

Agenda – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 8 February 2023

Meeting time: 13.30

120(v3)

This meeting will be held in a hybrid format, with some Members in the Senedd Chamber and others joining by video-conference.

1 Questions to the Minister for Climate Change

(45 mins)

The Presiding Officer will call Party Spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Minister after Question 2.

[View Questions](#)

2 Questions to the Minister for Education and Welsh Language

(45 mins)

The Presiding Officer will call Party Spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Minister after Question 2.

[View Questions](#)

3 Topical Questions

(20 mins)

To ask the Minister for Social Justice

[Jack Sargeant \(Alyn and Deeside\)](#): In light of the Ofgem announcement of a halt in the forced installation of prepay meters, what representations has the Minister made to the UK Government regarding support for those facing disconnection as a result of being forcibly switched already this winter?

To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services



[Russell George \(Montgomeryshire\)](#): Will the Minister make a statement on the new Welsh Government pay offer put to NHS workers?

4 90 Second Statements

(5 mins)

5 Debate on the Children, Young People and Education Committee's report – Pupil absence

(60 mins)

NDM8195 [Jayne Bryant \(Newport West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the report of the Children, Young People and Education Committee, 'Pupil Absence', which was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 14 November 2022.

Note: The response of the Welsh Government to the report was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 6 January 2023.

6 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Freeports

(60 mins)

NDM8200 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises the opportunities for freeports to energise the Welsh economy, create high quality jobs, promote regeneration and investment.

2. Notes that three bids from Wales have been submitted for consideration by the UK and Welsh Governments.

3. Calls on the Welsh Government to work with the UK Government to deliver two freeports in Wales, recognising the truly exceptional proposals submitted and the transformational benefits they can deliver for the Welsh economy.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)

Delete all and replace with:

1. Recognises that ports, harbours, seaside resorts and other coastal communities are being left behind and require investment to secure their long term viability.
2. Further recognises that coastal communities face multiple long-term structural problems, including, but not limited to, poverty and environmental changes.
3. Notes the UK Government's freeports policy and the negotiated changes to UK Government's original offer.
4. Further notes that three bids from Wales have been submitted for consideration by the UK and Welsh Governments and that local authorities and other partners have put together bids that they believe reflect their communities' needs.
5. Believes that the issues facing our coastal communities need a broader response including improvement in infrastructure and measures to tackle poverty.
6. Calls on both the UK and Welsh Governments to significantly increase funding for infrastructure and poverty reduction in our coastal communities to address the problems they face.

If amendment 1 is agreed, amendment 2 will be de-selected.

Amendment 2 [Lesley Griffiths \(Wrexham\)](#)

Delete point 3 and replace with:

Notes that the three bids which were submitted are now being assessed by both the Welsh and UK governments, against the criteria published in the Freeport Programme in Wales Prospectus and the outcome of this process will be jointly decided between Welsh and UK Government Ministers as part of an open and transparent process.

[Freeport Programme in Wales: bidding prospectus](#)

7 Plaid Cymru Debate – Income tax devolution

(60 mins)

NDM8199 [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Believes the present limitations of the Welsh Government's tax-varying powers are an impediment to effective policy-making in Wales, particularly the ability to

respond to the current cost-of-living crisis, and the crises facing our public services.

2. Believes that the Senedd should possess the devolved competence to set its own income tax bands, in line with the powers already devolved to the Scottish Parliament under the Scotland Act 2012.

3. Calls on the Welsh Government to initiate the process outlined in the Government of Wales Act 2006 to seek powers currently reserved to Westminster to enable the Senedd to set all rates and bands for Welsh Income Tax.

The following amendment was tabled:

Amendment 1 [Lesley Griffiths \(Wrexham\)](#)

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises the Welsh Government's responsible use of its tax-varying powers to support effective policy-making in Wales during the current cost-of-living crisis.

2. Supports the Welsh Government's approach to tax devolution in line with its tax principles and ambitions for strengthened devolution within the United Kingdom.

8 Voting Time

9 Short Debate

(30 mins)

NDM8196 [Russell George \(Montgomeryshire\)](#)

Benefits of medical research in Wales

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 14 February 2023

Agenda Item 1

Oral Questions tabled on 31/01/2023 for answer on 08/02/2023

The Presiding Officer will call party spokespeople to ask questions without notice after Question 2.

MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Sian Gwenllian *Arfon*

1 OQ59096 (w)

What plans does the Welsh Government have in place to help the young people of Arfon with the costs of traveling on public transport?

Janet Finch-Saunders *Aberconwy*

2 OQ59079 (e)

What support is the Welsh Government providing for coastal communities facing the threat of flooding?

Natasha Asghar *South Wales East*

3 OQ59073 (e)

What progress has the Welsh Government made towards its target of meeting 70 per cent of Wales's electricity demand from renewable sources by 2030?

Rhys ab Owen *South Wales Central*

4 OQ59080 (e)

What recent discussions has the Minister had with the UK Government regarding building safety?

Delyth Jewell *South Wales East*

5 OQ59082 (e)

What criteria does the Minister apply when deciding whether to overturn a local authority's decision to refuse planning permission?

Cefin Campbell *Mid and West Wales*

6 OQ59095 (w) Member declared an interest

Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Government's policies regarding building electricity pylons in Mid and West Wales?

Jane Dodds *Mid and West Wales*

7 OQ59091 (e)

What consideration has the Minister given to the petition handed to Welsh Government on Thursday 12 January in respect of Ffos-y-Fran coal mine?

Ken Skates *Clwyd South*

8

OQ59077 (e)

How is the Welsh Government engaging with local authorities in regard to the roads review?

Llyr Gruffydd *North Wales*

9

OQ59078 (w) *Withdrawn*

What is the Minister's assessment of the capacity of Natural Resources Wales to fulfill its duties in full?

Joel James *South Wales Central*

10

OQ59090 (e)

What conversations has the Minister had with the UK Government about its Environmental Improvement Plan 2023?

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE

Adam Price *Carmarthen East and Dinefwr*

1

OQ59088 (w)

What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the decline in the number of Welsh speakers in Carmarthenshire according to the most recent census data?

Peter Fox *Monmouth*

2

OQ59089 (e)

What support does the Welsh Government provide to young people with additional learning needs who wish to attend post-16 education, and their families?

Samuel Kurtz *Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire*

3

OQ59074 (e)

Will the Minister provide an update on the roll-out of the Welsh Government's Curriculum for Wales?

Rhianon Passmore *Islwyn*

4

OQ59097 (e)

What action is the Welsh Government taking to raise educational standards in Islwyn?

Luke Fletcher *South Wales West*

5

OQ59084 (e)

What discussions has the Minister had with the Minister for Economy regarding how the education system can help to address Wales's skills gap?

Hefin David *Caerphilly*

6

OQ59083 (e)

Will the Minister provide an update on support for community-focused schools?

James Evans *Brecon and Radnorshire*

7

OQ59092 (e)

What assessment has the Minister made of potential cost-saving measures for schools?

Mark Isherwood *North Wales*

8

OQ59072 (e)

How is the Welsh Government supporting neurodiverse pupils?

Jack Sargeant *Alyn and Deeside*

9

OQ59087 (e)

How is the Welsh Government working to ensure maximum take-up of its universal free school meal offer?

Rhys ab Owen *South Wales Central*

10

OQ59085 (w)

What discussions has the Minister had with local authorities to ensure that all staff working in Welsh-medium schools have Welsh language skills?

Tom Giffard *South Wales West*

11

OQ59081 (e)

What measures is the Welsh Government taking to tackle school absenteeism in South Wales West?

Paul Davies *Preseli Pembrokeshire*

12

OQ59071 (e)

Will the Minister outline the Welsh Government's priorities for education in Preseli Pembrokeshire for the next 12 months?

