

# Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

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Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: Tuesday, 9 May 2017

Meeting time: 09.09 – 10.46

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/4137>

## Attendance

Category	Names
Assembly Members:	Mike Hedges AM (Chair) Gareth Bennett AM Janet Finch-Saunders AM Neil McEvoy AM
Witnesses:	Ken Skates AM, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure Rhodri Griffiths, Welsh Government
Committee Staff:	Graeme Francis (Clerk) Kayleigh Driscoll (Deputy Clerk) Kath Thomas (Deputy Clerk) Lisa Salkeld (Legal Adviser)

## Transcript

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Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales

## **1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies.

## **2 New petitions**

### **2.1 P-05-750 For single use items: introduce a Deposit Return System for drink containers and make fast food containers and utensils compostable**

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to await the views of the petitioners before deciding the next steps to be taken on this petition.

### **2.2 P-05-751 Recognition of Parental Alienation**

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children to ask the specific questions raised by the petitioners.

### **2.3 P-05-752 Building Resilience To Cyber-Bullying In Children**

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to await the views of the petitioner before deciding the next steps to be taken on this petition.

## **3 Updates to previous petitions**

### **3.1 P-05-712 A Welsh Government Department for Europe would ensure a clear, strategic and accountable voice for Wales in ongoing negotiations**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to forward the petitioner's comments to the First Minister and ask for answers to the questions raised.

### **3.2 P-04-466 Medical Emergency – Preventing the introduction of a poorer Health Service for North Wales**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to close the petition and provide further information to the petitioner as to how he can raise his concerns about the consideration previously given to the petition.

### **3.3 P-04-505 Eating Disorder Unit in Wales**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport to:

- highlight the concerns raised by the petitioner;
- request an update on the latest position in relation to eating disorder units; and
- ask him to inform the Committee when the results of the formal review of the Eating Disorders Framework for Wales are published.

### **3.4 P-04-564 Restoration of Inpatient Beds, Minor Injuries Cover and X-Ray Unit to the Ffestiniog Memorial Hospital**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to Betsi Cadwaladr UHB to ask for its reflections on the correspondence received from the Community Health Council and the Local Medical Committee and:

- Note the information previously provided about new services to be delivered from the new health centre in Blaenau from summer 2017;
- Ask whether the Health Board considers that the Centre will deliver the level of local care envisaged by Healthcare in North Wales is Changing in 2012;
- Ask how the continuing perceived lack of inpatient beds and difficulties in recruiting GPs in the area are being addressed;
- Its perspective on the lack of a registered nursing home in the area or care homes able to provide step-down care.

The Committee also agreed to write to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee to inform them about the petition and ask if it will help with any of their current work.

### **3.5 P-04-570 Inequitable Access to Treatments That Have Not Been Nationally Appraised in NHS Wales**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to close the petition given the main aspect – a review of the ‘exceptionality rule’ – has been met.

### **3.6 P-05-693 Give Every Child in Wales the Meningitis B Vaccine for Free**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to seek the views of the petitioner on the recent correspondence before agreeing a further course of action.

### **3.7 P-04-472 Make the MTAN law**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment & Rural Affairs to request further detail on the proposals to limit new coal development being considered for consultation as part of the review of Planning Policy Wales later this year.

### **3.8 P-04-575 Call in All Opencast Mining Planning Applications**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment & Rural Affairs to request further detail on the proposals to limit new coal development being considered for consultation as part of the review of Planning Policy Wales later this year.

### **3.9 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**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to close the petition on the basis that the Committee has not received evidence that this is a significant issue and a lack of contact with the petitioner.

### **3.10 P-05-741 Natural Resources Wales(Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru) Needs Tighter Restriction**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to close the petition on the basis that:

- Natural Resources Wales have confirmed that the views of landowners and occupiers, as well as wider economic considerations, are taken into account when determining Sites of Special Scientific Interest;

- The Committee is not able to intervene in the specific situation with the land occupied by the petitioner.

### **3.11 P-05-743 End the Exotic Pet Trade in Wales**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs to ask the specific questions proposed by the petitioner.

### **3.12 P-04-481 Close the Gap for deaf pupils in Wales**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language, enclosing the petitioner's latest comments, and ask whether he or his officials would be willing to meet with the petitioners to discuss their comments and offer of support in detail.

### **3.13 P-04-576 Allow Children in Wales to Have a Family Holiday During Term Time**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to provide the further evidence received to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and ask for further details on the timescale of the planned review and independent evaluation of fixed penalty notices.

### **3.14 P-05-694 School Times an Hour Later**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to:

- close the petition because this is a matter of responsibility for individual schools and there is not currently sufficient evidence to support a recommendation from the Petitions Committee; and
- thank the petitioner for his engagement with the petitions process and wish him luck for the future.

### **3.15 P-05-707 Teachers' Training Must Include Statutory Training in Autism**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Education, enclosing the comments received from the National Autistic Society, and ask whether it is the Welsh Government's intention for autism to

be included as a requirement within the new programme of Initial Teacher Education from 2019.

### **3.16 P-05-735 Make the foundation phase more effective for our children, provide more teachers and abolish yr 2 Sats.**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the petitioner to seek their views on the response received from the Welsh Government.

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

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to:

- write to the petitioners to share Powys County Council's offer of asset transfer for the monument; and in doing so
- close the petition.

### **3.18 P-05-692 Build an International Mother languages Monument at Cardiff Bay**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to:

- forward the petitioner's latest comments to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure; and
- consider closing the petition at the next consideration.

### **3.19 P-05-716 Free Train Transport for school pupils with Arriva Trains Wales**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to:

- Arriva Trains Wales to share the petitioner's concerns and ask if they would consider making changes to the safety arrangements on the platform at Treorchy station, including the size of the enclosure for pupils; and
- The Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure to make him aware of the petitioner's comments in relation to safety for pupils on the platform at Treorchy station.

### **3.20 P-05-720 Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council Petition for the Installation of Fibre Optic Broadband**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the Minister for Skills & Science to seek an update on the likely timescale for rollout of fibre optic broadband to properties in Hirwaun and Penderyn.

### **3.21 P-05-721 Penegoes Speed Limit Petition**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to await the outcome of the Speed Limit Review which is due to commence in summer 2017.

### **3.22 P-05-748 School Buses for School Children**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Infrastructure to ask if he will consider reviewing the distance criteria for dedicated home to school transport, or alternative measures to improve pupil safety when travelling to school.

### **3.23 P-04-526 Please make Senedd TV accessible to deaf people**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to:

- write to the Llywydd to request an update on any steps taken to make coverage of Assembly proceedings more accessible to deaf people since the previous correspondence received from her predecessor in May 2014; and
- advise the petitioner that issues relating to the accessibility of the Cross Party Group on Deaf Issues cannot be addressed by the Committee and should be raised with the group itself.

### **3.24 P-05-726 Give Rate Relief to Local Authorities for Leisure and Cultural Facilities**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government to seek his response to the further comments made by the petitioner.

### **3.25 P-05-742 Stop Forsythia Closing**

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to:

- the Communities First Lead Delivery Body responsible for Forsythia Youth Centre to seek information about the future support available for the group, given the apparent success of the work done;
- the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children, sharing the video and information received from Forsythia Youth Centre, and expressing concern over the impact that the loss of successful projects like this could have in local areas.
- the Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language to ask whether there is a route to supporting projects like Forsythia Youth Centre through youth work;
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council sharing the video and information received from Forsythia Youth Centre and asking for their views; and
- Forsythia Youth Centre to thank them for providing Members with a video raising their concerns and attending the public gallery for the meeting.

### **3.26 P-04-524 Planning Control and the Welsh Language**

The Committee agreed to close petition due to the length of time that has elapsed since contact was last received from the petitioners.

### **3.27 P-04-559 Secondary School Awareness of Self-Harm**

The Committee agreed to close petition due to the length of time that has elapsed since contact was last received from the petitioners.

## **4 Evidence session – P-05-710 Ensure Disabled People can Access Public Transport As and When They Need it**

Ken Skates AM, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure, and Rhodri Griffiths, Deputy Director, Transport Policy, Planning & Partnerships, answered questions from the Committee.