

Votes and Proceedings – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 13 March 2019

Meeting time: 13.30

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/5568>

196(v4)

Nominations for a committee chair

Item started at 13.30

The Presiding Officer invited nominations for the chair of the following committee, in accordance with Standing Order 17.2F:

(i) Petitions Committee – Conservatives

David Melding nominated Janet Finch–Saunders

Russell George nominated Mark Isherwood

As there were two nominations, the Presiding Officer referred the nominations to a secret ballot in accordance with Standing Order 17.2I.

Emergency Question

Item started at 13.32

To ask the First Minister:

Adam Price (Carmarthen East and Dinefwr): Will the First Minister make a statement on the Welsh Government’s policy on Brexit following the rejection of the EU–UK Withdrawal Agreement in the House of Commons last night?



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1 Questions to the Minister for Education

The item started at 13.49

Questions 1 – 8 and 10 were asked. Question 9 was not asked. The Presiding Officer invited party spokespeople to ask questions to the Minister after question 2.

2 Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

The item started at 14.46

The first 8 questions were asked. Question 3 was answered by the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services. The Presiding Officer invited party spokespeople to ask questions to the Minister after question 2.

3 Topical Questions

No Topical Questions were accepted

4 90 Second Statements

No 90 Second Statements were submitted

5 Statement by the Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee: The effect of Brexit on the arts, creative industries, heritage and the Welsh language

The item started at 15.37

PO Statement: Election of Petitions Committee Chair

The item started at 16.05

The Presiding Officer announced the result of the election of the Petitions Committee Chair:

Petitions Committee

Janet Finch–Saunders	Mark Isherwood	Abstentions
25	14	1

The Presiding Officer declared Janet Finch–Saunders AM elected as Chair of the Petitions Committee.

6 Debate: Stage 3 of the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill

The item started at 16.06

Amendment 22 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 23 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 24 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 25 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 26 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 44 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 45 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 27 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 28 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 29 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 30 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 31 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 32 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 33 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 34 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 35 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 36 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

A vote was taken on amendment 49:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
0	0	47	47

Amendment 49 was not agreed.

Amendment 37 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 2 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 3 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 4 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 5 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 38 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 6 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 7 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 8 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 9 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 10 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 46 was withdrawn

A vote was taken on amendment 47:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
11	0	36	47

Amendment 47 was not agreed.

Amendment 11 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

A vote was taken on amendment 48:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
11	0	36	47

Amendment 48 was not agreed.

Amendment 12 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 13 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 14 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 15 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 16 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 17 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 18 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 19 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 20 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 39 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 40 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 41 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 42 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 43 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 21 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 1 was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

All sections and schedules of the Bill were deemed agreed, concluding Stage 3 proceedings.

7 Welsh Conservatives debate – Natural Resources Wales

The item started at 17.13

Voting on the motion and amendments under this item was deferred until Voting Time.

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

NDM6989 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales;

1. Notes the Welsh Government's decision to merge the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales, and the Forestry Commission Wales with the formation of Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in 2013.

2. Recognises the hard work of frontline staff in the organisation but acknowledges their dissatisfaction and lack of confidence in the decisions taken by senior management, as regularly expressed in staff surveys since NRW's inception.

3. Regrets that NRW has systematically failed the people of Wales through a number of high-profile scandals, including:

a) serious failings in the handling of timber contracts which auditors, Grant Thornton, stated were so bad they "heightened exposure to the risk of fraud";

b) the 'qualification' of the organisation's accounts by the Wales Audit Office for three years running, indicating that there were questions over whether the organisation had acted within the rules;

c) the contradictory approach led by NRW when deciding to intervene on matters of public interest such as shooting on public land and nuclear mud dumping.

4. Calls on the Welsh Government to instigate an independent review/inquiry into the organisation's failings and to investigate alternative proposals for the management of the natural resources of Wales.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
13	0	34	47

The motion without amendment was not agreed.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 – [Rebecca Evans \(Gower\)](#)

Delete points 3 and 4 replace with new points:

Notes the findings and recommendations of the reports by:

a) National Assembly Public Accounts Committee inquiry into NRW's annual report and accounts 2017–2018 – November 2018;

b) Grant Thornton – Natural Resources Wales – Governance of Timber Sales – February 2019.

Welcomes the appointment of a new chief executive and interim chair of NRW and their commitment to implement the recommendations of the two reports and improve the management and governance of NRW.

A vote was taken on amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
27	0	21	48

Amendment 1 was agreed.

As Amendment 1 was agreed, amendments 2 and 3 were de-selected.

Amendment 4 – [Rhun ap Iorwerth \(Ynys Môn\)](#)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that NRW is properly resourced to adequately fulfil all of its duties.

A vote was taken on amendment 4:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
21	0	27	48

Amendment 4 was not agreed.

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

NDM6989 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales;

1. Notes the Welsh Government's decision to merge the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales, and the Forestry Commission Wales with the formation of Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in 2013.

2. Recognises the hard work of frontline staff in the organisation but acknowledges their dissatisfaction and lack of confidence in the decisions taken by senior management, as regularly expressed in staff surveys since NRW's inception.

3. Notes the findings and recommendations of the reports by:

a) National Assembly Public Accounts Committee inquiry into NRW's annual report and accounts 2017-2018 - November 2018;

b) Grant Thornton - Natural Resources Wales - Governance of Timber Sales - February 2019.

4. Welcomes the appointment of a new chief executive and interim chair of NRW and their commitment to implement the recommendations of the two reports and improve the management and governance of NRW.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
27	0	21	48

The motion as amended was agreed.

8 Voting Time

The item started at 18.04

9 Short Debate

The item started at 18.07

NDM6988 [Mike Hedges \(Swansea East\)](#)

The importance of apprenticeships: Why we need people qualified in trades.

The meeting concluded at 18.26

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 19 March 2019