

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee room 1

Meeting date: Monday, 13 May 2024

Meeting time: 14.00 – 15.20

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/13904>

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Jack Sargeant MS (Chair) Peter Fox MS John Griffiths MS Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Witnesses:	
Committee Staff:	Gareth Price (Clerk) Mared Llwyd (Second Clerk) Kayleigh Imperato (Deputy Clerk) Samiwel Davies (Legal Adviser)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.



2 New Petitions

2.1 P-06-1384 Introduce legislation where it is mandatory to have an defibrillator in workplaces and sport clubs

The Committee considered the petition and noted the Welsh Government's response stating that they do not believe introducing legislation to mandate the provision of defibrillators is the best way forward. In light of this Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner for raising the important issue.

In addition to closing the petition, Members agreed to write a further letter to the Minister for Health and Social Services asking the Welsh Government to encourage sports clubs, schools, and community groups across Wales to consider the benefits of having a defibrillator installed on site.

2.2 P-06-1394 Intervene in the development of the Penrhos Coastal Park into a holiday resort in Anglesey

The Chair noted that there is currently a judicial review in process regarding this development. In light of this Members agreed to consider the petition on completion of the judicial review.

2.3 P-06-1410 To stop using the name 'Anglesey' and exclusively use the name 'Ynys Môn' or shorten to 'Môn'

The Committee considered the petition and noted that changing the name of the county would ultimately be a matter for the local authority. In light of this Members agreed there is nothing further they could do as a Committee other than write to Ynys Môn Council to highlight the petition and ask whether any thought had been given to a single name. In doing so they agreed to close the petition and thanked the petitioner.

2.4 P-06-1414 Prepare a bid for Wales to compete in the Eurovision Song Contest

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), copying in S4C, to seek further information about what the process would be for Wales to be able to join or submit an application to the Eurovision Song Contest. The Committee accepted that the Welsh Government's position was clear and therefore would close the petition, whilst ensuring any response from the EBU is shared with the Members, to enable them to pursue as individual members.

2.5 P-06-1417 Ban fireworks from shops

The Committee considered the petition and noted that the issue is clearly an important but complex matter, as the powers to regulate fireworks remain with the UK Government. In light of this Members agreed there is little further they could do as a Committee and closed the petition and thanked the petitioner for highlighting this issue and sharing her experience to highlight the dangers and risks involved.

2.6 P-06-1413 Scrap the 50mph limits on the M4 around Newport and Swansea and on the A470 around Pontypridd

The Chair proposed to consider this petition jointly with P-06-1416 Increase the speed limit on the M4 back to 70mph.

Peter Fox MS and John Griffiths MS declared the following relevant interest under Standing Order 17.24A:

They are both regular users of the M4.

The Committee considered the petition and noted that whilst it can feel frustrating to be driving at a speed limit below that which the road was designed for, the evidence is

clear that the speed limit reduction is improving air quality for local residents. In light of this Members agreed there is little further they can do as a Committee other than continue to monitor and challenge speed limits as individual Members of the Senedd, and as things move forward with greener technologies and other efficiencies.

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2.8 P-06-1415 Brynglas Tunnels M4 South Wales relief road to be put into action

The Chair proposed to consider this petition jointly with P-06-1421 Hold a public poll on whether to build the M4 Relief Road, then implement the result immediately.

John Griffiths MS declared the following relevant interest under Standing Order 17.24A:

He is a regular user of the M4.

Peter Fox MS declared the following relevant interest under Standing Order 17.24A:

He resides in the South East and within the Gwent SSSI area.

The Committee considered the petition and noted the response received from the Welsh Government. Members voiced their concerns that not only would there be financial implications by running such a scheme but there would also be a significant impact on the environment.

In light of this Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

2.9 P-06-1421 Hold a public poll on whether to build the M4 Relief Road, then implement the result immediately

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In light of this Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

2.10 P-06-1423 Reinstate the 552 Cardi Bach coastal bus service in South Ceredigion!

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to keep it open pending an update from the Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport.

3 Updates to previous petitions

3.5 P-06-1344 Moderate quality agricultural land (grade 3b) should be used for food security not solar farms

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write back to the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to seek answers to the petitioners' response to the Welsh Government report.

3.2 P-06-1403 Reconsider cuts to Postgraduate funding and increase Doctoral Loans to match UKRI Stipend

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write back to the Cabinet Secretary for Education to seek a response to the further concerns raised by the petitioner.

4 Paper to note – P-06-1387 Provide humanitarian aid to Gaza

Jack Sargeant MS declared the following relevant interest under Standing Order 17.24A:

The petitioner is known to him.

The Committee agreed to highlight the petition and correspondence received so far to the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice, as the petition now falls within her remit.

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

The motion was agreed.

6 Draft report – P-06-1335 Welsh Government should take steps to ensure vulnerable adults without bank cards can pay with cash

Members agreed the report subject to minor changes.