

Agenda – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd/Zoom

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 18 November 2020

Meeting time: 13.30

304(v4)

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

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

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

1 Questions to the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

(45 mins)

The Presiding Officer will call party spokespeople to ask questions without notice after Question 2.

[View Questions](#)

2 Questions to the Minister for Housing and Local Government

(45 mins)

The Presiding Officer will call party spokespeople to ask questions without notice after Question 2.

[View Questions](#)

3 Debate: Stage 4 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill

(15 mins)

NDM7486 [Julie James \(Swansea West\)](#)

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

Approves the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill.

[Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Bill, as amended at Stage 3 \(unchecked\)](#)

4 Topical Questions

(20 mins)

No Topical Questions have been accepted

5 90 Second Statements

(5 mins)

6 Member Debate under Standing Order 12.21(iv) – Housing asylum seekers at the Penally military base

(60 mins)

NDM7455 [Helen Mary Jones \(Mid and West Wales\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Believes that the UK Government should have held discussions with the Welsh Government and local representatives before housing asylum seekers at the Penally military base, near Tenby.

2. Believes that the decision should be reconsidered because it is an unsuitable place for asylum seekers, as it is isolated from appropriate support networks.

3. Condemns the violent protests organised by far-right groups from outside Pembrokeshire.

4. Praises local residents and volunteers from across Wales who have welcomed and supported the asylum seekers.

Co-submitters

[Joyce Watson](#)

[Leanne Wood](#)

Supporters

[John Griffiths](#)

[Llyr Gruffydd](#)

[Mick Antoniw](#)

The following amendment has been tabled:

Amendment 1 [Neil Hamilton \(Mid and West Wales\)](#)

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Condemns the disorder that has occurred from within the Penally military base, near Tenby, during its housing of asylum seekers in recent weeks, which has resulted in regular police attendance.
2. Notes reports of five arrests of asylum seekers resident in the Penally military base on 10 November 2020 and reports of two arrests from within the base in October 2020.
3. Further notes reports of asylum seekers resident in the Penally military base breaking coronavirus regulations and guidance and engaging in disorderly behaviour when travelling outside of it; and the consequent distress caused to Penally residents.
4. Believes that a partial cause of the situation at Penally is the failure of the UK Government to implement humane, firm and fair immigration and border controls which ensure that foreign non-UK-residents, and particularly those who have been refused asylum claims or refused the right to reside in other safe countries, do not illegally enter or remain in the UK.
5. Further believes that another partial cause of the situation at Penally is the Welsh Government's nation of sanctuary plan, which encourages foreign non-UK

residents to enter the UK illegally and then make claims for asylum whilst located in Wales.

6. Strongly condemns the sometimes violent, intimidating, subversive and covert behaviour of extreme-left political parties and organisations, including Stand Up To Racism, Hope Not Hate and Far Right Watch Wales, that is directed towards people who express legitimate and reasonable political views in relation to the situation in Penally.

7. Believes that the views of Penally residents are at least as important as those people who are referred to as volunteers, stakeholder groups, and representatives; and praises the majority of Penally residents who are in favour of humane, firm and fair immigration and border controls in the UK, and applied to Penally specifically.

8. Believes that the housing of asylum seekers at the Penally military base should be discontinued.

7 Debate on the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Report: The impact of COVID-19 on heritage, museums and archives

(30 mins)

NDM7477 [Helen Mary Jones \(Mid and West Wales\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the report of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee, 'The impact of COVID-19 on heritage, museums and archives', [laid](#) in the Table Office on 7 August 2020.

Note: The response from the Welsh Government to the report was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 16 September 2020.

8 Plaid Cymru debate – COVID-19 special support areas

(60 mins)

NDM7480 [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes the continued high prevalence of COVID-19 infection rates within the south Wales valleys, with areas of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg and Aneurin Bevan health boards experiencing some of the highest rates in the UK.

2. Notes the research conducted in England showing that the effects of the pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on post-industrial communities in northern England and exacerbated the longstanding regional disparities of the British state.

3. Calls on the Welsh Government to designate areas experiencing higher prevalence of COVID-19 infection rates as COVID special support areas to qualify for additional support measures which would include:

a) additional support for those who are clinically vulnerable and cannot work from home;

b) a top up of the self-isolation grant to £800;

c) additional resources for test-and-trace teams and local authorities;

d) additional voluntary accommodation for those unable to self-isolate safely at home;

e) greater testing to identify asymptomatic cases;

f) priority for mass testing programmes and early roll out of any vaccine;

g) strengthened local public communication campaigns to facilitate adherence with public health guidelines:

h) additional resources for local COVID wardens for local authorities and COVID community champions to reiterate national COVID prevention messages;

i) additional protective measures in schools and on school transport, including mask wearing in classrooms;

j) additional resources for safe, affordable childcare;

k) additional measures to mitigate the digital divide and the disruption to education;

l) greater support for business and self-employed people opting to cease trading voluntarily on a temporary basis;

m) dispersal orders in town centres after pub closures.

[Northern Health Science Alliance – COVID-19 and the Northern Powerhouse:
Tackling inequalities for UK health and productivity](#)

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1 [Gareth Bennett \(South Wales Central\)](#)

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes that areas that continue to have a high prevalence of COVID-19 have benefitted from the £5 billion financial support given to Wales during the COVID-19 pandemic from the UK Government.
2. Regrets that the Welsh Government has consistently taken a different COVID-19 strategy from the UK Government and that this has not helped the continued high infection rates prevalent within the south Wales valleys.
3. Believes that the best response to assist the areas most affected by COVID-19 in Wales is by having a united, UK response, led by the UK Government.

Co-submitter

[Mark Reckless](#)

[If amendment 1 is agreed, amendments 2, 3 and 4 will be de-selected.]

Amendment 2 [Rebecca Evans \(Gower\)](#)

Delete point 1 and replace with:

Notes that Welsh Government continues to actively review the prevalence of COVID-19 infection rates across Wales, given the high prevalence of COVID-19 infection rates in some areas.

Amendment 3 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

Delete all after point 1 and replace with:

Welcomes the historic levels of funding by Her Majesty's Government to all regions and nations of the UK, including those areas with high infection rates, to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, especially the £5 billion of additional funding provided to the Welsh Government.

Believes that additional support measures should be put in place in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board area in light of media reports that at least 9,000 patients have been waiting for more than a year for NHS treatment in September in that area, with waiting times due to increase further following the impact of COVID-19.

Calls upon the Welsh Government to provide the following in relation to areas with high prevalence of COVID-19, as well as other areas throughout Wales:

- a) directly target areas experiencing higher prevalence of COVID-19 infection rates in Wales, including smart, targeted restrictions where appropriate;
- b) increase the activation of COVID-free hospitals and temporary hospital facilities to ease pressures on the healthcare system and tackle waiting lists;
- c) target testing at hot-spot areas and roll-out twice-weekly asymptomatic screening for all patient-facing staff in the Welsh NHS and social care sector;
- d) commission an urgent inquiry into deaths and infections linked to hospital outbreaks;
- e) introduce a compassionate support package for those most vulnerable to harm from coronavirus in Wales;
- f) backdate self-isolation payments in Wales to 28 September to ensure a level playing field with other parts of the UK;
- g) allocate the remaining unspent funds made available from Her Majesty's Government to tackle the coronavirus.

[If amendment 3 is agreed, amendment 4 will be de-selected.]

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

Delete point 3 and replace with:

Notes that the Welsh Government has put a broad range of national support measures in place to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, which aim to assist those areas with high prevalence of COVID-19 infection rates as well as other areas across Wales, including:

- a) building the testing and contact tracing capacity and introducing new testing options;
- b) additional funding and support to local authorities;

- c) significant public information campaigns across media and social media channels;
- d) support for the safe reopening of schools and other education institutes;
- e) funding for economic recovery and business in Wales;
- f) £500 self-isolation payment.

9 Voting Time

10 Short Debate

(30 mins)

NDM7479 [Jayne Bryant \(Newport West\)](#)

The well-being benefits of the arts in a pandemic.

Looking at how the arts can have a profoundly positive impact on a person's physical and mental well-being.

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 24 November 2020