

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee room 1

Meeting date: Monday, 8 July 2024

Meeting time: 14.00 – 15.10

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/13980>

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Jack Sargeant MS (Chair) Rhys ab Owen MS Luke Fletcher MS Peter Fox MS Rhianon Passmore 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.

No apologies were submitted.



All Members were present.

2 New Petitions

2.1 P-06-1422 Rescind the 20mph limit on TRA4076 at Johnston Pembrokeshire

The Committee considered the petition and noted that the Welsh Government is reviewing and updating how its guidance to highway authorities on setting exceptions to the new 20mph speed limit should be applied. The Committee noted that the updated guidance would be published soon, and that highway authorities would be implementing changes from September. In light of this, Members agreed that there was no further action that the Committee could take and closed the petition, thanking the petitioner.

2.2 P-06-1428 Stop the flooding in Caenant Terrace, Skewen NOW!

The Committee considered the petition and welcomed the Welsh Government's decision to commit £765,000 to the local risk management authority, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, to develop a flood prevention scheme for Caenant Terrace. The Committee was concerned about the decision to delay the design and funding application process until early 2025 and agreed to write to the council to emphasise the need for work to progress as soon as possible. The Committee agreed to keep the petition open until a response was received.

2.3 P-06-1436 Withdraw plans to change the structure of the school year

The Committee considered the petition and noted the Welsh Government's decision not to make changes to the school year during this Senedd term. The Committee agreed to close the petition and congratulated the petitioner on a successful outcome.

2.4 P-06-1442 Extend Universal Free School Meals to secondary schools

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

Membership of Unite the Union, which created petition P-06-1442.

The Committee considered the petition and noted a similar campaign by St Joseph's School in Wrexham, which is working with the Senedd Education team. The Committee agreed that it would like to return to the issue and hear directly from pupils at the St Joseph's School (via the Education Team).

2.5 P-05-1443 Re-instate core funding for TRAC Cymru (Music Traditions Wales / Traddodiadau Cerdd Cymru)

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to leave it open, as it had not yet received a response from Trac Cymru. The Committee noted that this was the third petition relating to cultural funding that has been considered in recent months. It agreed to return to the petition once a response had been received.

2.6 P-06-1445 Change Land Transaction Tax for First Time Buyers in Wales to be in line with the UK Government

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Cabinet Office to clarify the points made by the petitioner.

2.7 P-06-1447 Stop Natural Resources Wales closing the visitor centre at Ynyslas National Nature Reserve

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to Natural Resources Wales seeking clarification regarding whether a decision had been made to close Ynyslas, and when that might have occurred. The Committee agreed to copy in the Chair of the Senedd's Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee to make them aware, as they have previously made recommendations to NRW on the issue of visitor centres.

2.8 P-06-1448 Stop pollution at Watchtower Bay and Ogmere by Sea

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to keep it open until Natural Resources Wales publishes new water pollution statistics in December 2024. The Committee agreed to return to the petition in December and noted that the Cabinet Secretary had highlighted work investigating the causes of water pollution levels in the affected areas.

2.20 P-06-1456 I demand a full public enquiry into the closure of Welsh Air Ambulance bases in mid and North Wales

The Committee considered the petition and noted that the petitioner had closed the petition once it reached 10,000 signatures, the threshold for petitions to be considered for debate in the Siambr. The Committee agreed to write to the Senedd Business Committee to request a debate.

3 Updates to previous petitions

3.1 P-06-1291 Hold an enquiry into the corporate takeover of the veterinary profession in Wales

The Committee agreed to write to the Competition and Markets Authority to outline the petition, highlight the evidence it had gathered and to seek confirmation that they will consider the evidence in their deliberations.

3.2 P-06-1374 Bring Wales in line with England by allowing landowners 60 days tent and campervan camping a year

The Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change to encourage resolution by Easter 2025. The Committee also agreed to keep the petition open pending a further consultation being conducted by the Welsh Government.

3.3 P-06-1398 To act to increase the effectiveness of Natural Resources Wales in halting pollution on the Teifi

The Committee noted that Natural Resources Wales is funded by the Welsh Government. The Committee agreed that the petitioners should arrange individual discussions with Members of the Senedd ahead of the Welsh Government's Budget so that Members could reflect their views during Budget debates. The Committee noted an upcoming Finance Committee-led debate on funding priorities for the next Budget and agreed that the Chair would seek to contribute on behalf of the Committee. The Committee agreed to close the petition.

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

The Committee agreed to keep the petition open pending the Welsh Government's response and the upcoming debate in the Siambr. The Committee agreed to return to the petition in the autumn.

3.5 P-06-1437 Increase, don't cut, funding for the National Library, Amgueddfa Cymru and the Royal Commission

The Chair thanked Rhiannon Passmore MS, who led the debate on this petition in the Siambr on 26 June. The Committee noted that the petition had been shared with the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee and the Finance Committee. The Committee thanked the petitioner and closed the petition.

4 Paper to Note

4.1 P-06-1368 The Welsh Govt should take steps to save the Environmental Information Regulations in relation to Wales

This paper was noted by the Committee.

4.2 P-06-1408 Make safe the access to the Secret Garden A4042 Goytre Fawr for both pedestrians and vehicles

This paper was noted by the Committee.

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 Update on Annual Report and Eisteddfod

The Committee discussed its plans for the summer recess, including the publication of its Annual Report and visibility at the National Eisteddfod.