‘what matters’ set out the most important knowledge, skills and experiences to be gained. The six AoLEs are:

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

History will fall mainly within the **Humanities AoLE**.

The new curriculum will be organised into **Progression Steps** at ages 5, 8, 11, 14 and 16 (rather than key stages) and take the form of **Achievement Outcomes** relating broadly to expectations at those ages. The progression steps are set out in terms of what a learner can do, or has done.

The new Curriculum for Wales is **purpose-driven rather than content-driven**. There are therefore **no ‘programmes of study’** as there are in the current curriculum and there will be comparatively less prescription of what must be taught. The statutory guidance on each AoLE sets out what schools should take into account in designing their curriculum and how it could be structured and the broad expectations for learners at each progression step.

As well as the six AoLEs, the new curriculum has and three cross-curricular responsibilities (literacy, numeracy and digital competence) and also cross cutting-elements, including the ‘Welsh dimension and international perspective’. The draft guidance states that:

The Welsh dimension and international perspective are integral to all disciplines within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience. An exploration of Welsh businesses, cultures, history, geography, politics, religions, societies, and world views should form a central part of a learners’ entitlement and include an understanding of the links between these and wider national, European and international contexts. Through Humanities, learners develop a sense of identity and of their own cynefin [habitat], as well as an understanding of Wales and its place in the wider world

2. Areas of Learning and Experience

The draft **Humanities AoLE** defines humanities as being all about asking questions about the human condition. It states:

As such, studying human experiences in the past and present, at local, national and global levels, will help learners answer those questions, encouraging them to contribute to their communities, imagine possible futures and benefit from a sense of belonging. Humanities encompasses geography, history, religious education, business studies and social studies. It is intended that Humanities will provide opportunities for all learners to learn about their heritage and sense of place through a study of their cynefin and of Wales. It will aim to promote an understanding of how the people of Wales, its communities, culture, landscape, resources and industries interrelate with the rest of the world.

There are five elements within the Humanities what matters statements, the one that would seem most relevant to the Petition is ‘Developing an enquiring mind enables learners to explore and investigate the world, past, present and future, for themselves’. This states that, at progression step 3 (and onwards), learners should about the history and diversity of the communities of which they are part.

The **Languages, Literacy and Communication** AoLE states that learning about identity and culture through languages prepares learners to be citizens of Wales and the world. It says:

Meaningful learning experiences in a multilingual context go hand in hand with learning about one’s own cultural identity as well as the cultural identities of others. This area of learning and experience will therefore foster in the learners a pride in their sense of identity as citizens of Wales and the world.

3. Assembly activity

Previous Petitions

Between February and November 2018, the Committee considered a petition, [Change the National Curriculum and teach Welsh history, from a Welsh perspective, in our Primary, Secondary and Sixth form Schools](#). The Committee heard oral evidence from the petitioner, Elfed Wyn Jones, Dr Elin Jones and Kirsty Williams, Minister for Education.

The Culture, Welsh Language and Communications (CWLC) Committee ran a public poll during summer 2018, inviting members of the public to select from a list of potential inquiry topics. Nearly 2,500 people participated in the poll. Forty-four per cent voted for ‘Teaching of Welsh history, culture and heritage in schools’. The Petitions Committee therefore agreed to pass the evidence that it had received to CWLC Committee and close the petition.

CWLC Committee’s inquiry, Knowing our History is underway. The Committee [held a symposium in February 2019](#) to gather evidence from stakeholders and will take further evidence later this year.

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-05-883
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/05405/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair – Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

SeneddPetitions@Assembly.Wales

21 May 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to comment on this petition calling on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to establish a National Welsh History Week.

I have read the petition text very carefully and whilst a National Welsh History Week could be beneficial to promote Welsh History, and in turn the Welsh Language, I believe there are already measures in place to support these aims set out in the petition. Taking the points of the petition in turn:

The aim is to create and promote a celebratory and historically accurate week of learning and educational opportunities about the history of Wales that is more honest than the sanitised British history that many of us took from school and does not seek to bias the information to offer a favourable view of any party.

It is important that all learners in Wales have the opportunity to learn about our nation's history. Welsh history is a prominent part of the Programme of Study for History at Key Stages 2 and 3 in our schools. Learners are able to consider the local, national and global perspective of historical events, and develop their historical skills, knowledge and understanding through learning about a range of historical contexts.

Specifically, at Key Stage 2 there are opportunities for schools to study Owain Glyndwr and The Age of Princes, and at Key Stage 3, there are opportunities for learners to study

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Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

Gohebiaeth.Dafydd.Elis-Thomas@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Dafydd.Elis-Thomas@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.

Back Page 68
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how the Normans affected Wales and Britain between 1000 and 1500, the change and conflict in Wales and, Britain between 1500 and 1760 and other events that have shaped Wales.

At Key Stage 4, a new History GCSE was introduced in September 2017. This was a significant change and has increased the focus on Welsh History at Secondary level. The new GCSE has been adapted to include a more in depth focus on Welsh History and the Welsh perspective in a wider historical context. It requires candidates to make reference to the impact of historical change on Wales or on a Welsh perspective.

There is a wealth of materials to support the teaching of Welsh history across the key stages, available on Hwb, the national digital learning platform for schools in Wales.

My further thoughts are around how others in the teaching profession in Wales would feel if we were to say that current Welsh history teachers and lecturers represent a biased and sanitised view of Welsh History? I am not convinced that this is the case and to support such a claim would put me at odds with Welsh Government Education policy.

There have been previous initiatives to develop the idea of a Wales history festival. Between 2009 and 2014, History Research Wales –a collaboration between a number of university departments – established a Wales History Month. One the key outputs was the annual publication by the Western Mail of a series of articles on Welsh historical themes beginning with 'Myths and Realities in Welsh History'. Cadw also contributed shorter articles to these series. Supporting events were held at the Hay Festival with daily talks and lectures, while Cadw also contributed displays and activities.

Cadw has also led on the development of a pan-Wales interpretation plan with the intention of joining up and celebrating the many and varied facets of our history in an authentic and collaborative way. The many strands of this Interpretation Plan are available on the Cadw website and they have been used to inform the interpretation at sites run by Cadw and many other organisations across Wales. Cadw currently organises – and participates in – a wide range of learning activities which promote Welsh history and we have supported a children's history festival since its inception.

With specific reference to:

Through understanding our actual history, promote the importance of Welsh language and culture, its place within modern Britain, and bring about discussion on how we should seek for it to be perceived not only within Wales, but within the other countries of the British isles and the wider world.

Additional Information:

Many people in Wales grow up with inaccurate assumptions and ideas of how Wales came to be, and of 'races' within the British Isles.

A more complete understanding of who we are and how we arrived where we are today can better place us as a population to consider where we want to be in the future.

The Welsh Language is part of a rich tapestry of languages that have developed, co-existed and evolved throughout history. It lives side by side with a global language, and continues to contribute to the contemporary culture of the UK, Europe and the world. Understanding the importance of the language and Wales's history means that people respect it, feel an emotional commitment to it, and therefore want to see it continue and thrive, regardless of whether or not they speak it.

As we grow the numbers of Welsh speakers, and as we welcome people from across the world to Wales, further opportunities present themselves to promote the use of Welsh in new and increasingly diverse cultural contexts.

Our aim is to build a contemporary, engaging nation brand that promotes Wales on a UK and international stage, while also inspiring the people of Wales to venture forward with confidence. This includes providing our citizens and visitors alike with an inherently Welsh welcome which provides a sense of place, and showcases us a bilingual nation. Continuing to support and promote the language means broadening our horizons and looking out towards the world, and recognising that everyday life for very many people across the world involves more than one language.


Whilst on the face of it a National Welsh History Week would have its benefits, my main concern would be who would decide what was the “correct” version of history? I am also aware that the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee is currently scrutinizing the teaching of Welsh History, culture and heritage in schools and the outcome of that inquiry should also be taken into account.

It is of course open to those promoting this to move ahead with this idea themselves. They could look at existing initiatives, such as Black History Month, which have come from the grass roots and have grown over the years. Similarly, the impetus for our existing festivals in the museums and heritage sector have come from the sector itself.

Furthermore I am aware of other initiatives that overlap with the concept of a history week/festival. For example, Wales (facilitated by Cadw) continues to participate in the European-wide Open Doors festival held every September. This aims to encourage free visits to the many historic attractions across Wales – many of which are normally closed to the public. This provides a unique opportunity to understand the full extent and range of historic stories across Wales. Cadw and other Welsh heritage organisations also regularly contribute to the annual Festival of Archaeology organised by the Council for British Archaeology.

If a National Welsh History Week were to happen, then it would be best for it to be done as a positive celebration of Welsh History and Culture, and of Wales’s contribution to the wider world, for example, our prominent role in the Industrial Revolution. I would certainly avoid couching it in the more negative terms of the wording of this petition. However, to be successful such an idea would need to be widely adopted by the sector and would need to be based on consultation and collaboration with stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,



Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AC/AM

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

Agenda Item 3.1

P-04-522 Asbestos in Schools

This petition was submitted by Cenric Clement-Evans and was first considered in December 2013, having collected 448 signatures.

Petition Text

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to put measures in place to ensure that parents and guardians of children across Wales can easily access information about the presence and management of asbestos in all school buildings.

Given the health risks associated with the presence of asbestos in public buildings, we believe parents and guardians across Wales have the right;

- to know if asbestos is located in their school;
- to know whether, where asbestos is present, it is being managed in line with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012;
- to access that information easily online

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff Central
- South Wales Central

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-522
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/06069/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

20 May 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 8 May seeking a further update in respect of my decisions as regards publishing information from the school condition survey, and the publication of updated Asbestos Management in Schools Guidance.

For ease of reference, I am providing two separate updates as follows:

Asbestos management in schools - responses in the school condition survey

I am pleased to report that full assurances have now been received from local authorities confirming that the information they have provided is current and valid, and that schools in their estates with asbestos present have an asbestos management plan in place. On this basis, I have now decided to make this high level information available and will be instructing my officials to set this in motion as soon as possible.

Asbestos Management in Schools Guidance

The revised Asbestos Management in Schools Guidance has now been fully reviewed by key stakeholders and their feedback and comments have been taken into account in updating the guidance. Now that this is complete, I am pleased to report that the revised

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CF99 1NA

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0300 0604400

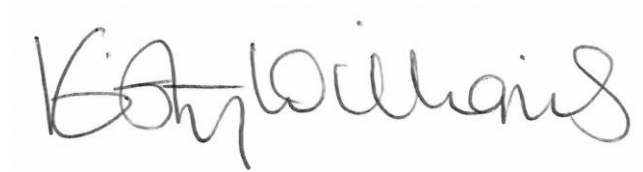
Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales

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.

asbestos management guidance documents will be published online in the summer term to replace the existing information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirsty Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and 'W'.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education

Agenda Item 3.2

P-05-788 Remove the compulsory aspect of Welsh Baccaalaureate

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

Petition text

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

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

Additional information

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

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Islwyn
- South Wales East

Janet Finch-Saunders, AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

18 April 2019

Dear Ms Finch-Saunders

Re: P-05-788 Remove the compulsory aspect of Welsh Baccalaureate

Thank you for your letter dated 20 March 2019 in relation to the above case being reviewed by the National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee.

Firstly, I would like to personally apologise that you did not receive a response from WJEC to your original request. This was due to a combination of senior management changes and internal misunderstanding in relation to the submission of a response. We are currently reviewing our procedures to ensure that an error like this does not occur again.

I understand the concerns raised as the following:

- **Petition regarding the compulsory aspect of the Welsh Baccalaureate**

We understand the concerns raised, however, as an awarding organisation, our role is to provide qualifications that meet the requirements of the governing body. In the case of the Welsh Baccalaureate, this was established by the Welsh Government and is regulated by Qualifications Wales. As the petition relates to the requirements of the qualification, this petition should be directed to either the Welsh Government and/or Qualifications Wales.

- **Petition regarding the suitability of tasks associated with the Welsh Baccalaureate**

Having reviewed the current range of approved tasks included for our Welsh Baccalaureate qualifications, I can confirm that there are no WJEC approved tasks based on gambling and/or scratch cards. However, we have identified a supporting task in our collaboration area, which was developed by a Welsh Baccalaureate practitioner, where learners are asked to plan spending of £1,000 won on scratch cards. Whilst the task had no suggestion that learners should/would be engaging in any form of gambling, we have since removed this from our website.

If you would like to discuss this further, our Welsh Baccalaureate team would welcome a telephone or face-to-face conversation at a time that would be suitable for yourself. If this would be of interest, please contact Lorna Turner, Executive Assistant via lorna.turner@wjec.co.uk or 029 2026 5300.

Yours sincerely



Roderic Gillespie
Chief Executive

Agenda Item 3.3

P-05-834 All Schools Should be Welsh Medium and Teach Welsh History

This petition was submitted by Ashley Davies, having collected 75 signatures.

Text of Petition

We the undersigned petition the Welsh Assembly and the Minister of Education for all schools in Wales to be Welsh medium schools so as to preserve the language of our forefathers. We also ask that all schools in Wales teach Welsh history and of those that helped forge this land.

Additional Information

It is a travesty that the majority of people in Wales cannot speak Welsh. What is worse than this, our history is being lost. Only the schools in the North and West where Welsh is predominantly spoken is our history preserved, a history that is written in the language. To preserve these we must make sure that our children are taught them and that the language is used everyday.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Islwyn
- South Wales East

**P-05-834 All Schools Should be Welsh Medium and Teach Welsh History,
Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 28.05.19**

According to John Davies in his book 'A History of Wales' during the period 400 - 600 AD the Brythonic language that had been used by the native Celts began to transform into what can now be recognised as Welsh or Cymraeg.

If we take the later year of 600AD this means that the Welsh language is at least 1,400 years old. A language that has stood the test of time.

Chronicles which were historical accounts were written by monks in various monasteries across Wales from 800AD and were the primary sources of record-keeping for centuries.

These documents would have been written in Latin and Welsh and would have provided a unique Welsh perspective on history.

I would like to draw the committee's attention to one such Chronicle that is held in the National Library of Wales called 'Brut y Tywysogion' and dates to around 1330AD.

This of course is one of many manuscripts and documents that were written in Welsh. One of the most famous examples indicates native Welsh laws were in place under the reign of Hywel Dda, king of Wales during the 10th century AD. Some of these laws were akin to those that we have in place today, with one in particular referring to divorce which at the time would have been frowned upon.

This of course is not taught in schools, though information is readily available because it works better for Westminster to suppress any knowledge that we were an independent, forward thinking, just nation before the Act of Union in 1536.

To avoid mistakes in the future we must be able to draw on those of the past. If we don't know our own history, then can we really call ourselves Welsh?

Agenda Item 3.4

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

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-862
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05966/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Assembly Member for Aberconwy
Chair - Petitions committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

1 May 2019

Petition P-05-862 – Tackling school bullying

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 18 April requesting further information on the above petition following the meeting of the Petitions Committee on 2 April.

My officials are still in the process of analysing the various and often technical responses received during the recent public consultation on the revised anti-bullying guidance. Therefore, at this stage there is nothing further of substance I can expand on since my previous letter to the Committee of 12 March.

I will shortly publish a summary of responses to the consultation. Work will then move to focusing on the development of the revised guidance and supporting toolkit, taking into account all views received during the consultation, including the petitioners. The suite of guidance documents and resource toolkit will be published later this year

Yours sincerely

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
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.

**P-05-862 Tackling school bullying, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee,
30.15.19**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I feel the minister has given a very guarded and non committal response.

Bullying is a massive social problem. It begins in schools and often follows both victim and perpetrator into adult life. The effects of bullying often lead to mental health issues including self harm and suicide.

Education will not doubt help steer perpetrators onto a different course and this is welcomed. The consultation however pays little regard to the fact that in far too many cases schools and their staff do not deal with bullying nor address bullying in anyway.

Punishment of VICTIMS happens far too often and many people feel that there is far more support for the perpetrators.

We insist that the entire system needs to change with a standard legal framework in place to tackle bullying in schools. We want a legal obligation upon schools and staff to correctly record and deal with bullying. If this can be addressed at grassroots level (schools) a huge improvement in social behaviour, self esteem, discipline and mental health will follow.

When dealing with bullying a balance must be weighed between educating the perpetrator and the effects upon victims. Too much focus on 'supporting' perpetrators is often leading to the basic needs and rights of the victim. Schools are too often happier to record 'behavioural incidents' and punish both victim and perpetrator equally, lowering the self esteem of the victim further.

The current system is failing too many children and is not being implemented by too many school staff.

Kindest regards

Byron John

BlowForBradley Campaign

Agenda Item 3.5

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

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

Text of Petition

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

Additional Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref VG/06324/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

13 May 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 18 April regarding the Petition P-05-797 to ensure access to cystic fibrosis Medicine, Orkambi®.

I note the Committee's suggestion of crown use licencing; this would be a matter for the UK Government. It was discussed in the House of Commons in February and several issues were noted. The transcript of the debate can be viewed at:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-04/debates/12C071ED-9463-4502-8625-89B910AD12F5/Orkambi>

I wrote to the manufacturer Vertex in September to encourage them to submit evidence about Orkambi® to the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group for appraisal. I would urge you and the other Committee members to do likewise.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
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.

Cystic Fibrosis a fight we must win

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA

3 June 2019

Dear Ms Finch-Saunders,

Thank you for your continued work in raising the issue of access to Orkambi, Symkevi and other cystic fibrosis medicines. The Cystic Fibrosis Trust is dismayed that access to these medicines has not been resolved.

It has been eighteen months since a petition was first submitted to the Assembly, followed by eight committee meetings. Yet due to continued disagreement between Vertex Pharmaceuticals, NHS Wales and the Welsh Government, people with cystic fibrosis are still waiting for access to these life-saving drugs. The impact of this delay is avoidable, irreversible health decline for people with cystic fibrosis in Wales.

Wales is a world-leader in cystic fibrosis outcomes, but this is changing. Recently, NHS Scotland and Vertex have reached an interim access deal through the PACS Tier 2 system, on the condition that Vertex submit Orkambi and Symkevi to the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC), and NHS England have recently made an offer based on a managed access scheme following the work of the Health and Social Care Select Committee in Westminster. Most notably, on Thursday 30 May, Vertex Pharmaceuticals released headline results for their fourth cystic fibrosis medicine, which could radically transform the lives of nine in ten people with the cystic fibrosis in Wales

However, for people with CF and their families in Wales, the joy and optimism of these results was bitterly soured by the fear and anxiety that they will never get to use them. In the last three years, this issue has been debated five times in Westminster and not once in the Welsh Assembly. On 10 June access to cystic fibrosis medicines will once again be debated in Westminster Hall. However, there must be a Welsh solution that works for people in Wales with cystic fibrosis, whom without a forward process, are frustrated, angry, and distressed.

Will the Committee make an urgent suggestion that this issue is debated in the Assembly to shed light on these negotiations and push for a resolution?



David Ramsden
Chief Executive

Agenda Item 3.6

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/05298/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair – Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

9 May 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your further letter of 18 April regarding your Committee's current consideration of the petition from RAY Ceredigion about funding for play.

I note that the Committee has asked for consideration to be given to an enhancement of any guidance which accompanies any future Welsh Government grant for play purposes to ensure that local voluntary organisations receive "sufficient benefit" from such funding.

Although not specified within grant terms and conditions, at times when funding has been available, my officials have always ensured that related communication with the local authorities has encouraged them to consider working with their local third sector partners. It is a matter of balance when determining the formal scope of any funding to ensure that the potential outcomes meet with national policy intentions whilst providing local authorities with the ability to use their local discretion in line with their Play Sufficiency Assessment duties. However, I would like to reassure the Committee that my officials will bear this request in mind should further resources for play become available in the future.

Yours sincerely,

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

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Julie.Morgan@llyw.cymru
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.

01545 570 686

075252 06 252



RAY CEREDIGION

Pengloyn, Tabernacle Street, Aberaeron Ceredigion SA46 0BN

gill.byrne@btconnect.com / rayceredigionadmin@btconnect.com / www.rayceredigion.org.uk

23-05-2019

Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales

RAY Ceredigion Petition We need Welsh Government Funding for Play!!

Thank you for your correspondence indicating that this will be discussed again at the meeting on 11th June 2019, we greatly appreciate the committees continued discussion on this matter.

Thank you also for a copy of the correspondence from AM Julie Morgan, I would draw attention to the final phrase in AM Julie Morgan's response which is at the heart of the issue this petition seeks to highlight:

'... should further resources for play become available in the future'

Welsh Government initiated a duty on local authorities to audit for a sufficiency of play provision for all children in Wales, but this duty was not matched by any designated funding. Play is identified as a right children should be able to access by the UNCRC in particular Article 31 and General Comment 17 makes clear the importance of this right to child welfare and the imperative on governments to ensure this right is accessed.

The point of the petition is to bring to the attention of the government in Wales that despite a play sufficiency duty little progress can be made on developing the provision of play with NO designated funding, and as the letter from Julie Morgan makes clear there is a question mark over whether funds will be available in the future.

The amounts of funding provided for play referred to in correspondence from Huw Irranca-Davies is mainly that provided to local authorities at the end of the financial year, which has always been made available at very short notice, the amount available has been variable and unpredictable, and the timescale for spending this funding has been incredibly short. This does not help to fund or sustain play provision or play providers, and this lack of financial

support for a sufficiency of play has particularly decimated the voluntary sector in Wales. Of 10 strong and vibrant third sector providers of play in Wales, created by the 6 year lottery funded Child's Play programme nearly all are lost. One of the main reasons for this loss is that no funding coming into local authorities is for play, despite the play sufficiency duty.

Our argument is that this situation is at odds with the duties placed on local authorities and has a detrimental effect on third sector organisations that have worked in partnership with the local authority to develop expertise in the delivery of play provision.

We are requesting Welsh Government provide designated funding for play to achieve 3 outcomes:

- Enable children in Wales to access their right to play
- To enable the play sufficiency duty to be enacted by local authorities in a planned way throughout 12 months, rather than reliant on unpredictable last minute funding at the end of each financial year
- To support the continuation of organisations across Wales with expertise in the delivery of play provision such as RAY Ceredigion who currently cannot identify any funding to sustain play

So far we have not seen that these points have been adequately addressed by previous correspondence from Welsh Government Ministers and the proposed outcomes arising from the Play Sufficiency Duty continue to be unsupported by funding and consequently largely unmet.

This is a disappointing outcome for children in Wales.

Yours sincerely

Gill Byrne
Executive officer, RAY Ceredigion

Agenda Item 3.7

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

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

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Public Health
Wales

Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru

Rhif 2 Capital Quarter, Stryd Tyndall,
Caerdydd CF10 4BZ

Public Health Wales

Number 2 Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street,
Cardiff CF10 4BZ

Tracey Cooper

☎ Direct Line / Llinell Uniongyrchol: 02920 104300

Email / Ebost: tracey.cooper3@wales.nhs.uk

Our Ref: TC.CS.020518.JFS

2 May 2019

Janet Finch-Saunders – AM/AC
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Janet,

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

Thank you for your letter of 18 April 2019 seeking Public Health Wales advice in relation to this petition. This is an important issue and we are committed to working with others to reduce air pollution, risks and inequalities.

To provide context, outdoor air pollution is the largest environmental risk to public health. Pollutants such as particulate matter (PM), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and ozone (O₃) can adversely affect health. Sources of air pollution include road vehicles and other forms of transport, industry, agriculture, domestic sources (such as heating systems and wood-burners), and naturally occurring sources (such as sand and sea salt). In the UK, man-made air pollution is said to account for the equivalent of around [28,000 to 36,000](#) deaths each year; in Wales, the equivalent of around [1,600](#) early annual deaths are attributed to exposure to fine particulate air pollution. It is important to interpret these estimates with caution since figures do not refer to 'actual' numbers of deaths but reflect the sum of the small contributions air pollution exposure make to reduce life-expectancy across all individuals in the population.

The health effects of air pollution are well-documented. Long-term exposure over several years to pollutants such as fine particulate matter, for example, reduces life expectancy, mainly due to cardiovascular and respiratory diseases but also from increased risks from lung cancer. These impacts result from invisible dust particles

being small enough to be breathed deep into lungs, causing inflammation of the lining of lungs and placing pressure on body systems and organs. Recent research suggests that other health consequences may be linked too, including low birth weight and dementia. Shorter-term exposure over hours or days is associated with eye, nose and throat irritations, as well as higher risks from reduced lung function and worsening of asthma. Of relevance to this petition is that different people and population groups will be affected in different ways by air pollution exposure; vulnerable groups include children and young people, older people, and those with chronic health conditions. [Research](#) carried out in Wales shows that people living in the most deprived parts of Wales may also be more susceptible to air pollution than those living elsewhere.

In Wales, under the Environment Act 1995, local authorities have responsibility to deliver the [Local Air Quality Management](#) (LAQM) regime. This requires regular review of local air quality, by assessing data collected through established monitoring networks as well as through modelling techniques against health-based Air Quality Objectives. In locations where these objectives are actually or likely breached, the local authority must declare a formal Air Quality Management Area. An accompanying action plan should then set out measures which partners implement together to address local identified problems. This process is set out in Wales LAQM guidance which ensures that the sustainable ways of working required by the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act are applied fully to air quality management activities. Importantly, in the context of this petition, the guidance specifies that local authorities must give special consideration to risks posed to children, at home and school/nursery settings as well as travel in-between. Schools and linked active travel routes are designated as sensitive receptor location in the guidance too.

Public Health Wales appreciates that it is not practicable to monitor and measure air pollution concentrations everywhere and that local authorities must adopt a pragmatic needs-based approach to this [with outputs from sophisticated air quality modelling techniques used to fill in gaps in coverage and/or intelligence]. However, given that monitoring networks are regularly reviewed, Public Health Wales hopes that the focus placed on children vulnerability and schools in the Wales LAQM guidance can facilitate the collection of more information on local air quality in future. Such new data would be extremely useful in informing our ongoing work to understand air quality exposure potential amongst children and also help target mitigation action accordingly. In the interim, we are aware of and continue to support the good work ongoing across local authorities to raise awareness of air pollution amongst school pupils and staff. The Welsh Government has developed educational resources (through the "Young Dragons" initiative) for use in both primary and secondary school settings, with linked opportunities for pupils to undertake their own indicative air pollution measurements in and around school buildings.

Finally, we are working with Welsh Government to develop a Clean Air Plan for Wales. We understand that this will be drafted for consultation later this year. The plan will likely describe key pollutants and health risks, along with short, medium and long term actions that can help improve air quality across a range of different sectors. The plan will explore what more can be done to improve air quality around sensitive receptor locations, including schools and nurseries and also NHS sites. We will

continue to support this work to increase opportunities to integrate air quality management with public health policy and practice.

We trust this information will be useful to members of the Petitions Committee. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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

Dr Tracey Cooper

Chief Executive, Public Health Wales

Janet Finch-Saunders AM/AC
Chair
National Assembly for Wales
Petitions Committee
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

8 May 2019

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders

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

Thank you for inviting NRW to comment on the above-named petition to protect children's lungs from harmful pollution whilst at school.

Natural Resources Wales is responsible for providing a risk-based approach to regulation, to ensure the sustainable management of our natural resources for human and environmental well-being. We seek to achieve this directly, through delivery of our regulatory duties, using powers and tools available as set out in legislation; and indirectly through wider interventions that support the delivery of relevant outcomes, such as raising awareness with industry trade bodies to ensure they are taking steps to reduce emissions that have an air quality impact.

Our duties in respect of air quality fall into two categories, Compliance and supporting Local Air Quality Management (LAQM).

We ensure that the facilities we regulate comply with:

- The EU's requirements for Wales and the UK, such as Air Quality Directives, the Habitats Directive, the National Emissions Ceiling Directive and the Industrial Emissions Directive;

- Wales and UK requirements, such as the Environmental Permitting Regulations, the UK Air Quality Strategy, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act.

Air quality monitoring is not one of NRW's statutory duties, however we are represented on Public Service Boards and attend the Wales Air Quality Forum (WAQF). Through these groups we work with Public Health Wales, Local Authorities and Welsh Government to ensure air quality issues are addressed. As part of the WAQF we also input into policy and strategy decisions regarding air quality issues. Specific advice on health matters are provided to government by Public Health Wales.

Welsh Government and local authorities are required by legislation to monitor air quality across a network of sites throughout Wales. The data is used as part of the evidence that informs our interventions at sites we regulate.

NRW is also a partner in the Air Quality in Schools Citizen Science Project for Europe with the European Environment Agency. This is a new project that is developing methodologies for harmonising approaches to addressing air quality in schools, which includes both monitoring and behaviour change initiatives.

NRW is working in a partnership project with Cardiff Council to monitor air quality in 20 schools in Wales, which is summarised below:

- Targeted for one year of NO₂ Monitoring.
- Data will be included in Bridgend-Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Council's LAQM Annual Air Quality Progress Reports 2020.
- Targeting awareness, education and behaviour change in tandem with monitoring.
- Following completion of 2019/20 annual ratified data sets, data will then be included in the 2020 LAQM progress reports.

The trial started in March 2019 and will run for a year, the results will be discussed at the WAQF to establish if the evidence suggests the monitoring should be expanded.

Best wishes



Clare Pillman
Prif Weithredwr, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Chief Executive, Natural Resources Wales

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

**Siân Clayton
Pennaeth Gweithrediadau**

**Adeiladau'r Llywodraeth
Ty Glas
Llanisien
Caerdydd
CF14 5SH**

**Sian Clayton
Head of Operations**

Government Buildings
Ty Glas
Llanishen
Cardiff
CF14 5SH

Tel: 02030282322

sian.clayton@hse.gov.uk

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/>

Divisional Director
Jane Lassey

Date: 16th May 2019

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders AM/AC (Chair/Cadeirydd)

**PETITION P-05-825 – PROTECT CHILDREN’S LUNGS FROM HARMFUL POLLUTION
WHILST AT SCHOOL**

Thank you for your letter to Dr David Snowball, HSE’s Acting Chief Executive, dated 18th April 2019, seeking HSE’s views on the petition submitted in respect of the above matter. I have been asked to respond on HSE’s behalf as the Head of Operations for HSE’s Field Operations Division covering Wales.

I thought it would be helpful if I set out the role of HSE in respect of reducing ill-health arising from work activities before commenting on the petition itself.

HSE role in reducing ill-health

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is an enforcing authority responsible for the regulation of health and safety at work in Great Britain and was established by the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA). HSE is a non-departmental public body with Crown status, sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and accountable to its ministers. HSE investigates incidents and concerns about health and safety practices and develops new or revised health and safety legislation and codes of practice. HSE regulates health and safety across a range of sectors and industries including major hazard sites such as offshore gas, oil installations and onshore chemical plants through to more conventional sites, quarries, farms, factories, waste management sites, local authorities and hospitals.

In order to reduce ill-health arising out of work activities, HSE has three health priorities which are occupational lung disease, musculoskeletal disorders and work-

related stress. How we aim to reduce the prevalence of these health priorities is set out in our ['Health Priority Plans'](#).

In respect of lung disease, our focus is on workers in the industry sectors where the risk of developing occupational lung disease will be the highest and will be achieved through prioritising interventions, inspection activity and enforcement. It involves working with others in partnership to raise awareness and develop initiatives.

Air pollution at schools in Wales

As mentioned above, HSE is a workplace regulator and its remit is to prevent ill-health from work activities. Therefore, we do not have a role in relation to general environmental levels of pollution and would look to other better placed regulators responsible for environmental policy development and regulation.

HSE view on the petition

General air pollution is outside our remit, so it is not appropriate for us to comment on the petition.

I hope this letter helps to set out our position and I hope that you are able to agree a way forward to improve the situation and reduce children's exposure to harmful levels of air pollution. We will consider the matter you have raised and consider whether HSE can impact on general air pollution from workplaces in other ways.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Siân Clayton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Mrs Siân Clayton
Pennaeth Gweithrediadau / Head of Operations
Cymru a'r Gororau

**P-05-825 Protect children's lungs from harmful pollution whilst at school,
Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 30.05.19**

The PHW response is a factual one that I don't disagree with at all. I was surprised by the HSE suggesting they have no involvement with air pollution, as I thought there might be a link for safety of the staff working at the schools.

We are interested in the pilot talked about by NRW in Cardiff and will be interested to see the results.

Kind regards,



Joseph Carter

Head of Devolved Nations

Pennaeth Cenhedloedd Datganoledig

British Lung Foundation

Agenda Item 3.8

P-05-831 End the unfairness and discrimination in the financial support for victims of the contaminated blood scandals who were infected in Wales

This petition was submitted by the Contaminated Whole Blood UK Group, having collected 159 signatures.

Text of Petition

This petition calls on the Welsh Assembly to end the unfairness and discrimination in financial support for all victims of the infected blood scandal for those infected in Wales, by changing the scheme to at least mirror the provisions for those infected in England.

Many categories of victim infected in Wales are potentially worse off under the scheme by £20,000 or more. Thousands of people were infected as result of receiving infected blood or infected blood products given to them by the NHS until at least September 1991. Over two thousand people have already died.

Following devolving of powers, the responsibility for support of victims and their families, for those infected in Wales, sits under the Welsh Assembly. The schemes for support are operated by the Welsh Infected Blood Support service (WIBSS) which is administered by Velindre NHS Trust and NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) who are ultimately accountable to the Welsh Assembly.

For those infected in England, the comparable scheme is run by EIBSS, ultimately accountable to parliament in London. Even though the victims were all infected by the NHS pre - devolution, the EIBSS and WIBSS have vastly different provisions in financial support. The determining factor as to which scheme you fall under is where the victim was infected not where they live. There are two schemes that those under the WIBSS cannot access. They are called the 'Special Category Mechanism' and 'The discretionary top up scheme'. The net effect of all this is that many categories victim infected in Wales are potentially worse of under the scheme by £20,000, more if they have children, irrespective where of where they live. Two people living in say Cardiff, both infected by the NHS, both with the same impact might receive £20,000 difference in support simply because one of the two had the 'good fortune' to be infected in England.

We call on the Welsh Assembly to intervene end this injustice now.

Additional Information

Who are we: we are an self organised peer support group that has victims of the infected blood scandal right across the uk

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ContaminatedWholeBloodUK/> Where can details of the comparative schemes for those infected in England and those infected in Wales be found: For Wales infected people it is here <https://wibss.wales.nhs.uk/> For those infected in England the comparable scheme is found here <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/england-infected-blood-support-scheme>

What has happened so far:

A number of attempts from various organisations have tried to raise the issue through the inquiry being led by Sir Brian Langstaff and by making the press aware such as this piece which is focussed on the differentials between Welsh and Scottish schemes <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-43898899>

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Clwyd West
- North Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE	Welsh Infected Blood Support Scheme (WIBSS) Enhanced support
DATE	06 March 2019
BY	Vaughan Gething, Minister for Health and Social Services

I am pleased to inform members of additional support for those infected with hepatitis C and / or HIV via contaminated blood or blood products. The significant impact of such infections on many individuals lives has been extensively discussed in the Assembly chamber.

It is accepted that beneficiaries of our ex-gratia payments scheme delivered through our partners at the Welsh Infected Blood Support Scheme (WIBSS) will have experienced significant mental health, well-being and post traumatic stress (PTS) associated with their experience of infection.

Officials have met with those directly affected, clinicians, the benefit advisers and counsellors at WIBSS to gauge their thoughts regarding additional means of support for all beneficiaries, particularly those at Stage 1 with life impacting complications arising from their hepatitis C infection.

Following these discussions I have agreed to make available the following enhanced support:

Firstly, there will be an enhanced payment, referred to as the Enhanced Hep C Stage 1+ Scheme payment, for those with existing Stage 1 hepatitis C who are suffering from mental health symptoms which they consider to be related to their being infected with hepatitis C and where the mental health symptoms that they are experiencing have an affect on their ability to carry out day to day activities. The enhanced payment will be equivalent to the current rate of payment for those at Stage 2, hepatitis C infection, which is £18,500 per annum. Where an application to receive the Enhanced Hep C Stage 1 + Scheme Payment is submitted by 23 April 2019, the payment will be backdated to 1 April 2018 or to the date that the individual first received the Stage 1 ex-gratia payment under WIBSS, whichever is the later.

The backdated Enhanced Hep C Stage 1 + Scheme Payment will therefore be paid to beneficiaries who currently have, or who had, Stage 1 Hepatitis C infection during the financial year 2018/19, who meet the relevant criteria and who submitted an application for this enhanced payment by 23 April 2019. This also extends to people who have died during the financial year 2018/2019 and where an application for the enhanced payment is made by the beneficiary's estate by 23 April 2019.

The proposed enhanced scheme for those at Stage 1 infection will be much simplified from that available across the border, with no requirement for medical input into the application process. Beneficiaries will simply be asked if they are suffering from any mental health symptoms that they feel are related to their infection from contaminated blood or blood products, the symptoms and whether they are affecting their ability to carry out day to day activities. If this is the case, there will be no need for further assessment because the person has already been diagnosed with Hepatitis C from infected blood or blood products and this is already acknowledged as unjust.

Secondly, a structured assessment and personalised package of additional assistance will be offered to all those infected and their families as part of the new WIBSS psychological support arrangements. The need for such support has also been emphasised through the Infected Blood Inquiry and will form part of the overall package of holistic provision available.

In addition to these enhancements, WIBSS will adopt a revised and more open and transparent approach to the way the existing discretionary fund is administered. They will write to all beneficiaries informing them of the eligibility criteria and inviting them to apply. This support will further enhance the lives of those affected in a more regulated and equitable way and will be available in addition to the existing regular ex-gratia and income top-up payments.

I can also confirm that the suite of ex-gratia payments currently available to those belonging to WIBSS will see their payments rise in line with the Cost of Living Price Index including Housing (CPIH) as published in February 2019 from the 1 April 2019.

The Chair of the UK Infected Blood Inquiry, Mr Justice Langstaff, has recently met with Jackie Price-Doyle, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, and representatives of those infected and affected, and asked her to address the matter of inequitable financial payments across the UK infected blood support schemes. This arose from the stories of financial hardship people expressed to him during the preliminary hearings of the inquiry. There has been understandable concern around this disparity in rates and following this meeting officials across the UK health departments agreed to work together to review the rates of ex-gratia payments and wider holistic services that are currently available, taking into consideration the proposal put forward by those infected and affected.

I will let you know the outcome of these deliberations in due course.

Agenda Item 3.9

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



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/06323/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

16 May 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your further letter of 18 April regarding Petition P-05-870 about introducing a heart screening programme for all 10 to 35 year olds in Wales.

As I said in my previous response, 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. Screening to prevent Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD) in 12 to 39 year olds has been considered by the UK National Screening Committee and for these reasons is not recommended and, therefore, cardiac screening is not provided in the UK.

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. This approach is supported by the British Heart Foundation which supports individuals having an increased understanding of their family's medical history, so if a family member has died suddenly, particularly at a young age, they would be advised to discuss with their GP, with a view of getting themselves screened and assessed at an inherited heart conditions service, as appropriate.

The British Heart Foundation supports cascade testing of individuals who have a first degree relative who has died suddenly and no cause of death has been established (and post mortem reveals a structurally normal heart) or who has been diagnosed with an inherited heart condition.

It would be irresponsible to provide a screening programme against the advice of the experts and which the evidence does not support. The current tests available have limitations and as such it is potentially dangerous to provide individuals with misleading test results. Should more accurate tests become available, whole population asymptomatic cardiac screening will be fully considered.

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 a long, trailing 'g'.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

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

**P-05-870 Let's Get Every Young Heart Screened (Age 10-35), Correspondence
– Petitioner to Committee, 31.05.19**



WELSH HEARTS
CALONNAU CYMRU
THE HEART CHARITY FOR WALES
ELUSENY GALON DROS CYMRU

Date 31/5/19

REFERENCE PETITION P-05-870

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

**For submission for discussion by the Committee
at the meeting to be held on Tuesday 11th June 2019**

In response to Mr Gethin's letter dated 16th May 2019, it is with astonishment that we view his generalisations, when there is clear evidence to contradict his comments.

To state that it is harmful to detect cardiac risk factors, which in his words 'would **never** otherwise develop into a serious condition or complication', are both outdated and thus ill informed and insensitive comments.

With our first hand knowledge of cardiac wards in hospital, it has been seen to be the case that so-called 'minor' cardiac issues, have developed into problems that have needed addressing.

He then makes a contradictory comment to his earlier remark, stating that 'receiving a low risk result does not prevent the person from developing the condition at a later date'. Exactly as we state in our previous comment, so isn't it better to 'know' and get any issue checked out further? From firsthand experience, we can assure that it is.

Mr Gethin's comment about 'false negatives' not guaranteeing protection, is an aspect of screening that has been shown to have been improved massively in recent years and is now negligible, compared to the number of detected, previously undiagnosed cardiac issues, in both athletes, recreational participants and non-athletes, enabling further investigation and treatment as required, saving lives.

Quote taken from article by Dr Harshil Dhutia

A large proportion of sudden cardiac death in young individuals and athletes occurs during rest with sudden arrhythmic death syndrome being recognised as the leading cause. The international recommendations for ECG interpretation have reduced the false-positive ECG rate to 3%.

Reference from CRY article

1. Previous studies (September 2016) showed that current screening protocols significantly reduced the level of “false positives” (often used by Government advisors as an argument against screening) from 21.8% to 4.3%.

Mr Gethin then goes on to state that the National Screening Committee have considered heart screening for 12-39yr olds, to prevent SCD (Sudden Cardiac Death) and he adds that ‘population screening programmes should only be offered where there is robust, high quality evidence that screening will do more good than harm’. The report from the committee is outdated (30th July 2015), with quality of interpretation of readings having been shown to have significantly improved in recent years. Their recommendation was ‘against screening for risk of sudden cardiac death’ citing it as ‘rare’ and the risks ‘tiny’. Recent evidence noted herewith, shows otherwise.

In response - The most persuasive evidence supporting the theory that early identification of disease through ECG screening saves lives comes from a large prospective Italian study of 42,386 competitive athletes aged 12–35 years. The study demonstrated that since heart screening was brought in, a reduction in the incidence of SCD from 3.6/100,000 person-years to 0.4/100,000 person-years, representing a 90% reduction in mortality. The predominant reason for this reduction was a decrease in SCD due to cardiomyopathy.

Mr Gethin comments that high risk families should be screened.

High risk family members such as SCD relatives are given help, advice and mostly screened, but this cascade screening is after the fact a lot of the time.

He states that it would be irresponsible to provide a screening programme against the advice of the experts and which evidence does not support.

There are plenty of other experts, including BMJ, Cardiologists, Cardiac researchers, medical and cardiac institutes who would disagree, also up to date data and sports associations, all supporting the rolling out a heart screening program for all young people.

This petition is addressing the issue of all the young people who have undiagnosed heart issues and often are asymptomatic until the worst happens.

Out of date information and lack of direct knowledge or involvement, used as the argument against rolling out a screening campaign for all young people across Wales is nothing short of extraordinary.

Below is evidence (just a couple of the many) showing clearly how such a campaign could very well have saved these young lives, by the very fact that **YOUNG LIVES HAVE AND ARE BEING SAVED BY THE HEART SCREENING SESSIONS CONDUCTED BY WELSH HEARTS.**

CASE STUDY 1

(quote from WalesOnline)

A devastated mother in Wales, found her teenage daughter collapsed in the bath after her heart suddenly stopped, an inquest has heard. Fit and healthy Amber Rummels, 18, was found under the water with the taps still running at her family home. An inquest heard her mum Anita Lewis, 44, pulled Amber out of the bath and carried out CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). Paramedics managed to get Amber's heart started but she died four days later in hospital. Medics believe waitress Amber died of sudden arrhythmic death syndrome - a cause of unexpected deaths in young people.

CASE STUDY 2

(quote from WalesOnline)

Nothing showed how important it may be to get your heart tested than the tragic events immediately following last year's Cardiff Half Marathon.

Ben McDonald, 25, from the Vale of Glamorgan, and dad-of-one, Dean Fletcher, 32, from Exeter, both suffered **cardiac arrests** after crossing the finish line on October 7.

Ben had been described as a "very fit and healthy young man" with no past medical history.

A post-mortem report found that his heart was normal and the cause of death given was Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome (SADS).

Ben's tragedy also highlights and adds to the substantial evidence to support sport preparticipation screening of all athletes, which in turn should include recreational sports participants and ultimately, all young people, saving lives in Wales.

What is Sudden Death Syndrome?

Every year in the UK at least 620 young people aged 35 or under die suddenly from an undiagnosed cardiac condition. Sudden death syndrome (SDS) is an umbrella term used for the many different causes of cardiac arrest in young people. In about 1 in every 20 cases of sudden cardiac death and up to 1 in 5 young sudden cardiac deaths, no definite cause of death can be found, even after drugs have been excluded and an expert cardiac pathologist has examined the heart for structural abnormalities. The conditions responsible for SDS cause a cardiac arrest by bringing on a ventricular arrhythmia, even though the person has no disease affecting the structure of the heart.

One of the ways we could prevent some of these tragic deaths is by screening young people, particularly those involved in heavy exercise.

HEART SCREENING finds so many undiagnosed, potentially life limiting cardiac problems or issues that need addressing further in hospital. It maybe something that just needs keeping a regular check on, spanning up to someone requiring major surgery, as has happened at screenings held by Welsh Hearts.

Welsh Sports Association Joins Forces with Welsh Hearts to Raise Heart Health Awareness Through Screening

Hidden heart conditions can pose a real risk for participants in sport and physical activity, so the issue of heart screening is of huge importance to the members of the Welsh Sports Association. We are therefore delighted to be supporting the charity Welsh Hearts in their initiative to ensure heart screening for 8-45 year-olds is readily available across Wales.

In conclusion, Welsh Hearts believe there is a strong argument for a working committee to be set up, with up to date contributions and evidence from an extensive pool of resources, experts and service providers and then a comprehensive assessment can be made, on

all aspects of hearts screening in young people, to potentially identify undiagnosed heart issues, that can in turn be addressed, with the strong possibility of saving more young lives across Wales, with a view to ultimately rolling out the heart screening programme across Wales, called for in this petition .

Agenda Item 3.10

P-05-852 Introduce a Licence to manage land for game bird shooting in an attempt to end raptor persecution.

This petition was submitted by Anthony Britner, having collected 119 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call upon the Welsh Government to introduce a licensing scheme for game bird shooting. In order to prevent the persecution of raptors which is commonly associated with this activity.

The RSPB Birdcrime reports show an exceptionally high number of raptor persecution events are by gamekeepers, however despite this knowledge, very few persecution events are successfully prosecuted due to difficulties in gaining sufficient evidence to charge any specific individual.

Even in Scotland, where vicarious liability exists, prosecutions are rare. Because of this, we believe the next most appropriate course of action is to introduce a licensing scheme.

This licence should be a "Licence to operate a game bird shoot" The licence should as a minimum:

1. Apply to a geographic area defined in the application licence.
2. Be required for an estate to carry out any activity related to game bird shooting including, but not necessary be limited to:
 - 2.a. Activities related to the rearing of gamebirds.
 - 2.b. Activities related to the legal control of predators (estates must hold an operators licence before they can be permitted to apply for general or specific licences associated with "pest control activities").
 - 2.c. To allow members of the shoot to partake in gamebird shooting outside of the closed season.
 - 2.d. To allow the shoot to sell shoot days to the public.

In the event of a persecution event, occurring on or near to an estates land the appropriate authority will be able to suspend the estates ability to carry out any or all of the activities listed under point 2. for a period of time Serious or, repeat persecution events should result in the estates operating licence being revoked.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Wrexham
- North Wales

P-05-852, Introduce a Licence to manage land for game bird shooting in an attempt to end raptor persecution, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 03.06.19

There are clear challenges involved with detecting an investigating raptor persecution, many incidents, such as the detection of poisonings rely very much upon someone stumbling across the victim and as a result, it's possible that many incidents may be undetected.

The fact that only 2 of the 6 poisonings on or near land managed for shooting resulted in further investigations clearly demonstrates the challenges involved in gathering enough evidence to investigate further, the challenges faced in gathering enough evidence to bring about a prosecution (successful or not) must be even greater.

Unfortunately, I don't hold out much hope that the Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group will be successful in tackling raptor persecution. I hold this view a result of a boycott of the groups meeting on the 16 Jan 2019 by 4 of the groups "pro-shooting" members and the subsequent resignation of one of the groups "pro-shooting" organisations from the delivery group as a result of additional "conservation/ anti-shooting" organisations being invited to the meeting. This boycott could be interpreted as a sign that the pro-shooting organisations have little interest in working with the Delivery group to end raptor persecution which is why I feel that alternatives such as a licensing scheme should be seriously considered.

Agenda Item 3.11

P-05-818 Introducing a Register of Lobbyists in Wales

This petition was submitted by Centre for Welsh Studies – Think Tank, having collected 55 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to to introduce a Statutory Register for Lobbyist in Wales.

This Petition follows a trend in both Scotland and Ireland towards increased openness around political lobbying.

Lobbying is a legitimate and valuable activity. It is a crucial part of a healthy democracy. The words lobbying and lobbyist can have negative connotations, implying deals done behind closed doors. The reality is that the more voices that inform the Government and the Assembly's thinking in Wales, the more informed politicians are to legislate, to develop new policy and to scrutinise. For this reason, and on the basis that the Assembly is founded on principles of openness and accessibility, lobbying should be actively encouraged. It is positive how open and accessible and willing to engage the Assembly and Government already are. No action should be taken that will change this or indeed put people off approaching politicians on any issue.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Neath
- South Wales West

Janet Finch–Saunders AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales

29 May 2019

Dear Janet

Petition P–05–818: Introducing a Register of Lobbyists in Wales

Thank you for your letter of 22 March.

The Standard of Conduct Committee reported in January 2018 on its inquiry into Lobbying. There have been a number of developments since the last time the Assembly looked at lobbying; Westminster began operating a register of professional lobbyists in 2015 and Scotland passed legislation establishing a lobbying register in 2016.

The Committee concluded that lobbying needs to be part of an ongoing dialogue in an engaged and open democracy. It was apparent from the evidence gathered that there is no easy answer to the questions of how to define or share information about lobbying. There is no doubt that there are groups seeking to influence politicians, and that it is in the public interest to establish the impact of this influence. However, the Committee has concluded that there is insufficient evidence at present regarding how best to share this information once it has been obtained.

The findings of this report are an interim position. The Committee feel it is crucial to learn from experience and gather further evidence of best practice. The Scottish legislation is in its infancy and we are closely monitoring what happens there and the review of its legislation in 2020. The Committee will also periodically review the situation and developments in Westminster. The



Committee is keen to take steps in this interim period to increase transparency and proposed that a select trial of publishing Assembly Members' diaries, specifically relating to lobbying, is undertaken. We are liaising with the Assembly Commission on how to pilot this with Members of the Committee. We also recommended an increase in the amount of information published about events held on the Commission estate which came into place last Easter.

The Committee also recommended that consideration should be given to commissioning research into how influence is sought and gained over politicians. More information regarding the impact this has would enhance our understanding of lobbyists' influence. Alongside these interim steps, the Committee has encouraged the lobbying industry to take the lead over the next two years. The industry can themselves demonstrate how a voluntary register would operate and how it could provide the necessary information about influence over elected Members.

It is our intention that a review of this work in 2020 would enable us to make clear and informed conclusions, and to set out a proposal for the sixth Assembly.

Yours Sincerely,



Jayne Bryant
Chair



Agenda Item 3.12

P-05-836 Gender Pay Gap Reporting

This petition was submitted by Estelle Hart and was first considered by the Committee in October 2018 having collected 56 signatures.

Text of Petition

The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017 has not been applied in Wales meaning devolved public bodies have not been required to publish gender pay gap reports in a central place. We believe that bodies in receipt of public money should publish this information and to ensure transparency in public funding this information should be available in a centralised location and in the same format, using guidelines developed for public sector bodies in England.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Gower
- South Wales West

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-/05201/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Assembly Member for Aberconwy
Chair - Petitions committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

Dear Janet,

23 April 2019

Thank you for your letter of 3 April requesting an update regarding the petition concerning gender pay gap reporting (P-05-836).

The First Minister and I have made it clear that we place a very high priority on advancing and safeguarding equality and human rights in Wales. This is driving a range of work in relation to many aspects of equality, including gender, disability and race. In particular, the First Minister has confirmed that part one of the Equality Act 2010 (the socio-economic duty) will be commenced in Wales this year. Phase 2 of the Gender Equality Review will be completed this summer and provide a roadmap for embedding feminist principles across Welsh Government policies and programmes.

In my previous letter, I explained that any changes to gender pay gap reporting would be made in the context of strengthening the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) regulations generally. However, I am pleased that progress has been made over recent months with regards to taking forward work to improve transparency, availability and accessibility in the equality data that is published by Welsh public bodies. Our intention is to develop a holistic approach which reflects the breadth of the PSED, which will certainly include data on gender pay gaps but will not be limited to this aspect. This is why we have not adopted the UK Government's gender pay portal approach.

Last year, we accepted a recommendation made by the Equalities, Local Government and Communities committee to "publish employment data required by the Welsh public sector equality duties to a single location on the Welsh Government's website, in a format that allows the data to be analysed easily".

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru
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.

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.

Ministers have been clear that they expect the Welsh Government to be an exemplar employer and look to Welsh Public Bodies to follow suit. Transparency with regard to equality data will be key to establishing and maintaining public confidence in this regard.

Welsh Government has for the first time prepared open data spreadsheets presenting its own PSED data to accompany its Employer's Equality Report 2017-18. These are now available on the Welsh Government website at the following link: <https://gov.wales/welsh-government-employer-equality-reports>.

Given that public sector employers have the responsibility for complying with the PSED, our aim is to work with listed bodies over the coming months to ensure that their PSED data for the 2017-18 financial year will also be available in open data format. It will then be made available from a single location, to be hosted on the Welsh Government website, by late summer.

As a secondary phase to this project, we will liaise with public bodies to discuss how the PSED data which is published could be harmonised in the longer term. Our aim is to consult and agree on a consistent dataset to be published by each of the Welsh public bodies for subsequent publications. Making all public body data available in a single online location and in an open data format will simplify the user experience.

As outlined previously, we are also considering strengthening the Welsh PSED requirements and the reporting arrangements. Initial work on this began earlier this year and is being taken forward alongside a number of other considerations including enactment of the socio-economic duty and legislative provision relating to relevant international treaties. This approach has been taken to ensure the changes are effective, appropriate and complement existing legislation.

This work will be informed by both the Gender Equality Review and the EHRC who undertook monitoring of the PSED across the Welsh public sector in 2018.

Best wishes,

Jane

Jane Hutt AC/AM

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

P-05-838 Support the M4 Relief Road Black Route

This petition was submitted by South Wales Chamber of Commerce, having collected 1,482 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the Welsh Government to continue with its plans to build the M4 Relief Road along the proposed Black Route, and following the announcement that the Welsh Government will table a debate on the M4 plans later this year, we call on the National Assembly to support the project. The need for a new motorway around Newport is overwhelming with the congestion around the Brynglas Tunnels negatively impacting on businesses and people from across South Wales. The first proposal for a relief road was published in 1991, almost 30 years ago. Although the failure to take action over three decades isn't solely to blame, we believe it hasn't helped the economic well-being of the current generation and has contributed towards:

- The employment rate in Wales being an average of over 3% lower than the UK employment rate since the mid-1990s.
- The Welsh GVA per head being consistently lower than 75% of the UK average since the late-1990s with most recent figures showing that Cardiff's GVA per head is the lowest of the four UK capital cities.

Additional Information

The Welsh Government's analysis from March 2016 finds that a new M4 around Newport will improve connectivity within South Wales and with the rest of the UK which will:

- Reduce journey times bringing particular benefits to logistics firms and 'just in time operations' who currently face regular disruption and associated costs.
- Save South Wales businesses an estimated £34m a year in transport costs.
- Increase access to employment for residents and expand the size of the accessible workforce for businesses.

- Increase the GVA of South Wales by £39m per annum through increased productivity.
- Create access to new employment sites around Newport with capacity for 15,000 jobs and improve access to sites adjacent to the existing M4 which are held back due to regular congestion.
- Improve the perception of Wales for visitors and as a location for investment.

Please change the status quo of the last 30 years and support the government's Black Route proposals for the M4 Relief Road so that we can improve the economic well-being of future generations across South Wales.

Evidence

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-43059755>

<https://statswales.gov.wales/v/C8Ns>

<https://statswales.gov.wales/v/C8Nt>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossvalueaddedgva/bulletins/regionalgrossvalueaddedbalanceduk/1998to2016#wales-was-the-fastest-growing-country-in-the-uk-in-2016>

<https://beta.gov.wales/m4-corridor-around-newport-revised-wider-economic-impact-assessment-report>

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Newport West
- South Wales East

Agenda Item 3.14

P-05-850 Protect the Gwent Levels and stop the proposed M4 motorway

This petition was submitted by the CALM. The petition has collected 12,270 signatures on an alternative e-petition website.

Text of Petition

Please drop plans to construct the M4 motorway across the beautiful Gwent Levels and invest in public transport instead.

Why is this important?

The current plans to extend the M4 motorway will put otters, rare bees and wildflowers at risk. It would cut across the 'Amazon Rainforest' of Wales, the Gwent Levels, which is a haven for wildlife. Traffic around Newport needs to be improved but it would be better for Wales and the environment if the Welsh government invests in public transport instead. If we want to protect the environment for future generations we need to come up with alternatives to big polluting motorways. The Assembly's own environmental regulator and advisory body, Natural Resources Wales, is against these plans.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Newport East
- South Wales East

STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE **The M4 Corridor around Newport**

DATE **4th June 2019**

BY **Mark Drakeford AM, First Minister**

Llywydd, following my written statement to members earlier today, and publication of the report of the Public Inquiry into the M4 Corridor around Newport, I can now set out further details in relation to my decision on the proposed M4 relief road, and the next steps to alleviate traffic congestion on the current M4.

Since late February, I have carefully considered the report and recommendations of the Public Inquiry into the M4 Corridor around Newport. As Members will be aware, the report is a very substantial document, reflecting the work undertaken by the Inspector between February 2017 and September 2018, and the many hundreds of written submissions to the Inquiry. The decision as to whether to make the Schemes and Orders which are necessary for the Project to be implemented falls solely to me as First Minister.

My decision has to reflect the context within which it is made. We are still deep into the longest and deepest period of austerity in any of our lifetimes. It has seen our capital budgets cut considerably since 2010. My Ministerial colleagues and I grapple every day with balancing the financial implications of our government investment priorities.

The Cabinet met at the end of April to discuss the overall financial situation facing the Welsh Government, and the capital spending needs of the coming years across all portfolios, in order to give careful consideration to our forward capital programme. Cabinet concluded that the significant level of expenditure needed to deliver the M4 Project would have an unacceptable impact on our other priorities in areas such as public transport, health, education, and housing.

It did so, as I said, by placing those capital investment decisions in the wider financial context faced by the Welsh Government.

Llywydd, this decision is being made at the point of maximum uncertainty about our financial future. Unprecedented austerity in the public finances is combined with a complete lack of clarity over our capital budgets for the coming years, and is exacerbated by the uncertainty surrounding Brexit. While the UK Government's lack

of progress on their Comprehensive Spending Review process could see the Welsh Government's budget even lower than it is now.

This financial position has significant and specific implications for the exercise of my powers to make the necessary compulsory purchase orders, or CPOs, for the Project to proceed. In this regard, before deciding to make CPOs, I am required to be satisfied that there is compelling need for the Orders, in the public interest, which justifies interference with the human rights of those with an interest in the land required for the project. I must be satisfied that the necessary resources to carry out the project would be available within a reasonable time scale, and that the project is unlikely to be blocked by any impediment to its implementation.

Llywydd, I have concluded that the financial position means that I cannot be satisfied that I can lawfully exercise my CPO powers in relation to the Project, because I am not satisfied that the Project can be implemented within the foreseeable future, given the prolonged period of uncertainty we face.

In light of this conclusion, it is unnecessary for me to go on to consider whether the advantages of the Project outweigh its disadvantages and whether I agree with the Inspector's overall conclusions as to where the balance lies between the two. Nevertheless, I have proceeded as the Inspector did, by addressing – as he says in paragraph 8.481 of the report – the 'strong and competing interests' at play and the 'question of where the balance between them should be'.

I have therefore considered the advantages and disadvantages identified by the Inspector, and I have concluded that even without Cabinet's position on funding, and even if, on those grounds, it was likely that the Project would be implemented, I would in any event have decided not to make the Schemes and Orders.

I recognise the Inspector's conclusions as to the advantages and disadvantages of the Project. However, I attach greater weight than the Inspector to the adverse impacts that the Project would have on the environment. In particular, I attach very significant weight to the fact that the Project would have a substantial adverse impact on the Gwent Levels SSSIs and their reed network and wildlife, and on other species, and a permanent adverse impact on the historic landscape of the Gwent Levels.

As a result, in my judgement the Project's adverse impacts on the environment (taken together with its other disadvantages) outweigh its advantages. In weighing up the Inspector's 'strong competing interests', my judgement as to where the balance between those competing interests lies differs from his.

For these additional reasons, separate to those on the grounds of funding, I do not consider that there is a compelling case in the public interest to expropriate the land that is subject to the CPOs and I do not consider that it would be appropriate or expedient to make the other Schemes and Orders.

Just as my decision has had to take into account the latest, and changed, financial context facing the Welsh Government, so too, future solutions to the congestion

issues on the M4 around Newport must reflect the most recent environmental circumstances we face as a nation.

Two significant recent reports have highlighted different aspects of these challenges. The first is the UKCCC 'Net Zero' report on climate change, recommending a new 95% target for emissions reduction in Wales by 2050. In response, the Welsh Government, recognising the scale and urgency of the threat, declared a climate emergency.

Secondly, last month the UN published its Global Assessment on Biodiversity, which set out the scale of the impact that human activity and development is having on species, and the threat that further development is likely to pose to ecosystems across the world. Those findings apply equally here in Wales.

Llywydd, I acknowledge there are strong views on both sides of the debate in relation to this Project. There is also a consensus – which I share – that the issues of capacity, resilience and environment at the M4 corridor around Newport need to be addressed with a mix of both local and regional solutions.

In light of the funding constraints and environmental impacts which have led to my decision on the Orders, it is important that these issues are now addressed collaboratively, and that voices on all sides of the debate have the chance to shape the way forward together.

It is in this context, therefore, that I can announce a new expert Commission will be appointed, charged with reviewing the evidence and making recommendations to the Welsh Government on alternative solutions, including innovative technologies, to address the current issues.

The Commission will be guided by our overarching ambition to develop a high quality, multi-modal, integrated and low carbon transport system, and in the context of the major challenges of climate change and biodiversity that I have just mentioned.

The Commission will be drawn from a spectrum of expertise, and be supported in its work by a dedicated team within the Welsh Government.

The Minister for Economy and Transport will make further announcements on the Commission, including timescales, shortly.

In advance of the Commission's work, the Minister will implement a series of fast-tracked, targeted interventions to alleviate congestion on the M4 in South Wales, for example, actions to expedite recovery of vehicles, enhanced Traffic Officer patrol, live journey time information to inform better transport choices, and a behavioural campaign to reduce incidents and maximise use of existing lane capacity.

Llywydd, transport is an area where this Welsh Government has a bold and ambitious plan for the future. From the £5bn plan we have developed through Transport for Wales for the new rail franchise and Metro, to major legislation to

improve bus services, to the biggest investment in Active Travel ever seen in Wales, there are exciting things going on right across Wales.

Resolving the congestion issues around the M4 is an important part of those plans, but there are no easy answers. We are committed to taking an inclusive and collaborative approach to finding innovative, affordable and sustainable solutions, in the shortest possible timescale, and we look forward to working with Members across the chamber to achieve that ambition.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE **M4 Newport – Next Steps**

DATE **5 June 2019**

BY **Ken Skates AM – Minister for Economy and Infrastructure**

In his Oral Statement yesterday the First Minister set out his decision on the M4 Project and said that I would make a further statement on next steps. The full decision letter and a copy of the Inquiry Inspector's report have been published for all to see.

The First Minister has indicated that we will act decisively to address the problems of motorway congestion in south east Wales.

Given the complexity of the issue, the impact of the current road and the impacts of the potential solutions, I intend to take a broad strategic approach to addressing the issue. There is a need to alleviate congestion and the resultant air quality issues now, especially as a result of the abolition of the Severn tolls. It is clear to me that we need to work together to consider how we provide for the movement of goods and people across the region in a way that creates a fairer more prosperous Wales, recognises the unprecedented challenge of climate change, and is affordable given the enormous pressure on our budgets caused by 10 years of austerity and capital budget cuts.

In the short term, I have asked my officials, working with partners in the Cardiff Capital Region and Newport City Council, to bring forward a suite measures designed to provide modest but immediate benefits.

These measures will include:

- additional traffic officers to reduce incidents and lane closures as employed during major events,
- dedicated on call recovery vehicles to support traffic officers by quickly removing obstructions when they occur as we would in roadworks
- live journey time information to inform better choices
- exploring the operation of junctions to reduce the load on the Brynglas tunnels
- a driver behaviour campaign to make best use of the available road space.

As well as these short term measures, we need to develop a long term, integrated and sustainable way forward which addresses these long run challenges of congestion, climate change and affordability. This is in the context of the advent of Metro, our commitments to Active Travel, the deterioration of the structures on the existing M4 through Newport, the ongoing air quality issues, and the imperative to create a more prosperous and equal society. I am focused on achieving our ambition of a high quality, multi-modal, integrated and low carbon transport system for the whole of Wales.

As the First Minister confirmed yesterday, I am immediately appointing an expert Commission to make recommendations on next steps for the transport network in South East Wales.

The Commission will consider the problems, opportunities, challenges, and objectives for tackling congestion on the M4 in south east Wales, and make recommendations on alternative solutions in the light of the First Minister's decision that the 'Black Route' proposal should not proceed.

The Commission will be small and focussed, and will consider the views of all stakeholders such as the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales, the Future Generations Commissioner, business groups, social partners, environmental groups, transport user groups, and local and national political representatives.

I am pleased to announce that Lord Terry Burns will Chair the Commission, whose Terms of Reference are attached.

Lord Burns brings a weight of diverse experience to the role and I have no doubt he will do justice to this crucial work. He is tasked with refocussing the debate, and taking a fresh look at alternatives that will provide a long-term, sustainable solution for the people of Newport and South Wales.

I believe it is imperative that the views of the people who use the current road, who are impacted by its shortcomings, who are concerned by the environmental impact of any solution, who will have to make any future solution work to improve our nation's social and economic performance should be central to this crucial work. The Commission will ensure that these views are fully captured in its work.

The Commission will report on its interim findings, with recommendations for immediate practical interventions, within six months of its formation.

The Commission will look at the extensive work the Government has done on this, at the alternatives proposed in the M4 Project Public Inquiry, and will also look at new ways of operating and funding a solution. This will require new ways of working with local and strategic partners, such as the Cardiff Capital Region local authorities, to deliver improved flow on the M4, whilst mitigating impacts on local communities.

The £114 million spent since 2013 developing the proposals for the £1.32Bn (in 2015 prices, which equates to £1.57Bn in 2019 prices) M4 Project will not be wasted, and will be put to good use by the Commission, making sure it is fully informed in terms of transport modelling, environmental surveys and all the other factors in play across the region.

We look to the Commission for a suite of practical actions that can be implemented immediately and in the longer term. We will of course need to consider the affordability of their proposed solutions in light of the Welsh Government's overall budget position. While there will always be competing demands for funding, we are clear that delivering sustainable solutions to the significant challenges along this transport corridor is a top priority.

Value for money and impact will be central considerations. The decision not to pursue the Black Route does not give me or anyone else a blank cheque to pursue pet projects - there is no windfall or free money.

Transport is an area where this Welsh Government has a bold and ambitious plan for the future. From the £5 billion plan we have developed through Transport for Wales for the new rail franchise and Metro, to major legislation that will help re-regulate the bus network to the biggest investment in Active Travel ever seen in Wales, there are exciting things going on right across Wales. We are committed to resolving the congestion issues around the M4 as an important part of those plans, but there are no easy answers.

We are committed to taking an inclusive, and collaborative approach to finding innovative, affordable and sustainable solutions in the shortest possible timescale and we look forward to working with Members across the chamber to achieve that ambition.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

South East Wales Transport Commission

Terms of Reference

The Commission will consider the problems, opportunities, challenges and objectives for tackling congestion on the M4 in south east Wales, and make recommendations to the Welsh Government on a suite of alternative solutions in the light of the First Minister's statement of 4 June 2019 that the 'Black Route' proposal should not proceed.

The Commission will consider the views of all stakeholders including the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales, the Future Generations Commissioner, business groups, social partners, environmental groups, transport users' groups, local and national political representatives and of course the public.

The Commission will consider the needs of current and future generations, taking into account immediate problems and future trends, such as the impact of alternative fuels and connected and autonomous vehicles.

The Commission will take into account the report of the Commission on Climate Change and other social, economic, cultural and environmental issues, including air quality.

The Commission will consider the behavioural issues which lie behind the continued growth in road-based transport in Wales, and how solutions might respond to those factors.

The Commission will advise on innovative interventions and funding solutions. It may consider any issues, including governance, costs, financing, planning approach and programme/project management and may recommend improvements to statutory processes.

The Commission will have access to the South East Wales Transport Planning Model, and to the full library of information available to the M4 Project Public Inquiry.

The Commission will operate independently of the Welsh Government. It will be supported by a Secretariat comprising Welsh Government officials and secondees as required.

The Commission will report on its interim findings, with recommendations for immediate practical interventions, within six months of its formation.

End.

Agenda Item 3.15

P-05-843 More Third party rights in planning appeals

This petition was submitted by Emma Eynon, having collected 59 signatures.

Text of Petition

We, the undersigned, call on the Welsh Government to introduce legislation which will grant more rights for third parties to appeal on planning decisions. Currently, even those who are directly affected by planning approvals are considered as third parties to applications and have little or no rights to appeal or even to input into planning conditions. The judicial review process is aimed at developers and the time limit of six weeks to submit such an application is not suitable for community action groups. Third parties should have the same rights as a developer to appeal in planning decisions and should not have to send all communications through the elected ward member.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Neath
- South Wales West

Julie James AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-843
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/05723/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Assembly Member for Aberconwy
Chair - Petitions committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff
CF99 1NA
Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

29 April 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 03 April, regarding petition P-05-843. Thank you also for forwarding further correspondence from the petitioner, and the attached report. I have read the Cardiff Environmental Law Foundation Clinic's report with interest. I do not agree, however, with its recommendations.

In Wales, well-established and understood duties exist to inform members of the public of emerging development proposals. This includes the duty to undertake pre-application community engagement on major applications. I set these out in my letter to the Petitions Committee dated 20 December. The duties to seek community input prior to a decision being made ensure these views are taken into account by the Local Planning Authority when deciding whether to grant permission. There are complaints procedures in place within each Local Planning Authority (LPA), which can be used where a LPA does not comply with those duties, with a further recourse to the Public Services Ombudsman.

The planning system in Wales is plan-led. This means Local Development Plans must be prepared in the light of community engagement and input. Draft plans are scrutinised for their compliance with national policy, which is itself subject to public consultation and engagement. Following adoption, these plans form the basis of planning decisions. The duties to consult on applications referred to above also ensure the public is given yet another opportunity to become involved in development proposals.

The plan-led system creates certainty and transparency for developers and communities alike. A third-party appeal mechanism, however, would create an unnecessary layer of uncertainty in the Welsh planning system. The report claims a third party appeals process would provide greater access to justice.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales

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

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

It is already possible to challenge the processing of an application via the Courts, if it is legally flawed. It is also open to request any application is called in by the Welsh Ministers for their own determination prior to a Local Planning Authority decision. Some applications are also automatically referred to the Welsh Ministers if they meet certain criteria. The Town and Country Planning (Notification) (Wales) Direction 2012 ensures applications for the construction of 150 or more dwellings, or for development of 6 or more hectares, are referred to the Welsh Ministers so call-in can be considered.

I am aware of a number of applications which have been controversial as they have been significant departures from the relevant adopted development plan. As we move towards complete Local Development Plan coverage, this should cease to occur. Officials actively monitor the frequency of significant departures from the relevant development plan. The Welsh Ministers will intervene where appropriate, and have recently done so on a number of occasions.

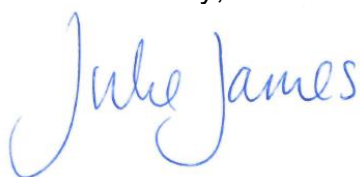
Decisions on development proposals are made by publicly elected representatives, or their appointed delegates. Those representatives are responsible for decisions they or their delegates make, including at the ballot box. It is also possible for elected representatives to revoke, modify or discontinue a permission they or their predecessors have granted where it can be demonstrated the decision is grossly wrong so that damage would be done to the wider public interest. The use of these powers is, however, likely to lead to significant compensation costs.

The Clinic's report concludes third party appeals would not hinder economic growth. It refers to GDP of other nations where third party appeal mechanisms exists and concludes that as they are more prosperous than the UK, there would be no negative economic impact. In contrast, the planning system in England and Wales is already under considerable pressure from developers to speed up the consenting process. Developers cite the financial uncertainty of planning decisions as hindering opportunities for growth. In terms of direct costs to Welsh taxpayers, initial work used to inform the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 identified that, if 10% of approved applications were subject to a third party appeal, this would increase the workload of the Planning Inspectorate in Wales by 400%. This would therefore, significantly increase the costs of the appeals system, which are borne by the main parties to the appeal and the taxpayer.

As I stated in my correspondence to the Petitions Committee in December 2018, the issue was considered in detail as part of the scrutiny of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and set aside. I do not consider that circumstances have changed sufficiently to justify reconsideration of the matter. Neither the latest correspondence from the petitioner, nor the Clinic's report, alter my view third party rights of appeal are needed in Wales.

I am satisfied that there are already sufficient opportunities for individuals and community groups to engage in the planning process, from plan conception to application determination. Consequently, the Welsh Government does not intend to consult on or introduce a third party appeals mechanism in Wales at this time.

Yours sincerely,



Julie James AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government
Pack Page 138



Blaengwrach Community Action Group

03 June 2019

Re: More Third Party Rights in Planning Appeals

Dear Chair of the Petitions Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Petitions Committee in light of the recent reply from Julie James AC/AM on the matter of my petition.

I was disappointed to read the minister's comments, especially as this echoes all of the blanket correspondence that I, and members of the Blaengwrach Community Action Group, have received from our local authority to date.

Reasons why the existing process is not sufficient:

I urge the Welsh Government to consider the salient points of my request which are as follows:

- There is no **accountability** for Planning Authorities to involve Directly Affected Residents in consultations.
- There is no process for Directly Affected Residents to follow in the **event of non-involvement** in light of developments which have a severe impact on a community and residents homes.
- The Public Ombudsman **will not investigate** cases where Planning Authorities have not involved Directly Affected Residents, as the decision making process of the Planning Authority is not examined by ANY AUTHORITY.
- Residents and communities generally **cannot afford** to take their local authority to court over grievances in decision making processes and many local authorities are very quick to pursue libel cases to spread fear and prevent such cases from occurring.

Our village is an example on how the system has failed us:

Minister James explained that there are duties and processes which should be followed before a planning decision for approval is taken. As already noted, there is no enforcement of such duties, and Directly Affected Residents have no action to pursue once a planning decision has been made without their involvement.

As a Directly Affected Resident, I personally found out, through social media, about a major development affecting the only access point to my street (and village) **2 days before the Planning Meeting** to decide its approval. We were **not notified** by any official means. That night, my husband and I printed around 200 leaflets and delivered them early in the morning to our neighbourhood to inform them of the planned development and the Planning Committee's scheduled site visit for the morning of the meeting.

Due to our actions, a large group of residents met at the proposed site to demonstrate the community opposition to the site plans and the lack of their involvement in the process. It seemed that no one in our neighbourhood had been made aware of the planned development, although we later heard that 3 printouts had been sticky taped to lampposts around on the waste ground / proposed site.



Blaengwrach Community Action Group

Although the protest was silent, the Committee called a police presence to the meeting itself in Port Talbot Civic Hall. A few people were escorted out of the building for emotional outbursts. Incredibly, the official decision records %no objection from local residents+and no minutes were taken. The planning approval was given in this meeting and the Head of Planning stood up to announce that there was **no legal avenue anyone could follow to challenge this decision.**

Since this meeting, our Local Councillor and our Community Action Group has delivered over 500 letters to our Planning Authority in protest of the planned development. We have demanded involvement in the uncommonly large number of pre-commencement conditions on this application in order to make our area safe for us. We have requested more investigation into key safety points and have highlighted errors in the traffic surveys and the Local Development Plan which allowed this decision. Every single point we have raised to ask for **further objective investigation** into this development, on the basis of residential **health and safety**, has been bluntly rejected and refused. Our Local Councillor has been effectively shut out of decisions concerning the large number of pre-commencement conditions put onto this development, by using ~~Call-in Panel~~ procedures instead of full planning meetings as we have requested.

We have complained to our Local Planning Authority about the lack of inclusion and the failure to address our concerns. We have involved our Welsh Assembly Ministers who have written numerous letters on our behalf. We have involved the news, with BBC Wales and Wales Online publishing articles to show our plight.

A complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman (which took months to complete), resulted in a refusal to investigate without further ~~proof~~ and the fact that they lack authority over ~~decision making~~ processes. A complaint to the Local Authority Audit Office was met with a blanket letter to tell me they would not investigate further. After sending letters to the Planning Authority about the number of errors in the Planning Application, due to missing and incorrect information in our Local Development Plan, I was told that I can become involved in the next review 2 years from now . once the development was completed. Our neighbourhood has sent so many letters to the Planning Authority, that we were then told that further communications would be ignored, to save their ~~resources~~

I belong to a community that was not involved in consultations for a major development, which will now devastate our way of life, and end another traditional Welsh village. We formed an Action Group to try and have a bigger voice, but ultimately, our Local Authority sees us only, and I quote, as **“the opposition”**. This particular Planning Application was passed for approval in record time, with a huge number of pre-commencement conditions to bypass the need for full and accurate information at the time of decision making. We have a case file full of errors, missing information and inconsistencies, in comparison to other local developments, which just raises more questions.

There is no one to go to.

We have nowhere to turn, unless our low income village residents can find enough money to take our Local Authority to court, as suggested by Minister James. It seems clear that this is the only avenue presented **because** it is the only option communities cannot afford to pursue.



Blaengwrach Community Action Group

Our requests in these petition letters have still not been addressed:

I am sure that Julie James, Lesley Griffiths and the Planning Authorities around Wales are satisfied with their established processes and duties. My petition has been submitted because **we, the public, are not satisfied**. These policies and guides have no accountability behind them, and are to residents like ourselves, effectively as useless as the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales. (*)

I would humbly ask the Welsh Government to consider this petition on behalf of the Welsh public **which has no voice, unless invited**.

As per my previous letter, we are asking for:

- **Directly Affected Residents to be notified appropriately**
- **Directly Affected Residents to be mandatorily invited to consultations – and to be able to contribute effectively**
- **More advice to be freely given at the point of notifying third parties of a planning application.**
- **More time to submit third party planning appeals**
- **The right for recognised Community Action Groups to have direct consultations with the Local Planning Authority**
- **Special consideration be given to appeals where vulnerable people are affected in a community**

Surely these are sensible and achievable requests without overhauling the system? It is clear that the policies outlined in the Planning Act Wales (2015) concerning residential involvement are simply not enough. **Instead of making more policies and guidelines why not simply work out how to enforce what we do have?**

As our Government, I would ask you to think of your small Welsh Villages where there are still many disadvantaged and ill-educated residents with little hope of challenging Local Authorities over life changing commercial developments. Instead of having to fight with our authorities, we should be able to work together to ensure a bright future for future generations. Please don't let another community go through a situation like ours, and instead look to safeguard Welsh Residents' lives over the commercial needs for multi-national developers to obtain faster approval in return for faster and bigger profits.

Do not dismiss my previously submitted legal report as easily as Minister James. This outlines how change is needed legally, with less financial impact than the Planning Authorities would have us believe and with much more to gain. Should I be invited to speak to the Petitions Committee in person to present my views, I would very much welcome such an opportunity. I would also like to request that I am accompanied by the Director of Sustrans, Mr Steve Brooks, who would also like to speak on this topic after publishing articles that support this petition.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Emma Eynon
Directly Affected Resident
Member of Blaengwrach Community Action Group

(*See supporting article)

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Law to protect future generations in Wales 'useless'

By Paul Martin
Reporter, BBC Wales Live

15 May 2019

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M4 relief road



Campaigners argued that Cymer Afan Comprehensive School was in the "heart" of the Upper Afan Valley

A law aimed at protecting future generations in Wales is "virtually useless", a senior barrister has said.

An attempt to use the Future Generations Act for the first time to challenge a school closure was unsuccessful.

Rhodri Williams QC said the judge's decision showed the law was "toothless".

The Welsh Government said the interpretation of the law was a matter for the courts.

But the judge's decision has cast doubt on whether the act could be used by opponents of the M4 relief road.

The **Well-being of Future Generations Act**, which came into force three years ago, says all public organisations must carry out "sustainable development".

It lists several "well-being goals" including "attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities".

- **What has the Future Generations Act done for Wales?**
- **What we know about M4 relief road inquiry**

Lawyers acting for parents unhappy at Neath Port Talbot's decision to close Cymer Afan Comprehensive **tried to use the act** as a means of getting the decision reviewed, because of the potential impact on the community of losing its school.

But the case was dismissed in March by High Court judge Mrs Justice Lambert, who said the act could not trigger a judicial review.

She said: "I do not find it arguable that the 2015 act does more than prescribe a high-level target duty which is deliberately vague, general and aspirational and which applies to a class rather than individuals.

"As such, judicial review is not the appropriate means of enforcing such duties."

The judge also said the closure of Cymer Afan was "not inconsistent" with Neath Port Talbot council's published "well-being objectives", so was compliant with the act anyway.



Mr Williams QC, the barrister acting for the campaigners, told **BBC Wales Live** he had always felt the act was a "particularly badly-drafted piece of legislation".

"Everyone wants to see a resilient Wales, a prosperous Wales, a Wales in which there isn't any inequality," he said.

"But the point is unless individuals can rely on these rights - if they feel they haven't been upheld - to challenge the decisions of public bodies, the act is virtually useless.

"The guidance that has been issued on it is full of fantastic-sounding phrases but in reality individuals are not going to be able to use it.

"So if public bodies for whatever reason can't take into account and apply their obligations, there will be no redress, which effectively means the legislation is toothless."

Opponents of an M4 relief road have suggested the act could be used as a way of triggering a judicial review if the Welsh Government decides to go ahead with the road.

A decision on whether ministers will build the £1.4bn route around Newport is **expected to be announced** in early June,

Mr Williams said the outcome in the Cymer Afan case casts doubt on whether that would be possible.

"This is only a first instance decision but it is a decision of the High Court that there is no right for an individual or a group of individuals to bring a claim for judicial review based on an allegation of a breach of the act," he added.

Plaid Cymru AM Llyr Gruffydd said the development was "immensely disappointing" and suggested the law may need to be amended.

Andrew RT Davies for the Welsh Conservatives said the "reality" of the law "has fallen well short of the rhetoric".



Sophie Howe, as future generations commissioner, monitors whether public bodies are complying with the act

The future generations commissioner, Sophie Howe, whose job it is to monitor whether public bodies are complying with the act, said: "I have monitored very carefully the developments around the first judicial case using the Well-being of Future Generations Act as a ground for judicial review.

"I also took legal advice on these issues and the points of law involved.

"Given the fact that the case was at a very initial stage which would not set precedent and given my limited resources, while I might not agree with all of the arguments or conclusions, I have decided not to intervene in this specific case.

"I will continue to monitor legal developments around the act very carefully and do not exclude intervening formally in the future depending on the specific circumstances."

A Welsh Government spokeswoman said: "The Well-being of Future Generations Act requires that public sector bodies consider the long-term implication of any decisions they make.

"This includes assessing the long-term impacts of more controversial and difficult decisions, such as whether a school should be closed."

Neath Port Talbot council added: "The council was always confident that it had complied with its statutory obligations in this case, having undertaken the most comprehensive and rigorous consultation process prior to the final decision being taken.

"So it proved in court."

Wales Live is on BBC One Wales at 22:30 BST on Wednesday.

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Agenda Item 3.16

P-05-858 Fire Sprinklers are for life, not a fast buck!

This petition was submitted by John Newman, having collected 209 signatures.

Text of Petition

Call upon the Welsh Government to amend paragraph 2.6 of Approved Document B in such a way as to make it mandatory that the design, installation and maintenance of residential and domestic fire suppression systems is conducted only by those that are members of appropriate third party certification schemes. This will ensure that such life saving systems are correctly designed, installed and maintained by suitably qualified personnel. Sadly this is currently not the case.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Caerphilly
- South Wales East

P-05-858 Fire Sprinklers are for life, not a fast buck!, Correspondence – petitioner to Committee, 03.06.19

Please accept my apologies for this last minute response, work demands have been considerable of late.

Hopefully it will be easier for the committee to properly consider my petition if I summarise below key issues and comments that cause me concern at the way Building Control May consider 'competence' to install sprinkler systems.

1. Why is it important for only certificates from UKAS third party accredited installers to be acceptable? Fire Suppression systems are critical to life safety and if installed by inexperienced and/or unqualified personnel there are many errors that can be made that would render the systems ineffective in the event of a fire. Post Grenfell should we really be taking a risk in approving installations by non accredited installers. Would gas installations be passed without a Gas Safe certificate?

2. An example of an installation by an unqualified party can be seen on a LinkedIn post of mine at <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6452037867177852928> This post attracted over 20,000 views and a significantly large number of concerned comments.

3. There have been a significant number of installations that do not comply with the relevant British Standard. This is particularly the case with 'mist' systems. There are currently no such systems available that comply with BS8458 yet such systems are being installed by non accredited installers. One system in particular, Puck, failed its automatic testing procedures developing pipe bursts and leaks at many new properties in Wales causing much stress, expense, damage, and inconvenience to homeowners. Properly certificated and experienced installers are not fooled or misled by the delver marketing involved with mist suppression systems, but will readily install such systems when there is a fully compliant system available.

4. Building Control can easily be misled by the production of apparently suitable certificates of training. Third party certification bodies such as FIRAS recognise that holding a pass certificate in sprinkler design (the most commonly recognised certificate is produced by XACT - see <https://www.xact.org.uk/courses/bs-9251-sprinkler-system-design>) is only part of the process in assessing competency. There are many practical issues with an installation that are not covered within this 3 day course. Consequently, an installer's previous experience and understanding of critical elements of an installation are thoroughly assessed in determining approval for certification.

5. It is worth noting that the standard for commercial sprinkler systems, BSEN 12845, makes 3rd party accreditation mandatory. The main purpose of the commercial standard was the protection of property for insurance purposes with life safety additions being later additions to the original standard. The residential and domestic standards, BS9251 for sprinklers, BS8458 for mist systems, were written with life safety being the paramount consideration so why should the certification requirements be any less robust than the commercial standard requirements.

I would like to thank the committee for further considering my petition and hope that any recommendations in support of third party accreditation and certification will take our World leading fire suppression legislation even further down the path of the protection of our citizens from the devastating effects of fires in our homes.

Kindest regards

John Newman

P-05-858 Fire Sprinklers are for life, not a fast buck! Correspondence – Interested party to Committee, 06.06.19

1. Smaller sprinkler companies will be forced out of business with the costs with getting accreditation after spending a vast amount of money on training to ensure competence.
2. There are not enough 3rd party accredited companies in Wales to cope with the demand that there is with the current housing market thus creating a monopoly for larger companies who will then use the smaller defunct companies as sub contractors.
3. If implemented there will need to be a long period of changeover so to speak so companies who are of adequate size can apply for certification and achieve it (can take up to a year) This was the case when electricians had to achieve Part P status.

Once again even though we are going for 3rd party certification I don't think its beneficial to insisted upon it if competency can be proved via current training certs etc.

Agenda Item 5

P-05-828 Presumption in favour of rural schools

This petition was submitted by the Parents and Teachers Association of Ysgol Gymunedol Bodffordd and was first considered in September 2018 having collected 5,215 signatures

Text of Petition

We call on the Government to take steps to ensure that local authorities follow the guidelines within the current School Organisation Code and the new version of the Code (when it comes into force), including that they operate in accordance with the presumption in favour of rural schools. We accept that this does not mean that a rural school will never close, but the recent decision by Anglesey Council's Executive Committee to close Ysgol Bodffordd demonstrates that local authorities are free to ignore the new Code (that they are supposed to act in accordance with its spirit) and close even full and popular schools.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Ynys Mon
- North Wales

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

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