

# Votes and Proceedings – Plenary

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Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y\_Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 15 July 2020

Meeting time: 10.00

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/6403>

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This meeting was held in a hybrid format, with some Members in the Senedd Chamber and others joining by video-conference.

Having consulted with the Business Committee, the Llywydd determined that in accordance with Standing Order 34.14A–D, Members would be able to vote from any location by electronic means.

The Llywydd also gave notice, in accordance with Standing Order 34.15, that the public were excluded from attending this Plenary meeting, as is required to protect public health. The meeting would continue to be broadcast live and the record of proceedings would be published as usual.

### 1 Questions to the First Minister

The item started at 10.01

The first 8 questions were asked. The Presiding Officer invited party leaders to ask questions to the First Minister after question 2

### 2 Business Statement and Announcement

The item started at 11.08



### **3 Questions to the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales**

The item started at 11.27

The first 9 questions were asked. Questions 5 and 8 were answered by the Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport. The Presiding Officer invited party spokespeople to ask questions to the Minister after question 2.

### **4 Questions to the Counsel General and Minister for European Transition (in respect of his European Transition Minister responsibilities)**

The item started at 12.15

The first 9 questions were asked. Questions 5 and 7 were grouped together for answer. The Presiding Officer invited party spokespeople to ask questions to the Minister after question 2.

At 13.01, the meeting was suspended until 13.45

### **Llywydd statement**

The Llywydd stated that she was aware that the Minister for Health and Social Services had today issued a written statement, 'Wales Covid-19 Testing Strategy', and that given previous comments from Members, including on the Business Statement and Announcement earlier today, Ministers should ensure that important announcements are made directly to Members in the Chamber. The Llywydd stated that she would extend today's Topical Question (testing for care home staff) to allow Members to ask questions of the Government on the written statement.

### **5 Statement by the First Minister: The Legislative Programme**

The item started at 13.46

### **6 Topical Questions**

The item started at 14.46

**To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services**

Janet Finch–Saunders (Aberconwy): Will the Minister make a statement on weekly Covid–19 testing for care home staff?

**To ask the Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language; to be answered by the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism**

Alun Davies (Blaenau Gwent): Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Government's approach to media policy and support for the media industry following the recent series of redundancies?

**Proposal under Standing Order 12.24 to debate the following together but with separate votes – WITHDRAWN**

**7 The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) (Amendment) (No. 6) Regulations 2020 – WITHDRAWN**

This item was withdrawn

**8 The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) (Amendment) (No.7) Regulations 2020 – WITHDRAWN**

This item was withdrawn

**Proposal to debate the following items together but with separate votes:  
(15 mins)**

**9 The Curriculum Requirements (Amendment of paragraph 7(5) of Schedule 17 to the Coronavirus Act 2020) (Wales) Regulations 2020**

The item started at 15.31

**NDM7347 [Rebecca Evans \(Gower\)](#)**

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 27.5:

1. Approves The Curriculum Requirements (Amendment of paragraph 7(5) of Schedule 17 to the Coronavirus Act 2020) (Wales) Regulations 2020 [laid](#) in the Table Office on 22 June 2020.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

## 10 The Maintained Schools (Amendment of Paragraph 7 of Schedule 17 to the Coronavirus Act 2020) (Wales) Regulations 2020

The item started at 15.31

NDM7348 [Rebecca Evans \(Gower\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 27.5:

1. Approves The Maintained Schools (Amendment of paragraph 7 of Schedule 17 to the Coronavirus Act 2020) (Wales) Regulations 2020 [laid](#) in the Table Office on 25 June 2020.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

## 11 The Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications, Deemed Applications and Site Visits) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2020

The item started at 15.42

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

NDM7346 [Rebecca Evans \(Gower\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 27.5:

1. Approves that the draft The Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications, Deemed Applications and Site Visits) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 is made in accordance with the draft [laid](#) in the Table Office on 24 June 2020.

The result was as follows:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
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40	12	1	53
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The motion was agreed.

## 12 Debate: Stage 4 on the Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill

The item started at 15.48

In accordance with Standing Order 26.50C a recorded vote was taken and voting on the item was deferred until Voting Time

NDM7357 [Lesley Griffiths \(Wrexham\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd in accordance with Standing Order 26.47:

Approves the Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill.

[Wild Animals and Circuses \(Wales\) Bill, unamended at Stage 3](#)

The result was as follows:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
53	0	0	53

The motion was agreed.

## 13 Debate: Introducing 20mph Speed Limits in Wales

The item started at 15.57

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

NDM7355 [Rebecca Evans \(Gower\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Welcomes the report of the Taskforce chaired by Phil Jones setting out recommendations on how to change the default speed limit for restricted roads in Wales to 20mph.

2. Notes the international research which demonstrates the road safety benefits, including a reduction in child deaths, of reducing default speed limits to 20mph.
3. Recognises the Welsh Government roll out of 20mph pilot projects, as precursor to a default 20 mph speed limit across Wales, and the future community benefits this will bring.
4. Supports the Welsh Government's intention to commence consultation on the proposed making of an order by statutory instrument (which will require approval by a resolution of the Senedd) reducing the general speed limit for restricted roads to 20 mph.

The Taskforce's Report was emailed to Members on 8 July 2020.

The following amendments were tabled:

**Amendment 1 – [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)**

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to set out its proposals as part of the consultation to ensure that enforcement agencies have the appropriate resources to respond to the proposed order

A vote was taken on amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
44	4	5	53

**Amendment 1 was agreed.**

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

**NDM7355 [Rebecca Evans \(Gower\)](#)**

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Welcomes the report of the Taskforce chaired by Phil Jones setting out recommendations on how to change the default speed limit for restricted roads in Wales to 20mph.
2. Notes the international research which demonstrates the road safety benefits, including a reduction in child deaths, of reducing default speed limits to 20mph.
3. Recognises the Welsh Government roll out of 20mph pilot projects, as precursor to a default 20 mph speed limit across Wales, and the future community benefits this will bring.
4. Supports the Welsh Government's intention to commence consultation on the proposed making of an order by statutory instrument (which will require approval by a resolution of the Senedd) reducing the general speed limit for restricted roads to 20 mph.
5. Calls on the Welsh Government to set out its proposals as part of the consultation to ensure that enforcement agencies have the appropriate resources to respond to the proposed order

The Taskforce's Report was emailed to Members on 8 July 2020.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
45	2	6	53

The motion as amended was agreed.

## 14 Motion to amend Standing Order 18.10: Committee Functions Relating to the Oversight of the Wales Audit Office

The item started at 16.55

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

**NDM7353 [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)**

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 33.2:

1. Considers the report of the Business Committee 'Chair of the Wales Audit Office (WAO) Board' [laid](#) in the Table Office on 8 July 2020.
2. Approves the proposals to amend Standing Order 18, as set out in Annex A of the report of the Business Committee.

The result was as follows:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
51	0	2	53

The motion was agreed.

## 15 Motion to amend Standing Orders: The Electoral Commission and the Llywydd's Committee

The item started at 15.56

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

NDM7352 [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 33.2:

1. Considers the report of the Business Committee 'Standing Order 18B – Oversight of the Electoral Commission' [laid](#) in the Table Office on 8 July 2020.
2. Approves the proposals to introduce a new Standing Order 18B, and amend Standing Order 17 as set out in Annex B of the report of the Business Committee.

The result was as follows:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
51	0	2	53

The motion was agreed.



At 16.57, the meeting was suspended until 17.03

## **16 Finance Committee debate – The Welsh Government's Spending Priorities for the Draft Budget 2021–22, in light of Covid–19**

The item started at 17.03

**NDM7351 [Llyr Gruffydd \(North Wales\)](#)**

To propose that the Senedd:

Considers the spending priorities for the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2021–22.

**The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.**

## **17 Children, Young People and Education Committee debate – The impact of the Covid–19 outbreak on children and young people in Wales**

The item started at 18.01

**NDM7354 [Lynne Neagle \(Torfaen\)](#)**

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the Children, Young People and Education Committee Interim Report – Impact of Covid–19 on children and young people, which was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 8 July 2020

**The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.**

## **18 Plaid Cymru debate – An Independent Wales**

The item started at 18.56

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

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

**NDM7356 [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)**

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes that the people of Wales have welcomed the ability for Wales to act independently during the coronavirus crisis.
2. Recognises the success of independent countries of a similar size to Wales in dealing with the virus.
3. Believes that independence would give Wales greater agility and resilience in responding to future challenges.
4. Notes the increased support for an independent Scotland and a united Ireland.
5. Affirms the right of the people of Wales to decide whether Wales should become an independent country.
6. Calls on the Welsh Government to seek the constitutional right to allow the Senedd to legislate during the next term to hold a binding referendum on independence.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
9	1	43	53

**The motion without amendment was not agreed.**

**The following amendments were tabled:**

**Amendment 1 – [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)**

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Supports Welsh devolution.
2. Recognises the benefits to Wales of being part of the United Kingdom.
3. Welcomes the significant support made available by Her Majesty's Government to assist in the response to the coronavirus pandemic in Wales, including:

- a) £2.8 billion allocated to support interventions in devolved matters;
- b) support for more than 316,500 jobs via a Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme;
- c) support for more than 102,000 people via the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme;
- d) emergency finance for the steel industry;
- e) a Job Retention Bonus to encourage employers to protect the jobs of furloughed workers;
- f) a Kickstart Scheme for young job seekers;
- g) a reduction in VAT for tourism and hospitality businesses;
- h) an Eat Out to Help Out scheme to help cafes, restaurants and pubs; and
- i) funding to decarbonise UK Government public sector buildings in Wales.

4. Calls on the Welsh Government to continue to cooperate with Her Majesty's Government to protect lives and livelihoods in Wales during the coronavirus pandemic.

A vote was taken on amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
13	0	40	53

**Amendment 1 was not agreed.**

**Amendment 2 – [Neil Hamilton \(Mid and West Wales\)](#)**

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

Believes that:

- a) by any reasonable measure, devolution has failed; and

b) support for scrapping the Senedd exceeds support for Wales' political independence from the UK.

A vote was taken on amendment 2:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
2	2	49	53

**Amendment 2 was not agreed.**

**Amendment 3 – [Gareth Bennett \(South Wales Central\)](#)**

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes that the different lockdown policies introduced by different governments across the United Kingdom have led to confusion.
2. Recognises that the only real economic resilience Wales enjoys is as part of the United Kingdom.
3. Notes the Scottish independence referendum in 2014, which resulted in Scotland voting to remain as part of the United Kingdom.
4. Affirms the right of the people of Wales to decide whether Wales continues to have a devolved government.
5. Calls on the Welsh Government to seek the constitutional right to allow the Senedd to legislate during the next term to hold a binding referendum on whether we keep or abolish the devolved government and parliament of Wales.

A vote was taken on amendment 3:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
2	2	49	53

**Amendment 3 was not agreed.**

**Amendment 4 – [Rebecca Evans \(Gower\)](#)**

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Welcomes the Welsh Government’s strong and effective leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic;
2. Considers that co-ordinated decision-making and messaging by the four administrations within the United Kingdom will most effectively address the challenges the pandemic presents for our citizens and businesses; and
3. Believes that Wales’s interests are best served by its continuing membership of a reformed United Kingdom, allowing co-ordinated governmental action to be pursued.

A vote was taken on amendment 4:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
29	0	24	53

**Amendment 4 was agreed.**

**Amendment 5 – [Neil Hamilton \(Mid and West Wales\)](#)**

Add as a new point at end of motion:

Believes that the Senedd should be scrapped.

A vote was taken on amendment 5:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
2	2	49	53

**Amendment 5 was not agreed.**

**Amendment 6 – [Neil Hamilton \(Mid and West Wales\)](#)**

Add as a new point at end of motion:

Calls on Welsh Government to seek the constitutional right to allow the Senedd to legislate during the next term to hold a binding referendum on its disestablishment.

A vote was taken on amendment 6:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
2	2	49	53

**Amendment 6 was not agreed.**

**Amendment 7 – [Neil McEvoy \(South Wales Central\)](#)**

Add as new point at end of motion:

Believes that Wales should have its own constitution and bill of rights.

A vote was taken on amendment 7:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
9	2	42	53

**Amendment 7 was not agreed.**

**Amendment 8 – [Neil McEvoy \(South Wales Central\)](#)**

Add as new point at end of motion:

Believes that Welsh sovereignty should be exercised at a community and national level, including use of binding referendums through a public right of initiative.

A vote was taken on amendment 8:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
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1	2	50	53
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**Amendment 8 was not agreed.**

**A vote was taken on the motion as amended:**

**NDM7356 [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)**

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Welcomes the Welsh Government’s strong and effective leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic;
2. Considers that co-ordinated decision-making and messaging by the four administrations within the United Kingdom will most effectively address the challenges the pandemic presents for our citizens and businesses; and
3. Believes that Wales’s interests are best served by its continuing membership of a reformed United Kingdom, allowing co-ordinated governmental action to be pursued.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
29	0	24	53

**The motion as amended was agreed.**

## **19 Voting Time**

In accordance with Standing Order 34.14D, at 19.58 proceedings were suspended to allow a technical break before voting time.

The item started at 20.07

## **Votes Summary**

The meeting concluded at 20.26

**The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 11.00, Wednesday, 5 August 2020**