

## Agenda – Petitions Committee

---

Meeting Venue: HYBRID

For further information contact:

Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Gareth Price – Committee Clerk

Meeting date: 13 June 2022

0300 200 6565

Meeting time: 14.00

[Petitions@senedd.wales](mailto:Petitions@senedd.wales)

---

- 1 **Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest (14:00) (Pages 1 – 25)**
- 2 **Evidence session – P-06-1161 Routine collection and publication of data of how many babies/children return to their care experienced parents care at the end of a Parent and Child Placement (14.00 – 14.30) (Pages 26 – 35)**

**Julie Morgan MS, Deputy Minister for Social Services**

**Alistair Davey – Deputy Director, Enabling People, Welsh Government**

### 3 **New Petitions (14.30 – 14.50)**

- 3.1 P-06-1271 Acquire the land from Network Rail on which ATR884 runs as a permissive path and arrange maintenance  
(Pages 36 – 40)
- 3.2 P-06-1272 Ban the use of 'no pet clauses' in tenancy agreements in Wales  
(Pages 41 – 48)
- 3.3 P-06-1276 Extend section 25B of the Nurse Staffing Levels Act (Wales) 2016  
(Pages 49 – 62)
- 3.4 P-06-1278 Introduce parenting lessons and basic life skills for High School pupils  
(Pages 63 – 72)



3.5 P-06-1279 End inconsistency in Covid guidance. Let schools have the same flexibility as cinemas or stadiums

(Pages 73 – 74)

3.6 P-06-1280 Cancel AS and A Level exams within Wales for the summer of 2022

(Pages 75 – 81)

### **Short break (14.50 – 15.00)**

## **4 Evidence session – P-06-1253 Ban greyhound racing in Wales (15.00 – 15.40)**

Lord (David) Lipsey, Chair of Premier Greyhound Racing

Malcolm Tams, The Valley Greyhound Stadium

Mark Bird, Greyhound Board of Great Britain

Professor Madeleine Campbell, Independent Board member of the Greyhound Board of Great Britain

## **5 Updates to previous petitions (15.40 – 16.00)**

5.1 P-05-1112 Help Welsh Communities Buy Community Assets: Implement Part 5 Chapter 3 of the Localism Act 2011

(Pages 82 – 85)

5.2 P-06-1163 Extend the postgraduate STEMM bursary to all MSc students in Wales

(Pages 86 – 87)

- 5.3 P-06-1184 Immediately ban the use of toxic lead in all ammunition in Wales... lead is killing our wildlife!  
(Pages 88 – 89)
- 5.4 P-06-1212 Mark Allen's Law – we want throwline stations around all open water sites in Wales  
(Page 90)
- 5.5 P-06-1228 Give secondary teachers a bonus for marking and standardizing summer 2021 official assessments  
(Pages 91 – 102)
- 5.6 P-06-1235 Ensure appropriate provision of services and support for people with Acquired Brain Injury in Wales  
(Pages 103 – 117)
- 5.7 P-06-1241 Welsh government to meet with a wider audience of unpaid carers  
(Pages 118 – 121)
- 5.8 P-06-1248 Change Standing Orders and admissibility criteria for petitions  
(Pages 122 – 126)

### **Paper to note**

- 6 P-06-1181 Sea bottom trawling is killing our marine wildlife...Stop bulldozing our seas!  
(Pages 127 – 128)
- 7 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of this meeting (16.00)

- 8 Discussion of evidence – P-06-1161 Routine collection and publication of data of how many babies/children return to their care experienced parents care at the end of a Parent and Child Placement (16.00 – 16.05)**
  
- 9 Discussion of evidence – P-06-1253 Ban greyhound racing in Wales (16.05 – 16.10)**

Document is Restricted

# Agenda Item 2

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

Document is Restricted

## Acquire the land from Network Rail on which the ATR884 runs as a permissive path and arrange maintenance

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 13 Mehefin 2022  
Petitions Committee | 13 June 2022

Reference: SR22/2716

Petition Number: P-06-1271

Petition title: Acquire the land from Network Rail on which the ATR884 runs as a permissive path and arrange maintenance

Text of petition: Locally known as the Garw Valley Community Route this path has not been maintained for the last 8 years. It is a vital link out of a cul de sac valley and representations to the Local Authority and other bodies remain undetermined. There is a Single A Road out of the valley and the Community Route is the only other form of access and egress.

### 1. Background

The ATR884 route forms part of the National Cycle Network (NCN) and was originally opened to form an active travel link between Blaengarw in the Garw Valley and Bryngarw near Brynmenyn.

In a 2018 press release Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) states that until 2014, Groundwork Bridgend maintained the route before going into



administration. The lease for the land subsequently passed to the Garw Valley Heritage Railway Society who began seeking potential partners to help look after and maintain the route.

At that time, the press release states that local and national organisations including BCBC, Natural Resources Wales, Sustrans, Keep Wales Tidy, Network Rail (NR), Groundwork Wales and the Garw Valley Heritage Railway Society had agreed to work together with residents of the Garw Valley to ensure the route remained open and suitable for use.

BCBC has confirmed to Senedd Research that it has long considered the 884 route as part of its active travel network and throughout that time has been working consistently with Sustrans to regularise investment in the route and maintain it. Currently, BCBC is negotiating with NR to secure the land on a long term lease for active travel purposes. A long term lease will afford BCBC the certainty of tenure and enable it to continually upgrade and maintain it at public expense.

BCBC's negotiations with NR are being handled by its legal department which is advising about the liabilities and responsibilities that a long term lease would entail.

## 2. Welsh Government action

Correspondence from the Welsh Government highlights how the route is shown as an existing active travel route on Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) draft active travel network map. It notes also that the accompanying statement highlights several issues with the route. The Minister for Climate Change has indicated that as the originator's main concern appears to be the maintenance of the route, Welsh Government officials have been tasked with discussing the maintenance arrangements and any plans for improvements with BCBC.

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**

Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/00696/22

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

18 May 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 23 March regarding *Petition P-06-1271: Acquire the land from Network Rail on which ATR884 runs as a permissive path and arrange maintenance.*

This route in the Garw Valley is shown as an existing active travel route on Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) draft active travel network map. The accompanying statement highlights several issues with the route. As the originator's main concern appears to be the maintenance of the route, I have asked my officials to contact BCBC to understand and discuss the maintenance arrangements and plans for improvements on this route.

Yours sincerely,



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

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales](mailto:Correspondence.Julie.James@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.

**P-06-1271 Acquire the land from Network Rail on which ATR884 runs as a permissive path and arrange maintenance – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 26 May 2022**

Thank you for your email. I would like to emphasise that, although as stated above this route is shown as an existing active travel route, the land on which it sits is owned by Network Rail. Network Rail have no interest in maintaining the path and the ideal answer would be for BCBC to take it over and run in conjunction with Sustrans as other paths such as the Ogmere ATR are. BCBC appear to have little interest in taking over this route due to the amount of bridges which would require ongoing maintenance.

As a matter of interest during 2014 i sent a 1200 signature petition to Cllr. P. White asking for BCBC to consider taking the route over, but apparently this never even saw the light of day!

# Petition: Ban the use of 'no pet clauses' in tenancy agreements in Wales

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 13 Mehefin 2022  
Petitions Committee | 13 June 2022

Reference: SR22/2716-3

**Petition Number:** P-06-1272

**Petition title:** Ban the use of 'no pet clauses' in tenancy agreements in Wales.

**Text of petition:** The number of people privately renting is increasing year-on-year - currently many are prohibited from keeping pets because of clauses in their tenancy agreements. The benefits of pet ownership should not be exclusive to homeowners. Those who rent should be equally as entitled to keep a pet as those who own.

**More details:** According to the Dog's Trust, the single biggest reason for dogs being handed in to rehoming centres is because of a change of circumstances, such as being unable to live in a rented property with a pet. These clauses also stop large numbers of people coming forward to rehome pets; effectively prohibited from doing so by being a tenant. This means both tenants and pets suffer.

In January 2021 the UK Government introduced a new Model Tenancy Agreement which prohibited landlords from issuing blanket 'no pet' bans. Consent for pets is now the default position. In Wales, there is no such reference and therefore Welsh tenants are less likely to be able to keep a pet than their UK counterparts.



## 1. Background

The Welsh Government intends to fully commence the *Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016* (the 2016 Act) on 15 July 2022. From that date, most new and existing residential tenants and licencees will become **contract-holders** under the terms of **occupation contracts**. The terms of an occupation contract will include key matters; fundamental terms, supplementary terms and any **additional terms** agreed by the landlord and contract-holder(s). Additional terms will be able to address issues **such as the keeping of pets**. Contract-holders must be provided with a **written statement** of the terms of their occupation contract.

In January 2021 the [model tenancy agreement](#) for assured shorthold tenancies in England was revised “to encourage landlords to offer greater flexibility in their approach to pet ownership, and enable responsible pet owning tenants to find private landlords who will accept them.” The UK Government’s [website](#) notes that use of the Model Tenancy Agreement is “entirely voluntary.”

## 2. Welsh Government action

In her letter dated 18 April 2022 to the Chair of Petitions Committee, the Minister for Climate Change notes that the RSPCA’s [Best Practice guidance for pets in private rented property](#) and [Homes for All Regulation of private rented housing & pets good practice guide](#) have been shared with private landlords and agents through Rent Smart Wales. The Minister also refers to Welsh Government guidance on this issue which is provided in a list of [frequently asked questions](#) relating to the implementation of the 2016 Act. That guidance notes that:

As elsewhere in the UK, we have not legislated to create a statutory right to keep a pet, landlords and contract-holders are able to agree additional terms covering the keeping of pets. The explanatory information that must be included in written statements of contracts makes it clear that all additional terms must comply with the Consumer Rights Act 2015 regarding fairness. Any pet clause as an additional term in the contract should allow a contract-holder to ask for permission to keep a pet, and the landlord would not be allowed to unreasonably refuse the request.

### 3. Welsh Parliament action

Janet Finch-Saunders MS has raised this issue in the Senedd twice recently. On 2 March 2022, she asked the Minister for Climate Change “What consideration has the Minister given to the introduction of a pets policy in Wales to make it easier for tenants with pets to find rented accommodation?” The Minister replied:

I am fully supportive of the RSPCA’s Best Practice guidance for pets in private rented property, and we have shared this, along with their Homes for All guide, with private landlords and agents through Rent Smart Wales. However, there are currently no plans for the Welsh Government to legislate regarding the keeping of pets in rental properties.

On 3 March 2022, Janet Finch-Saunders MS asked the Minister for Climate Change “What discussions has the Minister had regarding the introduction of a model tenancy agreement which would allow pets as a default in tenancy agreements unless there is a justifiable reason not to?” In her response, the Minister noted that **model written statements** bring together the fundamental terms set out in the 2016 Act and supplementary terms set out in secondary legislation and these had been “subject to extensive consultation and consideration with stakeholders.” Those terms do not provide a statutory right to keep a pet. However, the Minister again noted that “landlords and contract-holders are able to agree **additional terms** covering the keeping of pets.”

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 JJ/00695/22

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

18 May 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 23 March in respect of Petition P-06-1272 Ban the use of 'no pet clauses' in tenancy agreements in Wales.

The position in Wales and England is actually not as different as suggested in the petition - there is currently no statutory right, in Wales or elsewhere in the UK for that matter, for a tenant to keep a pet.

Whilst the model tenancy agreement available on the UK Government's website for use in England includes a pets clause, it does not prevent landlords from reasonably refusing pets. Indeed, whilst the Consumer Rights Act 2015 indicates that a "no pet" clause in a tenancy agreement should allow tenants to ask *for permission to keep pets*, this does not equate to them having a right to do so. A landlord however, is not allowed to unreasonably refuse any such request.

The position in England cited by the petitioner is similar to that set out in [guidance](#) on our website in relation to the implementation of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 which states '*Any pet clause as an additional term in the contract should allow a contract-holder to ask for permission to keep a pet, and the landlord would not be allowed to unreasonably refuse the request*'.

While landlords may have valid reasons for not allowing pets, there are often compromises which can be reached, such as having a clause in the contract which requires that the tenant pays for a professional cleaner at the end of a tenancy. Some landlords and agents may request a slightly higher tenancy deposit to allow a pet in the property, to cover any potential damage.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales](mailto:Correspondence.Julie.James@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.

I am fully supportive of the RSPCA's Best Practice guidance for pets in private rented property, and we have shared this, along with the Homes for All guide, with private landlords and agents through Rent Smart Wales:

[https://www.rentsmart.gov.wales/Uploads/Downloads/00/00/00/83/DownloadFileEN\\_FILE/RSPCA-Homes-for-All-Report-English.pdf](https://www.rentsmart.gov.wales/Uploads/Downloads/00/00/00/83/DownloadFileEN_FILE/RSPCA-Homes-for-All-Report-English.pdf)

[https://www.rentsmart.gov.wales/Uploads/Downloads/00/00/00/84/DownloadFileEN\\_FILE/RSPCA-Cymru-Pets-Policy-for-Private-Landlords-2.pdf](https://www.rentsmart.gov.wales/Uploads/Downloads/00/00/00/84/DownloadFileEN_FILE/RSPCA-Cymru-Pets-Policy-for-Private-Landlords-2.pdf)

Yours sincerely,



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

**Petition P-06-1272 – Ban the use of ‘no pet clauses’ in tenancy agreements in Wales**

**Response from petitioner, Sam Swash, to Minister for Climate Change’s letter to Jack Sargeant MS, Chair of the Petitions Committee**

Dear Petitions Committee,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to the letter from Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change.

**Summary**

The response from the Minister completely fails to engage with the substantive demand of the petition, which is to **ban** the use of no pet clauses in Welsh tenancy agreements.

Instead, the letter concentrates almost entirely on comparing the Welsh position on no pet clauses to that of the UK. The position of the UK Government on no pet clauses is itself incredibly weak and open to abuse by private landlords. The petitioner used such a comparison in order to demonstrate the inherent lack of progressive intent from the Welsh Government on this issue in that they currently offer fewer protections to tenants with pets than the government of Boris Johnson does. The vast majority of the letter from the Minister is simply a comparison exercise – the petitioner would argue that comparing yourself to a reactionary Tory government on tenants’ rights is to hold yourselves to incredibly low standards.

The reluctance of the Minister to take even the smallest further step towards addressing this problem is incomprehensible. The petition is not proposing some kind of Maoist reform of the private rented sector, it merely asks for what is, in the scale of things, a miniscule reform of regulations that could be effected by the Minister through secondary legislation in an instant.

It is incredibly disappointing to receive such a dismissive response which reflects a reluctance on the behalf of the Welsh Government to stand up for the people of Wales against the private landlord class.

Complacency about the need to respond substantively to the people of Wales where the interests of landlords are at stake runs deep within the Welsh Government, but Welsh Labour would do well to look at their colleagues in Scotland to glimpse how that ends. A comparison would be the complacency of mine owners who thought that workers would simply accept atrocious pay, dreadful working conditions and frequent injury or death, without fight. The workers organised, and neither the police nor Churchill’s troops could stem the tide of worker’s rights.

Tenants across Wales and the UK are beginning to organise. The Welsh Government has a choice. It can continue to protect the vested interests of private landlords. Or, it can represent the interests of the vast majority of the Welsh public who are not private landlords; many of whom suffer on a daily basis in the face of unscrupulous behaviour from those aforementioned landlords.

Perhaps the Minister could take some guidance from Welshman Lloyd George on this after he had to push through the Rent Act 1915 following Mary Barbour’s Govan rent strike and threatening a stoppage of war work.

These examples are not merely one-offs from the past – there is only so long that the Welsh Government can hide behind the veneer of progressive politics whilst manning the barricades of massive wealth and housing inequality.

According to Shelter Cymru, 34% of private rented accommodation in Wales fails to meet standards on ‘decent living conditions’. Given that more than a third of private landlords don’t even keep the homes they rent out to acceptable living standards, defending landlords on the basis of *potential* damage to the property is obtuse.

Very few private tenants who own pets cause damage to rented properties. At the same time, the single biggest reason for dogs being handed into rehoming centres is because of a change of circumstances, such as being unable to live in a rented property with a pet.

Huge numbers of tenants and pets suffer because of these clauses every day and yet the priority of the Welsh Government appears to be to protect the small number of people who are coining it in by hoarding property.

Failure to take the actual contents of this petition seriously and change legislation accordingly will simply reiterate to the Welsh public that they have a government which is completely in thrall to private landlords.

As the party of working people with a history closely linked to tenants’ struggles, it should be the bare minimum to expect the Labour Party to defend the rights of tenants against sustained attacks from private landlords.

### **Further Details**

- Although the Consumer Act 2015 is supposed to prevent landlords from unreasonably refusing tenants’ requests to keep pets, there are no guarantees that this is enforced correctly, which is clear to see from the low number of pet-friendly properties that are available in Wales versus the high number of adverts for rental properties that clearly state ‘no pets’. Neither can the average tenant be expected to know the terms of the Consumer Act 2015, which means that they may not be aware of how it applies to their situation. According to RSPCA research, a lack of readily available support and guidance for renters with pets means that many tenants are not aware of their rights. More support is needed in this respect.
- Whilst the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 states that an ‘additional term’ can be included in tenancy agreements, allowing tenants and landlords to negotiate whether it is reasonable for the tenant to keep a pet at the property, we are unsure whether the Act will contain any guidance as to what would be deemed ‘reasonable’ or whether it refers to any form of dispute resolution if the landlord and tenant cannot or do not agree. We’re also unsure how the Renting Homes Act addresses the fact that many adverts for rental properties explicitly state ‘no pets’, before any conversations as to whether a prospective tenant having a pet would be ‘reasonable’ can take place.

# P-06-1276 Extend section 25B of the Nurse Staffing Levels Act (Wales) 2016

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 13 Mehefin 2022  
Petitions Committee | 13 June 2022

Reference: SR22/2716

Petition Number: P-06-1276

Petition title: Extend section 25B of the Nurse Staffing Levels Act (Wales) 2016

Text of petition:

Nurses across Wales are short of 1,719 highly-skilled, life-saving staff members. This means nursing staff give NHS Wales 34,284 extra hours every single week – and it still isn't enough. Research shows that where there are fewer nurses, patients are 26% more likely to die overall rising to 29% following complicated hospital stays. The Welsh Government should extend Section 25B of the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016 to give the Welsh public the full team of nurses they desperately need.

Section 25B of the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016 requires health boards and NHS trusts in Wales to take all reasonable steps to maintain a specified nurse staffing level. The nurse staffing level is the number and skill mix of nurses required to provide sensitive patient care. In addition, health boards and trusts are required to inform the public of the levels of nursing staff on any ward covered by Section 25B.

When the law was first passed, Section 25B only applied to acute adult medical and surgical wards. On 1 October 2021, it was extended to children's wards. We want it to apply in all settings where nursing care is provided, starting with community nursing and mental health inpatient wards.



---

# 1. Background

In 2016, Wales passed the [Nurse Staffing Levels \(Wales\) Act](#). The Act initially required health boards in Wales to calculate and maintain appropriate nurse staffing levels in adult acute hospital wards. Throughout the development and passage of the legislation, there was a clear intention to extend this to other healthcare settings in the future.

The Act inserted a number of new sections into the [NHS \(Wales\) Act 2006](#) (the key duties are often referred to by these section numbers):

- 25A An overarching duty on local health boards and NHS trusts to have regard to the importance of providing sufficient nurses in all settings. This also applies where health boards are commissioning services from a third party. This duty came into force in April 2017.
- 25B A duty to calculate and maintain nurse staffing levels in specified settings (the ‘nurse staffing level’ is defined as “the number of nurses appropriate to provide care to patients that meets all reasonable requirements in that situation”). For adult acute medical and surgical wards, this came into force in April 2018. From October 2021, it has also applied to paediatric inpatient wards. This section also makes provision for extending the duty to further settings.
- 25C Sets out the method of calculation for nurse staffing levels.
- 25D Requires the Welsh Government to issue statutory guidance to health boards/trusts about their duties under 25B and 25C.
- 25E Health boards (and trusts where applicable) are required to report to Welsh Government on their compliance with section 25B after a three year period. The Welsh Government must subsequently publish a summary report. The first of these summary reports, for the period April 2018-April 2021, was [published](#) in December 2021.

The petition is particularly concerned with section 25B - the duty to calculate and maintain nurse staffing levels in specified settings. Section 25C is important here, as this sets out the required approach to calculating the nurse staffing level.

One of the key elements of the ‘triangulated’ approach described in 25C is the use of an evidence-based workforce planning tool to generate an estimated appropriate ratio of nurses to patients. The other elements are use of professional judgment, and nurse-sensitive indicators (such as falls resulting in harm, pressure sores, and medication administration errors).

## Extending the Act

At the start of the Fifth Senedd, the Welsh Government made a **commitment** to “more nurses in more settings, through an extended nurse staffing levels law”.

The **All Wales Nurse Staffing Programme** has five workstreams:

- **adult acute medical and surgical inpatient** - the duty to calculate/maintain nurse staffing levels has applied to adult acute wards since April 2018;
- **paediatric inpatient** - the duty to calculate/maintain nurse staffing levels applied to paediatric wards from October 2021;
- **mental health inpatient** - work ongoing;
- **health visiting** - work ongoing; and
- **district nursing** - work ongoing.

The Fifth Senedd Health Committee’s 2019 **inquiry into community nursing** called on the Welsh Government to publish a strategy for extending the Act to all settings. The Welsh Government **rejected this**, saying:

There are significant and numerous fundamental differences to the various settings in which nurses provide care in Wales. (...). It is far too early to begin to understand the level of complexity around that variability across all settings, a substantial piece of mapping work will need to be undertaken by the All Wales Nurse Staffing Programme before a national strategy could be contemplated. The Programme Manager has begun the early stages of that work.

In May 2022, **RCN Wales published** its own report on implementation of the legislation. This found that:

- The Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016 has improved patient care and increased the number of nursing staff on wards covered by Section 25B.
- Patient acuity has increased, meaning Wales needs more registered nurses and health care support workers to care for patients.
- All health boards were prepared for the extension of Section 25B of the Nurse Staffing Levels Act to paediatric inpatient wards on 1 October 2021.
- The biggest challenge is that there are far more nurses leaving the NHS than can be matched by newly qualified nurses or internationally recruited nurses.

---

## Capacity of the nursing workforce

During scrutiny of the Bill, the lack of existing workforce capacity was overwhelmingly cited as the most significant barrier to the legislation's implementation.

In 2017, the then Health Minister wrote "It is well known that the Act is being implemented at a time of global shortage in nurse staff". He explained that the *Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act* was designed with a long lead-in time to enable Health Boards to prepare for the workforce planning implications, and highlighted work being done to address nurse recruitment challenges, and how the Welsh Government was investing in nurse education and training.

In September 2020, the then Health Minister noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed significant additional pressures on the nursing workforce, and has also had an impact on the programme of work to extend the Nurse Staffing Levels Act.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC's) most recent annual data report (published in May 2022) shows there's been an increase in numbers of nurses, midwives and nursing associates joining the NMC register, but that there's also been an increase in people leaving. The main reasons given for leaving included too much pressure, poor workplace culture, and the COVID-19 pandemic

## 2. Welsh Government response

In the Welsh Government's letter to the Petitions Committee, the Minister for Health and Social Services describes the premise of the petition title as "flawed" and "lacking in important legislative context".

the Act clearly states that an evidence-based workforce planning tool is a necessary component for applying section 25B to any particular care situation.

The statutory guidance further defines such a tool as one having been tested in Welsh clinical settings to develop an evidence-base as to its applicability. Being grounded in evidence is what has given the Act its credibility and reinforces the nurse's voice from ward to board. Any call to apply section 25B of the Act across all clinical settings neglects that fundamental tenet of the legislation.

She says that developing the required workforce planning tool for paediatric wards was a matter of building on the work already undertaken for adult wards “given the relative analogous nature” of these settings.

However, other settings – for example mental health inpatients or community nursing – are significantly different, with their own particular multi-professional complexities (not least the multi-disciplinary nature of care in those settings) to work through in developing their own evidence-based workforce planning tools.

The Minister also highlights a global shortage of nursing staff. She says that there are significant nursing vacancies in health boards and care settings across Wales, and that extending section 25B of the *Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act* would not directly address this issue.

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-06-1276  
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/01553/22

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

11 May 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 6 April regarding petition P-06-1276 *Extend section 25B of the Nurse Staffing Levels Act (Wales) 2016*.

I should make clear at the outset, I am afraid I believe that the premise of the petition title is flawed and lacking in important legislative context.

Firstly, the Act clearly states that an evidence-based workforce planning tool is a necessary component for applying section 25B to any particular care situation.

The statutory guidance further defines such a tool as one having been tested in Welsh clinical settings to develop an evidence-base as to its applicability. Being grounded in evidence is what has given the Act its credibility and reinforces the nurse's voice from ward to board. Any call to apply section 25B of the Act across all clinical settings neglects that fundamental tenet of the legislation, and I cannot commit this government to unrealistic legislative targets within this or any other government term.

Given the relative analogous nature of paediatric inpatients and adult medical and surgical wards, development of a Welsh Levels of Care tool for paediatric inpatients was a matter of building on the work that had come before in the adult setting and making minor adjustments before iterative testing over a 2-year period. This is what made it possible to apply section 25B of the Act to paediatrics through the *Nurse Staffing Levels (Extension of Situations) (Wales) Regulations 2021*.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

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

[Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales](mailto: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.

However, other settings – for example mental health inpatients or community nursing - are significantly different, with their own particular multi-professional complexities (not least the multi-disciplinary nature of care in those settings) to work through in developing their own evidence-based workforce planning tools.

Secondly, even if such tools were available for every nursing situation, it is disingenuous for the petition text to suggest that extending section 25B to all of those areas would result in giving Wales “*the full team of nurses*”.

Nursing staff shortage is an issue being experienced globally. The World Health Organisation has estimated that nursing and midwifery vacancies currently represent more than 50% of the global shortage of health workers. We know that there are significant nursing vacancies in our health boards and across care sectors and settings already, and this is not an issue that would be directly addressed by any extensions of section 25B of the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016.

What the signatories of the petition appear to be declaring is their desire to see the right number of nurses and health care staff in the system to meet the care needs of their patients. That is also my desire, but a government commitment to an undeliverable legislative promise will not achieve that. What *will* help to achieve that is: good workforce planning and modelling; effective recruitment and retention strategies, including international recruitment; and standardised programmes of clinical supervision and preceptorship for our nursing and midwifery staff. These are all work areas that I see as crucially important and are all currently being developed and pursued either by Health Education Improvement Wales or by the office of the Chief Nursing Officer.

Yours sincerely,



**Eluned Morgan AS/MS**

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

6 June 2022

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair of the Senedd Petitions Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

**Royal College of Nursing**  
Ty Maeth  
King George V Drive East  
Cardiff  
CF14 4XZ

**Helen Whyley, RN, MA**  
Director, RCN Wales

Telephone 02920 680703  
Email [helen.whyley@rcn.org.uk](mailto:helen.whyley@rcn.org.uk)

Dear Chair

I am writing to you as Chair of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Wales Board and as the petitioner seeking to extend Section 25B of the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016 to community and mental health inpatient wards.

Thank you for your email enclosing the response from the Minister of Health and Social Services responding to the petition. I agree with the Minister that 'good workforce planning and modelling; effective recruitment and retention strategies including international recruitment, and standardised programmes of clinical supervision and preceptorships' are important. However, the extension of Section 25B of the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016 must be acknowledged as a driver of standards, workforce sustainability and improved patient safety alongside those the Minister mentioned.

I do not believe the Minister's letter addresses the concerns of the signatories, nor does it explore the importance of Section 25B of the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016 to patient safety, the ongoing work of Health Education and Improvement Wales' (HEIW) All Wales Nurse Staffing Programme or the evidence of the positive change Section 25B has stimulated since its implementation.

Continued ....

**Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol y Deyrnas Gyfunol/Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom**  
20 Cavendish Square  
Lundain/London W1G 0RN  
Ffôn/Telephone  
+44 (0) 20 7409 3333  
RCN Direct 0345 772 6100  
[rcn.org.uk](http://rcn.org.uk)

**Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol Cymru Swyddfa Gogledd Cymru/Royal College of Nursing Wales**  
Ty Maeth, Rhodfa Ddwyreiniol/  
Brenin George V/  
King George V Drive East  
Caerdydd/Cardiff  
CF14 4XZ

**Noddwr/Patron**  
Her Majesty the Queen

**Llywydd/President**  
Dr Denise Chaffer

**Ysgrifennydd Cyffredinol Dros Dro a Prif Weithredwr/  
Acting General Secretary &  
Chief Executive**  
Pat Cullen

**Cyfarwyddwr, RCN Cymru/  
Director, RCN Wales**  
Helen Whyley

Mae'r Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol yn Goleg Brenhinol a sefydlwyd drwy Siarter Frenhinol ac Undeb Llafur Cofestr Arbennig a sefydlwyd a dan Ddeddf Undebau Llafur (Cydgrynhoi) 1992.

The RCN is a Royal College set up by Royal Charter and a Special Register Trade Union established under the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.



**BUDDSODDWYR | INVESTORS**  
**MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE**

The petition to extend Section 25B of the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016 received the support of 10,572 people. I am now requesting that the Petition Committee ask for a parliamentary debate in the Senedd Chamber. A parliamentary debate would offer an opportunity to highlight the value of patient safety and make sure the public's concerns are heard.

I believe it is time for a parliamentary debate for the following reasons:

- **It is a matter of public interest**

With over 10,000 signatories the public are strongly invested in the petition and deserve to know the Senedd recognise its importance as well. This should happen through a parliamentary debate.

As users of the health service, it is in the interest of the public to ensure the NHS has sufficient nurse staffing levels with the correct skill mix to care for patients. Extending Section 25B could save the life of someone's mother, father, daughter, son, friend. Research has shown that where there are fewer nurses, patients are 26% more likely to die and this rises to 29% following complicated hospital stays.<sup>1</sup>

A parliamentary debate would allow Members of the Senedd (MS) to discuss a topic that is so close to the hearts of their constituents and provide the public with the reassurance they are being listened to on a matter they feel so strongly about.

- **NHS Wales is the single largest employer in Wales**

The NHS is the largest employer in Wales and currently employs almost 89,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) posts. Nursing is the single largest professional group within the NHS, representing 40% of the total workforce. 91% of this workforce is female.<sup>2</sup>

The predominately female nursing workforce contributes significantly to the Welsh economy. In 2021 our members in Wales responded to an RCN survey revealing that 58.3% of them earned half or all of their household income.

A parliamentary debate would demonstrate the Welsh parliament's commitment to equality, improving standards in the workplace and partnership working.

Continued ....

---

<sup>1</sup> Rafferty et al 2006 *Outcomes of variation in hospital nurse staffing in English hospitals: cross-sectional analysis survey data and discharge records*. Available at: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17064706/>, accessed 18 May 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Health Education and Improvement Wales 2021 *NHS workforce trends (as at 31 March 2021)*. Available at: <https://heiw.nhs.wales/files/nhs-wales-workforce-trends-as-at-31-march-2021/>, accessed 31 May 2022.

- **It is an opportunity for the Welsh Government to update on current work and barriers to extending Section 25B**

A parliamentary debate would provide the Welsh Government the opportunity to showcase the pioneering legislation. A debate would also allow the Senedd to discuss any barriers, constraints, and solutions.

I support the Minister's statement that 'being grounded in evidence is what has given the Act its credibility and reinforces the nurse's voice from ward to board'. I'd therefore like to draw your attention to the work of HEIW's All Wales Nurse Staffing Programme whose primary purpose, as stipulated on HEIW's website, is to develop evidence-based workforce planning tools and 'support health boards in preparing for the second duty of the Act [Section 25B]'.<sup>3</sup>

When the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act was unanimously passed in March 2016 the All Wales Nurse Staffing Programme was strengthened to develop the evidence base and tools needed for Section 25B. Five workstreams were established; adult acute medical & surgical (inpatient); paediatric (inpatient); district nursing, health visiting and mental health (inpatient). The work of the adult acute medical & surgical and paediatrics (inpatient) workstreams have been instrumental in providing the evidence-based workforce planning tools needed for the implementation of Section 25B.

The district nursing, health visiting and mental health workstreams have also been working tirelessly to gather the necessary evidence to extend Section 25B. In 2017, the Chief Nursing Officer introduced the workstream's interim principles for district nursing. The principles were implemented to 'support health boards in readiness for feasibility for any potential extension of the law in the future'<sup>4</sup>. Interim principles have also been developed for health visiting and mental health.

With such excellent progress and the ongoing development of the evidence-based workforce planning tools it can be challenging for the nursing workforce and the public to understand why a timescale has not been established to extend Section 25B to the areas currently being explored.

A debate would allow the Welsh Government an opportunity to outline a timescale for the extension and highlight any barriers and constraints they are currently facing. This would allow the public to have a better understanding of why an extension of Section 25B has not yet been possible.

Continued ....

---

<sup>3</sup> Health Education and Improvement Wales, *All Wales Nurse Staffing Programme*. Available at: <https://heiw.nhs.wales/programmes/all-wales-nurse-staffing-programme/>, accessed 31 May 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Chief Nursing Officer 2017 *Interim District Nurse Guiding Staffing Principles*. Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-03/interim-district-nurse-guiding-staffing-principles.pdf>, accessed 6 June 2022.

- **The Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016 protects patients**

Wales was the first country in Europe to protect patient care by placing nurse staffing levels into legislation. This was a ground-breaking achievement for the Welsh Parliament, the Welsh Government and all political parties in Wales. By introducing the legislation, attention has been drawn to nursing, changed the behaviour of health boards, and made patients safer. Scotland has since followed Wales' example with the introduction of the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019.

Successive Welsh Governments have supported the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016. The 2011-2016 Government implemented the Act and the 2016-2021 Government extended Section 25B. The previous Welsh Government made a commitment to have 'more nurses, in more settings, through an extended nurse staffing levels law.'<sup>5</sup> It was recognised in 2016 that for the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act to be successful there needed to be an increase in the number of nursing students educated in Wales. Between 2016 and 2021 student nursing places increased by 55.2%.<sup>6</sup> The Welsh Government consistently invested in nursing education with places rising from 1,418 in 2016 to 2,202 in 2021. The biggest increase in student nursing places occurred in 2016 because of workforce planning for the implementation of the Act.

Since the implementation of the Act, under Section 25A health boards and trusts must regard to the importance of 'providing sufficient nurses to allow the nurses time to care for patients sensitively' in all areas where care is provider and commissioned. Health Boards and Trusts must do this by undertaking workforce planning (including planning the recruitment, retention, education and training of nurses).<sup>7</sup> The very nature of Section 25A promotes workforce planning and has been significant in supporting understanding the current nursing workforce in Wales and what is needed to support Section 25B.

The Royal College of Nursing Wales has published two reports, 2019<sup>8</sup> and 2022<sup>9</sup> looking at the impact of the legislation and has found tremendous achievements.

Continued ....

---

<sup>5</sup> Welsh Government 2019 *Written Statement: Extending the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016 to paediatric inpatient wards*. Available at: <https://gov.wales/written-statement-extending-nurse-staffing-levels-wales-act-2016-paediatric-inpatient-wards>, accessed 1 June 2022.

<sup>6</sup> Welsh Government 2021 *Written Statement: Expansion in training places for health professional workforce in Wales*. Available at: <https://gov.wales/written-statement-expansion-training-places-health-professional-workforce-wales>, accessed 31 May 2022.

<sup>7</sup> Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016.

<sup>8</sup> Royal College of Nursing Wales 2019 *Progress and Challenge: The implementation of the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016*.

<sup>9</sup> Royal College of Nursing Wales 2022 *Progress and challenge in delivering safe and effective care 2022: How NHS Wales has implemented the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016*

Section 25B was implemented in 2018 and has already provided safer staffing levels in Wales. Not only has there been a rise in the number of nurses educated in Wales, but RCN Wales has found that on wards covered by Section 25B there has been an increase in the number of nurses.<sup>10</sup> This is supported by Welsh Government evidence. A Welsh Government report found that on a national level the number of nursing staff on wards covered by Section 25B is higher now than before the Act was passed. There's an additional 139.74 additional Full Time Equivalent (FTE) registered nurses and 597 additional FTE healthcare support workers in November 2020 compared to March 2018 (before Section 25B came into force)<sup>11</sup>.

On wards covered by Section 25B, there have been fewer patient falls, pressure ulcers and complaints about nursing where staffing levels have been considered a contributing factor. This demonstrates the importance of Section 25B to patient safety.

Additional evidence shows that in preparation for the extension of Section 25B to paediatric wards in October 2021 all health boards (where this would apply) recruited more paediatric nurses and proposed the need for additional funding and/or resources to the health board. The Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016 once again has shown that Section 25B means an increase in nursing staff and better patient care.<sup>12</sup>

The RCN has been a strong supporter of Welsh democracy and the development of the Welsh parliament. The petitions process is an important mechanism where members of the public can be involved in Welsh parliamentary business.

I am calling for a parliamentary debate on extending Section 25B of the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016 to community and mental health settings to ensure the voices of 10,572 people are heard. Protecting patient care is critical. A parliamentary debate is necessary to understand the government's progress, barriers, and possible solutions to this vital issue. Most importantly a parliamentary debate would demonstrate that the public's concerns are being listened to.

Continued ....

---

<sup>10</sup> Royal College of Nursing Wales 2022 *Progress and challenge in delivering safe and effective care 2022: How NHS Wales has implemented the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016*

<sup>11</sup> Welsh Government, *Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016 – Statutory summary of nurse staffing level reports 2018-2021*. Available at: [nurse-staffing-levels-wales-act-2016-statutory-summary-of-nurse-staffing-level-reports-2018-2021.pdf](#), accessed 6 June 2022.

<sup>12</sup> Royal College of Nursing Wales 2022 *Progress and challenge in delivering safe and effective care 2022: How NHS Wales has implemented the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016*.

6 June 2022

6

At the end of 2020 the Petition Committee decided to increase the signature requirement for a petition to be considered for parliamentary debate from 5,000 to 10,000. My petition to extend Section 25B is one of only a few that has reached 10,000 signatures since this change has been made. I am overwhelmed by the public's support for the petition and strongly believe it is time for a parliamentary debate.

I look forward to hearing your decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "R".

Richard Jones  
Chair  
RCN Wales Board

# Introduce parenting lessons and basic life skills for High School pupils

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 13 Mehefin 2022  
Petitions Committee | 13 June 2022

Reference: SR22/2946-1

Petition Number: P-06-1278

Petition title: Introduce parenting lessons and basic life skills for High School pupils.

Mounting pressures due to the pandemic have led to an increase in child abuse cases. In 2020/21, there were over 24.8 thousand child abuse offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, an increase of 2.9 thousand offences when compared with the previous reporting year.

One way to support future generations to become parents would be through a curriculum which provides lessons on parent responsibilities, looking after a home, money management, basic first aid, physical and mental health and preparing nutritious meals on a budget.

The government need to help break the cycle of child abuse. Improved communication and multi-agency working for health, social and children's services and a huge drive for promoting intervention and prevention programmes. One system used by all multi-agency workers so information can be shared effectively. Compulsory well-being checks for young children including dental and dietary.



# 1. Curriculum for Wales

## 1.1. Background to the new curriculum

The Welsh Government is introducing a new statutory curriculum, which all learners aged 3-16 in publicly funded settings will follow, known as the 'Curriculum for Wales'.

The Curriculum for Wales is intended to better equip young people with the knowledge, skills and experience they need for modern adult life, than the current national curriculum established in 1988. It follows Professor Graham Donaldson's Successful Futures review in 2015, which adopted a starting point of what 16 year olds completing their compulsory education should look like and what attributes should they have, before deciding what the curriculum should provide.

The new curriculum is intended to be purpose-led rather than content-based, with a greater emphasis on skills and teaching what matters. Schools will have the flexibility to design their own curriculum, within a broad national framework provided by the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 and associated codes and guidance.

## 1.2. The new curriculum's focus on developing positive attitudes and behaviours

As the Minister for Education and Welsh Language's letter highlights, one of the six Areas of Learning and Experience is 'Health and Well-being', which is designed to develop healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society (one of the curriculum purposes).

Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) will be a mandatory element of the Curriculum for Wales, through which children and young people will learn about healthy and unhealthy relationships. RSE will be taught in line with a statutory code.

## 1.3. Schedule for implementation and scope to change the new curriculum

The new Curriculum for Wales is being introduced in primary schools in September 2022. Secondary schools will have the opportunity to begin teaching it

in Year 7 from this September, although will not be legally required to do so until September 2023 when it will become statutory in Year 7 and Year 8. The new curriculum will then be rolled out to an additional older year group, year by year, until it reaches Year 11 in 2026/27.

The [Curriculum and Assessment \(Wales\) Act 2021](#) provides the high-level framework with further detail of how and what schools should include in their curricula set out in statutory codes and statutory guidance. The [curriculum detail](#) was developed by the Welsh Government in partnership with the teaching profession and has been subject to several consultation and feedback exercises.

## 2. Safeguarding

The petition discusses the subject of child abuse and calls for governments to ‘help break the cycle of child abuse’. The Welsh Government intends for the new Curriculum for Wales, particularly through Health and Well-being and RSE, to both help protect young people from harm and abuse and enable them to carry forward into adult life positive, healthy and responsible attitudes towards others.

As the Minister’s letter outlines, there are established safeguarding duties and procedures, based on legislation including the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, which are designed to identify and respond to children at risk.

Relevant guidance includes [safeguarding guidance for local authorities](#), [safeguarding guidance for education settings](#), and the [Wales Safeguarding Procedures and All Wales Practice Guides](#).

## 3. Previous Senedd and Welsh Youth Parliament action

The Senedd scrutinised and subsequently passed the [Curriculum and Assessment \(Wales\) Bill](#) between July 2020 and March 2021, which then became an Act upon Royal Assent in April 2021.

The previous Welsh Youth Parliament [prioritised calling for life skills to be included in the new curriculum](#), publishing a [report](#) in 2019. The [current Welsh Youth Parliament](#) is also prioritising education and the school curriculum.

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.

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1278  
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/00917/22

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN  
Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

26 May 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 29 April about the petition the Committee received which is currently collecting signatures, Petition P-06-1278, which is calling for the curriculum to introduce parenting lessons and basic life skills for all high school learners.

All children and young people should be well prepared for their future lives – their careers, relationships, health and well-being. That does not just mean focusing on attainment but all the skills, experiences and attributes that help them thrive.

The school has a key role in achieving this, but the home environment and the wider community are also significant influences. We want all schools in Wales to be Community Focused Schools - responding to the needs of their community, building a strong partnership with families / carers and collaborating effectively with other services. By working collaboratively across school, home and the community we can support our children and young people more effectively.

Over the coming months we will invest £3.84m in increasing the number of Family Engagement Officers employed by schools. These roles will be important in acting as a bridge between the school and the home, providing much needed support to families. We will also provide £660k funding to trial the appointment of Community Focused Schools Managers and £20m capital investment to allow schools to develop further as community assets.

The new curriculum from September 2022 will include a Health and Well-being Area of Learning and Experience which will enhance the focus on the health and well-being of learners. For the first time, Health and Well-being will have equal status in law to other important areas of the school curriculum.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

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

[Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales](mailto: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.

This innovative Area of the new curriculum will support learners to understand and appreciate how the different components of health and well-being are interconnected recognising that good health and well-being are important to enable successful learning. It is concerned with developing the capacity of learners to navigate life's opportunities and challenges. The fundamental components of this Area are physical health, mental health and emotional and social well-being.

What matters in this Area has been expressed in five statements which support and complement one another to achieve a holistic approach. The curriculum Framework provides professionals with flexibility to cover a range of important skills, including support on money management, basic first aid, and the importance of healthy eating. These skills will enable learners to develop life-long positive behaviours which supports their health and well-being.

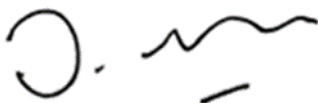
This Area also contributes to preventative education by a focus on healthy relationships and mandatory Relationships and Sexuality education (RSE). RSE is designed to safeguard all our children and young people, supporting them to develop knowledge, skills and behaviours that will assist in protecting them throughout their lives and enhance their well-being. High-quality, holistic and inclusive RSE is associated with a range of positive and protective outcomes for all learners and their communities including recognising abusive or unhealthy relationships and increased awareness, knowledge and understanding of gender-based and sexual violence.

Statutory safeguarding duties are owed to all children and young people at risk of harm, abuse or neglect up to the age of 18 and to adults at risk of harm, abuse or neglect who are 18 or over. These duties are set out in our legislation through the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and related statutory guidance to set out the requirements for identifying and responding to children at risk.

The Act also established a National Independent Safeguarding Board and regional Safeguarding Children Boards to support evidence-based safeguarding practice across agencies and across Wales. These arrangements are now well established.

The Wales Safeguarding Procedures and All Wales Practice Guides are owned by the Safeguarding Boards and were issued in 2019. They promote consistent, evidence-based safeguarding practice across agencies and across Wales. Training has been provided on the Procedures and guides, facilitated by the Safeguarding Boards. The Wales Safeguarding Procedures are accessible to all via an app and also via [Social care Wales \(safeguarding.wales\)](https://www.safeguarding.wales).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Miles', with a stylized flourish underneath.

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

# P-06-1278 Introduce parenting lessons and basic life skills for High School pupils – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 07 June 2022

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1278  
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/00917/22

Danielle Diver

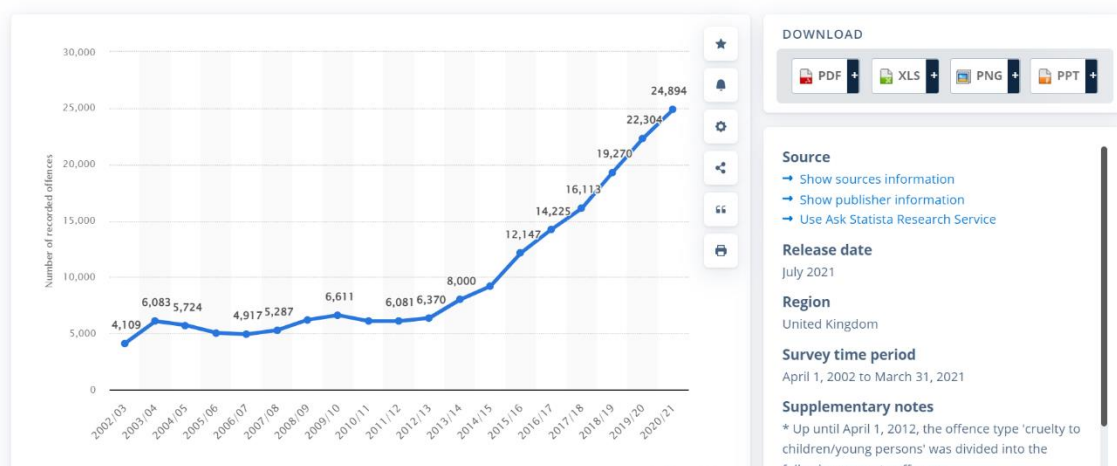


07/06/2022

Thank you for your response to my petition. I am aware of the new curriculum for Wales and agree this is a step in the right direction in trying to prepare our children to become responsible young adults. I am also aware of the many services available to young children and families however these are not always signposted or consistent. I work in the education sector and know my school are making a concerted effort to implement strategies to support our children including providing enrichment activities and evening meals after school.

The reason for my petition was to help raise awareness of some of the recent failings in preventing child abuse. I realise there has been mounting pressures due to the pandemic, but this cruelty is happening too often, and I am continuing to see an increase in serious reports.

Number of cruelty to children/young persons offences recored in England and Wales from 2002/03 to 2020/21



In 2020/21, there were over 24.8 thousand child abuse offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, an increase of 2.9 thousand offences when compared with the previous reporting year, and a peak for this type of offence.

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/303514/child-cruelty-abuse-in-england-and-wales-uk-y-on-y/>

The government's 2020-21 data on serious incident notifications found that from April to September 2020, there was a 31% rise in incidents of death or serious harm to children under 1 when compared with the same period in 2019 (Child Safeguarding Incident Notification System, 2021)<sup>8</sup>.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news?type=1162>

As a mother of two and a human being I was absolutely heart broken by the tragic death of a young boy Arthur Labinjo-Hughes. I struggled to sleep thinking about how this vulnerable boy was tortured and made to suffer before he was cruelly taken away by two people he depended on. His mother was in prison for killing her partner, his stepmother had her own children previously removed. His extended family alerted social services two months before. His death could have been prevented if flags had been raised sooner.

<https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/local-news/heartbreaking-footage-arthur-labinjo-hughes-22258170>

Please take into consideration some other serious cases of abuse due to failures in systems:

- Logan Mgwangi – ‘mother, stepfather and teenager boy guilty of murdering 5-year-old’

<https://www.itv.com/news/wales/2022-04-21/mother-stepfather-and-teen-guilty-of-murdering-logan-mwangi>

- Star Hobson- ‘punched to death by Savannah Brockhill, 28, an amateur boxer and security guard who called herself the “number one psycho”

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/dec/14/star-hobson-murder-verdict-savannah-brockhill-frankie-smith>

- Leiland-James Corkill – ‘baby murdered by woman trying to adopt him’

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cumbria-61477675>

- Verphy Kudi: Mum left toddler to die to party for 6 days

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/northamptonshire-child-au-arms-taped-up-b2065554.html>

- Neglected toddler left in cot with ‘arms taped up’ as report finds significant failings in care. The report, published on Tuesday, noted “significant failings in care by professionals” who “failed to spot the warning signs that a vulnerable child was a victim of severe neglect”.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-child-abuse-domestic-violence-family-charity-a9519186.html>

- Neglect was the most common category of abuse for child protection plans (CPPs) in England (25,330 children at 31 March 2019) and the second most common for the child protection register (CPR) in Wales (1,005 children).

I have worked closely with Public Health Wales, Healthy Schools, Eco Schools, Police liaison team and many other outside agencies and have seen the positive impact of them working together with schools however I have also seen the implications of reduced funding to services. Some strategies seem to be a tick box exercise and are rarely embedded to show the full impact. I have friends who work in social care who are understaffed and overwhelmed with the amounts of caseloads. By the time social services are involved it is often too late for some families.

A group of the UK's largest children's organisations said years of under-investment by the government had left services overstretched, meaning more children may be taken away from their families. Analysis by The Children's Society, Barnardo's, Action for Children, [NSPCC](#) and the National Children's Bureau said that funding for children's services had fallen by £2.2bn in the past eight years, forcing many early intervention schemes to be dropped.

Working in education I have witnessed some of the following issues:

- Police liaison support is limited in schools due to funding cuts
- School nurses no longer a fixture in schools
- Information not shared correctly as too many systems being used
- Information not shared when there are staff changes, changes of schools
- There is more partnership working however less accountability
- Teachers taking on many well-being roles without the correct training and skills

I feel there is increased pressures on teachers and health professionals. The lack of support from some parents is leading to increased poor behaviour, mental health, and attitude of students in schools. These students then go on to have children and the same behaviour and attitudes continue.

'People who experience multiple adverse childhood experiences as children often raise their own children in households where adverse childhood experiences are more common. This cycle of childhood adversity can lock generations of families into poor health and anti-social behaviour'.

<https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/adverse-childhood-experiences/>

I realise this is an ongoing problem and a hard one to tackle, I am hoping by raising some of the issues there will be greater recognition and support from the government. More integrated healthcare and education that could help break this cycle through better communication and multi-agency working between education and public health professionals which are fully embedded.

As a starting point a tool kit could be created through regular meetings with education and public health professionals. (LLamau, Hafan Cymru, Show Racism the red Card, Families 1<sup>st</sup>, Police Liaison, Sexpressions, Brooke, school nurses, safeguarding leads, SHRN, Healthy schools, well-being coordinators) This would give an opportunity for professionals to look at a better system for sharing information. The toolkit would eventually save on time and repetition of information. The use of SHRN data in schools is a valuable tool which helps to identify the needs of children, this information could be shared and discussed in the meetings and actions could be implemented by all involved. There should be compulsory lessons for all pupils which prepare young people for becoming responsible adults. Use of reality babies have been recognised as an excellent resource to engage learners and teach them about the realities of becoming a parent, however there is no availability for them in the UK.

The toolkit could include some of the following:

- Money management
- Interview skills
- CV writing
- Why work?
- Basic first Aid
- Health and Nutrition for the family
- Differences between stress and mental health
- Coping strategies
- Parent responsibilities for boys and girls
- The importance of good hygiene, tooth brushing, dental checks.
- Acceptable forms of discipline for children
- Services- Where to get help?
- Healthy relationships
- Managing a home
- Respecting others and your environment
- Resilience
- Better use of systems for sharing information
- Ongoing staff training

Thank you for considering my petition for your discussions, I do not have all the answers but hope there will be more acknowledgement of the issues addressed.

Yours Sincerely

Danielle Diver

# Agenda Item 3.5

## **P-06-1279 End inconsistency in Covid guidance. Let schools have the same flexibility as cinemas or stadiums**

This petition was submitted by Catherine Anne Stone, having collected a total of 421 signatures.

### **Text of Petition:**

If parents can attend the rugby or the cinema with a Covid pass they should be able to attend a school concert or event. Current Covid-19 guidance for schools recommends that close interactions between adults, staff and learners is reduced. As a result, schools don't have the flexibility to invite parents/carers into school. This is despite theatres, cinemas and rugby stadiums all being open for business. I am asking the Welsh Government to reconsider the guidance for schools.

### **Additional Information:**

Lateral flow tests and covid passes are in active use, and the booster vaccination scheme is already well underway.

Thousands of fans used these methods to gain entry to the Principality Stadium on 30th October, to attend the Wales vs New Zealand match.

<https://gov.wales/use-nhs-covid-pass-attend-large-events-and-venues>

Our local primary schools had to close their doors for sports days, have struggled to fundraise due to the guidance around social distancing, and are now being told that the guidance for a consecutive season of Christmas concerts is the same in that parents cannot attend.

<https://gov.wales/local-covid-19-infection-control-decision-framework-schools-autumn-2021-html>

Mental wellbeing of children has taken a decline due to the uncertainty and isolation. We should be supporting our children with return to normality too.

<https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/childrens-mental-health/>

<https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/374/bmj.n1730.full.pdf>.

### **Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

# Cancel AS and A Level exams within Wales for the summer of 2022

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 13 Mehefin 2022  
Petitions Committee | 13 June 2022

Reference: SR22/2946

**Petition Number:** P-06-1280

**Petition title:** Cancel AS and A Level exams within Wales for the summer of 2022

I feel that exams within Wales should be cancelled for the summer of 2022 as the Covid 19 pandemic has meant that pupils teaching time has been affected on various amounts of different occasions during the school year. I also feel that if exams were to go ahead it would have dramatic effect on pupils' mental health and anxiety and at a time where teenager suicide is at its highest. I personally believe alongside hundreds of other pupils that exams should be cancelled for the summer of 2022.



## 1. Examinations in 2020

In March 2020, Kirsty Williams, then [Minister for Education](#), announced that the 2020 summer GCSE and A level exam series would not proceed. Learners were to be awarded a 'fair grade', 'drawing on the range of information available'. Learners grades were to be awarded on the basis of information that schools and colleges submitted to WJEC.

The initial plan was for those grades to be 'standardised' using WJEC standardisation models, approved by the regulator, Qualifications Wales. This approach was [changed on 12 August 2020](#). Those who were due to sit their A levels were automatically be awarded the same grade they achieved in their AS-Level, if it was higher than that calculated by WJEC. A further change was [announced on 17 August](#) and grades were awarded on the basis of the information that schools and colleges had submitted.

## 2. Examinations in 2021

On 10 November 2020, Kirsty Williams [announced](#) that there would be no end-of-year examinations in 2021. On [20 January 2021](#), she announced that learners would have their GCSE, AS and A level qualifications awarded through a **Centre Determined Grade** model, based on schools' and colleges' (centres) assessment of learners' work. This [Senedd Research article](#) provides further information.

## 3. Summer examination series 2022

Learners began sitting their A and AS levels on 16 May 2022.

In March 2021, [Qualifications Wales announced](#) that there would be exams in summer 2022. They confirmed this again on [5 January 2022](#) stating that any decision to cancel would be made by the Welsh Government.

Qualifications Wales said that the assessment requirements for WJEC GCSE, AS and A levels, Skills Challenge Certificate **qualifications would be adapted to recognise the impact of lost face-to-face teaching and learning time** during the pandemic.

The Welsh Government have said repeatedly that their intention is that exams go ahead this year. At the [Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister](#) (16

December 2021), the First Minister explained the reasons why the Welsh Government wanted exams to go ahead:

- **Parity with the rest of the UK** – for those applying for a university place outside Wales, the qualification should have equal status with learners in other jurisdictions who also plan to hold to hold exams this summer.
- **Equity** – using the system in place for summer 2021, the performance of young men from working-class backgrounds fell back.

Qualifications Wales published their [Equalities Analysis of General Qualifications in Summer 2021](#) in October 2021.

In October 2021, Qualifications Wales [announced their approach to grading](#). 2022 would be a transition year to reflect that it is a pandemic recovery period and learners' education has been disrupted. In 2022 they aim for exam results to reflect broadly a midway point between 2021 and 2019. In 2023 they will aim to return to results that are in line with those in pre-pandemic years. Qualifications Wales [wrote to schools and colleges recently \(13 May 2022\)](#) to confirm examination arrangements for this summer.

## 4. Welsh Government Action

On [15 December 2021 the Minister for Education and Welsh Language announced](#) funding of £24m to support learners impacted by the pandemic. Of this, £7.5m is to provide **extra support for learners in exam years**, with additional teaching time and learning resources - to help learners to develop their skills, knowledge and confidence, as well as supporting those who feel anxious about exams. The funding will be weighted towards schools with greater numbers of learners who receive free school meals. Over £7m will go towards supporting learners whose attendance has dropped during the pandemic. Dedicated support will be provided to support Year 11 pupils who have low attendance to complete their GCSEs or help them reach the next stage in their education or in starting a career, as well as support for pupils in other years. Funding will also be provided to support well-being and education for learners at Pupil Referrals Units.

In a [Cabinet Statement on 25 January 2022](#), the Minister for Education and Welsh Language said:

I wish to reiterate to learners, schools and colleges that exams and assessments this year will go ahead, unless the public health situation makes it impossible for them to physically run – which we do not

envisage. The intention to adjust grade boundaries to reflect disruption has already been set out. Adaptations to exam content have been put in place as well as prior notification of areas of examination, so that assessments are as fair as possible, and which will enable teachers to focus their time on the key areas for learning [...] I encourage all learners in exam years to talk to their schools and colleges about what additional support and flexibility might be available this year, to help them progress with confidence.

On 3 May 2022, the Welsh Government announced changes to the self-isolation rules for learners who are taking exams and who test positive for COVID-19. The advisory self-isolation period is now shorter for learners due to attend exams, than for others, provided they test negative.

In May 2022, the Joint Council on Qualifications published updated special consideration guidance. Special consideration is a post-examination adjustment to a learner's mark or grade. It is given to a learner who has temporarily experienced illness, injury or some other event outside of their control at the time of the assessment.

Awarding of a grade through the special consideration process can only be made where a learner is absent from an examination or non-examination assessment unit for an acceptable reason. A candidate who is self-isolating in line with the Welsh Government guidance at the time of the examination is considered to be absent from the examination for an acceptable reason.

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.

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



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/00992/22

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN  
Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

26 May 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 6 May drawing my attention to Petition P-06-1280 entitled 'Cancel AS and A Level exams within Wales for the summer of 2022'.

I am aware that Mr Khan wrote to me in January to raise similar concerns and whilst within the response from my officials it was acknowledged that exam year learners had experienced a very different couple of years, I had hoped the detail provided in terms of the mitigation actions which have been put in place would have provided some reassurance. Together with outlining the summer 2022 arrangements that were available at the time and noting the additional resources that were put in place to help our learners prepare for the upcoming examination season, my officials provided details of our [Whole School Approach](#) including information about CAHMS (counselling service) and mental health and emotional support which is available 24 hrs a day via our Community Advice and Listening Line (CALL) helpline. Alongside this, in recognition of the disruption faced by learners (and acknowledging that that this has been variable across Wales), details were also provided regarding the £24m allocated to schools, local authorities and their partners provide support for learners which can be used at the school's discretion to meet their particular circumstances. We have encouraged all schools to talk to their exam learners about what support and flexibility they might need this year to enable them to progress with confidence to their next steps.

I would like to reassure Mr Khan that we have continued to work closely with Qualifications Wales to review the measures we have put in place and consider what further can be done to support our 2022 cohort.

In addition, WJEC has a comprehensive package of information for learners on their website: [2022: Everything you need to know \(wjec.co.uk\)](https://www.wjec.co.uk) which includes a link to the [Power Up/Lefel Nesa](#) site.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400  
[Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales)

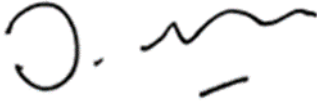
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

**Back Page 80**  
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 Power Up/Lefel Nesa campaign has been developed by WJEC, Qualifications Wales, Welsh Government, E-sgol and Careers Wales. Its aim is to provide learners with a 'one stop shop' resource to get them through the exam season. Content includes assessment and revision information and resources, revision and wellbeing tips and free live revision sessions.

I hope that this information will reassure Mr Khan that that we will continue to encourage schools and colleges to engage with their learners throughout the next few months to help prepare them for their 2022 exams and/or progression to further study, training or employment.

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

# Agenda Item 5.1

## **P-05-1112 Help Welsh Communities Buy Community Assets: Implement Part 5 Chapter 3 of the Localism Act 2011**

This petition was submitted by Daniel Evans having collected a total of 655 signatures.

### **Text of Petition:**

Welsh communities continue to lose community assets such as pubs and sports grounds at an alarming rate. Unlike England & Scotland, Welsh communities still do not have the statutory right to bid for assets.

We urgently require new legislation relating specifically to Assets of Community Value. We call on the next Welsh Government to immediately introduce the provisions of Part 5 Chapter 3 of the Localism Act 2011 to ensure groups in Wales have the legal right to buy & manage community assets.

### **Additional Information:**

Community assets build social capital, health and wellbeing. Losing community assets leads to weaker, more disconnected & unhappier communities

Part 5, Ch. 3 of The Localism Act 2011 granted the legal right for community groups to bid for & run assets of community value (ACV) under threat/for sale. It also requires local authorities to keep lists of such community assets. In Scotland, community groups have first refusal on these assets (<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn06366/>).

In Wales, however, the Welsh Government decided to not apply the relevant parts of the act that would facilitate this. Our communities are therefore being placed in a hugely disadvantaged position relative to England & Scotland.

In 2015, the minister stated that action would be taken on ACV during the 2016-21 Welsh Government, but nothing happened.

Implementing the relevant provisos of the Localism Act would hugely benefit Welsh communities desperate to save valuable local assets.

**Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Bridgend
- South Wales West

Jane Hutt AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Social Justice



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref JH-/00666/22

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

24 May 22

Dear Jack

Thank you for your further letter dated 10 May, concerning Petition P-05-1112 Help Welsh communities buy community assets.

You ask what funding is in place for communities seeking to take ownership of community assets. The Welsh Government's [Community Facilities Programme](#) provides capital grants of up to £250,000 to help community groups to buy and improve community facilities.

We have also recently established the [Community Asset Loan Fund](#) which is operated on our behalf by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action. This provides long term (up to 25 years) loan finance of up to £300,000 to help communities take ownership of assets.

Additional sources of funding can be found by registering on the [Funding Wales](#) portal.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@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.

You also ask what support is available to help communities run and maintain assets. Local county voluntary councils as a part of [Third Sector Support Wales](#) provide a range of help and support to community groups. I suggest that this is the best place for groups to start.

**Yours sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke above the first letter of "Jane".

**Jane Hutt AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Social Justice

# Agenda Item 5.2

## **P-06-1163 Extend the postgraduate STEMM bursary to all MSc students in Wales**

This petition was submitted by Rachel Wrathall, having collected a total of 88 signatures.

### **Text of Petition:**

In June 2019 Welsh Government announced a bursary scheme to increase the number of Welsh graduates who remained or returned to Wales to undertake a master's degree in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics or Medicine (also known as 'STEMM' subjects). This funding currently only extends to traditional Universities, excluding students who choose a STEMM Masters through alternative providers. This excludes some students, who need more flexibility in STEMM subject matter or course delivery.

### **Additional Information:**

The Diamond review recommended that efforts are made "to enable students to study in the mode that best supports their circumstances". (The Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance Arrangements in Wales, 2016).

Currently students studying for STEMM Masters at the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) School of the Environment in Machynlleth are excluded from Welsh Government's STEMM bursary funding. The courses provided at CAT have a specific sustainability focus, which aligns with Welsh Government efforts to change the course of Wales onto a more sustainable path (e.g. through principles outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015).

Teaching at CAT is flexible, and unlike traditional universities, enables students to study a taught Masters whilst continuing work/caring responsibilities.

We believe that the exclusion of STEMM students at organisations like CAT from STEMM bursary funding is counter to the STEMM bursary policy aims.

**Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

# Agenda Item 5.3

**P-06-1184 Immediately ban the use of toxic lead in all ammunition in Wales... lead is killing our wildlife!**

This petition was submitted by Robert Curtis, having collected a total of 4,052 signatures.

## **Text of Petition:**

Lead is a toxic metal and a very strong poison yet more than 6,000 tonnes are fired at game birds each year in the UK. If any citizen deliberately dumped thousands of tonnes of poison into the Welsh countryside they would rightly find themselves facing prosecution in a Court of Law!

Birds often mistake tiny shot pellets for grit or seeds, and ingest them, and so suffer painful deaths. Dying birds are usually taken quickly by predators – making their deaths unseen and invisible to the public.

## **Additional Information:**

Most ammunition –bullets, shotgun pellets and airgun pellets have traditionally been made with lead.

Lead affects most body systems in animals, including the nervous and circulatory systems, and low levels of exposure can affect a birds immune system and behaviour. In some circumstances , swallowing even a single lead pellet can kill a bird.

A consortium of shooting organisations now support a switch to ammunition that is free of lead by everyone taking live quarry with shotguns in the next five years.

We welcome this recognition of the damage lead is doing to our environment but believe the ecological emergency demands that we impose an immediate ban on lead ammunition of all kinds. We also believe that the ban must include clay shoots and not just "live quarry" as the wasted lead shot still ends up in the environment.

Barry Action is a small volunteer conservation group based in the South Wales coastal town of Barry.

## **Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Vale Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

# Agenda Item 5.4

## **P-06-1212 Mark Allen's Law – we want throwline stations around all open water sites in Wales**

This petition was submitted by Leeanne Elizabeth Bartley, having collected a total of 11,027 signatures.

### **Text of Petition:**

Mark Allen, aged 18, drowned after jumping into a freezing reservoir on a hot day in June 2018. In May 2019 we watched whilst 3 throwlines were installed where he died. Mark could have possibly been saved if they were in place beforehand.

### **Additional Information:**

We, Mark's family and friends, feel that it should be law that throwlines like those placed where Mark died should be placed in designated places around every reservoir, lake, canal etc. Speaking to people who work in water safety, e.g. fire services etc., such throwlines have saved many lives. We want to save lives and save people from going through the heartbreak and tragedy of losing someone they love to drowning.

Plz help us make a positive difference in Marks memory.

Thank you, Mark's family and friends.

### **Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Clwyd West
- North Wales

# Agenda Item 5.5

## **P-06-1228 Give secondary teachers a bonus for marking and standardizing summer 2021 official assessments**

This petition was submitted by Lisa M Williams, having collected a total of 1,252 signatures.

### **Text of Petition:**

As a result of the pandemic, teachers in Wales are responsible for marking, standardizing and moderating GCSE, AS and A2 assessments instead of examination boards. This is in addition to their usual teaching timetable and marking the work of other learners. Some teachers have only been released for one hour to carry out the work and, inevitably, it has had to be completed after working hours and on weekends. KS4 and 5 teachers in Wales deserve a bonus for their efforts, just like teachers in Scotland.

### **Additional Information:**

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/19094405.nicola-sturgeon-update-400-payment-secondary-school-teachers-lecturers/>.

### **Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Cynon Valley
- South Wales Central



Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair, Senedd Petitions Committee

30 March 2022

Dear Jack,

**Petition P-06-1228 - Give secondary teachers a bonus for marking and standardizing summer 2021 official assessments**

Thank you for your letter of 25 March, in which you asked why the research report on the experiences of centre staff on grading in summer 2021 is being delayed until May. I can confirm that publication of the research report is not being delayed.

In our letter dated 28 January, we made reference to having received interim findings from the research. These were given to us in the form of a presentation from the research supplier, and when those interim findings were produced the data collection and analysis on the project were not yet complete. May was therefore our estimate of when we would be in a position to publish, taking into account the time needed to complete the report and prepare it for publication. This also avoids publication during the period of the upcoming local elections.

To avoid misunderstandings about how useful the report might be to the committee, I would like to be clear that this research aimed to improve our understanding of the centre determined grading process from the perspective of teachers. The amount of data collected directly related to the petition was quite limited.

We did not ask questions specifically on the topic of remuneration. The sample for the survey element of the research was also a convenience sample, so findings cannot be generalised for a Wales-wide representation. Which means the report is unlikely to provide definitive evidence either way on the question raised by the petition.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip Blaker'.

Philip Blaker,  
Chief Executive



12 May 2022

Dear Jack Sargeant MS

**Petition P-06-1228 - Give secondary teachers a bonus for marking and standardizing summer 2021 official assessments**

With reference to our previous correspondence relating to this petition, I am writing to confirm that our research report on teacher experiences of centre determined grading in 2021 has now been published as planned. You can [find the summary](#) and [full report here](#). [A blog](#) has also been published.

As previously noted, the focus of the report is broad, as our objective was to gain greater understanding of the approach as a whole from the perspective of teachers. We did not ask questions specifically on the topic of remuneration.

Yours faithfully

Philip Blaker

Chief Executive

Document is Restricted

**P-06-1228 Talu bonws i athrawon uwchradd am farcio a safoni asesiadau swyddogol haf 2021, Gohebiaeth – Deisebydd at y Pwyllgor, 30.05.22**

Deiseb P-06-1228

Yn fy marn i mae'r ddogfen atodedig yn atgyfnerthu fy nghais am fonws i athrawon gyda'r lluo o dystiolaeth sydd yn beirniadu'r broses a'r sgil effeithiau difrifol ar les staff. Hoffwn dynnu eich sylw at y rhannau hynny o'r adroddiad:

- *"Felly, un funud roedd yn mynd i fod fel hyn, yna roedd yn mynd i fod yn ffordd arall.... Dyna a'i gwnaeth mor anodd ei fyw, oherwydd roedd y wybodaeth yn dod atom drwy'r amser. Byddwch yn cael diweddariad ac weithiau doeddech chi ddim bob amser yn gwybod bod diweddariad wedi bod... Rydym yn rheoli llawer o bethau eraill ac roedd yn amhosibl ar adegau i gadw i fyny ag ef...."*
- *"Roedd yr arweinwyr canol yn eithriadol o anhapus â'r llwyth gwaith..."*
- *"Roedd popeth yn llafurus: roedd yn hurt."*
- *"Roedd braidd yn anodd. Roedd y plant i mewn ac allan. Roedd llawer o ddysgu ar-lein. Gwnaethom lwyth o fideos, ond roedd llawer o anghydraddoldeb o ran rhai yn gwneud popeth a rhai'n gwneud dim. Roedd yn anodd iawn gwybod sut i'w wneud yn deg i bawb."*
- *"Yr her fwyaf ... oedd nad oedd y disgrifwyr gradd yno'n llawn felly aethom am A i C i E ac roedd llawer o amwysedd"*
- *"Roedd yn anodd iawn gyda'r pynciau ymarferol ... felly roedd rhaid i ni addasu ein holl wersi..."*
- *"Dydw i ddim yn teimlo fel ein bod wedi cael unrhyw hyfforddiant-p'un a yw hynny'n digwydd ar lefel uwch arweinwyr..."*
- *"Roedd yr hyfforddiant ar-lein yn 'bitty', 'ar hyd y lle' ac 'anodd i gadw i fyny ag ef' "*
- *"Os y'ch chi'n athro newydd neu'n gweithio mewn ysgol newydd, ac oes na 'da chi brofiad o farcio allanol na banc o brofiad gwaith o'r blynyddoedd cynt.. rwyn credu byddai wedi bod yn anodd iawn i chi.."*

- *"Roedd fel petai CBAC wedi diflannu'n llwyr i'r papur wal (cefnidir). Dw i yma'n dysgu, marcio, asesu a safoni yn ogystal â chreu'r holl ddogfennau hyn, felly beth oedd CBAC y gwneud yn ystod y cyfnod hwn?.. Mi oedden ni'n teimlo fel ein bod ni'n gyrru drwy'r niwl ar adegau ac nad oedd CBAC yn unman i'w weld".*
- *"Gallai fod wedi dod yn gynharach (penderfyniadau terfynol).. Rydych chi wedi ysgrifennu polisi, wedi rhannu polisi, wedi'i gadarnhau ac yna daw darn o arweiniad allan a rydych chi'n meddwl.. galledd fod wedi'i wneud fel hyn, ac rydych chi eisoes wedi ymrwymo i'w wneud mewn ffordd wahanol sy'n llawer mwy llafurus".*
- *"Beth rwy'n ei deimlo nawr.. yw bod perygl mewn ysgolion, gofynnir i ni baratoi myfyrwyr ar gyfer arholiad ond yn y cefndir eu paratoi ar gyfer gradd a bennir gan ganolfan. Sut mae gwneud y ddau? O leiaf llynedd roedden ni'n gwybod nad oedd arholiadau"*  
**( Mae hwn yn cyfeirio at y flwyddyn gyfredol- gofynwyd i athrawon mewn canolfannau i wneud hyn eleni eto tan oleiaf hanner tymor Chwefror gan eu huwch arweinwyr a oedd yn pryderu y byddai posibiliad i'r arholiadau i gael eu canslo. Felly mae athrawon wedi bod o dan yr un straen eto e.e yn gosod asesiadau ychwanegol ac yn gorfod llungopio pob darn o waith/asesiad cyn dychwelyd at ddisgyblion er mwyn cadw tystiolaeth ar gyfer graddau canolfan posib)**
- *"... fe arweiniodd at fater a chlust a drymiau'r jyngl yn curo am beth oedd yn digwydd mewn mannau eraill a bu'n rhaid i chi gadw'ch plwch yn yr achosion hynny i sicrhau nad aethoch i banig a chwyddo graddau oherwydd eich bod yn clywed sibrydion".*
- *"Roedd yn lawer o waith. Roedd yn gyfnod hynod o anodd. Dw i ddim am fynd drwy hynny eto oherwydd roeddem yn dysgu amserlen lawn, arferol bryd hynny yn yr haf, ac roedd disgwyl i ni ysgrifennu'r polisi, ond hefyd cwmpasu canllawiau disgrifwyr addysgol CBAC a oedd yn eithaf hir. Bu'n rhaid i ni ddarllen a deall y rheini ac yna roedd yn rhaid i ni greu asesiadau. Ni a'u marciodd; ni oedd yn eu safoni, ac nid oedd unrhyw amser ychwanegol ar ôl mewn gwirionedd".*
- *"Anodd dros ben ei reoli... Roeddem yn cael achosion o COVID, ac roeddem yn gorfod gwneud y dilyn ac olrhain ar yr un pryd ... anfon*

*plant adref, eu hynysu ar y pryd. Felly petai hwnnw oedd yr unig orchwyl a oedd gennym, buasai'n hydrin, ond roedd gwneud hyn a rhedeg ysgol, ac addysgu gwersi, yn cymryd llawer iawn o amser ac roedd nifer yr oriau yr oedd ein staff yn eu gweithio y tu hwnt i'r diwrnod ysgol yn helaeth iawn".*

- **Nifer cyfartalog yr oriau a dreuliodd yr ymatebwyr ar raddio oedd 53.**
- **Dywedodd dros ddwy ran o dair o'r ymatebwyr fod y broses wedi effeithio'n negyddol iawn ar dasgau eraill.**
- **Dywedodd dros hanner yr ymatebwyr fod y broses wedi effeithio llawer iawn ar eu lles personol-** *" Nid oeddwn yn bwyta yr un mor iachus neu greadigol... Doeddwn i ddim yn ymarfer corff o gwbl ond yn eistedd yn eithaf aml. Dros y penwythnos hefyd, roeddwn i wedi ymlâdd".*
- *"Dim amser i ffwrdd. Dim amser i baratoi ar gyfer mis Medi oherwydd roeddem yn gweithio cyn i ni dorri am yr haf i wneud yn siwr bod gennym yr holl dystiolaeth ar gyfer yr apeliadau fel y gallai'r Swyddog Arholiadau gael gafael arni os nad oeddem o gwmpas yn yr haf. Esbonio a chyfiawnhau, cymedroli, safoni, marcio o hyd. Doedd dim amser i anadlu - yn ogystal ag addysgu a cheisio paratoi myfyrwyr yn y blynyddoedd a oedd yn mynd i adael am ble bynag yr oeddent yn mynd. Hwn oedd y flwyddyn waethaf erioed, heb os."*
- *"Roeddech chi'n gorfod cefnogi eich myfyrwyr drwy'r amser... bydden nhw'n dewis anfon negeseuon atoch yn eithaf hwyr y nos".*
- *" Roeddwn yn poeni'n ofnadwy y gallwn wneud cam â'r plant pe na fyddwn y cael y marciau'n berffaith gywir. Fyddwn i dim yn gwneud y gwaith pe na bawn i'n ymboeni am fy mhiant.. effeithiodd hynny arna i'n feddyliol achos r'on i'n meddwl beth os nad ydw i wedi chwarae'n deg?"*
- *"Ar lefel uwch arweinwyr, rydych chi'n poeni am yr athrawon rydych chi'n eu rheoli a'u harwain a'r effaith, gallech weld ar eu hwynebau yr effaith yr oedd yn ei chael arnyn nhw bob dydd oherwydd does dim byd gwaeth na dod i mewn a gweld ôl mwy na straen ar bobl".*
- *" Pe gallem fod wedi dechrau'r broses yn gynharach, pe byddem wedi cael mwy o amser.. wyddoch chi, pe baem wedi dechrau'r broses ym*

*mis Ionawr lle gallem fod wedi dod i ben erbyn dechrau mis Mai,  
byddem wedi cael mis cyfan yn ychwanegol i ledaenu'r llwyth  
gwaith."*

Mae casgliadau (4) yr adroddiad y dangos yn glir fod problemau wedi bod gydag arweiniad a'r cymorth gan CBAC, fod y llwyth gwaith a phwysau graddio wedi effeithio ar les personol llawer o staff canolfan (a dysgwyr) ac os oes penderfyniad i weithredu model tebyg yn y dyfodol awgrymir y byddai staff canolfan eisiau penderfyniadau amserol, deunyddiau addas a chymorth priodol gan gynnwys, mewn rhai achosion, tâl am amser ychwanegol.

Mae'r ddogfen yn mynd i'r afael yn glir felly â'r materion a godwyd gennyf yn wreiddiol ac yn dangos bod hwn yn farn athrawon ledled y wlad.

Hoffwn felly ofyn i'r Gweinidog Addysg a yw e dal i gredu ar ôl iddo ddarllen y dystiolaeth ddamniol a phryderus hon, nad yw athrawon uwchradd yn haeddu bonws fel athrawon yr Alban? Nid yw dweud diolch yn ddigonol. Mae angen ymddiheuriad arnom ganddo. 53 awr ychwanegol o waith x lleiafswm cyflog £9.18 yr awr= £486.54

Derbyniodd staff y NHS fonws yn ystod y pandemig, a nifer ohonynt yn eistedd adref yn gwneud gwaith ar eu cyfrifiaduron, gyda llai o bwysau na'r arfer, ddim yn gweld pobl wyneb i wyneb. Roedd ein gwaith ni wedi dyblu- yn dysgu arlein, wyneb i wyneb a gwneud gwaith CBAC drostynt.

I orffen, hoffwn ategu fod nifer o athrawon **eto eleni** wedi gorfod pennu graddau ar gyfer rhannau o'r cyrsiau TGAU a Lefel A yn lle arholwyr allanol CBAC- heb unrhyw amser ychwanegol, na thâl, dim ond cynnydd yn y llwyth baich arferol. Rydw i yn un ohonynt.

Diolch.

Lisa M Williams

# Agenda Item 5.6

## **P-06-1235 Ensure appropriate provision of services and support for people with Acquired Brain Injury in Wales**

This petition was submitted by Dr Claire Williams, having collected a total of 443 signatures.

### **Text of Petition:**

There is urgent need to review the provision of services and support for people with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) in Wales.

There are currently no inpatient rehabilitation services for people with ABI in North Wales, and there are just four inpatient beds for children and young people with ABI in Wales.

Services need to be adequate and 'fit for purpose'.

Now is the Time for Change.

### **Additional Information:**

In 2018, the All-Party Parliamentary Group on ABI launched the following report

[https://cdn.ymaws.com/ukabif.org.uk/resource/resmgr/campaigns/appg-abi\\_report\\_time-for-cha.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/ukabif.org.uk/resource/resmgr/campaigns/appg-abi_report_time-for-cha.pdf)

However, an equivalent report that focussed specifically on Wales and considered its demographics, geography and service provision was needed.

This need has resulted in the 2021 'Acquired Brain Injury and Neurorehabilitation in Wales: Time for Change' report

<https://ukabif.org.uk/page/TFCWales>

Key recommendations are made across five areas – Neurorehabilitation, Education, Criminal Justice, Sport-related Traumatic Brain Injury, and the Welfare Benefits System – with each highlighting the urgent need for the provision of services and support for people with ABI in Wales to be reviewed.

ABI is a hidden epidemic affecting many hundreds of thousands of people in Wales, and Services need to be adequate and 'fit for purpose'.

Now is the Time for Change.

### **Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Gower
- South Wales West



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1235  
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/01512/22

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

12 May 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 4 April on behalf of the petition committee, regarding the provision of services and support for people with Acquired Brain Injury in Wales. I have noted the further comments from the petitioner and have provided responses below.

### **Neurorehabilitation:**

#### **Neurological Conditions Plan**

It is for health boards to prioritise how best to use the £900k funding to improve support for people waiting for neurological treatment, including for those with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI). The money was allocated to health boards to develop Community Neurorehabilitation Teams. These are not condition specific teams and they do not provide a condition specific service but see people dependant on need. As this is not a useful metric for these teams to collect, the proportion of people with ABI of the overall case load is not known.

An ABI data dashboard is in development and is a collaboration between The Value in Health Team and a Neurological Conditions Implementation Group (NCIG) Clinical Reference Group. As Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW) develop the national data repository it will be possible to include data from additional sources to enable the whole patient journey to be mapped at a national and local level. Understanding the demand for, and impact of services for people with acquired brain injury, will help health boards to direct funding to the most appropriate place. It will enable NCIG to monitor equity of access and quality of services across Wales and in our English providers. The ABI dashboard is in its early developmental stage and will only be as good as the data populating it, so continually improving data quality is a focus of this work.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

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

[Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales](mailto: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.

## **National Clinical Framework**

The NCIG has developed a draft Quality Statement with input from a service user stakeholder group. This has been submitted to Welsh Government for consideration and it is anticipated this will be published in the summer. The NCIG has already agreed priorities for work for the next 12-18 months and is developing a workplan to ensure these are delivered. Implementation remains the responsibility of health boards and WHSSC.

## **National Rehabilitation Framework**

Accurate data and monitoring is essential for delivering the most effective rehabilitation to all who require and receive it. Implementation of the National Rehabilitation Framework does not rely on the data dashboard, but good data will certainly enhance our intelligence and our effectiveness to improve outcomes. Access to services and care pathways should not be dependent on data dashboards and everyone should be supported equitably, in the way that best suits their needs, regardless of location of services or route through which they reach services or where they are on the care pathway.

As part of the suite of underpinning guidance for the Rehabilitation Framework, a modelling tool and evaluation framework have been developed. These should be used by each rehabilitation service to ensure that demand and capacity are understood and that all care is evaluated and action taken from the learning from that evaluation to improve service delivery. These are already being used in some neurorehabilitation services. They will be important in the neurorehabilitation workstream that has been identified by NCIG.

The developing ABI data dashboard will only be as good as the data that has been collected and the sources of data that can be accessed. The Value in Health and clinical reference group continue to work with DHCW as they develop the national data repository to see how additional sources of data can be included for the whole pathway. We need to work across Wales to improve access with more self-referral options, patient initiated follow up and 'see on symptom' responses rolled out in line with the planned care pathway.

## **Rehabilitation Prescription**

Rehabilitation prescriptions are not a standardised tool with a specific structure. They are a required part of UK Trauma Network auditing. The intention is to support excellent transfer of information about a person's rehabilitation needs when they move services. It is good practice for all rehabilitation services to coproduce realistic rehabilitation goals with those using the service, and identify what support and interventions are needed to support the individual achieve those goals. Different people need services provided to them in different formats, depending on their cognitive, communication and emotional status. Good handover information between services should always include:

- Setting out the nature of the rehabilitation needs.
- Recording baseline values for the core measures that are used to record complexity and outcomes that are required as part of routine evaluation within the specialist rehabilitation services.
- Recommendations and referrals.

Good practice will require constant assessment to keep rehabilitation goals up to date. A single document is not a replacement for thorough clinical, co-produced goal setting. There are therefore no plans to extend the use of the Trauma Network process. However, the recent appointment of a National Clinical AHP Lead for Rehabilitation, working alongside a Clinical Fellow in Rehabilitation in HEIW, is expected to result in a revised Rehabilitation Framework and underpinning guidance by the Autumn. The National Clinical Lead is establishing a network to support identifying and sharing good practice across Wales.

The Rehabilitation Framework recommends the use of the Modelling tool to better understand demand for rehabilitation. Health Boards will continue to monitor waiting times and determine

the requirements for investment and expansion of rehabilitation services and Allied Health Professionals.

### **Neurorehabilitation services for children**

With regards to paediatric neurorehabilitation services in Wales, it is for the health boards to identify the needs of their population and commission/provide appropriate services. All health boards have community paediatric teams and the Allied Health Professionals working within them will have neurorehabilitation specialist skills. As referred to above these teams are not condition specific teams or services but assess and support people according to need rather than specific condition or diagnosis.

Understanding the demand for, and impact of services for people with ABI is critical and this is an area where gaps do exist. However, the ABI dashboard referred to above is using data across the life-course with the inclusion of data from birth. This is therefore starting to provide data on the incidence of ABI in children and is something that can be built upon. This will be vital to ensure health boards, and others, have the information and intelligence required to plan effective services and direct resources.

### **Education**

With regards to education, Equity and inclusion are at the heart of our education reforms in Wales. As part of this programme of reform, a new ALN system is gradually being introduced in Wales to replace the current SEN system. The new ALN system is underpinned by the ALN and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act and ALN Code for Wales which strengthens support for learners aged 0-25 with additional learning needs (ALN) by creating:

- a unified legislative framework to support all children of compulsory school age or below with ALN and to support young people with ALN who are in school/ PRU or further education;
- an integrated, collaborative process of assessment, planning and monitoring of the support provided to ALN learners which facilitates early, timely and effective interventions; and
- a fair and transparent system for providing information and advice, and for resolving concerns and appeals.

Under the ALN Act all learners with ALN, which may include learners with ABI, will be entitled to an Individual Development Plan (IDP) irrespective of the severity or complexity of their needs, and the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people and their parents must be considered at all stages of the IDP process.

One of the statutory roles created by the ALN Act is the Designated Educational Clinical Lead Officer (DECLO). The DECLO role will help strengthen liaison and joint action between the health and education services, assist in the removal of barriers to partnership working, and ensure that IDPs contain evidence based health interventions.

A skilled education workforce is essential to ensure improved learner outcomes. Under the ALN Act schools and colleges must have an ALN Co-ordinator (ALNCo) who co-ordinates ALP for learners; provides a strategic leadership role and is the first port of call for professional advice and guidance. We have developed an extensive package of training, core skills development and ongoing professional development for all practitioners.

The Welsh Government's guidance, '[Supporting Learners with Healthcare Needs](#)' contains both statutory guidance and non-statutory advice to assist local authorities, governing bodies, education settings, education and health professionals and other organisations to support learners and ensure minimal disruption to their education. The guidance includes

advice on integration after diagnosis and reintegration of learners with healthcare needs including the need to work with other agencies and other learners; staff training to assist the learner's return; and the need for support to be considered by all parties and reflected in the learner's individual healthcare plan.

### **Criminal Justice**

Some of the points made in your letter focus on the practice of criminal justice agencies. Although we work closely with criminal justice partners, justice is not devolved to Wales and the specific practice of organisations is not within our direct remit. Her Majesty's Prison and Probation have provided the following information on how they are supporting people with Acquired Brain Injuries:

#### Linkworker programme in prison and probation settings

Since 2017 the Disabilities Trust have been delivering a whole-systems approach operating across custodial and community settings in Cardiff and Swansea. The Trust provide an in-reach service in HMP Cardiff and HMP Swansea and Approved Premises to deliver bespoke advice and consultation on a case-by-case basis.

The service includes brain injury screening, the provision of a specialist Linkworker and consultancy/training for other professionals. The in-reach Linkworker uses a range of interventions and support, to equip individuals with the tools and techniques to help them recognise and manage the injury's impact on their memory, cognition, emotions, and behaviour. Additionally, the service provides resources and training to professionals in relation to brain injury and its consequences and assist with the management of prisoners with a brain injury, within and outside the prison.

#### Cynnwys Unit at HMP Parc

In 2019 a review of the Supported Living Plan to Assisted Living Plan was undertaken and with the wider changes of the Offender Management in Custody model and the implementation of the Key Worker scheme there was a unique opportunity to enhance the current and planned delivery on the Supported Living Unit by relocating to a more suitable area – C Block.

Early in 2019 work began to complete the re-role of Credwch Unit into an Assisted Living Unit for men with Learning Difficulties, Disabilities or Autistic Spectrum Disorders that may make them vulnerable in the main population and who may require a level of assisted living. The unit was renamed Cynnwys, meaning 'inclusion' in Welsh and has a clear Mission Statement which focuses on the need for multi-departmental working as well as a person centred and tailored approach to men with LDDs and ASDs.

As well as the work to re-role Cynnwys, they have reviewed their pathway for men with LDDs/ASDs including how they identify, assess and cater for the needs of this group. All referrals prompt a series of assessments and discussion at an MDT meeting held twice a week on the Cynnwys Unit. In addition, men can also complete a self-referral using the CMS terminals located on each unit. All staff are encouraged to make referrals through this process.

### **Sport-Related Traumatic Brain Injury**

The Welsh Government has agreed to work alongside the UK Government and the other Devolved Administrations to develop and share across the sport and education sectors, shared protocols for concussion in sport; one of the steps in the UK Government's action plan on tackling concussion in sport. Sport Wales is working with national governing bodies of sport to consider how to support the implementation of the other actions in the plan, including those to improve data collection and research.

## **Welfare Benefits System**

Powers over the welfare systems sit with the UK Government, however, people in Wales deserve a social security system that is delivered with compassion, is fair in the way it treats people and designed to be as simple as possible, promoting efficient administration and helping people to easily understand and access their entitlements

The Welsh Government has previously voiced concerns over the stress applicants are placed under when submitting the same evidence for different claims such as PIP and ESA. In June 2021 the Minister for Social Justice wrote to the Secretary of State to highlight the concerns Welsh Government have over the capability assessments undertaken by healthcare professionals for PIP claims. In addition, in our response to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Health and Disability Green Paper we advised the principle should be to avoid repeat assessments not putting additional strain on a person with a serious health condition.

Many people who claim welfare benefits struggle to secure relevant and timely evidence from health professionals to support their claims. It is essential therefore that clear guidance and instructions are provided to people of the level of evidence that is necessary. The needs of the applicant should be central and what works best for them during the assessment process – it should also be made clear that they can have someone with them during the assessment. We believe it is important individuals should be able to change their choice of assessment if they have a fluctuating health condition. e.g. if they have a mental health condition they may be happy to have an assessment via video call on one occasion, but may not feel confident to do that at a subsequent occasion.

In our response to the DWP's Health and Disability Green Paper we also stated DWP seek evidence from other health professionals or support organisations, this provides a more holistic assessment. DWP may wish to include assessments and intelligence from Health Care Professionals who know and work with the person, assessments undertaken by someone with an understanding of the realities of the condition will aid a Decision Maker to reach the right decision first time.

In Welsh Government we are raising awareness of both devolved and non-devolved benefits to ensure people are aware of the different benefits available and their entitlement. We have also liaised with DWP communications while taking this work forward and welcome the opportunity to take part in discussions which improve the benefits system.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



**Eluned Morgan AS/MS**

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



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Betsi Cadwaladr  
University Health Board

Bloc 5, Llys Carlton, Parc Busnes Llanelwy,  
Llanelwy, LL17 0JG

Block 5, Carlton Court, St Asaph Business  
Park, St Asaph, LL17 0JG

Mr Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

**Ein cyf / Our ref:** JW/TO/DL/CE22-638/3082

**Eich cyf / Your ref:**

**☎:** 01745 448788 ext 6364

**Gofynnwch am / Ask for:** Dawn Lees

**E-bost / Email:** [Dawn.Lees@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Dawn.Lees@wales.nhs.uk)

**Dyddiad / Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Sent via E-mail:

[petitions@senedd.wales](mailto:petitions@senedd.wales)

Dear Jack

**RE: Petition P-06-1235 Ensure appropriate provision of services and support for people with Acquired Brain Injury in Wales**

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) are continuing to develop the case for a Level 2 Neuro Rehabilitation service in North Wales in line with the timeline previously reported to the committee in February 2022. Since our last update BCUHB have submitted a scoping document to Welsh Government (WG) giving an outline of the case for change and also other key information to identify potential for WG capital funding, or if not available, requesting discussions about possible avenues that BCUHB can explore to raise this.

Work has started on the development of the service specification, which once complete will include a draft service model, accommodation requirements, details of capacity and staffing requirements, and also the financial costs of delivering the service. We have recently worked with clinicians, health staff, and other stakeholders including HeadWay to develop a draft service model and are now planning to engage with key stakeholders to refine this. As previously stated, we are keen that any new service is co-produced with service users and carers as well as health professionals so if any of the petitioners would like to be involved please contact [Megan.Vickery@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Megan.Vickery@wales.nhs.uk) for further information.

This information together with feedback from the WG will be used to undertake an options appraisal and identify the preferred option. It is anticipated that this will be presented to the Executives circa summer 2022 for approval to work up the full business case for the preferred option which will be concluded by when it will return to our Executive team for potential approval in autumn 2022.

A proposal for the role of neuro-navigators is also under development in BCUHB. The neuro-navigators will fulfil a role akin to a complex clinical case coordinator, to support persons with acquired brain injuries who are admitted to the acute hospital system (major trauma centre, Walton Centre, local district general hospital). This qualified clinician role is primarily aimed at improving the experience of people with highly complex long term neurological disabilities, as they journey through the health and community care service



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Betsi Cadwaladr  
University Health Board

system and to facilitate timely admission, transition, and discharge to and from specialised neurorehabilitation units.

The key aspects of the role are to provide proactive case management and direct support to the local acute and rehabilitation services, with expert clinical advice, assessment and education, and directing patient referrals to the most appropriate specialist neurorehabilitation service with the emphasis on enhancing flow and improving patient experience for patients and their families.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jo Whitehead".

**Jo Whitehead, PSM**  
**Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive**

**P-06-1235 Ensure appropriate provision of services and support for people with Acquired Brain Injury in Wales – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 4 June 2022**



Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Science  
Y Gyfadran Meddygaeth, Iechyd a Gwyddor Bywyd

4 June 2022

Dear Petitions Committee,

Thank you for the actions you have already taken concerning our petition “P-06-1235 - *Ensure appropriate provision of services and support for people with Acquired Brain Injury in Wales*”, and for sharing the letters of:

- 12 May 2022 from Eluned Morgan - Minister for Health and Social Services
- 25 April 2022 from Jo Whitehead - Chief Executive for Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

In response, we have the following comments and/or queries:

**Neurological Conditions Plan:** Thank you for confirming that the £900k funding was allocated to health boards to develop Community Neurorehabilitation Teams, and that those teams are not condition specific (typically) and see people dependent on need. However, the needs of those with ABI are often vastly different to those living with other neurological conditions, and we believe that survivors of ABI deserve a strategy that recognises and meets their specific needs.

Further, is the allocated annual funding of £900k sufficient for supporting the vast number of neurological conditions (~250) recognised under the plan? All too frequently, our impressions from both service users and those working across community neurorehabilitation teams in Wales, is that services are incredibly stretched, there are lengthy waiting times, and that the range of services provided and to whom, varies across locality. Given pressures and demands on such community neurorehabilitation services, there are also often stringent eligibility criteria for accessing such services also, with variation in criteria across individual teams and by geography, meaning that many people with ABI in need of support are still missing out on vital community-based neurorehabilitation services.

Additionally, and as conveyed previously in our response letter of 14 March 2022, it is also anticipated that the number of people with neurological conditions will increase in the future due to increased longevity, improved survival rates and improved general health care. We recognise that the ABI data dashboard will help inform health boards with regards to funding allocations and resource review, but how do you envisage that future levels of demand will be met and that the Delivery Plan continues to evolve further, during the period when the ABI data dashboard is still being developed?

**ABI Data Dashboard:** Regarding the data dashboard, we agree that a national data repository is pivotal for understanding the demand for, and impact of services for people with ABI, as well as monitoring equity of access and quality of services across Wales. As Digital Health and Care Wales are developing the national repository, we are also pleased to learn that it should be possible to include data from additional services to enable to whole patient journey to be mapped at national and local level. Even so, data collection and quality has been a recognised issue for many years, with

the urgent need to find ways of improving methods of data collection, capture and maintenance recognised in the Parliamentary 2001 Health Select Committee Report '*Head Injury: Rehabilitation*'. Therefore, whilst the development of the ABI data dashboard is certainly welcomed news and we believe it will be of significant value, we have only witnessed partial progress against the cited 2001 recommendation; progress has been slower than hoped. Of course, we recognise that the data dashboard is a significant undertaking and will only be as good as the data populating it, but could you provide an indication of the likely timescale of this work? It would be useful to be able to chart its progress against a roll out plan, and to also gain an understanding of the anticipated functionality of the data dashboard at various points of release.

**National Clinical Framework:** When available in summer 2022, we would very much appreciate access to the respective Quality statement, alongside the agreed priorities and workplan for the next 12-18 months.

**National Rehabilitation Framework:** We are heartened to see recognition that access to services should not be dependent on data dashboards given its developmental timescale, with everyone supported equitably, in the way that best suits their needs. We also agree that there is need to work across Wales to improve access with more self-referral options, patient initiated follow up, and 'see on symptom' responses – particularly so for ensuring that those with ABI who are not admitted to hospital and/or not attending for emergency and unscheduled care be identified and captured on the ABI dashboard, and in turn, supported in the care pathway.

Although, there is need to consider within this that initiation and self-advocacy is a common issue for individuals with ABI, and they may also lack awareness and insight of their own problems and subsequently fail to report/and or be aware of relevant information as a result. 'See on Symptom' responses also hinge on increased knowledge and understanding of ABI, where there is need for enhanced training for professionals, such as GPs and Social Workers, so that they are better equipped to identify and recognise symptoms. All too often, presenting problems to an agency may not indicate that a person has a brain injury, there may be no physical outward signs of such an injury, and reported symptoms and difficulties may overlap with other conditions and/or not be immediately apparent or visible also – yet an identified ABI is responsible for many of the reported long-term issues and difficulties. Consequently, are there plans to develop and deliver enhanced ABI training to health and social care professionals across Wales, including those operating in community settings without specialism in ABI?

Further, thank you for sharing that a modelling tool and evaluation framework have been developed to support the Rehabilitation Framework, with usage already evident across '*some neurorehabilitation services*' to facilitate understanding of demand and capacity, as well evaluating current and future service provision. We trust that there will be more consistent adoption of such tools and frameworks going forward and as the neurorehabilitation workstream (Neurological Conditions Implementation Group) progresses. In the meantime, could you confirm which neurorehabilitation services are already using the modelling tool and evaluation framework?

**Rehabilitation Prescription:** We agree that the Rehabilitation Prescription is not a replacement for constant assessment and thorough clinical, co-produced goal setting, but it is an extremely valuable tool for supporting effective discharge planning, communication, and onward referrals. Thus, we maintain the position that it should be mandatory for the Rehabilitation Prescription to be given to all individuals with an ABI, not just those who have been in a Major Trauma Centre, on discharge from acute care. Therefore, whilst there are currently no plans to extend the use of the Trauma Network Process, we hope that this position is reconsidered in the Autumn when the National Clinical AHP Lead for Rehabilitation reviews the Rehabilitation Framework and underpinning

guidance.

Importantly though, even if/when Rehabilitation Prescriptions are provided, their success rests on whether the recommendations contained within them are met, which depends on support pathways being clear and sufficient availability of community services, resources, and specialist expertise – which at present, can be variable, inconsistent, and inequitable. As referred to elsewhere, there are currently few specialist neurorehabilitation services in Wales, and even fewer paediatric services.

We also know that many individuals with ABI present first to other public services (e.g., social services, criminal justice). In such instances, an equivalent to the Rehabilitation Prescription would be extremely beneficial, as these individuals often end up ‘going round in circles’ and have trouble accessing relevant ABI support services via established pathways. As referred to above, there is also need for enhanced training for public service professionals, so that they are better equipped to advise and support those with an ABI.

**Neurorehabilitation Services for Children:** Thank you for recognising that gaps exist in provision of services for children and young people with ABI. As captured in our *‘Acquired Brain Injury and Neurorehabilitation in Wales: Time for Change’* 2021 report (<https://ukabif.org.uk/page/TFCWales>), NHS paediatric neurorehabilitation services, whether inpatient or long-term in the community, are limited overall. We sincerely hope that the ABI data dashboard – which we believe is likely to capture more accurate data for children (index event; parent advocacy; inclusion of data from birth) - proves fruitful in identifying needs, directing additional resources within health boards, and highlighting the critical need for investment and expansion of existing services. However, what about the here and now? What advice can we provide to parents in Wales who routinely contact us and associated groups/services (e.g., UKABIF, the Child Brain Injury Trust, the Children’s Trust), distressed that they cannot access vital, timely, ongoing, and local support services for their child who has sustained an ABI?

**Education:** We agree that a central component of the Additional Learning Need (ALN) system should be *“a fair and transparent system for providing information and advice, and for resolving concerns and appeals”*. Connected to this, it is vital that such a system is also accessible and user friendly, where utilisation and outcome does not depend on parents seeking legal support and advice to navigate the system, make an application, or challenge a decision. Parents of children with an ALN should feel and be supported by schools and key coordinators, rather than feeling like they must do battle.

Thank you for also confirming that an extensive package of training, core skills development and ongoing professional development has been developed for practitioners. Is this provided to all professionals involved in the assessment and delivery of ALN support, and does this package include specific information and awareness training about ABI? The National Acquired Brain Injury in Learning and Education Syndicate (N-ABLES) have developed resources that could support the training package: <https://ukabif.org.uk/page/ABIReturn>.

Additionally, it is also important to ensure liaison with external agencies and psychology services, including Educational Psychologists (EP). With the latter, we note that EP numbers are limited in Wales, meaning that schools currently have variable access to them. When the *‘Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal (Wales) Bill’* was originally discussed (<https://business.senedd.wales/ielssueDetails.aspx?IId=16496&Opt=3>), evidence session 15 received information from the Association of Educational Psychologists, including:

- *“Would the Committee consider asking the Welsh Government to direct local authorities to*

*employ more EPs and expand services, rather than making any further cuts?”*

- *“...serious considerations should be given by the committee to recommending now a substantial increase in the number of postgraduate training places in Cardiff University from the current level of just 11 per year. It should be noted that between 2012 and 2018 there has been a 25% increase in commissioned university places for initial training of EPs in England from 120 to 160 – in Wales there has been no increase at all.”*

What steps have been taken to employ more EPs and expand services, and how many university training places have been commissioned annually in Wales since 2018? Are EP services appropriately resourced to meet demand and to successfully deliver the ALN and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act and ALN Code for Wales?

**Criminal Justice:** Thank you for sharing the information received from Her Majesty’s prison regarding the Link Worker Programme (Cardiff and Swansea), in-reach service (Disabilities Trust) and developments at the Cynnwys Unit (HMP Parc), which are all very encouraging. We look forward to seeing the current initiatives rolled out further across Wales. Notably though, training and information about ABI is required across the entire spectrum of criminal justice services (e.g., police, probation, prison services, and the courts). Are there plans in place to meet this need?

Further, does the population of the Cynnwys Unit currently include individuals with ABI? We would also welcome an update regarding progress against the following recommendations in the ‘2021 HMP Parc Health and Social Care Needs Assessment 2021 Report’ (<https://ctmuhb.nhs.wales/about-us/our-board/board-papers/2021-board-papers/7-july-2021/3-5-1-appendix-3-hmp-parc-health-and-social-care-needs-assessment-pdf/>):

- Recommendation 19: *“There should be a specialist resource available in HMP Parc to meet the needs of residents with acquired brain injuries and enable access to timely diagnosis.”*
- Recommendations 20-22: Support needs for the Cynnwys Unit, including access to Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, and specialist LD Psychiatry and Psychology support.

**Sport-Related Traumatic Brain Injury:** We are pleased that the Welsh Government, other devolved administrations, and the UK government will all be working together on a joint strategy to address key issues. We hope that this work will cover the breadth of our 2021 recommendations (<https://ukabif.org.uk/page/TFCWales>), including the need for collaborative research, educational campaigns, concussion guidelines and policies, and better pipelines for the diagnosis and care of sport-related brain injury.

**Welfare Benefits System:** We wholeheartedly agree that the people in Wales deserve a social security system that is delivered with compassion, is fair in the way it treats people, and is designed to be as simple as possible. We are also pleased to learn that the Minister for Social Justice wrote to the Secretary of State in 2021 over concerns Welsh Government have with capability assessments undertaken by health professionals (PIP claims), and that you have also advised that the principle should be to avoid repeat assessments that place unnecessary strain on a person with a serious health condition/s. We also appreciate your continued efforts to raise awareness of both devolved and non-devolved benefits to ensure people are aware of the different benefits available and their entitlements.

In ongoing work with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), we hope that Welsh Government will continue to push for improvements in the system and give serious consideration to the following:

- The application process attached to welfare benefits can indeed be challenging, stressful and complex, and this is further pronounced in the context of ABI. Individuals with ABI frequently have cognitive problems which makes the application process extremely challenging, from understanding the information required through to communicating the answers. Put simply, individuals with ABI are often unable to complete the process owing to the very reason they are applying – their ABI.
- In line with your existing response to DWP’s Health and Disability Green Paper, we also strongly believe that assessments should be undertaken by someone with an understanding of the realities of the condition. All too often, assessors have limited awareness and knowledge of ABI, as well as a lack of empathy with both the individual and their family.
- The need for specialists with an understanding of ABI is also critical because initiation and self-advocacy can be very difficult for those with an ABI, and they may also lack awareness and insight of their own problems and subsequently fail to report/and or be aware of relevant information as a result.
- There is a group of individuals with ABI that have prefrontal cortex damage who perform well in interview and test settings, despite marked impairments in everyday life. Consequently, the interview setting may mask an individuals care and support needs. This further reiterates how vital it is that evidence is sought from other health professionals and support organisations to ensure a more reliable and holistic assessment. Consequently, we implore you to continue to push DWP on this point as we believe it would make an enormous difference to those affected by ABI.
- We also strongly advocate for the inclusion of a brain injury expert on consultation panels when changes in the welfare system are proposed.

**Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board:** Thank you for the information contained within the letter dated 25 April 2022 from Jo Whitehead, Chief Executive for Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. The level of detail provided is very helpful and there are some promising developments and planned changes that seek to address the significant gap in the provision of ABI services in North Wales. In addition to contacting [Megan.Vickery@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Megan.Vickery@wales.nhs.uk), we will also disseminate the response received to our partners and key stakeholders in North Wales. As they are best placed to determine whether the developments, planned changes, and the neuro-navigator role will meet the needs of their respective population, they may wish to raise additional comments/queries in due course.

Thank you once again for the detailed and helpful information received to date, as well as the opportunity to respond further. We welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively and alongside you to ensure improved provision of services and support for people with ABI in Wales, and please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries or require further information.

Yours Sincerely,

On behalf of my fellow petitioners and members of the South Wales Acquired Brain Injury Forum

Dr Claire Williams



Associate Professor and School Education Lead  
 School of Psychology, Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Science  
[Claire.williams@Swansea.ac.uk](mailto:Claire.williams@Swansea.ac.uk)

# Agenda Item 5.7

## **P-06-1241 Welsh government to meet with a wider audience of unpaid carers**

This petition was submitted by Mike O'Brien, having collected a total of 133 signatures.

### **Text of Petition:**

Please sign the petition and ask the Welsh Government to meet with a wider audience of unpaid carers and listen to our stories. We want the Welsh Government to meet regularly with carers outside of the carer organisations and committees. The aim of these meetings would be to give carers a voice, a chance to share their concerns and for the Welsh Government to hear the real stories of carers on the ground.

We deserve the right to have our voices heard. Unpaid carers have been ignored for too long and even more so during the pandemic. For example, the Welsh Government stated that they couldn't find any examples of services being stopped during the pandemic, but actual carers on the ground know that services were stopped and still haven't be restarted.

We're asking that relevant Minister to meet with us so we can help shape future policies to ensure a better future for unpaid carers living in Wales.

### **Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair  
Petitions Committee

16 May 2022

Dear Jack

**Petition P-06-1241 Welsh Government to meet with a wider audience of unpaid carers**

Thank you for your letter dated 2 March 2022 regarding the above petition, in which you asked the Health and Social Care Committee if there will be any scope in the future for the petitioner to engage in any inquiries or evidence-gathering sessions on this issue.

As a member of this Committee, you will of course be aware that support and services for unpaid carers is one of the areas of priority identified in our [strategy for the Sixth Senedd](#).

Where relevant throughout our work we consider issues relating to unpaid carers, and adopt a range of approaches to hearing from individual carers directly as well as from relevant representative organisations. I have set out some examples below.

Inquiry on hospital discharge and its impact on patient flow through hospitals

---

On [Thursday 10 March](#) we took formal oral evidence from an unpaid carer with first hand experience of delayed transfers of care alongside a representative of Alzheimer's Society Cymru. Hearing directly from an individual with lived experience helped to illustrate the issues and the impact on individual carers and families very clearly.

Inquiry on the impact of the waiting times backlog on people in Wales who are waiting for diagnosis or treatment

---

We conducted in depth interviews with people affected by the waiting times backlog, including some unpaid carers. The findings of the interviews are available on the [Committee's website](#). We also took

formal oral evidence from the Wales Carers Alliance on [DATE]. We subsequently included a chapter on unpaid carers in our report, highlighting the essential role they play within the health and social care sector and making recommendations relating to supporting carers' financial resilience and promoting their involvement in care and treatment planning.

#### Inquiry on mental health inequalities

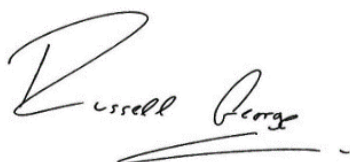
---

To inform the first stage of our inquiry into mental health inequalities, we held a series of focus groups, including one with young carers in Newport. A summary of the focus groups is available on the Committee's website. We have also received written evidence both from carers organisations and from a number of individuals who are carers. We will be holding an informal stakeholder discussion event in June focusing on mental health inequalities and neurodiversity, which will include representatives with lived experience as carers or family members of people who have neurodiverse conditions.

Should the petitioner wish to contribute to any future pieces of work the Committee undertakes, further details will be available on the Committee's website and promoted across the Senedd's social media accounts. If the petitioner would like to be added to our mailing list, they can request this by emailing seneddhealth@senedd.wales.

We hope this information is helpful to the petitioner, and we look forward to continue to include this important topic where appropriate in the Committee's work for the duration of this Senedd.

Yours sincerely



Russell George MS

Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

**P-06-1241 Welsh government to meet with a wider audience of unpaid carers –  
Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 4 June 2022**

Whilst I appreciate the health and social care committees reply and the invitation to give evidence at future meetings it would be great if the committee would commit to organising a session or series of sessions with an open invite where unpaid carers could meet with them virtually and discuss the issues that are affecting us. Issues such as lack of respite, lack of paid care workers, waiting times for and accountability with carers needs assessments, access to accessible housing and many other issues. Unpaid carers across Wales feel that these issues are better coming straight from those with the lived experience.

# Agenda Item 5.8

## **P-06-1248 Change Standing Orders and admissibility criteria for petitions**

This petition was submitted by Bryan Dredge, having collected a total of XX signatures.

### **Text of Petition:**

Currently petitions that concern the operational decisions of local authorities are automatically rejected by the Petitions Committee in accordance with Standing Orders. Across Wales, Local Authorities are disregarding Welsh Assembly declarations, such as Climate Emergency and Nature Emergency and making decisions which are in direct contravention of such declarations. Many farms are being lost whilst Councils seek to maximise their revenues by allowing additional building on greenbelt land.

### **Additional Information:**

In February 2016, the Petitions Committee, undertook a public consultation exercise and review of Public Petitions Arrangements. Under Item 17 , it was confirmed that 57% of the public favoured allowing petitions about local authority operational decisions and responses from petitioners were equally divided. Under 21, it was stated "Despite the responses to the online survey, there does not appear to be a consensus for change in this area and good reasons not to interfere in local democratic decision making". This is denying the Public the right to avail themselves of the correct avenue to correctly challenge local authority decisions which go against the aims and commitments made by the Welsh Government. The Planning Policy for Wales states "The Welsh Ministers have reserve powers to make their own Revocation/Modification or Discontinuance Orders but only after consultation with the planning authority." How can the public request this when petitions are automatically denied.

### **Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

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

Our ref: P0266/EJ/ES

24 May 2022

Dear Jack,

**Re: Petition P-06-1248: Change Standing Orders and admissibility criteria for petitions**

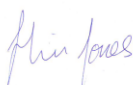
Thank you for your letter of 20 April 2022 asking for my views on Petition P-06-1248.

I have considered the content of the petition and am of the view that we should not make any changes to the current position. I am of the opinion that it is not appropriate for the Senedd or the Committee to intervene in operational decisions or actions of local authorities given:

- Local authorities are democratic bodies, with elected representatives.
- There are specific processes in place relating to planning matters.
- The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 sets out requirements to promote access to local government including establishment of petitions processes.
- Changing the criteria could have a significant and disproportionate resource implications for the Committee.

I trust that this will aid the Committee in its work.

Yours sincerely,





**Rt. Hon. Elin Jones MS**  
Llywydd



**Senedd Cymru**  
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

 [llywydd@senedd.cymru](mailto:llywydd@senedd.cymru)  
 0300 200 7403

**Welsh Parliament**  
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

 [llywydd@senedd.wales](mailto:llywydd@senedd.wales)  
 0300 200 7403

## **P-06-1248 Change Standing Orders and admissibility criteria for petitions – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 7 June 2022**

Taking first the comments in the letter submitted by the Presiding Officer dated 24th May

### ***Local Authorities are democratic bodies, with elected representatives***

Yes they are but unfortunately they are not always acting democratically and some have been found to be acting illegally

### ***There are specific processes in place relating to planning matters***

Yes there are but once again these processes are often not being followed and with determined efforts in some cases resulting in illegality, the public should have the right to petition the higher level of government to ensure that Welsh Government diktat and regulation is followed and particularly Declarations such as Climate Emergency and Nature Emergency declarations are taken in and regarded as 'material matters' when considering planning applications. It has already been accepted by the Welsh Government that Planning reform is needed and a commitment made but in the meantime, there is an urgent need for the public to be able to easily bring to the fore with the Welsh Government, matters that require their 'reserve powers'.

### ***The Local Government And Elections (Wales) Act 2021 sets out requirements to promote access to local government including establishment of petitions processes***

Yes it does but it will be some time before these processes are in place, many local authorities choosing instead to concentrate on the recent local elections and establishing the plans for the forthcoming period. However, self regulation of a council will hardly help in those cases where the council itself is determined to either break or bend the law. Governance is on a hierarchical basis, just like the judicial system, it's folly to suggest that the rules and regulations be made by the Welsh Government, only to be disregarded by Local Government without any policing / overrule by the Senedd. The public vote for the Senedd as they do for Local Councils but do not understand a 'hands off' approach, they expect errant councils to be taken to task by the Senedd when required, it must be made easier for them to do that

### ***Changing the criteria could have a significant and disproportionate resource implications for the Committee***

This from a government that has just approved taking forward the expansion of the Senedd by another 30 members and attributed costs of £13m per year without consulting the public ? It's disingenuous of the presiding officer to put forward such an argument when money is easily being found elsewhere for less valuable matters. One either believes in the process or not ? The Petitions process is there as an avenue for the public to raise with the Senedd important matters of concern, this should be regarded by the Presiding Officer as an important channel of communication, not an appeasement to be kept as cheap as possible !

Now moving on to the petition itself and re-iterating, the respondents to the February 2016 public consultation, confirmed under item 17, that they favoured allowing petitions about local authority operational decisions. 57% of the public and 50% of local petitioners favoured allowing such petitions. So comments such as ***'Despite the responses to the online survey, there does not appear to be a consensus for change in this area and good reasons to not interfere in local democratic decision making'*** from the committee and ***'I am of the opinion that it is not appropriate for the Senedd or the Committee to intervene in operational decisions or actions of local authorities' by the Presiding Officer'*** are an affront to democracy and the public. You undertook a public consultation exercise, you got the feedback which on a majority basis favoured changing the

'hands off' approach, yet you didn't like the result so decided to just brush it aside ? That appears to be totally wrong in a responsible and open government, consulting it's public. Why have a public consultation if you aren't going to listen ? That's virtual signalling at it's worst.

The actions of the Vale Of Glamorgan Council in respect of Model Farm, demonstrates there is a need for the Senedd to intervene in Local Government. The VOG Council withheld, illegally, the viability report, they also agreed to let Legal & General off over £3m of Section 106 money behind the scenes and concealed this, they also omitted important documents in this respect from the freedom of information pack that protesters obtained and paid for costing over £200. They also withheld the report from their own environment officer who recommended rejection of the planning application. Additionally the VOG Council total disregarded the Climate Emergency and Nature Emergency and the declarations made by the Senedd in this respect as not 'Material Matters'. So far, no one at the VOG Council has been sanctioned for this approach and neither has the application been called in yet by the Senedd, although I believe Julie James is considering doing so albeit she refused to answer questions in front of the House of Commons Welsh Affairs Committee in respect of Model Farm, why would that be? So current processes aren't working !!

Councils all over Wales are bending the rules, particularly in respect of the green agenda, there is a need for the Welsh Government to govern, not abrogate it's responsibilities. A normal 'hands off' approach is fine in day to day operations but there must be an appeals process available to the public. The public understand the legal system, they understand that appeals have to go to a higher authority and continue up the ladder as necessary. Why should it not be the same in respect of local government's acting ultra vires ? The Petitions process to the Senedd is the right and just process available to the public. Change the Standing Orders and Admissibility criteria, show that the Senedd is prepared to protect it's public and do the right thing !!

13 May 2022

Dear Mr Curtis

Earlier this year, the petitions Committee closed your petition **P-06-1181 Sea bottom trawling is killing our marine wildlife...Stop bulldozing our seas!**

We did so in light of the work being undertaken by another Senedd Committee.

I am writing to share with you the report produced by the Climate Change and Environment Committee [Report on the Welsh Government's marine policies](#) (PDF 1.51MB) on 22 February 2022.

The relevant section can be seen on pages 28-30, and includes the following recommendation.

Recommendation 17:

The Welsh Government should set out the purpose and timeline for the public consultation on dredging and bottom trawling in Welsh MPAs.

The [Welsh Government responded](#) (PDF 365 KB) on 4 April 2022, accepting this recommendation. The full Welsh Government response can be seen on page 7.

On 18 May 2022 a **debate** will be held on the report and response in the Senedd. This will be available to watch on Senedd.TV.

Thank you again for submitting your petition, participating in the work of the Senedd and influencing Welsh Government policy decisions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Sargeant MS". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jack Sargeant MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

