

Agenda – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Video Conference – Via Zoom

Meeting date: 3 November 2020

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

Graeme Francis – Committee Clerk

Kayleigh Imperato – Deputy Clerk

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In accordance with Standing Order 34.19, the Chair has determined that the public are excluded from the Committee's meeting in order to protect public health. This meeting will be broadcast live on www.senedd.tv

- 1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest
(Pages 1 – 37)
- 2 New petitions
 - 2.1 P-05-1024 For Environmental awareness to be made compulsory and a key module within Schools in Wales for all years (Primary and Secondary Education)
(Pages 38 – 49)
 - 2.2 P-05-1030 Preventive measures on wireless devices in nurseries and primary schools
(Pages 50 – 59)
 - 2.3 P-05-1031 Inhibit the diversion of Heavy Goods Vehicles through residential areas
(Pages 60 – 74)
 - 2.4 P-05-1033 Abolish Education Workforce Council (EWC) registration fees and completely reform its organisation
(Pages 75 – 87)



- 2.5 P-05-1034 Re-open theatres and performance venues in Wales in time for the festive season
(Pages 88 – 96)
- 2.6 P-05-1035 Allow birthing partners to be present at scans, the start of labour, birth and after the birth
(Pages 97 – 103)
- 2.7 P-05-1036 Allow support bubbles during lock down
(Pages 104 – 106)
- 2.8 P-05-1037 Allow children to enter lockdown areas to continue to train with their existing sports clubs
(Pages 107 – 111)

3 Updates to previous petitions

Health and Social Services

- 3.1 P-05-882 Transforming the response for older people experiencing domestic abuse – a call for action
(Pages 112 – 118)
- 3.2 P-05-926 To Provide a Chronic Fatigue Department in Wales
(Pages 119 – 126)
- 3.3 P-05-1014 Give Dental practices and their staff the “key worker” status
(Pages 127 – 129)

Housing and Local Government

- 3.4 P-05-984 Stop discriminatory remote consultations for incinerator applications during the Covid-19 Pandemic
(Pages 130 – 133)

Economy and Transport

- 3.5 P-05-898 Ban the use of A boards in Wales
(Pages 134 – 135)
- 3.6 P-05-935 Ban Pavement Parking – Pavement Promise
(Pages 136 – 142)
- 3.7 P-05-944 Reverse the cuts to commuter train services in North East Wales
(Pages 143 – 149)

Education

- 3.8 P-05-920 School Budgeting for ALN
(Pages 150 – 156)
- 3.9 P-05-988 Give key worker children equal access to their schools and teachers
(Pages 157 – 160)

The following two items will be considered together

- 3.10 P-05-992 We call on the Welsh Government to create a common body of knowledge about Welsh history that all pupils will learn
(Pages 161 – 171)
- 3.11 P-05-1000 Make it compulsory for Black and POC UK histories to be taught in the Welsh education curriculum
(Page 172)

Petitions with no recent contact from the petitioner

- 3.12 P-05-910 Make thrombectomy available 24-7 for Welsh patients
(Pages 173 – 176)
- 3.13 P-05-936 Offer Bowel Cancer Screening After the Age of 74
(Pages 177 – 180)

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

Item 5.

5 Committee Working Practices

(Pages 181 – 186)

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Agenda Item 2.1

P-05-1024 For Environmental awareness to be made compulsory and a key module within Schools in Wales for all years (Primary and Secondary Education)

This petition was submitted by Patricia Noemi Diaz having collected a total of 141 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Environmental Awareness and action as part of the educational framework in Wales would be relevant to the Wellbeing Act and Wales Education Agenda. The petition aims for Welsh Government to consider for all schools in Wales to apply a core module from early years on the Environment encouraging awareness and action. It can be a fundamental initiative which encourages young people to engage in their environment by being educated of the environment and allowing them the opportunity to actively protect it throughout the curricula at each school year.

Additional Information:

Environmental education is essential to ensure our future generations apply the measures require to preserve our environment. Bringing nature to the classroom is imperative to highlight to school children (and parents indirectly) the need for change. Environmental awareness and nature should be "on a par" with key classes in all schools in Wales. It is essential that children grow up with a great understanding, education in current nature issues and knowledge on what actions they can take to protect the diverse environment we live in. It is also teaching them day to day about respect to nature.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Ynys Môn
- North Wales

Environmental awareness in the curriculum

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 13 Hydref 2020
Petitions Committee | 13 October 2020

Reference: RS20/13898

Petition Number: P-05-1024

Petition title: For Environmental awareness to be made compulsory and a key module within Schools in Wales for all years (Primary and Secondary Education)

Text of petition: Environmental Awareness and action as part of the educational framework in Wales would be relevant to the Wellbeing Act and Wales Education Agenda. The petition aims for Welsh Government to consider for all schools in Wales to apply a core module from early years on the Environment encouraging awareness and action. It can be a fundamental initiative which encourages young people to engage in their environment by being educated of the environment and allowing them the opportunity to actively protect it throughout the curricula at each school year.

Environmental education is essential to ensure our future generations apply the measures require to preserve our environment. Bringing nature to the classroom is imperative to highlight to school children (and parents indirectly) the need for change. Environmental awareness and nature should be "on a par" with key classes in all schools in Wales. It is essential that children grow up with a great understanding, education in current nature issues and knowledge on what actions they can take to protect the diverse environment we live in. It is also teaching them day to day about respect to nature.



1. Current curriculum

Delivery of Personal and Social Education (PSE) is a statutory requirement of the basic curriculum although content is at the discretion of schools. The non-statutory [Personal and social education framework for 7 to 19-year-olds in Wales](#) (2008) provides a recommended approach and learning outcomes. Sustainable development and global citizenship is one of the five themes within the PSE framework.

2. New curriculum

Subject to the passing of the [Curriculum and Assessment \(Wales\) Bill](#), the new age 3-16 Curriculum for Wales will be introduced in all maintained schools and publicly funded nursery settings from September 2022 on a phased basis.

The Bill was introduced to the Senedd on 6 July 2020. The Bill sets out the four purposes of the curriculum:

- To enable pupils and children to develop as ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives;
- To enable pupils and children to develop as enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work;
- To enable pupils and children to develop as ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world;
- To enable pupils and children to develop as healthy, confident individuals, ready to live fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

The Welsh Government has emphasised that the new Curriculum for Wales will be **purpose-driven rather than content-driven**. Specific learning content is not stipulated in the same way as under the current national curriculum.

The Bill sets out six Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs) for the new curriculum and the mandatory elements within them. The AoLEs are:

- Expressive Arts
- Health and Well-being
- Humanities

- Languages, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Science and Technology.

The mandatory elements within the AoLEs will be English; Relationships and Sexuality Education; Religion, Values and Ethics and Welsh.

The Bill provides for a 'What Matters Code' to set out key concepts of learning and experience in each AoLE (including Humanities) and that schools' curricula must encompass each of these concepts. The Welsh Government has published 'Statements of What Matters' in the [Curriculum for Wales documentation](#). This is intended to provide the 'national approach' which the [Minister for Education says](#) will ensure consistency for learners.

The [Science and Technology Statement of What Matters](#) includes:

The world around us is full of living things which depend on each other for survival.

The [Humanities Statement of What Matters](#) includes:

Our natural world is diverse and dynamic, influenced by processes and human actions.

Local, national and international contexts is one of the cross-cutting themes of the new curriculum. The Welsh Government [guidance on cross-cutting themes](#) states:

These contexts provide an important opportunity for learners to understand and respond to different issues and challenges, including social, economic and environmental questions in working towards a sustainable and equitable future. The environment forms an important part of each of these contexts, with human impact transcending geographical and political boundaries. This includes the relationships between human activities and the local, national and international environment. Learners should have opportunities to respond to the issues and challenges that arise from these relationships, considering how they have shaped our past and present and how they may shape our future.

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 AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: KW/05199/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Member of the Senedd
Ty Hywel
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14 September 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter dated 4 September regarding the Petition (P-05-1024) For Environmental awareness to be made compulsory and a key module within Schools in Wales for all years (Primary and Secondary Education). The petition aims for Welsh Government to consider for all schools in Wales to apply a core module from early years on the Environment encouraging awareness and action.

Your letter is very timely as education in Wales is changing and environmental awareness is an important part of this. As you will be aware, in January 2020 the first iteration of the new Curriculum for Wales was launched. The curriculum will be available for first teaching in September 2022.

At the heart of the new curriculum are the four purposes which set out the aspirations for all children and young people. By the age of 16, they should be confident, ethical individuals who play an active part in their community and society. Specifically on encouraging awareness and action on the environment, under the four purposes, children and young people in Wales will be able to:

- understand and consider the impact of their actions when making choices and acting
- are knowledgeable about their culture, community, society and the world, now and in the past
- respect the needs and rights of others, as a member of a diverse society
- show their commitment to the sustainability of the planet

The Curriculum and Assessment Bill proposes that every school's curriculum must enable learners to progress towards these purposes. The Curriculum for Wales guidance forms part of the Curriculum for Wales Framework (Framework). The Framework is determined

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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.

nationally and includes both the curriculum requirements, which will be set out in legislation, and a range of supporting guidance. The Framework is designed to help practitioners to develop a more integrated approach to learning. A copy of the guidance can be accessed from the following link:

<https://hwb.gov.wales/api/storage/afca43eb-5c50-4846-9c2d-0d56fbffba09/curriculum-for-wales-guidance-120320.pdf>

There are 27 statements of what matters in the Framework which are mandatory for schools to teach. These ensure a level of consistency in curriculum design across settings and schools, as under the Bill it is proposed that schools must include learning around all statements in their curriculum. There are three statements which are explicitly linked to the environment and raising awareness, which are:

- **Our natural world is diverse and dynamic, influenced by processes and human actions.**
 - *Experiencing the wonder of the natural world can contribute to learners' spiritual development and well-being, and can help to cultivate in them a sense of place and sense of belonging, as embodied in the Welsh word *cynefin*.*
- **The world around us is full of living things which depend on each other for survival.**
 - *By recognising the diversity of living things and how they interact with their environment, learners can develop an understanding of how these have evolved over significant periods of time.*

As such, through these mandatory statements of what matters, learning around different aspects of the environment will form part of every child's education for all year groups.

The process of exploring and revisiting these statements will enable learners to develop ever deeper knowledge over the learning continuum and to progress to a more sophisticated understanding of the key knowledge, ideas and principles in each Area.

As part of the *Keep Education Safe: guidance on learning over the summer term* issued on 10 June 2020, schools were advised to maximize the time learners spend outdoors. The physical, mental and educational benefits of outdoor learning approaches are:

- learning 'in' the outdoors has been shown to support both physical and mental health and well-being
- learning 'about' the outdoors provides a context to develop ambitious, capable learners (particularly through science and humanities)
- learning 'for' the outdoors can be about understanding the climate emergency and environmental sustainability, leading to the development of ethical, informed citizens.

Similarly, the learning guidance from the autumn term emphasises the importance of outdoor learning as a critical component of supporting learners' well-being.

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-07/guidance-learning-schools-settings-from-autumn-term.pdf>

A wide range of organisations provide resources to support schools and settings when considering outdoor learning which accessed via Hwb, as well as through the Wales Council for Outdoor Learning, including their guidance on 'High Quality Outdoor Learning for Wales':

<https://hwb.gov.wales/repository/discovery>

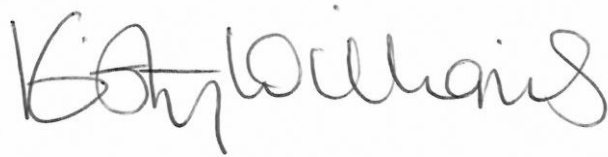
<https://www.walescouncilforoutdoorlearning.org/activity-ideas/>

As part of its on-going activities Natural Resources Wales has developed on-line resources which cover issues including trees and woodlands to sustainable development. The resources highlight the importance of sustainability in managing our natural resources, the environment and local communities:

<https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/education-learning-and-skills/looking-for-learning-resources/?lang=en>

I hope this information has been helpful.

Yours sincerely

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

Kirsty Williams AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

P-05-1024 For Environmental awareness to be made compulsory and a key module within Schools in Wales for all years (Primary and Secondary Education), Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 26.10.20

Submission to the Senedd in respect of Government Petition *“For Environmental awareness to be made compulsory and a key module within Schools in Wales for all years (Primary and Secondary Education)”*

Submission to the Committee

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This submission has been prepared to inform the National Assembly’s Committee in respect of the Petition submitted in March 2020.
- 1.2 This paper is submitted by myself, I live in Ynys Mon with my husband and three children. I have worked and lived in the UK most of my life and I am an advocate for environmental action. I currently work in the environmental sector and have worked on environmental projects in Wales since 2001. I have experience in community engagement, setting up and managing environmental projects, supporting youth projects and I have also been highly involved with schools at different levels. I have been a School Governor and I understand the many challenges we have in the public sector.
- 1.3 As an environmentalist, a citizen of this world and a mother, one is very aware of the climate emergency and the restricted time available to make a difference so we limit what we lose in this planet whilst taking this challenge as an opportunity to consider innovative and practical long terms solutions to restore nature.
- 1.4 Children and young people are our legacy. They are the next generations to live in this planet. They are who remain to pick up the pieces of our doings - or lack of these. It is therefore critical that children and young people are made aware of the natural world around them in a gradual and consistent manner. The more they understand the dynamics of their environment, the more they are encouraged to protect it. This Petition aims to deliver this message and propose for Wales to lead the way in engaging actively in school with young people, at an early age, so they are motivated to appreciate nature. This would have a significant positive effect on their wellbeing, learning and wellness.
- 1.5 The benefits of nature on health is well documented, such education is a la par with current developments in Wales such as the Future Generations Act 2015, Environment (Wales) Act 2016 as well as Welsh Government’s Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) principles.

2. The impact of the application of a structured environmental education framework in Wales

- 2.1 School education is crucial on a child's life and having a set curriculum and structured consistent framework across Wales would be of benefit for each child and for our natural resources.
- 2.2 At present, we rely on individual schools to engage students on a voluntary basis to learn about the environment. Learning would be most effective if each week there was a set time for students of all ages and years to experience and understand the natural world whilst also gaining skills and a naturally positive attitude towards conservation and care for their environment. This would impact positively on students' knowledge, personal development, social skills, wellbeing and would assist students across Wales to have a consistent approach to learning and action in every day life.
- 2.3 The current model in schools in Wales embeds environmental themes within the existing educational curriculum but this is not consistent and great disparity is evident across schools nationally. This can be due to teachers' time or interests. It is true and pertinent to say that the educational sector are already under a great deal of pressure and this presents challenges on how the current model is delivered - therefore some schools are more successful than others on delivery.
- 2.4 Providing a set module focusing on Environmental matters in school (as opposed to embedding) this area within other subject areas only, can offer a wide range of perspectives and critical thinking not always found in other areas of the curriculum. It can ensure every child in Wales receives a basic level of learning consistently across the country.
- 2.5 A set module for all years nurturing young people at early years on their natural world, surroundings and environmental challenges, issues and opportunities is important not only for our children's wellness and knowledge as citizens of the world, but they can early on understand relationships between nature, humans, our environment; they can understand the dynamics of ecosystems, the link between their local nature reserves and heritage, so they offer nature-centred strategies.
- 2.6 Outdoor learning is a vital experience for students, especially at early years and primary. Senior years are more likely to engage in outdoor activities and learning if they were engaged earlier in life in such setting. Some activities such as conservations, environmental, wellbeing and art lessons can take place safely outdoors for a set amount of time per week to assist classroom learning.
- 2.7 Only on understanding the issues, their local environment, and heritage, can our children and young people begin to understand the need for transformation and innovation so to protect their world and future generations to come. As informed, educated and experienced citizens of this world they are able to be actively engaged on matters such as sustainability, and offer better solutions for the future world with an effective balance of environmental, socio and economic strategies.

3. Discussion

- 3.1 I welcome the opportunity to discuss these, or any other points relating to this submission, in person.

PD

[REDACTED]

October 2020

Agenda Item 2.2

P-05-1030 Preventive measures on wireless devices in nurseries and primary schools

This petition was submitted by Camilla Watts having collected a total of 55 signatures.

Text of Petition:

We call for the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to adopt a more stringent limit on the use of wireless devices in nurseries and primary schools.

Established health risks must be known to parents/carers.

Parents/carers consent must be ensured in advance before WiFi devices are installed/used.

The percentage results must be transparent to all parents/carers and those with a duty of care.

Additional Information:

Those who decided against WiFi must be provided with a No WiFi zone.

If results show No consent and the school already has WiFi and multiple wireless devices, they must be WiFi/Bluetooth deactivated and educational applications must be pre-programmed onto computers/tablets etc.

The WHO (World Health Organisation) along with IARC (International Agency for the Research on Cancer) published a monograph evaluation of carcinogenicity of radiation in the radio frequency range of 30 KHZ to 300GHZ electromagnetic spectrum.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Ynys Môn
- North Wales

Wireless devices in nurseries and primary schools

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 3 Tachwedd 2020
Petitions Committee | 3 November 2020

Reference: RS20/14079-1

Petition P-05-1030 Preventive measures on wireless devices in nurseries and primary schools.

Text of petition:

We call for the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to adopt a more stringent limit on the use of wireless devices in nurseries and primary schools.

Established health risks must be known to parents/carers.

Parents/carers consent must be ensured in advance before Wi-Fi devices are installed/used.

The percentage results must be transparent to all parents/carers and those with a duty of care.



1. Summary

Local authorities are responsible for IT infrastructure in maintained schools. The Welsh Government has [issued guidance](#) on:

- Education Digital Standards
- Education Digital Guidance Schools; and
- Device Management

The Education Digital Standards include [Wireless Networking Standards](#) and these state::

All schools should ensure they have considered how and why they wish to use wireless networking within their school. Visit the [Public Health Wales website](#) for the latest advice on potential health considerations.

This [Public Health Wales Guidance](#) includes a section on the ‘evidence summary of the health risks’. It advises that Public Health Wales is advised by Public Health England on radiation-related matters.

The PHW ‘evidence summary of health risks’ states **‘there is no reason why Wi-Fi should not be used in schools and in other public places’**. The full text states:

Research has been carried out by The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) to look at the impact of radio waves on health. It has been stated that radio waves are ‘possibly carcinogenic’ (possible cause of cancer). This does not mean that there is a definite direct link between radio waves from mobile phones and cancer; rather, that the evidence from studies that examined whether radio waves can cause cancer in humans was considered limited. The evidence from experimental studies involving exposed animals was also considered limited. Other examples of chemicals or substances that are considered possibly carcinogenic include eating pickled vegetables (Asian-type) or using talc-based body powder.

Sometimes, people are concerned about exposures and impacts, but radio wave exposures and risks are assessed against agreed health-based standards which have been set to protect individual and population health. According to Public Health England, the UK expert advisors on radiation, public exposure to radio waves from 2G, 3G and 4G technology mobile telecommunications base stations is well within the

guideline levels set by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). These guidelines are internationally accepted and used in many countries including the UK. The recent roll-out of 5G technology across the UK may possibly lead to an increase in overall exposure to radio waves. However, it is not expected that exposure will exceed the health-based guidelines.

Similarly, Wi-Fi technology - as used in wireless local area networks where devices and computers communicate through radio waves instead of connecting cables - is not expected to negatively affect the health of the general population. The signals are very low power in Wi-Fi network computers and routers and exposure levels are lower than those from mobile phones held to the head during calls. Research shows that an individual's exposure to radio waves from Wi-Fi will also be well within the ICNIRP internationally-accepted guidelines. As such, there is no reason why Wi-Fi should not be used in schools and in other public places.

2. The Welsh Government's response to the petition

The Welsh Government has responded to a request for information from the Chair of the Petitions Committee. The letter includes the following points.

- 'On the basis of several published studies and those carried out in-house, PHE has concluded that there are no special steps required to reduce exposure to the low levels of radio waves from Wi-Fi networks, nor any current reason why Wi-Fi should not continue to be used in schools and in other places.'
- 'PHE carried out a systematic programme of research into wireless networks and their use in schools, including measurements of exposures from networks. The results of the research support PHE's view that exposures from Wi-Fi are low in relation to the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines and when compared to similar exposure from mobile phones.'

3. Other positions

There has been coverage and scrutiny of this issue from several sources including the [Council for Europe \(2011\)](#). In 2015, the [French National Assembly](#) introduced [legislation](#) to reduce exposures to wireless radiation electromagnetic fields including in schools and nurseries. It was based on a precautionary approach to addressing potential health risks of radio frequency.

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 AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1030
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05613/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

5 October 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 28 September regarding correspondence the Petitions Committee has received from Camilla Watts. My officials have noted the petition relates to taking preventative measures on wireless devices in nurseries and primary schools.

My office has received several items of correspondence in the past year from Ms Watts in regards to the potential health effects of Wi-Fi. Our responses to Ms. Watts have been co-ordinated with officials from the Welsh Government's Digital Learning Division, Public Health Division, Public Health England (PHE) and Public Health Wales (PHW).

On any matters relating to the health effects of Wi-Fi, the Welsh Government is advised by PHW, who are in-turn advised by PHE. On the basis of several published studies and those carried out in-house, PHE has concluded that there are no special steps required to reduce exposure to the low levels of radio waves from Wi-Fi networks, nor any current reason why Wi-Fi should not continue to be used in schools and in other places.

PHE carried out a systematic programme of research into wireless networks and their use in schools, including measurements of exposures from networks. The results of the research support PHE's view that exposures from Wi-Fi are low in relation to the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines and when compared to similar exposure from mobile phones.

Following a joint meeting between representatives of the Welsh Government's Digital Learning Division; Public Health Division; PHE and PHW, a new advice summary has been written in conjunction with radiation experts from PHE. The advice summary can be found [here](#).

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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.

Our National Mission for Education in Wales is to provide children and young people with the skills, knowledge, experience and resilience, with digital competence an integral element to enable them to thrive in a constantly changing world.

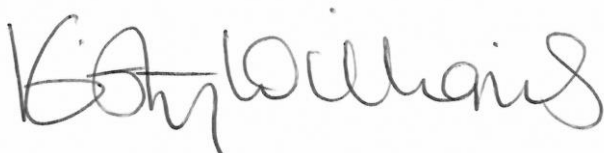
In recent years, we have made significant investment in digital infrastructure and services via a range of programmes and I am committed to continuous improvements in Education Technology (EdTech) across Wales. My officials are now focussing on how recent investment programmes are able to support schools in adopting and embedding digital learning in the classroom, as well as continuing to streamline and standardise the way digital and ICT is delivered in a school context.

Alongside this, our [Education Digital Standards](#) were created to assist schools to understand, manage and implement their digital environment – either self-managed or with assistance from their IT support partner. The information covers all aspects of managing schools' broadband usage, including network configuration, and identifies all device connectivity options available to schools.

Individual local authorities are responsible for IT within maintained schools - we are only able to offer guidance to authorities, who must then make local decisions. The PHW advice is an integral consideration of the Education Digital Standards on wireless networks. Furthermore, the health and safety aspects of any infrastructure implemented is clearly referenced in the standards, and confirms that it is the responsibility of the local authority to undertake the appropriate risk assessments.

I am satisfied that we have provided sufficient guidance to local authorities and schools to assist in their decision making when considering wireless network set ups. I am of course happy to help with any further information required by the Petitions Committee in your review of Ms Watts's request.

Yours sincerely

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

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

P-05-1030 Preventive measures on wireless devices in nurseries and primary schools, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 26.10.20

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders and the Petitions committee.

Thank you for your letter received on the 22nd of October regarding the petition I ran on taking preventative measures on wireless devices in nurseries and primary schools.

I would like to consider some key points in response.

The attached document explains that essentially The Welsh Government are guided by Public Health Wales (PHW) who in turn advised by Public Health England (PHE) on matters relating to health effects from wireless networks

The document states that PHE concluded that there are no special steps required to reduce exposure to these waves and there are no current reasons why it should not continue to be used in schools.

I would like to ask whether PHE, PHW and the Education Ministers are aware of guidelines set out in resolution 1815 Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly from 2011 ?

<https://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=17994>

It clearly states in 8.3.2. concerning the protection of children that , I quote

For children in general and particularly in schools and classrooms give preference to wired internet connection

I general terms 8.1.4. quote;

to pay particular attention to electrosensitive people who suffer from a syndrome of intolerance to electromagnetic fields and introduce special measures to protect them, including the creation of wave free areas not covered by the wireless network.

Therefore you must put in place an alternative with special measures to protect children and provide options for parents/carers who do not consent to their children being involuntary exposed.

With this there needs to be a national curriculum that doesn't revolve around equipment at such a young age , when children and even parents and teachers are not even aware of the exposure.

The document from Kirsty Williams explains the results of the research supporting PHEs view that exposures from wifi are low in relation to The international Commission on Non-

ironising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guideline and when compared to similar exposure from mobile phones.

So you are clearly aware that there is exposure upon the children, teachers and parents within the schools, therefor it doesn't seem unreasonable to have a risk assessment for each school using a full range spectrometer.

I would like to stress all wireless devices that transmit and receive these signals consist of intermittent bursts of radio frequency energy that will exceed the average. Remember, ICNIRP levels are only set to protect direct effects such as electric shock and body tissue heating.

These frequencies appear to have more or less potentially harmful biological effects on plants, insects and animals as well as the human body even when exposed to levels that are below the official threshold values. The levels are not very precautionary.

Experts in the field provide concrete examples of simple and practical means of reducing the exposure to these indoor fields and eliminating certain health problems such as headaches, insomnia, coughs, dizziness and depression etc.

If Kirsty Williams is so committed to continuous improvements in Education Technology across Wales , then a risk assessment would be in her interest , as this would make her liable if the dangers of these exposures were not tested with the appropriate equipment.

We are not satisfied that you have provided sufficient guidance to local authorities and schools, rushing this equipment whilst ignoring European guidelines. Parents/carers and teachers who have responsibilities to protect children are not receiving this information what so ever about exposure from short term and long term health effects. There has not been any information handed out anywhere since this equipment has gone in place.

Does the Education Digital Standards that assist the schools under the connectivity options advise European Guidelines?

Agenda Item 2.3

P-05-1031 Inhibit the diversion of Heavy Goods Vehicles through residential areas

This petition was submitted by Vivienne Blondek having collected a total of 53 signatures.

Text of Petition:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to inhibit the diversion of Heavy Goods Vehicles through residential areas. These County Council adopted roads are being used as diversion routes for HGVs during Trunk Road closures and putting residents, their properties and the roads at significant risk.

Additional Information:

There has been strong evidence of residents suffering serious sleep deprivation due to HGVs passing within feet of their properties. This causes noise and vibration of the walls and doors of their homes with every large HGV passing during overnight diversions due to Trunk Road repair work. Also, there are risks to the fabrications of the properties. Short and long term sleep deprivation has significant risk to every day activities along with added risk of unhealthy increase on emissions. All this can be avoided by using better planning and strategies of contraflow systems. These roads are not built to support such heavy traffic and County Councils are continually battling to repair their roads. Residential properties, both the older and newer, were never built to withstand the level of HGVs on our roads today. Bypasses have been built to avoid residential areas and since coming into being, this calibre of traffic has increased substantially. It is no longer acceptable to consider diverting HGVs along densely populated public highways.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Alyn and Deeside
- North Wales

P-05-1031 Inhibit the diversion of Heavy Goods Vehicles through residential areas

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 3 Tachwedd 2020
Petitions Committee | 3 November 2020

Reference: RS20/14079-3

Petition Number: P-05-1031

Petition title: Inhibit the diversion of Heavy Goods Vehicles through residential areas

Text of petition: We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to inhibit the diversion of Heavy Goods Vehicles through residential areas. These County Council adopted roads are being used as diversion routes for HGVs during Trunk Road closures and putting residents, their properties and the roads at significant risk.

There has been strong evidence of residents suffering serious sleep deprivation due to HGVs passing within feet of their properties. This causes noise and vibration of the walls and doors of their homes with every large HGV passing during overnight diversions due to Trunk Road repair work. Also, there are risks to the fabrications of the properties. Short and long term sleep deprivation has significant risk to every day activities along with added risk of unhealthy increase on emissions. All this can be avoided by using better planning and strategies of contraflow systems. These roads are not built to support such heavy traffic and County Councils are continually battling to repair their roads. Residential properties, both the older and newer, were



never built to withstand the level of HGVs on our roads today. Bypasses have been built to avoid residential areas and since coming into being, this calibre of traffic has increased substantially. It is no longer acceptable to consider diverting HGVs along densely populated public highways.

1. Background

The Welsh Government is the highway authority responsible for the trunk road and motorway network in Wales. Local authorities are the highway authorities responsible for local roads.

The Welsh Government has established two trunk road agents, the South Wales Trunk Road Agent (SWTRA) and the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent (NMWTRA), to manage, maintain and improve the network. Major trunk road projects such as the A465 dualling programme are managed by the Welsh Government directly.

The petitioners argue that roadworks taking place on trunk roads can lead to traffic being diverted through residential areas which is disruptive and a safety concern, particularly as this often includes the diversion of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs).

The petitioners suggest that, as opposed to closing roads and creating diversions, the Welsh Government should use contraflow systems. These involve traffic being temporarily directed onto the opposite side of the carriageway, moving in the opposite direction to its normal flow.

The concerns raised by the petitioner in relation to a particular scheme in North Wales have been reported in the local media. The local authority in this instance has responded that a contraflow system is “not possible”.

Similar concerns have been reported in the media in relation to other road schemes, including concerns over the diversions created as a result of the A465 dualling programme.

2. Welsh Government action

In a letter to the Chair dated 16 October 2020, the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales outlines the Welsh Government's approach to roadworks and diversions.

The Minister states that the preferred option is to use overnight lane closures as opposed to whole road closures leading to diversions. However, he says this isn't always possible.

The Minister goes on to say that where the option taken is to completely close the carriageway overnight and divert traffic, the diversion route is agreed with the relevant highway authority. In the case of residential areas this is the local authority.

With regards to the use of contraflow systems, as suggested by the petitioners, the Minister states that:

Contraflows, which close one carriageway, cannot be achieved on overnight works as they take approximately 2 days to install. A contraflow would have to be in place 24/7 whilst the works were undertaken.

3. Welsh Parliament action

In 2018, the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee undertook an inquiry into the state of the roads in Wales. During the inquiry, the Committee heard evidence from the Freight Transport Association (FTA) which suggested that an online portal of planned roadworks in Wales could help HGV drivers plan better for roadworks and diversions. The FTA stated:

...not all the diversion routes are actually suitable for HGVs. So, our transport planners each week, when they're planning their routes, if they could actually go in and see online exactly where all the roadworks were going to be in Wales, then it would obviously be something that they could plan ahead for.

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.

Ken Skates AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1031
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/05856/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

16 October 2020

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 28 September regarding Petition P-05-1031 Inhibit the diversion of Heavy Goods Vehicles through residential areas.

The maintenance of Wales' Strategic Road Network to minimise risks to safety and resilience is a legislative requirement that the Welsh Ministers have a duty to meet. The Welsh Government has listened to criticism regarding delays on the network caused by roadworks and has acted over recent years to address those concerns. The preferred option where possible, as long as it is safe to do so, is to undertake works with lane closures, primarily overnight when traffic flows are reduced.

However, some schemes cannot be undertaken safely under lane closures and here there is a stark choice. Contraflows, which close one carriageway, cannot be achieved on overnight works as they take approximately 2 days to install. A contraflow would have to be in place 24/7 whilst the works were undertaken. The other option is to completely close the carriageway overnight and divert traffic onto a pre-agreed diversion route. The diversion route needs to be agreed with the relevant highway authority, and this option has been adopted over recent years with much-reduced disruption to road users.

Finally, through the development of the Wales Transport Strategy we will be working closely with the freight and logistics sector to explore new and innovative ways of moving goods throughout Wales, including opportunities to mitigate the harmful effects of HGVs in respect of noise and air pollution whilst ensuring we maintain the viability of the competitive and commercial freight services which fundamentally support our economy.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Ken Skates AS/MS

Gweinidog yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales

**P-05-1031 Inhibit the diversion of Heavy Goods Vehicles through residential areas,
Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 22.10.20**

P-05-1031 Pwyllgor Deisebau 3.11.20 / Petitions Committee

Thank you for considering this petition which unfortunately, was approved at the same time as the UK Lockdown which prevented it from being fully implemented. It had been the aim to gather signatures mainly by hard copies as so many of the people affected are of the older generation who cannot or do not use the internet. It had been hoped the Lockdown would have been lifted much sooner but with continued restrictions, this petition could not be given its proposed involvement within the community.

Background information

Although this petition has come about as a result of HGVs being diverted through the town of Buckley, the problems are not unique to Buckley. They affect many small towns and villages along the stretch of the A55 and indeed anywhere in Wales where these vehicles are diverted through heavily populated residential areas, along roads not built to withstand such heavy freight vehicles. It is only right that this petition supports all such areas throughout Wales.

Buckley is a historic town known for its brick making and pottery. The main road was originally used by horse and carts with workers cottages built along the roadside. Buckley is not a town with through traffic as it only serves the people who live in the town. Even so, Buckley has the largest population of any town in Flintshire. The main road through is subject to parked cars which presents difficulties to larger vehicles as the road is narrow in parts due to many of the houses being built when there were no or very few cars on the road. The road was never built to sustain the amount of everyday traffic we see today. It certainly was not built to sustain larger heavy freight vehicles on route to the ferries at Holyhead.

Response to letter from Ken Skates dated 16th October 2020

Contraflow systems are used effectively throughout the UK and are preferable to the trauma created by diverting HGVs through densely populated areas along roads not built for such heavy vehicles. Although the diversion route is agreed with the Local Highway Authority, I understand that they do not have a choice. Therefore, discussion is about how and when the diversion will take place. With the last diversion through Buckley, Mynydd Isa, New Brighton, Sychdyn and Northop, this was scheduled to last 4 weeks with one lane closed on the A55 during the day when the traffic was at its busiest, and overnight and weekend closures thus diverting all HGVs through Buckley and 4 villages. The majority of overnight traffic being heavy freight vehicles. In defense of the HGV drivers themselves, they are heading for the ferries with time constraints, therefore, diversions through these residential areas are often difficult to negotiate with parked cars and narrow roads. It certainly does not “support the comprehensive and commercial freight services which fundamentally support our economy”.

The effects on the communities

With many houses being in such close proximity to the road, residents experience high levels of air pollution and noise. With freight vehicles passing within feet of their bedroom windows, they are unable to sleep. Many who normally sleep with their windows open have to shut them which causes further problems, especially in the warmer weather. The properties vibrate with every passing lorry which is experienced in both the old and new homes.

The lack of sleep over just a few nights can have serious effects on mental health. It renders a person unable to effectively complete activities of daily living and their ability to do a day's work to required standards. It also affects the abilities of children in school. This does nothing for the

health and well-being of the people in Wales who are unlucky enough to live along these inappropriate diversion routes. The Welsh Parliament has a Duty of Care to the people of Wales. Additionally, whereas superficial damage to the roads caused by the HGVs may well be put right, there is the long-term damage to consider which places costs on Local Governments and so to the community taxes, therefore adding further burden on the communities.

Vivienne Blondek
Town Councillor Buckley Bistre East

Supporting Evidence

Comments received from [REDACTED]

Good evening Viv,

If it is of any support for your efforts to keep the Heavy Vehicles diverted from the A55 due to roadworks out from village and town roads which were never built to carry them, I can state our experiences of some months back when I and other members of our CSW team here in Buckley were on the receiving end of complaint after complaint about the diverted lorries rumbling through Buckley at all hours of day and night, making buildings shake and vibrate, keeping people from sleeping and waking up children of all ages who, in some cases were scared by the noise and vibrations created by these mobile monsters, not many of whom paid any great deal of attention to the 30 and 40mph speed limits, particularly once the hours of darkness set in.

You are welcome to use these observations to support your petition.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]
Co-ordinator, Buckley Community Speed Watch Team

Email evidence

To All,

I am emailing to voice serious concerns regarding the decision to divert HGVs through Buckley during the current closure of the A55.

Myself and my family are residents on Brunswick Road. We received no communication regarding the diversion so we have had no opportunity to raise concerns.

The diversion route is a busy road on a normal day to day basis, however what we endured over the past weekend was absolutely beyond belief.

During the daytime the road was relentless, with increased vehicles as well as HGVs. Many disregarding the 30mph speed limit.

During the night was equally as bad. HGVs thundering past all night. I was actually woken up by our house shaking at one point. I counted 4 HGVs driving past at speed.

My concerns are around the safety of residents and pedestrians using the footpaths, the noise pollution from constant traffic, the quality of our air due to increased traffic and damage to property due to continued vibration from HGVs.

Speeding HGVs through our town will only result in injury or death, and having traffic now forced through Buckley it is now only a matter of time.

Residents have the right to live and sleep in a peaceful environment. Currently it is like living on the hard shoulder of the motorway.

I understand most lorries are built to release lower emissions however it is still increasing the daily amount in our community.

The risk of property damage due to excessive vibration is a major concern of ours. Our house literally shakes with each passing HGV. Our belongings shake on our units inside the house as do doors. It is unacceptable. The impact on our buildings may not become apparent immediately..... Who will help us in the future? Will liability be accepted for any damage caused by the diversion? Our neighbours wall collapsed yesterday. We believe she is away, so is not yet aware. It damaged 2 cars too. There is no coincidence that we have a weekend of diverted HGVs speeding past our houses then this happens.

I want the voice of my household heard. We should of been consulted and considered before anything was agreed. I am extremely disappointed and angry that this did not happen.

I would like confirmation that my email has been received and my concerns have been noted.

Regards


Brunswick Road resident.

Hello Vivienne, and others included in this email.

I live at [REDACTED], on [REDACTED], [REDACTED] between the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and have resided here since 1974.

I am sadly unable to attend the residents meeting planned for Thursday 5th March as I am having my hip replaced tomorrow 4th March at Wrexham Maelor Hospital.

My preparation for this important operation has been interrupted sleep every night since the weekend caused by continental size HGV vehicles thundering through Mold Road and at speed. Our bungalow vibrates from the impact of the lorries on the road and the sound regularly interrupts my sleep, despite double glazing.

Apart from the noise, it is dangerous to other road users, on a road with narrow footpaths.

I am 72 years of age and I expect to be home by the weekend to recover from this major surgery and now face the dreadful thought of another 3 weeks of sleep disturbance.

I ask that you read all of this email out and raise the following issues...

- 1 Why couldn't these vehicles be routed via M56/A56 rather than a narrow road running through a heavily populated residential town .
- 2 Having made the inappropriate choice of the, route what measures are in place to restrict the speed of these vehicles ?
- 3 Was any consideration given to the road surface which has only recently undergone resurfacing after several years of neglect leading to potholes causing more misery.
- 4 What consideration was given to the effect on residents of Buckley ?
- 5 Will those affected, receive any form of compensation for the disruption.
- 6 What is the likelihood of such a diversion being used again in the future.

I feel neglected by Councillors who I expect to represent us in matters of this nature.

I don't think I am alone in feeling I have been treated shabbily by uncaring people in positions of power. The work has obviously been planned for sometime and we should have been consulted. I expect an inflation busting Council Tax rise in April and am seriously considering withholding payment if this issue isn't resolved.

Please feel free to circulate this email to all local media.

I look forward to positive responses.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Dear Clr. Blondak.

Unfortunately I am unable to attend your meeting this evening. However, I do wish to express my concern about the damage to our properties on Brunswick Road being caused by these rather large lorries rumbling through nose to tail. The constant rumble is definitely not doing our properties any good at all. In fact part of a wall came down between mine and next door over the weekend. I must assume that the wall was vulnerable but have no doubt that the rumble of these lorries may have hastened its demise. Knowing that I also fear for the fabric of my home. Why should we be exposed to this danger? Is there anything that we can do about it? Together with this there is the exposure to pollution caused by this larger than usual volume of traffic passing close to our homes. I would be interested to know the outcome of your meeting this evening and what if anything we may be able to do about it.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear sir/madam

As a resident of buckley and more precisely Brunswick road I have been advised that once again a division is in place starting tonight for all traffic on the a55 running through the heart of Buckley.

As previously no notification to the local residents was given and only through our community counsellor Vivienne blondek

Who I am grateful took the time to advise us of the impending noise and disruption which will most certainly will impact the local residents.

My house is within 5 metres of the highway and 44 tonne trucks travelling in excess of 30 mph will have an impact on myself family and the community on the given route .

Numerous pot holes compact the issue increasing noise levels and frustration given that single carriageway or other routes have not been implemented.

In my opinion this is a danger to the public with significant pollution increases along with pedestrians being put at risk (even if it is in the early hours) .

I believe that the timescale for the diverted traffic which has been set for one month is madness considering that this stretch of road is amongst the busiest in wales.

Thanks

Good Afternoon

I am emailing regarding the current road closure A55/Diversion through Buckley. I live on the main road in a house which is only around 15 years and as you can imagine doesn't have the thickest walls.

Since the diversion started throughout the night at regular intervals the number of lorries passing through is causing major vibrations to my house, causing the house to shake and doors to rattle it's like living through an earthquake multiple times during the night. I am so concerned that this is causing damage to my home and until this started my back door opened with no problem yet all of a sudden I cannot open my back door. I live alone and this is causing me so much stress and I am not sleeping and now scared that I cannot even open my back door and wondering what other damage this is causing to my property.

During last weekend it took me over 1 hour to get to Chester at around 9.45am due to the temporary traffic lights at roundabouts and roads around the area. Its so concerning that if there is an emergency you would be stuck. Even walking on the street these huge lorries are so close to us and people with small children must be concerned walking along the main road. We are being told that this work to the A55 is essential, but who is going to fix our main road after the damage that will be done due to this diversion and who is going to fix my house or any other home that is damaged by this. No one!

The volume of traffic is crazy and dangerous and as I cannot attend the meeting arranged on Thursday night I wanted to make my concerns known and would love to know how we can stop this happening again

Many Thanks

██████████

Hi Viv

I would like to add to your objections. On Bistre West this route is heavily used by children walking to school. This will be dangerous for the children walking to Southdown primary school and both the Elfed and Argoed. Is it safe to send heavy goods through a route that has a heavily used lolly pop man?

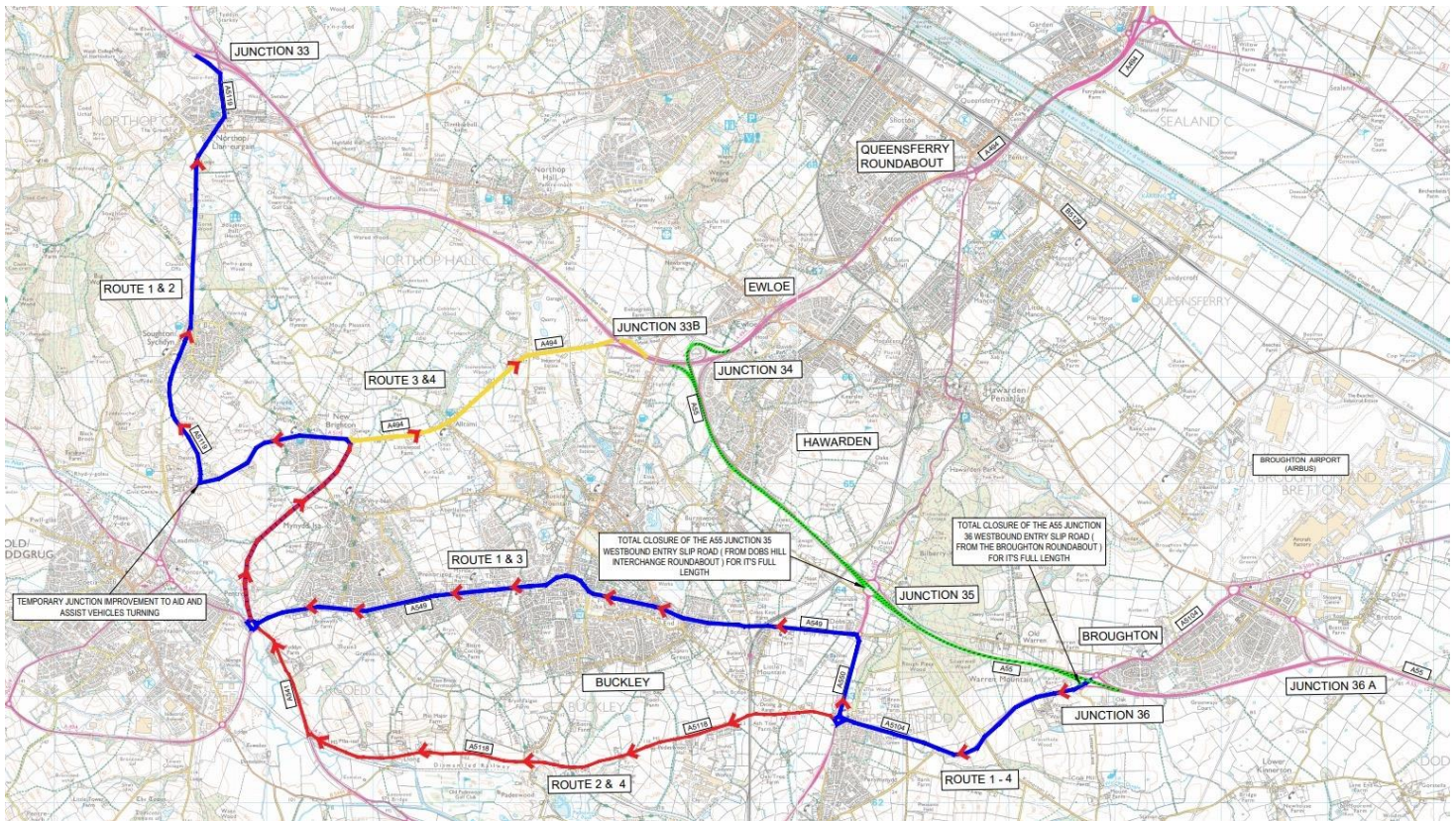
I also share your concerns for residents who live on the main road. The heavy goods vehicles passing through at all hours will have a derogatory affect on the residents wellbeing.

I believe an alternative route must be found for heavy goods vehicles as sending them through the heart of our town is extremely dangerous.

Regards

Town Councillor Buckley Bistre West

Diversion Map



Agenda Item 2.4

P-05-1033 Abolish Education Workforce Council (EWC) registration fees and completely reform its organisation

This petition was submitted by Robert Jeffrey Southall having collected a total of 371 signatures.

Text of Petition:

The registration fee is regressive and deducted from our wages on behalf of the EWC and Government. It is the same if you are full time, proportional or part time. It is a tax on education professionals. The EWC is not a representative body, it has failed to provide comprehensive CPD or promised bursaries for career enhancement. It is not accountable to, or representative of, its registrants. It is a regulatory body, accountable only to the Minister, so there should be no registration fee.

Additional Information:

The annual cost of registration is £45 with a reduced fee of £15 for support workers. The fee is the same if you are full time, proportional or part time. The fee is based on a tax year from April to March so those in their first year of teaching or youth work or on short term contracts must pay twice in September and April. There is no partial fee for those on limited contracts. The EWC is not a representative body or a professional association for those it registers. The EWC is not democratically accountable to its registrants and its governing body is not representative of those it registers. Teachers in HE and the private sector are not regulated by the EWC and pay no registration fees and the vast majority of headteachers in schools and managers in FE, the highest paid staff in the sector, do not need to register or pay the fee even if they have constant and lengthy contact with learners. This is plainly unfair and we call for the total abolition of all EWC registration fees.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Islwyn
- South Wales East

Education Workforce Council

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 3 Tachwedd 2020
Petitions Committee | 3 November 2020

Reference: RS20/14079-5

Petition Number: [P-05-1033](#)

Petition title: Abolish Education Workforce Council (EWC) registration fees and completely reform its organisation

Text of petition: The registration fee is regressive and deducted from our wages on behalf of the EWC and Government. It is the same if you are full time, proportional or part time. It is a tax on education professionals. The EWC is not a representative body, it has failed to provide comprehensive CPD or promised bursaries for career enhancement. It is not accountable to, or representative of, its registrants. It is a regulatory body, accountable only to the Minister, so there should be no registration fee.

Additional information: The annual cost of registration is £45 with a reduced fee of £15 for support workers. The fee is the same if you are full time, proportional or part time. The fee is based on a tax year from April to March so those in their first year of teaching or youth work or on short term contracts must pay twice in September and April. There is no partial fee for those on limited contracts. The EWC is not a representative body or a professional association for those it registers. The EWC is not democratically accountable to its registrants and its governing body is not representative of those it registers. Teachers in HE and the private sector are not regulated by the EWC and pay no registration fees and the vast majority of headteachers in schools and managers in FE, the highest paid staff in the sector, do not need to register or pay the fee even if they have constant and lengthy contact with learners. This is plainly unfair and we call for the total abolition of all EWC registration fees.



1. Origins of the Education Workforce Council (EWC)

The Education Workforce Council (EWC) was established by the [Education \(Wales\) Act 2014](#) and took up its functions in **April 2015**. It **replaced the General Teaching Council for Wales (GTCW)**, which was the previous registration and regulatory body for teachers in maintained schools in Wales.

The Welsh Government's rationale for creating the EWC was to **recognise the role of a wider number of professions within education**. Learning support assistants, lecturers and support assistants in further education colleges, and latterly youth workers, youth support workers and work-based learning practitioners were all added to the requirement to register in order to practice.

2. Registration fees

Prior to the EWC's formation, teachers paid £45 for their annual registration with the GTCW, although the Welsh Government provided local authorities with funding to subsidise £33 of this amount, meaning teachers' contribution was £12.

From **2016-17, teachers' contribution to their registration fee increased to £45**. This was because the Welsh Government wanted to redistribute funding it provided to subsidise teachers' contributions, in order to support the costs of the EWC's main functions as well as reduce the overall amount paid by all registrants in totality.

The current contribution registrants make to their annual registration fees is detailed on the [EWC's website](#):

- £45: School teachers, Further Education teachers, Work-based learning practitioners, Youth workers.
- £15: School learning support workers, Further Education learning support workers, Youth support workers.

The Minister's letter highlights that the requirement to register with a regulatory body is common for many professions. The Welsh Government's [2017 consultation document](#) on registration fees for the education workforce included a table setting out the annual fees of other professions. This includes an annual fee of £120 for nurses and midwives and £90 for speech therapists and physiotherapists.

3. The EWC as a professional body

The Education (Wales) Act 2014 sets the following two principal aims for the EWC:

- a) to contribute to improving the standards of teaching and the quality of learning in Wales, and
- b) to maintain and improve standards of professional conduct amongst teachers and persons who support teaching and learning in Wales.

During the scrutiny of the Education (Wales) Act 2014 in Bill form as it was passing through the Senedd in 2013, the then Children and Young People Committee concluded there was an **imbalance in the functions the Act gives the EWC in respect of these aims**. The Committee recommended that the Minister should give further consideration to the EWC having a greater role for professional learning and standards amongst teachers.

The EWC itself has called for it to have responsibility for developing and setting the professional standards for teachers in Wales, arguing that it does not have comparable functions to its counterparts in other countries which limits the scope to completely fulfil its role.

The EWC's remit was expanded in 2017 to make it responsible for accrediting initial teacher education (ITE) programmes in Wales. However, **responsibility for setting professional standards for teachers remains with the Welsh Government** whilst professional learning is predominantly taken forward by the regional consortia.

The Children, Young People and Education Committee recommended in its 2017 Teachers' professional learning and education inquiry that the EWC be given responsibility for professional standards. The Welsh Government **rejected this recommendation**, saying the EWC is a 'relatively young organisation' and it is 'important that EWC is given the time to focus on their existing core functions'.

4. The EWC's membership

As the Minister's letter outlines, the Education Workforce Council (Membership and Appointment) (Wales) Regulations 2014 set out how members of the EWC are appointed. There are currently **14 members of the EWC**, although the Welsh Ministers can vary this number by an Order.

The **Welsh Ministers appoint seven members directly** and seven from a list of nominations made by organisations listed in Schedule 2 of the Regulations. The Welsh Ministers must ensure, so far as is possible, that of the 7 appointed from the nominated list, **4 are nominated from the trade unions** listed in Part 1 to Schedule 2.

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-05-1033
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05615/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

5 October 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter dated 28 September 2020 and for the opportunity to respond to the issues raised in petition P-05-1033.

The Education Workforce Council (EWC) was established by the Education (Wales) Act 2014. The EWC is the independent regulator for teachers and support staff in maintained schools, further education colleges, as well as qualified youth and youth support workers and people involved in work-based learning. Anybody working in these roles in Wales must, by law, be registered with the EWC. The principal aims of the EWC are to contribute to improving the standards of teaching and the quality of learning in Wales, and to maintain and improve standards of professional conduct amongst teachers and persons who support teaching and learning in Wales.

Requirement to Register

Professional registration is a vital element of ensuring that public trust and confidence is maintained in the education workforce; as well as safeguarding the interests of learners, parents and the public. In addition, professional registration helps to maintain confidence amongst the workforce itself, demonstrating a shared commitment to professionalism. All practitioners benefit from the recognition of a professional body that upholds professional standards; and monitors the registration, qualification and professional development of its members.

The requirement for registration for the education workforce is similar to the requirement for many other professionals to pay to register with their regulatory body as a requirement of employment. For example, social care workers in Wales must register with Social Care Wales; doctors must register with the General Medical Council; and nurses must register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Registration Fees

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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.

Section 12 of the Education (Wales) Act 2014 authorises the EWC to charge and recover registration fees. The fee models for the EWC were developed with three key principles in mind: sustainability, proportionality and cost effectiveness. Creating a model with differentiated fees based on salary scales was considered in the development of the legislation. However, analysis suggested this method would be extremely complex to administer, and consequently more costly. Higher administration costs would lead to higher fees for all registrants. It is for these reasons there is also no differentiation between those working full and part time.

However, the Welsh Government has endeavoured to ensure that fees associated with registration are fair and comparable to practitioners' potential earnings within their categories of registration. The Welsh Government recognises that learning support workers in Wales earn significantly less compared to teachers; and therefore provides a subsidy to reduce their actual fee contribution to £15. The teacher categories are provided with a smaller subsidy that reduces their actual fee contribution to £45. From 1 April 2017 and thereafter, the Welsh Government has provided £1million per annum to subsidise the registration fee for the whole education workforce.

Registration categories

Headteachers of schools are required to register with the EWC. Although principals of further education colleges are not included in the categories of registration, if someone in a managerial position undertakes a teaching role from time to time, in conjunction with their main duties, they would fall under the definitions set out in the 2014 Act and be subject to registration.


Teachers in higher education and the independent sector are not currently regulated by the EWC. Work is progressing on considering the regulatory changes required to address gaps in categories of registration, for example extending the scope to include youth workers, the adult community learning sector and staff in independent schools. The extent to which these changes would require primary and/or secondary legislation is under active consideration.

EWC organisation

The Council consists of 14 members, representing a range of interests of the education workforce in Wales. Under the provisions of the Education Workforce Council (Membership and Appointment) (Wales) Regulations 2014, seven members are appointed following nominations made by organisations named in Schedule 2 of those Regulations, which include unions representing the education workforce. All bodies and organisations entitled to make nominations are invited to submit nomination(s). The remaining members are appointed through the Welsh Government public appointments process. Members serve a term of up to 5 years.

I trust the Committee will find this information useful.

Yours sincerely



Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

P-05-1033 Abolish Education Workforce Council (EWC) registration fees and completely reform its organisation, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 20.10.20



Tuesday 20th October 2020

Petition ref number: P-05-1033 201 005

Dear Janet

Many thanks to you for your email of 15th October and for the inclusion of the Ministers letter dated 5th October.

I have to say that I was not at all impressed by the Ministers response and her attempt at a robust defence of EWC makes it plain to me that the Education Workforce Council is neither independent of the Welsh Government nor is it representative of those it registers. It is obvious to me the EWC is an organization wholly dependent on the Welsh Government for its existence, its direction and its funding, aside from the finance it exhorts out of registrants which barely covers the cost of the excessive salary and pension benefits of its executive staff. The EWC can certainly not be compared to highly regarded and representative professional associations such as the BMA and appears to me to be more general in nature and less representative than the other bodies mentioned in the Minister's letter.

The EWC's governing body 'the Council' is not representative of the education workforce who are required to register - there are just two serving teachers, no FE lecturers, no WBL teachers/instructors and no youth workers i.e. those who pay £45 per annum (only FE, WBL and youth service managers are represented). Neither are there any support workers, i.e. those who pay £15 per annum, on the council. The council is dominated by management and governing body interests. The council is nothing but a collection of placemen/women who sit by virtue of the fact they are compliant with the Welsh Government and EWC executive staff's wishes.

Further to this there are no currently employed FE interests represented at all on the council. However there is one member, a retired Estyn inspector, who is described as described as a 'Life Associate of the Independent Schools' Association.'

In contrast to the EWC, the governing body of the GTCS (Scotland) is composed mainly of primary and secondary teachers (including 4 head teachers) with 1 FE

lecturer - Pamela Currie is the elected member for FE (she is EIS-FELA president - this is the teachers and college lecturers union in. This representation is significant as FE lecturers are not currently required to register. There is also 1 HE lecturer, an elected member, who represents universities offering initial teacher training.

As far as 'acting as an advocate for rights and improvements to conditions of service of FE practitioners' (my own role) the EWC does not undertake this role and only acts in the role of seeking to have members removed from FE by deeming them unfit to practice. It acts as the role of judge and prosecutor but plays no role in defence, or support, for teaching or lecturing union members. In essence union members pay their fee in order that they may in the future be prosecuted by the EWC. Additionally there is no doubt that there is an increasing financial burden annually on teaching or lecturing unions to represent those members who are subject to EWC disciplinary hearings.

However it is important to appreciate that the main thrust of my criticism of the EWC does not relate to independence or representativeness, it focuses on the registration fee which I am by law required to pay to no personal benefit. I believe that this annual licence to practice constitutes a tax on teachers. I had taught A Levels successfully in a college of further education for 23 years before I was required to pay for the privilege of doing my job.

The fact is that the prime role of the EWC is to maintain the register and collect registrations fee on behalf of the Welsh Government. Annually my union UCU's FE members pay a collective fee to EWC in excess of £117,000. For this sum we believe there is no evidence of value for money. If the EWC was not dependent on collecting this fee it might have more time to be able to make a worthwhile contribution to improving standards of education in Wales.

The fee payment structure is regressive. It has no flexibility on income or pro-rata payments across the academic year. Thus FE practitioners can and are charged the full fee for one month or less service before the renewal period. There is also no mechanism to stop duplicate payments for FE practitioners who work in multiple institutions. There is also evidence of UCU members who work in part time or temporary positions within colleges being charged twice for registration. This occurred because they were prompted by the EWC to directly pay the registration fee and the fee was also taken out of their first months wage by their employer. Colleagues who experienced this found that it was difficult to reclaim the over-payment from the EWC.

Additionally the period where the fee is taken (1st April) is not appropriate to those who work on an annual academic cycle beginning in on 1st September and it means those colleagues on short or temporary contracts have to pay twice, in September and April, in order to teach across one academic year.

Further to this there is significant evidence to suggest that the single £45 registration fee for teachers and lecturers and the lack of pro-rata fees is discriminatory to female registrants who are more likely to be employed in lower pay bands and proportional or part time contracts.

This is certainly the case in Coleg y Cymoedd which is based at Nantgarw in RCT. The proportions of males and females in each quartile pay band at the College is as follows:

	Lower quartile	Lower middle quartile	Upper middle quartile	Upper quartile
Male	32%	38%	45%	44%
Female	68%	62%	55%	56%

The Coleg y Cymoedd itself recognises that it employs a significant number of females on part time contracts and term-time contracts, with many of these being in the lower paid roles within the College.

	Full-time	Part-time	Term-time
Male	30%	9%	1%
Female	25%	21%	14%

If Coleg y Cymoedd is typical of Welsh colleges then women are disadvantaged by the single £45 as they are over represented in both the lower and middle lower quartile pay bands and in part time and term time only contracts. (Source: Coleg y Cymoedd Gender Pay Gap report 2019)

The lack of registration, and thus fees, for top management, university teachers and teachers and lecturers in private education is also a major issue. The EWCs current set up (and therefore the Welsh Government's position) creates a two-tier system of those who must pay to do their jobs, often those who are lower paid, and those who do not need to pay a registration fee who are often in higher paid positions. There is no doubt that the current registration fee is unfair.

To conclude this very partial overview of the EWC's failings I will like to finish off by quoting a letter I received recently from the Secretary-General of a teaching union, whose identity I would like to remain confidential. I believe these comments show that I am not a lone voice complaining about a well-supported and regarded organization – the EWC is a flawed organization which has totally failed to engage, or gain the respect of, teachers and lecturers in Wales:

Our members certainly have mixed feelings about the EWC, and various issues in relation to its structure and function have been debated at our Annual Conference over the years.

We agree with you that it is in no way a representative professional body. There used to be an element of election to the Council, however it is now made up entirely of appointees – either directly appointed by Welsh Government, or indirectly on the basis of nominations.

We also agree that its predominant function is 'disciplinary', and that the vast majority of these hearings are public, thereby giving the profession the feeling of being brought into disrepute rather than of maintaining public confidence. We have concerns about the level of expense relating to these hearings.

As well as the issues mentioned above, we agree that the issue of fees is an important one, particularly for part-time staff, in particular supply teachers whose income can be extremely inconsistent.

I would be keen to provide further evidence of the EWC's failings if there is an opportunity to do so.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R J Southall', written in a cursive style.

Robert J Southall

Petitioner

Agenda Item 2.5

P-05-1034 Re-open theatres and performance venues in Wales in time for the festive season

This petition was submitted by Jacob Dyer having collected a total of 157 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Most UK regional theatres will bring in more income during the 'festive' period than at any other time of year. Time is rapidly running out for theatres to be informed that they can open in time for this period. Whilst many of the high profile venues in Wales have already postponed their Christmas productions, there are still hundreds that will be able to safely produce and perform theatre if given enough warning that they can open.

This issue must be debated and resolved promptly.

Additional Information:

Welsh theatres are closed with no information available on when this might change. Currently pubs and restaurants may open with socially distanced tables, gyms may open with social distancing between users, places of worship may open with socially distanced congregations. Yet theatres cannot.

If allowed to open, theatres can sell seats adhering to all social distancing rules, either individual seats or in family groups (just like booking a table at a restaurant). Theatres are already set up for track and trace as they are already ticketed venues. Audiences can be asked to wear masks, performances can be shortened with no intervals to alleviate queuing etc.

All of these measures can be taken to ensure that audiences, performers and staff are safe, but theatre cannot just be turned on like a tap. We need plenty of warning that we will be allowed to open in order to rehearse, plan, build, rig and work safely.

I urge Welsh Government to make the opening of Welsh theatres a priority.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Preseli Pembrokeshire
- Mid and West Wales

P-05-1034 Re-open theatres and performance venues in Wales in time for the festive season

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 3 Tachwedd 2020
Petitions Committee | 3 November 2020

Reference: RS20/14079-6

Petition Number: P-05-1034

Petition title: Re-open theatres and performance venues in Wales in time for the festive season.

Text of petition: Most UK regional theatres will bring in more income during the 'festive' period than at any other time of year. Time is rapidly running out for theatres to be informed that they can open in time for this period. Whilst many of the high profile venues in Wales have already postponed their Christmas productions, there are still hundreds that will be able to safely produce and perform theatre if given enough warning that they can open. This issue must be debated and resolved promptly.



1. Background

The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No.2) (Wales) Regulations 2020, as amended required certain businesses and premises to close to try to limit the spread of coronavirus. These are listed in Schedule 2 to the Regulations, and were:

- Theatres.
- Venues authorised to be used for the supply of alcohol by a premises licence or club premises certificate (within the meaning given by the Licensing Act 2003(32)) where live or recorded music is provided for members of the public or members of the venue to dance.
- Sexual entertainment venues (within the meaning given by paragraph 2A of Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982(33)).
- Concert halls.

This list was initially much longer. These Regulations have recently been revoked and replaced by The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 3) (Wales) Regulations 2020, which will be in place for the duration of the “firebreak” lockdown which began on 23 October 2020. During this period, more businesses and premises are required to close.

2. Welsh Government action

- 2.1. The Welsh Government has worked with the Arts Council to provide support for the arts and creative industries during the pandemic.

The first tranche

In April 2020 the Welsh Government announced an £18 million package of support for the culture and sport sectors, This included a £7 million Arts Resilience Fund, £5.1 million of which is from the National Lottery. The Arts Council intended to distribute £1.5 million to individuals, and £5.5 million to organisations. This package of funding was fiscally neutral: that is, it did not consist of any Welsh Government funding that had not already been allocated to the sector.

The second tranche

On 5 July the UK Government **announced** a £1.57 billion support package for the arts, culture and heritage. This includes a package of support for cultural institutions in England, and consequential funding for the devolved governments. **2.2**The funding included £59 million for Wales (less than a population-based shared of the total UK funding).

On 30 July the Welsh Government announced a £53 million **Cultural Recovery Fund**. By comparison, the annual Welsh Government **funding for the Arts Council** is about £30 million.

On 17 August Arts Council of Wales **opened** its portion of the fund (£27.5m) for applications. This comprised of £25.5m of revenue and £2m of capital funding, all for arts organisations. The Arts Council of Wales is managing funds for:

- theatres, arts centres and concert halls;
- galleries;
- organisations producing and touring arts activity; and
- organisations providing participatory arts activity.

The Welsh Government is managing the remainder of the fund (£25.5m). This includes £18.5 million for the following businesses:

- music venues;
- recording and rehearsal studios;
- Heritage organisations and historic attractions;
- accredited museums and archive services;
- libraries;
- events and their technical support suppliers;
- independent cinemas; and
- the publishing sector.

. A further £7 million fund is available to support freelancers.

The Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee had previously called for the entirety of the £59 million allocated to Wales to be spent on culture.

3. Welsh Parliament action

The Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee has investigated the impact on the arts and creative industries throughout the pandemic.

In June the Committee published its report into the [Impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the arts sector](#). This followed meetings with the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism and the Arts Council for Wales. Key findings of this work were:

- **The financial impact of the pandemic on arts organisations and individuals has been severe.** The Arts Council said:

Under normal circumstances we applaud organisations like Chapter, Galeri in Caernarfon and Wales Millennium Centre for their success in operating with a low dependency on public funding. But with around 80% of their income coming from commercial activities, an otherwise stable business model crashed overnight.

- **Most artistic performances are not commercially viable with social distancing in place.** The Arts Council's Nick Capaldi explained that if the Wales Millennium Centre were to open with current 2m social distancing rules, it could sell one seat in six. The Centre has cancelled all shows in 2020, with 250 jobs at risk, and has forecast that it could lose £20 million this financial year.
- Employment in the arts is dominated by freelancers. **Since the crisis began, most creative freelancers have had, according to the Arts Council, "100% of their work cancelled".**

The unsuitability of the main UK Government forms of employment support employment support for creative freelancers has been widely noted. Research conducted by Creative Cardiff and Cardiff University's Creative Economy Unit suggests that eligibility criteria of the Self-employment Income Support Scheme "exclude significant parts of the freelance workforce", and that compensation is a "a fraction of that received by furloughed PAYE employees".

In July the Committee published its report into the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the creative industries. This was based on a session with the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism and another with the Music Venues Trust,

Title:

TAC (body representing the independent TV sector in Wales), Sara Pepper from Cardiff University, Ffilm Cymru, BBC, ITV and S4C.

Key aspects of the evidence included:

- As with the arts, **the workforce is dominated by freelancers** for whom the main employment support provided by the UK Government is unsuitable.
- The pandemic has highlighted the **key role of public service broadcasters** (PSBs) in providing up to date information, specific to Wales, on the pandemic and lockdown precautions.
- The biggest obstacle to restarting film and television productions at scale is the availability of full production **insurance** for domestic producers. Availability of insurance is also problematic for live performances.
- **Live events – such as gigs – often operate with a small profit margin.** This makes operating with any form of social distancing in place, not to mention compliance costs for additional safety measures, financially unviable.
- The financial impact of the pandemic is likely to have a **detrimental impact on diversity and skills** in the creative industries, as companies divert funding away from relevant schemes and towards survival.

In neither report has the Committee called for theatres or other venues to be re-opened.

On 15 October the Committee held a stakeholder workshop with the arts sector looking at the continued impact of the crisis. It will be writing to the Welsh Government with its findings from this workshop in the coming weeks.

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.

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1034
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/02480/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

5 October 2020

Dear Janet,

The Welsh Government understands the frustration in the culture sector, but we need to ensure organisations and individuals can return to activities in a safe manner.

Earlier in the summer, the Welsh Government published guidance for a phased return for culture and heritage venues and destinations. As part of that work, we asked the Arts Council of Wales to work with our cultural sectors to develop additional guidance covering rehearsal, performance and participation. That work is now complete and the guidance has been published.

However, we are not yet at the stage where we can reopen venues such as concert halls or theatres, due to the risks this poses, and the difficulties of managing the crowds, and recording who has attended. A stakeholder group consisting of organisations from the world of sport, arts and other events have been brought together, and will continue to advise on how we can safely and cautiously bring back these types of activities – but only when it is safe to do so. We are not yet able to put a date to this, however we continue to monitor the science and trends. The virus has not yet gone away, and we must continue to take the appropriate precautions to keep Wales safe.

Yours sincerely,

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

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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.

Agenda Item 2.6

P-05-1035 Allow birthing partners to be present at scans, the start of labour, birth and after the birth.

This petition was submitted by Hannah Albrighton having collected a total of 7,326 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Due to COVID-19 there has been restrictions on birthing partners being present for scans, labour and birth in many hospitals.

There hasn't been many reviews on this topic, if any at all.

It seems unfair, and an insult to new families that they can stand 2m apart from complete strangers down the beach or even in a shop, but they cannot have their partner or birthing partner there to witness first time experiences such as scans, the baby's heart beat, labour and birth.

It needs to change.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Neath
- South Wales West

P-05-1035: Allow birthing partners to be present at scans, the start of labour, birth and after the birth

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 3 Tachwedd 2020
Petitions Committee | 3 November 2020

Reference: RS20/14079-7

Petition Number: P-05-1035

Petition title: Allow birthing partners to be present at scans, the start of labour, birth and after the birth.

Text of petition: Due to COVID-19 there has been restrictions on birthing partners being present for scans, labour and birth in many hospitals. There hasn't been many reviews on this topic, if any at all.

It seems unfair, and an insult to new families that they can stand 2m apart from complete strangers down the beach or even in a shop, but they cannot have their partner or birthing partner there to witness first time experiences such as scans, the baby's heart beat, labour and birth. It needs to change.



1. Background

The Welsh Government has published [Hospital visiting during the coronavirus outbreak: guidance](#) which was updated on 6 October 2020.

The guidance states that visiting, with agreement from the ward sister/charge nurse/nurse in charge, can be facilitated in some specific circumstances, as long as visitors do not have any symptoms of COVID-19 or are recovered from COVID-19 and have not been knowingly exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days. One such circumstance is:

Within non-COVID-19 areas and services:

- a birthing partner for women in labour, preferably from the same household or part of an extended household

In relation to exceptions, the guidance goes on to say:

Exceptionality

It is recognised that guidance cannot foresee all requests for visiting nor all patient circumstances. Therefore, health boards and trusts do have the discretion, when operating the guidance, to agree to visiting requests that are not outlined in any of the categories set out above where they are satisfied the benefits to the well-being of the patient or visitor in agreeing a visit outweigh the infection control risks and any other practical difficulties in facilitating access.

Annex 2 of the guidance provides information on accompanying pregnant women to **pre-planned antenatal appointments**.

This section highlights that previous guidance on visiting to maternity hospital settings during the COVID-19 pandemic has been that a woman could be accompanied by one birthing partner and only during active labour and at birth. However, the Welsh Government states that evidence not only supports the presence of birth partners in labour and birth in improving outcomes for women and infants, but also highlights that infant bonding and attachment with parents increases in the periods around birth. The Welsh Government notes that it is aware that “lack of opportunities for partners to attend appointments such as ultrasound scans have caused distress for families at this time”.

Annex 2 of the guidance states that women can be accompanied by their partner or nominated other, preferably from the same household or part of an extended household, to any of the following except in outbreaks of the COVID-19 pandemic in a hospital setting:

- 12-week pregnancy dating scan
- early pregnancy clinic
- anomaly scan
- attendance at Fetal Medicine Department

The guidance notes that consideration should be given to the principles in the main guidance on accompanying patients to scheduled healthcare appointments. This may be in the following situations, which are not exhaustive:

- women with a mental health issue, a learning disability or autism, where not being accompanied would cause them to be distressed
- women with cognitive impairment who may be unable to recall health advice provided
- where the treatment/procedure is likely to cause the woman distress and the partner/nominated other can provide support

During Plenary on 13 October 2020, the Minister for Health and Social Services discussed the issue of partners being able to accompany women at various stages in their pregnancy journey and stated:

353 In terms of the guidance that we've given to the health service on partners being able to accompany women at various stages in their pregnancy journey, then we've actually recently republicised guidance that's been endorsed by the chief nurse and also a number of the royal colleges. So, I'll make sure that is reprovided to Members so that we can be clear again about the guidance that is in place, because there is no blanket ban on partners accompanying women at various stages of pregnancy, or indeed in the after support, with home visits by midwives in the very, very early days post birth, and indeed health visitors thereafter. There are some challenges in the estate that we have, where there's a challenge about social distancing, and that needs to be worked through between the hospital providing care and, indeed, the woman

and her family, but we do have, I think, a pretty clear position that I'll happily remake available to Members.

There may be occasions in individual health boards that visiting, for specific reasons, may be limited further than outlined in the guidance.

A firebreak will be in place across Wales from 6pm Friday 23 October until 12:01am on Monday 9 November 2020 which will introduce a series of restrictive measures. The Welsh Government guidance is being kept under review and may be subject to change.

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



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/07105/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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petitions@senedd.wales.

27 October 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 28 September as Chair of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-05-1035 regarding allowing birthing partners to be present at scans, the start of labour, birth and after the birth.

I understand it must be a worrying time for any woman who is pregnant during this pandemic. Please be assured the safety and wellbeing of all mothers and babies, as well as the staff who support them, is at the heart of the guidance on women being accompanied by their partner or nominated person, when accessing maternity services during the current time.

The latest guidance to health boards was issued on 20 July and was implemented across Wales. If the requirements of infection prevention and control can be met locally, in line with national guidance, when a woman is attending the hospital for the following reasons they may be accompanied by their partner or nominated person (preferably from the same household):

- early pregnancy assessment unit scan (EPAU)
- early pregnancy dating scan (11 weeks + 2 days to 14 weeks + 1 day)
- fetal anomaly scan (18 to 20 weeks + 6 days)
- attendance at Fetal Medicine Department

Partners can also attend the birth of the baby from the time a woman is in active labour and for some time after the birth. In the case of a planned Caesarean Section this is a local decision based on a Health Board's own risk assessments and will have due regard to the

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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.

safety of the woman and baby and the doctors, midwives and fellow health professionals who are responsible for her care.

At most other times when a woman is in the maternity unit, she will be sharing spaces and facilities with other women and their babies. We recognise that procedures such as early labour, induction of labour and the postnatal period are important times when women would wish their partner or identified other person to be present for support but in order to reduce footfall in shared areas we are cautiously reviewing these on an ongoing basis. To prioritise the safety of all women, babies and the staff in the unit, visitors are currently limited to ensure infection prevention and control measures can be achieved to reduce transmission of coronavirus. It is imperative for health boards to maintain physical space in maternity services to keep women and their babies safe. This applies not only in clinics and in waiting areas but on postnatal wards also, where distance between bed spaces and flow through wards need to be considered.

All women who need to remain in hospital following the birth of their baby will continue to receive individual support from the midwives and other health care professionals to care for their baby and maintain their own well-being.

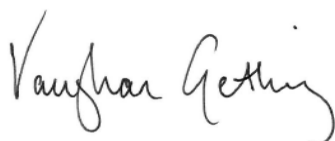
However, health boards will also take into account any individual circumstance a woman may have, for example, mental health needs, a learning disability or cognitive impairment where support is needed in order to process information. Whilst we cannot comment on individual cases, midwives / obstetricians will be able to make reasonable adjustments, when the well-being of a woman and baby require it, whilst taking into account the risks for all involved. We would expect the clinical team to work with any woman with additional needs to explore all the options, including diverging from the visitor guidance if necessary, and agree together how best to provide support at this important time. In cases where there is an outbreak within a community and/or hospital, local decisions on restricting hospital visiting will be part of the Health board's management process. In cases where there is an outbreak within a community and/or hospital, local decisions on restricting hospital visiting will be part of the Health board's management process. We advise people contact their designated hospital for updates.

If an individual is feeling anxious about anything, they should speak to their midwife about their concerns and feelings, as they are there to provide support and guidance. They will also be able to support them after they have returned home and discuss any concerns they have during the handover to their health visitor.

Please note the guidance is currently being revised to provide more flexibility to health boards at a local level. We have been working closely with stakeholders to update the guidance and it is currently with Ministers for approval. Once approved we will ensure a copy is sent to you.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Vaughan Gething AS/MS

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

Agenda Item 2.7

P-05-1036 Allow support bubbles during lock down

This petition was submitted by Louise Vaughan having collected a total of 108 signatures.

Text of Petition:

In order to safeguard the mental and emotional well-being of the population, during lockdown, allow single-parents and those who live alone to form a support bubble with another household, and for couples who live apart to visit each other's homes as is permitted in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Ogmore
- South Wales West



Eich cyf/Your ref: P-05-1036
Ein cyf/Our ref: FM-/01595/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

9 October 2020

Dear Chair

Thank you for your letter on 1 October drawing my attention to a petition by Loise Vaughan about local lockdown measures and single and single-parent households.

On 2 October, I announced the rules would be changed to help prevent loneliness and isolation for people living alone in areas where local restrictions are currently in place.

This change, which came into effect on 3 October, will enable people who live alone – including single parents – to join with one other household in the same area to create a temporary bubble. This means they can now see other adults indoors while their area is under local restrictions.

Further details about this change to the local lockdown measures can be found [here](#).

Best wishes

MARK DRAKEFORD

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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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-05-1036 Allow support bubbles during lock down, Correspondence –
Petitioner to Committee, 14.10.20**

Dear Petitions Committee

I understand that the situation has changed since this petition was created and that single parents and those living alone are now able to mix with another household during lockdown.

This however does not fully address the second part of the petition that couples who live apart be allowed to visit one another's homes. It is not always practical for a couple to be able to move in together, for the duration of a lockdown, and enforced separation causes unnecessary anxiety and distress as a person's partner is usually their primary source of support with their physical presence being of paramount importance.

So I ask the petition committee to consider that independent adults in established relationships will have the freedom to form extended households with each other during lockdown.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Best Regards,

Agenda Item 2.8

P-05-1037 Allow children to enter lockdown areas to continue to train with their existing sports clubs

This petition was submitted by Wendy Brady having collected a total of 9,867 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Child athletes, gymnasts, swimmers, footballers are being prevented from maintaining their training in their chosen sports with their clubs because of the local lockdown boundaries.

Additional Information:

Clubs have introduced Covid safe procedures and children within the county boundaries are permitted to train whereas those outside the areas cannot. This means that sports facilities in Newport, Swansea and Cardiff are only available for the children in the county area, whereas children who live just 5 miles away are prevented from training. We would like the Senedd to permit child members to attend their sports clubs and to make it a “reasonable excuse” for entering a lockdown area so that children can continue to train during the winter months.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Newport East
- South Wales East



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1037
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/02556/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

22 October 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your correspondence of 2 October, on behalf of your constituents, regarding the petition P-05-1037 – Children lockdown training.

As of the 16 October, accessing organised activities for children including sports classes is a reasonable excuse for leaving or entering an area with local restrictions. However, you should only do so if you can't reasonably be expected to do this inside your local area. You can also enter or leave an area to access childcare or education.

Organisers must be aware of the duties applying to those responsible for the premises to ensure reasonable measures to minimise the risk of exposure to, and spread of, coronavirus. Where the activities are taking place in an indoor public space the use of face-coverings will be required by anyone who is aged 11 or over, unless they have a reasonable excuse not to wear one.

If you are transporting your child to and from an organised activity for children and this involves entering or leaving an area with local restrictions, you can remain in the area while waiting for your child to complete the activity. However, while away from your area you should keep any contact with other people to an absolute minimum.

If you are 18 or over, travelling to and from the area for amateur sport activities is not permissible, unless you are a professional sports person, an elite athlete as designated by Sport Wales or a child under the age of 18 on 31 August 2020. We will continue to monitor the science and data, and aim to allow all adults to travel more freely to participate in sports as soon as possible, but only when it safe to do so.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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 108
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.

Sport volunteers, such as coaches, who are required to facilitate activities for under 18s are allowed to travel. Facilitating organised activities for children is a reasonable excuse for leaving or entering an area if the activity cannot run elsewhere or without them being present. However, sports clubs should make provisions that minimise travel in or out of an area with local restrictions, including utilising alternative locations, and using coaches/volunteers from within the local area, if possible.

Further information on Welsh Government's Covid Regulations can be found here:

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance>

However, you will be aware that a short, sharp "circuit breaker" or "fire-break" will be introduced across Wales on 23 October to help regain control of coronavirus. A series of restrictive measures will be in place from 6pm Friday 23 October until the start of Monday 9 November 2020. Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions relating to the fire-break can be found at: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-circuit-break-frequently-asked-questions>

I hope this clarifies the regulations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Elis-Thomas'.

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

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

P-05-1037 Allow children to enter lockdown areas to continue to train with their existing sports clubs, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 25.10.20

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

24th October 2020.

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee.

Dear Ms Finch-Saunders

Re: Petition P-05-1037- Children Lockdown Training

Thank you for your letter asking for my views on the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sports and Tourism's response to my petition.

I am pleased that the Senedd has recognised the importance of sport and activities to children's mental and physical well-being at this difficult time and that as from 16 October they could return to their organised activities.

As far as I am aware, there have been very few (if any) reported transmissions of Covid 19 which have taken place in organised sports activities, and I understand that the highest risk of transmission is from people socialising indoors and not maintaining social distances without any precautions. Not a situation that occurs during organised children's activities. The reason for this may be because of the tight regulations that govern organised sporting activities and that are overseen by organisations such as Sport Wales who have ensured that the sports clubs operate in "Covid safe" environments.

It also seems to be universally accepted that taking part in organised sport after school helps children with their mental health by releasing endorphins, expelling pent up energies, and seeing their friends. In addition to this is the benefit of forming a habit of exercising at a young age that will hopefully continue into their adult years, thus assisting in the fight against obesity and other health problems in their adult years. Indeed I note that as part of the "Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales" strategy that was launched by Vaughn Gething on 6 February 2020, two of the eight priority areas identified in the plan were "investment in cycle and walking routes" and "increase access to outdoor recreation" and the strategy also stated that there should be "action focussed on enabling people to have easy access to healthy food choices and physical activity".

The NHS website states that "children and young people aged 5-18 should aim for an average of at least 60 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity a day across the week; take part in a variety of types and intensities of physical activity across the week to develop movement skills, muscles and

bones and should reduce the time spent sitting or lying down and break up long periods of not moving with some activity”.

Unfortunately, due to the national 17 day firebreak, the children were only able to return to their activities for 7 days before they were prevented from doing so once again.

During these 17 days the clocks return to Greenwich Meantime and the evenings will draw in, making it more difficult for children to exercise in the evening when they get home from school. Many parents are working from home and will be unable to take their children to exercise until after they have finished work at 5-6pm by which time it will be dark. Even with the best intentions, children are not going to be as motivated to exercise on their own in the dark as they would be with a group of friends in an organised activity. There is also a safety issue when children are having to exercise alone without the expertise or care of their coaches in unlit areas instead of purpose-built floodlit facilities. There is therefore a risk that if they cannot exercise in their organised groups, they will get out of the habit of exercise over the winter months and will not return to their sport. Alternatives to sport in the winter months will inevitably be more sedentary activities such as watching TV and playing computer games.

In his televised briefing on Monday 19th October, the First Minister gave assurances that the “firebreak” lockdown will come to an end on 9th November 2020. At the time of writing, he has not given any details about what restrictions will be put in its place other than saying that the local lockdowns will be replaced by a Wales wide lockdown.

At the moment, there is a great deal of uncertainty about what the Wales wide lockdown will entail, and I do therefore have a number of questions in response to the Minister’s reply to the petitions committee.

Firstly, will everyone under 18 be allowed to immediately resume training with their clubs on 9th November in keeping with the spirit of the regulations that were issued on 16th October (and are referred to in the Minister’s reply)? If so, will this be without any further restrictions on numbers (which effectively prevent many children from participating regularly).

Secondly, if any travel restrictions are put in place, will travel for sport activities be exempt, and will children attending their existing clubs to train continue to be a “reasonable excuse” to travel further if necessary to train with their existing clubs in accordance with the spirit of the regulations that came into force on 16th October?

Finally, if any further lockdown becomes necessary, will sport be permitted as a reasonable excuse to leave the home and classed alongside childcare and education in its importance for children’s health and well-being at these difficult times?

I appreciate that we are living in unprecedented times and that difficult decisions have to be made to protect the public from Coronavirus, but in view of the low level of risk to children in the Covid safe environments that the sports clubs have worked hard to introduce, and the long term physical and mental health benefits that participating in sport will give children, I respectfully request that allowing children to train with their sports clubs is treated as a priority in future decision-making by the Senedd.

Yours faithfully,

Agenda Item 3.1

P-05-882 Transforming the response for older people experiencing domestic abuse – a call for action

This petition was submitted by Sarah Wydall having collected a total of 125 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to:

- raise awareness among the public, third sector organisations and statutory agencies of the number of older women & men in Wales who experience domestic abuse by family members, and
- ensure that essential levels of support and protection are available to older people experiencing such abuse.

Domestic abuse in later life: 'Ignored, invisible & overlooked'

The UK wide definition of domestic abuse, irrespective of age, is as follows: Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over, who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse – psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional and as a result of neglect'.

It is estimated that the total number of older people in Wales experiencing domestic abuse is a staggering 40,000. Domestic abuse of people aged 60 years or over, living in their own homes, is often a misunderstood, overlooked and under-recognised phenomenon that has wide ranging effects on their lives. Images of older people are often not used in public campaigns about domestic abuse. It is difficult for older men and women to identify themselves as potential victims of domestic abuse.

The issue has been neglected in policy and practice when compared with other age groups.

- The Crime Survey for England & Wales did not include domestic abuse statistics for those over the age of 59 years, until April 2017, when the age limit for those who participate in the survey was increased to 74 years of age (ONS, 2017).
- Older people with dementia are at a higher risk of abuse due to their impaired ability to seek help, advocate for themselves or remove themselves from potentially abusive situations.
- Disability is also known to increase the likelihood of a person experiencing abuse.

Additional Information

Do older people seek help?

Research shows that older people are less likely to report abuse than younger age groups; they do not access third sector specialist services and they also want help for the abuser.

On an individual level there may be many reasons why older people do not seek help:

- A misguided feeling that they are somehow responsible for the abuse;
- Fear of repercussion from the perpetrator;
- A greater level of emotional, financial and physical dependence on their perpetrator than their younger counterparts;
- They do not want to criminalise the abuser, who may well be a child or grandchild.

On a more organisational level, barriers to seeking help include:

- Generational factors including notions of privacy surrounding the home and intimate relationships may act as a barrier to seeking help. (Zink et al, 2004, 2005).
- Our research shows that existing services are not suitable for older victims. Services are often tailored towards safely removing the victim-survivor from the harmer through relocation from the family home and the community.
- In many cases older victim-survivors wish to maintain a relationship with the abusive person, particularly if the abuse is perpetrated by an adult child or grandchild. (Research by SafeLives in 2016 and Sprangler & Brandl, 2007).
- Decision-makers frequently view older people as a homogenous vulnerable group of adults that are unable to make their own decisions. (Harbison, 2012).

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Ceredigion
- Mid and West Wales



Comisiynydd Pobl Hŷn Cymru Older People's Commissioner for Wales

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

24 August 2020

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your letter and for the Committee's continuing work on this petition.

At the outset of the Coronavirus pandemic, I established an [action group](#) consisting of over 20 organisations from across Wales to work together to ensure that older people can access the support they need to keep them safe and protected during this period. There is a risk that the Coronavirus outbreak and subsequent lockdown has resulted in some older people being at greater risk of domestic (or other forms of) abuse, neglect or being targeted by criminals.

The group has published a [Covid-19 Information Pack](#) on Protecting and Safeguarding Older People, which provides a range of useful information and resources about keeping older people safe – including how to identify older people who may be at risk, and contact details for key organisations that can provide crucial help and support

There has been a high level of interest and engagement in this work from organisations and individuals across Wales who recognise that more needs to be done to tackle the abuse of older people and are committed to working collaboratively to do this. As interest has grown (there are now over 30 organisations involved) we have formalised the working arrangements, established a Steering Group and will shortly be publishing a strategy setting out the key priorities that we will be working on and what we are aiming to achieve.

We have maintained a constructive working relationship with Welsh Government throughout this work, and officials have confirmed that they are starting work on a Government action plan on abuse which will be complementary to the work of the Groups.

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.

Pack Page 115

www.olderpeoplewales.com

03442 640 670

Rydym yn croesawu galwadau yn Gymraeg

Adeiladau Cambrian
Sqwâr Mount Stuart
Caerdydd CF10 5FL

Cambrian Buildings
Mount Stuart Square
Cardiff CF10 5FL

One of the key areas that the Action Group has identified for immediate action is the need to improve the availability of accommodation and refuges for older people to access if they are leaving an abusive relationship. Most services that support people fleeing abusive relationships do not meet the specific needs of older people, especially those in need of care and support. This lack of alternative accommodation and support could be forcing older people to remain in or return to abusive relationships. The group will also be commissioning work next month to map the support and services available for older people in Wales (across all types of abuse), identify good practice as well as gaps in services, and what needs to change. This will provide an important evidence base for transforming the awareness of and response to the abuse of older people. It is anticipated that this work will be completed by April 2021.

It is crucial that stopping the abuse of older people remains a key priority as we move out of lockdown and begin to return to a semblance of normality. It is also vital that, if another lockdown is required over the winter, that there is increased support for older people that are at risk of, or experiencing, abuse, to enable them to escape from abusive relationships or situations.

If I can assist the Committee's inquiries any further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Heléna Herklots', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Heléna Herklots CBE
Older People's Commissioner for Wales

P-05-882 Transforming the response for older people experiencing domestic abuse – a call for action, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 08.10.20

Thank you for your email and providing a letter from the Older People's Commissioner for Wales in response to our community-led petition, **P-05-882 Transforming the response for older people experiencing domestic abuse – a call for action.**

We are pleased to hear that housing is considered a priority for the Older People's Commissioner, as it is an issue we have previously raised. Our research with older victim-survivors highlights the lack of immediate emergency accommodation for people aged 60 years and over, who may have complex needs or care needs, for example, limited mobility, disability and health conditions. For individuals who are shielding during Covid-19, entering into a multi-occupancy refuge may not be possible.

We support the comments made by Leanne Woods MS at the last Committee meeting on the importance of marketing outreach services and the recognition that organisations are not seeing older people accessing their services. Leanne Woods MS emphasised individual and cultural barriers including stigma, shame and societal assumptions that suggest older people do not experience abuse. **Our research¹ with 111 older victim-survivors and practitioners in Wales also evidenced the organisational and systemic barriers that inhibit disclosure and further help-seeking behaviours.**

Dewis Choice initiative is the only dedicated service in Wales to support older men and women, including those who identify as LGBTQ+ and those living with dementia. We are concerned that there is a lack of appropriate specialist service provision in Wales to respond to the needs of older victim-survivors of domestic abuse. The Adopting a 'whole family' approach, Dewis Choice also supports adult family members. Our initiative will no longer be operating as a service from April 2021 due to our current funding coming to an end and lack of further funding for service provision. We welcome the OPC's mapping exercise and have no doubt it will further evidence the lack of service provision for older victim-survivors in Wales, particularly provision through the medium of Welsh.

Although Covid-19 has presented services with new opportunities for engaging online and remotely, it is important to remember that not all older people are digitally connected. Therefore, gaining help and support for prevention, protection and recovery online during Covid-19 is challenging. **Comparable services must be made available for those who are not able to access help and support**

¹Wydall, S., Clarke, A., Williams, J. and Zerk, R., 2018. Domestic abuse and elder abuse in Wales: A tale of two initiatives. *British Journal of Social Work*, 48(4), pp.962-981.

Wydall, S. and Zerk, R., 2017. Domestic abuse and older people: Factors influencing help-seeking. *The Journal of Adult Protection*, 19(5), pp. 247-260.

digitally. Face-to-face service provision must continue to be made available, particularly for those with additional communication needs.

Our research in Wales has highlighted good practice in Carmarthenshire, where the VAWDASV regional group have expressed a commitment to improving the response to older people, including securing specific ring-fenced funding for older victim-survivors alongside carrying out a regional scoping exercise on existing housing provision. However, feedback suggests that this is not a standard response across Wales and therefore, older victim-survivors are subjected to a postcode lottery response. **We would like to see the Welsh Government provide direction to ensure all regions across Wales commit to addressing the needs of older people.**

28th September 2020

Response provided by Sarah Wydall, Elize Freeman, Rebecca Zerk, 'Dewis Choice – Transforming the response to domestic abuse in later life' The Centre for Age Gender and Social Justice, Aberystwyth University.

Agenda Item 3.2

P-05-926 To Provide a Chronic Fatigue Department in Wales

This petition was submitted by Marjorie Ann Lasebikan having collected a total of 155 signatures.

Text of Petition

There is no Chronic Fatigue Department in the whole of Wales! Chronic Fatigue is being overlooked or thought of as depression. I would like to see a Department set up with a view to individuals being assessed properly. General Practitioners say 'there is no cure' or 'you haven't been assessed'. Without a Chronic Fatigue department there can be no research into finding a cure or no means of being assessed.

I have suffered with this for 23years. The onset was after a week of high fever which showed as 104 on the 5th day. Little is known about Chronic Fatigue. I wrote up a Petition recently and collected 65 signatures with a view to setting up a department in Wales; it showed 20 had family members or friends suffering with it. It is so debilitating and such a waste of life. With an inability to think, concentrate or do anything physical without the need to go to bed afterwards. It can take days to overcome any effort however small.

I saw a woman being interviewed on television. She was at a Chronic Fatigue Clinic saying she had received a Myer's Infusion, which consists of Vitamins and Minerals, and felt so well she felt like her old self. It is not available on the NHS. I want to give it a try to see if this is the answer but need to find a private clinic to administer the Myer's Infusion. Last year I had a '5 day window' when I had clarity of thinking and energy. I do not know if this was because of taking a Vitamin B Complex capsule daily for a while. I saw a General Medicine doctor at Llandough Hospital recently [he sees many individuals with Chronic Fatigue] I told him of this infusion and he is interested in hearing the outcome of the procedure. I will report back to him. In the meantime, will you give your support to this Petition? It is essential to have some hope and the only way to achieve this is to have the right help in the first place. Not live a life unfulfilled. Thank you.

Additional Information

Concentration is poor; the ability to absorb information fully is difficult. To plan or organise things is impossible. To get excited is exhausting. Physical work cannot be undertaken without going to bed afterwards. To do anything strenuous can take a couple of days to recover and walking any distance is a problem. To sit in front of a computer for 30 minutes can result in energy draining away. Shopping is a big problem unless there is a buggy to use to take one around the store. It often ends up by shopping on line which is extremely tiring. I have always been an active person with many interests. There are days where I sit unable to do anything. Life is nothing but frustration.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff South and Penarth
- South Wales Central



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/05475/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

9 September 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 5 August regarding the petition for a Chronic Fatigue Department in Wales and seeking a response to the recommendations made to the Committee by WAMES.

The Welsh Government has recently restructured its advisory groups on arthritis/musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions, chronic pain, ME/CFS and fibromyalgia into a single broader advisory group encompassing all of these conditions. The rationale for merging these groups was to pool resources and expertise to tackle common issues; to share good practice; and to provide a unified stronger voice.

The revised advisory group will consider all aspects of the pathway for conditions currently treated within pain or MSK settings, including ME/CFS. This ranges from the development of self-management approaches and digital learning, improving health care professional training, ensuring accurate recording of conditions and optimising the configuration of specialist services. The first meeting of the revised group was planned to be held in the spring but was delayed due to Covid-19. It is hoped that this meeting will now take place later this year.

This new approach was subject to a targeted consultation and received significant support from stakeholders, with the majority in full support of a more cohesive approach to providing support and treatment for pain, MSK and fatigue related conditions. There were three stakeholders (as highlighted by WAMES) who raised concerns about the approach and my officials have put a number of safeguards in place to address these, including reconsideration of the name of the group and allowing for a trial period. I have asked that all of the recommendations made by WAMES be shared with the revised advisory group for their consideration.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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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.

WAMES advise that they have previously tried to engage with the service for a number of years to provide more focus on ME/CFS education. Taking a fragmented approach to education one condition at a time may yield some results in the short term but take up is likely to be limited. As such the Welsh Government's preferred approach is to drive forward this agenda by working with relevant organisations such as Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) to consider education and training to a range of conditions within the group's remit. This approach identifies similarities between conditions where they exist to avoid duplicated learning whilst clearly outlining differences between conditions and the treatments required. Training programmes will require strong patient involvement and representation and the approach would also include expert opinions on how treatment and support are to be delivered.

We would also welcome health care professionals with a special interest in ME/CFS making themselves known. To date these have been few in number. WAMES mention Dr Nina Muirhead as one such professional and my officials have engaged with Dr Muirhead consistently for the past few years. The new advisory group approach will promote task and finish groups that focus on specific topics and relevant specialists will be invited onto these groups to help develop approaches and guidance.

The Welsh Government and the National Health Service in Wales rely on the expertise of NICE guidance to support health and social care professionals to deliver treatment. We are not in a position to disregard the agreed clinical advice provided by this professional body unless there is a groundswell of support to do so from the clinical community. To date this has not been forthcoming. I appreciate there are strong feelings towards the current NICE guidance, however this guidance has not been revoked and remains extant. We have been clear that we await the outcome of the NICE review and will reflect on any changes.

In relation to historical teleconferencing issues, the development of home and online working has been a revolution regarding meetings. Officials are attending online meetings daily without issue. It has also increased parity for those living further away or unable to travel.

The Neurological Conditions Implementation Group (NCIG) has previously determined that ME/CFS should not be included in their remit. This was because health boards were unable to form a consensus as to whether ME/CFS was treated as a neurological or a pain condition.

Unless new evidence emerges that demonstrates that ME/CFS should be coded as a neurological condition, it is unlikely NCIG will amend their decision. Even if they were to, this would bring with its own challenges, namely that there are over 250 neurological conditions and it is not possible to have a dedicated workstream for each and every one of these conditions.

Yours sincerely,

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

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

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

**P-05-926 To Provide a Chronic Fatigue Department in Wales, Correspondence –
Petitioner to Committee, 26.10.20**

Thank you for your letter of 5 August regarding the petition for a Chronic Fatigue Department in Wales and seeking a response to the recommendations made to the Committee by WAMES.

The Welsh Government has recently restructured its advisory groups on arthritis/musculoskeletal(MSK)conditions, chronic pain, ME/CFS and fibromyalgia into a single broader advisory group encompassing all of these conditions.

Whilst encompassing all of these please make a centre available for all people who suffer from fatigue to be referred! There has to be a centre to cover all aspects of illnesses here long-term FATIGUE is part/or a whole of the ailment. This has not been the case in the past [I am going back over 24 years and as recently as 2] which equals no hope of help with no referral to see a specialist.

The rationale for merging these groups was to pool resources and expertise to tackle common issues; to share good practice; and to provide a unified stronger voice. The revised advisory group will consider all aspects of the pathway for conditions currently treated within pain or MSK settings, including ME/CFS.

Without knowing the true total numbers of people suffering with Chronic Fatigue how can it be taken seriously? How do you know the full extent of people suffering who need help? How do you know the proportion of people in Wales who suffer this illness? All wasted lives.

This ranges from the development of self-management approaches and digital learning, improving health care professional training, ensuring accurate recording of conditions and optimising the configuration of specialist services.

Without General Practitioners knowing of a centre to refer their patients' one is left in limbo. [About 12 years ago – in my case – I was to be referred by one GP and did not hear anything. Today I am told 'You've never been diagnosed'. How could I be?

The first meeting of the revised group was planned to be held in the spring but was delayed due to Covid-19. It is hoped that this meeting will now take place later this year.

This new approach was subject to a targeted consultation and received significant support from stakeholders, with the majority in full support of a more cohesive approach to providing support and treatment for pain, MSK and fatigue related conditions.

There were three stakeholders (as highlighted by WAMES) who raised concerns about the approach and my officials have put a number of safeguards in place to address these, including reconsideration of the name of their con? group and allowing for a trial period. I have asked that all of the recommendations made by WAMES be shared with the revised advisory group for their consideration.

WAMES advise that they have previously tried to engage with the service for a number of years to provide more focus on ME/CFS education.

Taking a fragmented approach to education one condition at a time may yield some results in the short term but take up is likely to be limited.

As such the Welsh Government's preferred approach is to drive forward this agenda by working with relevant organisations such as Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) to consider education and training to a range of conditions within the group's remit.

This approach identifies similarities between conditions where they exist to avoid duplicated learning whilst clearly outlining differences between conditions and the treatments required.

Important to isolate/diagnose, yet treat each type of illness presented.

Training programmes will require strong patient involvement and representation and the approach would also include expert opinions on how treatment and support are to be delivered.

We would also welcome health care professionals with a special interest in ME/CFS making themselves known. To date these have been few in number.

Please find some who will seriously want to investigate and explore the cause/reason for Chronic Fatigue alone. Pain is probably associated with other illnesses but not necessarily CF.

WAMES mention Dr Nina Muirhead as one such professional and my officials have engaged with Dr Muirhead consistently for the past few years.

The new advisory group approach will promote task and finish groups that focus on specific topics and relevant specialists will be invited onto these groups to help develop approaches and guidance.

Assessment is needed

The Welsh Government and the National Health Service in Wales rely on the expertise of NICE guidance to support health and social care professionals to deliver treatment. We are not in a position to disregard the agreed clinical advice provided by this professional body unless there is a groundswell of support to do so from the clinical community. To date this has not been forthcoming.

I appreciate there are strong feelings towards the current NICE guidance, however this guidance has not been revoked and remains extant. We have been clear that we await the outcome of the NICE review and will reflect on any changes.

In relation to historical teleconferencing issues, the development of home and online working has been a revolution regarding meetings. Officials are attending online meetings daily without issue. It has also increased parity for those living further away or unable to travel.

The Neurological Conditions Implementation Group (NCIG) has previously determined that ME/CFS should not be included in their remit. This was because health boards were unable to form a consensus as to whether ME/CFS was treated as a neurological or a pain condition. Unless new evidence emerges that demonstrates that ME/CFS should be coded as a neurological condition, it is unlikely NCIG will amend their decision. Even if they were to, this would bring with its own challenges, namely that there are over 250 neurological conditions and it is not possible to have a dedicated works team for each and every one of these conditions.

There is not always pain with Chronic Fatigue. Whilst there may not be a cure has it been explored seriously? Has anyone looked at a very high fever and its outcome, resulting in Chronic Fatigue?

This is now evident with COVID-19

Agenda Item 3.3

P-05-1014 Give Dental practices and their staff the “key worker” status

This petition was submitted by Owain Dimmick having collected a total of 233 signatures.

Text of Petition:

During the initial Covid-19 outbreak dental practices were staggered to be classed as “non essential medical” despite our roles saving lives through urgent infection care and early oral cancer detection. There are huge systemic risks associated with poor oral health which can’t be ignored. We also don't want to be in a position again where our patients could be left in pain due to Welsh Government regulations severely limiting the range of emergency treatments possible.

Additional Information

For decades dentistry had lead the way with cross infection control and utilisation of PPE. Alongside social distancing waiting areas, dental practices have now equipped themselves with the highest level of PPE, including respirators and full gowns to ensure they protect themselves, their staff and their patients, mitigating the risks no matter what the infection rate in the locality is.

Please support us to continue to care for our patients and provide what we judge to be appropriate dental treatments even if local or national lockdown measure are re-introduced.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Ceredigion
- Mid and West Wales

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref VG/05661/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

19 October 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 12 August regarding the petition P-05-1014 to give dental practices and their staff key worker status. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying to you.

During the height of the pandemic Welsh Government considered critical workers in the context of accessing education and childcare provision for their children, thereby enabling them to continue working. Dentists and their teams were not specifically named but the list did include "support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector."

With schools returning and childcare already able to care for a wider cohort of children there is no need to prioritise access to limited provision and critical workers can access these services as needed. We are, however, looking at the arrangements for childcare and education in the event of local or national lockdowns in future. If there were to be a change to the wider list of critical workers we would consider how best to accommodate that.

I understand the Chief Dental Officer has been in contact with the Independent Dental Association Wales to provide some assurance that following the lessons learnt by the profession during the pandemic we would not be taking a step back from the current Amber phase of recovery for the delivery of dental services.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

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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 128
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-05-1014 Give Dental practices and their staff the “key worker” status,
Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 27.10.20**

Many thanks for your work on our behalf regarding this issue. I am very pleased that based on his recent correspondence, the minister for health and social care has finally considered dentists and their staff, as key workers. This will help reassure dental teams across Wales during the coming months.

Many thanks- diolch yn fawr,

Agenda Item 3.4

P-05-984 Stop discriminatory remote consultations for incinerator applications during the Covid-19 Pandemic

This petition was submitted by Councillor Amanda Jenner having collected a total of 392 signatures.

Text of Petition:

It has been announced that due to COVID-19, an applicant for a large incinerator intends to hold a "remote" planning consultation. Under Developments of National Significance legislation, this is allowed. Due to Covid-19, the County Councillor & Community Council won't be able to hold public or face-to-face meetings with residents. This is a very technical & emotive application. It is unfair/discriminatory on the elderly, disabled & those who are shielding to remotely consult during this period.

Additional Information:

Some elderly residents may not use nor have access to the internet. Some may not feel comfortable taking part in this consultation over the telephone. Incinerator applications are very technical so both the County Councillor & Community Council had intended to hold public meetings to ensure all residents could access, understand & take part in the consultation. The incinerator applicant had also previously indicated that they'd hold a public meeting and 'drop-in' events. This will not be allowed due to Covid-19.

Furthermore, this matter has been in the pipe-line for a number of years. It would not be unreasonable for the Welsh Government Planning Inspectorate to delay this consultation until public and face-to-face meetings are allowed and safe again. This would be in the public interest. It would ensure that elderly residents and those with disabilities or who may be shielding, will have fair access to feed into this consultation should they wish to.

Relates to DNS/3214813

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Montgomeryshire
- Mid and West Wales

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-984
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/02547/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

7 October 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your follow-up letter of 30 September regarding Petition P-05-984: 'Stop discriminatory remote consultations for incinerator applications during the Covid-19 Pandemic', which includes the petitioner's latest submission.

The power to extend the timescales associated with any consultation or submission requirement following acceptance of a DNS planning application is exercised unilaterally by Planning Inspectors on behalf of the Welsh Ministers. There is no published criteria in its exercise. Requests for extensions are considered on a case by case basis, giving due consideration to ensuring no party is unduly disadvantaged while balancing with the need to determine DNS applications within a statutory timescale, the performance of which must be documented and laid before the Senedd.

Planning Inspectors have exercised an extension of the representation period in some cases, and in others, discretion has been exercised to accept representations from interested parties which are submitted after the relevant deadline, if they are satisfied doing so will not result in any injustice or undermine the efficacy of the examination.

Yours sincerely,

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government

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

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P-05-984 Stop discriminatory remote consultations for incinerator applications during the Covid-19 Pandemic, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 27.10.20

I would like to thank the Committee and the Minister for taking the time to look into this matter. Whilst I would have liked to have seen some criteria in order to ensure there is a transparent approach , I suspect we have got as far as we can with this one.

Kind regards,

Agenda Item 3.5

P-05-898 Ban the Use of A Boards in Wales

This petition was submitted by Angharad Paget-Jones having collected a total of 80 signatures.

Text of Petition

A petition to ban the use of A board advertising in Wales. A boards not only clutter our pavements but pose a huge risk to disabled people as getting past them in a wheelchair or if you're visually impaired often means you're forced onto the road to by-pass them.

This is especially an issue on shared spaces such as city centres as well as coastal towns where the pavements are narrower.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Aberavon
- South Wales West

P-05-898 Ban the use of A boards in Wales, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 19.10.20

I'm aware of the publication in June however, being as were in Mid October and there's been little to no changes in behaviour regardless of the fact you're working with charities I believe my petition stands especially in light of the next lockdown 'fire break'. A boards present an imminent danger being as we have use the road to get around them often. If you look at the results in Edinburgh you'll see the ban works well and it can and will work very well here to improve quality of life.

I'd like to remind everyone that accessibility is a human right and everyone has a right to feel safe. Needing to use a road to bypass advertising means disabled people as well as the elderly are put at an increased danger and leads to a feeling of non safety.

Agenda Item 3.6

P-05-935 Ban Pavement Parking – Pavement Promise

This petition was submitted by Rhian Morris having collected a total of 801 signatures.

Text of Petition

I call for the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to impose a ban on pavement parking.

I am campaigning to end pavement parking. It is an increasing issue that impacts on myself and so many others in Wales daily risking their safety. It is a massive issue for those with a disability and those with pushchairs. This is especially difficult when vehicles park on the drop kerbs or tactile paving.

On many occasions the vehicle that is parked on the pavement causes the view of the road to become restricted. This causes the situation to become dangerous for anyone who has to enter the road to pass the vehicle. There is a much higher risk for those who have a visual impairment or wheelchair users to move into the unknown dangers.

Everyone should have the right to independence. However when vehicles park on the pavement this restricts those that are unable to drive and rely on the pavement to travel around their community. This can also lead to isolation and anxiety.

This should be dealt with now so that future generations have the equal chance of independence and safety for all in our communities.

Additional Information

Myself and my son are visually impaired. This issue makes it very difficult for us to access our community safely. I have spoken to many people who also struggle.

Myself and my son created a campaign called Pavement Promise. We want everyone to promise not to park on the pavement.

I feel there should be a specific team to work on this issue. Maybe an online / interactive way for people to pass on information.

I want my son to have as much independence as he can in his future safely.
Please help me to keep our communities safe.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Bridgend
- South Wales West

Lee Waters AS/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LW/00558/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

10 August 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 22 July regarding Petition P-05-935 Ban Pavement Parking - Pavement Promise.

The Pavement Parking Task and Finish Group has now completed its work and we are currently considering the findings. I will be making further information available to Members and the public in the autumn.

As a result it is too late for the T&F group to consider any further evidence, however, officials will review the evidence provided to ensure it raises nothing new. It should be noted that RNIB Cymru and Living Streets have been involved with the T&F group's work and we are confident that many of the issues they have highlighted have been addressed.

It is likely that implementing changes on pavement parking will involve producing statutory and operational guidance for local authorities, a publicity campaign and the making of a Statutory Instrument (SI). The process associated with the SI could take up to July 2022 to be completed.

Yours sincerely,

Lee Waters AS/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport

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

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**STATEMENT
BY
THE WELSH GOVERNMENT**

TITLE **Tackling Pavement Parking**

DATE **13 October 2020**

BY **Lee Waters, Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport**

For parents with pushchairs, or people in wheelchairs, pavement parking is not just a nuisance, it's a danger.

I have accompanied a blind person on a journey around their housing estate, and when faced with a car taking up most of the pavement their guidedog did as it was trained to do – it led them onto the road, rather than try and squeeze through the small gap.

This is an everyday occurrence for many vulnerable people. When faced with cars parked on the space meant for them they are forced onto the road. And it is no surprise that some report that the fear of facing this danger causes them to stay indoors.

The anti-social behaviour of a few causing harm for many.

We want more people to walk for short journeys and yet we tolerate an environment that is often not pedestrian friendly; too many routes are cluttered or blocked. A recent survey found that 83% of people in Wales view it as a common, large or very large problem.

The current law on parking on pavements is not as clear, or helpful, as it could be. There is no specific offence of parking on pavements. The Police can enforce the existing criminal offence of causing “unnecessary obstruction” of any part of the highway, but this offence is rarely enforced.

I'm glad that the Government in England have launched a consultation on what they might do to strengthen the law.

The Welsh Government are further ahead. Last summer I convened an expert taskforce to come up with practical recommendations for tackling the problem.

I was pleased that Phil Jones took on the task of chairing the group in parallel with the panel on 20mph speed limits that he also led. I am grateful for all the work that he and his task force members have done. Taken together these two initiatives have real potential to save lives, and rebalance the environment in favour of pedestrians to create communities that people before cars.

My brief to the group was clear – find a way forward that will work in practice. I don't want to create even more problems for the police or local authorities, I want something that is going to help on the ground.

The expert group included the police and fire service, the Welsh Local Government Association, the Federation of Small Businesses, the Road Haulage Association, the British Parking Association and the Freight Transport Association, alongside campaigning groups like Disability Wales, Guide Dogs, Living Streets and Sustrans.

The report, which we are publishing today, has been tested by these key groups.

The Welsh Pavement Parking Taskforce makes 10 recommendations and we accept all of them.

The taskforce does not favour an outright ban on pavement parking. They looked at the experience in Scotland where a prohibition has been created in primary legislation and concluded that this an overly complex process and could take several years to introduce.

A quicker and better way of tackling pavement parking is to give extra powers to local authorities to tackle the problem.

The taskforce report recommends that Welsh Ministers should make subordinate legislation to add 'parking on a footway' to the list of parking contraventions in the Traffic Management Act 2004. This will enable Councils to carry out civil enforcement of pavement parking.

We recognise that in some streets there are too many cars for the space available. We'll be setting out in the new Wales Transport Strategy how we want to encourage modal shift to make it easier for people to rely less on cars for everyday journeys. But in the meantime we don't want to penalise people who have no alternative.

By giving local authorities civil enforcement powers they can make judgements of where to clamp down. They can target hotspots like schools, and respond to local circumstances.

We intend for these new powers of ‘civil enforcement of unnecessary obstruction’ to commence by July 2022.

We will now set up an implementation group with local government representatives and stakeholders to develop enforcement guidance to help ensure a consistent approach is taken across Wales.

This work will sit alongside the work we are doing to introduce a 20mph default speed limit in residential areas from April 2023. And as I previously highlighted to the Senedd in July, this is as much about changing hearts and minds as it is about hard enforcement, and we'll be developing a communications campaign rooted in values to make the case for change.

Over time, this will become the norm. Just as with smoking in restaurants, organ donation, and recycling our waste, I'm convinced that this will quickly become seen as a common sense measure. And I appreciate the cross-party support that there is for taking this forward.

**P-05-935 Ban Pavement Parking - Pavement Promise, Correspondence –
Petitioner to Committee, 21.10.20**

I am pleased with the response from the transport minister and the task force.

I feel that it is a good step forward.

I am pleased that it has been experienced first hand and also community opinions have been listened to.

We are pleased that some action will be taken with regards to local authorities having the ability To issue fines in 2022.

We are pleased that it is being taken seriously.

I also fully support an awareness campaign as this is one thing we have been trying to do as so many people do not think about how others may struggle.

I am a bit unsure of how this will be enforced?.

I also wonder how people will report and issues they have and If they will be taken into consideration if their area is not considered to be a hotspot for this issue.

If a person was to report an issue how long will it take to be dealt with?.

Will the awareness campaign begin earlier to prepare the local communities before the new enforcement begins?.

I feel this would be a good idea so there is more understanding and knowledge for those driving to park responsibly to allow everyone to get around safely.

Agenda Item 3.7

P-05-944 Reverse the cuts to commuter train services in North East Wales

This petition was submitted by Dr Mihela Erjavec having collected a total of 953 signatures.

Text of Petition

In recent years commuters along the North Wales Coast have seen a reduction in rush hour train services despite paying some of the highest train fares (when measured per mile) in the UK.

These cuts to services have already resulted in a reduction in the numbers of passengers using North East Wales railway stations as more and more commuters are forced to drive adding to congestion on the A55.

Transport for Wales now plan to cut the only direct evening rush-hour rail service between Bangor and Colwyn Bay, Rhyl, Prestatyn and Flint, the 17:16 service from Bangor. This will force commuters to change trains at Llandudno Junction, where they will have to wait over an hour for a connection.

The cancellation of this train service goes totally against Welsh Government policy in a number of respects:

- 1) It will result in increased greenhouse gas emissions by forcing people from public transport into their cars, at a time of a “climate emergency”.
- 2) It will deny access to Bangor University by those living in some of Wales' most deprived communities.

We therefore call on the Assembly to force a rethink on TfW and to ensure the rail service in North Wales is sufficiently frequent and affordable to encourage commuters off the roads and onto the trains.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Clwyd West
- North Wales



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Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS
Chair – Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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7 August 2020

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders MS

Firstly, I would like to apologise for the delay in responding to the Committee regarding services in North Wales.

Transport for Wales (TfW) has been managing rail services during exceptional circumstances under COVID-19 parameters. The pandemic has brought up some difficult challenges for us, but I want to assure you that we are doing all we can to transport our key workers and those who have no other alternative means of travel. We do understand and share the will, and energy to return services operations to normal, giving our passengers the service they deserve, but one that is also safe.

Since the start of COVID-19 restrictions, we have increased our services from 40% and are currently running around 80% of our usual services. A reduced level of services is not just unique to Wales and these challenges are also faced by all train operating companies in the UK who are also running a reduced service as they deal with the pandemic. TfW guidance is that *“2M distancing should be maintained where possible”*, which follows Welsh Government guidance that *“employers to ensure they take reasonable measures to maintain a distance of 2 metres between people in the workplace”*. This puts a high level of statutory responsibility on us to maintain the 2M and to have sufficient traincrew available where social distancing can be maintained.

We were able to achieve an increase to 80% by taking robust workplace risk assessments, and by moving quickly in applying mitigations and acquiring additional portacabins for traincrews to use between them having to take up their duties. Our passengers and staff well being is important to us and we want to provide the safest environment we can for them by following government workplace guidance, to ensure that they too can safely distance and limit further spread of the virus.



Cwmni Cyfyngedig drwy Warrant. Cofrestrwyd yng Nghymru. Rhif Cwmni 09476013. Cyfeiriad Swyddfa Gofrestredig: Llawr 5, Tŷ South Gate, Stryd Wood, Caerdydd, CF10 3EW
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Pack Page 144

I have tried to answer the queries in the letter in more detail, but following the December 2019 timetable changes, a service was highlighted as having a significant impact on passengers along the North Wales Coast – namely the 17.16 from Bangor which had been replaced with a 17.18, that only called at Llandudno Junction and Chester. This change was made as a result of the introduction of long distance (Cardiff <> Holyhead) express services. Although, we recognised the impact on our passengers, and developed plans to rectify the situation very quickly, due to Covid-19 restrictions, no changes were able to be implemented. However, I want to assure you that we are committed to resolve this issue, and we have instructed Rail Services to adjust the departure time of the Holyhead – Cardiff service (to leave earlier and include the stops along the North Wales coast) once we return to full timetable service and when restrictions have been lifted and of course all have been approved validations from Network Rail.

A north-south service being introduced

We work to the Train Service Requirement (TSR) which states that from December 2019, one southbound service shall arrive at Cardiff between 2000 and 2159 and shall have a journey time between Holyhead and Cardiff of no more than 4hr 25mins. The service shall include business class and catering should include the availability of hot meals. Included within this is a commitment to deliver 8 direct services per day provided southbound between Llandudno Junction and Cardiff where at least 7 services shall also extend to/from Holyhead, calling, as a minimum, at Bangor

Fares

The reduction of fares in North Wales and the northern Valley Lines in January 2020 was a key commitment when Transport for Wales took over the Wales and Borders rail service, as part of the wider investment programme to transform the service. This was done in conjunction with a number of other fares initiatives across the Wales and Borders network, including free travel for under-11s, free off-peak travel for under-16s, half-price fares for under-18s, two new railcards, and the introduction of Advance tickets that can be purchased on the day of travel

Since taking over the Wales and Borders rail service, TfW have significantly increased the number of cheaper Advance tickets available to purchase, including on all journeys over 50 miles except those wholly within the South Wales Metro area. TfW have also introduced Delay Repay compensation for delays of at least 15 minutes

The reasons for the disparity in fares between certain routes is largely due to historic reasons and other train operating companies also using the line. A number of factors play into disparities, such as fare reduction under previous operators, track access fees, differing maintenance costs and customer demand for services.

Consultation

We recognised that there was need for further engagement and consultation and we have committed to two stakeholder workshops a year to discuss timetable changes, which will be conducted in a timely manner to allow the rail planning team to discuss and incorporate any changes. The first of these workshops commenced in November 2019 and we held our second (virtual meeting) in March. We have also commenced regional stakeholder forums, which are held quarterly to discuss timetabling amongst other topics. The last North Wales regional forum was held on 23 July 2020 which informed us that stakeholders were keen for there to be a North Wales rail user group, and we are also supportive of this and terms of reference are currently being drafted. We have also reached out to Bangor University for representation to join our forum, and we hope to welcome a representative at our next forum in October.

First class rail users

I wish to assure you that first class rail users are not prioritised. The loco hauled stock introduces many benefits to all passengers including greater comfort, more capacity/seating and the option for hot/cold food and beverages. Passengers can take advantage of this regardless of which ticket they have. We are also introducing Mark 4 train carriages this year for services between Cardiff <> North Wales which will operate 3x Holyhead to Cardiff services each way daily. Train crew training was imminent but was impacted by Covid-19 due to the inability to put 2 people in a train cab to receive driver training. This is expected to be re-instated shortly so we can introduce these carriages on the network.

Passengers south of Shrewsbury

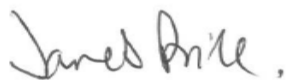
As previously mentioned, timetabling is complex. Timetables need to balance demand for trains serving communities and non-stop fast trains as well as the requirements of businesses that rely on freight. When addressing timetabling, we consider many things, and many of these are to keep passengers safe, such as:

- Speed limits vary on a length of track – for example, at bends and over points.
- Only one train can occupy a given section of track at any time.
- Because signalling infrastructure varies across the network, what is considered to be the safe distance between trains at one part of the route can differ at another part.
- There's a minimum time gap required between trains using the same platform at a station.
- Stopping, non-stopping and freight trains all travel at different speeds, so a mix of these on the track affects the number of trains that can use that section of track.

- Trains can't be scheduled to run too closely together because we need flexibility if there is an incident to get trains back on time. We work hard to avoid knock-on delays.
- Different schedules are run on bank holidays
- Time for improvement work and routine maintenance needs to be planned in to increase capacity and keep the network running reliably.

I hope this answers your queries

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Price," with a comma at the end. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

James Price
Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive

P-05-944 Reverse the cuts to commuter train services in North East Wales, Correspondence – Petitioner to Chair, 27.10.20

P-05-944 Pwyllgor Deisebau 3.11.20 / Petitions Committee 3.11.20

Dear Chair,

We thank the committee for the opportunity to respond to the T4W letter regarding our petition which is currently being considered by the petitions committee. We also thank T4W for taking the time to respond at such a difficult time, and we very much appreciate the effort made by their staff in keeping the train network running here in Wales at this time.

We appreciate the comments in para. 4 of their letter with regard to 17.16 service from Bangor to North East Wales, but would like to point out that this is only the latest of the cuts to rush hour services along the North Wales Coastline, as outlined in our previous communication.

With regard to the comments in para. 5 regarding the train service requirement (TSR), it is clear that the North Wales Coast service is prioritising direct Holyhead – Cardiff rail services over local commuter needs on the instruction of the Assembly Government. In consequence, the Assembly Government policy is having a detrimental effect in forcing commuters from the trains onto the roads, and Welsh domicile students to travel to English Universities instead of Welsh Universities. As such the Welsh Government are in contradiction of their own policy, eg. “*Prosperity for all: A Low Carbon Wales*”. Moreover, this also contradicts the recent “*Manifesto for the future*” released by the Future Generations Commissioner Sophie Howe. Given this position we would request that the minister responsible for transport is answerable for the cuts to commuter services and so should respond.

We note from paras 5–7 that: “*Since taking over the Wales and Borders rail service, TfW have significantly increased the number of cheaper Advance tickets available to purchase, including on all journeys over 50 miles except those wholly within the South Wales Metro area.*” However, most commuter journeys are not over 50 miles, and we are certainly not aware of any reduction in cost in North Wales, especially not to the extent that they are comparable to those charged per mile in South Wales!

With regard to comments re First Class passengers: “*I wish to assure you that first class rail users are not prioritised. The loco hauled stock introduces many benefits to all passengers including greater comfort, more capacity/seating and the option for hot/cold food and beverages. Passengers can take advantage of this regardless of which ticket they have. We are also introducing Mark 4 train carriages this year for services between Cardiff <> North Wales which will operate 3x Holyhead to Cardiff*

services each way daily.” These do not reassure us as following complaints to T4W about the cut to the 17:18 service from Bangor we were told that these loco hauled services are apparently not able to stop at ‘short platforms’ like Flint, Rhyl, and Colwyn Bay!

Overall, we find the response to our petition at best misses the point, and at worst reinforces our impression that the Welsh Government is prioritising fast north–south rail services over the needs of local commuters.

Agenda Item 3.8

P-05-920 School Budgeting for ALN

This petition was submitted by Iwan Williams having collected a total of 106 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge Welsh Government to allocate an additional budget for schools across Wales, to be able to provide the additional learning needed for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) and achieve the objectives of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018.

Additional Information

Schools lack resources for supporting pupils with additional learning needs to ensure they achieve their potential.

The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 states:

"A person has additional learning needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability (whether the learning difficulty or disability arises from a medical condition or otherwise) which calls for additional learning provision."

Schools do not currently have sufficient resources to be able to offer the additional learning provision that their pupils need.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Aberconwy
- North Wales

Dyddiad /Date:
Gofynnwch am/Please ask for:
Llinell uniongyrchol/Direct line:
Ebost/Email:

01 September 2020
Sharon Davies
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Janet Finch-Saunders, AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Dear Ms Finch-Saunders,



P-05-920 School Budgeting for ALN

Thank you for your letter of 16 December to the WLGA about the above petition and may I apologise sincerely for the delay in responding.

In terms of the process by which local authorities make funding available for learners with ALN in their area, the Committee has already had the benefit of a letter from the Education Minister and a Senedd research service briefing to help with its deliberations. I would also draw your attention to Section 2 of an earlier research service briefing on school funding (August 2018)¹ which sets out in some detail the process by which local authorities set their respective Local Authority, Schools and Individual Schools Budgets under the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010. Each of these budgets will contain an element of funding for ALN, determined according to local needs and priorities, within the legislative framework.

The above budget-setting process will not change when the ALN Act 2018 comes into force, so local authorities will continue to retain some funding centrally for ALN (within their LA and Schools Budgets), with the majority of funding delegated to schools (the ISB) to make the day-to-day decisions about the provision of support for learners with ALN through statutory Individual Development Plans (IDPs).

The petition itself calls for more Welsh Government funding to go to schools to support pupils with ALN. Committee members will aware that the WLGA does not support specific grant funding for any local services and holds to the principle that they should be funded through the annual Revenue Support Grant (RSG).

That said, the WLGA and local authorities share the petitioner's concerns about funding for implementing the ALN Act and wider ALN Transformation Programme. The introduction under the ALN Act of statutory IDPs for all children and young people 0-25 years with ALN, the much wider appeal rights available than currently and the lack in the Act of an explicit duty on health boards to meet the costs of relevant therapeutic health interventions for learners with ALN, could result in additional costs to authorities and schools over and above the £20m funding the Welsh Government has made available 2017-18 to the end of the Senedd term. Those concerns have been expressed on numerous occasions, most recently to the 2018 Senedd CYP&E Committee School Funding Inquiry (extract from joint WLGA/ADEW written evidence attached) and are shared by many others, including the CYP&E Committee itself.

Dr Chris Llewelyn
Prif Weithredwr
Chief Executive

Cymdeithas Llywodraeth
Leol Cymru
Tŷ Llywodraeth Leol
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¹ <https://senedd.wales/Research%20Documents/18-047/18-47-Web-English.pdf>

The WLGA welcomes Welsh Government's recognition that local authorities face significant pressures in supporting children and young people with ALN by making available an additional £8m of grant available this financial year.² The WLGA hopes that this funding will continue into future years and would urge the Welsh Government to transfer it into the RSG from 2021-22.

Funding to support learners with ALN to achieve their potential has to be set in the context of funding for education as a whole in Wales. All local authorities are committed to providing a high-quality education for all their learners and will continue to give education services top priority when setting budgets, but they can only work within available resources. The fact is that the local government funding 'cake' has had to be sliced ever more thinly during many years of austerity, while the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on local government finances is yet to be seen. The WLGA hopes that the review work commissioned by the Welsh Government from Luke Sibieta in response to Recommendation 1 in the CYP&E Committee's 2019 School Funding in Wales report will indeed address the central issue of 'how much funding is actually required to fund schools sufficiently in Wales'.

I hope this is helpful to the Committee's deliberations.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely



Sharon Davies

**Pennaeth Addysg
Head of Education**

² <https://gov.wales/ps8m-boost-support-young-people-additional-learning-needs>

ANNEX A

Extract from the joint WLGA/ADEW evidence to the CYP&E Committee's 2018 School Funding Inquiry (relates to the financial year 2018-19):

"Data shows the number of pupils with SEN has increased year-on-year since 2015 and since 2012 there has been an increase of over 2,000 learners identified as having SEN. There has been a year on year cash increase in spend on SEN with a gradual increase in spend on special schools with core and mainstream funding staying more or less the same in cash terms. Local authority spend on supporting pupils with SEN has grown year-on-year and in 2018-19 there was an increase of £8.8m or 2.4% as compared to the previous year. Spend per pupil across Wales has increased from £789 in 2015-16 to £844 in 2018-19: an increase of £55 per pupil. Centrally held funding has reduced from 30% of the total funding in 2014-15 to 27% in the current year. Funding allocated to Special Schools has increased from 24% of the total funding in 2014-15 to 27% in the current year."

"With the introduction of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 there will be considerable demand on staff time for extensive professional development and upskilling in preparation for the implementation of the new Code of Practice. There will be a requirement to train staff at all levels as well as more intensive training and development for Additional Learning Needs Coordinators. Although there will be common national training packages, these will need to be delivered locally by local authorities and/or schools who will need appropriate time and resources to ensure effective roll-out. With the extension of the statutory age range from 0 to 25, and transfer of responsibility of Post-16 specialist placements to Local authorities there could be additional costs in meeting the needs of learners with additional learning needs."

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P-05-920 Cyllidebu Ysgolion ar gyfer ADY, Gohebiaeth – Deisebydd i'r Pwyllgor, 26.10.20

Mae'r angen am adnoddau ychwanegol i ysgolion yn bodoli yn barhaol bron, mae o hyd angen mwy o adnoddau er mwyn gwneud y gorau i ddisgyblion Cymru. Mae cyllidebau ysgolion wedi cael eu torri wrth i gyllidebau Cymru ac yr Awdurdodau Lleol cael eu torri mewn termau real ers blynnyddoedd maith. Tydi hyn ddim yn sefyllfa da, ac mae angen mwy o gyllideb i wella'r sefyllfa i bob ysgol a disgybl. Ond nid yw disgyblion niwrotypical yn cael eu effeithio gan ddiffyg adnoddau gymaint â disgyblion niwro a-typical, a dyma lle mae angen unioni'r cae chwarae fel petai, a chynnig mwy o gefnogaeth i'r digyblion gyda'u anghenion dysgu ychwanegol (ADY) er mwyn cynnig cyfleoedd cyfartal i bawb.

Mae'r amcanion yn glir yn Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol "i feddwl am effaith hirdymor eu penderfyniadau, i weithio'n well gyda phobl, cymunedau a'i gilydd, ac i atal problemau parhaus megis tlodi, anghydraddoldebau iechyd a newid yn yr hinsawdd" ac felly mae'n ddyletswydd cyfriethiol ar yr Awdurdodau Lleol i 'atal problemau parhaus megis...anghydraddoldebau iechyd' sydd i mi yn cynnwys addysg disgyblion ADY. Hefyd mae'r ddeddf yn cynnwys bod "rhoi addysg a'r cyfle i bobl ddatblygu'r set addas o sgiliau ar gyfer y dyfodol," felly sut mae disgyblion ADY yn fod i wneud hyn os nad yw'r adnoddau gan ysgolion i helpu iddyn nhw ddysgu'r sgiliau mwyaf sylfaenol fel darllen, ysgrifennu a rhifedd, heb sôn am y sgiliau mwy cymleth mae disgwyl i oedolion meddu arnynt er mwyn llwyddo yn y byd sydd ohoni?

Heb fwy o arian wedi ei glustnodi yn benodol ar gyfer cefnogi disgyblion ADY ar gyfer ysgolion Cymru, bydd y disgyblion hyn yn methu allan ar gyfleodd i fod yn rhan o gymdeithas a byw bywyd yn llawn, ac bydd Cymru yn gwahaniaethu yn eu herbyn.

Ydan ni eisiau byw mewn gwlad sydd yn cefnogi pawb o bob cefndir a gallu, neu ydan ni ddim ond eisiau cefnogi y goreuon?

Dwi'n meddwl ein bod yn wlad sydd eisiau cynnwys pawb a chynnig y gefnogaeth mae pawb eu hangen i lwyddo ac i ffynnu, ac mae Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol wedi ei greu i sicrhau bod hyna'n digwydd. Cefnogwch y ddeddf, cefnogwch bobol Cymru i ffynnu a llwyddo.

Hoffwn weld trafodaeth llawn yn y Senedd i drafod cyllid ysgolion a'r camau mae Llywodraeth Cymru am eu cymeryd i sicrhau nad yw unrhyw ddisgybl yn

cael eu gadael ar ôl oherwydd bod ganddyn nhw anghenion dysgu ychwanegol.

Edrychaf ymlaen i glywed mwy am y drafodaeth. Dwi'n barod i drafod ymhellach wrth gwrs.

Cofion

Agenda Item 3.9

P-05-988 Give key worker children equal access to their schools and teachers

This petition was submitted by Catherine Evans having collected a total of 508 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Key worker children in some parts of Wales have been excluded from 'check in, catch up, prepare' sessions in their schools. They are not allowed any face-to-face contact with their teachers or friends if their parents also need childcare to enable them to do critical work. They are to be looked after in leisure centres with inadequate information about provision for their health, emotional well-being or education.

Schools should plan to include all learners this term and in September.

Additional Information:

Welsh Government guidance on the reopening of schools states that 'all learners who are able to, have the opportunity to attend their school or setting for face to face time over the remainder of the summer term'.

<https://gov.wales/keep-education-safe-operational-guidance-schools-and-settings-covid-19>

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Montgomeryshire
- Mid and West Wales

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-988
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05672/20
Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

8 October 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your email following my correspondence dated.

Please be assured that keeping schools and colleges open remains a key priority for the Welsh Government. This is vital. Vital for our young people's education and their overall wellbeing. The transmission rates within schools remain extremely low. Evidence here and indeed worldwide shows that there is no significant relationship between schools reopening and COVID cases in the community.

Our current planning assumption is that we would not close schools (or childcare). We will be doing all we can to keep provision open for as long as possible, and to ensure that even where schools need to restrict who is on site they remain open for those learners that need to be on site.

My officials are currently working on and are aiming to publish the Coronavirus Control Plan for Education and Childcare Settings later this week, which sets out what services should look like at the five stages of response. This includes advice on the issues to take into account when looking to limit who is on site, and does confirm that schools should look to prioritise the children of critical workers as well as vulnerable children and those who may be digitally excluded. However, it also confirms that we would not be looking to reinstate the hub model, with schools looking to stay open for their own learners, and supporting remote or blended learning.

I hope the information that I have provided clarifies the situation.

Yours sincerely

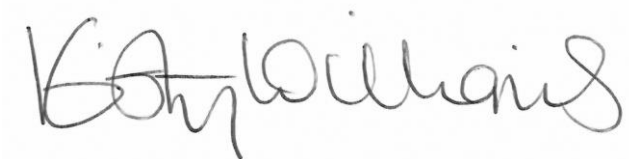
Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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.

Back Page 158
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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kirsty Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a long, sweeping underline.

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

**P-05-988 Give key worker children equal access to their schools and teachers,
Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 16.10.20**

I am very relieved to read that the children of essential workers would stay in their own schools in the event of school closure. I hope it means they will also be allowed in their classes as schools reopen.

Please pass on my thanks to the Petitions Committee for their support and persistence.

With best wishes

Agenda Item 3.10

P-05-992 We call on the Welsh Government to create a common body of knowledge about Welsh history that all pupils will learn

This petition was submitted by Elfed Wyn Jones having collected a total of 7,927 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Welsh history is important to all pupils, as it provides the background of our nation's history and our heritage for everyone going through the education system. There are aspects of Welsh history, such as the Laws of Hywel Dda, the Glyndŵr Rising and the Drowning of Capel Celyn, which belong to every community in Wales. It is therefore concerning that the Welsh Government has decided to reject the recommendation by the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee to create a common body of knowledge for all pupils studying history. It's important to create a Welsh history curriculum where pupils learn abouts events and matters at a national level, as well as learning about the history of their communities and areas.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Dwyfor Meirionnydd
- Mid and West Wales



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-992
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05654/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair Senedd Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

9 October 2020

Dear Janet,

Petition P-05-992 We call on the Welsh Government to create a common body of knowledge about Welsh history that all pupils will learn

Thank you for your letter dated 30 September following the Committee's first consideration of petition P-05-992 on Welsh History.

It is important for learning to be inclusive and to draw on the experiences, perspectives and cultural heritage of contemporary Wales. The history of Wales is diverse, and comprises a variety of diverse and rich histories of the many communities, races, religions, and individuals in our country.

As you will be aware, in January 2020 the first iteration of the new Curriculum for Wales guidance was launched. Full rollout will commence in September 2022. At the heart of the new curriculum are the four purposes, which set out the aspirations for all children and young people. These four purposes, which specifically support learners to become "ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the World", are a part of the statutory framework for the Curriculum for Wales. Instilling learners with passion and pride in themselves, their communities and their country is a principal object of the four purposes. In the new curriculum, learners will explore the local, national and global contexts to all aspects of learning, and will learn how to make connections and develop understanding within a diverse society.

The Curriculum for Wales framework includes mandatory elements, including statements of What Matters for each Area of Learning and Experiences (AoLE). From 2022, Welsh History will be mandatory in the new curriculum, as it is included within the statements of What Matters for Humanities and is embedded throughout the guidance. The statements of What Matters refer to the need for consistent exposure to the story of learners' locality and the story of Wales.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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CF99 1SN

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.

A defining feature of the Framework is that it requires schools to design their own curriculum and assessment arrangements. By itself, it is not an 'off the shelf' programme for delivery. Our new approach recognises:

- the role of leadership in enabling high-quality learning and teaching. Establishing a high-performing education system through high-quality learning and teaching depends on building its professional capacity, developing local leadership, responsibility and decision-making;
- within the national framework, schools and practitioners are best placed to make decisions about the needs of their specific learners, including choosing topics and activities which will best support their learning;
- the importance of meaningful learning. A content-focused curriculum does not guarantee meaningful learning, only that certain topics are covered to varying extents; instead, the Curriculum for Wales guidance articulates what concepts and essence of learning should underpin a range of different topics, learning activities and acquisition of knowledge; and
- the need for innovation and creativity. Practitioners select content, enabling them to use their professional skills to drive improved learning and outcomes for their learners.

It is essential that all learners have an appreciation of identity, heritage and cynefin to help build their sense of self and of belonging. It will be for schools to select and develop content which expose learners of all ages to a range of historical periods on a local, national and global scale. The new curriculum framework makes clear that a school's curriculum is expected to reflect Wales, its cultural heritage and diversity, its languages and the values, histories and traditions of its communities and all of its people.

The 'Designing Your Curriculum' guidance, published to support schools in implementing the Curriculum for Wales framework, explains that Wales, like any other society, is not a uniform entity, but encompasses a range of values, perspectives, cultures and histories that are inclusive of everyone who lives in Wales. In contemplating different perspectives, and different ethnic and cultural thinking in Wales, learners will appreciate the extent to which they are part of a wider international community, fostering a sense of belonging that can encourage them to contribute positively to their communities. In Humanities, the guidance provides detailed support on the breadth and depth of topics that should be included within a school's curriculum and their teaching of history.

On 21 July, I announced that Professor Charlotte Williams OBE, a leading academic who has written about ethnic diversity in Wales, has agreed to chair a Communities, Contributions and Cynefin: BAME Experiences and the New Curriculum Working Group.

The work of the Group includes, but goes beyond, black history to consider a range of minority ethnicities as part of the story of Wales, and membership comprises experienced practitioners and contributors to BAME and Welsh history. On 1 October, we published the [Group's Vision Statement](#).

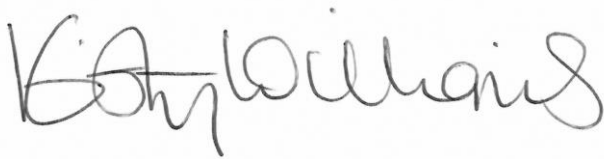
The Group's work is being carried out in phases, which will allow it to start feeding into teaching for the coming academic year, before the Group is hopefully in a position to present key recommendations to me by the end of December. The first phase is in progress and is

to review existing resources available to teachers and good practice. The second phase will focus on a review of professional development and learning related to BAME communities.

In order to deliver the new curriculum effectively and realise our shared vision, it is vital that our schools have the support, understanding and resources they need. My officials have undertaken a review of all presently available resources to support the teaching of Welsh history in schools, to identify any gaps. Many teaching resources are currently available on Hwb, and my officials will consider how best to ensure that existing and new resources are made as widely available as possible. In addition, we will be working with practitioners to commission new resources, which will refer to key events and topics in the histories of Wales and the world. The commission of additional resources to support the teaching of the new curriculum will be informed by the outcome of the Estyn review of Welsh history, which will take full account of Welsh and wider history, identity and culture along with the recommendations of the Communities, Contributions and Cynefin: BAME Experiences and the New Curriculum Working Group.

I have noted that the Business Committee have confirmed a plenary slot for a debate on this petition and the issues raised in petition P-05-1000 related to the teaching of black and UK POC histories and look forward to having the opportunity to debate these issues with Members on 4 November.

Yours sincerely

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

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

Janet Finch- Saunders MS
Chair of Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

13 October 2020

Dear Janet

Petition P-05-992 We call on the Welsh Government to create a common body of knowledge about Welsh history that all pupils will learn

Thank you for your letter dated 30th September, 2020.

Estyn agreed with Welsh Government to undertake a state of the nation thematic survey in response to two recommendations made by the Culture, Welsh language and Communications Committee on the teaching of Welsh History, Culture and Heritage in November 2019. The recommendations outline that Estyn should review the teaching of Welsh history in schools and the evidence of the extent to which schools are meeting the requirements of the GCSE, AS and A level specifications on teaching Welsh content. In addition, the review should assess how diversity is taught in schools and consider if the history taught in schools is representative of all of Wales' communities and their international connections.

In light of recent events including the work of the Black Lives Matter movement, Estyn has agreed to a request by Welsh Government that the review take account of Welsh and wider BAME history, identity and culture. The project plan has been updated to reflect this.

The state of the nation report will reflect the current standards, provision and leadership of the teaching of Welsh and BAME history and culture in schools. It will take evidence from a sample of primary schools, secondary schools, special schools and sixth form providers across Wales. The review will also capture examples of best practice to exemplify where Welsh and BAME history and culture is taught effectively. It may suggest key areas for action.

Estyn will gather evidence through visits to schools, telephone calls or virtual meetings with school leaders, telephone conversations with key professionals, engaging with the BAME Communities, contributions and cynefin in the new curriculum working group led by Professor Charlotte Williams, information from recent inspections and other relevant thematic reports.

Estyn, Llys Angor/Anchor Court, Heol Keen/Keen Road, Caerdydd/Cardiff, CF24 5JW
Ffôn/Telephone 02920 446446

ymholiadau@estyn.llyw.cymru • enquiries@estyn.gov.wales
www.estyn.llyw.cymru • www.estyn.gov.wales

Mae Estyn yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Bydd gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn y naill iaith neu'r llall yn cael yr un flaenoriaeth. | Estyn welcomes correspondence in both English and Welsh. Correspondence received in either language will be given equal priority.

The methodology and timing of the thematic review was reviewed in light of the COVID-19 pandemic as visits to schools were put on hold in March 2020. It is difficult to confirm definitively when the report will be finalised and published but it will likely be summer 2021 at the earliest. Evidence will now include telephone calls and virtual meetings with schools, ITE providers and key professionals during the second half of the Autumn term. This will help us form initial judgements on the provision and leadership of teaching for Welsh and BAME history and culture. We plan to build on these initial findings by hopefully visiting schools and providers to gain first hand evidence where possible in the Spring term. This will enable us to triangulate information and to make judgements on standards and pupils' attitudes to learning about Welsh and BAME history and culture.

Yours sincerely



Meilyr Rowlands

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of
Education and Training in Wales

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

Document is Restricted

P-05-992 Rydym yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i greu corff cyffredin o wybodaeth am Hanes Cymru fydd pob disgybl yn ei ddysgu, Gohebiaeth – Deisebydd i'r Pwyllgor, 25.10.20

Darn dros Hanes Cymru yn y Senedd

Mae Hanes yn bwnc llawer pwysicach na dysgu i bwysu a mesur. Mae'n adrodd hanes ein Cenedl i'n pobl, gan ddangos yr holl bethau sydd wedi digwydd, y da a'r drwg. Mae'n creu darlun o'r hyn ydi Cymdeithas, a sut mae'r tirlun cymdeithasol, gwleidyddol ac economaidd wedi esblygu ers dyddiau'r Celtiaid, trwy gyfnod Llywelyn a Glyndwr, trwy'r Chwyldro Diwydiannol a brwydrau'r 60au, sefydlu'r Senedd yng Nghaerdydd yn 90au'r ganrif diwethaf ac ymlaen at y dydd presennol.

Pa fath o Gymry ydym ni os nad ydym yn gwybod ac adnabod hanes ein gwlad? Dwi'n credu fod Gerallt Lloyd Owen yn crynhoi hyn mewn un frawddeg berffaith "Estroniaid heb ystyr yw hanes". Sut fedrwn ni ddeall beth yw'r Gymdeithas 'ryda ni'n byw ynddi, ac i ba gyfeiriad mae hi'n mynd os nad yda ni'n gwybod a deall yr hyn sydd wedi digwydd yn y gorffennol?

'Rown i yn un oedd ddigon ffodus i baentio murlun Cofiwch Dryweryn ar ol iddo gael ei ddinistrio ..a dyna pryd daeth difrifoldeb y broblem yn amlwg - tra'n cyfarfod a phobl oedd erioed wedi clywed am drychineb Tryweryn. Dinistr y murlun ddaeth a Tryweryn unwaith yn rhagor i sylw'r cyhoedd.

A dyna'r broblem.

Mae diffyg gwybodaeth am Hanes Cymru yn adlais o genedlaethau. Sawl tro yda ni wedi clywed "Yn ysgol 'rown i'n gwybod mwy am Battle of Hastings 1066 nag 'rown i am Llywelyn ein Llyw Olaf, Owain Glyndwr a'r Welsh Not". Mae'r sefyllfa yr un mor ddigalon heddiw. Tydi hynny ddim wedi newid dim. Yr un peth ddigwyddodd i mi, ac a fydd yn digwydd i'm mhlant i ac i'r Genedlaeth ar ei holau hwythau, - os na fyddwn ni'n gweithredu rwan!

Mae'r Llywodraeth yn cynnig Cwricwlwm newydd ar gyfer ein hysgolion. Ond beth fydd y cwricwlwm newydd yma yn ei olygu yng nghyd-destun dysgu Hanes Cymru os nad oes arweiniad, na chynnwys, na gwerslyfrau cadarn? Mae gen i edmygedd mawr o athrawon yn yr oes hon, ac mae disgwyl y byddent hwy'n gallu llunio gwersi a dysgu am Hanes Cymru heb strategaeth na chynnwys i'w cymorth.

Mi fydd hyn yn creu system loteri amlwg, lle bydd rhai plant yn ddigon ffodus i ddysgu am Hanes Cymru a rhai eraill ...ddim. Mi fydd hyn yn creu gwahaniaeth mawr rhwng gwahanol ysgolion a hefyd mi fydd y gagendor rhwng disgyblion yr ysgolion Cymraeg a disgyblion yr ysgolion Saesneg yn mynd yn fwy fyth. Mae tystiolaeth yn dangos fod disgyblion sy'n mynychu ysgol Gymraeg gyda mwy o gyfleoedd i gael gwybodaeth am Hanes Cymru na'r rhai sy'n mynychu'r ysgolion Saesneg.

Credaf... fod y fath sefyllfa yn gwbl annerbyniol. Mae pobl hefo'r hawl i wybod a deall hanes eu gwlad eu hunain. Toes dim synnwyr cuddio Hanes Cymru oddiwrth ei phobl. Mae angen i ni fod yn agored fel gwlad a dod i delerau gyda'n gorffennol. Ond..fedrwn ni ddim gwneud hynny heb wybod y ffeithiau yn gyntaf.

Dwi'n gofyn i chi rwan i ystyried yr hyn dwi wedi ei ddweud. Mi fyddai'n fwy na pharod i

brotestio, ac rwy'n barod i ymrydio i'r eithaf ar risiau'r Senedd ei hun i sicrhau fod pobl y

Genedl Gymraeg yn derbyn y gwybodaeth a'r addysg priodol am eu Hanes. Trwy hynny, byddwn wedyn yn datblygu dealltwriaeth o sut mae Cymru wedi cyrraedd y sefyllfa mae hi ynddi rwan. Trwy ddeall Hanes ein hunain, y down i ddeall sut i symud ymlaen fel unigolion ac fel Cenedl.

Tra fod y drafodaeth yma'n mynd ymlaen byddaf i wedi bod yn cerdded ar llwybr y fferm, o'r ffordd rhwng y fferm a'r ty 512 o weithiau, er mwy gwneud 128 o filltiroedd, sef y pellter rhwng fy fferm i yn Nhrawsfynydd a'r Senedd yng Nghardydd. Byddaf yn sicr o wneud mwy ar ol i'r cyfnod yma basio, os na fydd pethu'n cael ei newid heddiw

Diolch

Agenda Item 3.11

P-05-1000 Make it compulsory for Black and POC UK histories to be taught in the Welsh education curriculum

This petition was submitted by Angharad Owen having collected a total of 34,736 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Britain –including Wales– benefited from colonialism and slavery for centuries. This needs to be represented in the curriculum.

The British Empire has often been glamorised and the global impact of Britain’s colonialism downplayed. This has been reflected in the content taught.

There needs to be real and significant change. The legacies of slavery and colonialism have very real impacts on BAME communities across Britain today, and the Welsh education system needs to recognise this.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Clwyd South
- North Wales

Agenda Item 3.12

P-05-910 Make thrombectomy available 24-7 for Welsh patients

This petition was submitted by Callum Rogers having collected a total of 685 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh government to end the inequality in access to life-saving stroke thrombectomy treatment.

Thrombectomy is a treatment used for ischaemic stroke where the blood clot is removed with a special device inserted through a catheter. There is a wealth of evidence supporting its benefits in reducing long term disability (morbidity), and saving lives (reducing mortality) In April 2017, NHS England agreed to fund thrombectomy on the NHS, it will take many years before all eligible patients can receive it. It is not currently available routinely in Wales. Agreements with NHS England for Welsh patients to access their services are variable and tenuous.

Patients such as Colin Rogers (www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Colin-rogers-campaign) are literally dying. He was 55 when he died. He was denied treatment because it was a Sunday and there was no agreement to allow him to be sent to England. Whilst there was no guarantee he would have been saved, it is estimated that over 500 people in Wales could be helped by this treatment. We do not want people who could be saved to die like Colin, or be left profoundly disabled.

We call upon the Welsh government to end the postcode lottery and act to save the lives of the Welsh people.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cynon Valley
- South Wales Central



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau Iechyd
Arbenigol Cymru (PGIAC)
Welsh Health Specialised
Services Committee (WHSSC)

Your ref/eich cyf:
Our ref/ein cyf: SL.DD
Date/dyddiad: 28th August, 2020.
Tel/ffôn: 01443 443443 ext. 78131
Fax/ffacs: 02920 807854
Email/ebost: Sian.lewis100@wales.nhs.uk

Ms Janet Finch-Saunders AM,
Chair,
National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff,
CF99 1NA

Dear Ms. Finch-Saunders,

Re: Petition P-05-910 Make Thrombectomy available 24-7 for Welsh Patients

Thank you for your letter dated 20th November, 2019 requesting information on Thrombectomy.

It has been estimated that Mechanical Thrombectomy a treatment undertaken by Interventional Neuro-radiologists is an appropriate treatment for around 10% of patients with Ischaemic Stroke. This equates to around 500 interventions each year in Wales. As the numbers and model of delivery fall within the definition of a Specialised Service, it was agreed by the Board of Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) known as the Joint Committee that we would commission Mechanical Thrombectomy Services for NHS Wales from April 2019.

Throughout 2019 the WHSS Team has been working to secure access to capacity from Services in NHS England whilst provision is being made to develop the Service in Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (C&VUHB) in 2020-21 to serve the population of Mid and South Wales. The team are working in collaboration with the Welsh Government's Stroke Implement Group (SIG) and Local Health Boards on the pathways required to both access Thrombectomy treatment and repatriate to a patient's local hospital following treatment. Collaborative working is ongoing with C&VUHB and English Trusts as the providers and potential providers of the service, Welsh Ambulance Services

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Chair/Cadeirydd: *Professor Vivienne Harpwood*
Managing Director of Specialised and Tertiary Services Commissioning/Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr Comisiynu Gwasanaethau Arbenigol a Thrydyddol: *Dr Sian Lewis*

Trust as the transport provider and Health Boards to ensure appropriate referral and discharge processes are in place.

To ensure that the patients who can best benefit from the treatment we have developed a Thrombectomy Commissioning Policy. This was circulated for consultation to Stakeholders on 19th February 2020 and the six week consultation period ended on 1st April 2020. Stakeholder comments have been reviewed and the document has been amended to reflect the comments made. A final version of this Commissioning policy will be presented to the WHSSC Policy Group for approval in September 2020. Unfortunately this process has been slower than we would have liked due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please be assured that this has not prevented patients from accessing the Service and each of the stroke units have been notified regarding the referral processes for patients.

Currently, WHSSC commissions Thrombectomy Services from three centres in England details of which are provided in the Commissioning Policy. Patients in South Wales currently access the Service from the North Bristol NHS Trust which is available from Monday to Friday 08.00-20.00. The team in Bristol have indicated that they intend to expand their operation to weekends later this year and will advise WHSSC when this is the case, enabling patients from South Wales to access this service 7 days per week. WHSST are still in discussions with the Cardiff centre about the development of a Thrombectomy centre in Cardiff and the requirements for this.

The population of North Wales have access to Thrombectomy Services from the Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool which in January 2020 was increased from 5 days to 7 days per week. The Walton are in the process of extending this to a 24 hour service 7 days per week. It was anticipated that this Service would be operational from the Autumn of 2020 but this has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Patients from Powys are able to access Thrombectomy Services from Royal Stoke University Hospitals, North Midlands NHS Trust which is offering the Service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There are only two centres in the UK that offer a 24/7 Service at the moment.

In response to your specific questions and your request for details on the following;

- the development of a Service Specification for Thrombectomy;
- the timescales for running a consultation exercise on this;
- the anticipated next steps following the consultation

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Currently the NHS England centres which provide Thrombectomy Services for patients from Wales are commissioned against the NHS England Service Specification. WHSSC does however anticipate developing its own Service Specification following publication of the Commissioning Policy. Consultation exercises typically last 6 weeks. The steps following the consultation process depend on whether there is a budget impact to commissioning of the new Service Specification. If there is a budget impact then this will need to be taken through the WHSSC Integrated Commissioning Planning process whereby the budget for WHSSC is agreed.

If you wish to discuss the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Sian Lewis
Managing Director

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Gyfarwyddwr Comisiynu Gwasanaethau Arbenigol a Thrydyddol: *Dr Sian Lewis*

Agenda Item 3.13

P-05-936 Offer Bowel Cancer Screening After the Age of 74

This petition was submitted by Andrew Lye having collected a total of 69 signatures.

Text of Petition

The NHS in England, Scotland and Wales all offer Bowel Cancer screening every 2 years between the ages of 60 and 74.

In England and Scotland, you can request a screening kit every 2 years after 74. This is NOT available to those over 74 in Wales.

This petition asks the Welsh Government to make bowel cancer screening available as it is in England and Scotland.

Ending the screening at 74 in Wales suggests that we do not value our seniors in the same way as they do in England and Scotland.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Preseli Pembrokeshire
- Mid Wales



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/04868/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

6 August 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your email of 9 July concerning the Petition P-05-936 about offering bowel cancer screening after the age of 74.

In line with UKNSC advice, the Welsh Government committed to expand the programme to include men and women aged 50-59 by 2023. The intention has been to start rolling this out in a phased manner, starting by inviting men and women from the age of 55 in April 2020.

However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you will be aware that the cancer screening programmes were temporarily paused in March 2020 and are now being reinstated. Bowel Screening Wales is now testing any kits that have been received into the laboratory since 28 May and participants who sent in a kit that couldn't be tested during the pause have been sent replacement kits since 1 July. The priority over the coming months is to fully reinstate the screening programme and ensure that those who are currently due to be screened are tested. Public Health Wales will be providing a revised plan for the optimisation of the bowel screening programme to the Wales Screening Committee (WSC) later this year.

As you know, prior to the pandemic the role of the UK National Screening Committee (UKNSC) was under review. The work to review the functions and remit of the UKNSC is now resuming. Until we understand the outcome of this review there is no research planned for bowel screening in people over 74 years of age. As per previous correspondence, I attach the letter received from the UKNSC in response to the letter sent by the Chair of WSC for the committee's information.

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

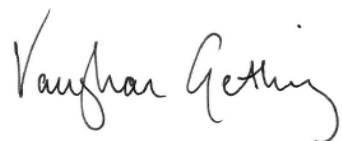
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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

Yours sincerely,

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

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

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

Dr Heather Payne

via e-mail

27 February 2020


Dear Heather,

Further to your email dated the 24 February 2020 I can confirm that the UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) position on bowel screening is that it recommends that Bowel Cancer Screening should be offered using FIT every two years to men and women aged 50 – 74 years and, where appropriate, one-off Bowel Scope (BS).

Implementation to deliver this recommendation is for each UK Health Department to lead on.

As Wales has been querying self-referral over the age of 74, it was suggested, in a previous email trail, that a meeting could be set up with Wales leading this, as it falls outside of the UK NSC's recommendation. If this comes about, I should be happy to be involved in view of my interest in bowel screening. However, unless new evidence becomes available, UK NSC will not be changing its recommendation.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Bob Steele
Chair, UK National Screening Committee

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