

Petitions Committee – Review of petitions under consideration

Review of petitions under consideration at the end of the Fifth Senedd

Date: 11 March 2021

Purpose

1. This paper asks the Committee to review the petitions it is currently considering and agree which should be carried over to the Sixth Senedd for further consideration and which should be closed.

Background

2. In anticipation for the end of the current Senedd, the Committee asked the secretariat to identify which petitions could be carried over to the next Senedd for consideration by its successor committee and which petitions could be considered for closure by this Committee. A similar exercise was conducted at the end of the Fourth Assembly.
3. There are currently 127 petitions under consideration by the Committee (i.e. that have been discussed on at least one occasion and have not been closed). In determining how many petitions to carry over, the Committee should also note that there are currently 77 petitions collecting signatures which will also be referred for consideration in the Sixth Senedd if they collect sufficient signatures.
4. The secretariat have prepared two tables for the Committee's consideration. The table in Annex A provides an overview of the petitions that the Committee may wish to consider referring to the committee responsible for petitions in the Sixth Senedd. The table in Annex B contains the petitions that the Committee could consider closing. Petitions scheduled for discussion during the Committee's meeting on 16 March 2021 have not been included in these tables.

Action

5. The Committee is invited to consider the proposals below.

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Annex A: Petitions the Committee may wish to carry over for consideration in the Sixth Senedd

Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
P-05-859 Provide Child Houses in Wales for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse	227	January 2019	Seven occasions	The Committee agreed to ask its successor committee to consider the petition once the evaluation of the Lighthouse Project pilot project in London is published in 2021.
P-05-912 Supporting Families with Sudden and Unexpected Death in Children and Young Adults	5,682	November 2019	Two occasions	A Plenary debate for this petition which was scheduled for March 2020 was postponed in light of the coronavirus pandemic. The petitioners have requested for the petition to be passed for consideration in the Sixth Senedd.
P-05-914 Equal Access to Health Care for the Disabled	121	November 2019	Four occasions	Committee awaiting a response to proposals that it has made to the Welsh Government.
P-05-924 Ensure that every school in Wales has Wellbeing Ambassadors	297	January 2020	Two occasions	The Committee has been unable to take further evidence from the petitioners (school pupils) due to the impact of the pandemic.
P-05-937 STOP BOILING CRUSTACEANS ALIVE (lobsters, crabs, crayfish, prawns etc)	2,008	February 2020	Three occasions	Committee keeping watching brief in light of independent review, commissioned by Defra and the devolved Governments, expected in spring 2021.

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Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
P-05-954 Petition for a public inquiry by the Welsh Government into the historic child abuse on Caldey Island	5,088	July 2020	Two occasions	Committee agreed that there were few options open to it and to keep a watching brief. The petitioners have requested for the petition to be passed for consideration in the Sixth Senedd.
P-05-974 Ensure the technology of prosthetic limbs provided within the Welsh NHS is equal to the rest of the UK	561	September 2020	Two occasions	The Committee agreed to refer the petition for consideration in the Sixth Senedd.
P-05-1001 Hold an independent inquiry into the choice of site for the proposed new Velindre Cancer Centre	5,348	September 2020	Four occasions	Plenary debate held on 3 March. Committee awaiting response to further correspondence sent to Velindre University NHS Trust. <i>(Petition grouped with P-05-1018)</i>
P-05-1018 Support for the current proposed plans to build a new Velindre Cancer Centre, Cardiff, in any future inquiry	11,392	September 2020	Five occasions	Plenary debate held on 3 March. Committee awaiting response to further correspondence sent to Velindre University NHS Trust. <i>(Petition grouped with P-05-1001)</i>

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Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
P-05-1035 Allow birthing partners to be present at scans, the start of labour, birth and after the birth	7,326	November 2020	Two occasions	The Committee is awaiting an update from the Government following a Plenary debate held on the subject.
P-05-1040 Introduce a moratorium on the approval any new large scale waste incinerators in Wales	938	November 2020	Two occasions	Committee wrote to seek a further response from the Welsh Government.
P-05-1041 A clear policy and funding for hospitals and care homes for virtual visiting during times of lockdown	187	December 2020	One occasion	Committee wrote to seek a response from Care Forum Wales. Rules currently beginning to be relaxed in relation to care homes.
P-05-1045 To make shared-decision making and monthly mental health care-plan reviews a legal requirement	1,462	December 2020	Two occasions	Committee wrote to seek a further response from the Welsh Government.
P-05-1046 Reconsider lockdown and investigate scientific evidence	2,189	December 2020	One occasion	The Committee is awaiting a response to the petition from the Welsh Government.

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Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
that it does not work and causes more harm				
P-05-1056 Give Local Authorities powers to control the housing market in rural and tourist areas of Wales	5,386	December 2020	Two occasions	A Plenary debate on the petition is scheduled for 17 March.
P-05-1062 Abandon the rt-PCR test for covid-19 testing as its unfit for purpose	96	December 2020	One occasion	The Committee is awaiting a response to the petition from the Welsh Government.
P-05-1068 Allow socially distanced meets in private gardens to follow science and avoid isolation	273	January 2021	Two occasions	The Committee wrote to seek a further response from the Government.
P-05-1069 Save the farmland and green fields at Cosmeston	5,272	December 2020	Two occasions	The Committee agreed to maintain a watching brief over the next steps of the planning process and ask its successor Committee to review the petition in the Sixth Senedd.
P-05-1071 Print the vehicle registration on all drive	8,341	December 2020	One occasion	The Committee agreed to await comments from the petitioner. None have been received.

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Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
through fast food packaging				'Beyond Recycling' strategy and litter prevention plan have recently been published.
P-05-1073 Create and build a new branch of National Museum Wales dedicated to Welsh involvement in colonialism	103	December 2020	One occasion	The Committee wrote to seek a response from Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales. <i>(Petition grouped with P-05-1086)</i>
P-05-1078 Increase funding for mental health services and improve waiting times for people needing help in crisis. We need a change!	5,159	January 2021	One occasion	A Plenary debate on the petition took place on 10 March. The Health, Social Care and Sports Committee has also undertaken work in this area.
P-05-1086 Create a National Museum for Welsh Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic History and Heritage	490	January 2021	One occasion	The Committee wrote to seek a response from Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales. <i>(Petition grouped with P-05-1073)</i>
P-05-1092 Do not delay the May 2021 elections	470	February 2021	One occasion	Committee awaiting a further response from the Government.
P-05-1094 Stop the erosion of Pontypridd's heritage - save the White Bridge	304	February 2021	One occasion	The Committee has sought an update from Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

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Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
P-05-1112 Help Welsh Communities Buy Community Assets: Implement Part 5 Chapter 3 of the Localism Act 2011	655	February 2021	One occasion	The Committee agreed to pass the petition for further consideration in the Sixth Senedd due to research being undertaken by the Welsh Government will be published in the spring.
P-05-1129 Apply legislative measures now to enact the Law Commission's recommendations to abolish Leasehold	425	March 2021	One occasion	The Committee agreed to ask its successor to consider the petition.
P-05-1130 The Welsh Government should re-purchase and refurbish Coleg Harlech	6,666	March 2021	One occasion	The Committee agreed to ask its successor to consider the petition.
P-05-1132 Instigate an Independent Judicial Inquiry into Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	126	March 2021	One occasion	The Committee agreed to await comments from the petitioner.
P-05-1135 Targeted funding for residential outdoor education centres,	1,181	March 2021	One occasion	The Committee agreed to ask its successor to consider the petition.

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Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
now unable to operate for 12 months				

Review of petitions under consideration

Annex B: Petitions that the Committee may wish to close at the end of this Senedd

Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
P-05-771 Reconsider the closure of the Welsh Independent Living Grant and support disabled people to live independently	631	October 2017	13 occasions	Completion of reassessment of previous ILF recipients delayed by pandemic. Committee previously published report and petitioner was broadly content with Government decision to individually review recipients.
P-05-774 Pass Wide and Slow Wales	1,755	October 2017	Three occasions	Committee sought meeting between petitioners and Government. No further updates received.
P-05-783 Ensuring Equality of Curriculum for Welsh Medium Schools e.g. GCSE Psychology	652	November 2017	Ten occasions	Awaiting outcomes of work by Qualifications Wales. QW consultation on proposals for subjects until 9 April 2021, with qualifications to be designed by 2024.
P-05-786 Save our Countryside, Revise TAN 1	706	November 2017	Eight occasions	Committee has been awaiting an update from Government on action to be taken following consultation on revisions to the housing section of Planning Policy Wales. The Government has now revoked Technical Advice Note (TAN) 1. <i>(Petition grouped with P-05-881)</i>

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Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
P-05-798 Male domestic violence victim support services to be independently run & funded	138	February 2018	Nine occasions	The Committee has raised a number of issues relating to the petition with Welsh Government, without significant progress being made. The Government has insisted that national services for men are available through Project Dyn and Live Fear Free.
P-05-803 Our natural world is being poisoned by single use plastics...it's time to introduce a tax!	102	March 2018	Seven occasions	The Welsh Government is contributing to the development of proposals for a UK-wide plastic packaging tax, and is considering the possibility of a tax or charge on single-use plastic cups. Committee awaiting further update.
P-05-805 Fair Deal for Supply Teachers	1,425	May 2018	11 occasions	The Committee will publish its report on the petition during March 2021.
P-05-806 We call for all premises in Wales to be awarded an Access Certificate number similar to the Food Hygiene Certificate.	3,040	April 2018	Six occasions	Committee awaiting an update on proposals for the Government to develop a pilot project in partnership with Disability Wales and the petitioners. This work is likely to have been impacted by the pandemic.

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Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
P-05-814 All New Builds In Wales To Have Solar Panels	72	May 2018	Two occasions	The Committee is awaiting the outcome of the Government's review of Part L of building regulations.
P-05-831 End the unfairness and discrimination in the financial support for victims of the contaminated blood scandals who were infected in Wales	159	September 2018	Seven occasions	Awaiting the outcome of planned meetings between the Government, Haemophilia Wales and the Cross Party Blood Group. Government has referred to work to review the scheme benefits in Wales.
P-05-832 To Amend the School Admissions Code Relating to Summer-Born Children	241	September 2018	Five occasions	Committee awaiting consultation on changes to school admissions code, which has not been published. Potentially delayed by pandemic.
P-05-846 Save our Hospital at Prince Philip Llanelli	12,745	November 2018	Six occasions	Committee agreed to keep watching brief given that changes to Prince Philip Hospital were not being proposed. No further proposals have been raised.
P-05-849 All men in Wales should have access through the NHS to the best possible	6,345	December 2018	Six occasions	Committee keeping a watching brief on the implementation of mpMRI scanning in Wales, following new advice from NICE.

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Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
diagnostic tests for prostate cancer				
P-05-853 No to any Closure of Junction 41	473	January 2019	Three occasions	Committee keeping a watching brief on results of monitoring and further proposals from Government. Potentially delayed by pandemic.
P-05-863 Call on the Welsh Government to provide free sanitary products to all women in low income households	141	February 2019	Four occasions	Committee is awaiting an update about progress from the Government. The petitioner has since indicated satisfaction with the situation.
P-05-869 Declare a Climate Emergency and fit all policies with zero-carbon targets	6,148	May 2019	Five occasions	Committee keeping a watching brief in light of work being done by the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee. Substantive action called for by petition (declaration of a climate emergency) has been achieved.
P-05-870 Let's Get Every Young Heart Screened (Age 10-35)	3,444	April 2019	Four occasions	In light of the decision of the UK National Screening Committee not to recommend systematic population screening for cardiac conditions, the Committee sought views from further charities but none have been received.

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Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
P-05-881 Fix our planning system	250	June 2019	Three occasions	Committee has been awaiting an update on Government action to be taken following a consultation on revisions to the housing section of Planning Policy Wales. The Government has now revoked Technical Advice Note (TAN) 1. <i>(Petition grouped with P-05-786)</i>
P-05-886 Stop the Red Route (A55/A494 corridor)	1,409	June 2019	Nine occasions	The petition will be closed once the Welsh Government's response to the report it published on 2 March has been received.
P-05-889 Labelling of Religiously Slaughtered Meat	348	July 2019	One occasion	Committee awaiting further developments following the UK's departure from the EU. Work on UK Internal Market is ongoing and therefore it is unclear whether Welsh Government will gain competence in this area.
P-05-901 Ban the Sale of Real Fur in Wales	3,098	October 2019	Two occasions	Committee awaiting further developments following the UK's departure from the EU. Work on UK Internal Market is ongoing and therefore it is unclear whether Welsh Government will gain competence in this area.

Review of petitions under consideration

Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
P-05-904 Ban the use of animals from circuses and travelling shows in Wales	1,649	November 2019	One occasion	The Wild Animals and Circuses (Wales) Act 2020 became law in Wales on 7 September 2020 following a previous petition. No further action on this issue appears to be imminent. Petitioners offered chance to provide comments in autumn 2020.
P-05-919 Do not implement licensing for show dogs, cats and shown horses	4,241	December 2019	One occasion	Committee awaiting the Welsh Government's decisions over animal exhibits licensing scheme after consultation, following the Minister's indication that the activity referred to be the petition would not be covered. Work possibly affected by the pandemic.
P-05-927 Changing Places toilet facilities	1,273	January 2020	Two occasions	Committee awaiting consultation on changes to Building Regulations to make the provision of Changing Places toilet facilities expected in certain new buildings. Consultation published February 2021 until April 2021.
P-05-936 Offer Bowel Cancer Screening After the Age of 74	69	February 2020	Three occasions	The current UKNSC advice does not contain population screening after 74. Government priority is to extend screening to people aged 50-59 as per UKNSC recommendation.

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Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
P-05-940 Reduce cancelled operations	100	March 2020	Two occasions	Committee awaiting data from the Government. Situation has changed due to the pandemic since the petition was submitted.
P-05-944 Reverse the cuts to commuter train services in North East Wales	953	March 2020	Two occasions	Committee agreed to keep a watching brief to potentially revisit the petition if rail services return to a standard timetables during this period. Unclear when this will happen due to the pandemic.
P-05-965 Push the government into introducing a separate ward other than maternity ward, for families going through a miscarriage	52	July 2020	Three occasions	Committee provided a summary of the evidence gathered from health boards to the Government.
P-05-975 Reconsider second home council tax uplift while illegal to travel to second homes	68	July 2020	One occasion	Committee has been awaiting a response from Pembrokeshire County Council. Issues is the responsibility of individual local authorities.
P-05-977 Re-open full general dental services in Wales as has happened in England	7,583	July 2020	One occasion	The Committee agreed to maintain a watching brief and await a further update from the petitioner. None has been received.

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Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
P-05-980 Extend grants immediately to small businesses outside of Small Business Rates Relief in Wales	130	July 2020	One occasion	Committee sought further information on the extent of discretion available to local authorities in providing funding to businesses outside of Small Business Rates Relief. It has been confirmed that discretion exists in relation to other petitions.
P-05-1027 Allow Welsh domestic football clubs to play friendlies and allow supporters to attend matches	2,045	October 2020	Two occasions	Committee keeping a watching brief due to change in current rules across the UK due to resurgence of the pandemic. Circumstances changed due to move to Alert Level 4. <i>(Petition grouped with P-05-1101)</i>
P-05-1028 Relax the excessive restrictions to allow motor sport rallies to take place in Wales	3,889	October 2020	Two occasions	Committee keeping a watching brief due to change in current rules across the UK due to resurgence of the pandemic. Circumstances changed due to move to Alert Level 4.
P-05-1037 Allow children to enter lockdown areas to continue to train with their existing sports clubs	9,867	November 2020	Two occasions	Committee keeping a watching brief due to change in rules across the UK due to resurgence of the pandemic. Situation changed since petition was submitted due to Welsh Government applying national rules.

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Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
P-05-1050 Require local lockdowns to be subject to a vote of the Senedd for approval before being implemented	127	January 2021	One occasion	The Committee agreed to await comments from the petitioner. None have been received
P-05-1053 Keep gyms open and consider them as important as shops should another national lockdown take place	20,616	December 2020	Two occasions	The petition was debated in Plenary as part of a debate on access to sport and physical activity during lockdowns. Other petitions regarding reopening gyms are being considered on 16 March.
P-05-1054 The Hair & Beauty sector has proved itself COVID secure. Do not close us and risk Welsh jobs again	6,074	December 2020	One occasion	Committee keeping a watching brief due to change in current rules across the UK due to resurgence of the pandemic and to await comments from the petitioner. None have been received.
P-05-1057 Increase the number of people allowed to attend wedding receptions	984	December 2020	One occasion	The Committee agreed to await comments from the petitioner. None have been received. Another petition on when weddings can resume is being considered on 16 March.

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Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
P-05-1063 Open golf courses as it plays an integral part to the improvement of both physical and mental health	6,317	December 2020	Two occasions	<p>The petition was debated in Plenary as part of a debate on access to sport and physical activity during lockdowns.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to await comments from the petitioner. None have been received.</p>
P-05-1072 Investigate what powers the Welsh Parliament has in relation to banning conversion therapy	144	December 2020	Two occasions	<p>The Committee agreed to await comments from the petitioner. None have been received.</p>
P-05-1082 Allow choirs to rehearse indoors if they produce a full risk assessment to prevent C-19 infection	498	January 2021	One occasion	<p>The Committee agreed to await comments from the petitioner. None have been received.</p>
P-05-1084 Teach Welsh children about Wales' colonisation of Patagonia	103	January 2021	One occasion	<p>The Committee agreed to await comments from the petitioner. None have been received.</p> <p>Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill has now been passed by the Senedd.</p> <p><i>(Petition grouped with P-05-1098)</i></p>

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Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
P-05-1085 Make anti racism training compulsory for all elected Councillors and Members of the Senedd in Wales	142	February 2021	One occasion	The Committee agreed to await comments from the petitioner. None have been received.
P-05-1087 Stop the mass isolation of healthy school children!	1,177	January 2021	One occasion	The Committee agreed to await comments from the petitioner. None have been received.
P-05-1091 Remove compulsory Welsh Bac for students looking to go to University	63	January 2021	One occasion	The Committee agreed to await comments from the petitioner. None have been received.
P-05-1096 Remove RSE from the mandatory element of the Curriculum Bill 2020	5,307	January 2021	One occasion	The Committee agreed to maintain a watching brief on the issue in light of ongoing scrutiny of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill. Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill has now been passed by the Senedd. Amendments to remove RSE from the mandatory aspects of the Curriculum were not agreed.
P-05-1098 Make Wales' role in British colonial	50	January 2021	One occasion	The Committee agreed to await comments from the petitioner. None have been received.

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Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
history a compulsory school subject				Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill has now been passed by the Senedd. <i>(Petition grouped with P-05-1084)</i>
P-05-1101 Allow fans to attend sporting events in Wales	105	January 2021	One occasion	Committee keeping a watching brief due to change in current rules across the UK due to resurgence of the pandemic. Circumstances changed due to move to Alert Level 4. <i>(Petition grouped with P-05-1027)</i>
P-05-1102 Allow a minimum of one parent or guardian to watch children's organised football matches	52	January 2021	One occasion	The Committee agreed to await comments from the petitioner. None have been received.
P-05-1111 Put the £7 million back into the Mental Health Transformation fund	255	March 2021	One occasion	The Committee agreed to await comments from the petitioner, with a view to closing the petition on 16 March if none were received.
P-05-1115 Stop giant Solar farm which will destroy ancient meadows near Abergavenny	258	February 2021	One occasion	The Committee agreed to maintain a watching brief on the petition until the end of the Senedd term. The developer has until January 2022 to submit an application which will be considered

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Petition title	Signatures	First meeting	Times considered	Current position
				as a Development of National Significance. There is little a committee could do alongside this.
P-05-1137 Call for fair funding for the National Library of Wales by the Welsh Government	14,338	February 2021	One occasion	Additional funding for the NLW was announced by the Government. The petitioner's further comments were provided to the Government for consideration.