



Cross Party Group Clean Air Act for Wales
Grwp Trawsbleidiol Deddf Aer Glan Gymru
Microsoft Teams

27th February 2023, 10am-11am

Attendees:

MSs:

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

Non-MSs

Joseph Carter
Katherine Lowther
Antonia Fabian
Jason Bale
Ioan Bellin
Huw Brunt
Chloe Corbyn
Yvonne Forsey
Gemma Roberts
Gwenda Owen
Haf Elgar
Hannah Peeler
Francesca Howarth
Joe Thomas
Josephine Cock
Hannah Morgan
Paul Lewis
Rebekah Ahmed
Olwen Spiller
Tom Price
Caro Wild
Rhian Williams
Paul Willis
Cllr Neil Lewis
Sophie O'Connell
Mathew Norman
Cllr Jackie Charlton

1. Welcome and Introductions – Huw-Irranca Davies MS

Huw Irranca Davies MS welcomed attendees to the meeting, and introductions to members of the Senedd were made.

2. Minutes of the last meeting – Huw-Irranca Davies MS

The minutes were formally approved after the meeting.

3. Matters arising – Joseph Carter, Healthy Air Cymru

There were no matters arising.

4. Professor Paul Lewis – Domestic Burning in Wales

Domestic combustion is a major source of particulate matter emissions. In 2021, it accounted for 27% of PM2.5 emissions and 16% of PM10 emissions.

Wood burning is a major contributor to particle pollution. In 2021 the use of wood accounted for 75% of PM2.5 emissions. 8% of homes have wood burners.

Mains sources of domestic burning:

Indoor – wood burner stoves, cooking

Outdoor – barbecues, bonfires

Cardiff is the location where wood burning is the largest contributor to PM2.5.

Proposals on smoke control for inclusion in the bill:

- Include smoke control legislation, consolidating legislation from the Clean Air Act 1993 Part 3
- Change the offence regime from criminal to civil
- Mandate the application of smoke control orders in all urban areas which meet specific criteria
- Require local authorities to review smoke control areas on a regular basis
- Include outdoor combustion within smoke control areas, to include bonfires
- Introduce an online list of authorised fuels for use in outdoor appliances

Wood burning stoves – meeting new standards

- Since January 2022 all new wood burning stoves have to meet new EcoDesign standards
- European Environment Bureau report (2021) showed that Euro-certified Eco-stoves' produce 750 times more PM2.5 per unit of energy produced than a modern HGV
- Burning just 1kg of wood will pollute 500,000m cubed of completely clean air up to 10 ug/m cubed.

Indoor air pollution from stoves

- Sheffield study showed that PM2.5 was higher by 196.23% in houses with frequent use compared to infrequent users.
- PM 'floods' into indoor areas when stove door opens.

General

- 19.4% of UK adults burned solid fuels in their home and/or garden in year prior to being surveyed
- Those who burned both indoor and outdoor more likely to have income >£50,000/yr

Indoor burners

- 68% of indoor burners live in urban areas
- 58% said that stoves were the main appliance and only 31% burned on open fires
- People burning solid fuel systems for their heating (11%) more commonly located in rural areas

- Burning of household waste indoors is infrequent

Outdoor burners

- 82% live in urban areas and more likely to rent their property
- Major driver for outdoor burning was cooking – more common among urban affluent younger families
 - 46% burned charcoal
 - 15% burned waste wood
 - 14% burned household waste
 - 12% burned garden waste

Are burners aware?

- 46% of indoor burners agreed that burning in homes and gardens is a significant source of air pollution
- 42% of outdoor burners agreed that burning in homes and gardens is a significant source of air pollution
- 53% of non-burners agreed that burning in homes and gardens was a significant source of air pollution
- 32% of indoor burners in urban areas did not know whether they were living in SCA
- 29% of indoor burners who thought they did live in an urban SCA didn't!

Q&A

Gemma Roberts: WG aren't including much of the proposals around domestic burning in the bill, what are your thoughts on that as a development?

We need evidence. Would be surprised if we don't see an expansion of what we saw in the white paper in the bill. There is a real issue of PM2.5 levels in urban areas. In terms of the regional differences, it's critical that we look at that in terms of legislation.

Joseph Carter: Do you know of any good examples of places which have won the PR war on the dangers of domestic burning?

Doesn't know of any parts of the world that have won this battle. The act could be revised and it should be ongoing and stay fluid.

Huw Brunt: The focus is on PM2.5 understandably, but of course PM10 and PM2.5 have a strong evidence base as being harmful to health. Is there any merit between making that distinction between the two?

PM2.5 is PM10 as it's contained within it. The vast concentration of PM10 is PM2.5. Phrasing this messaging and keeping it simple is important.

Huw Irranca-Davies: Do smokeless fuels produce particles as well?

Yes.

5. Rebekah Ahmed, Asthma + Lung UK – An Introduction to Clean Air Champions

Aim is to create a group of young campaigners and fundraisers to advocate for clean air.

Air pollution is the largest threat to public health in the UK. It affects us all but for every 1 in 11 children who has asthma, every breath can be a battle.



The clean air champions scheme is a nationwide initiative for primary school students to become ambassadors for clean air.

The scheme has 3 activities that students complete to become clean air champions:

- Raising awareness
- Campaigning
- Fundraising

The scheme is completely free to sign up to and there are no donation targets – it's all about students raising as much as they would like. £12 could pay for a vital air pollution monitor so if a student raises £12 they will see a tangible difference.

Q&A

Cllr Jackie Charlton: lives in a rural community so school transport is very important. There are children eligible for free school transport coming to school in private cars. If you're raising this awareness in schools, does it reduce the number of car journeys? Can you measure that?

Scheme is very much in its infancy, so it's difficult to say at this point. It's something that they're hoping to be able to measure.

Action: liaise with Rebekah afterwards and do a write-around to Senedd members and their offices encouraging them to get involved ahead of clean air day.

Action: share Paul Lewis's slides with MSs.

6. Any other business

Joseph Carter confirmed that we are waiting for the Clean Air Bill to be laid in March and that this would be the focus on the next meeting, including thinking about how to engage young people.

He also thanked Kate Lowther and Royal College of Psychiatrists Wales for providing the secretariat for the CPG.

AOB – Chair

There was no other business to discuss.

Next meeting

26 April 2023 at 10am.