

Agenda – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Meeting date: 1 November 2021

Meeting time: 14.00

For further information contact:

Gareth Price – Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

Petitions@senedd.wales

- 1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**
(Pages 1 – 30)

- 2 New Petitions**
 - 2.1 P-06-1187 Offer a Covid-19 vaccination to clinically vulnerable children
(Pages 31 – 37)
 - 2.2 P-06-1193 Ask the UK Government for permission to hold a referendum on returning devolved powers
(Pages 38 – 43)
 - 2.3 P-06-1194 To legislate to give freeholders in new build properties the right to manage their own estates
(Pages 44 – 50)
 - 2.4 P-06-1195 Conduct an independent inquiry into the death of Glyn Summers and the actions of Coleg y Cymoedd
(Pages 51 – 57)
 - 2.5 P-06-1197 Heart screenings free for all 11-35 year olds who represent their school or county in sport
(Pages 58 – 67)
 - 2.6 P-06-1200 Make horse tethering, with or without shelter, illegal and an act of cruelty in Wales
(Pages 68 – 74)
 - 2.7 P-06-1201 Ban the shooting of critically endangered birds...give them the protection they so desperately need
(Pages 75 – 80)



- 2.8 P-06-1202 Ban the killing of day old chicks in Wales
(Pages 81 – 87)
- 2.9 P-06-1205 Invest in flood defences on the Towy in Carmarthen including the Quayside area
(Pages 88 – 93)
- 2.10 P-06-1209 Create a national list of all unpaid carers in Wales
(Pages 94 – 100)

3 Updates to previous petitions

Health and Social Services

- 3.1 P-05-954 Petition for a public inquiry by the Welsh Government into the historic child abuse on Caldey Island
(Pages 101 – 106)
- 3.2 P-06-1203 Do not roll out Covid 19 vaccine passports for retail, hospitality or other premises
(Page 107)

Environment

- 3.3 P-05-1003 Demand an EIA now on the dumping of radioactively contaminated mud in Welsh waters
(Pages 108 – 122)
- 3.4 P-05-1071 Print the vehicle registration on all drive through fast food packaging
(Pages 123 – 125)

Housing

- 3.5 P-05-1083 Protect leaseholders in Wales from paying for cladding remedial works
(Pages 126 – 129)

Culture, Sport and Tourism

The following two items are grouped together for consideration

- 3.6 P-05-1073 Create and build a new branch of National Museum Wales dedicated to Welsh involvement in colonialism
(Pages 130 – 131)
- 3.7 P-05-1086 Create a National Museum for Welsh Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic History and Heritage
(Pages 132 – 135)
- 3.8 P-05-1130 The Welsh Government should re-purchase and refurbish Coleg Harlech
(Pages 136 – 142)

Education and Welsh Language

- 3.9 P-05-1133 Adapt the teacher training syllabus to include Transformational Coaching and Emotional Intelligence
(Pages 143 – 146)

4 Further discussion on the signature threshold

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from item 5 of the meeting.

6 Future workload planning

Document is Restricted

Offer a Covid-19 vaccination to clinically vulnerable children

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 1 Tachwedd 2021
Petitions Committee | 1 November 2021

Reference: SR21/0770-1

Petition Number: P-06-1187

Petition title: Offer a Covid-19 vaccination to clinically vulnerable children

Text of petition:

The Pfizer Covid-19 vaccination has been approved in the UK for use in children age 12-16. However, the vaccination isn't being offered to any children in that age bracket. Children who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable are more at risk of hospitalisation and death from Covid-19 than the general child population. We want the Welsh Government to offer the vaccine to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable children in that age group.

Evidence suggests children neurodevelopmental disabilities are at serious risk of hospitalisation and death from Covid-19. These include those with cerebral palsy, Downs Syndrome and severe learning disability. <https://adc.bmj.com/content/early/2021/01/04/archdischild-2020-321225>

In the whole population those with a learning disability had a higher rate of death from Covid-19 than the general population. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/people-with-learning-disabilities-had-higher-death-rate-from-covid-19>



In March this year the charity, Contact carried out a survey of 3000 families, which found

- 86% of parents with disabled children have been offered a Covid-19 vaccine; 2 in 3 were offered as unpaid carers;
- 70% want their shielding or disabled children to have a Covid-19 vaccine when it has been licensed for use in children;
- 1 in 10 would like access to a Covid-19 vaccine unlicensed right now, but only 3 in every 200 parents that try have been successful in getting it unlicensed.

1. Background

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advises all four UK health departments on immunisation, including advice on COVID-19 vaccination.

The JCVI advised on 19 July 2021 that children at increased risk of serious COVID-19 disease should be offered the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. That includes children aged 12 to 15 with severe neurodisabilities, Down's syndrome, immunosuppression, and multiple or severe learning disabilities. JCVI also stated that young people aged 16 to 17 years of age who are at higher risk of serious COVID-19, should continue to be offered COVID-19 vaccination, in line with their recommendations of 30 December 2020.

On 3 September 2021 the JCVI issued updated advice on COVID-19 vaccination of children aged 12 to 15. This stated that for the vast majority of children, SARS-CoV-2 infection is asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic and will resolve without treatment, and the margin of benefit was considered too small to support universal COVID-19 vaccination for this age group at that time.

JCVI's advice notes that its remit does not include consideration of the wider societal impacts of vaccination, and Wales' Health Minister on 3 September 2021 said that, alongside the other nations of the UK, she had asked Wales' Chief Medical Officer to provide guidance 'at the earliest opportunity' on the clinical and wider health benefits of vaccinating this age group.

However, the JCVI advice of 3 September also recommended, following consideration of updated data on hospital admissions and deaths, expanding the

list of conditions for which the vaccine should be offered to include children aged 12 to 15 with the following:

- Haematological malignancy;
- Sickle cell disease;
- Type 1 diabetes;
- Congenital heart disease;
- Other health conditions as described in Annex A of the guidance.

Annex A of the guidance included children with chronic respiratory disease; chronic heart disease; chronic conditions of the kidney; liver or digestive system; endocrine disorders; immunosuppression due to disease or treatment; asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen; serious genetic abnormalities that affect a number of systems; and chronic neurological disease. **The latter includes children with cerebral palsy, severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities, Down's Syndrome, and those on the learning disability register.**

2. Welsh Government action

On 3 September 2021, the Welsh Government's Minister for Health and Social Services issued a written statement accepting the JCVI's recommendations on the extended offer, and noted that:

Our NHS will work quickly to identify these children and young people and their Health Boards will automatically contact them. There is no need for patients to contact their health board or clinicians to check eligibility. Those children and young people already eligible under the JCVI's advice of specific underlying health conditions will have already been offered appointments.

3. Welsh Government response to the petition

The Welsh Government have responded in a letter dated 24 September to the Chair of the Committee, which confirms that all health boards are now offering the first dose of vaccine to those children age 12-17, and children at increased risk of serious COVID-19 disease are offered the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

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-06-1187
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/12022/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair, Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

24 September 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 16 August from the Petitions Committee about offering COVID-19 vaccinations to children age 12-16.

All health boards are now offering the first dose of vaccine to those children age 12-17 identified by the Joint Committee on Vaccinations & Immunisations (JCVI) in their statement of 19 July. They have been using the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, although the Moderna vaccine is now also approved for use with children age 12-17.

The JCVI advises that children at increased risk of serious COVID-19 disease are offered the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. That includes children age 12 to 15 with severe neurodisabilities, Down's syndrome, immunosuppression and multiple or severe learning disabilities.

The JCVI also recommends that children and young people age 12 to 17 who live with an immunosuppressed person should be offered the vaccine. This protects their immunosuppressed household contacts, who are at higher risk of serious disease from COVID-19 and may not generate a full immune response to vaccination.

In line with earlier advice from the JCVI, young people age 16 to 17 with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious COVID-19 should have already been offered vaccination.

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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.

I trust that this information will be helpful to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

**P-06-1187 Offer a Covid-19 vaccination to clinically vulnerable children,
Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 23.10.21**

The purpose of the petition has now been achieved. I am therefore not sure if any further comments I make can be considered.

I set up the petition as a first step to seek vaccines for vulnerable children. At the time a vaccine had only been declared safe for those age 12 and over therefore that is all I felt I could request in the petition.

Now Pfizer have declared their vaccine safe for those age 5-11.

My son, Thomas is 10 years and 8 months and has severe neurodisabilities. He is extremely vulnerable to Covid-19. As a result we now don't send him to school, as we learnt staff were not adequately protecting him from Covid-19. We had sought assurances he was only in close proximity to two members of staff and they wore masks. We learnt this was not the case. Recently a member of staff in his class tested positive for Covid.

Thomas is therefore missing out on his schooling and we, as his parents, are under significant pressure managing everything.

I'd ask the Committee members to consider our situation and raise the issue of vaccinating children like Thomas as soon as it is possible.

Please can enquiries be made of the JCVI and relevant Government Ministers? It feels like children like Thomas have been forgotten.

Thank you

Referendum on returning devolved powers

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 1 Tachwedd 2021
Petitions Committee | 1 November 2021

Reference: SR21/837-5

Petition Number: P-06-1193

Petition title: Ask the UK Government for permission to hold a referendum on returning devolved powers.

Text of petition:

The Senedd has no powers to call such a referendum to gauge public opinion about how devolved powers are perceived in Wales. However, they can ask the UK Government for permission to hold a referendum for the people of Wales.

Senedd Cymru (previously known as National Assembly for Wales) has been in place since 1999, based on a referendum held in 1997. We know from the recent independence referendum in Scotland that such a vote is considered "once-in-a-generation", and as such - 24 years later - it is only fair and right that the people of Wales are allowed to voice their opinions once more.

Some think that Wales should gain more powers and full independence, but others believe that a centralised power would be more effective - and cost-effective.

Using the current pandemic as an example, at the time of raising this petition Wales is lagging behind on rate of vaccination, as well as having had the second worst rate of COVID-19 infections in the world (previously reported as the worst, due to a [Welsh reporting error](#))

A centralised approach would have benefitted Wales greatly in comparison both in support and procedure.



1. Background

The National Assembly for Wales was created in 1999 following a referendum in 1997. A further referendum was held in 2011 where 63.5% of voters were in favour of expanding the then Assembly's law making powers.

The Wales Act 2017 amended the Government of Wales Act 2006 to enshrine Senedd Cymru, the Welsh Government and the laws they make as a permanent part of the UK's constitutional arrangements.

It further provided that the Senedd and the Welsh Government are 'not to be abolished except on the basis of a decision of the people of Wales voting in a referendum'. An Act of the UK Parliament would be required to hold such a referendum.

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 06 1193
Ein cyf/Our ref FM -/10256/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair
Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
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Petitions@senedd.wales

7th October 2021

Dear Chair

I am writing in response to your letter about Petition P-06-1193: "Ask the UK Government for permission to hold a referendum on returning devolved powers".

The information supplied alongside the petition refers to the devolution referendum held in 1997. This is not the last time people in Wales expressed their democratic will in relation to devolution. In 2011, they voted by 63.49% to 36.51% in favour of full law-making powers for the National Assembly for Wales. In this year's Senedd election, voters rejected both anti-devolution and pro-independence manifestos in favour of the vision of a reformed United Kingdom to which this Welsh Government is committed.

As we have set out in [Reforming our Union: Shared Governance in the UK](#), the second edition of which was published in June, we believe the devolved nations and governments are, and will continue to be, intrinsic to the UK's constitutional arrangements for as long as they retain popular support.

Members of the committee will be aware this Welsh Government believes a strong Wales within a strong and stable Union is the best option for our citizens. As I have said repeatedly, in my view the continued existence of the United Kingdom is more at risk today than at any point in my political lifetime, and simply defending the status quo hastens the day when the United Kingdom will no longer be able to stay together.

I have called for all political leaders who are serious about making the case for the United Kingdom to be prepared to lead change so our Union can endure.

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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 are establishing an independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales to lead a serious national conversation with people throughout Wales to move this important debate forward, in the regrettable absence of proper engagement from the UK Government in these issues.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARK DRAKEFORD

P-06-1193 Ask the UK Government for permission to hold a referendum on returning devolved powers, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 20.10.21

Thank you again for your response and the extension offered. Please find below my response to the First Minister's letter.

With regards to Petition P-06-1193, I will first say that the petition did not preclude other options within the referendum. It was more about the future of Wales and its position in The Union than reversing devolution. The wording was borne of the frustration of the difference in policies between the home nations, when most people live within the UK as a single entity - knowing there is free travel between all the nations, and a central government. Now, later in the situation, I still believe that emergency matters and other policies should be dealt with on a central basis - and as such that some powers should be returned.

As a salient example, I am a small business owner in South Wales, who supplies hospitality businesses across the UK. With the different schemes available in the different nations, I was at times suffering a large downfall in turnover in England when the situation in Wales was politically different - particularly around last Winter.

The First Minister states that the Welsh Populace have expressed their democratic will in favour of devolution on several occasions. However, the 63.49% he cites is a percentage of the 35.63% of the registered voters who actually turned out to the polls in 2011. Almost 65% of the voting population in Wales were too disenfranchised to even bother giving an opinion - leaving the actual percentage in favour as a tiny 22.6% - fewer than a quarter of the registered voters. On the surface it may seem we are having democratic votes, but this simple example shows they are far from such. This year, there was still only a 46.6% turnout at the polls, and Welsh Labour did not win a majority of seats. In 2016 it was 45.3%, and of course the original 1997 referendum was 50.22% - again making the actual eligible percentage voting in favour of devolution in the first place just 25.3%.

I am well aware of Mr Drakeford's statements on the state of the Union, and his belief that Wales needs a strong voice within this. I do not disagree, and I believe the whole system needs to be shaken up with vigour. I have a very clear vision which I would be happy to speak with the proposed independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales or Mr Drakeford himself about. Some of it is not new thinking, but it's something I have not seen talked about in any political corners.

I go back to my earlier comments on the disenfranchisement of the Welsh

people. Even though a majority are not voting, it is clear that there is nothing they feel represents them. A referendum on an important question such as this can contain a number of options, and doesn't need to be binding. It can also feed the work of the Commission which the First Minister has spoken about. In fact, given that Welsh Labour feels so strongly on having a voice in the UK, the "serious national conversation with people throughout Wales" should without doubt include a referendum. Nothing is more serious or more national, or can include the Welsh population as much on such an even level, as a well-advertised referendum.

In closing, I feel that Welsh Labour would in fact stand to gain from a move such as this. They will show their detractors that they *do* listen, and are willing to act on the voice of the people they represent. I am not asking for a result in one way or the other. I am simply asking to let the country I was born in, the country I have grown up and been educated in, the country I run an international business from, to let all of its people have a voice (in the regrettable absence of proper engagement from the Welsh Government in these issues).

Petition: Estate charges

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 1 Tachwedd 2020
Petitions Committee | 1 November 2020

Reference: SR20/0837-6

Petition Number: Petition P-06-1194

Petition title: To legislate to give freeholders in new build properties the right to manage their own estates

Text of petition: The Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 gives leaseholders the right to acquire the landlord's management functions by transfer to a company set up by them. This same right does not apply to freehold owners on new developments, who have to pay a service charge to a company appointed to manage their estates. As a result they have no control over the amount of their service charge or maintenance issues. There needs to be reform to protect homeowners from excessive charges and poor management



1. Background

Where the local authority has not adopted common areas like roads, open spaces and play facilities on housing estates, private arrangements can be put in place to ensure they are maintained. This will result in a charge being levied on residents by a management company to pay for the upkeep of these areas.

Leaseholders will pay these fees through their service charge and freeholders will be made subject to an estate rent charge. However, freeholders do not have the same rights as leaseholders to address concerns related to these charges. Tenants may pay these costs through their rent or a service charge.

2. Welsh Government action

The [Programme for Government](#) contains a commitment to “Ensure that estate charges for public open spaces and facilities are paid for in a way that is fair.”

The Welsh Government consulted on estate management charges in 2020. A [summary of responses](#) to the consultation was published on 30 November 2020 along with a [written statement](#) to the Senedd from the then Minister for Housing and Local Government. Six hundred and four responses were received, the majority of which were from homeowners and residents. In terms of next steps for the Welsh Government, the consultation summary notes:

It is clear from the evidence provided that the practice of estate charges does not work effectively for everyone under the current arrangements. The Minister will therefore use the evidence that has been gathered to consider the areas where change is needed and the potential options which may be available to make those changes.

This is just the start of a change process and any changes proposed or considered will be developed in conjunction with the industry and would be subject to further formal consultation and stakeholder engagement affording a further opportunity for feedback.

The Minister’s letter to the Chair also highlights some of the wider issues that need to be considered when formulating a response to this issue:

...there is a question which needs to be explored about how public open spaces and facilities which are so valuable in new housing developments should be paid for. I recognise it is not simply the case that local authorities could take on these

additional responsibilities in perpetuity without the necessary resources to provide for such a service. This question requires proper thought and investigation, to ensure any changes we make do not bring about unintended consequences and unforeseen adverse impacts. I will of course keep members updated as this work progresses.

The Minister's letter notes that she has already committed to giving freeholders legal rights to challenge unfair charges and highlights forthcoming Senedd and Westminster legislation that is intended to address a number of issues relevant to this petition. This includes a registration and licensing scheme that would cover estate management companies. There are also proposals to give freeholders similar rights to leaseholders to challenge the reasonableness of estate charges and the ability to appoint a new manager to manage the provision of services covered by estate rent charges.

3. Welsh Parliament action

The issue of estate charges has been raised on many occasions in the Senedd.

On 14 March 2018 the Senedd debated a [Members' Legislative Proposal](#) on Estate Management Companies. The motion, moved by Hefin David MS, proposed a Bill for the regulation of estate management companies. The proposed Bill was to include, amongst other things, giving freeholders equivalent rights to leaseholders to challenge the reasonableness of charges. Responding to the debate, the then Minister for Housing and Regeneration, Rebecca Evans, committed to set up the task and finish group to examine this issue amongst others. That group was established and subsequently published its report in [July 2019](#).

Following the 2021 election, on [15 June 2021](#), the issue of estate charges was again raised in the Senedd by Hefin David MS. He asked for a statement from the Minister for Climate Change on the issue. Responding on behalf of the government, Lesley Griffiths MS said "...the Minister for Climate Change is considering all options available before coming to any further decisions."

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Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1194
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/11328/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
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5 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 2 September regarding Petition P-06-1194 to legislate to give freeholders in new build properties the right to manage their own estates.

I am also concerned by the problems faced by freeholders regarding estate charges, which is why I launched the [Call for Evidence into the practice of estate charges](#) last year. There are a range of issues identified in the summary of responses which was published last November, and as I stated in my accompanying [written statement](#), I will use the evidence gathered to help identify where change is needed and the options to bring about that change, legislative or otherwise. To date, I have already taken the opportunity afforded by the development of the third phase of Help to Buy-Wales, which opened in April 2021, to tackle what I see as some of the most worrying practices.

Firstly, Help to Buy-Wales is now only be available on new developments where an estate charge expressly forbids estate management companies granting themselves a long lease over a property or taking possession where there are arrears of the charge payment (via Section 121 of the Law of Property Act 1925). I consider this power to be draconian and disproportionate, and I am keen to do all that we can to prevent its use.

Secondly, I have ensured that clearer, more definitive information about the presence and likely level of estate charges is being provided at an early stage of sales, and certainly before a potential buyer is required to make a commitment to a property. This will allow prospective residents to make an informed decision about whether a property with such charges is the right one for them. In addition, there has been a further tightening of the requirements placed on Help to Buy-Wales conveyancers to raise and explore the existence of estate charges with their clients.

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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.

However, the evidence gathered also raised a more fundamental question regarding how public open spaces and facilities, which are so valuable in new housing developments, should be paid for. This question requires proper thought and investigation and will take some time to work through, in order to ensure any potential changes proposed do not bring about unintended consequences or unforeseen adverse impacts.

I am committed to tackling the unacceptable and unfair practices that are currently possible due to the unregulated nature of estate management companies and the charges they can raise. I have already announced my plans to give freeholders legal rights to challenge unfair charges. My intention is to also include estate management companies within our plans to introduce a registration and licensing scheme for residential property management companies as part of the Building Safety Legislation that I will introduce later in this Senedd Term.

Whilst we are, therefore, looking to take a range of legislative and non-legislative actions to address the legitimate concerns of freeholders in Wales, we are also working closely with the UK Government to bring forward further changes. We will use the evidence already gathered in Wales to help inform and shape the legislation to be developed through this collaborative approach, and working with the UK Government in this way will also enable reforms to be implemented in Wales more quickly. The reforms are currently expected to include giving freeholders equivalent rights to those enjoyed currently by leaseholders, such as the right to apply to a Tribunal to appoint a new manager to manage the provision of services covered by estate rent charges. More information on these proposals is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/implementing-reforms-to-the-leasehold-system>.

Notwithstanding the actions on estate charges already being taken forward, either by ourselves or in collaboration with the UK Government, my officials are also considering what other protections may need to be put in place on either a legislative or non-legislative basis.

I trust this is a helpful explanation of my commitment to tackle estate management charge problems faced by freeholders, and a useful summary of measures both already taken and planned.

Yours sincerely,



Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change

P-06-1194 To legislate to give freeholders in new build properties the right to manage their own estates, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 07.10.21

The document does address the concerns in the petition so I have nothing to add.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Agenda Item 2.4



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1195
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/11028/21

Jack Sargeant MS
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1 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 2 September regarding Petition P-06-1195, *Conduct an independent inquiry into the death of Glyn Summers and the actions of Coleg y Cymoedd*. You asked me for my views on the issues raised by the petition, prior to its formal consideration by the Committee.

I want to start by saying how deeply sorry I am for the Summers family's loss. I know that over the last 10 years they have fought to understand the circumstances of Glyn's death, and that they have contacted Ministers including the current and previous First Minister to ask for an independent inquiry. This request has been very carefully considered by successive Ministers, and I have reviewed the case following recent correspondence from Sion Summers.

On 7 July this year I wrote to Mr Summers to let him know that, having considered the family's latest request for an independent inquiry, I had concluded that this would not be the appropriate course of action. I agree with previous Ministers that despite the tragic circumstances of Glyn Summers' death the necessity for a wider public interest as the basis for an inquiry, such as evidence of system-wide failures in educational safeguarding in Wales, is not met. An Estyn review commissioned by my predecessor in 2015, focusing specifically on the factors that were instrumental in Glyn's accident, confirmed that *all colleges in Wales have generally appropriate and relevant policies, procedures and guidance for educational visits*. The review made a number of recommendations to further strengthen colleges' approaches and I am confident that these have been addressed.

I have also told Mr Summers that I do not believe that an independent inquiry would help to achieve the outcomes that he and his family are seeking, such as a public apology from Coleg y Cymoedd. I am aware that the college's principal has offered to meet with the Summers family on a number of occasions.

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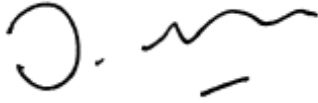
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

Following subsequent correspondence from Mr Summers, I have agreed to meet with him to discuss his family's concerns.

Please let me know if the Committee requires further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

P-06-1195 Conduct an independent inquiry into the death of Glyn Summers and the actions of Coleg y Cymoedd, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 17.10.21

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for allowing me to share my views and progress so far with my brother's case. As the education minister advises in his reply to the petition committee, my family have been fighting to find out the exact circumstances of my brother's tragic accident since his death in 2011. To our disbelief, we have found the systems of sharing information between Further Education colleges and Local Education Authority's to be inadequate, which resulted in multiple failures that led to my brother's accident not being properly investigated. In addition, my family has received no evidence that lessons have been learned at a FE and LEA level, from my brother's tragic accident and those who are responsible were not held to account.

To date, Ystrad Mynach College, now known as Coleg Y Cymoedd has refused to share the findings of an internal investigation they conducted into their staff members conduct whilst on the trip, and over the past ten years, my family have pieced together information and evidence which proves that the professionals responsible for Glyn's care acted inappropriately. The college's reason for not sharing this information is down to employment and data protection law. However, this has left my family with no closure from Glyn's tragic death. Quite frankly, it's highlighted a system that harbours failings behind data protection and employment law, which only results in putting children's safety at further risk.

The sad truth here is that my family isn't the only family who has had to fight public bodies to find out the circumstances of a child's serious accident or death. This is abhorrently wrong. No parent should have to enter legal battles to find out the events that surrounded their child's death. In my reply to the education minister in September this year, I cited over 50 examples of other families who are in the same position as my family: still no further in finding out what failings were made which contributed or resulted in their child's accident or death.

On page 3 of this document I have included examples and evidence of how tutors disregarded their responsibilities which resulted in my brother's tragic accident, and I also include a call recording of the college staff member [REDACTED], a tutor on the trip who advised my brother's private insurance company, that "he jumped from a 5th storey building" and committed suicide.

The overall aims of my family and the 834 people who signed this petition are to ensure that there is a thorough investigation into the failings made at College, Local Education Authority and Government level, so lessons can be learned from Glyn's tragic accident and legislation can be put in place to ensure education professionals are held to account when their safety responsibility is disregarded or misconduct occurs in Glyn's case granting a 17 year old to enter a strip bar club.

These failures include:

1. Gross misconduct from an educational professional responsible for children including fabricating the circumstance of a child's accident. This is not acceptable and has no place in our educational system.
2. Failure from senior members of college staff to adequately investigate these actions when it was brought to their attention is unacceptable.
3. Failure from college senior staff to share all the information of Glyn's accident with the Child Safeguarding Board regarding his accident is unacceptable. If [REDACTED] had continued to tell his lie regarding Glyn jumping, a Serious Case Review would've been conducted by the LEA immediately, however, the information the LEA received from the college about Glyn's accident "didn't meet the required threshold" for a Serious Case Review. The CSB hasn't provided a reason why the threshold wasn't met and exactly what information they received, this is because there was no record completed.
4. Failure to conduct a Child Practice Review (now known as a Serious Case Review) when Caerphilly Country Borough Council received further information regarding Glyn's accident is not acceptable.

5. Failure to adequately address the concerns raised about staff conduct by the PRUDIC review conducted is not acceptable. In our opinion, the PRUDIC review process was not appropriate.
6. Failure from Government ministers to investigate the above failings when evidence is provided, is not acceptable.
7. Failure of government ministers to adequately investigate and explore solutions to ensure no other family has to enter legal battles over data protection and employment laws to find out the circumstances of their child's death, is unacceptable.
8. Failure to ensure that all child deaths or serious accidents in an education setting are independently investigated, is unacceptable.

I have briefly given 8 key examples of how different child safeguarding systems have failed to adequately resolve the failings that led to my brother's accident and ensure that lessons are learned from his tragic death. To date, we have received no evidence to show that changes to processes and procedures to safeguard children are in place across the whole FE sector along with how serious accidents and fatalities are now handled.

The education minister does have the power to trigger an investigation into the system-wide failings of Coleg Y Cymoedd and the LEA, Caerphilly County Borough Council, however, has decided not to use that power. The minister advises that to sanction a public inquiry the case needs to be in the public interest and show system-wide failures. This petition should show the minister that there is indeed public interest he is seeking with 834 signatures and I have identified 8 key system failures above - none of which to our knowledge have been rectified.

An independent public inquiry will help my family gain closure from Glyn's tragic accident, and also ensure this doesn't happen to any other student or family again. We call the minister to investigate the college's handling of Glyn's accident, the failings from Caerphilly County Borough Council identified by the Public Services Ombudsman, and provide a solution to the legal constraints that withhold families from receiving the circumstances of their child's death.

I trust that the education minister will advise that an Estyn report was commissioned by Huw Lewis. Whilst I understand and welcome the Estyn report, this desk-based report only confirms that guidelines are in place for educational professionals to follow and don't explore how guidelines are used, interpreted and acted upon in the field by educational professionals responsible for the care of children. The issue in Glyn's case is that professionals at Coleg Y Cymoedd disregarded their guidelines and were not held accountable by the institution they worked for, the Local Education Authority, the Child Safe Guarding Board and the Welsh Government. This is unacceptable. No one learns lessons from tragedies by refusing to recognise failings, apologising for them, and making changes to ensure student safety. Poor individual conduct still allows system-wide failures to occur.

My family has provided a series of questions that provide an objective for the public inquiry we're seeking. However, if the education minister continues to exclude the option of a public inquiry then these key questions should still be his focus to solve the issue regarding information sharing and accountability of educational professionals misconduct.

- What measures have been put in place to prevent individuals from not adhering to safety policies?
- How do education bodies ensure that educational professionals are held accountable using an independent mechanism when safety misconduct occurs?
- What measures have been put in place and what lessons have been learned to ensure Child Safeguarding Boards employ the correct actions when dealing with child deaths? Are these the same in all local authorities?
- What actions have been taken to ensure that LEA's conduct Serious Case Reviews or Child Practice Reviews when serious accidents or deaths occur abroad - regardless of what information is received?
- Will the education minister ensure that all parties (including parents) have the opportunity to provide evidence to Child Practice Reviews?

- What measures have been put in place to ensure communication between FE colleges and Local Authorities is robust and ensures all information is shared?
- What measures have been put in place to ensure FE colleges are held accountable for student safety, especially those below the age of 18?
- What changes have been made as a result of the Public Services Ombudsman complaint in 2014?

Further evidence Provided:

College 2011 Student Safety Policy wording:

The responsibility for the safety of each student must be clearly defined at all times. This is particularly important when the responsibility is divided between college and centre during a residential course. Never assume that "someone else" is doing it. Under common law, it is the tutor who has the ultimate responsibility for acting 'in loco parentis'. A tutor may discharge this responsibility to a competent and highly qualified member of centre staff for say a high risk activity (caving, climbing, sailing etc.) which requires special skills. But for the rest of the visit, the responsibility remains with the tutor - even at night.

responsible for the group if there is downtime between activities, ensure that all supervisors understand that their supervisory role continues in the evening - however hard a day it has been, that it is not a time to relax in the bar or in front of the TV; use downtime in the evening or at the beginning of the day to brief the group on the planned

Ratios in themselves do not guarantee safety. In all cases, the duty remains with the Department Head and leader to ensure adequate supervision for the particular group and for the particular activity.

Evidence of inappropriate actions from College Staff in a letter received in 2012 :

Staff made it clear to the learners that permission to visit the club was being granted on condition that the learners agreed to observe a curfew of 11:30pm; to stay in groups of no less than three; and to telephone the staff when leaving the club. All learners were also aware that staff were available to learners on a 24 hour basis via a dedicated mobile telephone and had been provided with the number for this phone.

Question 8: *Where were the staff when Glyn was put to bed feeling unwell?*

As we have said, the staff did not accompany the learners to the Tropicana Club and remained for a period at the Aloha bar. The staff were at their hotel when they received the telephone call from one of the learners informing them of Glyn's accident.

Legal Constraints

Disclosure of College's Internal Report into the College Trip

Your letter of 28 August repeated your request for a copy of our client's report into the circumstances of Glyn Summers' death. Our letter of 9 August 2013 set out the reasoning why our client is not in a position to disclose to your clients the report which was prepared in the context of internal disciplinary proceedings arising from the College trip ("the College Report"). Our client owes a duty of confidentiality to its staff in relation to matters arising during their employment (including the content of the College Report), in addition to having obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998. The College has carefully considered your request for voluntary disclosure of the College Report in light of these obligations and of the fact that no proceedings have been issued at this stage. As a result, it has concluded that, in all the circumstances, it would not be appropriate to disclose the College Report at this stage. We appreciate that your clients might consider it a straightforward matter to disclose the College Report, but we trust that you will be able to explain to them the legal basis for our client's position.

CCBC confirming the threshold for Serious Case Reviews:

Tredomen Park,
Ystrad Mynach,
Hengoed CF82 7PG

Tŷ Penallta,
Parc Tredomen,
Ystrad Mynach,
Hengoed CF82 7PG

Corporate Director / Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol
Dave Street

CAERPHELLY
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
CAERFFILI

www.caerphilly.gov.uk
www.caerffili.gov.uk

Mr & Mrs Summers
24 Pen-y-Bont
Duffryn Park
Pen-Pedair- Heol
Hengoed
CF82 8HD

10

Carol A Davies
01443 864745
CD/HJP
24th July 2014

Dear Mr & Mrs Summers

Re: your late son Glyn Summers DOB 19/4/94 DOD 24.10.11

Thank you for your email dated 11.6.14 which has been passed to me to respond on behalf of the Safeguarding and Review Team. Firstly may I offer you both my sincere condolences in relation to the tragic loss of your son Glyn, at such a young age.

Through my enquiries, I can confirm that the service manager with lead responsibility for safeguarding, responded to this matter, as they would on any matter, when the Department is informed of a child death. The Department's role was to consider any support required for fellow pupils and consider whether the serious case review process should be instigated.

Safeguarding children: working together under the Children Act 2004 (2006) Chapter 10 outlines that:

The Local Safeguarding Children Boards (Wales) Regulations 2005 require that where abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and:

- a child dies; or
- a child sustains a potentially life-threatening injury or serious and permanent impairment of health or development, this may include cases where a child has been subjected to particularly serious sexual abuse.

the Local Safeguarding Children Board for the area must conduct a serious case review.

Public Services Ombudsman Report Conclusion:

PRUDiC or AWCPP). I am also concerned about the impact that such a delay may have had on any subsequent review or investigation. The delay and failure to inform Mr and Mrs X of the decision caused an injustice to them. Additionally, it is my view that the failure to comply with CSM's recommendation to contact the College resulted in a missed opportunity for the Council, to not only ensure the future safety of the students at the College, but also to ensure that a thorough investigation had been undertaken. In view of the above I **partly uphold** this complaint.

P-06-1197 Petition *P-06-1197 Heart screenings free for all 11-35 year olds who represent their school or county in sport*

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 1 Tachwedd 2021
Petitions Committee | 1 November 2021

Reference: SR21/837-9

Petition Number: P-06-1197

Petition title: Heart screenings free for all 11-35 year olds who represent their school or county in sport

Text of petition: 12 people under the age of 35 die suddenly every week in the UK, from a heart condition that could have been detected with a heart screening. 80% of these deaths show no prior symptoms. Cardiac arrest has a 7% survival rate. Since making heart screenings compulsory in Italy for all sports players, sudden cardiac death has decreased by 89%.

Owen Morris, 13, died suddenly during rugby training in Cardiff from an undiagnosed heart condition that may have been picked up in a screening. 1/300 heart screenings pick up a potentially life threatening issue which can then be managed or treated. Owen Morris' story:

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/local-news/friends-family-welsh-schoolboy-who-7361218>

Chris Morse, 33, was immediately sent to hospital after a heart screening "It will take a matter of minutes and could undoubtedly save your life, as I am sure it did for me." Chris' story can be found here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-50635370>



Ben McDonald, 25, suffered a fatal cardiac arrest at the Cardiff Half Marathon. Ben's mum, Ruth McDonald, wants people in Wales to have access to free heart screenings to help prevent sudden cardiac death.

Here at Calon Heart Screening Wales we have to charge for heart screenings. However, we want funding from the government to be able to provide free heart screenings for those aged 11-35 who take part in sport for their school, county or country. See more about our charity here: www.heartscreening.wales

1. Background

1.1. Cardiac screening policy in the UK

The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) **does not currently recommend screening** for cardiac conditions associated with sudden cardiac death in the young. Sudden cardiac death happens when a healthy young person's heart suddenly stops beating, with little or no warning. The causes in people under the age of 39 are often a thickening of the heart muscle or an electrical problem with the heart. In older people, it is more likely to be caused by a narrowing of the blood vessels that supply the heart.

The UK NSC **considered the evidence** behind several proposed ways of screening people aged 12 to 39, including electrocardiography (ECG), personal or family history, physical examination and a combination of these approaches in June 2015. It did not recommend screening for this condition.

An updated review of the evidence in 2019 suggested that **the available tests were not accurate enough** to correctly identify conditions which could lead to sudden cardiac death without wrongly identifying many people with healthy hearts.

In addition to concerns about the test, there were **uncertainties** about the overall benefit of identifying people at risk, as currently the harms seem to outweigh the benefits. There is **no agreed treatment** for someone who has been identified as being at risk.

The **next review** is estimated to be completed in 2022/23.

Cardiac (heart) screening

Screening examinations are **tests performed to find disease before symptoms begin**. The goal of screening is to detect disease at its earliest and more treatable stage. Cardiac screening is a diagnostic test used to detect and evaluate heart disease. All screening tests have the potential to cause harm as they carry **a risk of false results**.

Routine cardiac screening to detect an underlying cardiac condition is not provided by NHS Wales. Some charities and memorial funds such as [Calon Heart](#), and the [Ben McDonald Heart Screening Fund](#) offer cardiac screenings for people aged between 14 and 35.

The screening to diagnose cardiac abnormalities is done by having **an ECG (electrocardiogram) test**, which records the electrical activity of the heart. If a more detailed image is required, an ultrasound scan of the heart - an **echocardiogram**, is needed. From this, measurements are taken which give a guide to heart muscle thickness and the size of the chambers of the heart.

1.2. Welsh Government Action

The UK NSC advises Ministers in the four UK countries about all aspects of population screening. It does not recommend screening to prevent sudden cardiac death and screening is therefore not provided in Wales.

The Welsh Government has said that population screening programmes **should only be offered where there is clear evidence that screening will do more good than harm**. In her letter to the Chair of the Senedd's Petitions Committee, Eluned Morgan MS states:

Population screening programmes generally can save lives through early risk identification but can also do harm by identifying risk factors that would never otherwise develop into a serious condition or complication. Screening programmes may have false negative results, so do not guarantee protection. Additionally, receiving a low risk result does not prevent the person from developing the condition at a later date.

The Health Minister added that **“should more accurate tests become available, whole population asymptomatic cardiac screening will be fully considered”**. In the meantime, she advises families of individuals who have suffered sudden cardiac death to seek an individual clinical assessments to assess risk. She also suggests

that Calon Heart Screening Wales consider asking the UK NSC to review the evidence for introducing a targeted screening programme for sudden cardiac death for those participating in sports.

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-06-1197
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/12322/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

28 September 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter dated 2 September about the Petition P-06-1197 regarding introducing a heart screening programme for all 11 to 35-year-olds in Wales who represent their school or county in sport.

Population screening programmes generally can save lives through early risk identification but can also do harm by identifying risk factors that would never otherwise develop into a serious condition or complication. Screening programmes may have false negative results, so do not guarantee protection. Additionally, receiving a low risk result does not prevent the person from developing the condition at a later date. Population screening programmes should only be offered where there is robust, high-quality evidence that screening will do more good than harm.

The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) advises Ministers in the four UK countries about all aspects of population screening. It brings academic rigour and authority to what is an extremely complex area and is a world leader in its field. Unselected whole-population screening to prevent sudden cardiac death (SCD) in 12 to 39-year-olds has been considered by the UK NSC and is not recommended.

The UK NSC concluded the harms of whole-population screening for SCD currently outweigh the benefits. There are uncertainties about the overall benefits of identifying people with risk factors, current tests are not reliable enough (many people would be missed and provided with false reassurance, and many would be given false positive results) and there is currently no agreed treatment for someone who has been identified at risk. If a person is incorrectly identified as being at risk, they may become anxious about their physical activity and stop exercising regularly or be excluded from participating in sports, which could have a negative effect on their overall health. It could also potentially affect their ability to get life insurance.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

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 evidence has been comprehensively reviewed and below is a link to the UK NSC review and recommendation: <https://view-health-screening-recommendations.service.gov.uk/sudden-cardiac-death/>

Given that the UK NSC does not recommend whole-population screening for SCD for 12 to 39-year-olds due to the inaccuracy of current testing, the Welsh Government cannot introduce screening for all those in this age group representing their school or county in sport. The UK NSC keeps all its policy positions under regular review and I would suggest that Calon Heart Screening Wales consider asking the UK NSC to review the evidence for introducing a targeted screening programme for SCD for those participating in sports: [Appendix D: How to submit a proposal to the UK NSC - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

I fully support the need to address the preventable causes of SCD; however, here too there is a balance to strike in the provision of health information to the public to ensure proportionality and accessibility in the messages being provided, without creating unnecessary anxiety. At a population level, it is beneficial for young people not to be discouraged from cardiovascular exercise – the benefits of which are well established.

Although whole-population screening is not beneficial, families of individuals with SCD should be offered individual clinical assessments to assess their risk. This is 'cascade' case-finding in a higher-risk population rather than whole-population asymptomatic screening. Additionally, young people who have symptoms or concerns, particularly if they are very physically active, should speak to their GP who will be able to advise them as appropriate.

Welsh Government has worked in partnership with the Wales Cardiac Network, Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust and the third sector to develop the Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Plan published in June 2017. The aim is to increase survival from out of hospital cardiac arrest through optimising the "chain of survival".

We established the Save a Life Cymru partnership in January 2019 to bring together all the different pieces of the jigsaw in relation to encouraging public participation in taking action when faced with an out of hospital cardiac arrest. I have reaffirmed the Welsh Government commitment and an additional £2.5 million for the Save a Life Cymru Partnership to improve awareness and access to CPR and defibrillation.

Yours sincerely,



Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

P-06-1197 Heart screenings free for all 11-35 year olds who represent their school or county in sport, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 15.10.21



Calon Hearts

Charity No. 1193404

Heart Screening and Defibrillators / Sgrinio'r Galon a Diffibrilwyr

THE HEART CHARITY FOR WALES / ELUSEN Y GALON DROS GYMRU

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White House Cottage,
The Cathedral Green,
Ar Lan Yr Afon
Cardiff
CF5 2EB

15th October 2021

The Deputy Clerk
Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament

Dear Deputy Clerk

Thank you for the Welsh Government's consideration of our ***Petition P-06-1197 regarding introducing a heart-screening programme for all 11 to 35 year-olds in Wales who represent their school or county in sport.***

We thank Eluned Morgan MS, Minister for Health and Social Services, for her comments on this petition. We would, however, respectfully challenge the Minister's annotations and conclusions, as follows:

As the Minister rightly commences by saying, population screening programmes do indeed save lives through early risk identification but then makes reference to the UK National Screening Committee's findings that screening programmes may also do harm by identifying risk factors that would never otherwise develop into a serious condition or complication. However, I would argue this statement and refer to the findings in the New England Medical Journal which, in summary, states:

*Of 269 sudden deaths in young people, 49 occurred in competitive athletes. The most common causes of sudden death in athletes were arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (22.4 percent), coronary atherosclerosis (18.4 percent), and anomalous origin of a coronary artery (12.2 percent). Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy caused only 1 sudden death among the athletes (2.0 percent) but caused 16 sudden deaths in the nonathletes (7.3 percent). **Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy was detected in 22 athletes (0.07 percent) at preparticipation screening and accounted for 3.5 percent of the cardiovascular reasons for disqualification. The results show that hypertrophic cardiomyopathy was an uncommon cause of death in these young competitive athletes and suggest that the identification and disqualification of affected athletes at screening before participation in competitive sports may have prevented sudden death.***

Also, it is important to note that heart screening has been compulsory in all teenagers and adults competing in athletic sports in Italy since 1982. Many other European countries offer similar cardiac screening programmes including France, Greece, Spain, Luxembourg, Sweden, Norway, Germany and Poland. Professional bodies such as FIFA and the International Olympic Committee recommend cardiac screening for all their sportsmen and women. The American Heart Association and European Society of Cardiology have prepared guidelines to facilitate this.

We acknowledge the reference to the National Screening Committee work and thank you for your suggestion that we contact them. However, their most recent relevant review was mainly a literature review and was looking at the whole population cohort of 12-39 yr olds. As most of the literature it reviewed, in fact, looked at athletes, the NSC had concerns about the applicability of the data to the asymptomatic general population of that group, hence the inability to recommend screening at general population level.

What the review did report as a result of this was the documented differences between the hearts of athletes and non-athlete; differences in ECG patterns between athletes and non-athletes, such as that a higher proportion of athletes show ECG changes such as T-wave inversion and early repolarisation, whilst a higher proportion of non-athletes have a long corrected QT interval. This, we argue, means that the recommendation for no-screening for this age group at population level cannot be simply read across to be pertinent to this smaller cohort of athletes.

Based on our current ECG heart-screening sessions, we found that 1 in 4 screenings revealed the need for further investigation with an Echo Cardiogram. Even accepting a % of false positives, we consider these odds too high to ignore. While there will be a period of anxiety between initial screening and a clean bill of health for some, the reassurance is worth that. We do not accept the argument that they may develop a condition later and, therefore, are falsely reassured. The status quo position does just that. Conversely, where a risk is identified, the individual and their family have the opportunity to consider how to manage it.

The Minister's assertion that there is no agreed treatment and, therefore, there is effectively no point in finding out, is rather worrying.

We concede that this targeted screening does not offer a solution to the incidence of false negatives. However, the issue identified by NSC across almost all studies was the lack of follow-up in individual who were categorised as screen-test negative, and that itself undermines the usefulness of the NSC review. It confirms that an "assumption was seemingly made that these individuals did not have a disease that may cause Sudden Cardiac Arrest. As such, for these studies, there was no method to determine if these individuals actually had the target condition, although it is acknowledged that the detailed follow-up of screen-test negative individuals is challenging due to the range of tests required to exclude all conditions that may cause sudden cardiac death. For the majority of studies, this lack of follow-up precluded calculation of key outcomes, namely sensitivity, specificity, and negative predictive value. A systematic review, which reported data from 47,137 athletes across 15 studies was included. However, examination of the primary studies included in the systematic review indicate that these studies were at high risk of bias due to inadequate follow-up of screen-negative individuals. On this basis, data from the systematic review must be interpreted with caution. "

As this effectively admits that the review does not help in terms of reliable evidence in support of the Welsh Government's present position on this, we suggest that a way forward would be to acquire its own Wales-specific evidence. This could be done by commissioning a longitudinal study on the back of an appropriate period of screening of sportspeople in the cohort referred to in the petition.

That would give them the opportunity to track young sportspeople's incidence of (a) false positive and false negative test results; (b) physiological changes which would produce positive results mean that they had to change behaviour to manage risk and, possibly, prompt screening for family members.

We would like to take the opportunity of informing the Welsh Government that Calon Heart Screening & Defibrillators is very proud to have recently successfully partnered with the Welsh Rugby Union and is supplying defibrillators as well as the necessary training to the 300 Clubs across Wales.

We are a small, hard-working and dedicated Wales-based charity, surviving after being badly hit by the pandemic as we have not received any Welsh Government financial support whatsoever, other than basic furlough. **To date, we have supplied 8197 defibrillators, delivered CPR & Defib training to over 67,237 people and heart-screened 5,394 people.**

We respectfully ask the Welsh Government take into account the foregoing and ask that our **Petition P-06-1197** is favourably reconsidered and implemented.

We thank the Welsh Government for recognising the importance of defibrillators and for addressing this potentially life-saving issue.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Owen
Charity Director
Calon Heart Screening & Defibrillators

P-06-1200: Make horse tethering, with or without shelter, illegal and an act of cruelty in Wales

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 01 Tachwedd 2021
Petitions Committee | 01 November 2021

Reference: SR21/1044-1

Petition Number: [P-06-1200](#)

Petition title: Make horse tethering, with or without shelter, illegal and an act of cruelty in Wales

Text of petition: In Wales it is currently not illegal to tether horses. Everyone must have seen a beautiful horse tethered on a short chain at the side of a road with no shelter from the harsh weather.

RSPCA appear have no power do anything about it! If a dog was tied up on the side of a busy road, there would be outrage. Both animals matter!

Laws must be passed to stop this terrible cruelty to such sensitive creatures! These animals have no quality of life, it's an absolute scandal.

HorseWorld a welfare charity created a #BreaktheChain campaign with the hopes of changing the law. Despite being dubbed as cruel and dangerous this practice remains legal.

Visit the website www.BreakTheChain.org.uk for further information.

Would be so proud of Wales if they lead the way to finally stop this dreadful practice. The RSPCA is also opposed to the practice as they say compromises animal welfare in so many ways.

Defra Code on practice for horses and the Welsh Government Code of Practice states that horse tethering is not a suitable method of management of an animal. Have to ask why therefore it's not illegal?



1. Background

'Tethering' is the term used when a horse is tied up so it is restrained from moving out of a certain radius with a rope, chain, strap or cord.

There is no specific legislation to ban the tethering of horses. However under the *Animal Welfare Act 2006* owners or carers of horses have a legal duty to meet five specified welfare needs at all times. They must:

- have a suitable environment to live in;
- have a healthy diet;
- be able to behave normally;
- have appropriate company; and
- be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

If the tethering results in these needs not being met then this could be a breach of the 2006 Act. Concerns about the welfare of an animal, can be reported to the Local Authority which has powers under the 2006 Act to investigate such matters.

The RSPCA does not recommend tethering as a viable way to keep a horse. It says:

If a horse needs to be tethered in order to have access to grazing, it must only be for short periods of time. For the remainder of the day the horse should have access to shelter, and a space to run free and interact freely with other horses.

2. Welsh Government action

In November 2018 the Welsh Government updated its code of practice for the welfare of horses. A 12 week public consultation on the updated code took place in 2017. The code sets out the *Animal Welfare Act 2006* requirements referred to above.

Appendix 1 of the code looks specifically at the tethering of horses, and states that "it should never be used as a long-term measure to control horses", as this can lead to a failure to meet a horse's basic welfare needs as set out in the 2006 Act. This section covers the suitability of the animal, the site where the animal is tethered, and the equipment used, amongst other things.

The Welsh Government introduced the *Control of Horses (Wales) Act 2014* at the request of enforcement authorities, commoners and welfare charities. The Act provides further powers for Local Authorities to combat the abandonment of horses and ponies found grazing on land where the owner of the animals does not have the consent of the land owner.

3. Welsh Parliament action

There has been no significant work in the Senedd to ban the tethering of horses. There was a written question on the matter in 2017.

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.



Ein cyf/Our ref LG/10267/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

27 September 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 3 September, regarding tethered horses.

The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring a high standard of welfare for all animals kept in Wales is maintained at all stages of their life

Horses, like all domestic and captive animals, are afforded protection under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Under this legislation, it is an offence to cause any unnecessary suffering to an animal or for an owner, or keeper, to fail to provide for its welfare needs.

The Welsh Government Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses (the Code) explains what needs to be done to meet the standard of care the law requires, which includes its environment, behavioural needs, health and welfare. An updated version of the Code was published in November 2018. I attach below a link to the updated document:

<https://beta.gov.wales/code-of-practice-for-the-welfare-of-horses>

In addition, the Welsh Government introduced the Control of Horses (Wales) Act 2014 at the request of enforcement authorities, commoners and welfare charities. The Act provides further powers for Local Authorities to combat the abandonment of horses and ponies found grazing on land where the owner of the animals does not have the consent of the land owner.

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Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales

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.

Although not illegal, tethering should never be used as a long-term measure to control horses as this can lead to a failure to meet a horse's basic welfare. Appendix 1 of the Code sets out the conditions which need be met when horses are tethered.

If anyone has any immediate concerns about the welfare of an animal, then they should report the matter to the Local Authority who have powers under the 2006 Act to investigate such matters.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

P-06-1200 Make horse tethering, with or without shelter, illegal and an act of cruelty in Wales, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 18.10.21

Thank you for your correspondence concerning Horse tethering.

I have now decided to ask you withdraw my name from the petition I set up with regard to Horse Tethering in Wales, for fear of retaliation .

In my view, it will take someone with Political Authority to call for an "All Wales Equine Group" be formed to revisit this serious problem .

I think it is pretty clear to everyone driving down Rover Way, Cardiff , The Animal Welfare Act of 2006 is not being adhered to and the Code of Practice is not being followed or enforced .

Horses Tethering makes it impossible to meet the Standard of Care, the law requires for the horses "Basic Needs .

1. Horses do not have a suitable environment to live in . Whilst some horses are hardy, they do need shelter to escape extreme heat and harsh cold winters .

2. Horses do not have a healthy diet. Tethered horses don't get access to fresh new pasture and need up to 15 gallons of water a day .

3. Horses are not able to behave normally . By nature, there is nothing more than they love is cantering around a field .

4.Horses do not have the appropriate company. They are herd animals and find it great comfort to be part of a group .

5, Its hard to see that they are being protected from pain suffering and injury and disease. A horse should have a wellness check-up every year.

This Practice of course, is not confined to Cardiff but also prevalent in Swansea and pockets in North Wales.

Most people would agree also, that they certainly wouldn't want this practice to be driven underground but there must be a solution .

Could a field be provided by councils in offending areas ? This would provide the horses with their basic standards of living and give the horse welfare officer a single point of contact.

If it was a dog that was found tethered, someone would take immediate action and that's as it should be but "All animals need to be treated with respect".

I really hope there is a positive outcome from this petition. Wales could lead the way with how they deal with this UK problem and in turn improve the lives of these helpless horses.

Kind regards

P-06-1201: Ban the shooting of critically endangered birds...give them the protection they so desperately need!

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 1 Tachwedd 2021
Petitions Committee | 1 November 2021

Reference: SR21/1044-3

Petition Number: P-06-1201

Petition title: Ban the shooting of critically endangered birds...give them the protection they so desperately need!

Text of petition: It is absolutely shocking that some of our most endangered birds, including Woodcock, Pochard, Black Grouse and Snipe are still allowed to be shot in Wales.

These species are currently on the RED and AMBER list of birds of conservation concern 4. That means that they are currently of the highest conservation priority in the UK.

We fully understand that shooting may not be the main cause of their decline, but at the moment when they need maximum protection allowing them to be shot is madness.

We are calling for a complete ban on the shooting of all birds on the red and amber list of conservation concern 4.

Experts are collating ecological and scientific evidence on the health of a species, but the law and gun lobby choose to ignore the facts.

There are around only 200 Black Grouse surviving in Wales. This Red listed species exposes the hypocrisy of spending large amounts of money on trying to conserve this vulnerable species yet allowing them to be shot at the same time.

With its beautiful plumage and camouflage, the Woodcock is another Red listed species currently being targeted by shoots, even though they are



experiencing dramatic population decline. Although game shooting in the UK is controlled by having an open and closed season, which restricts the time of year birds may be shot, we are calling for a total ban on the shooting of these endangered birds. Whilst many call these shoots a tradition, it is time for a change in the law to protect our struggling wildlife.

1. Background

1.1. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and the EU Birds Directive

All species of wild birds in Wales are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (WCA). The WCA implements the EU Birds Directive in the UK.

Schedule 2, Part I, of the WCA lists wild birds which may be taken or killed by an authorised person outside of that species' 'close season'. Close seasons are species-specific periods of time where birds cannot be taken or killed.

1.2. Birds of Conservation Concern 4

Birds of Conservation Concern 4 (BoCC4) is the fourth review of the conservation status of birds in the UK. It is produced by a collaboration between the UK's Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), and several other organisations. It includes lists which categorise the 244 UK bird species as 'Red', 'Amber' and 'Green' status depending on their conservation importance.

The BoCC4 lists are used by conservation organisations such as the RSPB to prioritise action. Red listed species are of the highest conservation priority (67 species), and require urgent action.

It is legal to take or kill several BoCC4 Red listed birds under Schedule 2, Part I, of the WCA.

2. Welsh Government action

2.1. *The Environment (Wales) Act 2016*

Under section 7 of the *Environment (Wales) Act 2016* ('the Environment Act'), the Welsh Government must publish lists of priority species and habitats that it considers are 'of principal importance for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in relation to Wales'. Public authorities are expected to take steps to maintain and enhance these species and habitats, and encourage others to act similarly.

The priority species and habitat lists have been transposed from the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006* (NERC Act) (section 42) as an interim measure, but are being revised by the Welsh Government in consultation with Natural Resources Wales.

Priority species listed under section 7 of the Environment Act include wild birds which may be taken or killed under Schedule 2, Part I, of the WCA.

2.2. Removal of species from Schedule 2, Part I, of the WCA

In 2020, Wales removed the Greenland white-fronted goose (GWfG) from Schedule 2, Part I of the WCA. This made it an offence (under section 1 of the WCA) to kill or take GWfG outside the close season.

The decision to remove GWfG from Schedule 2, Part I, was taken following a complaint under the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), an independent Intergovernmental treaty which the UK is signatory to. AEWA coordinates the conservation and management of migratory waterbirds throughout their migratory range.

RSPB Cymru welcomed the legal protection of GWfG. The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) argued that voluntary moratoriums, in place in some areas of Wales since 1972, had been successful and negated the need for a legal ban.

In 2018, the then Minister for Environment, Hannah Blythyn, stated:

there are no plans to make any other changes to Schedule 2 to either add or remove any other species.

2.3. Ministerial response to this petition

The Climate Change Minister's letter on this petition states:

Any regulatory changes to the listing of amber and red listed species as shooting quarry would need to be underpinned by robust evidence to support that change and need to be considered alongside other factors that are contributing to the decline of these endangered species such as loss of habitat and the effects of climate change.

3. Welsh Parliament action

There has been no significant action by the Senedd regarding the removal of Red listed quarry birds from Schedule 2, Part I, of the WCA.

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.

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1201
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/11349/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN
petitions@senedd.wales

8 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letters emailed on 3 September, regarding a call for a complete ban on the shooting of all birds on the red and amber list of conservation concern 4.

Any regulatory changes to the listing of amber and red listed species as shooting quarry would need to be underpinned by robust evidence to support that change and need to be considered alongside other factors that are contributing to the decline of these endangered species such as loss of habitat and the effects of climate change.

I very much share the concerns raised and welcome the opportunity to work with the committee to consider any emerging evidence that may be presented to the committee in support of the petition.

Such evidence would help inform further discussion around any proposed changes to the regulatory process and whether such changes would lead to better outcomes for these important species.

Yours sincerely,

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change

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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.

P-05-1201 Ban the shooting of critically endangered birds...give them the protection they so desperately need!, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 18.10.21

Dear Members of the Petitions Committee,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to reply to the Minister's letter concerning my petition calling on a ban of the shooting of red and amber listed birds of conservation concern.

I and many others cannot understand that at the time of an ecological emergency that these rare and vulnerable birds are not protected from sport shooting. I appreciate that the shooting industry will do their utmost to "green wash" their reasons for continuing the shooting of red and amber species of conservation concern, by informing us that they feed seed and plant trees, which benefit these species. Yet, if I were to plant bamboo forests then shoot wild pandas for fun, there would be a public outcry and condemnation and I am certain that no one would ask for evidence that I was adding to their decline before rightly stopping me! Inevitably, if you agree with the shooting industry's reasons for persecuting these vulnerable birds, then you would end up agreeing with the trophy hunting fraternity and their reasoning that the paying of large sums of money (for their so called conservation) gives them the right to shoot rhinos, elephants, giraffes, lions and even tigers in Africa and India.

I am very surprised and concerned that the Welsh Minister for Climate Change has asked for "evidence" to support changing the regulations to better protect these birds. Surely the mere fact that these birds are red and amber listed (meaning that they are some of our most vulnerable and declining bird species) is all the evidence you need.

I am not saying that shooting is the only or main reason for their decline, but killing them for fun certainly does not help their desperate plight. I may never agree that shooting live birds is a sport, but the fact is they will still be able to shoot birds on the green list, so this is not a call for a total ban.

I believe that there are enough wildlife friendly voices within the Senedd who believe that the conservation of red and amber listed birds should be a priority as part of Wales' response to the Ecology Emergency and that Wales and the Senedd has the opportunity to lead the way in UK wildlife conservation.

Regards,

P-06-1202: Ban the killing of day old chicks in Wales

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 01 Tachwedd 2021
Petitions Committee | 01 November 2021

Reference: SR21/1044-2

Petition Number: P-06-1202

Petition title: Ban the killing of day old chicks in Wales

Text of petition: To produce laying hens only female chicks are needed. Male chicks are killed shortly after hatching. The chicks are killed by gassing or maceration. Gassing is likely to be highly aversive, while maceration is brutal. Technology exists by which the sex of an egg can be determined, so male eggs can be prevented from hatching. France and Germany will ban the killing of male chicks by 2021 and 2022 respectively. Wales should now ban this practice too and provide a lead to the rest of the UK.

1. Background

In the poultry industry, chicks unviable for the production of eggs or meat (e.g. males or sickly, injured or deformed chicks) are disposed of in hatcheries at one-day old.



Hatcheries must ensure every chick in their care is humanely dispatched by a trained and competent person in accordance with the provisions of the relevant welfare at the time of killing legislation.

The *Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (Wales) Regulations 2014* make provision in Wales for the administration and enforcement of European Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing. The Council Regulation requires that no avoidable pain, distress or suffering is caused by the method of disposal, and operators must be aware of their responsibility to treat each chick with care and consideration.

The Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) has published a 'Code of practice for the disposal of chicks in hatcheries' (2019). The Code sets minimum standards based on current legislation, scientific evidence and best practice. It states:

Every hatchery must have documented procedures in place to cover the handling and methods of disposal used for cull chicks. These must include the effective and safe operation of equipment and its setting-up, regular maintenance and cleaning.

They must also contain contingency plans for emergencies, or equipment failure. A member of hatchery staff must be appointed as the Hatchery Welfare Officer to be responsible for the chick cull operation and to ensure the welfare of each chick is protected. This person must have the skill, knowledge, training and authority to take appropriate action, if and when necessary.

The Code considers the different methods of killing, and classes Instantaneous Mechanical Destruction (IMD) to be humane, as well as various methods of gas killing.

The petition mentions that the culling of male chicks will be banned in France and Germany. Breeders will need to equip themselves with machines to detect the sex of chicks before they hatch so that male chicks are not produced and culled. In France subsidies totalling 10 million euros will be granted for breeders to buy the machines.

Germany and France (with the support of Austria, Spain, Ireland, Luxembourg and Portugal) submitted a document to other Member State agriculture ministers, calling for an EU-wide chick culling ban.

EU Food Safety Commissioner, Stella Kyriakides, said "The killing of large numbers of day-old chicks is, of course, an ethical issue." The European

Commission is expected to use the upcoming review of EU animal welfare rules to look at the issue.

2. Welsh Government action

The paper on this petition from the Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd, Lesley Griffiths, states:

We are monitoring progress with the work going on globally to find alternatives to culling male chicks, including technology which can detect the sex of a chick before it hatches, and how this could be applied commercially. Any decision to ban the practice would need to be based on evidence and expert advice.

3. Welsh Parliament action

There has been no significant action by the Senedd to ban the killing of day-old chicks.

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 AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1202
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/10265/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

28 September 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 3 September, regarding Petition P-06-1202 Ban the killing of day old chicks in Wales.

The production and disposal of surplus chicks is a sensitive issue. Hatcheries faced with this responsibility must ensure every chick in their care is humanely dispatched. Surplus chicks at laying hen hatcheries, which include male chicks and any other chicks deemed unviable by the producer, must be culled humanely by a trained and competent person and in accordance with the provisions of the relevant welfare at the time of killing legislation.

We are monitoring progress with the work going on globally to find alternatives to culling male chicks, including technology which can detect the sex of a chick before it hatches, and how this could be applied commercially. Any decision to ban the practice would need to be based on evidence and expert advice.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

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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.

P-05-1202 Ban the killing of day old chicks in Wales, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 18.10.21



Mr. Jack Sargeant, M.S.
Chair
Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

18th October 2021

Dear Mr Sargeant

Re Petition: Ban the killing of day-old chicks in Wales

Thank you for the opportunity to reply to the letter sent to you by Ms Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Rural Affairs, on 28th September 2021 concerning the above petition.

The killing of unwanted day-old male chicks has been occurring for decades. As I have pointed out previously, in the U.K. alone every year 40 million male chicks are killed. They come into the world, they are sentient and aware, they look around and, shortly afterwards, they are destroyed. In Wales, Welsh Government agricultural statistics show that about 3 million laying hens are currently kept for egg production. For every laying hen in Wales, a male chick will have been destroyed.

Currently, laying hens kept in Wales are obtained (as female chicks) from large hatcheries in England (and potentially elsewhere). The U.K. egg industry states that these hatcheries use the most humane of the available alternatives for the destruction of the male chicks; that is, the use of the inert gas, argon, with a very low percentage of oxygen (higher oxygen percentages are problematic as it can cause chicks to recover). Even though this method is used, there are likely to be some welfare harms in the processing of the chicks, though the area is under-researched. Inevitably, the fact remains of the destruction of the sentient chicks as an unwanted by-product.

As previously stated, France and Germany are committed to banning the killing of day-old male chicks from the 1st January 2022. They will require that egg-producers use available egg-sexing technology. The French and German Governments have also raised the issue at the EU Council of Ministers.

Ms Griffiths refers to ‘monitoring’ progress and to the need for evidence on which to base decisions. Well, there has been a quite staggering amount of delay and postponement on addressing the killing of day-old chicks by the egg industry lasting decades and it is about time this changed.

With respect to evidence, there have now been many scientific reviews concerning potential ways of preventing the killing of day-old chicks. These have included investigation of the potential for affecting the proportion of male and female eggs laid through heat treatment, the potential for breeding 'dual purpose' chickens, such that the males could be used for meat while the females are used for egg-laying, and the potential to rear on male chicks for use in lower grade meat production. All of these have been shown to be either economically unviable or not practically feasible.

What has been shown to be a realistic and likely highly effective means of preventing the killing of day-old chicks is the sexing of eggs shortly after they have been laid. Then the male eggs can be removed before hatching. Several highly sophisticated methods have been developed to do this. The most promising include the use of something called near-infrared Raman spectroscopy. This involves removing a tiny portion of the eggshell without damaging the underlying membrane, shining a high intensity beam of quite long wavelength (near infra-red) light onto the blood vessels below the membrane surface, and then measuring the wavelengths of reflected light. These differ between male and female eggs. The process enables up to 95% accurate sexing of the egg, can be carried out within a few days of laying such that there are no harms caused to a developing embryo, and results in minimal hatching losses. The method can be administered very rapidly. (*A link to a paper describing this method is provided below).

A second method, which is already in commercial operation, uses a slightly different method taking minute samples from the egg shortly after laying and then analysing them using a specially designed mass spectrometer (which identifies substances according to their mass or weight) to identify biomarkers characteristic of male eggs. Again, this method achieves very high accuracy in identifying the sex of eggs and has minimal impact on hatching rates. The In-Ovo company has developed the technology such that it can be applied commercially at large scale. (**A link to an on-line webinar showing this system in operation is provided below).

The French and German Governments have not committed to banning the killing of day-old chicks lightly. They recognize that this is now something that is commercially viable and practical and will have enormous benefits including in terms of welfare and prevention of chick destruction, but also potentially in terms of future efficiency and cost. In the case of the French Government, there is a commitment to provide some industry subsidy to set up new technology.

I would hope that the Welsh Government can engage in urgent discussion with the Westminster Government to find legislative mechanisms by which the killing of male chicks can be ended in both England and Wales, and I should be grateful if you would press the Minister for Rural Affairs to do this.

Thank you.

David Grimsell
Petitioner
Welsh citizen

*

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0192554>

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<https://www.newfoodmagazine.com/webinar/147070/solving-an-age-old-issue-in-the-poultry-industry/2/>

P-06-1205 Invest in flood defences on the Towy in Carmarthen, including the Quayside area

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 1 Tachwedd 2021
Petitions Committee | 1 November 2021

Reference: SR21/1044-6

Petition Number: P-06-1205

Petition title: Invest in flood defences on the Towy in Carmarthen including the Quayside area

Text of petition: The Towy floods multiple times a year affecting businesses that sit alongside it. Something needs to be done as a matter of urgency, the public see plenty of meetings but no action.



1. Background

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) reports that **245,000 properties are at risk of flooding**. Climate scientists say we can expect more extreme weather events and sea level rise.

Carmarthen Quay on the River Towy was **flooded three times** between December 2020 and February 2021. The River Towy previously flooded during storm Callum in 2018 when flood defences were topped, it was **reported as the biggest flood event** in the area since 1987.

Legislative and policy context

The *Flood and Water Management Act 2010* (the Act) makes provision for managing flooding and coastal erosion, and provides powers to, and makes requirements of, the Welsh Government, NRW and Local Lead Flood Authorities (LLFAs).

Section 6 of the Act defines the roles and responsibilities of 'Risk Management Authorities' (RMAs). In Wales these are NRW, all 22 local authorities (which act as LLFAs), highway authorities (local authorities and the Welsh Government), and water and sewerage companies.

Responsibility for flood management

The Welsh Government is responsible for national policy - set out in its National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (the National Strategy). Local authorities, in this instance Carmarthenshire County Council, are responsible for Local Flood Risk Management Strategies, setting objectives for local flood risk management.

NRW has responsibility for managing flood risk from main rivers, its reservoirs and the sea. The River Towy is a main river, and therefore responsibility to manage flooding from it falls to NRW.

After a significant flood, Section 19 of the Act requires LLFAs undertake investigations and publish results. These investigations help RMAs understand the full extent of impacts and can inform improvements to manage risk in a community, including new schemes to reduce the likelihood of further flooding. Carmarthenshire County Council published a Section 19 report in response to

Title:

Storm Callum. No report has been published following the recent Carmarthen Quay flooding.

2. Welsh Government action

The Welsh Government has committed to fund additional flood protection for more than 45,000 homes this Senedd term. Risks to communities from flooding and sea level rise are a research priority in Prosperity for All: A Climate Conscious Wales.

The Welsh Government invested £390million into helping manage flood risk between 2016 and 2021.

RMA's can apply for grant funding to reduce flood risk to communities through the Welsh Government's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Programme. An announcement is made each year to confirm successful projects. Over £65 million is being invested through the programme in 2021-22.

The Welsh Government also provides funding to local authorities and NRW to support repair works to FCERM assets following a flood event.

In response to this petition, the Minister for Climate Change, Julie James, states that:

The decision on whether a flood scheme should be brought forward for the River Towy rests with Natural Resources Wales as the relevant Risk Management Authority for main rivers. We would expect any major scheme to also include discussions with the local authority and those benefitting.

The Welsh Government does not stipulate which communities our Risk Management Authorities should focus its attention on, but expect them to prioritise areas which primarily reduce risk to homes.

Businesses may also benefit where homes are also being protected, or where the Risk Management Authority is able to justify a scheme which only protects businesses.

3. Welsh Parliament action

In Plenary in June 2021, Samuel Kurtz MS asked the Minister to outline progress “on providing immediate protection for the town of Carmarthen against further such flooding events”.

In response, the Minister highlighted additional funding allocated to NRW, and that the Welsh Government was working with “local authority partners in ensuring that they do the right assessments and we have the right kind of flood management projects coming forward for capital funding”.

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.

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1205
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/11392/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
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8 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 10 September regarding the petition to invest in flood defences for the River Towy in Carmarthen.

The Welsh Government has made a commitment within its Programme for Government to protect an additional 45,000 homes over the lifetime of this government. In support of this, our Flood and Coastal Erosion Programme can provide grant funding to our flood and coastal erosion Risk Management Authorities to bring forward business cases and interventions to reduce such risk to our communities.

The decision on whether a flood scheme should be brought forward for the River Towy rests with Natural Resources Wales as the relevant Risk Management Authority for main rivers. We would expect any major scheme to also include discussions with the local authority and those benefitting.

The Welsh Government does not stipulate which communities our Risk Management Authorities should focus its attention on, but expect them to prioritise areas which primarily reduce risk to homes. Businesses may also benefit where homes are also being protected, or where the Risk Management Authority is able to justify a scheme which only protects businesses.

All schemes which are submitted to the Welsh Government for funding support are then prioritised according to risk, utilising information from Natural Resource Wales' Communities at Risk Register, historic flood events, the number and type of property at risk, costs and wider benefits.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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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.

This prioritised approach to flood risk management is set out within our National Strategy for Flooding and Coastal Erosion. It also aligns with our National Planning Policy, which can allow less vulnerable development within areas of increased flood risk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change

Create a national list of all unpaid carers in Wales

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 1 Tachwedd 2021
Petitions Committee | 1 November 2021

Reference: SR21/1044/9

Petition Number: P-06-1209

Petition title: Create a national list of all unpaid carers in Wales

Text of petition:

The Welsh government have said for a long time now that identifying unpaid carers is a difficult task, so this petition is to ask for the creation of a national carers register to make identifying unpaid carers easier.

1. Background

Stakeholders have been calling for better identification of unpaid carers for many years, to improve carers' ability to access advice and support. Carers Wales' research shows the vast majority of carers are not having their needs assessed or getting the support needed. According to Carers Wales' latest report, only 15% of carers in Wales had received a carers needs assessment, despite carers having a right to an assessment under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.



Carers Wales told the Fifth Senedd's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee:

We would like to see better systematic identification of carers through the NHS; we'd like to see more responsibility on the NHS to identify carers. And also within local authorities, when carers make contact, that they are identified as a carer, and there's clarity about what that carer can access. We would like to see minimum service expectations for carers across the whole of Wales, and carers being viewed as key workers—they've been absolutely essential through this pandemic.

Carers Wales has called for the creation of a national carers register by 2023 to enable services to identify local carers and offer them advice and support.

2. Welsh Government response

The Deputy Minister for Social Services says providing better support for unpaid carers is a Welsh Government priority, and she recognises that early identification of carers is vital to realise this ambition.

The Welsh Government's response highlights the range of activity that is underway to support carers to self-identify and access the information, advice and support. But it "will continue to consider whether introducing a register would further complement this work".

The Deputy Minister says she has asked officials to bring the suggestion of a register to the Ministerial Advisory Group for Unpaid Carers and would be happy to update the Petitions Committee on the outcome of these initial discussions.

The Welsh Government says work to improve early identification of unpaid carers is also already underway via various streams of work including commitments in the new Strategy for Unpaid Carers; the Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grant 'Carer Aware'; a second phase of its national carers' rights publicity campaign; and plans to create a young carers national ID card with local authorities. The Welsh Government also says it will work with partners to explore how statutory services can better identify and record information on unpaid carers.

The Deputy Minister notes that one of the Welsh Government's working groups on the unpaid carers strategy delivery plan has considered the suggestion of establishing a national database or register for unpaid carers during its early discussions regarding delivery plan actions. She says it was apparent that a more

in depth consideration is required to determine whether a register would add value to the activity outlined above and mechanisms already in place.

For example, a number of GPs across Wales allow unpaid carers to register their caring role with them, and carers can also make themselves known to local carer charities, many of which are commissioned by local authorities to provide support on their behalf. I am also keen to understand how a register would comply with privacy and personal information regulations

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.



Your ref Petition P-06-1209
Our ref JMSS/10420/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

8 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your correspondence on 17 September where you set out the details of a petition from Mike O'Brien calling for the creation of a national carers register to make identifying carers easier. Responsibility for unpaid carers sits within my portfolio and your correspondence has been passed to me to respond.

I agree that early identification of unpaid carers is an important step towards ensuring they can access the support they are entitled to, when they need it. Many carers don't recognise themselves as being in a caring role and as a consequence do not access sources of information, advice and assistance, or a carers' needs assessment. That is why our new [Strategy for Unpaid Carers](#) includes commitments under Priority One to encourage more unpaid carers to self-identify by raising awareness amongst professionals who may have contact with them, across the statutory, private and third sectors. We will also work with partners to explore how statutory services can better identify and record information on unpaid carers. This will allow the needs of more unpaid carers to be addressed at an early stage, but will also provide valuable data relating to the numbers and circumstances of unpaid carers in Wales.

Work to improve early identification of unpaid carers is also already underway via our Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grant 'Carer Aware'. The scheme is being delivered by Carers Trust Wales and Carers Wales, and the objective of the project is to work with staff at all levels of our social care and health systems to create meaningful cultural change to benefit unpaid carers in Wales. This includes:

- raising awareness about carers, the impact of caring and carers rights with the general public and relevant professionals;

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Julie.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.Morgan@gov.wales

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.

- supporting more carers to have their voices heard in the shaping and implementation of services and professional practice; and
- providing training and resources to inform and support a culture shift in how carers are identified, valued and supported within social care and health settings.

Under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014, carers have an equal right to an assessment of the support they need and to have their eligible needs met as appropriate. The Act also places a legal duty on local authorities to promote the wellbeing of carers. Local authorities must ensure their approach to assessment and eligibility is clearly communicated so that individuals understand how to access an assessment and what is involved in the assessment process. As set out in the strategy, we have committed to using the data we collect via the evaluation of the Act and the revised Performance and Improvement Framework to work with local authorities to develop a range of solutions that enable them to deliver timely, effective statutory assessments that are responsive to individual needs of unpaid carers. This will include how statutory services can better identify and record information on unpaid carers.

We are also proceeding with a second phase of our successful national carers' rights publicity campaign later this year. It will be delivered by Carers Wales and Carers Trust Wales, in close partnership with Welsh Government. The campaign will target all ages of carer, and aims to encourage individuals to self-identify as a carer so that they can access the support they need.

In terms of young carers, our ambitious plan to create a national ID card with all 22 local authorities is well underway to help improve recognition of young carers by teachers, GPs and pharmacists. The key objective of the project is that any young carer up to age 18 will be able to access a young carers ID card if they choose to, and wherever they live in Wales. In 2021-22 we are providing £186k to help drive the development and roll out of the national ID card project. At a recent learning workshop in September, local authorities and commissioned providers shared some of their progress so far. The North Wales project from Flintshire, Wrexham, Conwy and Denbighshire have had 300 young carers sign up to date, since their card was launched in March 2021.

Drawing these threads together, working with the Ministerial Advisory Group for Unpaid Carers we have convened three working groups to coproduce a delivery plan that will help us achieve the commitments within the Strategy for Unpaid Carers. I intend to publish the delivery plan by the end of 2021. The plan will set out clear actions, timescales and measures for monitoring progress against each of the four national priorities.

In developing actions for the delivery plan, the working groups are considering the evidence collated for the [Equality Impact Assessment](#). This has shown that carers who are older, male or from ethnic minority communities are less likely to identify with the term 'carer' and this can result in information or support directed at unpaid carers not appearing relevant to those family and friends who provide support. Priority One seeks to address this by raising awareness amongst unpaid carers of how self-identification can lead to financial, emotional and practical support. The need for tailored actions to support these carers is being explored as the delivery plan is being developed.

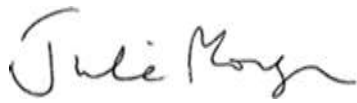
The working group responsible for Priority One has also considered the suggestion of establishing a national database or register for unpaid carers during its early discussions regarding delivery plan actions. It was apparent that a more in depth consideration is required to determine whether a register would add value to the activity outlined above and mechanisms already in place. For example, a number of GPs across Wales allow unpaid carers to register their caring role with them, and carers can also make themselves known to local carer charities, many of which are commissioned by local authorities to provide

support on their behalf. I am also keen to understand how a register would comply with privacy and personal information regulations.

I have asked my officials to bring the suggestion of a register to the Ministerial Advisory Group for Unpaid Carers and would be happy to update you on the outcome of these initial discussions

To summarise, providing better support for our unpaid carers is a priority for this government and I recognise that early identification is vital if we are to realise this ambition. As outlined above, there is a range of activity already underway to support people with caring responsibilities to self-identify and access the information, advice and support they need, however, we will continue to consider whether introducing a register would further complement this work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Morgan'.

Julie Morgan AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services

**P-06-1209 Create a national list of all unpaid carers in Wales, Correspondence –
Petitioner to Committee, 18.10.21**

One of my main reasons for starting this petition is as follows. During the pandemic and early stages of the vaccine rollout it became evident that identifying unpaid carers in Wales was something that hadn't been properly thought through. Some carers are able to register with their GP surgery, but not all practices provide this service, so a national register would allow all carers to self identify at a national level. This would also make it easier when identifying unpaid carers in the future for things like further vaccine rollouts.

I am pleased to see that the Welsh Government have previously considered such a register and I urge them to take this forward at the earliest possible time.

Regards

Agenda Item 3.1

P-05-954 Petition for a public inquiry by the Welsh Government into the historic child abuse on Caldey Island

This petition was submitted by Kevin O'Connell having collected a total of 5,088 signatures on paper.

Text of Petition

As a victim of child abuse by catholic priests and monks I wish to get the Welsh Governmnet to hold a public inquiry into the historic child abuse on Caldly Island. Victims need the truth and answers as to why an ongoing investigation for 29 years has failed the victims. The inquiry will help to safeguard children in the future.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Ceredigion
- Mid and West Wales

P-05-954 Petition for a public inquiry by the Welsh Government into the historic child abuse on Caldey Island, Correspondence – Petition Coordinator to Committee, 22.10.21

Update from the Caldey Island Survivors Campaign (Caldey Island Victims Campaign) 20 October 2021.

Recent concerns and issues are as follows:

1. Lack of accountability of the Cistercian Order of Caldey Abbey.

Caldey Abbey, like other monasteries in the Cistercian Order in the UK and internationally, has autonomy in how they run their affairs. Although Caldey Abbey is identified as being within the remit of Roman Catholic structures - the Pembroke Deanery and the Diocese of Menevia - Caldey Abbey in its constitution and practice is independent of the Roman Catholic Church.

The hierarchy of the Cistercian Order hold only light touch guidance, rather than authority, over the concerns and administration of the Abbeys, other houses and establishments, and over the behaviour of monks, nuns and lay members.

Caldey Abbey did not respond to a request by Catholic Organisations for Renewal (COR) to submit a form to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). Caldey Abbey and other Cistercian establishments in the UK have not participated in IICSA, and the findings of the IICSA report into the Roman Catholic Church show that they did not inquire into any Cistercian establishments in the UK. It may be the autonomy of the Cistercian Order that influenced their lack of inclusion in IICSA.

Since the abuse on Caldey Island came to light the Abbey has entered into a safeguarding arrangement with the Diocese of Menevia, however this relationship is a voluntary one and, as stated in earlier submissions to the Petitions Committee, the Abbey have insisted on retaining oversight of past, present and future safeguarding.

Caldey Abbey have appointed a parish safeguarding representative, Reverend Kevin Simpson, who is an ex-South Wales police officer. He is also a Director of Caldey Island Estate Company Limited. We feel that there is a conflict of interest here in terms of Rev. Simpson's relationship with a Welsh police force, and in his company directorship of Caldey Island. Good safeguarding practice requires independence from any direct interest in the organisation, as does any police investigation of wrongdoing.

2. Police investigation – victims have lost faith, local police have a conflict of interest, police have failed to conduct a full investigation.

There are further concerns over a conflict of interest in the role of Father Liam Bradley, the Roman Catholic Dean of Pembroke whose parish contains Caldey Island, as he is also the Lead Chaplain for Dyfed-Powys Police. Fr Bradley's connection to Caldey, via his parish and his role of Dean, is strong and ongoing and is enthusiastically promoted on

social media. He regularly takes children and young people of his parish to visit and to stay on Caldey Island as guests of the Abbey. Again, we feel that connections between the local police and the island represent a conflict of interest, and that if investigations into abuse on Caldey were ever to be reopened then an external police force, without connections to the Abbey and with experience of investigating large scale historic child sex abuse, should carry out any such investigation.

Victims have lost trust in Dyfed-Powys Police. Dyfed-Powys Police have carried out minimal investigations into the historic child sex abuse on the Island, citing Fr. Thaddeus Kotik's death as a reason for their lack of interest in pursuing any deeper level of investigations.

Kevin O'Connell's abuse was verbally minimised by the Dyfed-Powys officer responsible for investigating the abuse that Kevin experienced.

Kevin's sister Rebecca O'Connell, who is deceased, was also abused by Fr Thaddeus Kotik. Dyfed-Powys Police said they would investigate the abuse Rebecca experienced but failed to provide any action in this regard.

We are not aware of any attempt by Dyfed-Powys Police to look into Kotik's career of sexual abuse prior to the abuse documented on Caldey in the 1970s and 1980s. There cannot be any doubt that Kotik was a serial abuser, and potential abuses prior to this date should also be considered.

3. Savile/Kotik

Operation Yewtree, the police inquiry into the abuse perpetrated by Jimmy Savile, was initiated after Savile's death following 8 of his victims coming forward to report his abuse of them. The inquiry then extended into an inquiry into the responses of statutory agencies. We would like this pathway to be followed for the a police or public inquiry into abuse experienced on Caldey Island.

26 victims of abuse on Caldey Island have now come forward and reported abuse from Fr Thaddeus Kotik. Rebecca O'Connell is a further victim. Yet despite the number of victims Dyfed-Powys Police have consistently failed to take any investigation beyond a superficial point, citing that as the abuser/abusers are dead, they cannot pursue a police inquiry. We need a public inquiry to ascertain not just the scale of the abuse, but also why Dyfed-Powys Police have delayed or failed to investigate some of allegations of abuse, and consistently refused to commit to a fuller and wider investigation.

Dyfed-Powys Police have not put out a call for victims, witnesses or those with information about abuse on Caldey Island to come forward, although this was requested by Kevin O'Connell in 2018.

As a result of Operation Yewtree, investigations into historic child sexual abuse will now inform potential victims if others have also complained. Dyfed-Powys Police have not done this.

Also as a result of Operation Yewtree, it is now standard practice for investigations of historic child sexual abuse to consider the reports as a one whole, rather than treating them as a series of individual complaints. As far as we are aware Dyfed-Powys Police have not done this.

As the victims have lost faith in Dyfed-Powys Police as a result of the failings outlined here and the conflict of interest that we believe exists, we consider that if a full police investigation is to happen it must be enacted by an outside force with experience of investigating historic child sexual abuse on a large scale.

4. Was Caldey Island a paedophile hub?

Solicitors Michael Imperato and David Greenwood, acting on behalf of Caldey Island victims, both consider that from the scale of abuse reported by victims that it was perpetrated on an industrial scale, and that it is likely that Caldey was a hub for paedophiles.

As well as sending their victims postcards and letters, home visits appear to have been a feature of both Kotik and Jesuit priest Fr Charles Jeffries' pattern of abuse. Fr Thaddeus Kotik and Fr Charles Jeffries knew each other, and Fr Charles met Kevin O'Connell on Caldey Island. Both Kotik and Jeffries were regular visitors to the O'Connell family home, staying overnight and abusing Kevin and possibly his sister Rebecca in the home. Kevin's younger brother confirms the abuse in the family home in connection with Kevin, in a letter which we have attached. Another victim has previously stated that Kotik abused her in her own home.

Fr Charles Jeffries took Kevin to Sussex for a period of time, and with others abused him in Sussex. Kevin states that in this house there was another young boy, who he thinks was also being abused.

We know that from the 1970s onwards 5 perpetrators of child sexual abuse were living as monks or as guests of the Cistercian Order on Caldey Island – convicted paedophiles Fr John Shannon from 2008 to 2009, John Cronin in 2009, Paul Ashton from 2004 to 2011 as well as the Fr Charles Jeffries, and of course Fr Thaddeus Kotik. We have very recently been provided with information, by an ex-neighbour of recently convicted historic child sex offender Anthony Preece, that Preece had stayed on Caldey Island. We are in the process of verifying this information.

Kevin O'Connell has very recently started cross-referencing the electoral roll for Caldey Island with names of priests convicted for child sexual abuse. This painstaking and time-consuming search has only just started but has so far 3 names have emerged. However, it is work that should be carried out through the means of a public inquiry, or by a police investigation, rather than by campaigners and volunteers.

It is our opinion that it is likely that Caldey Island is known within paedophile networks as a safe place to be shielded, with the opportunity to perpetrate active or online abuse whilst on the island.

The scale of abuse on Caldey could potentially be on a very significant scale. Over the decades there have been: children who came on holiday with their families; referrals from RC churches in Wales and across the UK who came without their parents; a primary school on the island and a reform school on the island.

Two schools in South Wales contacted Kevin after the TV documentaries and said that as a result they would stop their children going to Caldey. Evidently children were still being sent up to that time, and visits to the island for school and parish children continue. The visits, holidays and retreats are encouraged by Caldey Abbey and by local Roman Catholic structures and churches.

In summary, the key messages from the campaign to the Petitions Committee are:

That we are currently occupied with attempting to discover, on a voluntary and part-time basis, the scale of abuse by known and by other potential perpetrators. This is a huge job, it exceeds our capacity, and properly falls within the remit of the police or a public inquiry.

We would urge the Senedd to hold a public inquiry into the abuse, and institutional facilitation/cover up of abuse by the Abbey, on Caldey Island. This inquiry, in our opinion, would need to consider any failings by statutory authorities to protect children who stayed on or visited the island, and any failings in investigations into the abuse. It would also need to consider the structural issues of the autonomy and lack of accountability of the Cistercian Order as it operates within Wales.

If a public inquiry is unlikely to fall within Senedd powers or remit, or the Senedd considers that there is not enough evidence for a public inquiry to be warranted, then we would like to request that Welsh Government recommend a full and thorough investigation, by an external police force with expertise in large scale historic child sexual abuse, takes place. That may reveal the new information that would be required for a public inquiry.

Dinah Mulholland 20/10/21

Coordinator, Caldey Island Survivors Campaign

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 18 May 2019 19:24

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Calls for public inquiry into historical child abuse on Caldey Island as another victim comes forward | Wales - ITV News

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 18 May 2019 17:04

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Calls for public inquiry into historical child abuse on Caldey Island as another victim comes forward

Hi [REDACTED]

When I was a young boy (approximately 8), I went with my brother [REDACTED] to Caldey Island, Tenby to stay at the guest house run by local nuns and monks. I first met Father Thaddeus Kotik as we went on a walk across the island with him and other children. My brother [REDACTED] and I had gone to the monastery as [REDACTED] wanted me to see the a place were he had stayed in years before.. We went through the monastery to a quiet secluded garden within the monastery where [REDACTED] and I came across Father Thaddeus. [REDACTED] did not want see him and we went back down to village. Father Thaddeus took [REDACTED] on his own on many occasions to an old ruins and [REDACTED] told me at the time that I was not to go along with him.

[REDACTED] always seemed sad when he returned with father Thaddeus and would spend a lot of time by himself on the beach.

Father Charles was a friend of the family. He stayed over night at our house on several occasions as my parents were Catholic. [REDACTED] had told me that father Charles was touching him but I didn't understand as I was quite young at the time. However, I have a vivid recollection that while [REDACTED] and I were standing on the upstairs landing, our mother sent us to our separate rooms, ([REDACTED] room was on the left and mine on the right), then seeing Father Charles go into [REDACTED] room. I remember speaking to my mother about my concerns related to Father Charles at a later date, but my concerns were dismissed. I also remember father Thaddeus staying with us with father Charles.

When Father Charles visited my home many years later, I immediately recognised him and challenged him, calling him a paedophile. He had a young boy with him who was obviously very shocked at my outburst. Father Charles quickly left and I never saw him again.

I do believe that [REDACTED] was abused by both these men. My brother suffers from rocking in the bed and Nightmares which I believe is due to the abuse he received as a child.

[REDACTED]

Agenda Item 3.2

P-06-1203 Do not roll out Covid 19 vaccine passports for retail, hospitality or other premises

This petition was submitted by John William Gates, having collected a total of 336 signatures.

Text of Petition:

We want the Welsh Government to commit to not rolling out any e-vaccination status/immunity passport to the Welsh public. Such passports could be used to restrict the rights of people who have refused a Covid-19 vaccine, such as preventing them from accessing shops, supermarkets or other premises, which would be unacceptable.

Additional Information:

On Dec 14th 2020, Nadhim Zahawi MP said 'there are no plans for vaccine passports'. He continues to deny the UK Government has plans despite reports that people who have received the Covid-19 vaccine will be offered a passport proving they have been vaccinated as part of a government-funded trial.

The Welsh Government must be completely clear to the public about the use of vaccine passports & their intentions, which will undoubtedly affect societal cohesion & effect the economic recovery of Great Britain this year & into 2022.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Aberavon
- South Wales West

Agenda Item 3.3

P-05-1003 Demand an EIA now on the dumping of radioactively contaminated mud in Welsh waters

This petition was submitted by Cian Ciaran having collected a total of 10,692 signatures.

Text of Petition:

We, the undersigned, call on the Welsh Government to invoke the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 in respect of uncertainties, and to ensure that a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is carried out before any further sediment from Hinkley Point nuclear power station can be dumped at Cardiff Grounds.

Don't allow the Welsh government to break their own law!

Additional Information

The EIA must provide

- Detailed baseline data on the behaviour and fate of material dumped at Cardiff Grounds;
- Full radiological analysis including detection of alpha-emitting particles;
- A detailed and up-to-date assessment of potential radiological impacts on the population of south Wales;
- Containing nuclear pollutants on land rather than dispersing them at sea;
- Respecting international agreements on marine dumping;
- Protecting the Severn Estuary.
- We also call on the Senedd to ensure that any EIA is NOT scoped by pro-nuclear interests.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff South and Penarth
- South Wales Central

P-05-1003 Demand an EIA now on the dumping of radioactively contaminated mud in Welsh waters, Correspondence – NRW to Chair, 05.10.21

EDF's marine licence application to the Marine Management Organisation

You have asked NRW for the reasoning behind not making public the application documents submitted to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and requested us to do so as soon as possible. We would like to highlight that the MMO is the public body responsible for receiving and determining marine licence applications in England. They are required by law under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Marine Licensing (Register of Licence Information) Regulations 2011, to maintain a register and publicise up-to-date information on applications, issued marine licences and documents supporting the decisions. NRW, as part of its delegated licensing function on behalf of the Welsh Ministers, maintain a separate Public Register for marine licences in Wales.

The MMO have made the application documents available on their Public Register. To assist the Committee and other interested stakeholders, we have updated our dedicated [Position Statement](#) with information on how to access the MMO's Public Register and the specific marine licence variation (MLA/2012/00259/6) that was granted by the MMO on 2 August 2021 to EDF.

NRW were consulted by the MMO on the application, in our capacity as the Statutory Nature Conservation Body (SNCB) in Wales. NRW's SNCB response to that MMO consultation can also be found in the MMO's Public Register (titled "*NRW comments on HPC ML Rev6 MLA2012002596*") and also attached to this letter for ease.

Further petitioners' comments and questions

In relation to the matters raised in both of the petitioner's letters (25 August and 7 September 2021), we would highlight that we have previously provided detailed responses to the Committee on 15 April 2021 and 10 May 2021 regarding both the Prof. Barnham and NRPB-M173 reports. We would be happy to provide these again if that would assist the Committee.

Regarding comments on sediment testing of dredged material; we would like to highlight to the Committee that EDF's sediment sample plan (required for the characterisation of the sediment before any future marine licence application for its disposal in Wales), was subjected to a thorough public consultation. Whilst not a statutory requirement to publicly consult on sample plans, NRW, in recognition of the public and political interest in this matter, undertook a six-week public consultation (5 February 2020 - 18 March 2020) to provide the opportunity for people to submit their views on whether the sampling plan complies with the internationally agreed guidance and the processes within UK and Welsh legislation. We communicated widely our approval of the revised sample plan on 15 September, with our decision document and the plan itself being made available via our on-line Position Statement.

The marine licence application that EDF submitted to NRW in March this year has not been duly-made and is not currently under determination. If circumstances change, we will update our Position Statement.

It is our view that the points raised in the petitioner's letters submitted to the Committee, as well as any possible further representations should be submitted in response to a public consultation of a duly-made marine licence application, should NRW progress to that stage in the future. All documents submitted in support of such an application would form part of a consultation with technical advisors and the public, and this provides the opportunity to submit any relevant information to help inform our decision making. We trust the points raised in those letters by the petitioners were submitted to the MMO during the public consultation that was conducted for the marine licence variation (MLA/2012/00259/6).

The recommendations made within the petitioner's letter of 25 August 2021 request NRW to stop EDF from conducting any further activities in relation to HPC construction under Health and Safety grounds. NRW has no powers to revoke or stop an MMO marine licence in English territory nor to instruct UK Government to conduct an independent public inquiry of alleged historic plutonium leaks from Hinkley Point A. Such concerns should be raised with the appropriate public authorities in England.

Kind regards,



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales**

Eich cyf/Your ref: MLA/2012/00259/6

Ebost/Email:

██████████
Marine Licensing Case Manager
Marine Management Organisation
Lancaster House
Newcastle Business Park
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YH

25 March 2021

Dear ██████████

Marine Licence consultation: Hinkley Point C Project: New Nuclear Development Marine Licence Revision 6

Marine Licence Application: MLA/2012/00259/6

Applicant: NNB Generation Company (HPC) Limited

Thank you for your consultation received by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on 12 February 2021. Please find below NRW's comments.

We note that this licence application is in support of the Hinkley Point C (HPC) nuclear power station project near Bridgwater, Somerset, which was granted a Development Consent Order (DCO) in 2013 and associated Marine Licences from 2012 onwards.

We understand that the current application is to vary the HPC Main Marine Licence L/2013/00178. This 'Revision 6' will form the seventh version of Marine Licence L/2013/00178 and relates to proposed changes in design and construction methodology for the offshore works at HPC following detailed design updates. This includes;

- maintenance dredge volumes at the intake and outfall locations located approximately 1km-3km from HPC in Bridgwater Bay to be increased to 185,000m³;
- drilling of vertical shafts methodology updated;
- disposal of drill arisings methodology updated;

- installation of offshore intake/outfall heads methodology updated;
- the inclusion of new temporary structures to support the construction of the cooling water infrastructure, including Handling Alignment Frames and Jack up Vessels; and
- an option for dredged material to be disposed of at the existing Portishead disposal site in the Bristol Channel

Please note that NRW is not aware of receiving consultations for the previous applications for licence variations. We also note that a scoping report was submitted prior to this current application and a scoping opinion has been provided by the MMO (case reference EIA/2020/00024). However, NRW does not appear to have been consulted.

We note that this consultation does not include a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) from the MMO for NRW Advisory comment. We trust this will be provided in due course.

Documents Submitted

[View application and documents - MCMS \(marinemanagement.org.uk\)](https://www.marinemanagement.org.uk)

NRW Advisory Comments

NRW welcome the opportunity to comment on this consultation, however, it should be noted that this is the first time we have been approached to comment on a marine licence variation to the original marine licence that was granted in 2013. Also, we were not consulted for the MMO Scoping Opinion. It is therefore difficult for us to comment effectively at this stage having not been previously involved, and to be able to apply our standard advice. Our response in this letter is therefore a high-level response and highlights a series of high-level pointers we would have asked the developer to consider had we been consulted on the previous marine licence variations. In addition, our advice in this letter is made not knowing the context of previous advice from Natural England as SNCB, and whether some of the issues we raise have already been discussed in previous marine licence variations.

Noting that is the first time we have had the opportunity to review the activity proposed, we have provided the following comments for consideration. The context for our advice is that, whilst the project is in English waters, it is within the Severn Estuary SAC (and in proximity to the SPA and Ramsar Site). We however recommend that detailed comment is sought from Natural England and the Environment Agency.

Physical Processes

NRW understand the dredge amounts and methodology for the maintenance and capital dredge have both changed. From the documents presented it appears the new parameters are within the boundaries of the previous worst-case scenario tested. NRW however haven't had sight of the application before Revision 6 and therefore are unable to agree with the previous assessment undertaken.

NRW advise projects relating to Welsh waters are guided by our marine and coastal physical process guidance:

[marine-physical-processes-guidance-to-inform-environmental-impact-assessment-eia.pdf](https://www.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/marine-physical-processes-guidance-to-inform-environmental-impact-assessment-eia.pdf)
([cyfoethnaturiol.cymru](https://www.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru))

Which links to the below reports:

- Evidence Report No: 243 Guidance on Best Practice for Marine and Coastal Physical Processes Baseline Survey and Monitoring Requirements to inform EIA of Major Development Projects.
- Evidence Report No: 208 Advice to Inform Development of Guidance on Marine, Coastal and Estuarine Physical Processes Numerical Modelling Assessments.
-

It is apparent from an initial review of the operational dredge release undertaken that the '*Mott MacDonald | Hinkley Point C Marine Licence Application Sediment Transport Assessment 416189AB01 | 100700649 | A | February 2021 29*', is not sensitive enough to enable an understanding on smothering to benthic habitats from dredge operations as stated by the conclusions of the report '*The model reported here cannot predict how the accretion of sediment released during dredging operations will be distributed in the estuary. A study to investigate this further would require a model with an accurate representation of the physical environment, including the most recent mapping of designated habitats.*'

NRW recommend a more sophisticated model is employed to ascertain any potential significant impacts to benthic habitats through dredge overspill related smothering.

There is no modelling assessment connected to the dredge disposal activities at Portishead. NRW would like confirmation that there are no sensitive habitats within the vicinity of dredge disposal location and no far field effects on water quality will be felt in Welsh waters.

On a few instances, the applicant states; '*Unlike other environmental receptors, marine physical processes receptors have no attributable value or sensitivity*'. We would like to ensure the estuary feature and its accompanying objectives relating to 'form and function' found in the agreed Regulation 33 advice has been taken into account and will look to the HRA for an assessment on activities such as the installation of the structures to ensure an

adequate assessment. NRW have not been consulted on the installation of the structures within the Severn Estuary SAC before revision 6.

SAC interest feature 1: Estuaries

The feature will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes, each of the following conditions are met:

- i. the total extent of the estuary is maintained;
- ii. the characteristic physical form (tidal prism/cross sectional area) and flow (tidal regime) of the estuary is maintained;
- iii. the characteristic range and relative proportions of sediment sizes and sediment budget within the site is maintained;
- iv. the extent, variety and spatial distribution of estuarine habitat communities within the site is maintained
- v. the extent, variety, spatial distribution and community composition of hard substrate habitats and their notable communities is maintained;
- vi. the abundance of the notable estuarine species assemblages is maintained or increased;
- vii. the physico-chemical characteristics of the water column support the ecological objectives described above;
- viii. Toxic contaminants in water column and sediment are below levels which would pose a risk to the ecological objectives described above.
- ix. Airborne nutrient and contaminant loads are below levels which would pose a risk to the ecological objectives described above

Assessment is also missing on the physical changes due to the presence of the; JUVs, dredge chains and anchor placement. NRW advise this is revisited.

It is regrettable that NRW advisory cannot agree with the comments provided by ABPmer in their entirety to the MMO. *'Coastal hydrodynamics and marine geomorphology - the assessment in the topic chapter is cursory and would have benefitted from incorporation of more information from Appendices F and G. There is sufficient information provided when taking the appendices into account. Applicant should note for future reference;*' NRW advisory believe further assessment is required on coastal hydrodynamics and marine geomorphology to enable a robust assessment to potential impacts on benthic features.

Benthic Ecology

Construction

Capital Dredge and maintenance dredging - loss of *Sabellaria alveolata* reef feature

- The applicant has calculated a permanent loss of *Sabellaria alveolata*, an Annex I habitat "Reef" feature of the Severn Estuary SAC to be 0.98ha, equating to 0.55%

of the currently mapped subtidal *Sabellaria alveolata* reef and 0.07% of the total SAC feature.

- Given there is a loss of a designated feature within a SAC, a HRA is required by the competent authority in order to appropriately assess whether this permanent loss of Annex I Reef may or may not have an AEOSI of the Severn Estuary SAC. Furthermore, some form of monitoring may be required in order to confirm the assumptions made as part of the assessment.
- The “HPC offshore acoustic *Sabellaria* spp. Survey – April 2020” reports that areas where capital dredge took place in 2018 are devoid of any *Sabellaria* feature. Whilst 3 years may be too short a time-scale for successful larval re-colonization and development of the reef, this evidence reinforces the idea that some form of monitoring may be required to ascertain assumptions that might be made in the assessment and to understand whether areas where loss of *Sabellaria* feature have taken place due to dredging and other related activities are able to be colonised by new larvae and develop in to a full reef.
- NRW note a high level study (Appendix G) has been done at the dredge location to assess the impacts from smothering to the *Sabellaria* reef feature. However, this assessment is not adequate to enable impacts from smothering to the *Sabellaria* reef to be ruled out.
- A quantitative assessment is required in order to assess the impact of anchors and anchor chains during dredging on the *Sabellaria* reef i.e. the area impacted by the anchors should be calculated and the loss of Annex I reef feature appropriately assessed.
- The same applies for the impacts of habitat loss and change resulting from the use of JUVs in construction of the HPC offshore works - the area impacted by the puncture of the seabed where the four legs of the JUV will be deployed should be calculated and the loss of Annex I reef feature appropriately assessed.

Operation

Capital Dredge and maintenance dredging- loss of *Sabellaria alveolata* reef feature

- We note dredging of subtidal habitats was an activity that was planned in previous licence revisions (Page 93) however having not been consulted on the revisions of the previous marine licences this is the first time we have the opportunity to raise our concerns with regards to the loss of designated Annex I Reef feature.
- Approximately two thirds of the 73,715.4 ha of the Severn Estuary SAC is subtidal (equalling 49,143.6ha), of which 4.34ha will be permanently lost in the operational

phase through being covered by the head structures and associated gravel beds within the dredge pits (see Section 3.9.2). This accounts for a permanent total loss of approximately 0.009% of subtidal SAC habitat. Clarification on what proportion of this loss is Annex I Reef is required.

Invasive non-native species (INNS)

NRW note that other than in the WFD assessment, no further reference has been made in the application to the potential impact of the introduction and/or spread and biosecurity management of INNS during the different stages of the development. NRW would typically expect that a full Biosecurity Risk Assessment and invasive non-native species (INNS) Management Plan is completed in relation to all marine operation activities associated to the current proposal. The risk assessment and management plan should include consideration of all activities, vehicles and equipment used as well as how the risk will be minimised through appropriate mitigation and adherence to best practice guidance and management measures. The risk assessment should include a review of all the available data in relation to the presence of marine INNS where applicable to the current proposal, and the potential risks associated to each species identified.

Marine & Diadromous Fish

ES for Portishead Disposal Site

This advice is provided on the basis that NRW agrees with the assessment of effects for water quality and physical processes. If NRW does not agree with the assessment of effects for water quality or physical processes, then we may need to provide further advice on an updated assessment.

Section 6.5.28

No evidence is provided to support the statement that 'no spawning grounds are recorded within the Estuary, likely due to the fact that many of the fish species are broadcast spawners that spawn within the water column or seek specific gravelly habitats, such as herring'. Many species are likely to spawn in the estuary, especially those with small home ranges or discrete estuarine populations.

Section 6.5.29

There is substantial information available on marine migrant, marine straggler, estuarine resident and freshwater straggler species populations in the estuary, notably from impingement monitoring conducted at HPB.

Table 6.6

Smolt migration periods for salmon and sea trout, and glass eel migration periods, are not included in this table. Also, the supporting evidence for these periods is unclear. For example, the break in juvenile shad migration in June, or adult lamprey migration in

February. Further evidence is required to justify the migratory periods highlighted in this table.

Table 6.10/6.11

These tables do not include smothering of fish eggs from disposal of dredged material / deposition of material. However, the smothering of benthic eggs of non-migratory fish is likely to be avoided by timing the disposal from April 2021 to September 2021, as it will be outside sandeel and herring spawning seasons.

Table 6.13

'Increased light, noise and vibration due to vessel activity' row. The justification notes there will be four vessels transiting from the HPC offshore works area to the disposal site per day (24 hour period). Later on, it is noted that there will be 26 vessels/day in the area in the summer, and 19 vessels/day in the winter. NRW advise that the number of vessels required for the activity is clarified and assessed.

Table 6.15

How the 'significance' of the effect is determined is not clearly described or documented. The importance of the relevant features has also not been classified or documented for the assessment.

Table 6.15

The effects of increased SSCs in terms of prey availability and pollutant/injurious effects has not been assessed for migratory or non-migratory fish species, though it is scoped in to Table 6.12.

HRA for Portishead Disposal Site

Section 2.2.7

Allis shad and Atlantic salmon are not Annex 2 features of the Severn Estuary SAC. They are part of the fish assemblage sub-feature of the Estuaries feature of the SAC and Ramsar site, and part of the migratory fish assemblage feature of the Ramsar site.

Report to Support Variation of Marine Licence Revision 6

Section 3.12.6.1 Noise and vibration

Piling is scheduled to occur during April-December 2022 (Table 2-5). Taking an assumed duration of 9 months for the activity, NRW advise that further information is required to understand the risk from the piling activity:

- Confirmation that the 80-minute installation time assumed by the noise modelling in Appendix I is realistic for the proposed piles;

- The number of piles that will need to be installed for each of the four intake heads and two outfall heads, and therefore the number of times the 80-minute sound field will be generated;
- Confirmation that only one piling site will be active at a time, and therefore only a single 80-minute sound field will occur at any one time;
- The number of piles installed per day over the 9 months installation period;
- The amount of non-piling time between each pile installation;
- The number of days piling will occur over the 9 months installation period; and
- The amount of non-piling time during the 9 months installation period.

Section 3.12.6.4 Physical Damage

Drilling of vertical shafts

NRW advise that further information is required to understand the risk from the activity:

- The size of the gap in the casing;
- The duration that the gap in the casing will be open for before drilling occurs
- The area of the casing space; and
- The depth or volume of water needed in the casing for drilling to occur

NRW advise that soft-start drilling is unlikely to be an effective mitigation for any fish already in the casing as they are unlikely to be able to escape (depending on the size of the gap in the casing).

Capping off vertical shafts

NRW advise that further information is required to understand the risk from the activity:

- The duration between cutting the steel casing and capping it. Currently, the timeframe 'immediately' is stated, but that duration is not defined.

Section 3.12.8 (Cumulative assessment)

This assessment does not consider the in-combination effect of the HPC UXO detonations and proposed ML variation for fish receptors, given the uncertainty around the effectiveness of the mitigation for fish from the UXO detonations.

Table 4-12 (HRA)

The impact pathway of effects from noise and vibration, and dredging, on the fish assemblage sub feature of the Estuaries feature of the Severn Estuary SAC is not considered in this Table.

Table 4-14 (HRA)

This table does not consider the in-combination effect of the HPC UXO detonations and proposed ML variation for fish features or sub-features, given the uncertainty around the effectiveness of the mitigation for fish from the UXO detonations.

Table 5-5 (WFD)

NRW does not agree with scoping Biology (fish) out of the assessment. The activity has the potential to cause mortality of fish, and disturbance of migrating individuals at a distance of >1.8km across the channel.

Water and Sediment Quality

The 2020 sediment sampling results have shown high levels of contaminants, however these results are to be expected in the Severn Estuary and we agree that the Severn Estuary is a highly turbid environment, resulting in high transport and mixing of sediments in the water column.

Ornithology

We defer to Natural England for ornithological advice on the proposals.

Marine Mammals

Table 3-7

Note that Common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) is erroneously listed as being under Annex II of the Habitats Directive. Also Common seal (*Phoca vitulina*) should be listed as Annex II.

Section 3.12.6.1 Construction impacts (p89)

We note that underwater noise modelling of the construction piling activity estimates the following potential impacts for Annex II and Annex IV species of concern:

- Grey seals - there is the potential for temporary threshold shift (TTS) in seals to 3km, and permanent threshold shift (PTS) to <25m.
- Harbour porpoise – there is potential for TTS to 11.5km, and PTS to 1.3km
- Bottlenose dolphin and other dolphins – potential for TTS and PTS to <25m

There is no equivalent assessment on the potential impacts for cetaceans of the low-frequency hearing group, which includes Minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*). NRW advise that this species should also be considered given the stated intention to include it in the ES (Table 3-7), and the identification of this species as having been recorded annually as seasonal visitors to the Severn Estuary and Bristol Channel (NNB, 2019) (as noted on P70 of the report).

Mitigation

We agree with the intention to undertake soft-start procedures for piling and drilling activities. We also agree with the proposed use of MMO to ensure no marine mammals are in the vicinity before works commence – however it is unlikely that MMO will be able to monitor the full PTS range of 1.3km for harbour porpoise.

We recommend that the applicant follows the ‘Statutory nature conservation agency protocol for minimising the risk of injury to marine mammals from piling noise’ – JNCC 2010.

[Statutory nature conservation agency protocol for minimising the risk of injury to marine mammals from piling noise \(jncc.gov.uk\)](https://jncc.gov.uk)

There is no assessment of the underwater noise impacts of dredging. It is possible that this activity could cause underwater noise disturbance to marine mammals.

Table 4-13 Screening for LSE for designated interest features and European sites within the hydrologically linked Zol

We disagree with the conclusions of the screening for LSE for the grey seal feature of Pembrokeshire Marine SAC, and the harbour porpoise feature of Bristol Channel Approaches SAC. When considering impacts on the marine mammal features of SACs, we consider that as mobile species they have the potential to be impacted outside the boundaries of the SAC. We therefore use the relevant Marine Mammal Management Unit as the scale at which to assess potential impact (NRW, 2020)

[NRW Position statement; Marine Mammal Management Units \(MMMUs\).pdf \(sharepoint.com\)](https://sharepoint.com)

We therefore advise that grey seal and harbour porpoise should be screened in as we consider it is not possible to rule out a likely significant effect. It is likely that the appropriate assessment could conclude that there would be no adverse effect on site integrity – but this assessment should be made and documented.

Water Framework Directive

The following comments are on the WFD Assessment V6 provided with the application, noting that this is the first time we have been consulted and that all comments below must be taken in that context.

No evidence has been provided of sediment transport at Portishead. As adjacent waterbodies and sensitive habitats have been screened or scoped out based on their distance from the disposal site, we require evidence to support those decisions.

Ramsar sites not included in protected sites section of the WFD Assessment.

We agree that the Severn Lower WFD waterbody be screened in.

We agree that the identified elements (sensitive habitats, fish, water quality, Severn Lower waterbody, INNS) be scoped in.

We do not agree that the fish quality element be scoped out (please see fish advice above).

For water quality and sensitive habitats/INNS, please see comments in sections above.

NRW Marine Licensing Team Comments

NRW's Marine Licensing Team (MLT) have confirmed they will not be providing a response for this consultation as MLT is in receipt of a marine licence application for the same activity but for disposal within Welsh waters, hence they will undertake our own assessment of the EDF disposal application for Cardiff Grounds.

NRW Radioactivity & Industry Policy Team Comments

No further comments from a radiological perspective, considering the assessment of the sediment has shown that the values are less than the de minimis criteria (as outlined by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) procedures).

Yours sincerely,

██████████

██████████

Senior Marine Advisor
Marine Area Advice and Management Team

Agenda Item 3.4

P-05-1071 Print the vehicle registration on all drive through fast food packaging

This petition was submitted by Michael John Powell having collected a total of 8,341 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Fast food packaging is a major contributor to littering in the streets of our communities.

We believe printing the vehicle registration on all drive through fast food packaging will help reduce this costly blight.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Pontypridd
- South Wales Central

Lee Waters AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Deputy Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LW/10924/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

06 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Petition P-05-1071 Print the vehicle registration on all drive through fast food packaging

As requested, I am providing the Petitions Committee with an update on the issues raised within the petition. I am responding as littering falls within my portfolio.

Our draft *Litter and Fly-tipping Prevention Plan*, on which we recently consulted, includes a commitment to gather evidence and trial behavioural change interventions to address roadside litter. To help develop these trials, my officials have met with representatives from several major fast food chains who operate the majority of drive through services in Wales. I can confirm this included exploring the feasibility of a voluntary trial to add vehicle registration details onto take away food and drink packaging. Despite several constructive meetings, a number of operational constraints and concerns raised by the companies, including General Data Protection Requirements, has meant we have been unable to progress with this trial to date. However, in light of the easing COVID-19 restrictions and consideration of other potential trials, my officials continue to explore this matter with industry.

However, an alternative trial is now being developed in collaboration with a technology company, the Trunk Road Agency and Local Authorities. This project intends to explore the use Artificial Intelligence software through roadside CCTV systems to capture acts of littering from vehicles. The trial will assess whether the technology could be used to support enforcement capabilities of Local Authorities, whilst also influencing positive environmental behaviour change. It is intended the trial site will be in the vicinity of a fast food outlet and discussions are ongoing to involvement of local franchises. I am expecting to receive advice on the trial from my officials during the autumn.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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Gohebiaeth.Lee.Waters@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lee.Waters@gov.wales

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.

Back Page 124
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.

Additionally, we are also funding Keep Wales Tidy's *Caru Cymru* project. This is a three-year programme which involves partnership working with all 22 Local Authorities in Wales and Cardiff University. Its aim is to tackle priority littering issues and this includes roadside litter. I understand work is currently underway to identify several potential projects to be undertaken during 2022. These include an assessment of bin provision in laybys on some major roads and their impacts on litter, exploring the use of "car bins" and engagement with the road haulage association to promote anti-litter messages with its members. The results of this work will be made available to the Welsh Government during the latter part of 2022.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee', written in a cursive style.

Lee Waters AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Deputy Minister for Climate Change

Agenda Item 3.5

P-05-1083 Protect leaseholders in Wales from paying for cladding remedial works

This petition was submitted by Carl Tubbs having collected a total of 133 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Thousands of flat leaseholders in Wales are facing huge bills to pay for cladding remedial work, after the Government ruled that all flat buildings, regardless of height, need an EWS1 form to confirm that not only is there no ACM cladding (like Grenfell) but also no 'combustible material', regardless of whether the buildings had previously passed regulations.

The costs should be covered by the Government and councils as many leaseholders can't afford to pay for these repairs.

Additional Information:

Leaseholders shouldn't be the ones having to pay for these repairs, as they were up to the correct standard before the Government's new ruling in January 2020. We cannot sell our flats, or remortgage, until the work is complete, as mortgage lenders are providing a NIL value as our homes are now viewed as 'unsafe'.

In England, the Building Safety Fund is being utilised to help the repairs for buildings over 18m, the Welsh Government are using this money for COVID-19 instead. The fund should be used for its correct purpose in Wales and for all flat buildings – as the new regulations aren't just for buildings over 18m. While the Pandemic is important, leaseholders need to be safe in the homes.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-1-billion-building-safety-fund-to-remove-dangerous-cladding-from-high-rise-buildings>

<https://medium.com/never-fear/the-grenfell-fire-that-continues-to-burn-7325ca87788c>

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/politics/cardiff-bay-flats-victoria-wharf-18935612>

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff South and Penarth
- South Wales Central



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE **Welsh Building Safety Fund- Building Passports, Expressions of Interest**

DATE **29 September 2021**

BY **Julie James, Minister for Climate Change**

Building safety is a priority for this Government. On the 14 July I announced the development of Phase 1 of the Welsh Building Safety Fund (WBSF). As part of that statement I committed the scheme would open this autumn. Today I am able to announce this essential phase for Responsible Persons of medium and high rise residential buildings in Wales to submit an Expressions of Interest will be open from tomorrow.

To design this first phase my officials established a Task and Finish group of key sector professionals and experts. To ensure the Building Remediation Passport proposal incorporated tenant/leaseholders' viewpoints the group included representation from the Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS). The Association of British Insurers and UK Finance were also represented on the group to ensure that issues in relation to insurances and mortgages were also covered. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all members of this group for their time and expertise.

While we have made progress on this highly complex issue by ensuring all identified buildings with ACM cladding have, or will soon be remediated at no additional costs to leaseholders and making £10.5m available last year to remediate affected buildings in the social sector we do not yet know exactly how many buildings are affected by fire safety defects, and to what extent. This critically important first phase will help us understand the true scale of the problem and what are the right solutions in order to properly address it.

This phased programme of support is the best way to ensure that we target remediation funding effectively to support leaseholders.

Developers still have a clear role to play in contributing to addressing safety defects where they exist in order to protect leaseholders from costs and this is a message I will reinforce with them at my roundtable meeting next week. While I have been pleased to see a number of developers setting aside funds for this I believe there is more that can, and should, be done by them.

Despite all my efforts I still haven't received confirmation from UK Government on the level and timing of any consequential funding Wales may receive as a result of announcements by the UK Government earlier this year. I will continue to call for this and will inform Members when I have more information. But I will not allow the UK Government's delay to hold us up.

Agenda Item 3.6

P-05-1073 Create and build a new branch of National Museum Wales dedicated to Welsh involvement in colonialism

This petition was submitted by Kieran Sawdon having collected a total of 103 signatures.

Text of Petition:

The BLM movement has highlighted some ugly truths about Wales' history that a massive amount of us never learned.

This has been because traditionally in Wales, the Empire is largely ignored as we choose to focus on the colonialist elements that we had to face ourselves. This does not wipe Wales' slate clean of any wrongdoing.

A new, dedicated museum run by National Museum Wales would provide us with a proper means to stimulate these difficult conversations and educate our future generations.

Additional Information:

As we begin to discuss what should happen to our relics of colonialism, such as the statue of Thomas Picton in Cardiff City Hall, an awful lot of people are stating that they should be kept "to educate", the problem is that's exactly the thing that they haven't done.

This facility would allow these tainted historical figures to be shown fully and give a platform to explain the atrocities they committed and how they benefited Wales through despicable methods.

It would be a win-win situation, we would have an avenue to properly educate our nation on the dark truths of Wales' history and we would also then be able to make room in our public sphere for BAME people who are far more worthy of Wales' respect such as Betty Campbell, Wales' first black headteacher. A character such as hers belongs in the company of St David and Owain Glyndŵr, not Thomas Picton.

In light of the pandemic, this would also offer a means to stimulate the economy with more jobs and a new tourist destination.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff Central
- South Wales Central

Agenda Item 3.7

P-05-1086 Create a National Museum for Welsh Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic History and Heritage

This petition was submitted by Yasmin Begum having collected a total of 490 signatures.

Text of Petition:

We, the undersigned, petition Senedd Cymru to create a museum to celebrate Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Welsh history.

As part of the national establishment, we hope that the rich heritage of Tiger Bay will be preserved and offer a home for the Tiger Bay Archive.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

Dawn Bowden AS/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau a Chwaraeon, a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1073
Ein cyf/Our ref DB/10414/21
Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

06 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for writing to me in relation to petitions P-05-1073 and P-05-1086.

You asked whether the Welsh Government would consider rehousing the Tiger Bay archive within a more accessible location for the public. The Heritage & Cultural Exchange (HCE) took ownership of the Tiger Bay collection (<https://www.tigerbay.org.uk/>), comprising local people's memories, documents and photographs, from the former Butetown History and Arts Centre when it closed in 2017.

The full Tiger Bay collection is currently housed at Glamorgan Archives on a temporary basis. It is being cared for by professional staff and stored in purpose built accommodation. HCE volunteers are able to access and work on the materials. We understand that discussions about a permanent home for the archive are ongoing. HCE remains the owner of the collection and therefore decisions about its future lie with HCE, but the temporary arrangements mean that the archive is safe and accessible in the short to medium-term.

You also asked about progress in relation to recognising and celebrating black history in Wales.

I am committed to ensuring that the histories of our Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities is an integral part of the story of Wales. Our sponsored bodies and local cultural sectors share my commitment to making this happen.

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales has previously provided detailed evidence to the Petitions Committee on progress following on from the Black Lives Matter movement. I am pleased to be able to confirm that the Museum has continued to maintain its momentum in this area.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

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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.

On Friday 1 October, I was at the launch of Black History Wales 2021-22 organised by Race Council Cymru, which included the official opening of the Windrush Cymru – Our Voice, Our Stories, Our History exhibition at St Fagans. The exhibition is the result of an oral histories project led by Race Council Cymru and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It shows how the Windrush Generation and their descendants have made their mark in all walks of Welsh life, and the contributions they made to our communities and culture. The exhibition will also be displayed at National Waterfront Museum and National Wool Museum, and a number of community venues across Wales. The People's Collection Wales programme and Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales were partners in this important project, and St Fagan's will now be the repository for the material collected as part of this project, adding these stories to the narrative of Welsh history.

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, the National Library of Wales, and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales are committed to diversifying their collections and are in the progress of reviewing and decolonising them. In summer 2021, the Museum published a charter on decolonising the national collections in its care.

On 5 October, Amgueddfa Cymru announced two new artist commissions who will work to reframe the legacy of Sir Thomas Picton. Picton had previously been hailed as a public hero, but is also notorious for his cruel treatment of Black people and for sanctioning torture during his governance of Trinidad. His portrait has been part of the Museum's collection since 1907.

The commissions, awarded to artists Gesiye and Laku Neg, are part of a wider project, *'Reframing Picton'*, which is a youth-led initiative involving Amgueddfa Cymru and community partner the Sub Sahara Advisory Panel. When complete, these new artworks will become part of Wales' national collection.

The Arts Council of Wales and Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales commissioned a series of 'widening access' reports from independent consultants earlier this year. I made a written statement on 6 September about the concerns raised in these reports. It is for the Arts Council of Wales and Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales to produce an action plan that addresses these concerns and to set out how they will widen engagement with people and communities they currently fail to engage. I know they are currently considering the recommendations from those reports and I expect them to publish that action plan as soon as possible.

The Arts Council of Wales has appointed an Agent for Change this year too, and recently launched a documentary *'Cynefin: Black, Asian and minority ethnic Wales'* – this builds on the Lead Creative Schools scheme. As part of the process, schools worked in collaboration with highly experienced creative practitioners from culturally and ethnically diverse backgrounds to plan, devise and implement creative learning projects which explored the development of Wales as a multicultural society.

I have this week agreed programme funding of £98,080 to support the local museum sector in Wales. This funding will establish a greater understanding of the collections held by museums across the country, and of the ethnically diverse histories they currently include. It will also enable us to clearly identify the gaps in representation, and support meaningful engagement with diverse communities to start addressing these gaps.

The Welsh Government's remit letters will be issued to our sponsored bodies shortly. These capture my expectations of our Culture and Sport sponsored bodies for the term of Government and include an ongoing focus on under-represented communities, and on delivering against the Welsh Government's Race Equality Action Plan.

This month has a particular focus on Black history of course. I am pleased to tell you that Race Council Cymru was awarded £40,000 by the Welsh Government this year to fund a full-time marketing and communications role and a part-time administration role to undertake activity to promote and celebrate Black History across the whole of the year.

There is always more to achieve, but I feel we are starting to see the results of a focus on recognising and celebrating black history in Wales. I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn Bowden'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D' and 'B'.

Dawn Bowden AS/MS

Dirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau a Chwaraeon, a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and Chief Whip

Agenda Item 3.8

P-05-1130 The Welsh Government should re-purchase and refurbish Coleg Harlech

This petition was submitted by Sian Ifan, having collected a total of 6,661 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Coleg Harlech is made up of a characteristic Admin and Theatre complex, a library, conference room, a number of lecture and computer rooms, a gym, a ten floor hall of residence, a dining hall and a clubhouse and sits in a majestic hill position adjacent to Harlech castle in Gwynedd. The college was established in 1927 as a college of further education for those from a working class background. It was sold to a private buyer in recent years, its furnishings stripped and is now up for sale again

Additional Information:

Coleg Harlech is an unique concept with an unique history set in an unique historical setting; it is a Cymric national treasure that is in the process of being dismantled and sold building by building to the highest bidder for development.

A post Covid-19 world is going to be a totally different world to the pre Covid-19 world we were familiar with. Economies will be destroyed – as we are already witnessing in progress, and nations and economies will need to be rebuilt. Common sense will dictate that all employable tools, in both human and constructional terms are going to be needed to rebuild nations and their economies. Coleg Harlech, if renovated to its former glory, has all the necessary requirements needed to train our unemployed in all the practical, technical and professional skills needed to re-build the structure and economy of our nation for the equal benefit and prosperity of all our people.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Swansea West
- South Wales West

P-05-1130 Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru ail-brynu ac adnewyddu Coleg Harlech, Gohebiaeth – Deisebwyr at y Pwyllgor, 13.10.21

13 Hydref 2021

Partheb y ddeiseb: Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru ail-brynu ac adnewyddu Coleg Harlech

Annwyl Aelodau o'r Pwyllgor Deisebau,

Fel y gwyddoch, trafodwyd y ddeiseb dan sylw yn nghyfarfod eich pwyllgor am y tro cyntaf ar 2 Mawrth eleni a chytunwyd yn y cyfarfod hwnnw ar y camau a ganlyn:

I ysgrifennu atom ni, y deisebwyr, i nodi'r amser cyfyngedig iawn oedd yn weddill yn nhymor presennol y Senedd a throsglwyddo'r ddeiseb i'r pwyllgor a fyddai'n olynu ar gyfer ei thrafod yn y Chweched Senedd.

Deallaf bod cyfarfod cyntaf Pwyllgor Deisebau y Chweched Senedd yn cymryd lle ar y 1 o Dachwedd ac y bydd y ddeiseb dan sylw ar agenda y cyfarfod.

Dwi ar ddeall bod y rhan mwyaf o Safle Coleg Harlech, sy'n cynnwys yr adeiladau cofrestriedig, Wern Fawr a Theatr Ardudwy, wedi eu prynu gan ddatblygwr erbyn hyn ac er mae'r rheswm dros drefnu'r ddeiseb yn y lle cyntaf oedd i ddarbwyllo'r Senedd i ail-brynu'r Coleg unigryw yma er mwyn sicrhau y byddai'n cael ei adnewyddu a'i ddefnyddio fel safle addysgiadol ar gyfer y Cymry, dwi'n hynod o falch i ddeall bod y perchennog newydd wedi cychwyn ar y gwaith o drwsio a thacluso'r safle fel modd o'i rhwytro rhag dirywio mwy yn ystod y gaeaf sydd ar y gorwel.

Ond, mae'n orfodol i fi fynegi fy mod yn hynod o siomedig fod Llywodraeth Cymru ddim wedi camu i'r fei i achub trysorau o adeiladau mor eiconic ynghyd a Choleg mor unigryw ac er bod yna waith chynnal a chadw yn cymryd lle ar y safle, dwi'n pryderu'n fawr am ddyfodol y safle gan fy mod ar ddeall bod cynllun ar y gweill i addasu Wern Fawr i fod yn fflatiau gwyliau moethus.

Fflatiau gwyliau moethus yw'r peth diwethaf mae Harlech ei angen a dwi'n gobeithio'n fawr na fydd arian cyhoeddus yn cael ei roi mewn grantiau i ddatblygu menter o'r fath mewn ardal sy'n crefu am adfywiad economaidd ac mewn adeiladau Coleg a ddylai fod yn cael eu defnyddio ar gyfer addysgu pob math o sgiliau, hên a newydd, ar gyfer Cymry sy'n byw mewn ardaloedd difreintiedig ac sydd ddim wedi cael cyfleoedd gwaith sy'n talu cyflogau teilwng am ddegawdau.

Felly, er bod Coleg Harlech wedi ei brynu erbyn hyn, mae'r ail rhan o'r alwad ar y ddeiseb yn gymwys o hyd, fel a ganlyn:

"Bydd y byd ar ôl Covid-19 yn hollol wahanol i'r byd cyn Covid-19 yr oeddem yn gyfarwydd ag ef. Bydd economïau'n cael eu dinistrio - rydym eisoes yn gweld hynny'n dechrau digwydd, a bydd angen ailadeiladu cenedloedd ac economïau. Mae synnwyr cyffredin yn dweud y bydd angen yr holl offer posibl, a hynny'n offer dynol ac offer adeiladu, er mwyn ailadeiladu cenedloedd a'u heconomïau. Os caiff Coleg Harlech ei adnewyddu i'w hen ogoniant, bydd ganddo'r holl ofynion angenrheidiol ar gyfer hyfforddi ein pobl ddi-waith i ddatblygu'r holl sgiliau ymarferol, technegol a phroffesiynol sydd eu hangen i ailadeiladu strwythur ac economi ein cenedl er budd a ffyniant cyfartal pawb".

Erfynnaf ar y Pwyllgor Deisebau i ystyried beth dylai fod yn flaenoriaeth ar gyfer defnydd o'r Coleg, ei adfer yn addas ar gyfer dyfodol economi Harlech a Chymru yn ei gyfanrwydd neu ei ddatblygu fel fflatiau gwyliau moethus? Cofiwch, mae arian o'r pwrs cyhoeddus fydd y rhan mwyaf o'r arian fydd yn cael ei ddefnyddio, beth bynnag fydd y dewis.

Yn gywir

Siân Ifan

Ar ran Grŵp Gweithredu i Achub Coleg Harlech a Theatr Ardudwy

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

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Agenda Item 3.9

P-05-1133 Adapt the teacher training syllabus to include Transformational Coaching and Emotional Intelligence

This petition was submitted by Tracey Jones, having collected a total of 193 signatures.

Text of Petition:

A survey has found that up to 33.6% of teachers have said they planned to leave the profession. Adding the proposed subjects to the syllabus will give teachers a new skill-set to support with current pressures & also enable our next generation of children to develop resilience & to better understand their emotions. Neuroscience is evolving & evidence points to a much needed change. This will firmly impact the mental health of our next generation of children & Educators.

Additional Information:

A lack of education towards our own internal systems & thought processes, is causing a rise in poor mental health. As times change, we must adapt. As an Ex Teacher, I understand the pressures that the system is under. Learning the strong skills of emotional intelligence, the soft skills of 'Language Alchemy' & transformational coaching will not only equip the teachers to manage the stressors of the role, but also support building mental fortitude. They can then pass these tools on to pupils, creating a new culture of self-awareness.

They will understand:

- * The impact of language on the body & the deep-rooted questioning techniques that will allow them to self-coach through pressures & also teach our children how to self-coach
- * Clearing negative language loops
- * Understanding the components of our habits
- * Reframe their internal dialogue: to become strategic with their thought patterns & release negative emotions
- * Coach others during pivotal moments & downward spirals: in a calm manner.

<https://senedd.wales/laid%20documents/cr-ld11338/cr-ld11338-e.pdf>

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Llanelli
- Mid and West Wales

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1133
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/11176/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

7 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 17 August in relation to petition P-05-1133: Adapt the teacher training syllabus to include Transformational Coaching and Emotional Intelligence.

The well-being of teachers is fundamental to a thriving school community and essential to retaining staff within the profession for the longer term. This is recognised in initial teacher education (ITE). The criteria for the accreditation of ITE programmes require ITE partnerships '*...to develop approaches to assist aspiring teachers to manage their own well-being, as well as their ability to contribute to the well-being of the pupils in their care*' (section 5.8: *Well-being*). The Welsh Government does not prescribe how partnerships should achieve this criterion but continues to support them to develop and evolve these approaches and will continue to listen to stakeholder opinion and recent research on this subject. The criteria can be viewed at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/criteria-for-the-accreditation-of-initial-teacher-education-programmes-in-wales.pdf>

Within the criteria there is also a requirement for programmes to provide student teachers with the opportunities to develop up-to-date theoretical knowledge and understanding as well as practical insight into how children and young people develop and learn. This should, inter alia, include:

- children's and young people's cognitive, social and emotional development
- how children and young people learn
- the factors that can promote or hinder effective learning including the impact of learners' backgrounds, identities, values and beliefs
- the need to provide for the holistic development of the learner
- the centrality of well-being to effective learning.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales

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.

To support this we have commissioned our partners in Universities to develop enrichment modules for ITE students and existing practitioners which address:

- Adverse childhood experiences
- Well-being – overview of resources
- Role of the Teaching Assistant in supporting learner well-being
- Modelling approaches to whole school and cluster level engagement with well-being
- Additional Learning Needs
- Accessing services and provision mapping
- Emotional and mental well-being
- Leadership for teacher well-being
- Behaviour
- Child development
- Neurodevelopment and pedagogy

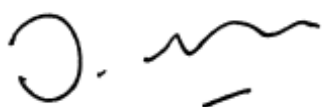
Some of these modules are available now, with others due to be available in the near future, via the Hwb website: <https://hwb.gov.wales/repository/discovery/resource/ea1e7463-6b97-4079-8c3d-ccaa7a446b7d/en?language=en&sort=created&strict=1>

In addition, The Welsh Government is addressing well-being concerns of both teachers and learners across Wales as part of a whole school approach to mitigate the effects of workload issues on staff, and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on both staff and learners. Through grant funding, we commissioned the services of Education Support (a charity organisation with expertise in providing mental health and well-being support across the education profession) via a bespoke package of support project for the whole of the academic year 2020/21.

This project included direct support for headteachers via online facilitated peer support groups and 1:1 counselling with BACP (British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy) trained counsellors, bespoke resources and information for school leaders on the Taking Care of Teachers Hub (<https://teachershub.educationsupport.org.uk/introduction>) and an e-learning module that provides a range of techniques to support personal and peer reflective practice within schools. In addition to this, there is a dedicated Wales well-being advisor who has worked with over 100 school leaders to support them in creating mentally healthy working environments for themselves and their staff. The focus of this work is to support school leaders in implementing practices, initiatives and support that will act as a catalyst for longer term culture change that prioritises staff mental health and wellbeing.

We have provided further funding to Education Support for this academic year 2021/22. They will continue to provide and build on the support they gave the education workforce across Wales during the last academic year.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language