

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

This meeting can be viewed

Committee room 1

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

Meeting date: Monday, 2 December 2024

<http://senedd.tv/en/14206>

Meeting time: 14.00 – 14.55

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Carolyn Thomas MS (Chair) Rhys ab Owen MS Luke Fletcher MS Peter Fox MS Vaughan Gething MS
Witnesses:	
Committee Staff:	Gareth Price (Clerk) Kayleigh Imperato (Deputy Clerk) Gruffydd Owen (Legal Adviser) Lara Date (Second Clerk)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Vaughan Gething MS stated that as the petition under Item 3.9 concerned him directly he would be leaving the meeting at that point and not taking part in the petition deliberations on that issue.



2 Updates to previous petitions

2.1 P-06-1379 Ban the sale of single-use vapes

The Committee considered the petition and congratulated the petitioner on a successful outcome, with new legislation coming in to force next year in Wales and across the UK.

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

2.2 P-06-1431 A Beacon of Hope at Risk: Please Support Bronllys Well-Being Community Hub!

The Committee considered the petition and noted a late submission received from the petitioner.

Member agreed that the further information provided by the Health Board and the Cabinet Secretaries clearly set out the situation as it stands, the appropriate channels for the petitioners to engage, and the support and guidance available. In light of this there seems little more the Committee can do to take the petition further and agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

2.3 P-06-1435 We're calling on the Welsh Government to commit to implementing targeted lung cancer screening

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care as a priority to ask what is being done to secure funding for the work of the team beyond March 2025, and to seek the commitment on implementation sought by Cancer Research UK and those involved in the Welsh screening pilot.

In doing so Members also agreed to copy in the Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee for awareness, and keep the petition open pending the Cabinet Secretary's response.

2.4 P-06-1451 Keep the name 'Wales' and not waste any more taxpayers money on pointless exercises

The Committee considered the petition alongside petition P-06-1446 Abolish the name 'Wales' and make 'CYMRU' the only name for our country.

It was noted that they presented diametrically opposite views on the use of the name 'Wales' and 'Cymru'.

Members noted the correspondence from the Llywydd regarding the use of 'Senedd' and that Wales was a bilingual country with two official languages. In light of this the Committee thanked the petitioner and decided to close the petition.

2.5 P-06-1446 Abolish the name 'Wales' and make 'CYMRU' the only name for our country

The Committee considered the petition alongside petition P-06-1451 Keep the name 'Wales' and not waste any more taxpayers money on pointless exercises.

It was noted that this petition received over 10,000 signatures and could be recommended for debate. Previously Members had questioned whether such a debate would add anything new to the discussion. Both the Welsh Government response and the letter from the Llywydd suggested it was unlikely that either institution would change from its current approach.

Following further discussion, Members agreed that a debate would not be a good use of the Senedd's time, and closed the petition and thanked the petitioner.

3 New Petitions

3.1 P-06-1459 Wind farm developments are akin to the drowning of Welsh valleys and old slate industry. Stop them.

The Committee considered the petition and noted that the Welsh Government had made its position on wind farm developments very clear in its response, and on that basis the Committee thanked the petitioner for raising the issue but agreed to close the petition.

In doing so, the Committee wanted to highlight that there would be plenty of opportunities for Senedd Members to debate the issues of energy production, community benefit and the protection of biodiversity, as well as whether or not certain sites were suitable. That would include debates as part of the legislative consent process when the GB Energy legislative consent motion came through the Senedd.

3.2 P-06-1463 Continue to fund school police officers who educate children and support schools

The Committee considered the petition and noted that these programmes had been running for 21 years, despite the non-devolved aspect, but that difficult choices had to be made by the Welsh Government on funding. Members agreed to write to the Chief Constables and the Police and Crime Commissioners for the four police forces in Wales to ask:

- for clarity on if and how their schools programme had changed;
- the outcomes of the investment made over the past 21 years;
- and their views on the impact of the cut to Welsh Government funding.

It was agreed to keep the petition open until the next Welsh Government budget cycle

3.3 P-06-1467 Instruct NHS Wales to add Adenomyosis to its 111 A-Z webpages

The Committee considered the petition and congratulated the petitioner for highlighting the issue.

Members agreed to follow up the petitioners' concerns about the mechanisms to keep the site updated by writing to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, particularly as this may be an issue across the range of information provided for Welsh patients, and copy the letter to the Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee for awareness.

It was agreed that once the letter had been sent to the Cabinet Secretary, the response would be shared with the petitioner and the petition would be closed.

3.4 P-06-1475 Urgently improve the safety of the A458, Middletown, Powys in light of continuous dangerous driving

The Committee considered the petition and welcomed action being taken to assess the situation, although noted so far that work had been "inconclusive".

Members agreed to forward the petitioner's comments to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales, seeking an update on the timetable for the CCTV survey, how long it will take to be evaluated and a decision made, and what proposals for action the government plans to take.

In doing so, the Committee noted that even where action is recommended, there is a prioritisation exercise for the trunk road network.

Members agreed to keep the petition open pending the Cabinet Secretary's response.

3.5 P-06-1479 Stop the detention of learning disabled and autistic children, young people and adults in hospitals

The Committee considered the petition congratulated the petitioners for their persistence in engaging with the Welsh Government and individual Senedd Members on this critical issue.

It was noted that Hefin David MS would be holding a Member debate on Wednesday 4 December under Standing Order 11.21(iv) – Care settings for autism and learning disability. The Chair agreed to contribute to the debate by highlighting the petition.

The Committee agreed to share the petitioners' comments with the Minister and seek a response to the questions raised including;

- clarifying how Welsh Government will involve the campaigners after the Task and Finish Group reports;
- what progress is being made to address the data issues;
- the need for a communications plan to better understand what progress is being made; and
- a response to points made about the impact of the closure of inpatient services and reform of the Mental Health Act.

In doing so the Committee agreed to copy the correspondence to the Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee and the Senedd's Learning Disability Cross-Party Group for awareness.

3.6 P-06-1480 Make menopause a mandatory part of the curriculum for all healthcare sciences and medical students

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to keep it open pending the publication of the Women's Health Plan, and refer the petition to the Health and Social Care Committee for consideration in scrutiny relating to that plan, as previously agreed with petition P-06-1444 Women of North Wales have the right to have a Menopause Services/Clinic in Ysbyty Gwynedd.

The Committee also agreed to write to the General Medical Council to seek more information on how it ensures that medical training includes menopause as a mandatory aspect.

3.7 P-06-1490 We feel there should be a Referendum before the Senedd has a further 36 members

The Committee considered the petition and after a detailed discussion a majority decision was taken not to request a debate on the petition. A number of reasons were cited, including the amount of Senedd business time that had already been given to the issue; the fact that there had been a Senedd vote 40:14 against a specific proposal to hold a referendum; the known outcome of further debate, (the numbers had not changed); and the time required to overturn the current law under the mechanisms for trying to organise a referendum.

In light of his policy position on this issue, Peter Fox MS abstained from the decision on whether or not to request a debate.

The Committee thanked the petitioner for raising concerns about the cost to the public purse, and agreed to close the petition.

3.8 P-06-1466 Call for an early Senedd election

The Committee considered the petition and agreed the rules and circumstances for Senedd elections and the appointment of a First Minister are very clear, and there is little more the Committee can do to take the petition forward, other than to note the petitioners' views. In light of this Members agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

3.9 P-06-1481 The people of Wales require a public inquiry into the £200,000 donation made to Vaughan Gething

As noted at the start of the meeting, the Member who was the subject of the petition recused himself for this agenda item.

The Committee considered the petition and agreed that this matter had been subject to sustained and extensive scrutiny in the Siambwr, in Senedd Committees and in the media.

It was noted that the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee's inquiry report on the Development Bank of Wales had followed a full review of the Bank's operations, and showed how seriously that Committee had taken the matter.

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

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the remainder of today's business and the meeting on 6 January:

The motion was agreed.