

Spring Term 2020

This update provides information on some of the work that the Committee has undertaken during this term and progress on some of the petitions before the Committee. It has been produced by the Clerking team that supports the Committee's work. The Committee's twitter feed [@SeneddPetitions](#) carries all our latest news, petitions and meetings.

Petitions Considered: January – March 2020

New petitions received on our website

We received 24 new admissible petitions.

New petitions considered by the Committee

We considered 23 petitions for the first time.

Updates on petitions

We have considered 101 updates to petitions.

Evidence sessions

We held an **evidence session** with the Minister for Education on the following petitions:

- [P-05-862 Tackling school bullying](#)
- [P-05-757 Remove the Obligation on Schools to Hold Acts of Religious Worship](#)
- [P-05-765 Keeping Current Guidelines for Religious Assemblies](#)

Petition progress

This term has seen a number of petitions make considerable progress, resulting in debates, reports and policy changes.

[P-04-443 CCTV in Slaughterhouses](#)

[P-05-916 Adequate funding to protect the welfare of farm animals in Welsh slaughterhouses](#)

The Committee published its **report** on slaughterhouses on 23 January and the Welsh Government **responded** on 3 March. The report will be debated in the Senedd in due course.

[P-05-736 To Make Mental Health Services More Accessible](#)

The Welsh Government **responded** to the Committee's **report** on 2 January.

[P-05-796 Calling on the Welsh Government to Ban The Use of Wild Animals in Circuses in Wales](#)

The Welsh Government's **Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Bill** is currently at Stage 3, which involves detailed consideration of the Bill and amendments to it by the Assembly .

P-05-829 Ban Single Use Plastic Items in Wales

Plans to ban a wide range of single-use plastics have been confirmed by the **Welsh Government**.

P-05-806 We call for all premises in Wales to be awarded an Access Certificate number similar to the Food Hygiene Certificate.

The Welsh Government's Framework, **Action on Disability: The Right to Independent Living**, includes a commitment to *"take forward recommendations arising from the recent petition for the 'Scores on the Doors' accessibility rating campaign to explore how this could be developed on a Wales wide basis"*

P-05-856 Ban the sale of puppies by pet shops and all commercial 3rd party dealers in Wales

P-05-915 Call for better enforcement of puppy farms in Wales

P-05-939 Immediate embargo on new dog breeding licences, licence renewals and planning applications until regulations are fit for purpose and enforceable

The Welsh Government published a **statement** on 4 March which committed to driving up welfare standards for dogs at breeding premises, following a **review**.

P-05-801 Save the trees and ground in Roath Mill and Roath Brook Gardens before it's too late

The petition was successful in halting further work on the flood prevention scheme and ensuring any future work is reassessed as a stand-alone project.

P-05-783 Ensuring Equality of Curriculum for Welsh Medium Schools e.g. GCSE Psychology

Qualifications Wales' recent consultation, **Qualified for the future**, proposes that publicly funded qualifications taken at 16 should be available bilingually.

P-05-751 Recognition of Parental Alienation

Cafcass Cymru has published new practice guidance, **Children's Resistance Or Refusal To Spend Time With A Parent: Practice Guidance**.

Committee meetings

The Committee has met 5 times during this term:

- **7 January**
- **21 January**
- **4 February**
- **25 February**
- **10 March**

Information on each meeting is available at the above links.

New petitions system

Our new petitions system is in development and will be going live in April 2020. It has been designed to be more user friendly and accessible, with additional security features.

Things to remember

- Petitions must meet our **admissibility criteria**.

- Petitions that gain 50 signatures will be considered by the Committee.
- We may decide to refer petitions that gain 5,000 signatures for a Plenary debate.
- We cannot accept petitions from other petition websites.

Name Change

From 6 May 2020 the National Assembly for Wales will become the **Welsh Parliament** or **Senedd Cymru**, commonly known as the Senedd. **Find out more** about the name change.

Contact details

You can email our Clerking Team:
SeneddPetitions@Assembly.Wales

Phone us: **0300 200 6565**

Follow us on Twitter: **@SeneddPetitions**

Website: **www.assembly.wales/petitions**

Following our name change, our contact details will be:

Email: **Petitions@Senedd.Wales**

Website: **www.senedd.wales/petitions**

Committee Members



Committee Chair
Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Welsh Conservatives



Michelle Brown AM
Independent



Neil McEvoy AM
Welsh National Party



Jack Sargeant AM
Welsh Labour



Leanne Wood AM
Plaid Cymru