

Agenda – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: 27 September 2016

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

Graeme Francis – Committee Clerk

Kath Thomas – Deputy Clerk

0300 200 6565

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1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(Pages 1 – 14)

2 New petitions

2.1 P-05-705 Encourage Planning Committees to Ensure that Planning Decisions Take Due Regard of the Impact on, or Closure of Local Community Groups and Voluntary Organisations

(Pages 15 – 21)

2.2 P-05-715 A Ban on the Manufacture, Sale and Use of Snares in Wales

(Pages 22 – 35)

2.3 P-05-696 The Ghost Train

(Pages 36 – 41)

2.4 P-05-692 Welsh Assembly to Build a International Mother languages Monuments at Cardiff Bay

(Pages 42 – 46)

3 Updates to previous petitions

Environment and Rural Affairs

The following two items will be considered together

3.1 P-04-399 Slaughter Practices

(Pages 47 – 48)

3.2 P-04-433 CCTV in Slaughterhouses

(Pages 49 – 51)



3.3 P-04-648 Unconventional Oil and Gas Planning Applications

(Pages 52 – 53)

Economy and Infrastructure

3.4 P-04-594 Cilmeri Community Council Appeal for The Prince Llywelyn Monument

(Pages 54 – 56)

Health

3.5 P-04-663 Food in Welsh Hospitals

(Pages 57 – 61)

Evidence Session (9.45 – 10.15)

4 P-04-668 Support Yearly Screening for Ovarian Cancer (CA125 blood test)

(Pages 62 – 68)

Rebecca Evans – Minister for Social Services and Public Health
Irfon Rees, Deputy Director, Public Health
Dr Rosemary Cox, Welsh Government

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:

Item 6.

6 Consideration of Oral Evidence under Agenda Item 4

P-04-668 Support Yearly Screening for Ovarian Cancer (CA125 blood test).

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 2.1

P-05-705 Encourage Planning Committees to Ensure that Planning Decisions Take Due Regard of the Impact on, or Closure of Local Community Groups and Voluntary Organisations.

This petition was submitted by the Mike Walker, having collected 79 signatures.

Text of the Petition

Increasingly local churches and community buildings are closing and being sold for development, despite them still being actively used by community groups. Often these sales are subject to planning permission being given for the conversion or demolition of the building before the purchaser will complete the sale.

Unfortunately this process often means that community groups like nurseries and scout groups are forced to vacate the premises during the planning process. We call, therefore, for the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to change planning law or guidance to ensure that planning committees must take into account in the planning approval process consideration of the impact on the local community of the eviction of community groups.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff North
- South Wales Central

Petition: P-05-705 Planning Committees and local community groups

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 27 Medi 2016
Petitions Committee | 27 September 2016

Research Briefing:

Petition number: P-05-705

Petition title: **Encourage planning committees to ensure that planning decisions take due regard of the impact on, or closure of local community groups and voluntary organisations**

Petition text:

Increasingly local churches and community buildings are closing and being sold for development, despite them still being actively used by community groups. Often these sales are subject to planning permission being given for the conversion or demolition of the building before the purchaser will complete the sale. Unfortunately this process often means that community groups like nurseries and scout groups are forced to vacate the premises during the planning process. We call, therefore, for the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to change planning law or guidance to ensure that planning committees must take into account in the planning approval process consideration of the impact on the local community of the eviction of community groups.

Background

Planning applications are usually considered by local planning authorities. Decisions are made by examining the application in the context of:

- national planning policy and guidance as prepared by the Welsh Government;
- policies in the local planning authority's development plan for the area; and
- any other relevant issues, known as "material considerations".

The application must normally be determined in accordance with policies in the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

In principle, any consideration which relates to the use and development of land is capable of being a planning consideration. Whether a particular consideration is material in any given case will depend on the circumstances. It is ultimately for the Courts to decide. [Planning Policy Wales \(Edition 8 January 2016\)](#) – the Welsh Government’s national planning policy – gives some guidance on what are material considerations. They must be genuine planning matters, that is, they must be relevant to the regulation of the development and use of land in the public interest, towards the goal of sustainability.

The Courts have the final say on what may be regarded as material considerations in relation to any particular application, but they include the number, size, layout, design and appearance of buildings, the means of access, landscaping, service availability and **the impact on the neighbourhood** and on the environment. The effects of a development on, for example, health, public safety and crime can also be material considerations, as can public concerns in relation to such effects.

Once an application has been accepted for consideration by a local planning authority, a 21 day publicity and consultation period commences. The extent of this depends upon the type of application submitted and the policy of the local planning authority. However the law requires it to give publicity to an application in various ways. This allows those who may be affected by it have the opportunity to make their views known.

The publicity often includes:

- publishing a notice in a local newspaper;
- posting on the local planning authority’s website;
- posting a public site notice; and
- notifying neighbours in writing (occupiers and owners of adjoining properties).

When determining an application, all comments received must be taken into account. Once a decision has been made, all those who provided comment must be informed.

The local planning authority planning committee is ultimately responsible for all local planning decisions. Planning officers employed by the authority will make a recommendation to the committee about whether or not to approve an application and any conditions that should be imposed. The planning committee does not have to agree with the officer recommendation, but if they decide to reject an application against officer advice they must do so on planning grounds and give their reasons. The decision may be overturned on appeal with costs being awarded against the authority if valid planning reasons for the decision cannot be demonstrated.

Smaller applications are often decided by the local planning authority’s Chief Planning Officer, who can be granted powers by the authority to decide some applications under a “delegated authority” scheme.

Welsh Government action

Lesley Griffiths, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs, wrote to the Committee on 21 August 2016. She said:

Planning Policy Wales (Edition 8 January 2016) states that when determining a planning application the local planning authority must take into account the substance of local views, which would include any representations made by local community groups regarding the loss of local facilities and the impact this could have on the community.

The current use of a building and the potential loss of community facilities is already a material consideration in the determination of a planning application [Research Service emphasis] and where such a loss is considered by the local planning authority to create an unacceptable negative impact on local amenity it is possible for the local planning authority to refuse planning permission or seek appropriate mitigation from the applicant. However, the weight to be afforded to each material consideration is a matter for the decision maker and it would usually be for the planning committee to determine on a case by case basis as each planning application should be determined on its own merits.

The Cabinet Secretary's letter also draws attention to the new pre-application requirements now in force in Wales. Applicants for "major developments" are required to consult with the community (occupiers, neighbours and ward councillors) before submitting a planning application. The applicant needs to take account of the community's comments and concerns and submit a Pre-application Consultation (PAC) Report showing how they propose to address those concerns, alongside their planning application.

The content of the PAC Report will be a material consideration which the local planning authority will need to consider when determining the application.

Major developments can include:

- the winning and working of minerals;
- waste development;
- housing developments of 10 or more units or 0.5 hectares or more in area;
- provision of a building or buildings of over 1,000 square metres; or
- a development site of one hectare or more.

National Assembly for Wales action

This issue has not yet been considered by the Assembly.

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.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-705
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05844/16

Mike Hedges AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
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August 2016

Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter of 4 August, regarding a petition from Mike Walker in relation to the need for planning committees to take into account the impact on community groups when determining planning applications for development of buildings which they use.

Planning Policy Wales (Edition 8 January 2016) states that when determining a planning application the local planning authority must take into account the substance of local views, which would include any representations made by local community groups regarding the loss of local facilities and the impact this could have on the community.

The current use of a building and the potential loss of community facilities is already a material consideration in the determination of a planning application and where such a loss is considered by the local planning authority to create an unacceptable negative impact on local amenity it is possible for the local planning authority to refuse planning permission or seek appropriate mitigation from the applicant. However, the weight to be afforded to each material consideration is a matter for the decision maker and it would usually be for the planning committee to determine on a case by case basis as each planning application should be determined on its own merits.

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Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru
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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.

New pre-application requirements have now come into force in Wales, which require applicants for major development to consult occupiers, neighbours and ward councillors on their proposals before submitting a planning application. The applicant needs to take account of any comments and concerns raised by the community and set out in the Pre-application Consultation (PAC) Report which accompanies the planning application how they are proposing to address those concerns.

The detail in the PAC Report will also be a material consideration which the local planning authority will need to consider when determining a planning application and provides an early opportunity for any concerns of the local community to be identified.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs

Agenda Item 2.2

P-05-715 A Ban on the Manufacture, Sale and Use of Snares in Wales.

This petition was submitted by the League Against Cruel Sports, having collected 1,405 signatures.

Text of the Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ban the manufacture, sale and use of snares in Wales.

Additional information

Snares are thin wire nooses designed to trap 'predator' species. The nature of their design means that – despite supposedly being used as a restraining device – they cause severe injuries to those animals they catch. These injuries include limb amputation, strangulation and often death.

According to Defra, up to two thirds of those animals caught are not even the target species. Most frequently snares are set to catch foxes, but in reality, they catch badgers, deer, and domestic pets. In Wales, some 370,000 animals are snared every year. That's more than 1,000 a day.

In 2015, the Welsh Government introduced a Code of Best Practice on the use of snares, but compliance with the Code is voluntary and there are no checks in place or penalties for those who do not comply. Even a Code-compliant snare is a crude, indiscriminate device, more likely to cause injury or death than to restrain an animal.

The Welsh Assembly has the power to end this practice, and lead the way for animal welfare in the UK by banning the manufacture, sale and use of snares in Wales.

Constituency and Region

- Gower
- South Wales West

Snares in Wales

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 27 Medi 2016
Petitions Committee | 27 September 2016

Research Briefing:

Petition number: P-05-715

Petition title: A Ban on the Manufacture, Sale and Use of Snares in Wales.

Text of petition: We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ban the manufacture, sale and use of snares in Wales.

Snares are thin wire nooses designed to trap 'predator' species. The nature of their design means that – despite supposedly being used as a restraining device – they cause severe injuries to those animals they catch. These injuries include limb amputation, strangulation and often death.

According to Defra, up to two thirds of those animals caught are not even the target species. Most frequently snares are set to catch foxes, but in reality, they catch badgers, deer, and domestic pets. In Wales, some 370,000 animals are snared every year. That's more than 1,000 a day.

In 2015, the Welsh Government introduced a Code of Best Practice on the use of snares, but compliance with the Code is voluntary and there are no checks in place or penalties for those who do not comply. Even a Code-compliant snare is a crude, indiscriminate device, more likely to cause injury or death than to restrain an animal.

The Welsh Assembly has the power to end this practice, and lead the way for animal welfare in the UK by banning the manufacture, sale and use of snares in Wales.

Background

Snares are most commonly used to control foxes and rabbits but can also be set for a variety of other purposes including, for example, to capture rabbits for food and foxes in research

programmes. Other target species that can legally be snared include rats, grey squirrels and mink.

There are two types of animal snare: free-running, and self-locking. A free-running snare is designed to slacken once an animal stops pulling, while a self-locking snare will continue to tighten. While free-running snares are legal throughout the UK, use of self-locking snares for wildlife management reasons is banned.

In 2012, the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) published a report titled '[The extent and humaneness of snares in England and Wales](#)'. In the research period covered (2008–2012), between 17,200 and 51,600 snares were used at any given time in Wales. Of the 1.7 million animals caught in the UK each year, 73% were non-target species. This increases to 81% with fox snares specifically. Non target species include badgers, hares, pheasants, deer, cats and dogs. Badgers were the most frequently caught non-target species and were caught in all of the fox snare trials. Of the 17 users of rabbit snares included in the study, five had caught a domestic cat at least once. The House of Commons Library produced a [debate pack](#) for a UK Parliament debate on 'a ban on the manufacture, sale, possession and use of snares' in July 2016 which Members may wish to read for additional information.

Current legislation

At present the legislation governing snares contained within Section 11 of the [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#), [Deer Act 1991](#) and the [Animal Welfare Act 2006](#).

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is currently an offence to:

- set a self-locking snare in such a way as to be calculated to cause bodily injury to any wild animal (S 11(1)(a));
- kill or take any wild animal using a self-locking snare (S 11(1)(b));
- set a snare (or other article) in such a way as to be calculated to cause bodily injury to any animal listed in Schedule 6 of the Act, for example badgers (S 11(2)(a));
- kill or take any animal listed in Schedule 6 of the Act using a snare (S 11(2)(b));
- set a snare and then fail to inspect that snare (or have someone else inspect it) at least once every day (S 11(3)(b));
- set any type of snare unless they are an 'authorised person' under the Act (that is, the owner or occupier of the land on which the snare is set, any person authorised by the owner or occupier of the land, or a person authorised in writing by the Local Authority for the area (S 27(1));
- possess a snare for the purpose of committing any of the above offences (Section 18(2)).

Section 11 (4) gives Welsh Ministers some limited powers to amend the regulation of their use but only for the ‘purpose of complying with an international obligation’. For any other amendments changes to primary law would be needed.

[The Deer Act 1991](#) makes it an offence to set in position any trap or snare calculated to cause bodily injury to any deer coming in contact with it, or to use any trap or snare for the purpose of killing or taking any deer.

Under the [Animal Welfare Act 2006](#) an individual is responsible for taking reasonable steps to ensure that the welfare needs of all animal under their control, including those caught in snares are met including that the animal is protected from pain and suffering.

Welsh Government action

On 25 September 2015 the Welsh Government published a [new Code of Practice](#) on the use of snares in fox control aimed at those who currently use snares in the countryside. The Code summarises the current legal obligations on those using snares and sets out best practice guidelines that should be followed. In her paper to the Committee, the Cabinet Secretary states that she is planning to meet with interested parties to discuss the Code of Practice to coincide with its first anniversary. The aim of the meeting is to gather evidence on snare operational standards since the Code was published, and identify any further steps which can be undertaken to increase compliance with the Code and further improve animal welfare standards. It is the Cabinet Secretary’s view that at this time the published Code of Practice provides clear guidance on the operation and inspection of snares.

The Scottish Government has [tightened the regulation](#) on the use of legal snares, including a requirement that all individuals setting snares are required to undertake training, that snares set have tags and that snares can be traced back to an individual.

The Law Commission Review of Wildlife Protection Legislation

In 2011 the Law Commission was asked by Defra with support from the Welsh Government, to review current wildlife protection legislation and consider whether it was fit for purpose.

On 10 November 2015 the Law Commission for England and Wales [published the findings](#) of its review of wildlife protection law. In its final report the Law Commission has concluded that current law on protecting wildlife in England and Wales is complex, overly complicated and sometimes contradictory. It has therefore recommended that a new Wildlife Bill should be introduced to replace a number of the existing pieces of legislation in this field.

The Law Commission suggests that this Bill could be taken forward as an England and Wales Bill with a Legislative Consent Motion being laid before the Assembly or as two separate but identical pieces of legislation, one for Wales and one for England.

In relation to snares the Law Commission [concluded that the prohibition](#) (Final Report Volume 1 paras 5.147– 5.149) on the use of self-locking snares should continue. In relation to snares other than self-locking snares it concluded that these types of snares should be more tightly regulated but did not outline a view on the banning of them.

The previous Welsh Government stated that it was considering the contents of the Law Commission’s report and the recommendations they made but did not outline whether or not a new Wildlife Bill would be taken forward in Wales.

National Assembly for Wales action

Animal health and welfare is a devolved subject over which the Assembly has competence. In theory primary legislation could be brought forward to regulate or ban the use of snares provided that it met all other tests of competence. Legislation which proposed to ban/regulate the manufacture or sale of such snares could also be said to relate to animal welfare. More detailed consideration of a specific proposal to ban all snares would be needed before it could be confirmed that it was within the Assembly’s competence. There is a possibility that any proposed legislation to ban or regulate the manufacture or sale of snares in Wales could have an impact on the regulation of international trade, but that would depend very much on the detail of the proposals.

On 22 June 2016 Julie Morgan AM [asked](#) the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs:

Will the Minister confirm that there are no statutory barriers preventing the introduction of Welsh legislation to ban the use of snares in Wales?

The Cabinet Secretary responded:

Should changes be proposed on the use of snares in Wales, the introduction of Welsh primary legislation could be required.

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.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-715
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/06107/16

Mike Hedges AM
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September 2016

Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter of 30 August regarding the petition you have received from the League Against Cruel Sports requesting a ban on the manufacture, sale and use of snares in Wales.

Snares are commonly used in the UK for pest control to restrain certain mammal species, prior to despatch. In Wales snares are used by farmers and gamekeepers mainly to control foxes. Snaring is used as a method of control because it is effective for foxes in locations and at times of the year when shooting is not possible, either because it would not be safe, or because of high cover which prevents foxes from being seen.

I recognise snares are capable of causing injury and death to target and non-target animals and this was shown in the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) research on the use of snares on an England and Wales basis which was published in 2012. Their report entitled 'Determining the Extent of Use and Humaneness of Snares in England and Wales' showed some of the animals caught through the use of snares were unnecessarily suffering through poor snaring practice.

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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.

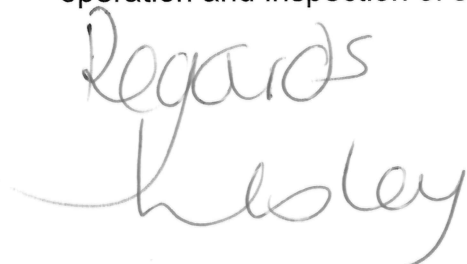
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. **Pack Page 28** Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

As such it was considered there was good reason to believe snaring practice would be improved if practitioners followed a Code of Practice and we published an improved Code of Best Practice on the Use of Snares in Fox Control in September 2015. This Code promotes best practice in the use of snares and places the welfare of animals at its core. It provides clear, practicable advice to snare operators for fox control, including how to comply with the law in terms of equipment and operations. Compliance with the Code will improve operator practice and help avoid the capture of non-target animals.

The Welsh Government worked with all interested parties to develop this Code and a number of the organisations involved have been actively promoting the Code amongst their members. They have run awareness raising and training events, with the aim on improving operator practice and animal welfare standards. Further sessions are planned at various venues across Wales.

My officials are now planning to meet with interested parties to discuss the Code of Practice to coincide with its 1st anniversary. The aim is to gather evidence on snare operational standards since the publishing of the Code and identify any further steps which can be undertaken to increase compliance with the Code and further improve animal welfare standards.

More generally, wildlife legislation is also being considered as part of an analysis of the Law Commission report on wildlife law reform. I am giving careful consideration to the Law Commission's recommendations. On snares, the Law Commission has recommended the operation and inspection of snares may benefit in the future from additional regulations. It is my view at this time the published Code of Practice provides clear guidance on the operation and inspection of snares.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Regards" on the top line and "Lesley" on the bottom line.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs



Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF991NA

7th of September 2016

Dear Assembly Members of the Petitions Committee

We write collectively with regards to the current petition lodged at the National Assembly for Wales by the League Against Cruel Sports (LACS) calling for a ban on the use of snares in Wales. For reasons as outlined below, we call for the petition to be removed immediately from the Petitioning process of the National Assembly for Wales

The figures put forward within the petition by LACS are completely incorrect and disingenuous. The petition states that *"In Wales, some 370,000 animals are snared every year. That's more than 1,000 a day"*.

In suggesting that 370,000 mammals are caught in fox snares each year in Wales, the League Against Cruel Sports (LACS) are misrepresenting statistics from the 2012 DEFRA report Determining the Extent of Use and Humaneness of Snares in England and Wales. It appears that they have taken the capture rates from the single operator who carried out the humaneness testing work, and multiplied these by the estimated number of snares being used in Wales at any one time from the "extent of use" section of the report.

Multiplying numbers in this way is not scientifically valid. It fails, in particular, to take into account that the one operator was completely atypical, with a catch rate an order of magnitude higher than most snare users, and that it reflects data generated in one location with specific densities of target and non-target species that simply cannot be generalised across the whole of Wales.

As a consequence of these incorrect calculations LACS's petition suggests that every year snares are catching more than the total pre-breeding populations of foxes, badgers and hares in Wales (according to the seminal work on mammal populations in the UK, A Review of British Mammals: Population Estimates and Conservation Status of British Mammals other than Cetaceans, Harris et al., 1995*. Since the publication of this work a study has indicated that populations of hare and fox have declined from Harris et al.'s estimates). This is clearly an impossible situation, further highlighting the error in the statistics being used to promote this petition.

We are also very concerned that LACS are making quite untrue assertions about the humaneness of the snares themselves. Their suggestion that the new code compliant snares are "more likely to cause injury or death" is also lacking in any scientific evidence and thus is completely disingenuous. The work for the DEFRA report that they 'quote' from showed that code compliant snares when

properly operated meet the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS). Indeed there was no evidence of significant snare related injury to a single animal in the Home Office regulated humaneness testing work. This applied to the non-target animals which self-released (approximately half of the 'captures'), those which were released by the operator, and the target animals which were despatched and subject to post-mortem examination by independent vets.

On the basis of the incorrect figures stated in the above mentioned petition we call for the petition to be removed immediately from the Petitioning process of the National Assembly for Wales. The League Against Cruel Sports would then have the opportunity to re-present a petition without these misleading claims.

Yours sincerely,



Rachel Evans
Director for Wales
Countryside Alliance



Mike Swann
Head of Education and Wales Advisor
Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust



Charles Nodder
Political Advisor
National Gamekeepers Organisation

* http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/pub03_areviewofbritishmammalsall.pdf

Distribution list to date:
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs
Simon Thomas AM
Paul Davies AM
Neil Hamilton AM

P-05-715 A Ban on the Manufacture, Sale and Use of Snares in Wales.

Correspondence – Petitioner to the Committee. 20.09.2016

Response to letter from the Cabinet Secretary for the Environment and Rural Affairs

- The letter from the Cabinet Secretary states that snares are used in Wales mainly to control foxes. Although that may be the intention, snares are indiscriminate and there is simply no way of knowing what species will be caught by any given snare. According to Defra figures¹, up to two thirds of those animals caught by snares are not the target species.
- Animals caught in snares include domestic pets such as cats and dogs. They may also include species that are protected in Wales, such as the badger, the pine marten or the otter. The Government should not authorise the use of a wildlife control method when it cannot be guaranteed that members of a protected species will not be killed by said method. The indiscriminate nature of snares means it is not possible to guarantee this with their use.
- Neither improving the Code of Practice nor ensuring 100 per cent compliance with it will prevent non-target species being caught in snares. There is no way of knowing or guaranteeing what species will be caught by any given snare.

¹ Defra (2012) Determining the extent of use and humaneness of snares in England and Wales.
<http://tinyurl.com/bmkqbpk>

- A snare that is compliant with the Code of Best Practice can still cause injury or death to the animal it catches. It is not possible to regulate snares effectively because they are by nature indiscriminate and inhumane.
- Finally, compliance with the Code is entirely voluntary, and there are no checks in place to ensure that operators comply, or penalties for those who do not.

Response to letter from the Countryside Alliance

- The Countryside Alliance is incorrect in saying that the League misrepresented statistics from the 2012 DEFRA report² by taking the capture rates from the single operator who carried out the humaneness testing work.
- In fact the capture rate we used was calculated from the data of two different field studies run by DEFRA (the only ones mentioned in their report) in which, combined, 62 foxes were caught in 1,915 snare days, a capture rate of one animal in every 31 snare days.
- The numbers produced come from the only available data provided by DEFRA, and when we have discussed the figures shown in our literature

² Defra (2012) Determining the extent of use and humaneness of snares in England and Wales.
<http://tinyurl.com/bmkqbpk>

with DEFRA officials they have never suggested to us that we have misinterpreted them.

- The Countryside Alliance is also incorrect in their points about our comments on the humaneness of snares. Firstly, when we stated that “even a Code-compliant snare is a crude, indiscriminate device, more likely to cause injury or death than to restrain an animal”, we did not mean that the new Code-compliant snares are more likely to cause injury or death than the old ones, as the Countryside Alliance infers with its incomplete quoting.
- What we are saying is that the new snares – although they may have reduced the chances of causing suffering to the animals caught compared with the old snares – still cause too much suffering, so we dispute the notion that the modern snares are a humane method for catching animals.
- Secondly, when the Countryside Alliance use the term “significant” to describe snare related injuries, it uses an old-fashioned approach on what constitutes significant injury.
- We base our comments on a modern approach of what actually constitutes unacceptable suffering. We argue that the indicators of welfare included in the 1998 Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (which is the benchmark against which the DEFRA

report evaluated the humaneness of the use of snares) are limited in scope and number, and would need to be updated to be able to detect all suffering involved. Although it is clear that the indicators included in these standards do indicate poor welfare, they could be argued to be associated with suffering at the extreme end of the sliding scale of animal welfare.

- Physical injuries not on their list of indicators, for example penetrating or slicing tissue wounds, claw loss and muscular, ligament and tendon damage short of severance, are now widely recognised by the veterinary profession as resulting in pain requiring treatment in domestic animals. The two behavioural indicators of poor welfare in the list only represent extreme cases; many other behavioural indicators of poor welfare have been used in studies of domestic animal welfare, for example vocalisation and attempts to escape from unpleasant environments.
- Modern animal welfare science has progressed far beyond the assessment of animal welfare solely on extremes of behaviour and physical injury. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) recognises this, stating that ‘the scientific assessment of animal welfare has progressed rapidly in recent years’, and that this progress underpins the recommendations on animal welfare in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code³. The OIE state that measures of animal welfare include assessment of affective (emotional) states of animals such as hunger, pain and fear.

³ Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Chapter 7.1, http://web.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_1.7.1.htm

Agenda Item 2.3

P-05-696 The Ghost Train

This petition was submitted by The Residents of the Arduwy Coast, having collected 384 signatures. A separate on-line petition has also collected over 300 signatures.

Text of the Petition

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that the Arriva Trains Wales northbound 7pm train from Mach should stop at all stations on request.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Dwyfor Meirionnydd
- Mid and West Wales

Petition: The Ghost Train

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 27 Medi 2016

Petitions Committee | 27 September 2016

Research Briefing:

Petition number: P-5-696

Petition title: The Ghost Train

Text of petition:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that the Arriva Trains Wales northbound 7pm train from Mach should stop at all stations on request.

Background

Arriva Trains Wales (ATW) will continue to operate the current Wales and Borders rail franchise until 2018 including services on the Cambrian Lines. The Cambrian Lines comprise two lines:

- The country (or mainline) connecting Aberystwyth with Shrewsbury and beyond; and
- The coast line from Machynlleth up to Pwllheli.

While rail franchising is not currently devolved, the Welsh Government is responsible for the day to day management of the franchise, including the funding of services within Wales (“Wales only services”), and those which start or finish in Wales (“Welsh services”). The *Railways Act 2005* empowers the Welsh Government to invest in rail service enhancements.

The Welsh and UK Governments have reached agreement on devolution of executive powers to procure the next Welsh rail franchise from 2018. Powers are expected to be devolved from 2017, and the Welsh Government has begun preparations for the next franchise.

The Welsh Government is currently working with the rail industry and other stakeholders to develop the next franchise. In anticipation of devolution of powers to award the next rail franchise, the Welsh Government launched a public consultation, [Setting the Direction for](#)

[Wales and Borders Rail](#), in January 2016. This consultation sought views on rail services themselves, including the “range of future services”. A [summary of consultation responses](#) has now been published.

The Cabinet Secretary of Economy and Infrastructure made a statement giving an update on the [Wales and Borders Franchise and Metro Programmes](#) on 12 July 2016. In outlining the next stages in the process the Cabinet Secretary referred to a further public consultation:

The process will include a programme of engagement activities with stakeholders and, after we have a clear set of proposals for a new contract early next year, there will be a further formal public consultation. Subject to a successful process, we will award that contract at the end of 2017.

Welsh Government action

The National Transport Finance Plan

The Welsh Government’s [National Transport Finance Plan](#) covers the period 2015–2020, as well as “medium term” objectives for 2020 and beyond. This includes a number of schemes related to rail services, including a commitment to “a review of currently proposed service enhancements” between 2016–17 and 2018–19, and proposals for “Introduction of new services on the Cambrian Main Line and Heart of Wales Line”.

Enhancement of Cambrian Line Services

The Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee comprises a range of stakeholders including local and community councils, rail passenger groups, ATW and Network Rail, and political / government representatives.

In October 2013 the Liaison Committee commissioned a survey to assess the potential impact on passenger numbers of an improved timetable on the Cambrian Lines. The Committee subsequently reported to then Minister for Economy, Science and Transport and additional services were introduced from May 2015, including 4 additional return services between Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury, and an additional service on the coast line from Machynlleth to Pwllheli in May 2015. The Welsh Government committed to evaluate these services over three years. Further information can be found on the Welsh Government website [here](#).

Unlike services earlier in the day, the additional 7pm service departing from Machynlleth to Pwllheli does not stop at all stations north of Barmouth, stopping instead at 7 of 17 stations.

The [January 2016 report of the Liaison Committee](#) reports an increase in passenger numbers of nearly 90% since the introduction of the new services. However, the report noted the results of a 2015 survey which noted “the Coast Line train ex 1900 Machynlleth should call at all stops as per the usual running pattern”.

The Cabinet Secretary's letter to the Chair on this petition says that Welsh Government officials are encouraging ATW to work with Network Rail to overcome current timetable restrictions. The nature of these restrictions is unclear. He says trials of alternative arrangements have been undertaken recently.

National Assembly for Wales action

The Enterprise and Business Committee in the Fourth Assembly undertook an inquiry into [The Future of the Wales and Borders Rail Franchise](#) which reported in December 2013. The reported included a "charter for the next Wales and Borders Franchise" which included recommendations that the Welsh Government should undertake extensive consultation and should:

base the development of routes, service levels and future infrastructure requirements on a detailed understanding of the socio-economic drivers of rail traffic flows within the Wales and Borders Franchise area, and the potential market and future demand scenarios, including cross-border flows.

While there has been much discussion in the Assembly of enhancements to the Cambrian Lines' services, there has been no discussion on the specific issue raised by the petition.

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.

Ken Skates AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ks Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-696
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/06237/16

Mike Hedges AM
Chair - Petitions Committee

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

28 August 2016

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 17 August regarding the above petition you have received.

I understand the aspiration for this new service introduced as part of Welsh Government funded service enhancements in May 2015 to call at all stations on the route. My officials continue to encourage Arriva Trains Wales (ATW) to work with Network Rail to see if the current timetabling restrictions can be overcome.

ATW have recently carried out trials to see if alternative arrangements may be possible. They have advised they will use the results of these trials to discuss potential timetabling changes with Network Rail.

My officials will continue to work with ATW on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Skates AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure

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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. **Pack Page 40** Only correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

P-05-696 The Ghost Train. Correspondence - Petitioner to the clerking team. 14.09.2016

Dear Jessica,

Thank you for the information.

I am delighted to inform you that, in response to support given by Joyce Watson AM and the Minister Ken Skates, Arriva introduced stops at all stations on request on the ghost train on Monday!

What is the drill? Do I now withdraw the petition, or just leave you to report on our success?

Thank you all for your support in serving the community of Ardudwy,

Sincerely,

Rosy Berry.

Agenda Item 2.4

P-05-692 Build an International Mother Languages Monument at Cardiff Bay

This petition was submitted by Mohammed Sarul Islam, having collected 16 signatures.

Text of the Petition

We the undersigned call on the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to build an International Language monument at Cardiff Bay for all International mother languages lovers.

Additional information

A plaque has been laid by Cardiff Lord Mayor in 2012 at Grange moor Park, Cardiff Bay. But due to lack of funding not constructed..

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

Title

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 27 Medi 2016
Petitions Committee | 27 September 2016

Research Briefing:

Petition number: P-05-692

Petition title: Build an International Mother languages Monument at Cardiff Bay

Text of petition: We the undersigned call on the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to build an International Language monument at Cardiff Bay for all International mother languages lovers.

Background

The petitioners explain that:

A plaque has been laid by Cardiff Lord Mayor in 2012 at Grange moor Park, Cardiff Bay. But due to lack of funding not constructed.

According to a [news article](#):

Plans for the project began nearly 10 years ago when a petition calling on the council to build a monument celebrating linguistic and cultural diversity was submitted to the local authority.

Since then Cardiff council has designated land at Grangemoor Park, next to Cardiff Bay Retail Park, and planning permission has been granted.

Campaigners have raised more than £45,000 for the project but still need to raise thousands more to meet the £150,000 cost.

International Mother Language Day has been observed every year since February 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. The date represents the day in 1952 when students demonstrating for recognition of their language, Bangla, as one of the two national languages of the then Pakistan, were shot and killed by police in Dhaka, the capital of what is now Bangladesh.¹

¹ UN, [International Mother Language Day](#)

Welsh Government action

The Welsh Government has previously provided funding for memorials. The Six Bells Miners' Memorial, completed in 2010, was the result of a partnership project between Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and Six Bells Communities First. The sculpture cost £220,000 and the principle funder was the Welsh Government under the Heads of the Valley Programme. This community led project was managed by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

In 2012 the Welsh Government provided a contribution of £5,000 towards the costs of erecting a statue in memory of Fred Keenor, captain of the Cardiff City team, who won the FA Cup in 1927.

National Assembly for Wales action

The Petitions Committee considered this petition on [12 July 2016](#). It subsequently wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure on 27 July 2016, asking him for his views on the issues raised by the petition.

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-04-692
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/06197/16

Mike Hedges AM
Assembly Member for Swansea East
Chair - Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
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government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

28 August 2016

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 27 July from the petitions committee in relation to building an International Mother Languages Monument in Cardiff Bay.

I am aware of the background to this project, including the origins of International Mother Languages Day, the existence of similar monuments in London and Manchester and discussions in recent years about erecting a monument in Cardiff. However, there are currently no funding streams available which could accommodate this request. In addition, it is unclear if there is sufficient depth of support for the monument from the local community or whether it would have the intended impact.

The organisation might wish to consider making an application to the Big Lottery Capital Grants Fund. Alternatively, Wales Council for Voluntary Action offers a one stop shop for funding advice and opportunities.

The Welsh Government is continuing to deliver against our Community Cohesion Programme through funding for eight Regional Community Cohesion Co-ordinators who are working at a local level with partners across communities. This includes recognising the importance of diversity and working with partners to increase engagement and break down any perceived barriers. This approach is underpinned through goals set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act around a Wales of cohesive communities and a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.

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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.

We want to continue to empower and encourage people to take an active part in the arts, culture and heritage. The Fusion programme is working to eliminate barriers to cultural participation so that everyone can enjoy the benefits. Taking part in cultural activity can boost skills, engagement, self esteem and aspiration. Furthermore, this Government recognises the role for children and young people to recognise Wales' place in the world. We continue to support the enhancement of modern foreign languages through our Global Futures Programme, which aims to increase the uptake in our schools.

Yours ever,

Ken

Ken Skates AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure

Agenda Item 3.1

P-04-399 Slaughter Practices

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to ban the practise of slaughtering animals without pre-stunning them.

Petition raised by: Royce Clifford

Date petition first considered by Committee: 19 June 2012

Number of signatures: 400

**P-04-399 Slaughter Practices. Correspondence – Petitioner to the
Committee 05-08-2016**

Dear Welsh Assembly Petitions Committee, 05/08/16

My Petition "Ban Unstunned Slaughter in Wales" approximately 2012, this i
have to say on your part, is at least pathetic if not disgraceful.

Since you have received my Petition you have fudged and failed to address
this issue and another Petition "CCTV in Welsh Abattoirs" with the EU, It
strongly indicates the Welsh Assemblies Government has no power
whatsoever to implement, either Petitions.

I hope now that Brexit is going to happen, your Government will start to act
and behave like a Welsh Government doing what the Welsh signatories of my
and another Petition signed for, make our Laws for our Animals at Slaughter,
Poland and other Countries have Banned this way of Slaughter, time for our
Welsh Government to stand up and be counted in favor of Animals due to be
Slaughtered, even implement food labeling to show how the Animal was
Slaughtered, either Kosher, Halal or Stunned Slaughtered....Most people
Judge a Nation on how it treats all Animals....

Kind Regards

Royce Clifford

Agenda Item 3.2

P-04-433 : CCTV in Slaughterhouses

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to introduce mandatory CCTV in slaughterhouses to help vets with better regulation and monitoring, to provide footage for training and retraining, to deter some of the animal welfare abuses filmed by Animal Aid, and to provide evidence for prosecutions should they be necessary.

Petition raised by: Animal Aid

Date petition first considered by Committee: 6 November 2012

Number of signatures: 1066

P-04-433 CCTV in Slaughterhouses. Correspondence – Petitioner to the Committee. 15.09.2016

Dear Petitions Committee,

I wanted to thank you for your continued interest in the campaign to effectively monitor the welfare of animals in slaughterhouses via independently-monitored CCTV cameras. The recent case of the Llanybydder slaughterhouse worker who was caught stabbing a colleague on CCTV is a reminder of the many other practical applications that cameras have in slaughterhouses.

There have been some developments, not least that Israel will have installed mandatory cameras inside all slaughterhouses by the end of this year, and the footage will be centrally monitored. This is in response to animal welfare abuses found by campaigners.

And, of course, there have been even more exposés here in the UK, with two slaughterhouses in court resulting in one man being jailed for 10 months and banned from keeping animals for a number of years, while the second case is due to be heard in court soon. But, some very worrying news is that another court case may have collapsed because the Food Standards Agency failed to bring the case to court in time. This raises some serious concerns about whether the FSA is detecting the alleged abuses that groups such as Animal Aid are finding, and whether it understands the timescales within which cases need to be presented to court once it is in possession of information in respect of particular allegations.

Finally, a new report from Sheffield University has outlined the mechanism, costs and funding options for monitoring CCTV footage by an independent body. Professor Ian Rotherham, the report's author, states: 'The clear conclusion is that the current system of welfare monitoring is failing and that compulsory use of CCTV with independent monitoring is the only robust solution.'

He presents a sliding scale of staff costs depending on how much footage would be monitored from each of England's 260 slaughterhouse per year. He calculated that, if six hours of footage was to be checked, the staff costs

would be in the region of £45,900, while if 36 hours of footage was to be assessed, these costs would rise to £283,500. Obviously, the costs for Wales would be very much lower given there are raw fewer slaughterhouses there. I have attached a copy of that report should you be interested.

Please do let me know if I can be of further assistance. I will ensure you are kept up to date with development on this campaign.

Kind regards,

Kate Fowler

Animal Aid

kate.f@animalaid.co.uk

www.animalaid.org.uk

Registered in the UK as Animal Abuse Injustice and Defence Society.
Company number 1787309.

Agenda Item 3.3

P-04-648 Amendment to Unconventional Oil and Gas Direction 2015

Petition wording:

We the undersigned call upon the Minister for Natural Resources to amend the THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (NOTIFICATION) (UNCONVENTIONAL OIL AND GAS) (WALES) DIRECTION 2015 to call in all Planning Applications for Unconventional Oil and Gas development including exploratory drilling for Shale Gas, Coal Bed Methane and Underground Coal Gasification, to the Minister

Additional Information

At present the Direction only relates to applications involving certain unconventional extraction techniques where the Local Planning Authority is inclined to approve the application.

The current Direction does not apply to Underground Coal Gasification, the impacts of which would be equally damaging to the environment and communities. Nor does it apply to exploratory drilling or test drilling. There are growing concerns about the impact of exploratory drilling, particularly around noise, traffic, disturbance of water courses, the potential for seismic disturbance, industrialisation of the countryside and the impact on house prices.

If there is an effective moratorium on extraction, then what is the purpose of exploration? Allowing exploration to proceed when, at present, extraction will be prohibited is perverse and illogical

Petition raised by: Councillor Arfon Jones

Date petition first considered by Committee: 22 September 2015

Number of signatures: 1,254 Online signatures and 293 paper signatures. A further 415 signatures have been handed in after the petition was closed.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-648
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/06223/16

Mike Hedges AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
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13

September 2016

Dear Mike

The Committee had previously asked to be informed with regard to actions taken in relation to petition P-04-648. I would, therefore, like to take the opportunity to provide an update.

A Notification Direction was issued on 22 March 2016 regarding underground coal gasification, the effect of which is for local planning authorities to notify Welsh Ministers where they do not propose to refuse an application for underground coal gasification. The new direction will apply to any relevant application for planning permission registered as valid on or after 25 March 2016 and includes all applications connected with the gasification of coal in the strata but does not include the drilling of boreholes solely for the purposes of core sampling. This represents a precautionary approach in terms of the planning system.

I can confirm the intention previously expressed by my predecessor not to apply the Notification Direction relating to shale gas and coal bed methane to exploratory boreholes. This Direction remains as issued on 13 February 2015, on the basis of exploratory boreholes being widely used for engineering operations and routinely undertaken without any adverse environmental impacts.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs

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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 3.4

P-04-594 Cilmeri Community Council Appeal for The Prince Llywelyn Monument

Petition wording:

Due to the National importance of our Prince Llywelyn Monument we, the Community of Cilmeri call, on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to:

- Install locational signage boards, incorporating a brown signage battlefield icon, to denote the historical significance of our village, on the A483 at both main road entrances to the village;
- Work in partnership with Powys County Council, Cilmeri Community Council and CADW to help maintain the famous monument, so that visitors can enjoy our national historical amenity in a safe and befitting environment;
- Help identify resources to implement, in a phased manner, the Lloyd Brown Interpretation Plan (January 2013), commissioned by CADW.

Additional Information:

The interpretation plan highlights the fact that Llywelyn was the last native Welsh Prince to fall in battle, marking the effective end of the powerful dynasty of Gwynedd, which played an important role in forging a sense of Welsh nationhood and identity.

Petitioner: Cilmeri Community Council

First considered by the Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of Signatures: 305

Ken Skates AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref KS/06084/16

Mike Hedges AM
Chair
Petitions Committee

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28 August 2016

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 3 August regarding petition P-04-594 in relation to Cilmeri Community Council's appeal for signing to the Prince Llywelyn Monument. I apologise for the lateness of my response.

My officials are still considering the proposals for the new signs and will be in contact with the Community Council and Powys County Council with their decision shortly.

*Yours ever,
Ken*

Ken Skates AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure

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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.

Pack Page 55
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-04-594 Cilmeri Community Council Appeal for The Prince Llywelyn Monument. Correspondence - Petitioner to the Committee. 20.09.2016

Dear Members of the Petitions Committee,

P-04-594

Can I thank the Petitions Committee for their ongoing interest and support in our endeavours to enhance the signage in the village of Cilmeri.

With reference to the letter dated 28th August, from Ken Skates AM to Mike Hedges Chair of Petitions Committee, I note the positive stance the Cabinet Secretary has taken in relation to proposed new signage.

I very much welcome the news that he and his officials are considering the proposals for new signs, and should the Cabinet Secretary wish to discuss any details with the Community Council ahead of any final decision, I'm sure they would welcome that opportunity. Likewise, I as the local County Councillor would be happy to input into that debate.

My sincere thanks once again.

Regards,

County Councillor David Price

Agenda Item 3.5

P-04-663 – Food in Welsh Hospitals.

This petition was submitted by Rachel Flint having collected 40 signatures

Text of the Petition

We the undersigned call on the Welsh Government to examine the standards of food in hospitals in Wales. Each health board's provision must be investigated to ensure it is fit for purpose for patients, those with dietary needs and medical conditions, and impose standards across the whole of the Welsh NHS. Hospital food should be nutritious, fresh and be a major part of a patient's care package and road to recovery – not make things worse. Dietary needs must be catered for – such as gluten free, lactose intolerant, Celiac, vegetarian and vegan – experience shows this is not currently the case and patients are often made to feel awkward. Food tailored for medical conditions – including those who suffer from bowel conditions or have had surgery – must be standardised, to ensure patients are getting the right nutrition at all times. Currently patients on some wards are being fed all the same food regardless of their conditions, weight and dietary needs – this is not acceptable and can be upsetting and potentially damaging. Hospitals should not rely on relatives to bring in food, eat the same bland meal every day, or allow patients to waste away if they can't have any of the food on offer. Nutrition must be a key part of every patient's care package. We are not asking for Michelin Star quality, just meals that help rather than hinder.

Additional Information

My experiences of food in the NHS have shown that the standards vary across wards, hospitals and departments, as well as between England and Wales. The problem is not in Wales alone – as I find providing meals for those on low res or with dietary conditions is something the NHS as a whole struggles to deal with. But my experience in Wales recently showed that the standards are not up to scratch. There were no menus (as in Chester and other English hospitals) and patients were all fed the same regardless of their condition, weight or dietary needs. On one ward people who had just had bowel surgery were offered curry, lentil soup and tuna sweetcorn sandwiches which was totally inappropriate – and potentially damaging. At times the situation was that if you couldn't eat anything on the trolley or were not at your bed, you simply didn't eat, unless a nurse made some toast. This has to change; without the right nutrition I believe people are in hospital longer.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff South and Penarth
- South Wales Central

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Mr Mike Hedges AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

Date: 31 August 2016
Our ref: HVT/2600/fgb
Page: 1 of 3

Dear Mike

PETITION P-04-633 FOOD IN WELSH HOSPITALS

Thank you for your letter of 3 August 2016 regarding the petition from Rachel Flint in respect of standards of food in Welsh hospitals. I have noted the details of the petition and the various correspondence from the previous Minister for Health and Social Services, and from health board Chief Executives. It is helpful to have sight of these exchanges.

You asked for an update on my recent work on hospital catering and patient nutrition. You may recall from previous evidence sessions at the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) that I first published the findings from an all Wales review of hospital catering and patient nutrition in March 2011. Since then auditors have maintained an overview of the progress that is being made by NHS bodies in addressing my audit recommendations. During 2015 and into the early part of 2016 my staff undertook work at each health board in Wales and Velindre NHS Trust in order to provide a pan-Wales picture of the progress that is being made.

As a result of this work I have issued local audit reports to each of the NHS bodies my staff visited, and these are available to view on the Wales Audit Office website. I have also prepared a memorandum for the PAC that summarises the findings from the local audits, and includes a consideration of the progress that has been made against the recommendations made by the PAC following its inquiry.

The new PAC will have the opportunity to consider the memorandum when they meet on 19 September, and to decide whether they want to take any further evidence from Welsh Government or NHS bodies.

The main message that emerges from my recent audit work is that in overall terms there has been good progress in implementing previous audit and PAC recommendations. There is a clear commitment on the part of NHS bodies in Wales to deliver good quality patient catering services. This is supported by a clear set of standards, an all Wales nutritional care pathway and the all Wales menu framework. Moreover, patient satisfaction with the food they received in hospital is generally positive.

However, my local audit work did identify that there is still plenty of scope to continue to strengthen current arrangements and practice. The quality of nutritional screening that takes place on admission to hospital can vary, as can the way in which the results of the screening are recorded. A more consistent approach to nutritional screening would be facilitated by the development of standardised all Wales nursing documentation but there have been delays in progressing this. Similarly full compliance with e-learning training for nurses on implementation of the nutritional care pathway has yet to be achieved.

The launch of the all Wales menu framework should be viewed as a positive development in that it provides Welsh hospitals with a database of nutritionally assessed recipes and menus. My audit work found that compliance with the menu framework was good, and that arrangements to ensure 24 hour access to food and beverages were largely adequate.

The NHS captures patients' views on hospital food through periodic surveys. Whilst these show positive responses in terms of overall satisfaction with hospital food, they also highlight scope for further progress in terms of ensuring that food is appetising and that patients are given the necessary help and support to eat their meals.

Good progress has been secured in embedding the concept of the "protected mealtime" although the extent to which nursing staff engage with the meal time process varied across the wards that auditors visited.

The other key findings that emerged from my follow up work related to cost control and monitoring of compliance against standards within NHS bodies. My most recent work found that catering costs were better controlled than when I first reported in 2011. There have been reductions in the amount of food wasted and in the extent to which non patient catering services are subsidised. Although recorded waste is within target level, the overall cost of wasted food remains high. My original audit work in 2011 had highlighted the benefits of introducing computerised catering systems to replace the largely manual paper based recording of information that was in existence, however, little progress has been achieved in this area.

I was, however, pleased to note that arrangements for monitoring and reporting of patient nutrition and catering services are now well established at the operational level within NHS bodies with clear lines of accountability and good lines of reporting into Quality and Safety Committees or their equivalent. However, with a few notable exceptions, there is still scope to strengthen the extent of information that is presented to the full Board on the performance of catering and patient nutrition services.

I trust that the above is helpful by way of a summary of the work that I have recently completed and the key findings which have emerged. I should make it clear that I have not sought to make any additional recommendations either through my local audit reports or in the memorandum which I have prepared for the PAC. I believe the recommendations already made are sufficient to support the improvements which are necessary and I have therefore drawn attention to where further work is required to secure implementation of those recommendations.

The PAC will have the opportunity to consider my findings in more detail when they receive my memorandum, and in considering Ms Flint's submissions, the Petitions Committee may therefore wish to take account of any decisions that are taken by the PAC in respect of additional evidence gathering on this topic.



HUW VAUGHAN THOMAS
AUDITOR GENERAL FOR WALES

Agenda Item 4

P-04-668 – Support Yearly Screening for Ovarian Cancer (CA125 blood test)

This petition was submitted by Margaret Hutcherson, having collected 104 signatures.

Text of the Petition

We, the undersigned, call upon the Welsh Government to support yearly screening for ovarian cancer (CA125 Blood Test)

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

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

Document is Restricted



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-668
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/05426/16

Mike Hedges AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

26 September 2016

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter regarding petition P-04-668 and the estimated cost of introducing screening for ovarian cancer in Wales using the CA125 blood test.

I am not in a position to provide you with an estimated cost for introducing screening for ovarian cancer in Wales using the CA125 blood test.

A full economic evaluation would only be undertaken if there was evidence that an asymptomatic population screening programme offered improved outcomes to women, and this is not the case.

Any economic evaluation would normally be commissioned from expert advisors by the UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC), which provides impartial advice to UK Health Ministers.

The economic evaluation of a programme to introduce screening for ovarian cancer in Wales using the CA125 blood test would be extremely complex. It would need to assess the opportunity costs of the programme against the expenditure on medical care as a whole, taking into account factors such as the frequency of screening test, the age cohort to be screened, diagnosis and treatment, administration, quality assurance measures and training needs.

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.

The UK NSC reviews conditions against set criteria in order to appraise the viability, effectiveness and appropriateness of a population screening programme. There are 20 points to the established criteria covering the condition, the test, the intervention, the screening programme and implementation. A summary of the criteria can be found on the UK NSC website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evidence-review-criteria-national-screening-programmes/criteria-for-appraising-the-viability-effectiveness-and-appropriateness-of-a-screening-programme>

The UK NSC has recently reviewed its recommendation about ovarian cancer screening and their existing recommendation remains for no population screening at this stage but this decision will be reviewed if new evidence becomes available. The UK NSC requires the highest-quality evidence about population benefits before a new programme is recommended. This is vitally important to ensure screening programmes do more good than harm and to ensure NHS funding and staff resources are used in the most effective way possible.



Rebecca Evans AC/AM

Gweinidog Iechyd y Cyhoedd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Services and Public Health