

Agenda – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 20 November 2024

Meeting time: 13.30

243(v4)

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 Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales (45 mins)

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

[View Questions](#)

2 Questions to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip (45 mins)

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

[View Questions](#)

3 Questions to the Senedd Commission (30 mins)

[View Questions](#)

4 Topical Questions (20 mins)

To ask the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

[Janet Finch–Saunders \(Aberconwy\)](#): Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on why the Welsh Government is stepping out of the four–nation approach to the deposit return scheme?

To ask the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

[Rhun ap Iorwerth \(Ynys Môn\)](#): Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board's announcement to delay the provision of vascular operations at Glan Clwyd Hospital, which will lead to patients having to receive treatments in England?

5 90 Second Statements

(0 mins)

Motions to elect Members to committees

(5 mins)

Proposal under Standing Order 12.24 and 12.40 to group the following motions for debate and for voting:

NNDM8741 [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Carolyn Thomas (Welsh Labour) in place of Jack Sargeant (Welsh Labour) as a member of the Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister.

NNDM8742 [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Carolyn Thomas (Welsh Labour) in place of Hefin David (Welsh Labour) as a member of the Children, Young People and Education Committee.

NNDM8743 [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Mick Antoniw (Welsh Labour) in place of Carolyn Thomas (Welsh Labour) as a member of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee.

Motion to appoint an acting Standards Commissioner

(5 mins)

NNDM8744 [Hannah Blythyn \(Delyn\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes that the Senedd Commissioner for Standards has notified the Standards of Conduct Committee that he is unable to act in relation to a particular complaint.

2. Appoints, in relation to the complaint referred to in point 1, Melissa McCullough as acting Commissioner, in accordance with Section 4(1) of the National Assembly for Wales Commissioner for Standards Measure 2009, on the following terms:

a) the appointment takes effect on 21 November 2024;

b) the appointment ends immediately when notice is given to the acting Commissioner by the Clerk of the Senedd;

c) the acting Commissioner's remuneration is to be a daily rate of £458.36 (or pro-rata for part of a day) for activities that relate directly to the role and responsibilities of the post plus reasonable expenses; and

d) all sums referred to in point 2(c) are to be paid to the acting Commissioner by the Senedd Commission.

6 Debate on a Member's Legislative Proposal – A Bill on the right to adequate housing – Postponed

(0 mins)

NDM8712 [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes a proposal for a Bill on the incorporation of the right to adequate housing, as set out in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, into Welsh law.

2. Notes that the purpose of this Bill would be to:

a) establish the right to adequate housing as a fundamental right in Welsh law, ensuring access to safe, secure, and affordable housing for all;

b) place a duty on Welsh Ministers and public authorities to progressively realise the right to adequate housing;

- c) require regular assessments of housing needs and conditions, with targets set to reduce unmet housing needs and improve conditions over time;
- d) strengthen tenant protections and support fair rental practices to ensure housing stability; and
- e) establish mechanisms for individuals to seek redress if their right to adequate housing is violated or unmet.

Co-submitters

[Mabon ap Gwynfor \(Dwyfor Meirionnydd\)](#)

7 Motion to approve the Senedd Commission Budget for 2025–26

(30 mins)

NDM8729 [Hefin David \(Caerphilly\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd in accordance with Standing Order 20.16:

Agrees the budget of the Senedd Commission for 2025–26, as specified in Table 1 of the Senedd Commission Budget 2025–26, [laid](#) before the Senedd on 13 November 2024, and that it be incorporated in the Annual Budget Motion under Standing Order 20.26(ii).

Supporting documents

[Finance Committee report – Scrutiny of the Senedd Commission Draft Budget 2025–26](#)

8 Debate on the Finance Committee report – Review into the operations, processes and investigations carried out by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

(30 mins)

NDM8730 [Peredur Owen Griffiths \(South Wales East\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the report of the Finance Committee 'Review into the operations, processes and investigations carried out by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales' which was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 8 November 2024.

9 Plaid Cymru Debate – Employer national insurance contributions

(60 mins)

NDM8732 [Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes the UK Government's decision to increase employer national insurance contributions in the autumn budget.
2. Believes the added cost to public sector employers in Wales should be met in full by the UK Treasury.
3. Notes the OBR's assessment that the increase in employer national insurance contributions is expected to lead to stalled real wage growth at a time when Welsh employment rates are the lowest in the UK.
4. Regrets the lack of clarity on whether the reimbursement from the UK Treasury will include, amongst other sectors, university employers, GPs and third sector organisations.
5. Calls on the Welsh Government to:
 - a) press the UK Treasury for the reimbursement of added national insurance contributions costs in the public sector to be based on the Stats Wales and Labour Force Survey definitions of the public sector workforce, which includes amongst other sectors, university employees, GPs and third sector organisations;
 - b) provide a comprehensive analysis of the impact that the rise in employer national insurance contributions will have on the jobs market in Wales; and
 - c) increase the level of business rates relief in the upcoming Welsh budget to mitigate the impact of national insurance contributions rises within the domestic small medium enterprises sector.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 [Jane Hutt \(Vale of Glamorgan\)](#)

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes:

- a) the UK Government's decision to increase employer national insurance contributions in the autumn budget, in order to assist in stabilising the nation's finances;
- b) the OBR's overall assessment that the net effect of UK Government Budget policies will increase growth in the longer term;
- c) the UK Treasury's indication that additional funding will be provided to meet the costs of employer national insurance contributions in the public sector;
- d) the UK Treasury's confirmation that, in doing so, it will follow the ONS classification, as adopted by previous governments; and
- e) as a result of all the measures in the UK Government Budget, 865,000 UK businesses will pay no national insurance contributions at all, and more than half of employers with national insurance contribution liabilities will either see no change or will gain overall next year.

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

Amendment 2 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

Add as new point after point 4 and renumber accordingly:

Further regrets that the UK Labour Government has broken a manifesto commitment to not raise tax on working people.

10 Voting Time

11 Short Debate

(30 mins)

NDM8731 [Gareth Davies \(Vale of Clwyd\)](#)

Progress or preservation: how should responsible government respond to cultural and societal change in Wales?

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 26 November 2024

Agenda Item 1

Oral Questions tabled on 13/11/2024 for answer on 20/11/2024

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

CABINET SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT AND NORTH WALES

Adam Price *Carmarthen East and Dinefwr*

1 OQ61873 (w)

Will the Cabinet Secretary explain why the timetable which was drawn up in 2023 for appointing an employer's agent for the Llandeilo bypass has been delayed by five months?

Peter Fox *Monmouth*

2 OQ61900 (e)

Will the Welsh Government make a statement on road connectivity in south-east Wales?

Jane Dodds *Mid and West Wales*

3 OQ61891 (e)

What assessment has the Cabinet Secretary made of the junction-safety improvements needed in mid Wales?

Sioned Williams *South Wales West*

4 OQ61874 (d)

How is the Welsh Government supporting the provision of bus services in South Wales West?

Tom Giffard *South Wales West*

5 OQ61889 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the progress of the South Wales Metro?

Mark Isherwood *North Wales*

6 OQ61868 (e)

How is the Welsh Government investing in bus services?

Natasha Asghar *South Wales East*

7 OQ61867 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on Transport for Wales's penalty fare zone expansion?

Julie Morgan *Cardiff North*

8

OQ61894 (e)

What is the Welsh Government doing to support active travel in Cardiff North?

Russell George *Montgomeryshire*

9

OQ61884 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the performance of Transport for Wales services on the Cambrian line?

Rhianon Passmore *Islwyn*

10

OQ61902 (e) *Withdrawn*

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on bus and rail investment in Islwyn?

John Griffiths *Newport East*

11

OQ61881 (e)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with the UK Government on the rail-related recommendations set out in the Burns Commission report?

Janet Finch-Saunders *Aberconwy*

12

OQ61869 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the North Wales Metro system?

CABINET SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, TREFNYDD AND CHIEF WHIP

Peredur Owen Griffiths *South Wales East*

1

OQ61893 (e)

What is the Government doing to combat poverty among older people in South Wales East?

Luke Fletcher *South Wales West*

2

OQ61886 (e)

How is the Cabinet Secretary working with Cabinet colleagues and the UK Government to coordinate post-release support for prison leavers?

Buffy Williams *Rhondda*

3

OQ61887 (e)

How is the Cabinet Secretary promoting the Welsh Government's £1.5 million warm hubs scheme?

Sioned Williams *South Wales West*

4

OQ61872 (w)

How is the Welsh Government working with the UK Government to alleviate fuel poverty?

Rhianon Passmore *Islwyn*

5

OQ61890 (e) *Withdrawn*

What assessment has the Cabinet Secretary made of the impact credit unions are having by supporting people with ethical lending?

Janet Finch-Saunders *Aberconwy*

6

OQ61870 (e)

What steps is the Cabinet Secretary taking to work with North Wales Police and parents to stop the cycle of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage caused by young adults in Aberconwy?

Julie Morgan *Cardiff North*

7

OQ61898 (e)

What discussions has the Welsh Government had with the UK Government about tackling violence against women and girls?

Natasha Asghar *South Wales East*

8

OQ61904 (e)

How is the Welsh Government supporting pensioners in South Wales East?

Mick Antoniw *Pontypridd*

9

OQ61871 (e)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with the UK Government regarding the devolution of youth justice and the probation service?

Sian Gwenllian *Arfon*

10

OQ61896 (w) *Withdrawn*

How is the Welsh Government supporting single-parent families living in poverty in Arfon?

Tom Giffard *South Wales West*

11

OQ61888 (e)

What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the impact on pensioners in South Wales West this winter of the UK Government's decision to scrap winter fuel payments?

James Evans *Brecon and Radnorshire*

12

OQ61905 (e) *Withdrawn*

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with the UK Government regarding the impact on public services in Wales of the early release of prisoners from jail?

SENEDD COMMISSION

Gareth Davies *Vale of Clwyd*

1

OQ61879 (e)

How much is Senedd reform costing the Commission?

Julie Morgan *Cardiff North*

2

OQ61897 (e)

How is the Commission working to improve the accessibility of Senedd proceedings for deaf and hearing-impaired people?

Joel James *South Wales Central*

3

OQ61877 (e)

What procedures are in place for deciding when the Senedd is to be lit up in support of various causes?

James Evans *Brecon and Radnorshire*

4

OQ61906 (e) *Withdrawn*

What is the Commission doing to improve the health and fitness of Members and staff?

Laura Anne Jones *South Wales East*

5

OQ61892 (e) *Withdrawn*

What action is the Commission taking to ensure Members and staff have access to the news channels they need on the Senedd's internal television system?