

Agenda – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Video Conference Via Zoom	Graeme Francis – Committee Clerk
Meeting date: 17 November 2020	Kayleigh Imperato – Deputy Clerk
Meeting time: 09.00	0300 200 6373
	Petitions@senedd.wales

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 – 45)

- 2 New petitions

Covid-19 petitions

- 2.1 P-05-1038 Adapt Local Lockdown message to "Stay Local" instead of by county borders
(Pages 46 – 48)
- 2.2 P-05-1039 Allow amateur athletes within a lockdown area to continue to train and be coached outside of the area
(Pages 49 – 51)
- 2.3 P-05-1042 Support SMEs in hair and beauty industry during local lockdowns
(Pages 52 – 60)
- 2.4 P-05-1055 Cancel GCSE and A level examinations
(Pages 61 – 67)



- 2.5 P-05-1065 Re-opening schools for year 11 pupils rather than year 8, from 2nd November onwards
(Pages 68 – 70)

Non COVID-19 petitions

- 2.6 P-05-1032 Legislate to prevent people from changing Welsh house names
(Pages 71 – 81)
- 2.7 P-05-1040 Introduce a moratorium on the approval any new large scale waste incinerators in Wales
(Pages 82 – 94)
- 2.8 P-05-1044 Set up a Natural History GCSE to help prepare future generations to tackle the threats facing nature
(Pages 95 – 102)

3 Updates to previous petitions

Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

- 3.1 P-05-941 Biodiversity Remit for NRW
(Pages 103 – 109)
- 3.2 P-05-945 The Climate Emergency and a National Forest for Wales
(Pages 110 – 120)
- 3.3 P-05-868 Water Safety/Drowning Prevention and the effects of Cold Water Shock to be taught in all Schools in Wales
(Pages 121 – 134)

Health and Social Services

- 3.4 P-05-974 Ensure the technology of prosthetic limbs provided within the Welsh NHS is equal to the rest of the UK
(Pages 135 – 138)

3.5 P-05-960 Fund the funeral costs of all NHS staff who die from or with Covid-19

(Pages 139 – 143)

Culture, Sport and Tourism

3.6 P-05-1006 Release the £59 million to the arts to prevent local grassroots music venues from closure

(Pages 144 – 146)

3.7 P-05-1013 Provide financial support for self-employed individuals within the Welsh live music industry

(Pages 147 – 150)

Housing and Local Government

3.8 P-05-1007 Merge Hope and Caergwrle into a two-member ward in the County of Flintshire

(Pages 151 – 155)

Education

3.9 P-05-1021 Do not make face masks or face coverings mandatory in ANY (inc secondary) schools

(Pages 156 – 158)

3.10 P-05-1008 Teach mental health first aid in schools in Wales

(Pages 159 – 160)

Petitions with no recent contact from the petitioner

3.11 P-05-951 Impose a legal limit on the maximum number of breeding bitches in licensed dog breeding establishments in Wales

(Page 161)

3.12 P-05-952 Revert to Welsh language spelling of place-names

(Page 162)

- 3.13 P-05-953 Ban Single Use Plastic Milk Bottles in schools
(Page 163)
- 3.14 P-05-961 Lower the age for breast cancer screening in Wales from 50 to 30
(Page 164)
- 3.15 P-05-999 Implement a minimum of 1 metre social distancing in all Primary
Schools in September 2020
(Page 165)
- 3.16 P-05-1012 Oxygen chamber therapy for fibromyalgia patients on the NHS
(Page 166)
- 3.17 P-05-1016 Extend the new Green Homes Grant to Wales
(Page 167)
- 3.18 P-05-1020 Introduce an Appeals process in Wales for all Centre Assessed
Grades for 2020 public exam programme
(Pages 168 – 169)

**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 170 – 175)

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 2.1

P-05-1038 Adapt Local Lockdown message to "Stay Local" instead of by county borders

This petition was submitted by Jayne Abigail Evans having collected a total of 193 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Local lockdowns are in place across all but 6 county boroughs in Wales. 2.3 million out of 3.1 million people are restricted to their county of residence. In county border communities, this is killing businesses & causing individuals to travel far greater distances to access the services they need. A Stay Local message, based on staying within one's own communities, would be much clearer, easier for the public to restrict their travel, & give businesses the opportunity to survive.

Additional Information:

If the purpose of local lockdowns is to reduce movement, it is having the opposite effect. Examples:

A rural pub in south Powys, separated from the rest of Powys by mountains & valleys, where both roads out lead into different lockdown counties. So even though not locked down, all trade has been removed.

Ystalyfera & Ystradgynlais communities are so intertwined that businesses face losing 50% of their custom whichever side of the border they fall.

Residents of Hirwaun unable to drive 6 miles to return items in Merthyr Tydfil Marks & Spencer, but ok to travel 26 miles to the Llantrisant store, despite never visiting Llantrisant before.

Children taken to school in Glynneath, but parents can't stop in that town to support the local economy, they need to drive another 10 miles to Ystradgynlais before a 14 mile return journey home.

In Pontneddfechan, half the village is in Powys half in NPT. Forcing people OUT of their usual areas can't possibly be effective at reducing Covid spread.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Brecon and Radnorshire
- Mid and West Wales



Ein cyf/Our ref: FM -/01596/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair of Petitions Committee
Senedd

Petitions@senedd.wales

29 October 2020

Dear Chair

I am writing in response to your letter of 2 October in relation to the petition to adapt the local lockdown message to “stay local”.

During September and the early part of October, local health protection areas (LHPA) were introduced in areas of Wales where cases of coronavirus rose rapidly as a means of protecting people’s health and controlling the spread of the virus.

The local restrictions were two-fold – people were not allowed to enter or to leave an LHPA without a reasonable excuse and they were not able to gather/meet indoors with people they did not live with. The ability to form extended households was suspended for everyone in LHPAs with an exception for single adults living alone and single parents.

These local restrictions have helped to constrain the growth of the virus in Wales. However, in line with the very clear advice from our medical and scientific advisers, these local restrictions have been replaced by the two-week firebreak period, which started on 23 October and will end on 9 November.

This firebreak period is designed to bring coronavirus under control in Wales, prevent the NHS from becoming overwhelmed and save lives.

A new set of measures to control coronavirus will come into force after the firebreak ends.

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.

Agenda Item 2.2

P-05-1039 Allow amateur athletes within a lockdown area to continue to train and be coached outside of the area

This petition was submitted by Kelly Brookin having collected a total of 176 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Deeside ice rink is currently being used as a field hospital resulting in our skaters having to travel to Widnes ice rink as it's our nearest rink. Local lockdown rules now prevent them from training as they can't travel out of the area. For the majority of sports, facilities are still available within the lockdown area but for Ice Skating this is not the case. Not allowing these skaters to train can have a detrimental impact on their physical and mental well being.

Additional Information:

There is also a negative impact for the ice skating coaches as they can travel for work purposes but will have a loss of income due to their pupils not being able to travel for lessons.

Please let not having a facility to train be a reasonable excuse for them to travel for sports

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Alyn and Deeside
- North Wales



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1039
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/02696/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

28 October 2020

Dear Janet

Thank you for your correspondence of 9 October, on behalf of your constituent, regarding the Petition P-05-1039 to allow amateur athletes within a lockdown area to train and be coached outside of the area.

Further to the First Minister's announcement on 19 October, people in Wales will be required to stay at home between 23 October and 9 November to help regain control of coronavirus. Frequently Asked Questions relating to the firebreak can be found [here](#). As outlined in the FAQ, only professional athletes have a reasonable excuse to leave home to train or compete during the firebreak as the regulations allow people to work.

The fortnight-long action is needed to save lives and prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed. Cases of coronavirus have been rising sharply in Wales as the virus has woken up for winter. While the national and local measures put in place across Wales have helped to keep that spread under check, there is a growing consensus that additional action is now needed. Considerations have had to be made around the cumulative impact of all the actions we might make. It is the combined impact of numerous activities which makes the difference, not the risk posed by any one activity.

Following the end of the firebreak, a new set of national rules will be introduced, covering how people can meet and how the public sector and businesses will operate. We fully recognise the enormous efforts the Welsh public and businesses have made to keep Wales safe.

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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.

I hope this information is helpful

Yours sincerely,

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

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

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

Agenda Item 2.3

P-05-1042 Support SMEs in hair and beauty industry during local lockdowns

This petition was submitted by Charlotte Louise Griffiths having collected a total of 1,070 signatures.

Text of Petition:

We SMEs are heavily impacted by local lockdowns.

By preventing clients from entering a contained and sanitary space (covid compliant as per Welsh Gov guidelines) you are hindering our client bases from visiting.

This has a detrimental effect on our businesses which if continued will be catastrophic.

Additional Information:

We in the hair and beauty industry are safe

We check temperatures.

We adhere to full PPE.

We ensure a one in one out appointment system.

Despite this local lockdowns are reducing our client bases up to 80%.

We still have full utilities, salaries and rents to pay.

We are allowed to enter a clients home in a lockdown area which is not safe according to PHW but they are not allowed to enter our salons.

We need the Welsh Government to recognise us as a safe and regulated industry.

We have as an industry worked hard to ensure our salons are safe , compliant, sanitary and safe for the public to enter.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff South and Penarth
- South Wales Central

Support for small and medium-sized enterprises in the hair and beauty during local lockdowns

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 17 Tachwedd 2020
Petitions Committee | 17 November 2020

Reference: RS20/14409-3

Petition Number: P-05-1042

Petition title: Support SMEs in hair and beauty industry during local lockdowns

Text of petition: We SMEs are heavily impacted by local lockdowns.

By preventing clients from entering a contained and sanitary space (covid compliant as per Welsh Gov guidelines) you are hindering our client bases from visiting.

This has a detrimental effect on our businesses which if continued will be catastrophic.

We in the hair and beauty industry are safe

We check temperatures.

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We ensure a one in one out appointment system.

Despite this local lockdowns are reducing our client bases up to 80%.

We still have full utilities, salaries and rents to pay.

We are allowed to enter a clients home in a lockdown area which is not safe according to PHW but they are not allowed to enter our salons.

We need the Welsh Government to recognise us as a safe and regulated industry.



We have as an industry worked hard to ensure our salons are safe, compliant, sanitary and safe for the public to enter.

1. Background

During the local lockdowns, the Welsh Government allowed hair and beauty salons to remain open, although customers were advised to only attend them within their local authority area. As an example of this, the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document for the Caerphilly local authority stated that:

Are hairdressers, beauty salons and other close contact services still allowed to be open?

Yes, although you should only attend these within the area. You will need to wear a face covering.

Subsequently, hair and beauty businesses were among those required to close during the firebreak lockdown under [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus Restrictions\) \(No. 3\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020](#).

From 9 November they will be able to reopen, and this is the case for both salons and mobile hairdressers and beauticians. As with previous reopening, this will be subject to businesses taking [all reasonable measures](#) to minimise the risk of exposure to coronavirus. Also as previously, there is strong public health advice against undertaking some form of treatments due to close facial contact, and the Welsh Government advises that they should not take place unless appropriate training has been undertaken and suitable protective equipment can be worn.

The National Hair and Beauty Federation (NHBF), which is the trade body for the hair and beauty sector, [wrote to](#) the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales on 30 September. In the letter the NHBF set out the issues facing the sector in Wales as a result of the pandemic:

- Almost three in four salons and barbershops report business as down compared to the same period last year (73%).

- Two thirds expect business to remain slow based on their forthcoming bookings for the next three months with 29% genuinely worried about how little business they have coming up.
- Over a third do not know if their business will survive until Christmas (36%).
- Whilst not many have yet made redundancies, almost one in four expect to cut staff in the next three months with 43% unable to guarantee job security.
- Staff hours have had to be reduced to mitigate current business levels (39% across hair and beauty rising to almost half (46%) of beauty businesses).

2. Welsh Government action

The Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales wrote to the Committee on 26 October regarding the petition. In his letter he highlights the £300 million funding made available by the Welsh Government, of which £200 million was to support businesses affected by the firebreak lockdown and previous local lockdown measures, and £100 million for business development grants.

The Welsh Government established the Lockdown Business Fund for businesses affected by local lockdowns and the firebreak lockdown. This provides support to a range of businesses, including those from the hair and beauty sector.

The **Lockdown Non Domestic Rate Grant** consists of two grants that are payable to businesses with premises for which they are liable for business rates.

- **Retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with a rateable value of £12,001 to £51,000** who were legally required to close for the firebreak lockdown are eligible for a grant of £5,000.
- **Businesses who are eligible for Small Business Rate Relief, charitable relief or Community Amateur Sports Club relief with a rateable value of up to £12,000** will be eligible for a grant of £1,000. They will also be entitled to a further grant of £1,000 if they were subject to local lockdown restrictions for 3 or more weeks prior to 23 October, and have seen a reduction in turnover of this period of at least 50%. In addition, these businesses will be eligible for a grant of £2,000 if they were legally required to close for the firebreak lockdown under the coronavirus regulations.

The **Lockdown Discretionary Grant** has two separate elements, and is for businesses with fewer than 50 employees that do not qualify for the grants provided to businesses who are liable for business rates. People who receive this grant cannot receive the one for businesses who are liable for business rates, and vice versa.

- Businesses who have **either been legally required to close for the firebreak lockdown under the coronavirus regulations or can demonstrate that the firebreak lockdown will reduce their turnover by at least 80% over this period** can apply for a grant of £1,500.
- **Businesses who meet the above criteria, and have also been subject to local lockdown restrictions for 3 or more weeks prior to 23 October and seen a reduction in turnover over this period of at least 50%**, will be able to apply for a grant of £2,000.

In addition, the Welsh Government provided £100 million for **business development grants to support firms to transition to the future economy**, although access to these grants is currently suspended while the Welsh Government processes applications received.

- **Micro businesses (employing between 1 and 9 people) were able to apply for up to £10,000. Tourism and hospitality businesses, and those in sectors legally required to close during the firebreak lockdown (such as hair and beauty) were able to receive 100% grant funding.** Businesses in other sectors need to match grant funding received with their own investment of at least 10%.
- **SMEs (employing between 10 and 249 people) were able to apply for up to £150,000. Tourism and hospitality businesses, and those in sectors legally required to close during the firebreak lockdown (such as hair and beauty) were able to receive 100% grant funding.** Businesses in other sectors need to match grant funding received with their own investment of at least 10% for small businesses (1 to 49 staff) and 20% for medium sized (50 to 249) businesses.
- **Large businesses (employing 250+ people) were able to apply for up to £200,000 on the condition they match this with their own investment of at least 50%.**

The Minister's letter to the Committee also refers to the UK Government's support measures. Since then, the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furlough) has been extended until 31 March 2021, and the amount of support available through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme has increased.

3. Welsh Parliament action

The Senedd's Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee took oral evidence from the NHBF on 7 October, as part of its inquiry into economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. In a written submission and oral evidence the NHBF called for the Welsh Government to introduce a number of additional measures to support the hair and beauty sector, including:

- Extending the 100% **business rate relief** available for many businesses in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors;
- Provide one-off **hardship grants** to sectors that have been heavily affected by the pandemic;
- Create a dedicated **reskilling and retraining fund** for the hair and beauty sector, and increased funding for **apprenticeships**;
- Greater **support for businesses that have missed out on existing schemes**; and
- A **voucher scheme** to support businesses in sectors located on high streets.

During an evidence session of the Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister on 22 October, **the First Minister was questioned about the need for additional financial support for foundational economic sectors such as hair and beauty, tourism and hospitality**. The First Minister responded that:

We've invested over £90 million already in the foundational aspects of our economy, whether that is in tourism, hospitality or sectors like beauty and hairdressing and so on. Those firms and companies will be, in many, many cases directly eligible for the non-discretionary part, the automatic grants that will come as part of our plan. But the discretionary part—the discretionary £2,000 top-up grants, for example—will be able to be calibrated to respond to any gaps in funding that emerge over not just the firebreak period, but as we go further into the winter as well.

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 KS/06099/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

26 October 2020

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter dated 9 October regarding supporting for SMEs in the hair and beauty industry during local lockdowns.

The Welsh Government recognises the incredibly difficult and uncertain circumstances currently being experienced by businesses and individuals. We are absolutely committed to providing the support and assurance the business community needs.

Local restrictions were introduced following discussions with the local authority, public health experts, police and NHS in response to a rapid increase in cases of coronavirus. They were in place to help reduce the spread of the virus and to protect people's health.

As you are aware we have since made the decision to introduce a short, sharp, shock to slow down the virus and buy us more time – a national fire break will be in place from 6pm on Friday 23 October and end on Monday 9 November

With coronavirus spreading rapidly in every part of Wales we need to act now, before it continues to accelerate and our NHS is overwhelmed. It will apply to everyone living in Wales and will replace the local restrictions which are in force in some parts of the country.

In response to the imminent national fire-break and in line with our principles of providing further support, we have created an enhanced Phase 3 of the Wales-only Economic Resilience Fund - almost £300m to support businesses affected by the fire-break and previous local lockdown measures.

The £80m Business Grants we announced on 28 September will be increased to £100m, which includes £20m ring-fenced for tourism and hospitality.

We know businesses will need support quickly. The eligibility checker for companies to find out if they can access funding for the Business Development Fund is now live. The Fund will be open for applications from the week commencing 26 October and remain open for four weeks (depending on levels of demand).

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.

<https://gov.wales/economic-resilience-fund-find-out-if-your-business-eligible-support-third-phase>

Further information on the other grants which will be delivered by local authorities will be made available shortly on the Business Wales website and thereafter on the websites of individual local authorities.

All businesses required to close should also be able to access the support available from the UK Government – through the existing Job Retention Scheme or the new expanded Job Support Scheme.

However, we understand the real challenge this overlap presents for businesses and we are in dialogue with the UK Government's Treasury to resolve anomalies as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken', is 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

Agenda Item 2.4

P-05-1055 Cancel GCSE and A level examinations

This petition was submitted by Bethan Hellard having collected a total of 2,088 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Students throughout Wales have suffered enough strain on their education without the added pressure of self-isolation within year groups. Covid should not provide an added stress to pupils worrying about their future exams or university entries. Teachers that have been tracking our progress throughout the year should be held responsible for our end of year grades as they know our mental capacity best. It should not be down to unprecedented examinations.

Additional Information:

A student in a local college has had to self-isolate on 4 separate occasions due to members of her class testing positive for Covid. Meaning 2 months have been missed from her education. Yet she at current is still expected to sit examinations for a situation out of her control.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Brecon and Radnorshire
- Mid and West Wales

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1055
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/06017/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

27 October 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 19 October regarding Petition P-05-1055 - Cancel GCSE and A level examinations which you have received.

I recognise that the continuing disruption caused by COVID-19, in particular national and local lockdowns and self-isolation following positive cases in schools and colleges, is increasing anxiety about arrangements for this summer's exams. In light of this I have asked Qualifications Wales to provide me with further advice on the options available, with a clear focus on deliverability and equality in any approach. I have requested this advice before the end of October so that I can consider it alongside the interim findings of the independent review which are due to be published at the end of this month.

As you will be aware, the independent review chaired by Louise Casella, is looking at key issues that have emerged from the arrangements which were put in place for this summer's exams, and the challenges resulting from the 2020 experience, in order to provide recommendations for approaches to qualifications in 2021.

Whilst I had originally made a commitment to announcing the approach that would be taken towards qualifications in 2021, in light of the fire-break announcement I have taken a decision to postpone this announcement until 10 November when learners are back in school and college and will have support from their teachers.

This work is in addition, to [the adaptations](#) that have already been made by WJEC to take into account the disruption to teaching and learning, details of which are available on WJEC's website. Teachers from across Wales were engaged in the development of these adaptations. They have been made to allow schools the flexibility to priorities learning in these difficult times whilst ensuring that the validity of qualifications is maintained for all learners.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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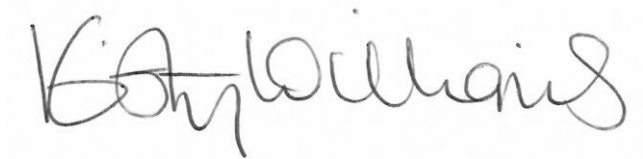
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

My overriding priority for learners in exam cohorts is to ensure that they have the knowledge, skills and confidence to progress into further or higher education or into employment. To further support learners, the Welsh Government is investing £50 million in a package of support, this includes the [Recruit, Recover and Raise Standards programme](#), and investment in the A-level revision plan. This will mean a new mentoring and revision support programme for all learners in Years 10, 11, and 12, and 13 in schools and colleges will be available. Alongside this, we will be providing a further £1.2 million to support the development of new high-quality revision resources for GCSE students.

Alongside the work to consider the best approach to qualifications in 2021, given the continued disruption, these measures provide a broad package of support to enable learners in exam years to develop the knowledge and experience they need to progress confidently in their next steps.

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-05-1055 Cancel GCSE and A level examinations, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 10.11.20

Bethan Amy Hellard-Gair

29 October 2020

Petition ref P-05-1055

Titled "Cancel GCSE and A level examinations"

Dear Petitions Committee,

I really appreciate you taking your time to listen to our pupil voice. As a Welsh student I have been very impressed with how the Welsh Government have proactively dealt with the Coronavirus pandemic in keeping us safe. As a member of the Welsh student body I can relay the pupil voice from a unique perspective. I have canvassed the student body opinion so I better represent the students response. We greatly appreciate our opinions being listened to in this way.

What are your thoughts on the attached document?

We were very pleased when we received a response from Kirsty Williams. Within the document the £50 million investment including the Recruit, Recover and Raise Standards Programme was mentioned alongside an A-level revision plan. We do not feel that this would equally benefit all learners. Revision for exams is something that is unique to every individual and these resources therefore cannot be guaranteed to aid every student. The £50 million invested by the government could be used to improve student wellbeing during these unprecedented times. The financial support from the government could be used to further schools in supporting their students. Another £1.2 million was proposed by Kirsty Williams to support GCSE students, once again the development of new "high-quality revision resources" may not suit all learners and this would again provide a fairness issue. The letter provided by Kirsty Williams indicated no timescale as to when these pending revision resources would be accessible to students and this again causes more worry. Students and teachers alike are already feeling the time pressure and so these resources could not come fast enough. This makes us question the quality of the revisions resources if the time scale they must be provided in will be so small.

As well as this, Kirsty Williams mentioned the adaptations that have already been made to the WJEC. I have consulted with many of my peers and we are only aware of few adaptations made. The WJEC website clearly states that "qualifications will be adapted for assessment in 2021," however reducing content at this point would be a challenge as many schools over Wales have started their own study. Different teachers may have begun at varying points meaning reducing content may prove disadvantageous to some schools making the validity of examinations void.

Does it adequately address the issues you raised?

As a pupil body we do not believe that the letter provided by Kirsty Williams clearly represents the petition put forward. We believe that within this letter Kirsty Williams has not recognised the mental health impact the current situation has had on young people suffering from stress and loneliness. For students suffering with possible anxiety or depression, Covid-19 has had a dramatic tole on their mental health and yet they are still expected to tackle the challenge of examinations. The uncertainty surrounding the upcoming summer 2021 is draining for all

pupils. We do not believe that our student wellbeing is being considered when making vital decisions concerning our own futures. Many students over Wales have had to self isolate when a member of their class have received a positive coronavirus test result. Had a student been in two incidents of a positive test, 1 month of learning would have been missed from that student's education. It is simply not fair expecting them to sit an exam in which their peers have had an extra month of education. This puts students in high risk areas such as Merthyr Tydfil at an extreme disadvantage having to self isolate more frequently than others.

Alongside this, Kirsty Williams fails to recognise the difficulties that have been caused by working virtually throughout Wales. As I'm sure you are aware Wales is home to many remote communities that lack access to quality wifi provision. Funding has been provided to some schools to allow every student to have access to a laptop to aid with this blended learning, but with connection issues there is no solution for every student. Not all students are currently accessing the same resources and this demonstrates the disparity of this academic year. It has always been the message that exams are the best way to ensure every student is assessed as equally as possible, and under normal circumstances this is the case. Exams are used to ensure fairness for all participants whilst testing their knowledge. This year the fairness among all Welsh students simply wouldn't be possible.

Do you have any further questions in response?

Please See Below

Is there anything additional that you would like the committee to know at this stage, either in response to this document or as an update to the committee?

Please See Below

LEADERSHIP

This year we have seen exceptional leadership demonstrated by the Welsh Government facing the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic. As a government you have the moral obligation to do what's right for your people. You had the opportunity to issue our predicted grades and you did so saving the future for many year 11 and 13 students applying for college and university. It was such a beneficial impact on last years qualifications and you have the chance to make another positive difference in this coming academic year. As a team, you have the ability to do what is in the best interest of your students.

As leaders, what are you prepared to do now?

CLARITY OF COMMUNICATION

Overall communicating what is expected of us as students this year hasn't been very successful. Many students have been left in the dark about their impending examinations which leads to increased levels of anxiety and stress. As well as this, university have refused to delay deadlines for UCAS applications despite being deprived of open day experiences. This creates even more pressure and tension for students anxious about their future. Uncertainty leads to anxiety for students and clarity from the government creates potential for us to succeed. Welsh students need all the clarity they can get in a short space of time to reduce anxiety and increase confidence in their work. The uncertainty of an exam is concerning for most and this is why other options would provide a much more reliable way of testing.

How are you going to ensure clarity of communication?

LACK OF PARITY

Likewise, there is no set way to decide whether a student in Wrexham or Anglesey has received the same level of education as a student in Powys or Rhondda Cynon Taff right now. Due to this fact the theory of examinations is simply unarguable. There is no parity and this raises serious concerns with the upcoming exams. All schools are responding in their own individual way and this means they should be the holders of their own fate.

What do you intend to do to ensure parity?

OUR SOLUTION

The title 'Cancel GCSE and A level examinations' must be troubling for the Welsh Government, however, we are not asking for a GCSE or A level to be handed to us due to pity. We are proposing that our coursework is given a higher weighting so that we can better control our educational performance. We haven't had enough face to face teacher contact to feel confident walking into an exam hall. The government should consider creating a system that will allow fair grades to be awarded in summer 2021. In addition to this, we propose teacher assessed examinations should be used as reference for our end of year grades. To improve the validity we believe the school districts could help each other by marking each other's test papers. This would decrease the chance of favouritism or heightened predicted grades.

Yours Faithfully,

Bethan Amy Hellard-Gair



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE **Approach to General Qualifications 2021**

DATE **10 November 2021**

BY **Kirsty William, AS for Education**

It is my intention to direct Qualifications Wales that there should be no end of year exams for Qualifications Wales approved GCSE, AS and A level qualifications in 2021. This is in line with the recommendations of both Qualifications Wales and the Independent Review.

The primary reason for my decision is down to fairness; the time learners will spend in schools and colleges will vary hugely and, in this situation, it is impossible to guarantee a level playing field for exams to take place.

- Instead of exams, we intend to work with teachers to take forward teacher-managed assessments.
- These should include assessments that will be externally set and marked, but delivered within a classroom environment under teacher supervision.
- My expectation is that these will form the basis for centre-based outcomes, which will be linked to an agreed national approach to provide consistency across Wales.

I will be delivering an Oral Statement to members later today, where I will provide more details and give Members of the Senedd the opportunity to ask questions. I have also sent a letter to all secondary schools and colleges informing them of my decision.

Agenda Item 2.5

P-05-1065 Re-opening schools for year 11 pupils rather than year 8, from 2nd November onwards

This petition was submitted by Cai White having collected a total of 63 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Ms. Kirsty Williams, the Minister for Education, announced that years 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 will have to work from home and I believe that this decision is a poor one, as they will have to sit their GCSEs in May.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Preseli Pembrokeshire
- Mid and West Wales

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1065
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/06244/20
Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Member of the Senedd
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

2 November 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Petitions Committee, seeking views on the issues raised in Petition P-05-1065, regarding opening schools for year 11 pupils from 2nd November, before your formal consideration.

When I announced that schools would re-open for all learners from 14 September I was clear that children and young people had already lost 6 months of face-to-face learning, and that any future disruption to their education needs to be kept to a minimum. As a Government we have said repeatedly that children would be our top priority if further restrictions are needed, and that education must continue. However, as the virus has taken hold we recognise a firebreak is essential if we are to slow the R rate down and so difficult decisions have had to be made. Of course I want to see all schools and colleges open to all learners, but we have a small window of opportunity to act. A “fire-break” must be a swift and short-term period of simple but extreme restrictions across the whole of Wales to significantly reduce the prevalence of the virus in Wales. The First Minister and I remain committed to our top priority; to keep schools open for as long as possible, so I assure you decisions have not been taken lightly.

We cannot ignore the advice of SAGE in the TAC report and their recommendation that a package of intervention is needed to prevent an exponential rise in cases, and that single interventions are unlikely to be able to reduce incidence. Equally, we note the advice from SAGE that the role of children in transmission is limited. Both opening and closing schools will impact on community transmission (e.g. by changing the activities of a large number of adults), that is why we have taken the balanced decision that we have.

Given the need for a fire break, and in balancing the scientific and medical advice, we have decided that those in primary school, special schools and year 7 and 8 pupils, along with

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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.

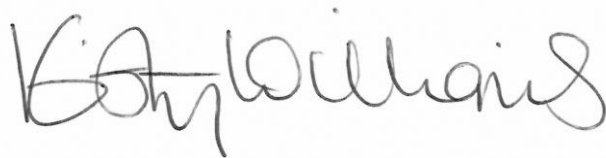
those sitting exams during that week, will receive face-to-face learning. Those learners in year 9 -13 will not miss out on their education during the second week of the fire break, they will continue to receive their education but this will be done through blended learning. These year groups have the ability to undertake self-directed learning, and they will be supported for the week by their teachers who will be in the classroom. For older learners, the online learning over the week will also provide a dedicated catch-up time to reflect on learning so far, ahead of the rest of the year. As older learners are also more likely to be mixing socially outside of school, for this one week they need to stay at home to support the national effort.

I do however fully appreciate these are extremely difficult times, and that learners and their families will be anxious about their futures, especially following the learning that has been lost in the summer term and during self-isolation periods.

I have stressed how vital it is that the impact of the firebreak on education will last for just one week. The firebreak is for the shortest period we can make it, but along with all other sectors, we have to play our part for it be sharp and deep and have maximum impact on the virus. Restricting the numbers of pupils in schools temporarily is our contribution to this wider, national effort. However, we will do everything we can to maximise education, minimise disruption and keep Wales learning. Schools have learnt lessons from the first lockdown, and able to put arrangements in place in case of disrupted learning.

We have been clear that to be successful we need everyone's help. Here in Wales, this is the moment to come together; to play our part in a common endeavour to once again protect the NHS and save lives. This will not be easy but we will do it together.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'.

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

Agenda Item 2.6

P-05-1032 Legislate to prevent people from changing Welsh house names

This petition was submitted by Robin Aled Davies having collected a total of 18,103 signatures.

Text of Petition:

There is a pattern throughout Wales where new owners are changing their house names into English.

Additional Information:

There is no need to go far to find the evidence!

Little by little, the country is losing its heritage.

This must be stopped for the sake of future generations, whatever their language.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Clwyd West
- North Wales

Legislate to prevent people from changing Welsh house names

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 17 Tachwedd 2020
Petitions Committee | 17 November 2020

Reference: RS20/14079-4

Petition Number: P-05-1032

Petition title: Legislate to prevent people from changing Welsh house names.

Text of petition: There is a pattern throughout Wales where new owners are changing their house names into English.

- There is no need to go far to find the evidence!
- Little by little, the country is losing its heritage.
- This must be stopped for the sake of future generations, whatever their language.



1. Context

There is currently no specific legislation prohibiting individuals from renaming their property in Wales. However, there are some specific procedures, policies and guidance that individuals considering renaming their property should follow. The responsibility for such matters rests with local authorities.

The debate around whether action is required to prevent people from changing Welsh place-names and property names to English is not new. However, the discourse around the issue has gathered momentum in recent years, with an increasing perception among many that Welsh history, culture and language is gradually being eroded. In 2015, for example, [Anglesey Council](#) unanimously approved a motion calling on the Welsh Government to significantly strengthen local authorities' powers to protect Welsh historical names. More recently, well known broadcasters, including Huw Edwards and Tudur Owen, and a number of politicians have also been active in the debate on social media platforms, as reported in this [BBC Wales news article in July](#) (accessed 14.10.2020).

Among the recent examples of Welsh place-names being 'anglicised' are Porth Tre Castell in Anglesey, often being referred to as 'Cable Bay', and Llyn Bochlwyd in Snowdonia, which is often referred to as 'Lake Australia'.

There are also examples of properties being given new English names or promoted as such. Faerdre Fach farm in Llandysul is one well known example, now promoted as 'Happy Donkey Hill'. Another, more recent example is *Traeth Bychan Heights* luxury holiday complex being developed in Anglesey. This property appears on the [List of Historic Welsh Place Names](#) as *Glyn-Llifon*, dating back to the 19th Century. Following concerns raised locally about the name-change, the company behind the development has [reportedly confirmed the historical name Glyn-Llifon will be preserved](#) (BBC Wales article accessed 14.10.2020).

2. Background

2.1. Public Health Act 1925

[Sections 17-19 of The Public Health Act 1925](#) gives local authorities statutory responsibility for the naming of streets and alterations to street names and house numbers. Local authorities are also responsible for providing and maintaining the

definitive address database, known as the [National Land & Property Gazetteer](#). When new properties and streets are developed, they should be included in this database as soon as possible and always before the building is completed.

The legislation does not extend to the naming of properties, but as local street naming authorities, local authorities are responsible for ensuring the property address is 'official'. Failure to do so could cause issues for the property owner as the address may not be recognised by the Royal Mail, delivery companies and utility companies. Difficulties may also arise in relation to registration for voting, and emergency services may experience difficulties in locating the address in the event of an emergency.

Most local authorities will have a designated webpage with guidance and procedures for changing the name of a property in their area. Local authorities may also provide online application forms and details regarding the costs involved. [Cardiff Council](#) and [Flintshire Council](#) websites are included as examples. Some local authorities, such as [Ceredigion Council](#) and [Gwynedd Council](#) provide additional guidance in order to encourage home owners to use Welsh names on their properties, however, this is not compulsory.

2.2. The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016

[Section 34 of the Historic Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#) makes provision for the Welsh Ministers to 'compile and maintain a list of historic place names in Wales'. This work has been undertaken by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales on behalf of the Welsh Ministers.

3. Senedd Action

In January 2017, Dai Lloyd MS won the ballot to propose a Member's Bill: [Development of the Protection of Welsh Historical Place Names Bill](#). Dai Lloyd MS provided the following [Explanatory Memorandum \(PDF 195KB\)](#) prior to the [Plenary debate](#), which was held on the 15 March 2017.

The Welsh Government did not support the Bill, and it did not receive leave to proceed.

As part of its 2017 inquiry into the [Historic Environment](#), the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee considered the List of Historic Place Names of Wales. It stated that the Welsh Government should keep the matter

under “active review and should be willing to introduce further protection for historic place names if the current list does not prove effective”.

A [petition calling on the Senedd to protect and promote Welsh place-names](#) was submitted in 2018. The specific action the petitioner called for was:

Old Welsh place names/building names should be protected by law; and new developments should have a mandatory Welsh name in order to preserve our unique culture and language.

In June 2020, the Petitions Committee considered a similar petition calling on the Senedd to [take action in order to revert to Welsh language spellings of place-names](#). The specific action the petitioner called for was:

to take action and change these Anglicised forms of Welsh names – throughout Wales – and restore their original Welsh spellings.

Places such as Trevor (from Welsh Trefor) near Wrexham are not only undermining, but obscure the etymologies of such names! This is surely unacceptable.

4. Welsh Government action

Following the petition in 2018 to protect and promote Welsh place-names, the Welsh Government [outlined its activity in this area](#) (PDF 198KB) in response to the petition. It noted that, following the passing of the [Historic Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#), the Welsh Government has introduced a statutory list of historic place names. It states:

Statutory guidance requires local and National Park authorities and Natural Resources Wales to take account of the list when their functions involve naming or renaming places. This includes the naming or renaming of streets, properties and other places, either directly or by another party. The intention is that the operation of the list and the statutory guidance together will lead to a reduction in the number of formal changes to historic property names.

However, the Welsh Government noted:

...these measures stop short of providing formal protection for historic place names. Detailed consideration was given to providing statutory protection for historic place names during the development of the 2016

Act, when a number of representations similar to the current petition were made. However a number of significant issues, including enforcement, potential additional burdens on local authorities and human rights, militated against it.

In its response to the petition submitted in 2020 on reverting to Welsh place-names, the Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language (at the time) (PDF 266KB) stated that:

The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2019 also places a duty upon the Welsh Ministers to 'compile and maintain a list of historic place names in Wales'. The List of Historic Place Names of Wales is maintained on our behalf by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. It now contains nearly 700,000 entries, but it is a dynamic resource and will continue to grow. It is a valuable resource for tracing the changing forms of Welsh settlement names for it aims to record any historic place names that can be confidently geo-located prior to 1919. The list can be found here:

<https://historicplacenames.rcahmw.gov.uk/>

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-05-1032
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/00623/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Member of the Senedd
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

30 October 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter concerning Welsh house names. This is a topic that I have a particular interest in, and I understand that when a name, such as a house name, is changed, it can feel like losing something intrinsic to the local community. As a government, we are aware of the concerns surrounding the displacement of Welsh names, and we are taking steps to attempt to safeguard them.

I feel it is important to recognise that when we speak of 'place names' we are speaking about something very broad and complex, with different contexts calling for different solutions. Generally speaking these can be broken down into three layers:

- settlement names
- topographical features and historic names
- house names.

Below I have tried to set out the current approach in relation to these different type of place names in Wales.

Settlement names

In the case of settlement names (i.e. the names of cities, towns and villages), the Welsh language standards relating to signage places a duty on local authorities not to treat the Welsh language less favourably than English. In practice, this means that Welsh place names, where they exist, must be placed on all road signs and other materials for which local authorities are responsible, with the effect of normalising those names through their presence in visually prominent positions, and ensuring they are not displaced.

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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.

The Welsh Language Commissioner is also responsible for providing advice to individuals and organisations of all kinds on the standardised forms of place names in Wales. The Commissioner's List of Standardised Welsh Place-names is an on-line resource, which can be searched or downloaded to find the standardised names of villages, towns and cities in Wales. The list can be found via this link:

<http://www.comisiynyddygybraeg.cymru/english/commissioner/placenames/pages/search.aspx>

Topographical features and historic names

Regarding prominent topographical features, I am strongly of the opinion that Welsh names are key as we market Wales to tourists from all parts of the world. The Welsh Government is committed to developing the role of Welsh in technological developments such as on-line maps as a way to ensure names for topographical features continue to be used and are not displaced.

Names for topographical and historic features are also an important part of our heritage, of course, and their significance was recognised in the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The Act recognises the importance of historic place names by requiring the Welsh Ministers to compile and maintain a list of historic place names in Wales. This is the only statutory record of historic place names in the United Kingdom.

The List of Historic Place Names of Wales (<https://historicplacenames.rcahmw.gov.uk/>) is maintained on behalf of the Welsh Ministers by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. It was launched in 2017 and has already doubled in size to contain nearly 700,000 entries. It records names, with alternative forms and spellings, for settlements, properties, thoroughfares, rivers and countless other features of the Welsh landscape from across the centuries.

The list is not just a useful record of place names in the past, but also an important resource to secure their future. One of its central objectives is to raise public awareness of the wealth of historic place names in Wales and their importance as elements of our wider cultural heritage. As people become more conscious of historic place names and their importance, they will, no doubt, value them more highly and continue to use them now and in the future.

The Welsh Government has also published statutory guidance on the use of the List of Historic Place Names for Local Authorities, National Park authorities and Natural Resources Wales. Those public bodies should take account of the list when considering the naming and renaming of properties and places in their care.

Cadw, the Royal Commission and the Welsh Language Commissioner are resuming engagement with local authorities and other bodies — suspended due to Covid-19 — to raise awareness of the complementary resources provided by the List of Historic Places and the Welsh Language Commissioner's Standardised List of Welsh Place-Names for promoting and valuing the place names of Wales.

Furthermore, Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language provides supplementary guidance to Planning Policy Wales. Within the guidance, encouragement is given for the use of traditional Welsh names for new developments and streets.

House names

House names are the most difficult to safeguard of the three types I have mentioned. On the one hand, if a property is only known by its name, owners cannot change that name at a whim. They must apply to their Local Authority, who are responsible for street naming and

numbering. This is to ensure that statutory bodies such as the fire authority, police, ambulance and postal services can identify every property. However there is nothing to prevent a homeowner from putting their own name plaque or sign on a property that is known to these authorities by its street number, as long as they continue to use that street number when referring to their property.

Similarly, an individual can buy a property with a historic name, and attach a new business name to that property without changing the original name of the property itself. The most notorious example — the 14th-century farm in Ceredigion called Faerdre Fach which was named Happy Donkey Hill — is a good example of these difficulties. The public perception is that the property was renamed Happy Donkey Hill, however in reality the farm name remains Faerdre Fach, with the business opened at the property being called Happy Donkey Hill. No formal change of address in fact occurred.

In an attempt to get to grips with this, the statutory guidance on the use of the List of Historic Place Names, referred to above, contains specific directions aimed at local authorities in the discharge of their statutory street naming and numbering functions. It states that local authorities in Wales should have policies on the naming and numbering of streets and properties that recognise the importance of historic place names and encourage their continuing use.

In cases of applications for changes to existing property names, the guidance sets out that authorities will now be expected to check the list of historic place names when processing such applications. If a historic name appears on the list, or if an officer is aware of one from another source, the applicant should be encouraged to retain, or perhaps even adopt, it.

Since the list is easily available online, developers and property owners can be encouraged to consult it themselves before submitting any applications for naming or renaming. For instance, if an application for a new street name disregards a suitable historic name that appears in the list, an authority is asked to bring it to the developer's attention and encourage its use. The List of Historic Place Names' full-time curator is happy to assist developers and local authorities in the selection of appropriate historic names for new developments and streets.

To sum up, it can be seen that options for the safeguarding of names become more complex as we move down from settlement names to house names.

Furthermore, we must be careful not to create a solution with unintended consequences. For instance, according to Gwynedd Council, of 140 notifications of house name changes received during 2019, only six went ahead to change from a Welsh name to an English name. In Ceredigion in 2018-19, 44 applications to give new houses Welsh names were received, and 4 applications to give new houses English names. 10 applications to change a house name from English to Welsh were received, and 2 applications to change a house name from Welsh to English. If our intention is to not only safeguard existing Welsh names, but to encourage more people to use Welsh names for their houses in future, we must be sure that we don't discourage or prevent that from taking place.

We have also seen how local activism and awareness-raising have led to decisions to rename prominent historic locations being reversed. The most well-known example is perhaps Plas Gynllifon, whose developers used the name Wynnborn Mansion as a marketing name. Following strong negative reaction locally and further afield, they announced that they had no plan to change the original name.

Welsh-language place names, Welsh-language names for geographic features, and Welsh names for houses are an important part of our history and culture, not only as evidence that can deepen our understanding and appreciation of historic places and sites, but as a living, breathing part of our modern consciousness as a nation.

The Welsh Government gave serious consideration to introducing legal protection for historic place names during the development of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016. After analysing various options, the conclusion was that such protection would be costly — requiring consent, enforcement and appeal regimes — extremely difficult to enforce and would possibly raise human rights issues with regard to house and property names.

However, we continue to keep our policies under review. We are gathering evidence to inform our consideration of future options, which might include local programmes, public awareness raising or, if necessary, legislation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl, Llesiant a'r Gymraeg
Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language

**P-05-1032 Legislate to prevent people from changing Welsh house names,
Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 10.11.20**

Dear Committee members,

First of all, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the petition that I started.

The impetus for starting the petition in the first instance, was the realisation whilst walking as a family during the Spring during lockdown, realising just how many houses/cottages/farms in our locality have lost their original Welsh place names.

I shared the petition on Twitter and within 48hrs the numbers surpassed the 5000 required by Y Senedd for consideration. The petition continued to grow and incredibly stands at 18,103 today, which I'm told is one of the greatest responses to a petition.

This is proof that this is an emotive subject and close to the hearts of us Welsh.

The letter by Eluned Morgan AS to the Chair of the committee has some very valuable points. I have travelled extensively, my wife is Spanish and I have lived and worked in three other European countries. Within those countries there are similar worries of businesses changing to English names to appeal to the tourists, but generally the place names are safe. The worry is that here in Wales, due to the volume of migration from England (40% of purchases in Gwynedd were second homes last year), we are at a precipice to keep our country's unique heritage. Nowhere is this more pronounced than in the magnificent names our ancestors have given the houses throughout the nation. I am a firm believer in the liberty of the individual, but when a lovely stone cottage within our own village that has its name changed to "Two Hoots" as its on a sharp bend, there has to be a more rigorous system to safeguard its original name. There are ample other examples, one in Porthaethwy re-named "Paddleboard Cottage" being one of the most ridiculed.

This is an objective issue, if we are to be proud of our nation (regardless of whether Welsh or English by tongue) that attracts the World to our breathtaking landscapes, activities and cultural talents it is total madness to change what makes us different.

Could I please ask you all to take this opportunity that has been placed upon you to safeguard these magnificent ancient names for future generations.

Thank you/Diolch yn fawr,

Agenda Item 2.7

P-05-1040 Introduce a moratorium on the approval any new large scale waste incinerators in Wales

This petition was submitted by Amanda Jenner having collected 891 signatures online, and 47 on paper, a total of 938 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Given the effort to become a circular, zero waste economy, Welsh Government should introduce a moratorium on the development of any new waste incinerators, (including energy from waste) & halt the progression of any incinerator planning applications which are at the pre-application/pre-approval stages. Burning waste results in emissions, including Co2 which is not currently restricted under incinerator regs.

Additional Information:

In developing its Circular Waste strategy, it is clear from the consultation responses that respondents to the Welsh Gov consultation felt strongly against incineration:

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2020-09/beyond-recycling-summary-of-responses_1.pdf

As is stated in the above link: "Whilst stakeholders agreed with disincentivising incineration and recognised that an incineration tax may lessen the market for the nonrecycling of waste, it was frequently stated that a tax does not go far enough. In moving towards a circular economy, respondents viewed less waste would be generated and, therefore, the presence of incinerators would be incompatible with the concept."

Given that there are new incinerators in Wales at the pre-application & pre-approval stage, the Welsh Gov should halt the progression of any new incinerator developments, particularly whilst it develops its Circular Waste Strategy which should include consideration of its current incineration capacity.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Montgomeryshire
- Mid and West Wales

P-05-1040 Introduce a moratorium on the approval of any new large scale waste incinerators in Wales

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 17 Tachwedd 2020
Petitions Committee | 17 November 2020

Reference: RS20/14409-1

Petition Number: P-05-1040

Petition title: Introduce a moratorium on the approval of any new large scale waste incinerators in Wales

Text of petition: Given the effort to become a circular, zero waste economy, Welsh Government should introduce a moratorium on the development of any new waste incinerators, (including energy from waste) & halt the progression of any incinerator planning applications which are at the pre-application/pre-approval stages. Burning waste results in emissions, including Co2 which is not currently restricted under incinerator regs.

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https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2020-09/beyond-recycling-summary-of-responses_1.pdf

As is stated in the above link: "Whilst stakeholders agreed with disincentivising incineration and recognised that an incineration tax may lessen the market for the nonrecycling of waste, it was frequently stated that a tax does not go far enough. In moving towards a circular economy, respondents viewed less waste would be generated and, therefore, the presence of incinerators would be incompatible with the concept."



Given that there are new incinerators in Wales at the pre-application & pre-approval stage, the Welsh Gov should halt the progression of any new incinerator developments, particularly whilst it develops its Circular Waste Strategy which should include consideration of its current incineration capacity.

1. Background

1.1. Incineration in Wales

There are currently two incinerators or "energy from waste" plants operating in Wales, with several more in the planning stages. Trident Park, operated by Viridor in Splott, Cardiff, has the capacity to handle 425,000 tonnes of municipal waste a year. The Parc Adfer plant on Deeside became operational at the end of 2019 and aims to process 200,000 tonnes of waste a year from Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd and Anglesey.

1.2. Waste hierarchy and recycling targets

The waste hierarchy ranks waste prevention and management options according to what is best for the environment. It gives top priority to preventing waste in the first place. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for re-use, then recycling, then other recovery (e.g. of energy from waste), and last of all disposal (e.g. landfill/incineration without energy recovery). The waste hierarchy is set out at Article 4 of the *revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)*. The Directive is transposed in Wales by the *Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011*. In 2012 the Welsh Government published *guidance on applying the waste hierarchy*.

The Welsh Government's 2010 waste strategy, *Towards Zero Waste*, set an ambition for Wales to be a zero waste nation by 2050. This target was reiterated in its recent Beyond Recycling consultation (see next section) which stated that Wales must aim for a **100% recycling rate by 2050**. This would mean no waste being sent to landfill or to incinerators. Local authorities have clear statutory responsibilities for collection and disposal of household waste. The Welsh Government set *Statutory Recycling Targets* which local authorities must meet or risk substantial fines. This means that by 2024/25, 70% of municipal waste needs

to be recycled with the remaining (residual) 30% to be dealt with by high efficiency energy from waste plants.

1.3. Legislative powers

Subsection (1) of section 9A of the *Environment Wales Act 2016* provides the Welsh Ministers with a power to make regulations which prohibit or otherwise regulate incineration in Wales of specified types of waste. Such a power may, for example, be used to specify certain types of otherwise recyclable waste material which are not to be incinerated.

1.4. Planning system

Planning applications for electricity generating stations with an installed generating capacity of up to 10 Megawatts (MW) are decided by local planning authorities. Consents for electricity generating stations over 10 MW and under 350 MW (not including onshore wind electricity generating stations which have no upper limit) are considered to be Developments of National Significance (DNS) and are decided by the Welsh Ministers.

Consenting for electricity generating stations over 350 MW (not including onshore wind) is not devolved and is the responsibility of the Secretary of State, via the UK Government's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) process.

In Wales planning decisions are made in the context of policies in the Local Development Plan (LDP) and the Welsh Government's national planning policy, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. LDPs must not be inconsistent with national policy. Welsh Government planning policy can therefore be written to encourage, discourage or prevent certain types of developments.

2. Welsh Government action

2.1. Beyond Recycling consultation

In December 2019, the Welsh Government launched a consultation, Beyond Recycling: A strategy to make the circular economy in Wales a reality. Building on its 2010 waste strategy, *Towards Zero Waste*, the consultation outlined eight headline actions which aim to achieve Wales' target of being a zero waste nation by 2050:

- become the world leader in recycling;
- phase out single-use plastic;
- invest in clean technology for materials collection;
- make more efficient use of our food;
- prioritise the purchasing of wood, remanufactured and recycled content;
- enable communities to take collective action on resource efficiency;
- create the conditions for businesses to seize the opportunities to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient; and
- take full responsibility for our waste.

The consultation made limited reference to incineration. It stated that the Welsh Government would work with the UK Government to explore whether an incineration tax would be desirable as a further means to increase recycling. On the issue of infrastructure, the consultation stated (emphasis added):

As a responsible nation, we are committed to dealing effectively with our nonrecyclable waste in a way which prevents it from either polluting the environment or becoming a problem elsewhere. For this reason we have invested in infrastructure which generates electricity and heat from this material and disposes of it safely to the highest environmental standards. **The long term solution is to move away from nonrecyclable materials that are currently incinerated like single use plastic.**

The summary of responses to the consultation, published in September 2020, outlined respondents' views about incineration. Whilst respondents agreed with disincentivising incineration and recognised that an incineration tax may lessen the market for the nonrecycling of waste, it was frequently stated that a tax does not go far enough. It stated that in moving towards a circular economy, respondents considered that less waste would be generated and, therefore, the presence of incinerators would be incompatible with the concept. Furthermore, in relation to issues of greenhouse gas emissions, air quality and residual ash, respondents argued that the strategy should instead ban or phase out incineration, rather than implementing a tax to reduce its use. Another suggestion was the creation of a road map to phase out incineration.

On 23 October 2020 the Minister for Housing and Local Government, Julie James MS, (the Minister) wrote to the Petitions Committee Chair, Janet Finch-Saunders MS, in relation to this Petition. The letter provides more detail around the planning

process for waste incinerators and stresses that the incineration of waste for heat and power is a “transitional step”:

... The Beyond Recycling consultation on a new circular economy strategy was clear the long-term solution is to keep resources in use for longer and reduce all waste. In the interim there is a need to deal effectively with non-recyclable waste in a way which prevents it from either polluting the environment or sees the problem being exported.

The letter concludes stating that views received during the consultation will be taken into account and the Welsh Government plans to issue a new circular economy strategy by the end of the year.

3. Welsh Parliament action

There have been numerous calls for a moratorium on incinerators in the Senedd over the past two years, including in Plenary - Janet Finch-Saunders MS on 13 October and 6 October 2020; the late Mohamad Ashgar MS in January 2020; Mike Hedges MS in December 2019, June 2019 (both in relation to incineration of non-medical waste) and April 2019; Llŷr Gruffydd MS in November 2019; and Russell George MS in June 2019. Russell George MS also submitted written questions in January 2020 and July 2019.

The Welsh Government’s responses to all of these calls are consistent with the response provided by the Minister in her letter to the Committee Chair dated 23 October 2020.

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 JJ/02642/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

23 October 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 9 October 2020 which includes further information to supplement Petition "P-05-1040 Introduce a moratorium on the approval any new large scale waste incinerators in Wales".

When the Welsh Ministers exercise a precautionary approach towards a certain category of development, notification directions are normally issued which require the referral of such planning applications to them for determination where Local Planning Authorities are minded not to refuse them. Waste to energy incinerators commonly have a generating capacity of above 10MW. As a consequence, planning applications for such developments are considered as Developments of National Significance ("DNS") and are made directly to the Welsh Ministers, not requiring a referral.

Examination of DNS applications is undertaken by a Planning Inspector on behalf of the Welsh Ministers. The Planning Inspectorate operate to ensure a fair process for all parties. Decisions on such applications are made by the Welsh Ministers and there is a statutory requirement to have regard to the development plan, as well as other considerations material to the application. This includes current and extant policy, such as Planning Policy Wales (Edition 10) which sets out the waste policy and supports the decarbonisation pathway established in the Environment Act 2016.

It is vital we take responsibility for the disposal of the waste we generate which cannot be recycled. For this reason, the Welsh Government has invested in the infrastructure to extract electricity and heat from this material and dispose of it safely to the highest environmental standards and in line with the waste hierarchy. This not only ensures the maximum benefit can be extracted from this waste, but also prevents it from becoming a problem elsewhere.

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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 90
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The incineration of waste for heat and power is, however, a transitional step. The Beyond Recycling consultation on a new circular economy strategy was clear the long-term solution is to keep resources in use for longer and reduce all waste. In the interim there is a need to deal effectively with non-recyclable waste in a way which prevents it from either polluting the environment or sees the problem being exported.

The letter makes specific reference to the Beyond Recycling consultation summary. Around 1,000 citizens and stakeholders attended events across the country and submitted responses. The Welsh Government has heard a variety of views and the summary seeks to capture many of these. This will be taken into consideration as part of the development of the final strategy document. The Welsh Government plan to issue a new circular economy strategy by the end of the year.

Yours sincerely,



Julie James AS/MS

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

P-05-1040 Introduce a moratorium on the approval any new large scale waste incinerators in Wales, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 09.11.20

I have seen the Minister's initial response to my petition and I would like to make a number of further comments.

1. Firstly, I would like to urge the Minister and her Deputy Minister to acknowledge that there is growing international scientific concern around incinerators and their environmental impact. The Welsh Government has declared a Climate Emergency and set 2050 as the target to achieve zero carbon. The UK has also signed up to the international Paris Agreement.
2. Incinerators produce high levels of greenhouse gases in the form of Carbon Dioxide (Co2). The quantities depend very much on what is burnt, but research this year by the Environment Agency has found that between 0.7 and 1.7 tonnes of Co2 is generated per tonne of waste incinerated (link to research below). If large amounts of plastic are burnt, this ratio will increase significantly. Incinerator developers refer to incineration as 'green' and 'low carbon'. This is not correct.
3. Incinerator developers argue that incineration is better than landfill. However, this depends very much on what is contained in the waste. It is important to highlight that it is the organic waste in landfill that produces methane. Inorganic waste in landfill, such as plastics, produce neither methane nor carbon dioxide. Furthermore, in Wales we have a good track record. Methane levels are, significantly reduced in Wales in a number of ways. Firstly, Wales successfully recycles a high proportion of its organic waste through separate collections of food waste. This is then recycled into compost. Secondly, landfill sites recover methane and turn it into energy. Thirdly waste is covered to prevent the escape of methane.
4. In the case of incinerators, the emissions of carbon dioxide depend on what is burnt. Unfortunately there is no requirement for these emissions to be restricted and so there is no incentive to reduce Co2 emissions by changing the mix of the waste. A study by Zero Waste Scotland in October 2020 (linked below), commissioned by the Scottish Government, found that Energy From Waste Incinerators can "no longer be considered a Low Carbon Technology". The study found that Energy from Waste plants in Scotland had a carbon intensity of 509g /kWh. The only source of electricity that was higher was coal. As we know, coal fire stations are in the process of being decommissioned. Truly green energy sources create very low levels of carbon (i.e. wind, 20 to 30 g of CO2 per kWh, solar 88 g of CO2 per kWh, hydro 2 to 13 g of CO2 per kWh). The reality is that even Energy from Waste EfW incinerators will soon be the most damaging form of electricity production in terms of greenhouse gases.
5. It should also be said that incinerator developers claim that their EfW facilities will be ready to provide heat. In practice this very rarely happens simply because there are no suitable customers available, sufficiently close at hand for this to be financially viable.
6. Incinerator developers may also argue that the more modern R1 classification incinerators are not environmentally problematic. Again, this argument is being rebutted by scientists across Europe, as has been highlighted by Dr Ingrid Behrsin, a researcher in the fields of waste and renewable energy policy, who states, *"It has become clear that the R1 formula and its subsequent modifications are criticised by not only anti-incineration activists, but member states' technical representatives and career scientists as well. They decry it as explicitly political and economic, rather than an objective scientific formula; economic interests do not necessarily, and often don't, translate into good science."* (Article linked below).

With regard to the Minister's comment that incineration is a "transitional step" in the efforts to become a circular zero waste economy. I'd like to respond as follows:

1. A recent study commissioned by the Welsh Government and carried out by WRAP Cymru (linked below) found that 74.5% of residual Commercial and Industrial waste sent to incineration in Wales could potentially have been recycled.
2. I would like to highlight Wales' "ahead of the game" track record on waste management. Wales achieves high recycling rates and has a target of 70% by 2025. Due to the efforts to become a circular economy (including elimination of waste at source, reuse and recycling increase), waste going to incineration and landfill will reduce over the next 30 years, which will release more and more capacity to existing incinerators.
3. There is a concern that in order for incineration to remain commercially viable, we will see more non-recyclable waste incinerated. Because of this, very careful consideration needs to be given to how much incinerator capacity is required in Wales over the next 30 years. In reality, the operation of already operating incinerators cannot be gradually phased out as the requirement for them diminishes. To be commercially viable, they need to operate at full or close to full capacity.
4. The new breed of incinerators will not be PFI developed in partnership with Welsh Government to process Local Authority waste. Instead they will be fully privately funded facilities that will be free to contract waste from anywhere in the UK. This highlights another concern, that there are private waste incinerators in the pipeline that plan to bring in waste from outside of Wales, in order to ensure they can run at capacity so they are commercially viable. There is a worry that any new incinerators in Wales would increasingly source waste from England and beyond to fill their capacity shortfall. This would be bad for Wales and it would also be bad for England because it would disincentivise recycling and encourage excessive transportation, contrary to the principle of proximity.
5. I would also like to ask the Minister whether waste imported into Wales from England which is subsequently not recycled will increase the amount of total waste not recycled in Wales and impact our strive to meet recycling targets?
6. I refer the Minister to comments made by Professor Ian Boyd, the previous DEFRA Chief Scientist, to the UK Government Environment Committee and his comments and concerns about adding particulate matter to the atmosphere, incineration being worse than modern landfill as well as the economic fragility of incinerators:
<https://www.parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/9c6b4590-5882-4464-a945-29783d4af339>
As highlighted by Professor Ian Boyd, incineration destroys resources forever and breaks the Circular Economy. We know from the WRAP report (referred to above) that a large proportion of what is incinerated could have been recycled at the present time. In the future, as technology improves, there will be an opportunity to recover even more waste materials for recycling. This opportunity will remain if those materials are landfilled but not if they are incinerated.
7. It is important therefore that Wales should carefully assess its diminishing need for future waste incineration capacity and compare this with the capacity that is already available. It may well be that any shortfalls in capacity are short-term only. It would be wrong in these circumstances to make a commitment to additional incinerators, which could result in considerable over capacity in relation to Wales' needs in the medium and long term.

I urge the minister to consider these points and to once again, show that Wales can lead the way on this. A moratorium would provide an opportunity for Wales to reassess both its needs for incineration in the light of all the initiatives it is taking at the upper levels of the waste hierarchy, as well as the environmental impact that incineration is having. In light of the above, if the Minister is still minded to not put in place a Moratorium, I would like to see the detailed reasoning for this.

Finally, please note that in addition to the online signatures, members of my community have also collected physical signatures from residents and I have a further 47 signatures. I am not aware of this petition having been shared nationally, and so I believe that this amount of signatures from a fairly small rural area of Wales, is significant.

RESEARCH LINKS

- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/923125/Pollution-inventory-reporting-incineration-activities-guidance-note.pdf
- <https://www.wrapcymru.org.uk/reports/composition-analysis-commercial-and-industrial-waste-wales>
- <https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/sites/default/files/ZWS%20%282020%29%20CC%20impacts%20of%20incineration%20SUMMARY%20REPORT%20FINAL.pdf>
- <https://www.parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/9c6b4590-5882-4464-a945-29783d4af339>
- <https://www.euractiv.com/section/circular-economy/opinion/waste-incineration-is-waste-incineration-no-matter-the-classification/?fbclid=IwAR1-D5AmRZVhgyjFGpnl4xEobRy66VXmYPupg-bxOBYJKC0aK7J-uCP1pYo>

Agenda Item 2.8

P-05-1044 Set up a Natural History GCSE to help prepare future generations to tackle the threats facing nature

This petition was submitted by Robert Curtis having collected a total of 210 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Our natural world has never faced so many man made challenges and threats. The creation of a Welsh Natural History GCSE is now needed more than ever before. We must give future generations the skills and knowledge, which would enable them to tackle many of these global issues.

Re-engagement with the natural world must become a priority of the Welsh Government. Wales could lead the way in preparing our children with the tools needed to tackle the climate emergency and species extinction crises.

Additional Information:

The call for a Natural History GCSE was first led by Mary Colwell who believed that currently young people in the UK do not engage with nature enough and this impacts on both conservation and wellbeing.

The iconic State of Nature report was a wake up call to everyone that we cannot continue with business as usual. It gave us a stark warning that since 1970 the UK had lost 60% of its wildlife and that Britain was one of the most nature depleted countries in the world.

We must teach young people about the global threats of an expanding population; pesticide and herbicide use; land, water and air pollution; the climate emergency; soil loss; intensive farming vs Organic farming; habitat loss; invasive species; species extinction and biodiversity loss; over fishing; single use plastics; deforestation and so, so much more.

We must teach that our lives today and tomorrow are entwined with having a vibrant, abundant and healthy natural world.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

Natural History GCSE

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 17 Tachwedd 2020
Petitions Committee | 17 November 2020

Reference: RS20/14409

Petition Number: P-05-1044

Petition title: Set up a Natural History GCSE to help prepare future generations to tackle the threats facing nature

Text of petition: Our natural world has never faced so many man made challenges and threats. The creation of a Welsh Natural History GCSE is now needed more than ever before. We must give future generations the skills and knowledge, which would enable them to tackle many of these global issues.

Re-engagement with the natural world must become a priority of the Welsh Government. Wales could lead the way in preparing our children with the tools needed to tackle the climate emergency and species extinction crises.

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The iconic State of Nature report was a wake up call to everyone that we cannot continue with business as usual. It gave us a stark warning that since 1970 the UK had lost 60% of its wildlife and that Britain was one of the most nature depleted countries in the world.

We must teach young people about the global threats of an expanding population; pesticide and herbicide use; land, water and air pollution; the climate emergency; soil loss; intensive farming vs Organic farming; habitat



loss; invasive species; species extinction and biodiversity loss; over fishing; single use plastics; deforestation and so, so much more.

We must teach that our lives today and tomorrow are entwined with having a vibrant, abundant and healthy natural world.

1. New curriculum and qualifications

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 and sets out the four purposes for the new 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 regulator, [Qualifications Wales](#) is currently considering how qualifications for 16 year olds will align with the requirements of the new curriculum. It has recommended [retaining GCSEs](#) and to update the content and assessment of individual GCSEs to meet future needs. The next phase of its consultation will consider the main qualifications that should be available for 16-year-olds to study from 2025 and the design principles for GCSEs in Wales. It will be [consulting on proposals early in 2021](#) and plan to confirm which qualifications are required later in 2021.

2. Position in England

In 2017, a petition in the House of Commons calling for a Natural History GCSE gathered over 10,000 signatures. The UK Government's response was that there are existing opportunities in the curriculum to study natural history and that schools need time to adjust to the recent qualifications reforms. They said that there were no plans to introduce new GCSE subjects. That petition's organiser later approached the examination board, OCR who has since begun developing a GCSE in Natural History.

Between June and July 2020, **OCR undertook a consultation** on what a Natural History GCSE should look like. Any new GCSE needs approval from the Department for Education and Ofqual, the regulatory body in England

A recognised awarding body can apply to have qualifications approved or designated in Wales. The awarding body must create and submit a qualification on the Qualifications in Wales (QiW) [database](#). If an awarding body submits an application for the approval of a qualification that is on the Priority Qualifications List, then Qualifications Wales must consider that application. Qualifications on the list will only be approved if they meet the published approval criteria. Qualifications Wales will consider qualifications that are not on the Priority Qualifications List if there are published approval criteria. However the approval of qualifications that are on the Priority Qualifications List will be of higher priority. If an appropriately recognised awarding body submits an application for the approval of a qualification not on the Priority Qualifications List, it will only be approved if it meets the published approval criteria.

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-05-1044
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05799/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

21 October 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 9 October regarding Petition P-05-1044 - Set up a Natural History GCSE to help prepare future generations to tackle the threats facing nature which you have received.

As you might be aware, at the beginning of the year, the English awarding body, OCR, put forward a proposal to the Department for Education for a new Natural History GCSE qualification. In June, they launched a public consultation and a summary of the consultation findings can be seen here: <https://teach.ocr.org.uk/en/summary-of-findings>. OCR has also produced a [timeline](#) which shows how they are planning to take this work forward. As you can see from this, the work is still at early stages and OCR will need to gain approval from the Department of Education before proceeding any further, it will also require approval from Ofqual.

As you know, Qualifications Wales is the independent regulator of awarding bodies offering qualifications in Wales, including GCSEs, A levels and vocational qualifications. One of their functions is to decide which qualifications can be made eligible for public funding. So if this OCR qualification is approved it may then be available to learners in Wales.

You will also be aware that the Welsh Government has published guidance on the new Curriculum for Wales, which is planned to be introduced into schools from September 2022. The guidance provides a clear statement of what is important in delivering a broad and balanced education. The [four purposes](#) are the shared vision and aspiration for every child and young person. In fulfilling these, we set high expectations for all, promote individual and national well-being, tackle ignorance and misinformation, and encourage critical and civic engagement.

Alongside our work to implement the new curriculum, Qualifications Wales is looking to review and refine qualifications available to 14-16 year old to align with the new curriculum.

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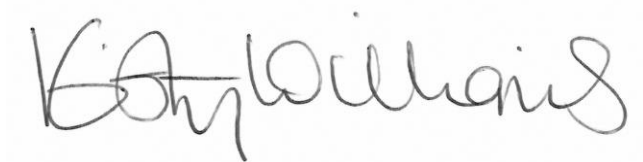
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

Qualifications Wales is currently preparing the second part of their [Qualified for the Future](#) consultation. This will help decided the main qualifications that should be available for 16-year-olds to study from 2025. This is a public consultation and is an opportunity for anyone with an interest in education to have their say and put forward their thoughts. I would encourage Mr Curtis to check the Qualifications Wales website regularly for updates about when the when the consultation will open.

I hope this information will be 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

Agenda Item 3.1

P-05-941 Biodiversity Remit for NRW

This petition was submitted by Initiative for Nature Conservation Cymru (INCC) having collected 873 signatures online and 322 on paper, a total of 1,195 signatures.

Text of Petition

The Initiative for Nature Conservation Cymru (INCC) is calling on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to explicitly include 'Biodiversity' when setting their strategic remit to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) for 2020 / 2021 and in future. Specifically the remit should include:

- NRW will ensure that biodiversity is central to its core purpose of pursuing sustainable management of natural resources by:

1. Working towards an overall improvement in the status of Welsh wildlife and preventing or at least minimising the risk of any further extinctions as a consequence of human activities.
2. Establishing sustainable, bigger and less fragmented areas for wildlife, this should initially focus on the consolidation and extensions to existing National Nature Reserves and other protected areas, followed by the establishment of new areas.
3. Prioritising the need to obtain favourable or recovering status for conservation features on all statutory nature conservation sites (SPAs, SACs, SSSIs and NNRs).
4. Developing and improving an effective network of Marine Protected Areas which are sufficient to ensure the adequate protection of marine life and sustainable fisheries around Wales.
5. Ensure that more people are actively engaged with biodiversity issues, and aware of the significance of biodiversity to their health and wellbeing.

Additional Information

Since the inauguration of NRW six years ago, there has been a steady and noticeable deterioration in Wales' commitment toward biodiversity and nature conservation. Wales has been described as one of the most nature depleted areas of the world having already caused the extinction of many of its native plant and animal species. A great number of the species that do remain are now rare or threatened, surviving in fragments of their often isolated habitats.

INCC believes that the people of Wales and the wildlife they share their community with deserve better. Greater commitment from Welsh Government and NRW is required if Wales is to stand any chance of reversing the declines in biodiversity and preventing further wildlife extinctions from occurring.

An effective way of demonstrating this commitment toward reversing the decline in biodiversity would be to ensure that the Welsh Government explicitly includes 'Biodiversity' as part of the NRW strategic remit.

Given the continued losses to wildlife and the perceived lack of prioritisation toward nature conservation within NRW, it is clear that 'Biodiversity' cannot simply remain as an implied part of NRW's functions. It has to be made explicit and given the appropriate prioritisation.

If there is no change, future wildlife extinctions in Wales are inevitable.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
- Mid and West Wales

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-941
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/02480/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair of the Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders

29th October 2020

Thank you for your letter of 12 October, regarding Petition P-05-941 Biodiversity remit for Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

My officials work with NRW to regularly review their financial and delivery pressures, along with funding opportunities. In addition to Grant in Aid (GiA) funding, NRW is in receipt of commercial income. Their full budget for last year was £183m, as set out in their Annual Report and Accounts for 2018-19.

Whilst NRW received a reduction of £7.5m to their core GiA funding for 2020-21 only, this was in response to the WG re-allocating budgets due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

As with all public funding, NRW must demonstrate evidence of need to draw down any GiA claimed from the WG. In my regular meetings with the Chair and Chief Executive of NRW they keep me apprised of the ongoing impact on their finances and resources. Following formal review of their budget forecast, my officials will discuss NRW's requirements and consider any requests for extra funding.

NRW also receives additional grant funding from different parts of WG, year on year, for projects which are outside their GiA. In 2020-21, the WG secured substantial capital reserves to deliver our environmental agenda through improvements to water quality, enhancing biodiversity and restoring peat. To progress this agenda, NRW have received additional funding of £2.8m for Natura 2000, £1.135m for the National Peat Action Programme and another £1m for essential reservoir maintenance.

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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.

In May 2020, I issued a Remit Letter outlining the objectives for NRW to deliver in 2020-21, including on halting and reversing biodiversity decline. In particular, I have asked NRW to make strides to restore its own Natura 2000 sites and to take forward the planned programme for restoration of degraded peatlands to create healthy functioning wet bogs. Alongside this, I have asked NRW to work with WG in promoting a programme of engagement, awareness raising and effective biosecurity practices, to minimise the impact of plant pests and diseases and Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) outbreaks.

Other than grant funding, it is for NRW to decide how they spend their budget, including resource allocation. My previous correspondence outlined how delivery of biodiversity outcomes is embedded across the delivery of all of their functions. Operational decisions about delivery of these outcomes is the responsibility of NRW.

Yours Sincerely



Lesley Griffiths AS/MS

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

10th November 2020

Dear Petitions Committee

INCC representation following the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs' response (LG/02480/20) to Petition P-05-941 – (Biodiversity Remit for Natural Resources Wales).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide further representation to the committee following the response made to the committee by the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs (LG/02480/20).

INCC welcomes the investment and recent initiatives toward peatland restoration in Wales as outlined in the Minister's response. Restoring peatland habitats will be an essential component toward reversing the decline in biodiversity in Wales. As well as its importance for biodiversity, peatland restoration will also contribute to addressing Wales' climate emergency and our growing flood risk issues.

However, it is important that the Welsh Government clearly states whether a greater budget for this essential peatland restoration works would have been provided to NRW, if NRW still had the internal staff resources to deliver additional works. Does the £1.135 million represent the maximum achievable peatland restoration possible with the current staff resources to deliver it? The gradual erosion of specialist species and habitat staff within NRW has meant that the organisation as a whole is less able to deliver for biodiversity and less able to take

advantage of opportunities for biodiversity enhancement when they arise.

In her response, the Minister also fails to mention that a substantial amount of spending on peatland restoration in Wales will be used to ameliorate the deleterious impacts on peatland habitats caused by historic and ongoing forestry management operations. Inappropriate afforestation and forest management practices by NRW and its legacy body has caused an inordinate amount of damage to peatland and other upland habitats in recent decades. INCC would welcome clarification on the Welsh Government's position toward removing harmful conifer trees from areas of deep peat across Wales.

Species and habitats continue to be lost in Wales through ongoing forestry operations and neither the Minister nor Forest Resource Plans or Area Statements are able to successfully explain how these conflicts will be managed for the benefit of wildlife in future. Resolving the conflicts between forestry operations and nature conservation should have been a priority for NRW since its inauguration in 2013. Despite this, very little operational change or tangible benefit for biodiversity has occurred within the Welsh Government woodland estate.

If NRW are unable, or unwilling to take action for biodiversity on their own managed estate, it is difficult to see how:

“NRW's purpose and focus supports the transformational change needed to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity”

Clare Pillman - Chief Executive
Natural Resources Wales

One underlying issue that both NRW and the Welsh Government have failed to resolve over the past seven years is that there are no specific targets set for achieving biodiversity gains. Without firm, evidence based targets to aspire to it is impossible to measure and evaluate success or identify areas for improvement. Instead of targets, NRW's approach has been to announce broad, unmeasurable 'visions' and 'statements that together effectively creates a distorted representation of NRW's ability and capacity to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity.

The upcoming State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR 2020) will be published before the end of the year. Once published, the report will provide a vital insight on how biodiversity and nature conservation is faring in Wales. I would suggest to the Petitions Committee that if

the SoNaRR indicates that the situation regarding biodiversity remains bleak, then a full independent inquiry into NRW's role and ability to reverse the declines should be launched.

An independent inquiry would be able to identify any gaps in NRW's delivery for biodiversity, and identify the reasons for those gaps. Importantly, an inquiry would be able to provide a series of recommendations and solution to help make NRW better equipped at tackling the problem facing biodiversity in Wales.

It has become increasingly clear throughout 2020 that we need to act now if we are to save many iconic Welsh species and their habitats from extinction. To do this we need to know that our statutory environment body is equipped for the task, and if not, what else is needed? Criticism, challenges and independent inquiries are not designed to undermine NRW, its staff or its ability to deliver. Instead, they are designed to ensure that Wales has the best chance possible of halting and reversing the declines in biodiversity.

I would like to thank the committee for debating this petition and if you require any further information regarding this response please feel free to contact me.

Yours Faithfully



Robert

Robert Jones Parry
Chief Executive Officer
Initiative for Nature Conservation Cymru (INCC)
rob.parry@incc.wales

Agenda Item 3.2

P-05-945 The Climate Emergency and a National Forest for Wales

This petition was submitted by Coed Cadw – The Woodland Trust in Wales having collected a total of 4,354 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to urgently increase tree cover to help address this climate emergency & the well documented collapse of nature.

The Welsh Government's 'State of Natural Resources Report' said no ecosystems in Wales are resilient.

We need more trees in urban & rural areas to address high levels of air pollution, lessen heatwaves & floods, increase wildlife & create a carbon store above & below ground.

Rivers, hedgerows & verges can provide quality habitat connectivity, these criss-cross Wales from mountains to coast. Many have biodiversity rich ancient woods, meadows & marshes alongside them, but their range & quality has massively declined in the last 50 years.

Our rivers are healthiest when bordered by wide strips of lightly grazed broadleaf woodland river banks. Trees provide some dappled shade keeping rivers cool & protecting them from pollutants, reducing unsustainable soil loss, whilst helping to keep farmers on the land.

To help nature recover we need to recreate more wildlife friendly landscapes by creating more & healthier interconnecting habitats.

Placed & funded correctly, a new national forest can deliver many solutions for all future generations, a more 'resilient Wales'.

We call for a comprehensive strategy to deliver:

- an increase of 5000 hectares per year in tree cover in urban areas, on farms, & in the uplands
- tree cover that is at least 50% native broadleaf trees, best for biodiversity, & public well-being

- sustainable management of existing trees, forests, woodland & hedges, to protect them from damage & provide a mixed mosaic of habitat for wildlife & people
- new funding for farmers for 'Hedges & Edges' & traditional woodland pasture –agroforestry
- funding for community tree nurseries, for people to be involved in finding sites, planting, & growing trees right across Wales
- a truly national & innovative 'National Forest for Wales'

Additional Information

References

Climate Emergency: <https://gov.wales/written-statement-welsh-government-declares-climate-emergency>

State of Natural Resources Report:

<https://cdn.naturalresources.wales/media/682366/sonarr-summary-september-2016-edited-august-2017.pdf>

A Resilient Wales: <https://futuregenerations.wales/aotp/resilience/>

Bordered by wide strips of lightly grazed broadleaf woodland:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281902234_Beyond_cool_Adapting_upland_streams_for_climate_change_using_riparian_woodlands

Community tree nurseries <https://www.longforest.cymru/news/community-tree-nurseries-guest-blog>

Agroforestry: combining agriculture & trees

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2018/07/agroforestry-wales/>

Glossary

Biodiversity: the variety of life found on earth. It includes all species of plants & animals, their abundance & genetic diversity

Ecosystem resilience: means how well ecosystems can deal with disturbances – either by resisting them, recovering from them, or adapting to them. Resilient ecosystems are able to carry on delivering services & benefits despite these disturbances.

Habitat: the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism

Habitat connectivity: how patches of habitat are linked together to form a connected habitat network that allows species to interact & move.

Hedges & Edges: the habitats that make up hedges, tree lines, verges, river & stream margins, ditches, stone walls & other boundaries

Public Goods: commodities or service that is provided without profit to all members of a society, either by the government or by a private individual or organisation

Tree Cover: the area that is shaded by the canopies of trees & shrubs

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central



Eich cyf/ Your ref P-05-945
Ein cyf/ Our ref LG/00896/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

14 October 2020

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 1 April, regarding Petition P-05-945, entitled The Climate Emergency and a National Forest for Wales. I apologise for the delay in my response to your correspondence due to an administrative oversight.

In their letter the Woodland Trust raise a number of important questions. Some of these issues relate to long term planning and work which is ongoing with Welsh Government. I have asked my officials to maintain contact with the Woodland Trust, along with other interested groups, to help us shape our approach in this area to make sure we succeed in our ambitions in relation to forestry. Natalie Buttriss (Director of Coed Cadw) is a valued expert member of the Woodland Strategy Advisory Panel, who directly advise Welsh Government and Welsh Ministers on these matters.

Sustainable Forestry

The UK Forest Standard (UKFS) is the Governments' reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK and includes requirements and guidelines in relation to new woodland creation. The Standard was updated to its fourth edition in 2017 and continues to be widely accepted by the forest industry.

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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.

Although voluntary, compliance in Wales is encouraged through the Glastir Woodland Creation Scheme and our regulations, such as felling licences and the Environmental Impact Assessment process. This ensures new planting proposals and management operations are in line with the standard.

As set out in 'Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales', we are developing guidance to help NRW, as regulator for woodland creation, demonstrate new woodland is established in accordance with the objective and principles of the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources. This guidance will evidence the link between these principles and the UKFS.

Planting targets and Climate Change

The creation of new woodland is important for addressing climate change. The 2,000 hectare target encompassed in our Woodlands for Wales Strategy was driven by the minimum scenario in the UK Committee on Climate Change (UKCCC) advice on the pathway to reach Wales' previous target to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050. The UKCCC's 80% scenario assumed 4,000 hectares new creation p.a., which was not considered deliverable in the short-term. However, we have committed to increasing woodland creation to this level as soon as possible.

In December, the UKCCC will publish advice on how their recommended 95% target for 2050 affects Wales's interim targets and carbon budgets. I have also asked them to explore how Wales could go beyond 95% by 2050. We will ask the Senedd to review the emissions targets and carbon budgets early in 2021, and will then review our planting targets, if appropriate.

We have taken significant steps this year to increase tree planting in Wales. Earlier we increased the budget of our Glastir Woodland Creation scheme to £8m. We received 379 expressions of interest for this window, with a total value of £17.5m.

Last month, I announced a further window of the Glastir Woodland Creation and Restoration schemes will go ahead, with a total budget of £10m. This demonstrates our commitment to providing the support required to increase tree planting in Wales.

National Forest

I fully understand the importance of well managed woodlands, both to support a range of biodiversity objectives and their role in sequestering carbon from our atmosphere. Restoring and bringing under-managed woodlands back into management will certainly be one of the key objectives under our National Forest in Wales. We are working closely with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to undertake a targeted programme of enhancing and restoring a number of existing woodland sites (including our precious ancient woodland sites), to restore and improve access to these woodland gems and create exemplar National Forest sites within the Welsh Government Woodland Estate.

The National Forest will create areas of new woodland and help to restore and maintain some of Wales' irreplaceable ancient woodlands. In time it will form a connected ecological network running throughout Wales, which will bring social, economic and environmental benefits.

By the end of the year, we will have developed with stakeholders the outcomes we want the Forest to achieve and created the National Forest brand, enabling us to designate the first National Forest sites. Alongside this we are running a number of demonstration projects to start activity on the ground, test funding and delivery mechanisms for improving and creating woodlands to inform our future plans and help us determine the level of funding we may need for the National Forest.

In June we launched the £2.1m Community Woodlands Grant, in collaboration with the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which will help people across Wales create places for nature in their own communities, once the nation looks to move beyond the current pandemic. We have launched the Forest Industry Recovery Scheme (FIRS) with a budget of £1.55m. This scheme, which will provide capital funding to the sector to increase its capacity and contribute to a Green Recovery in Wales, illustrates our ongoing commitment to increase woodland creation in Wales, and thereby achieve our tree planting and climate change mitigation targets. Alongside this we have provided funding of £200k to Keep Wales Tidy to create “Tiny Forests” which are dense, biodiverse, fast growing forests the size of a tennis court in a number of towns and cities across Wales.

Step change in land use

Alongside running the Glastir Woodland Creation and National Forest demonstrators, we are developing a longer term approach to achieving our woodland creation targets. A key element of this will be the new Sustainable Farming Scheme. Within this scheme, we propose to remove the link between payment and the amount of land a farmer claims; to provide financial for support sustainable land management based on delivering environmental outcomes; and to develop a new relationship with farmers where they take more control in delivering the desired outcomes but with the support and guidance from the Welsh Government. We will set out further detail of how the scheme can help contribute to woodland creation in the Agriculture White Paper.

Timber Production

The Glastir Woodland Creation and Restoration grant schemes require an increased number of different species to be planted, varying with woodland category within scheme. This helps to increase the resilience of new woodland and restored sites and recognises the different objectives of new woodland creation in Wales.

The Welsh Government Woodland Estate (WGWE) will continue to be managed sustainably through the UK Forestry standards (UKFS) and certified through the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS). It will continue to be managed to improve its extent, condition and diversity to increase its resilience to the impacts of climate change, demonstrating best practice. The overall productive potential (in terms of timber, wood products and other benefits) of the WGWE will be maintained and if appropriate, enhanced, to support the continued sustainable growth of the forestry sector in Wales and beyond.

Water quality and flood mitigation

A key priority of the draft National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales is to deliver more natural interventions and catchment approaches to help improve the environment. The restoration of our uplands and managing them for biodiversity, carbon and water can reduce flood risk as well, and so complements our approach to encourage more natural flood management.

I announced earlier this year the Flood and Coastal Risk Management Programme for 2020-21. I want to ensure we move at pace to deliver natural flood management and catchment schemes throughout Wales, especially following the devastating effects of recent flooding, and am awarding 100% funding for such schemes over the next 2 years.

These approaches replicate natural processes to help protect our coastline and to hold back rain water in upper catchments, slowing the rate of run-off into our rivers and streams. These projects will be carefully monitored so we can share evidence and good practice to help promote and refine approaches which deliver the greatest benefit. My ambition is for Wales to lead the way with this work.

Carbon Sequestration and Storage

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 set a legal target of reducing emissions by a minimum of 80% by 2050 and places a duty on the Welsh Ministers to set a series of interim targets (for 2020, 2030 and 2040) and carbon budgets. Carbon budgets set limits on the total amount of emissions emitted in Wales over a 5-year period and act as stepping stones to ensure progress is being made towards the decadal targets.

The UKCCC's 2020 report on land use policies for net zero recommended a key measure should be a carbon trading scheme or auctioned contracts to attract private sector investment.¹ We are considering the role schemes like this can play in driving woodland creation in Wales.

I recognise, due to the multifunctional nature of woodlands generally, there is considerable crossover between the various policy areas set out above. The Woodland Trust's insights are welcome to help implement and develop our policies and I hope we will be able to continue these discussions going forward.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

¹ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/land-use-policies-for-a-net-zero-uk/>

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

3rd November 2020 *By e-mail*

Dear Ms Finch-Saunders,

Petition 05-945: The Climate Emergency and a National Forest for Wales

May I thank you for your further consideration of this petition and for inviting us to comment on your further exchange with the Minister. As the Minister notes, I continue to participate in direct discussions with her civil servants and with the Woodland Strategy Advisory Panel, especially around the development of the Wales National Forest, and the discussions led by NRW on woodland creation and green recovery.

This petition was primarily about the urgency needed in raising the rate of increase in our tree cover and using the Wales National Forest programme as an obvious vehicle for targeted urgent action and engagement around the dual climate nature crises. Could the Committee ask the Minister to consider if this can be aligned with Covid-19 green recovery and measures such as the National Nature Service proposed by the Environmental sector?

In our petition we called for 6 particular actions, and it feels appropriate to review progress with each of these, acknowledging the Minister's letters to your Committee and our wider discussions:-

1. An increase of 5,000 hectares per year in tree cover in urban areas, on farms, & in the uplands

We welcome the ambition to go beyond 95% emissions reduction by 2050 and we look forward to the extended guidance from the UK Committee on Climate Change, but I suggest that the key question is how we are going to go beyond the current Welsh Government target of 2,000ha per year, given even this is still a struggle with only a third of this in the pipeline?

Page 1 of 4

It remains our view that the more ambitious tree cover increase target is desirable and achievable with the right incentives and strategy (120,000 ha+ by 2050, equivalent to 4,000 ha per year). We have suggested, and presented to WG and NRW, a multi-track strategy that could achieve this and more, but are yet to see any strategy or plan emerge from Government that considers this.

2. Tree cover that is at least 50% native broadleaf trees, best for biodiversity, & public well-being

We have not been reassured that, for many outcomes, the greater suitability of native tree cover has been sufficiently recognised. We agree that increases in plantation grown softwood timber is important, but the evidence is that other approaches including native broadleaved tree cover, agroforestry and urban tree planting can more substantially and efficiently deliver most biodiversity, well-being, water resource and carbon benefits. There is a need for a broad based strategy with public funds targeted at the most effective delivery of public goods.

3. Sustainable management of existing trees, forests, woodland & hedges, to protect them from damage & provide a mixed mosaic of habitat for wildlife & people.

I welcome the Minister's requirement that NRW ensure that interpretation of the UK Forest Standard (UKFS) is linked to the principles of the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR). We think it vital that the opportunity is taken during the current review of UKFS to ensure that in Wales it is interpreted and applied in ways that meet the requirements of Welsh legislation and the sustainable development duty of Welsh Ministers.

I greatly welcome the restatement of the vital commitment to maintain UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) accreditation on the Welsh public forest estate.

4. New funding for farmers for 'Hedges & Edges' & traditional woodland pasture –agroforestry

We have not, as yet, seen any acknowledgement that new funding for farmers for 'Hedges & Edges' could assist in delivering half of Wales's tree cover targets, utilising less than four per cent of their land'. This mechanism could also ensure the foundation of a connected ecological network at a landscape scale. As part of our response to the Welsh Government's consultations on Sustainable Farming, we have submitted proposals for a Hedges and Edges scheme to support the use of trees on farms (agroforestry) and we thank you and your colleagues for their support of the Statement of Opinion in support of Agroforestry. We have had informal indications of interest in this proposal but nothing yet in terms of tangible commitments.

5. Funding for community tree nurseries, for people to be involved in finding sites, planting, & growing trees right across Wales

A key procurement question arising from the intention to substantially expand tree cover is the mechanism for planning and funding the necessary expansion in stock and supply, including of suitable Welsh provenance planting stock.

We acknowledge that there is some support for community and tree nursery activity under the Community Woodland Grant and the Forest Industry Recovery Scheme. We suggest there is further undeveloped potential here especially in aiding community engagement in the Wales National Forest and in urban planting projects, for example, through funding for community tree nurseries, local seed collections, outdoor class rooms, and community site appraisal. This also applies to urban communities working with country wide owners of agricultural land, identifying appropriate seed stock, appropriate tree cover sites and assisting with stock and planting.

6. A truly national & innovative 'National Forest for Wales'

We greatly welcome the opportunity to participate in the development of the Wales National Forest and the initial funding that has been put behind it. We believe it is a valuable concept that should spearhead a comprehensive tree cover plan and be on the leading edge of green recovery. We look forward to a fully developed and funded programme, which we hope will have cross party support.

Particular questions we suggest for further consideration include

- How to achieve community buy-in and the “social licence” for changing landscapes
- How will the NFW programme integrate with health and wellbeing, such as green prescribing?
- How the National Forest programme will interact with Area Statements to help deliver landscape scale natural flood management interventions, soil protection, habitat connectivity, biodiversity restoration and in mitigating extreme climate events.

Green Recovery and Manifestos for the Welsh Parliament Elections

I look forward to continuing this discussion with the political parties in the lead up to the Welsh Parliament elections next May, and especially in the context of the delivery of a green recovery.

Coed Cadw will shortly be confirming and publishing our manifesto “**The Roots and Branches of a Strong Green Recovery.**” We are focusing on calling for action in three areas, which encompass the points raised in our petition:-

1. **Make every town in Wales a Tree Town.**

Every local authority to assess and value existing tree cover and prepare a Tree and Woodland Strategy that delivers a minimum of 20% tree cover in all urban areas, and 30% in new developments, engaging local residents along the way.

2. **Support Agroforestry.**

Now is the time to use public funds to invest rapidly and substantially in the soil, habitat and green infrastructure of farms. We propose “Hedges and Edges” payments to improve and extend hedges, shelterbelts, stream side and field edge habitats – quick and easy ways for farmers to apply what’s best for their farm’s sustainability.

3. **Transform forestry.**

Let’s create a nature, climate and people friendly national natural asset, with the Wales National Forest programme providing a range of exemplar projects illustrating the range and breadth of sustainable woodland creation and management across all parts of Wales.

In the New Year, we will be encouraging voters to invite Members of the Senedd and candidates to consider their support for these proposals.

Would your Committee now be prepared to recommend a full Senedd debate? We would suggest a topic around how the Wales National Forest (as one of the policies in Future Wales 2040) could help set in motion a green recovery from Covid-19 and a engage business and communities in the mitigation of the dual climate and nature crisis

Yours sincerely



Natalie Buttriss
Director of Wales

Agenda Item 3.3

P-05-868 – Water Safety/Drowning Prevention and the effects of Cold Water Shock to be taught in all Schools in Wales

This petition was submitted by Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership having collected 394 signatures online and 502 on paper – a total of 896 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to include – Water Safety/Drowning Prevention and the effects of cold-water shock to be taught on the national curriculum in Wales.

In 2016 we saw the launch of the first ever water safety strategy in the UK, which aims to reduce water related fatalities by 50% by 2026. Collaboration, awareness, education and prevention are the main focuses. Wales needs to respond in support.

The families of Cameron Comey, Luke Somerfield, Kieran Bennett-Leefe, Robert Mansfield and Jem Pendragon all support this petition in memory of their sons lost to water.

Additional Information

Several hundred adults and children drown accidentally every year in the UK & Ireland, and Wales – having a considerable number of rivers, lakes and a wild coastline is not immune. Education and prevention are key to safeguarding our communities from needless drowning.

This petition also has its aims focused on healthy, educated interactions with our many open waterways in Wales, by promoting events nationally and locally where young people and the public can access organized events where they engage with social, active and safe events with clubs/organisations concerned with water based activities.

We also recognise that local authority cuts to swimming accessibility for all pupils (through central government pressures) and a new Welsh Baccalaureate on water safety is too wide a gap to ensure a consistent

education message for all. Wales has three broad strategies (our Healthy future, Building a brighter future and Well-being of Future Generations) and have links to injury prevention and, therefore, to reducing drowning.

This petition is supported by many partners including; five families of young men lost to drowning in West Wales, Ferryside Inshore Lifeboat, Jonathan Edwards MP, South Wales Fire & Rescue Service, Rebecca Ramsey (campaigner for England water safety education), All Wales Water Safety Group, Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Simon Hart MP, Carmarthen Town Council, The Coracle & Netsmans Association, Gwendraeth Valley Paddlers Canoe Club, Ammanford Police Station, Carmarthen Boat Club, Brecon Mountain Rescue Team, Llansteffan Coastguard, Angela Burns AM, Carmarthen Bay Ferries, Llandysul Paddlers Canoe Centre, to name a few.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
- Mid and West Wales

P-05-868 Water Safety/Drowning Prevention and the effects of Cold Water Shock to be taught in all Schools in Wales, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 17.10.20



Date: 16/10/20.

Re: P-05-868 Water safety/Drowning prevention and the effects of cold water shock to be taught in schools in Wales.

Dear Petitions Committee,

I thank you for your further letter regarding a required response from our independent water safety charity. I always endeavour to engage with bodies discussing water safety and particularly wish to extend my gratitude to Jack Sargeant AS/MS, for his warm words at your last committee meeting. This is indeed an important matter as he stated.

Please allow me to provide some background on this subject for context. In 2015, Wales as a developed nation had no drowning prevention plan. In February 2015, Cameron Comey drowned and I knew this was not a one off tragedy as too many families around Wales lose children and adults alike in far too high numbers. Drowning is preventable where education is prevalent. I planned in September 2015 to draw a national Water Safety Forum, to involve all families, stat bodies, companies and charities and had even priced the Cardiff CVS conference room in the bay, to hold the first consultation meeting. I received two calls that summer, one from staff at the National Water Safety Forum and the other from the National Fire Chiefs Council advising me not to do this. A year or more later I was made aware South Wales Fire & Rescue Service were undertaking this work. Four years later we are near the completion of the first Water Safety Wales Drowning Prevention Strategy 2020-26. Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership has driven the water safety agenda in Wales forward over the last five years and it's trustees have had to work incredibly hard to achieve it's many and varied outcomes. Some include: installing the first ever vandalproof lifebouy cabinets in Wales; delivering the only publically available fully bi-lingual water safety leaflets to schools in Wales (carrying RNLI & NFCC branding); developing the only publically available, fully bi-lingual water safety/mental health suicide prevention leaflet with family engagement to tell their deceased brothers story (carrying MIND/SAMARITANS/HAFAL AND C.A.L.L. info); self-funding independent water safety risk assessments to hold local authorities to account to ensure best practice interventions are achieved in memory of loved ones lost to the releif of their families; running the

only dedicated community water safety centre in Wales – which proudly sits on the banks of the River Towy, Carmarthen which has itself taken so many lives.

I have read the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs response and have mixed feelings. I would like to kindly respond as follows:

- Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership (the petitioner) is not a member of Water Safety Wales, which unfortunately means there is no independent voice in the group and not all water safety charities are included.
- Despite nearly half of all accidental (slips, trips, falls) fatal drownings in Wales. There were 20 lost in 2019. Welsh Water operate a No Swimming Policy on all of their open water sites, which means they do not provide a single lifebuoy in the country for public use... however, due to the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974, lifebuoys are accessible in their private employee only areas, behind locked gates. Telling people not to do something NEVER works. Other water companies in England are siting numerous vandal proof cabinets around their lakes/reservoirs to save lives in partnership with Fire services and families who have lost children to drowning.
- Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership (the petitioner) has written to the Chief Fire Officer of Mid & West Fire Rescue Service and the Head of Community Safety and offered our bi-lingual water safety leaflets to be used by their education teams to promote safe engagement near different open water types. This was ignored.
- Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership (the petitioner) has been an affiliated club member of the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSSUK) since 2015 (from the night of the NWSF/ROSPA UK Drowning Prevention Strategy 2016-2026 Launch event in Durham, England. Despite CWSP's bi-lingual leaflet being available, RLSSUK attended the 2019 Royal Welsh Show with English language only information. Very disappointing.
- I have seen first-hand the lack of understanding as to the dynamics of health and safety around water, from local authorities, coroners to the Police and Fire staff. There is a paucity of water safety messages across a range of activities – none more so than the rise in promotion of Wild/Open Water swimming – while the benefits are clear, the next time you see a social media post, tv show piece, tourism adverts - promoting this activity – watch out for the safety advice... I am sure you will miss it!

To conclude, whilst I welcome the pending launch of the new WATER SAFETY WALES Drowning Prevention Strategy 2020-26 soon, there is a lot of work still to do. I also regrettably note that the honourable Lesley Griffiths AS/MS does not highlight in her letter how the new strategy is going to universally deliver water safety and more importantly educating young people as to the very real dangers of cold water shock which claims so many lives.

Indeed, any water safety publications I have been handed in my role as founder and Chair of CWSP over the last five and a half years have ‘...been for the use of water safety practitioners only, not for public sharing.’ How does this help the public? I await the answer within the strategy.

Diolch yn fawr,

Adam Whitehouse.

Chair. Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership. Reg. Charity No. 1169860.

Partneriaeth Diogelwch Dŵr **Sir Gaerfyrddin**

Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership





- **Mewn achos o argyfwng** defnyddiwch ffôn symudol (eich ffôn chi neu ffôn rhywun arall) neu rhedwch i'r blwch ffôn agosaf - FFÔN IWCH 999 a gofyn am Wyliwr y Glannau.
- **Gall fandaleiddio offer achub bywyd** arwain at fwy o berygl i bawb mewn dŵr agored a lle gall arwydd na ellir ei ddarllen, bwi achub ar goll, rhaff wedi'i difrodi neu ar goll, rheiliau wedi torri, i gyd arwain at ganlyniadau difrifol neu golli bywyd.
- **Beth allech chi ei daflu i rywun i'w helpu rhag suddo?** Unrhyw beth sy'n arnofio: pêl-droed, bwi achub, band braich llawn aer neu hyd yn oed botel ddiod blastig wedi'i sgo!
- **Pan ei bod yn syniad gwael i geisio achub rywun?** Gall yr hyn a achosodd y broblem i'r person yn y dŵr achosi'r un broblem i chi hefyd! Gall y person hwnnw fod mewn panig a'u tynnu chi o dan y dŵr; gall fod yn rhy drwm i chi ei dynnu; efallai na fydd unrhyw un arall yno i'ch helpu chi'ch dau ddringo allan o'r dŵr.
- **Gall dŵr oer** – beri i'ch corff gau i lawr yn gyflym iawn. Mae hyn yn golygu eich bod yn cael traferth anadlu ac yn blino'n gyflym iawn.

- **In the event of an emergency** use a mobile phone (yours or someone else's) or run to the nearest phone box – RING 999 and ask for the Coastguard.
- **Vandalism of life saving equipment** can lead to increased danger to everyone in open water where if the signs are unable to be read, lifebuoys are missing, damaged/missing ropes, broken railings can all lead to serious/fatal consequences.
- **What could you throw someone to help them keep afloat?** Anything that floats: a football, lifebuoy, inflated armband or even a sealed plastic drinks bottle!
- **Why is it a bad idea in to try and save someone?** What caused the problem for them may cause the same issue for you too! They may be in a panic and pull you under; they may be too heavy for you to pull; there may not be anyone else to help you both climb out of the water.
- **Cold water** – can cause your body to shut down very quickly. This means you gasp for breath and quickly become exhausted.

- Dewch o hyd i leoliad heb gerrynt cyflym, heb fannau lle mae perygl y gall eich troed fynd yn sownd, a heb lystyfiant.
- Dewch yn gyfarwydd â'r dŵr yn araf bach, gall sioc dŵr oer effeithio unrhyw un mewn dŵr sy'n oerach na 20°C! Dylid ystyried siwtiau wlyb.
- Dylai lliain a dillad i newid fod gennych wrth law yn syth wedyn wrth i chi barhau i gollu gwres y corff hyd yn oed ar ol i chi ddod allan o'r dŵr, yn enwedig mewn tywydd oer a gwyntog.
- Mae gofyn gwybod beth yw symptomau hypothermia a sut i ddelio a'r symptomau hynny. Mae bwyta bwyd carbohydrad yn llawer mwy effeithiol na diodydd poeth. Cofiwch fynd allan mewn grŵp a rhoi gwybod i bobl ble ydych yn bwriadu nofio. Gellwch brynu casyn ffôn gwrth-ddŵr a'i gario gyda chi bob amser.
- Cerrynt Cudd - 'po llyfnaf fydd y dŵr, dyfnaf fydd y rhyd! Gall cerrynt fod ar wyneb y dŵr neu oddi tano. Gall hyd yn oed nofwyr da flino'n gyflym mewn cerrynt, yn enwedig mewn dŵr oer.
- Dynion oedd 95 y cant o'r rhai a foddodd wrth nofio, ac roedd nifer fawr ohonynt yn eu harddegau! - Gweler mwy o gyngor ar ddiogelwch ar y wefan: www.wildswimming.co.uk
- Find a location without fast currents, foot trap hazards, or vegetation.
- Acclimatise to the water slowly, cold water shock can affect anybody in water lower than 20°C! Wetsuits should be considered.
- A towel and a full change of clothes should be on hand immediately afterwards as you continue to lose body heat even after you have got out of the water, especially in cold and windy conditions.
- Know the symptoms of hypothermia and how to deal with them. Feeding carbs is far more effective than hot drinks. Always go out in a group and tell people where you intend to swim, you can buy a waterproof phone case and carry it at all times.
- Hidden Currents – 'still waters run deep', Currents can be on top or below. Even good swimmers can tire in currents quickly, especially in cold water.
- 95 per cent of all swimming drowning victims were male and many were teenagers! - See more safety advice at: www.wildswimming.co.uk

Lifeboats

ARNOFIWCH I ACHUB EICH BYWYD

Os byddwch yn syrthio i'r dŵr, brwydrwch yn erbyn eich greadf i nofio tan i'r sioc dŵr oer fynd heibio

ARNOFIWCH I FYW

FLOAT FOR YOUR LIFE

If you fall into water, fight your instinct to swim until the cold water shock passes

FLOAT TO LIVE

PARCHWCH
Y DŴR

RESPECT
THE WATER



Pyllau | Llynnoedd

- Peidiwch byth â mynd i chwarae gerllaw pyllau neu llynnoedd ar eich pen eich hun neu heb fod mam neu dad yno hefyd (os ydych yn iau)!
- Ewch i roi gwybod i'ch mam neu eich tad (neu i rywun arall) i ble yr ydych yn mynd a gyda phwy.
- Rhaid peidio byth â cheisio rhoi cymorth corfforol i rywun y credwch ei fod mewn trafferthion yn y dŵr.
- Yrheol yw - ewch i gael cymorth gan oedolyn os oes rhywbeth yn mynd o'i le.
- Gofalwch eich bod yn disgwyl yr annisgwyl a chadwch lygad BOB AMSER ar yr hyn y mae'r dŵr yn ei wneud!
- Loetran rhaid peidio â gwneud, ond ymateb yn gyflym a pheidiwch â mynd i BANIG os ydych yn ofnus!

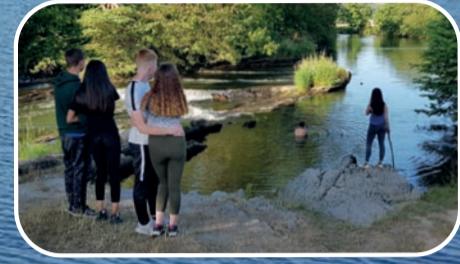
- Cofiwch edrych a gwneud yn siŵr ble mae'r offer achub bywyd - os na fedrwrch weld unrhyw offer - meddyliwch eto cyn mynd ar gyfyl y dŵr!

Os ydych wir yn mwynhau treulio amser gerllaw neu ar y dŵr yna dylech drafod gyda'ch teulu / gofalwyr y posibiladau o wneud gweithgareddau fel teulu, gwersi nofio, mynd ar gyrsiau diogelwch dŵr sydd ar gael AM DDIM yn eich ardal e.e. Elusennau (Partneriaeth Diogelwch Dŵr Sir Gaerfyrddin / Ymddiriedolaeth Goffa Luke Somerfield / RNLI Porth Tywyn / Gwylwyr y Glannau Llansteffan / Ymgynghoriaeth Annibynnol ar Ddiogelwch Dŵr ac ati i ddysgu am ddiogelwch dŵr, ymuno â chlwb canŵio lleol neu ganolfan gweithgareddau awyr agored).

Ponds | Lakes

- Don't ever play by ponds/lakes alone or without mum or dad being there (if you are younger)!
- Always let Mum or Dad (or someone else) know where you are going and who with.
- Never try and physically help someone you think might be in trouble in the water.
- Go and get help from an adult if something goes wrong.
- Expect the unexpected and ALWAYS keep an eye on what the water is doing!
- React quickly and DON'T panic if you are frightened!
- Always look and check where life saving equipment is situated – if you can't see any – think again about going near the water!

If you really enjoy spending time by or on the water then discuss with your family/carers about doing activities as a family, swimming lessons, accessing water safety courses available for FREE in your area e.g. Charities (Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership/Luke Somerfield Memorial Trust/RNLI Burry Port/ Llansteffan Coastguard/Independent Water Safety consultancies etc to learn water safety, joining a local canoe club or outward bounds centre).



Chwareli | Quarries

- Mae chwareli megis Chwarel Cilrychen yn Llandybie ar DIR PREIFAT a gwaherddir y cyhoedd rhag mynd ar eu cyfyl – a hynny am reswm. Maent yn hynod beryglus!
- Mae dŵr chwarel... lawer yn oerach na dŵr afon, llyn a'r môr. Mae hyn yn gwneud y tebygrwydd o gael sioc dŵr oer yn llawer mwy real. Gall y llefydd hyn fod yn ddwfn iawn gan achosi blinder / cramp / diffyg anadl a hyd yn oed hypothermia.
- Peidiwch â mynd ar eich pen eich hun – os ydych yn mynd i drafferthion nid oes unrhyw un yno i'ch helpu chi neu gael rhywun i'ch achub chi. Dywedwch wrth rywun i ble ydych yn mynd; efallai na fydd unrhyw signal ffôn symudol lle byddwch yn mynd i ffonio neu anfon neges am gymorth.
- A fydddech yn mynd i mewn i'ch bath gartref petai'r canlynol yn y dŵr: creigiau miniog, dŵr oer, sbwriel, anifeiliaid marw, algâu peryglus, llygredd a metel wedi rhydu? Dyma rai o'r pethau a welir mewn hen chwarel.
- O dan yr wyneb... peiriannau wedi suddo, hen geir, planhigion, silffoedd dan y dŵr, twneli, cerrynt a llawer mwy.
- Risgiau eraill... wynebau a waliau serth, perygl syrthio, tirlithriad a darnau o graig yn syrthio, llefydd anghysbell ymhell o allu cael cymorth, gwaddodion a sugndraeth, hyd yn oed mewn chwarel!

- Quarries such as Cilrychen Quarry at Llandybie are on PRIVATE LAND and are strictly off limits to the public for a reason. They are very dangerous!
- Quarry water is... much colder than rivers, ponds, lakes and the sea. This makes the likelihood of cold water shock much more real. They can be very deep and exhaustion/cramps/shortness of breath and even hypothermia.
- Don't go alone – if you get into difficulty there is no one there to help you or get someone to rescue you. Tell someone where you are going to; there may be no mobile signal where you go to phone/message for help.
- Would you get into your bath at home if it had the following in it: sharp rocks, cold water, rubbish, dead animals, dangerous algae, pollution and rusted metal? These are just some of the things found at disused quarries.
- Under the surface... submerged machinery, cars wrecks, plants, underwater ledges, tunnels, currents and more.
- Other risks... sheer faces and walls, falling dangers, landsides and falling rocks, remote areas far from help, sediment and quicksand even in a quarry!

Afonydd | Rivers

- BYDDWCH SAFF - Cadwch draw o lan afon - oni bai eich bod yn barod i nofio neu neidio i mewn i'r dŵr, cadwch draw o myl glan yr afon. Gall pobl sy'n sefyll ar lan afon neu hyd yn oed yn cerdded gerllaw, ddisgyn i mewn.
- Peidiwch â mynd ar eich pen eich hun – os ydych yn mynd i drafferthion ni fydd unrhyw un yno i'ch helpu chi neu gael rhywun i'ch achub chi. Hefyd dywedwch wrth rywun ble ydych yn mynd, efallai na fydd signal ffôn symudol yno i ffonio neu anfon neges am gymorth.
- Parchu penderfyniadau eich ffrindiau – Nid pawb sy'n teimlo'n ddigon hyderus i neidio i mewn i afon neu ddringo'r glannau i blymio i mewn i afonydd megis Afon Tywi.
- Cerrynt Cudd – 'po llyfnaf fydd y dŵr, dyfnaf fydd y rhyd! Gall cerrynt fod ar wyneb y dŵr neu oddi tano. Gall hyd yn oed nofwyr da flino'n gyflym mewn cerrynt, yn enwedig mewn dŵr oer. Os nad yw'r offer gennych ac os nad ydych wedi paratoi i fynd i mewn i ddŵr oer, peidiwch â mynd i mewn.
- Gall dŵr oer – beri i'ch corff gau i lawr yn gyflym iawn. Mae hyn yn golygu eich bod yn cael trafferth anadlu, cael cramp efallai sy'n ei gwneud yn anodd dod allan o'r dŵr neu gydio mewn rhywbeth, a byddwch yn blino'n lân yn gyflym iawn. Mae tymheredd eich corff yn gostwng a gallech fynd yn anymwybodol.

- SAFE Stay Away From the Edge – Unless you are prepared to swim/jump into the water stay away from the river bank edge. People standing on river banks or even walking close by can fall in.
- Don't go alone – if you get into difficulty there is no one there to help you or get someone to rescue you. Tell someone where you are going too, there may be no mobile signal where you go to phone/message for help.
- Respect your friends decisions – Not everyone feels confident enough to jump or climb banks to dive in to rivers such as the River Towy for example.
- Hidden Currents – still waters run deep, Currents can also be on top or below. Even good swimmers can tire in currents quickly, especially in cold water. If you do not have the equipment and have not prepared for entering cold water do not go in.
- Cold water – can cause your body to shut down very quickly. This means you gasp for breath, cramp can set in making it difficult to get out or grab things and you can quickly become exhausted. Your body temperature drops and you can pass out.



#bewateraware

Partneriaeth Diogelwch Dŵr Sir Gaerfyrddin

Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership

Mae'r Partneriaeth Diogelwch Dŵr Sir Gaerfyrddin ddiolch i'r bobl ganlynol am eu cymorth i ddatblygu a chynhyrchu'r adnodd hwn ar ddiogelwch dŵr fel rhan o rodd hael yr ymddiriedolaeth i lansio Partneriaeth Diogelwch Dŵr Sir Gaerfyrddin:

Damion ac Amanda Comey, David a Kim Somerfield, Cheryl Bennett-Leefe, Cyngor Sir Gaerfyrddin, Julie Rees, Anthony Rees, Steve Bright ac Ian McCue.

The Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership would like to thank the following people in assisting with the development and production of this water safety resource as part of the trusts generous donation to launch the Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership:

Damion and Amanda Comey, David and Kim Somerfield, Cheryl Bennett-Leefe, Carmarthenshire County Council, Julie Rees, Anthony Rees, Steve Bright and Ian McCue.



"GLANSTEFFAN"

FFERI A THEITHIAU CWCH FERRY AND BOAT TRIPS



Mae croesfannau fferi yn rhedeg rhwng pentrefi arfordirol hyfyd Llansteffan a Glanyferi yng nghanol Sir Gaerfyrddin.

Ferry crossings run between the charming coastal villages of Llansteffan and Ferryside in the heart of Carmarthenshire.



Ar gyfer ymholiadau eraill For other enquiries:-

- ✉ info@carmarthenbayferries.co.uk
- 🌐 www.carmarthenbayferries.co.uk
- 📘 Carmarthen Bay Ferries
- 📷 [carmarthenbayferries](https://www.instagram.com/carmarthenbayferries)
- 🐦 [@tywifferi](https://twitter.com/tywifferi)

*Dyma
Sir Gâr*
darganfodsirgar.com

*This is
Carmarthenshire*
discovercarmarthenshire.com

Archebwch sgwrs Diogelwch Dŵr ar gyfer eich clwb neu ysgol ar:

Book a water safety talk for your school or club:



carmswater@gmail.com



[carmarthenshirewatersafe](https://www.instagram.com/carmarthenshirewatersafe)



[@carmswater](https://twitter.com/carmswater)

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Cyngor a Gwybodaeth am Odiogelwch Dŵr ac Iechyd Meddwl

Stori Stephen



@CarmsWater



@CarmsWater



Paŋk Paŋ carmswater@gmail.com

#boddidanbwysau?

Gall pob un ohonom deimlo ein bod wedi ein gorlethu gan fywyd, a theimlo nad oes gennym unrhyw opsiynau eraill ar ôl. Gall pob un ohonom estyn allan hefyd, a chefnogi rhywun sy'n teimlo fel hyn.

Rydym am i chi wrando ar stori Stephen, mae ei deulu eisiau ei rhannu gyda chi, fel y gellir helpu eraill. Cymerwch ychydig funudau, fe allai wneud gwahaniaeth i rywun, neu i chi o bosib hyd yn oed?



Stori Stephen:

Roedd Stephen yn gymeriad hapus, direidus, a fyddai'n mynd allan o'i ffordd i helpu unrhyw un. Bu'n gweithio yn y diwydiant pensaernïol am ddeng mlynedd ar ôl gadael y brifysgol, ond fe wnaeth cur pen cyson a phoen cefn trwy gydol ei 20iau achosi anhunedd a gorbryder iddo am gyfnod hir.

Dros y blynyddoedd, arweiniodd straen ariannol a cholli swyddi, gyda diweithdra parhaus a phwysau ychwanegol y broses Ceiswyr Gwaith (peth ohono gan Stephen ei hun wrth geisio dychwelyd i'r gwaith), at iselder dyfnach ac ymdeimlad o anobaith. Brwydrodd yn erbyn hyn.

Fodd bynnag, roedd ei feddyliau paranoiadd yn parhau – ynghyd â gorbryder ac iselder difrifol ac, er gwaethaf sicrwydd ei deulu, ffrindiau a gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl, fe wnaeth o leiaf ddau ymgais i gyflawni hunanladdiad drwy fynd i mewn i ddŵr agored. Arweiniodd ei ymgais olaf at Stephen yn cyflawni hunanladdiad drwy fodd.

Mae'r golled hon wedi gadael gwagle mawr yn ei gymuned a'i deulu.

Mae colled ar ei ôl bob dydd.

Sut all pob un ohonom helpu pan ein bod ni neu rywun arall yn dioddef problemau iechyd meddwl?

Pethau yr ydym yn gwybod a all helpu:

- Ceisiwch gychwyn sgwrs gyda phobl a bod gyda nhw.
- Rhowch sicrwydd yn gyson i'r person eich bod yn ei garu – atgoffwch y person o'i werth fel person annwyl, nid yn unig drwy gyflawniadau ac ati, ond fel aelod pwysig o'r teulu neu ffrind.
- Peidiwch byth â diystyru'r hyn mae'n ei ystyried yn real / ei ofnau - ceisiwch osgoi iaith fel *'paid â bod yn ddwl/dwp'; 'Rwyf ti'n wallgof/ddwl!*
- Anogwch y person i gael help ac i siarad â rhywun. Ewch gyda'r person i'w gefnogi.
- Daliwch ati i ofyn am help, does dim gwahaniaeth sawl gwaith sy'n rhaid i chi ofyn.
- Helpwch y person i ddod o hyd i'r opsiynau a'r dewisiadau gorau. Daliwch ati, hyd yn oed pan fo'r person yn teimlo nad oes pwrpas cario 'mlaen.

Gwyddwn ein bod yn meddwl o hyd bod mwy y gallem fod wedi'i wneud, ac mae ôl-ddoethineb yn beth hawdd. Mae'n bwysig cofio mai dim ond hyn a hyn y gallwn ei wneud i garu ac annog pobl. Mae'n bwysig cael cefnogaeth i chi'ch hun, os ydych yn cefnogi rhywun sy'n dioddef problemau iechyd meddwl.

Gall gael effaith ar eich iechyd meddwl chi'ch hun, a gall cefnogi rhywun fod yn brofiad unig a brawychus.

Gall y sefydliadau isod gynnig cefnogaeth a chymorth i ofalwyr, yn ogystal â'r rhai hynny sy'n dioddef problemau.



Mind Aberystwyth

- ☎ 01970 626225
- ✉ info@mindaberystwyth.org
- 🌐 mindaberystwyth.org

Mind Sir Benfro

- ☎ 01437 769 982
- 🌐 mindpembrokeshire.org.uk

Mind Caerfyrddin

- ☎ 01267 222 990
- ✉ carmsmind132@aol.com

Mind Llanelli

- ☎ 01554 752 751
- ✉ welcomecentre@llanelli-mind.org.uk
- 🌐 llanelli-mind.org.uk



Mae'r **Samariaid** ar gael 24 awr y dydd, ac mae'n wasanaeth dienw (os ydych yn dewis peidio â rhoi eich enw).

- ☎ 116 123
- ✉ jo@samaritans.org
- 🌐 samaritans.org

Mae **Hafal**, drwy ei Addewid, wedi ymrwymo i ddarparu cymorth, cefnogaeth, cyngor a chyfeillgarwch i'n holl grwpiau cleientiaid yng Nghymru, gan gynnwys gofalywyr. Gan ein bod yn teimlo mor gryf am hyn, byddwn yn cymryd cyfrifoldeb ein hunain, lle bynnag y bo angen, i sicrhau na fydd yn rhaid i unrhyw un ymdopi ar ei ben ei hun.

- ✉ promise@hafal.org
- ☎ 01792 816600
- 🌐 www.hafal.org



Mae **Llinell Gymorth C.A.L.L.** yn darparu gwasanaeth llinell gymorth iechyd meddwl 24 awr, am ddim, a chaiff ei hariannu gan Lywodraeth Cymru a'i darparu gan weithwyr iechyd meddwl proffesiynol. Gallwch ffonio ar eich rhan chi'ch hun neu rywun arall. Gallwch gysylltu â nhw drwy...

- ☎ 0800 132 737
- Neges destun: 81066

Agenda Item 3.4

P-05-974 Ensure the technology of prosthetic limbs provided within the Welsh NHS is equal to the rest of the UK

This petition was submitted by David Bradley having collected a total of 561 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call upon the Senedd to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that funding is in place to enable limb amputees within Wales to have prosthetic technology at least equal to that which is available within the English and Scottish NHS.

We ask for the same level of support to be made available to people living in Wales. NHS Scotland has provided microprocessor prosthetics for several years and NHS England since 2016. The Welsh policy review is outstanding since 2017.

Additional Information

Petitioner's Story

As a fit nearly 60-year-old, whilst at work one Friday afternoon in March 2018 I suffered an aneurysm in my right leg. During the next 8 days I had three major operations during which a very professional team tried to save my leg, save it below the knee, and then above the knee. The last was successful and I am left with my leg removed just above the knee. Introduced to ALAC at Rookwood my journey back to work started. They designed and fitted a prosthetic limb and through regular physiotherapy I was walking and back in work late summer. Thank you, brilliant service.

For several years there has been a significant discrepancy with the type of prosthetics available to disabled people of Wales.

As I will have to spend the rest of my life using a prosthetic leg I would like to be given, and I would like all amputees in Wales to be given, the same opportunity as residents of the rest of the UK.

Do not discriminate. Equal the standard for Welsh disabled residents.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Monmouth
- South Wales East

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/07255/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

2 November 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 30 September on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Welsh NHS Prosthetic Limb Technology.

Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) is responsible for determining which specialised services will be provided each year via an evidence based prioritisation process. The current COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the NHS and has impacted on elements of usual financial and service planning within the health boards. As a result this has led to a requirement to re-focus on priority areas. The provision of microprocessor knee (MPK) prostheses have been placed on WHSSC's static list and will continue to be considered.

I do however recognise the importance of MPKs as a vital component to improve rehabilitation outcomes and quality of life for lower limb amputees. My officials will continue to remain in regular communication with WHSSC and other key stakeholders to ensure evidence will be available to inform their future commissioning decisions.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

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

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales

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

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

P-05-974 Ensure the technology of prosthetic limbs provided within the Welsh NHS is equal to the rest of the UK, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 10.11.20

Petition - Ensure the technology of prosthetic limbs provided within the Welsh NHS is equal to the rest of the UK.

Response following reply from Welsh Minister dated 2 November 2020 – ref VG/07255/20

What are your thoughts on the attached document?

Does it adequately address the issues that you raised?

The Minister has not addressed the issue and responded appropriately to the petition or the committee request. There is no commitment to a review date or an explanation of why the position is currently and has been for several years different in Wales.

The response is a reworking of the information submitted to the committee on 13 July and on responses made to my local AM in 2019 and 2020.

My belief is that the Minister should lead and request that the WHSSC review the policy and in doing so consider policies within the other nations of the UK. The review is four years overdue. There should be some timescale and commitment. This requires political leadership.

To use the COVID19 pandemic as a reason to delay further is insensitive.

A review of the WHSSC meetings identifies that they are currently fulfilling their role. COVID may slow response but a review of the policy could be put on the agenda for the next WHSSC meeting 26th January 2021.

Do you have further questions in response?

The Minister states 'The provision of microprocessor knee (MPK) prostheses have been placed on WHSSC's static list and will continue to be considered.' This is not positive; it appears to be a continuation of delaying tactics and suggests a lack of understanding with no commitment to resolve this inequality. Clarification would be appreciated.

Additional comment

At the last petition review meeting it was clearly demonstrated that the elected members understand and are frustrated that disabled residents of Wales are not equally treated when compared to the other Nations of the UK.

Thank you to the committee from all supporters of the petition for the comments in the meeting and actions to date. I am confident that with persistence we can achieve. This petition with wide support is an attempt on behalf of the disabled residents to provide some overdue equality.

David Bradley

Agenda Item 3.5

P-05-960 Fund the funeral costs of all NHS staff who die from or with Covid-19

This petition was submitted by Profs Jane Henderson & Karin Wahl-Jorgensen having collected a total of 414 signatures.

Text of Petition

They gave their lives to save ours. We call on the Welsh Government to fund the funeral costs of all NHS staff who die from or with Covid-19. The average simple funeral costs £4000. We ask the Welsh Government to ensure that bereaved families immediately have access to the funds to pay for funeral costs.

Additional Information

Source for funeral cost

<https://www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk/en/articles/help-paying-for-a-funeral>

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/05476/20

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

3 November 2020

Dear Janet,

Further to my letter to you in August, I have now received further advice on putting such arrangements in place to provide additional financial support to families in order to meet the immediate costs associated with arranging and paying for a funeral for NHS staff who die from or with COVID-19.

I truly value our dedicated workforce and thank them for their hard work, at all times but especially throughout this time. Losing a loved one or treasured colleague is a devastating experience, the emotional and practical implications of which cannot be underestimated.

As such, I have fully considered the practicalities and implications of implementing such a scheme, these considerations have included:

- My officials considered a scheme that would align to the child burial scheme, introduced in 2017, however, in line with the child burial scheme this would in fact not cover the full cost of a funeral. Funeral costs vary significantly due to individual circumstances and family wishes for the funeral. It would be very difficult to put any scheme in place without considering issues of equity, so a cap may be required which may not be seen as an appropriate measure for Welsh Government to take;
- Identifying those who are NHS Workers would be difficult for local authorities in the administration of such a scheme. Unlike the child burial scheme, where their date of expiration and their date of birth is readily available, the person's profession would not be shown on their death certificate. Therefore there will be difficulties in administering the scheme and it would create additional burden on NHS Employers and local authorities at a difficult period;

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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.

- Consideration would have to be given to the eligibility of other front line key workers. It could be deemed unfair to only provide this to one group of front-line workers; and
- The timeframe to set up the scheme would take many weeks/months and consideration would need to be given to how those burial costs already met by families could be reimbursed. Retrospective reimbursement would also create additional administration requirements.

I have carefully considered the balance of resources required to put any such scheme in place against those that would be taken away from other priorities during the pandemic in recognition that we have already made the £60,000 life assurance scheme available to provide additional financial support to those families who have lost a loved one, and have concluded that for the reasons provided we are unable to provide such a scheme. I realise you may be disappointed by this decision but hope you recognise that we have explored this scheme and the associated implications before arriving at this decision.

I hope you find this response helpful.

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-05-960 Fund the funeral costs of all NHS staff who die from or with Covid-19, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 10.11.20

Dear Petitions Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the minister's statement regarding our petition to pay for the funeral costs for NHS staff who die from COVID-19. The minister notes his gratitude to the dedicated and hardworking staff but his decision nonetheless concludes that that he does not want to support the scheme due to cost, time and eligibility criteria.

As petitioners were asking the petition committee reject this response and if necessary to ask for a disclosure of the options that were considered in modelling the costs and possibilities of this scheme. Whilst we would not presume to tell the Welsh Government how to manage their grant support it has always been in our minds that an obvious possibility would be an administrative scheme run via funeral homes. Where the family's declare that their loved one was NHS staff and provide evidence such as staff payroll number so that the funeral homes can make a single application for a one off fixed payment towards the costs. If the money was a clear fixed sum it would allow families to make decisions about the funeral and free them from the administrative burden and financial worries at their most extreme vulnerable moment.

We would like to dispute the ministers conclusions in the following areas:

- The minister says that funeral costs vary significantly. They do but we were not asking for full costs of any funeral to be paid, but simply a contribution that would reflect an average cost of a funeral in Wales today. We put a statement on the average costs within our petition. We would not be looking to The Welsh Government to provide a blank cheque but to make a guarantee of a payment that would allow a decent funeral. The cost of this could indeed be in line with money provided to service personnel as included in the notes to the first hearing of this petition.
- The minister states that the identification of NHS staff is problematic. As petitioners we had envisaged an approach to this scheme which was not by Local Authority identification of those affected. When we considered it we thought that it should be available via funeral homes who would apply to the scheme to offset costs. I'm quite sure that families would be in no doubt as to whether their loved one worked for the NHS and would easily be able to provide information such as a staff number to a funeral parlour which could be used as the basis for support. By making this a single payment of a fixed amount the administration should not be exceptional.
- Eligibility for other frontline workers is of course an important consideration and one which has been raised by the members of the petition committee and which we as petitioners are tremendously supportive of. However because the parameters of this would be difficult to establish we had kept our petition clear and focussed on staff working for the NHS. This therefore entirely addresses the minister's point. However, because it would be good to extend the scheme our proposal would be the best way to set up and test such a scheme in practice starting with NHS staff and possibly extending it once the system is in place. It would be beneficial to add other front line key workers however this is not a reason not to support the burial costs of NHS staff. If the minister is struggling to find parameters to work with then the eligibility rules for the £60,000 grant would seem the obvious place to start.
- The minister claims that it would take a long time to set up the scheme. With all political decisions regarding money and possesses we the petitioners believe that this is an issue of priorities. The Welsh Government has provided very welcome business support during the pandemic glance which have been established, claimed and paid in the time allowed (<https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/>). It is a testament to the Welsh

Government that they have been able to do such a thing and therefore they could also apply the considerable focus, commitment and expertise already demonstrated to supporting NHS families. Retrospective reimbursement would require additional administrative requirements and again our assumption that this would be to a capped figure which would make the process considerably easier. We the petitioners do not know the number of NHS staff who have died of COVID-19 in Wales although we believe it to be fewer than 100. We assume the Welsh Government does have access to this information and therefore the exposure of the Welsh government to administrative work would be relatively small. It is hardly an argument that we won't support you now because we did not before. Everyone knows this is an exceptional time. What matters is that we make the right decisions today.

- The final point that the minister makes is that he considered the balance of resources and that a 60,000 pound life insurance scheme that has already been made available. The 60,000 pounds is indeed welcome but as we have made the case previously, this money will be needed across many aspects of people's lives and will take time to come through. The support we seek is immediate, targeted and simple to remove a tiny but significant challenge in the lives of families who have given so much: money they don't have to turn to crowd sourcing to raise. The £60,000 is excellent but we all know it can never reimburse the families for what they have lost. This petition addresses the immediate, agonising and awful time of losing someone and we aim to provide simple immediate and unqualified support. AS THEY DID by going to work to care for us.

We all know that politics requires difficult choices but so does working in the NHS during a pandemic. We have said to NHS staff that we want them to go back into hospitals during the second wave of the pandemic with all the stress, risk and responsibility that this entails. I would hope no further NHS staff member nor care worker would die from COVID-19 and that, of course would be the best outcome. Until that is the case, it seems a small ask in comparison for the Welsh Government to put aside the relatively small administrative and financial resource is necessary to provide families with alleviation in the worst of situations. NHS staff are making choices that are genuinely difficult: it is time that Wales and the Welsh people showed that they supported those staff taking these risks and making those choice.

I would encourage the members of the petitions committee not to let this matter close. Please do not to accept that this scheme has been fully explored and please ask for more evidence that the scheme has been fully considered considering the practical implications and implementation. This is not about what is possible this is about what choices we make. You have all spoken in the meetings about the basic good sense and humanity of this proposals please keep this matter on the agenda.

Yours sincerely

Jane Henderson on behalf of the petitioners

Agenda Item 3.6

P-05-1006 Release the £59 million to the arts to prevent local grassroots music venues from closure

This petition was submitted by Neil Bates having collected a total of 100 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Many of the arts and entertainment venues face closure shortly. Unless the Welsh Government start organising support with immediate effect by distributing the £59 million pounds it has for the industry then many venues will close.

Additional Information

Sadly entertainment and the arts appear to be bottom of the priorities with the Welsh Government. Very little discussion is taking place and the lack of information is only adding to the problem.

Please support the entertainment industry by signing this petition before yet another vital industry is lost in your area and more people face unemployment. It's time for the Welsh Government to show support.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire
- Mid and West Wales



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1006
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/02738/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

22 October 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 13 October. As previously noted in my letter of 2 September, the creative industries has been one of the fastest growing parts of the Welsh economy for a number of years, and in January 2020 the Welsh Government established Creative Wales as an internal body to champion the creative industries in Wales. Supporting the Music sector has been identified as a priority area of focus for Creative Wales.

A COVID-19 music stakeholder support group was established at the start of the pandemic to gather intelligence on its impact on the live music sector and to work with partners to identify how Creative Wales could best provide support in response.

That has included a repurposing of the Grassroots Music Venues Fund to meet the immediate needs of grassroots businesses. A total of over £401,000 was allocated to 22 grassroots music businesses across Wales.

Live music venues have been able to access the Welsh Government's Cultural Recovery Fund, established in recognition of the continuing challenges being faced by live music businesses, venues and artists and the difficulties associated with resuming activity in light of the measures taken to limit the spread of the virus.

We are continuing to work with the COVID-19 music stakeholder group on various issues including the longer term sustainability of the music venues.

It was for the Welsh Government to determine how it allocated its share of the UK Government's £1.57bn package of support for the UK's culture sector. £53m has been allocated for the Wales Cultural Recovery Fund for the Arts (CRFA). The additional funding

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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.

is still available to Welsh Ministers, who are considering how this can be best deployed to support recovery from the current crisis. Our immediate focus is distributing the CRFA to ensure the survival of the arts in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

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

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

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

Agenda Item 3.7

P-05-1013 Provide financial support for self-employed individuals within the Welsh live music industry

This petition was submitted by Peter Phillips having collected a total of 189 signatures.

Text of Petition:

The Welsh Government have given no indication as to when live music will be allowed to commence post lockdown. Accordingly, anybody working in the live music industry in Wales is unable to earn a living. The national Self-Employment Income Scheme ends on 17 August. After that date, should the Welsh Government continue to prohibit live music, they should be compelled to provide direct financial support to self-employed individuals in Wales who make their living in that industry.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Bridgend
- South Wales West



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1013
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/02747/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

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28 October 2020

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 13 October seeking further information on the eligibility criteria for the Freelancer Fund.

My officials worked closely with stakeholders in the design of the Freelancer Fund, including with local authorities, who are delivering the fund on our behalf. We engaged extensively with cultural and creative unions, including the Musicians' Union and with freelancers through the Wales Freelance Taskforce.

The eligibility criteria was agreed in line with those conversations, as follows:

- To be eligible, freelancers must work in the four key sub sectors of the arts, creative industries, arts and heritage events and culture and heritage, and their work must have direct creative/cultural outcomes;
- They must provide proof of some work as a freelancer in those sectors between April 2019 – July 2020 and/or proof of work cancelled between April 2020 – March 2021.
- They must not have received funding from the Start Up Grant launched in June 2020 to help new businesses survive the economic consequences of Covid-19;
- They must live in the local authority to which they are applying for funds;
- Individuals in freelance roles that have been able to continue at previous or near previous levels of activity (e.g. architects, graphic designers, games designers etc.) with or without support were advised not to apply.

Following advice from stakeholders we have not asked applicants to provide detailed evidence and proof of loss of work to a particular level.

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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.

My officials continue to engage with stakeholders during the delivery of the fund to review arrangements on an ongoing basis. The speed in which the Freelancer Fund was oversubscribed in some local authority areas in both phases of delivery has highlighted the huge levels of demand for this support. In this period of unprecedented challenges, with significant demand on Welsh Government budgets, we were always aware that demand was likely to exceed availability of funding. The volume of applications is clear evidence of the need for support for this group of workers and we are currently exploring options to providing further support in the context of competing demands on finance.

Yours sincerely,

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

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

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

P-05-1013 Provide financial support for self-employed individuals within the Welsh live music industry, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 10.11.20

Thank you for the copy of Arglwydd Elis-Thomas' letter to the Petitions Committee dated 28 October. I respond as follows:

My petition was in respect of the Welsh Government failing to provide financial support for professionals working within the Welsh live music sector during the period that live music remains prohibited under the prevailing Coronavirus restrictions in Wales. These restrictions started in March and continue to date. Mr Elis-Thomas' letter appears to imply that the Freelancer Fund addresses the financial difficulties Welsh music industry professionals are currently facing. I would make the point that the Freelancer Fund falls woefully short of addressing these financial hardships for the following reasons:

- The Freelancer Fund is limited on a strictly first-come basis. This completely disadvantages people who were unaware of the fund and when applications opened.
- By the very fact that the Freelancer Fund will not be sufficient to cover the number of applications it is not fit for purpose.
- The maximum that can be claimed from the Freelancer Fund is £2,500. For the vast number of applicants this will fall considerably short of the income they have been deprived of since March.
- One qualification is that the applicant's work must have 'direct creative/cultural outcomes.' The danger here is the introduction of a huge element of subjectivity within the application process. Would the person or persons considering the application consider an Elvis Tribute Artist or a Wedding Singer as meeting that criteria?

It now appears that the UK Government have re-introduced the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme nationwide . This will go some way to assisting the music professionals who the Welsh Government have failed to support. However, there are a number of people who will not be supported by this scheme whilst the Welsh Government continue to prohibit live music.

In his letter Mr Elis Thomas says, inter alia, that his department is exploring options to provide further support to this sector in general. Accordingly I would urge the Welsh Government to think again in respect of how they are financially supporting all professionals within the live music industry during the period they continue to prohibit these people from working.

Yours Faithfully

Agenda Item 3.8

P-05-1007 Merge Hope and Caergwrle into a two-member ward in the County of Flintshire

This petition was submitted by David John Healey having collected a total of 282 signatures.

Text of Petition:

The Final Report of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (LDBC) recommends that Higher Kinnerton and Hope are merged into a two-member ward and that Caergwrle, Llanfynydd and Treuddyn are also merged into a two member ward. The latter proposal is entirely new and was never submitted for consultation.

Additional Information

The communities of Hope and Caergwrle have a long history of working together and are regarded as one settlement either side of the River Alyn. The expression 'Live in Hope, Die in Caergwrle' is known the world over. The community spirit between these two villages has played a vital role in providing support for vulnerable residents during the Covid-19 pandemic and will be crucial in building community resilience in the post-Covid environment. The proposed electoral arrangements threaten to pull the community in separate directions and undermine proven social cohesion at a critical time. We urge the Senedd to give a significant weighting to social cohesion in this case in determining future ward boundaries.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Alyn and Deeside
- North 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
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/02677/20

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2 November 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 13th October following the Petitions Committee's consideration of petition P-05-1007 Merge Hope and Caergwrle into a two-member ward in the County of Flintshire.

I understand the concerns raised by the petitioner about proceeding with this review and the suggestion that it be paused while the Coronavirus pandemic remains active within communities.

In my letter of 14 September I confirmed the approach being taken in relation to the current programme of reviews, which involves each local authority area across Wales. To ensure any changes to electoral boundaries can be made in advance of the next local government elections in May 2022 the reviews need to be completed and Orders in force by the end of September 2021. This will provide local authorities with sufficient time to implement any changes.

While consideration has been given to pausing the review process I consider it important to ensure the electoral boundaries reflect, as far as possible, the changes within local authority areas. There is a significant amount of work still to be completed and while Covid-19 has resulted in some delays our aim is to complete the reviews and any required Orders by September 2021.

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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.

On the point of community cohesion, I can confirm the Commission are required by Section 30 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act) to:

- (a) seek to ensure that the ratio of local government electors to the number of members of the council to be elected is, as nearly as may be, the same in every electoral ward of the principal area; and
- (b) have regard to:
 - (i) the desirability of fixing boundaries for electoral wards which are and will remain easily identifiable; and
 - (ii) the desirability of not breaking local ties when fixing boundaries for electoral wards. The Boundary Commission considered all of the representations they received before formulating their final proposals.

I consider this approach to be wide enough to consider the issues raised by the petitioner. On reviewing each of the electoral arrangements I will be giving careful consideration to the views expressed by local communities and the response of the Commission.

Yours sincerely,



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

**P-05-1007 Merge Hope and Caergwrle into a two-member ward in the
County of Flintshire, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 6.10.20**

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

6th November 2020

Dear Petitions Committee,

Thank you for email regarding Petition P-05-1007 Merge Hope and Caergwrle into a two member ward in the County of Flintshire.

I would like to thank the Minister for taking the time to respond to the comments made by the Committee following their last meeting.

I fully accept the Minister's decision not to pause the process of the review of electoral boundaries and to seek completion of the reviews so that Orders can come in force by the end of September 2021.

I also note, and accept, that Section 30 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act) does reference:

“the desirability of not breaking local ties when fixing boundaries for electoral wards.”

I accept, that this does allow for community cohesion to be considered in defining ward boundaries.

My contention is, of course, that, in consideration of the issue of electoral wards in the southern part of Flintshire, the final recommendations do sever the historical and communities ties between the communities of Hope and Caergwrle. These ties are sacrificed to secure arrangements which ensure electoral parity in terms of numbers of voters per elected representative.

I recognise the immense importance of the principle of electoral parity, the importance of the Welsh Chartists' campaign which included the demand for “Equal Constituencies” and the inequalities associated with the era of Pocket Boroughs. I also would hope that there are cases where community ties have been recognised to be of determining significance and that their importance has been recognised so that they are not broken by electoral arrangements.

I am arguing that the case of Hope and Caergwrle should be viewed as one such exception and that these ties should be preserved in order to facilitate community resilience which will be of vital importance as we move to the recovery phase of the current pandemic.

Arguments in favour of maintaining the link between these two neighbouring villages have been put forward by Flintshire County Council, Hope Community Council, the Alyn and Deeside Conservative Association and a significant number of erudite individuals within the communities of Hope and Caergwrle. Their arguments have not been based upon what may be viewed as narrow political considerations: they have been based on what is genuinely best for the community as a whole.

I would therefore appeal to the Minister to use her discretion to ask the Commission to review this aspect of its recommendations. It may be that the closest fit, which maintains precious community ties, would be two-member wards for both Hope and Caergwrle and Llanfynydd and Treuddyn and the retention of a single member ward for Higher Kinnerton.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'D Healey'.

David Healey

Agenda Item 3.9

P-05-1021 Do not make face masks or face coverings mandatory in ANY (inc secondary) schools

This petition was submitted by Lindsey Jones having collected a total of 214 signatures.

Text of Petition:

There is so much evidence to suggest face masks do not stop the spread of viruses including COVID-19/coronavirus.

Masks promote the touching of faces repeatedly which will spread any pathogens that are on the mask. On the topic of masks, Dr Jenny Harries is quoted in saying "Because of human behavioural issues, people can adversely put themselves at more risk than less."

Many doctors & health professionals are speaking out to say face masks aid the spread of viruses.

Additional Information:

[https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)-outbreak](https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)-outbreak)

https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article

<https://swprs.org/face-masks-evidence/>

<https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/5/4/e006577>

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Monmouth
- South Wales East

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1021
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/06239/20
Janet Finch-Saunders MS
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2 November 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter dated 28 October regarding the available guidance for schools and settings relating to the wearing of face coverings and masks.

As mentioned in my letter of 5 October, we have not sought to make the use of face coverings mandatory for all learners over the age of 11, however, in line with the latest advice and guidance, we encourage the use of face coverings in communal areas in schools and settings where the ability to social distance is difficult to maintain.

This informative video released on social media sites provides helpful guidance on wearing face coverings: (Welsh:https://youtu.be/_rDqnRYbiCM/ English:<https://youtu.be/b5-QBMGKeKc>). Our regularly updated [Operational Guidance for Schools and Settings](#) also reflects the latest advice on the use of face coverings in schools and their safe storage and disposal, and provides greater clarity around school transport guidance. As it is mandatory for all to wear face coverings on public transport, including school transport, except those under the age of 11 and those who may not be able to manage face coverings as directed or for health reasons, our transport guidance below also refers to face coverings and safety measures: <https://gov.wales/requirement-wear-face-covering-public-transport-wales>

The Welsh Government's Technical Advisory Group has issued this advice for children and young people in education settings having considered an update from the World Health Organisation, link [here](#), and the latest guidance for the public regarding the use of face coverings and masks can be found on the Welsh Government website [here](#).

While I appreciate the wearing of face coverings in secondary schools remains a contentious issue, most schools in Wales have chosen to adopt this as a risk mitigating measure. Also, it remains the responsibility of local authorities and education establishments to implement and manage local arrangements in their schools, settings and

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Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales

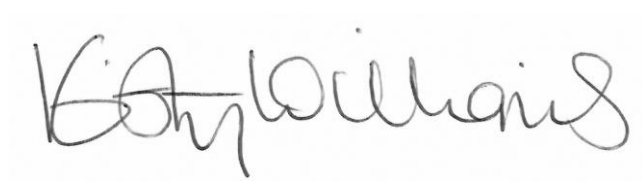
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

on school transport. However, I also know that, when it is not feasible for learners or staff members to wear face coverings, discussions and advice on the options available, in line with our guidance, are recommended.

I hope you find the information and links provided sufficient for your inquiry, and may I again reassure you that we carefully monitor the medical and scientific evidence and advice and we ensure our advice reflects any changes, including that on face coverings.

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

Agenda Item 3.10

P-05-1008 Teach mental health first aid in schools in Wales

This petition was submitted by Jonny Alcock having collected a total of 222 signatures.

Text of Petition:

For too long now Wales has been plagued by a silent killer, countless people have lost loved ones as a result of fighting an unknown battle. This petition is to push for Mental Health first aid training in schools to build a society where people will always have support and the tools to fight the awful battle so many face on a daily basis, hopefully saving many lives.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Pontypridd
- South Wales Central

**P-05-1008 Teach mental health first aid in schools in Wales, Correspondence –
Petitioner to Committee, 10.11.20**

I spoke with a couple of leading mental health charities as the petition gained traction and although they agreed with the idea of better education regarding mental health, they explained that as it is currently delivered mental health first aid may not be an appropriate way to do it. Added to that the response from the Education Minister and correspondence with MindCymru have reassured me that the correct steps are being taken to tackle the mental health crisis. With all this in mind my petition on the whole may not be appropriate anymore, but I would still like to emphasise how important I believe it to be that the Senedd commit to prioritising tackling the mental health crisis, which will have been significantly aggravated due to the pandemic and subsequent necessary lockdowns. Thanks to those in the committee for considering my petition and the hard work that is currently being put in to tackle the mental health crisis in Wales. I have seen first-hand the catastrophic consequences mental health struggles have due to a young man named [REDACTED] sadly taking his life earlier in the year in my local community, whilst I didn't personally know [REDACTED], I have a lot of mutual friends with him and the impact on them and the wider community has been heart-breaking. Thanks again for considering my petition.

Kind regards,

Agenda Item 3.11

P-05-951 Impose a legal limit on the maximum number of breeding bitches in licensed dog breeding establishments in Wales

This petition was submitted by Dinah Mulholland having collected a total of 229 signatures.

Text of Petition

The Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2014 has imposed the requirement for a breeder with 3 or more breeding bitches to be licensed as a breeding establishment. However, no maximum limit has been placed on the number of breeding bitches that can be kept in a licensed dog breeding establishment. There are therefore licensed dog breeding establishments in Wales that are breeding dogs on an industrial scale, with some establishments licensed to breed from 90 or 100 bitches on a single premises. Even if licensing conditions are met in these mass breeding establishments, the breeding of dogs on such an industrial scale is a highly questionable practice and needs to be reviewed. This petition therefore requests that Welsh Government hold a public consultation into defining a maximum limit on the number of breeding bitches in licensed breeding kennels. Included in this consultation should be a review of whether or not the Welsh public and Welsh organisations consider that the mass breeding of dogs is acceptable. The consultation also needs to consider whether the licensing local authorities in Wales have fulfilled their requirement to inspect and where necessary revoke dog breeding licenses, as if we are to permit the mass breeding of dogs then Welsh Government must ensure that local authorities enforce licensing conditions and fulfil their obligations as laid out in the 2014 Regulations.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Ceredigion
- Mid and West Wales

Agenda Item 3.12

P-05-952 Revert to Welsh language spelling of place-names

This petition was submitted by Jonathan Parsons having collected a total of 1,096 signatures.

Text of Petition

Wales has many place names which have needlessly been Anglicised, and have often been replaced by Anglicised forms for no good reason. Not only is this disrespectful to Welsh people and the Welsh language, but the Welsh language is, according to Law, supposed to be on an equal footing with English in Wales.

Places such as Trevor (from Welsh Trefor) near Wrexham are not only undermining, but obscure the etymologies of such names! This is surely unacceptable.

I, and the undersigned, therefore petition the Welsh Assembly to take action and change these Anglicised forms of Welsh names – throughout Wales – and restore their original Welsh spellings. The petition does not go so far as to call for English names to be abolished where a Welsh name also exists (Caerdydd next to Cardiff, etc).

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Clwyd South
- North Wales

Agenda Item 3.13

P-05-953 Ban Single Use Plastic Milk Bottles in schools

This petition was submitted by St Aidan's Church in Wales VA School having collected a total of 369 signatures.

Text of Petition

We, children of St Aidan's Church in Wales VA School call on the National Assembly of Wales to change the way we use plastic milk bottles in schools. Each day in Wales we use approximately 300kg of plastic milk bottles which are used as part of the free milk scheme in schools. We think it is portraying a negative view towards sustainability, because more people are buying more plastic. The amount of plastic bottles we use is outrageous.

Plastic is made out of natural gas, crude oil and coal. We are using about 4,000 plastic bottles nearly every year for this free milk scheme. We want you to ban single use plastic milk bottles in school. We suggest that all schools in Wales purchase big bottles of milk and pour it in plastic cups which we can use again. We are using the fossil fuels faster than we can develop it. Thank you for reading this petition and for hopefully helping the country sort this mass of waste.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Preseli Pembrokeshire
- Mid and West Wales

Agenda Item 3.14

P-05-961 Lower the age for breast cancer screening in Wales from 50 to 30

This petition was submitted by Rachel Candy having collected a total of 76 signatures.

Text of Petition

A friend of mine was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer at the age of 36. If she had been screened this would have been detected and dealt with a lot sooner.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Bridgend
- South Wales West

Agenda Item 3.15

P-05-999 Implement a minimum of 1 metre social distancing in all Primary Schools in September 2020

This petition was submitted by Laura Denise Keighan having collected a total of 124 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Protect our Children, Protect our NHS.

It is no secret that every winter our NHS struggles from winter pressures including seasonal flu, filling UK hospitals full to capacity. Each year our news channels/feeds are full with stories of these pressures. A surge in coronavirus cases would put additional pressures on the NHS potentially taking it to breaking point. Despite this our WG plan to return our children to school without social distancing measures to protect them.

Additional Information

Evidence tells us that children need a level of normality to prevent mental health issues and ensure healthy lifestyles. Taking this on board but keeping the risks to our children & the NHS in mind I urge the WG to reconsider its proposal & consider a mixture of formal home schooling via distance learning along with the continuation of a “bubble model” which allows for social distancing. This would allow children to return to school on a part time basis while undertaking formal full time studies. I propose this method continue until the spring term when the annual period of winter pressures has passed.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Bridgend
- South Wales West

Agenda Item 3.16

P-05-1012 Oxygen chamber therapy for fibromyalgia patients on the NHS

This petition was submitted by Katie Nicole Jones having collected a total of 64 signatures.

Text of Petition:

We the undersigned call on the Welsh government to provide oxygen chamber therapy to Fibromyalgia sufferers funded through the NHS.

Additional Information

Oxygen chamber therapy has been researched and it has been shown to reduce the symptoms of fibromyalgia and help people become medication free, which while medication can help comes with unpleasant side effects.

These studies

include <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0127012>

https://ard.bmj.com/content/77/Suppl_2/461.3

These studies show that this treatment could help many sufferers such as myself to lead a fuller and healthier life and we the undersigned would like the opportunity to have this treatment.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Aberavon
- South Wales West

Agenda Item 3.17

P-05-1016 Extend the new Green Homes Grant to Wales

This petition was submitted by Cheryl Griffiths having collected a total of 1,413 signatures.

Text of Petition:

The Chancellor has announced a new Green Homes Grant to give up to £5000 in vouchers for energy efficient improvements to homes in England. The Welsh Government should implement the same in order to improve the housing stock, safeguard Welsh jobs and contribute to Welsh environmental concerns.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cynon Valley
- South Wales Central

Agenda Item 3.18

P-05-1020 Introduce an Appeals process in Wales for all Centre Assessed Grades for 2020 public exam programme

This petition was submitted by Parents in Wales having collected a total of 87 signatures.

Text of Petition:

We were relieved that the Welsh Assembly Government decided that CAGs should form the basis for 2020 exam results. However, what learners need now is a transparent process for appeals against CAGs which may have been lowered due to assessment criteria set by WJEC, disallowing compensatory measures ie variable learner circumstances affecting data.

Additional Information:

Some examples

- o learner illness/medical issues causing school absence and missing mock results, topic tests and lowering of tracking data;
- o inconsistencies/issues with staffing affecting quality of teaching and impacting on learner data outcomes;
- o learners with additional needs who may have been absent, in isolation, or did not receive adequate SEN support and this would impact on all data and excludes potential;
- o cared for children who may be experiencing changes to school/foster parents and emotional trauma impacting on data

Qualifications Wales has mentioned in the media their concern that the use of CAGs could include inflated results by teachers. If this concern is viable it is also possible that to offset inflation, teacher bias would use compensatory deflated grades to secure a normal school pattern of performance. It is therefore likely that some students may be disappointed with their CAGs and should have the opportunity to seek appeal with their schools.

Parents Voices in Wales.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff North

- South Wales Central

Agenda Item 5

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

Document is Restricted