

Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 1 – Senedd**

Meeting date: **Tuesday, 7 February 2012**

Meeting time: **09:30 – 11:00**

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
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National
Assembly for
Wales



This meeting can be viewed on Senedd TV at:

http://www.senedd.tv/archiveplayer.jsf?v=en_200000_07_02_2012&t=0&l=en

Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

William Powell (Chair)
Russell George
Bethan Jenkins
Joyce Watson

Witnesses:

Carl Sargeant, Minister for Local Government and Communities
Debra Carter, Head of Local Government Finance and Public Service Performance Division
Frank Cuthbert, Head of Scrutiny, Democracy and Participation Team

Committee Staff:

Abigail Phillips (Clerk)
Sarita Marshall (Deputy Clerk)
Helen Roberts (Legal Advisor)

1. Introduction, apologies and substitutions

There were no apologies.

2. New petitions

2.1P-04-362 Ambulance Services in Monmouth

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to:
Write to the Minister and to the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust seeking initial views on the petition;
Write to the Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee to ask whether that Committee would consider undertaking work on the issue;
Refer the petitioners to the Public Accounts Committee report on ambulance times;

Write to the Public Accounts Committee to ask whether it intends to revisit the report on ambulance times in the future.

2.2P-04-364 Fibre Optic for Rural Areas

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to:
Request an update on the Government's work in this area, particularly in relation to the points raised in the petition;
Write to Ofcom to seek its views on the petition.

3. Updates to previous petitions

3.1P-04-354 Public statement of support for Bradley Manning

As the Chair of the Cross-party Group on Human Rights, Bethan Jenkins updated the Committee on her Statement of Opinion on the subject of the petition and reported that she will let the Bradley Manning campaign know when the next meeting of the cross-party group will be held.

The Committee also agreed to write to the Cross-party Group on Faith to draw their attention to the petition.

3.2P-04-352 Save Roath Steam Laundry

Given that the petitioners have informed the clerking team that the building is now in the process of being demolished, the Committee agreed to close the petition.

3.3P-04-340 Create an Enterprise Zone in Newport

The Committee considered correspondence and documents in relation to the petition.

The Committee agreed to draw the petitioner's attention to the Minister's statements on the matter and advise that, given the Minister's clear statement on the issue, the Committee is minded to close the petition unless the petitioner feels there is anything further the Committee can do.

3.4P-03-315 New Dyfi River Crossing Petition

The Committee considered correspondence relating to the petition and agreed to:
Seek an indicative timeframe for the work mentioned in the Minister's correspondence;
Request that the Minister make a firm commitment to visit the existing crossing.

3.5P-03-085 Surgeries in Flintshire

The Committee considered correspondence in relation to the petition and agreed to write to the Chief Executive of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to seek clarity on the situation and an update on progress.

3.6P-03-280 Cardiff Royal Infirmary

The Committee considered correspondence in relation to the petition and agreed to advise the petitioners of its decision to close the petition unless a response is received from them by the middle of March 2012.

3.7P-03-295 Kyle Beere – Paediatric Neuro Rehabilitation Services

The Committee considered correspondence relating to the petition and agreed to:
Hold an oral evidence session on the issues raised by the petition;
Write to the Health and Social Care Committee Chair drawing his attention to the issues raised by the petition.

3.8P-04-334 Petition for a new renal unit at Prince Charles Hospital

The Committee discussed the rapporteur visit undertaken to the Prince Charles Hospital renal unit and agreed to:
Undertake a visit to the renal unit in Pentwyn, Cardiff and extend the invitation to any patients at the Prince Charles unit who may wish to attend;
Write to the Minister requesting an update on the business case for capital investment at Prince Charles Hospital.

3.9P-04-348 Recycling Targets for Health Boards

The Committee considered correspondence relating to the petition and agreed to:
Seek a timeframe from the Welsh Government for the production of the sector plan mentioned in the Minister's correspondence;
Request detail from the Minister on the different types of waste that go into landfill and their proportion in relation to the whole;
Commission a short piece of research work on the issue from the NAW Research Service.

3.10 P-03-143 Ysgol Penmaes

Due to a lack of response from the petitioner, the Committee agreed to close the petition.

The Committee was suspended between 10.08 a.m. and 10.31 a.m. under Standing Order 17.47

4. Minister for Local Government and Communities – oral evidence session

4.1P-04-331 Filming and Recording of Council Meetings

The Minister answered questions from the Committee on the subject of the petition.

4.2P-04-332 Local Authority Spending Details over £500

The Minister answered questions from the Committee on the subject of the petition and agreed to share details of the impact and benefits experienced by local authorities that have begun to publish spending details.

Transcript

View the [meeting transcript](#).