

Votes and Proceedings – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 26 June 2019

Meeting time: 13.30

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/5669>

218

1 Joint debate with the Welsh Youth Parliament

The item started at 13.30

In accordance with Standing Order 13.3 the Llywydd, having consulted with Business Committee, invited eight Welsh Youth Parliament Members to participate in Assembly proceedings for the purpose of this joint item. 31 other Welsh Youth Parliament Members were also present in the Chamber for the item.

NDM7100 [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes that the Welsh Youth Parliament's work for the duration of its first term will focus on the following issues:

a) mental health and emotional wellbeing;

b) life skills in the curriculum; and

c) littering and plastic waste.

2. Confirms the Assembly's commitment to support the work undertaken by Welsh Youth Parliament Members to engage young people across Wales.

3. Agrees the joint declaration outlining the Assembly and Welsh Youth Parliament's commitment to work together on behalf of the young people of Wales.



Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales

Declaration - Welsh Youth Parliament and Assembly

In accordance with Standing Order 11.15(ii), voting on the motion under this item was taken at the end of the debate.

The result was as follows:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
48	0	0	48

The motion was agreed.

At 14.15, proceedings were suspended for 15 minutes. The bell was rung 5 minutes before reconvening.

2 Questions to the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd

The item started at 14.30

The first 7 questions were asked. The Presiding Officer invited party spokespeople to ask questions to the Minister after question 2.

3 Questions to the Minister for International Relations and Welsh Language

The item started at 15.19

Questions 1 – 6 and 8 – 10 were asked. Question 7 was withdrawn. Questions 2, 8 and 9 was answered by the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism. The Presiding Officer invited party spokespeople to ask questions to the Minister after question 2.

4 Questions to the Assembly Commission

The item started at 16.03

Both questions were asked.

5 Topical Questions

The item started at 16.14

To ask the Minister for Economy and Transport

Russell George (Montgomeryshire): Will the Minister provide an update on what support the Welsh Government has provided to construction company Jistcourt?

6 90 Second Statements

The item started at 16.26

Dawn Bowden made a statement as the species champion for the European Eel

Vikki Howells made a statement commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Albion Mining Disaster (23 June 1894)

Committee Membership

NDM7109 – [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order 17.3, removes Dawn Bowden (Labour) as a Member of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

7 Debate on the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee report: Diversity in Local Government

The item started at 16.30

NDM7099 [John Griffiths \(Newport East\)](#)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Notes the report of the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee, 'Diversity in local government', which was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 4 April 2019.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

8 Plaid Cymru debate – The Higher Education Sector

The item started at 17.25

Voting on the motion and amendments under this item was deferred until Voting Time.

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

NDM7101 [Rhun ap Iorwerth \(Ynys Môn\)](#)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes the serious financial crisis facing the Welsh higher education sector, with significant job losses announced over the last twelve months amid concerns as to the financial sustainability of individual institutions.
2. Calls on the Welsh Government to commission an urgent review of the financial sustainability of the Welsh university sector.
3. Calls on the Welsh Government to give HEFCW an explicit mandate to intervene to prevent the bankruptcy of any higher education institution in Wales in the immediate future, by means of an emergency loan if necessary.
4. Calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that any public funding to a Welsh university is contingent on vice-chancellor salaries being no more than five times median earnings.
5. Calls on the Welsh Government to ensure the adequacy and transparency of university oversight and governance arrangements, especially in relation to the expenditure of public funds.
6. Calls on the Welsh Government to remit HEFCW, and any successor body, to exercise a partnership approach with students and university staff at all levels of decision-making, and to require universities to take account of student and staff views in making staffing decisions.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
9	0	34	43

The motion without amendment was not agreed.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 – [Rebecca Evans \(Gower\)](#)

Delete all and replace with:

1. Recognises:
 - a. that Universities in Wales and the UK are independent and autonomous institutions;
 - b. the financial challenges facing the Higher Education sector across the UK, including Brexit and the decline in the number of 18 year olds;
2. Welcomes:
 - a. the introduction by the Welsh Government of the most generous student support system in the UK, and the significant increases in the number of part-time and post graduate students in Wales;
 - b. the introduction of a fair and sustainable funding settlement for Welsh universities and the commitment to increase funding to HEFCW in each financial year for the lifetime of this Welsh Government;
 - c. the sector-wide commitment in Wales to pay the real living wage to all staff, the increased openness and transparency in the reporting of senior pay, measures being taken to address the gender pay gap and the adoption of the Code of Practice on Ethical Employment in Supply Chains;
 - d. that Wales is the best performing nation in the UK for student satisfaction;
3. Notes the Welsh Government's remit to HEFCW to work in partnership with the sector to increase openness and transparency around the use of fee income and to strengthen governance and accountability.

A vote was taken on amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
25	0	18	43

Amendment 1 was agreed.

As amendment 1 was agreed, amendments 2 and 3 were de-selected

Amendment 4 – [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to publish the information about the higher education sector's financial position that it takes into consideration before agreeing the sector's annual budget allocation.

A vote was taken on amendment 4:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
18	0	25	43

Amendment 4 was not agreed.

NDM7101 [Rhun ap Iorwerth \(Ynys Môn\)](#)

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

1. Recognises:
 - a. that Universities in Wales and the UK are independent and autonomous institutions;
 - b. the financial challenges facing the Higher Education sector across the UK, including Brexit and the decline in the number of 18 year olds;
2. Welcomes:
 - a. the introduction by the Welsh Government of the most generous student support system in the UK, and the significant increases in the number of part-time and post graduate students in Wales;
 - b. the introduction of a fair and sustainable funding settlement for Welsh universities and the commitment to increase funding to HEFCW in each financial year for the lifetime of this Welsh Government;
 - c. the sector-wide commitment in Wales to pay the real living wage to all staff, the increased openness and transparency in the reporting of senior pay, measures being taken to address the gender pay gap and the adoption of the Code of Practice on Ethical Employment in Supply Chains;

- d. that Wales is the best performing nation in the UK for student satisfaction;
3. Notes the Welsh Government's remit to HEFCW to work in partnership with the sector to increase openness and transparency around the use of fee income and to strengthen governance and accountability.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
25	0	19	44

The motion as amended was agreed.

9 Voting Time

The item started at 18.21

10 Short Debate – No motion tabled

No motion tabled

Motion to suspend Standing Orders (5 mins)

The item started at 18.23

NNDM7103 – [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Orders 33.6 and 33.8:

Suspends that part of Standing Order 11.16 that requires the weekly announcement under Standing Order 11.11 to constitute the timetable for business in Plenary for the following week, to allow Dawn Bowden's Short Debate to be considered in Plenary on Wednesday, 26 June 2019.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

11 Short Debate

The item started at 18.23

NNDM7098 – [Dawn Bowden \(Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney\)](#)

Time to establish a legal right to adequate housing in Wales:

Making a national commitment to the fundamental principle that every one of us should have a human right, underpinned by law, to access adequate and sustainable housing.

The meeting concluded at 18.47

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 2 July 2019