

Agenda – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: 2 December 2024

Meeting time: 14.00

For further information contact:

Gareth Price – Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

Petitions@senedd.wales

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(Pages 1 – 33)

2 Updates to previous petitions

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

(Pages 34 – 36)

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

(Pages 37 – 43)

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

(Pages 44 – 51)

The following two items will be considered together

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

(Page 52)

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

(Pages 53 – 58)

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.
(Pages 59 – 65)
- 3.2 P-06-1463 Continue to fund school police officers who educate children and support schools
(Pages 66 – 70)
- 3.3 P-06-1467 Instruct NHS Wales to add Adenomyosis to its 111 A-Z webpages
(Pages 71 – 74)
- 3.4 P-06-1475 Urgently improve the safety of the A458, Middletown, Powys in light of continuous dangerous driving
(Pages 75 – 80)
- 3.5 P-06-1479 Stop the detention of learning disabled and autistic children, young people and adults in hospitals
(Pages 81 – 100)
- 3.6 P-06-1480 Make menopause a mandatory part of the curriculum for all healthcare sciences and medical students
(Pages 101 – 106)
- 3.7 P-06-1490 We feel there should be a Referendum before the Senedd has a further 36 members
(Pages 107 – 111)
- 3.8 P-06-1466 Call for an early Senedd election
(Pages 112 – 118)
- 3.9 P-06-1481 The people of Wales require a public inquiry into the £200,000 donation made to Vaughan Gething
(Pages 119 – 125)
- 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:**

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 2.1

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

This petition was submitted by Joseph Pashley, having collected a total of 455 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Single-use vapes are becoming increasingly popular, particularly amongst younger people & there is an increasing trend of these being disposed of incorrectly. Whilst the components are recyclable, they are typically, at best, thrown into general waste & more often than not are left as litter in public areas, causing problems for the local environment.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Torfaen
- South Wales East



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE **The UK Tobacco and Vapes Bill**

DATE **05 November 2024**

BY **Sarah Murphy MS, Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing**

Today, the Tobacco and Vapes Bill has been introduced into the UK Parliament. An earlier version of the Bill was introduced by the last UK Government on 20 March, but its progress was halted when Parliament was dissolved on 30 May ahead of the General Election.

Like the previous version, the new Bill seeks to change the age of sale for all tobacco products, cigarette papers and herbal smoking products so anyone born on or after 1 January 2009 will never legally be able to buy these products. It also makes it an offence to purchase these products on behalf of children and changes warning notices in retail premises. The provisions in the Bill will apply to Wales and the wider UK.

The Bill has been strengthened so the restrictions on selling vapes to under 18s now include non-nicotine vapes and other nicotine products. There are also provisions banning the free distribution of vapes for promotion purposes.

The Bill proposes introducing regulation-making powers to restrict flavours, point of sale displays and packaging for vaping products (nicotine and non-nicotine) as well as other consumer nicotine products.

This new version of the Bill has also been strengthened so vapes and other nicotine products can be prevented from being deliberately branded and advertised to children. The Bill introduces a ban on vape vending machines and powers for Welsh Ministers to expand our existing smoke-free restrictions to include vaping and heated tobacco-free products, thereby enabling the creation of vape-free and heated tobacco-free places.

The Bill includes provision for a retail licensing scheme in Wales for the sale of tobacco products, herbal smoking products, cigarette papers, vaping or nicotine products. Other provisions include a ban on oral tobacco products and strengthening of enforcement procedures to include fixed penalty notices for a wider range of offences. There are also provisions to restrict advertising and sponsorship of a wider range of products, including vaping and nicotine products.

If the Bill becomes law, we will work closely with our partners in Wales and across the UK to progress the measures available.

Separate to the UK Tobacco and Vapes Bill – and as part of our efforts to reduce environmental impact and support a circular economy in Wales – we are committed to banning [single-use vapes](#). We will continue to work closely with the UK Government and devolved governments to co-ordinate the coming into force of date on 1 June 2025.

I am committed to taking all measures necessary to address the health impacts of tobacco and am determined to do all we can to prevent young people from using vapes in Wales.

As the Bill makes provision in relation to Wales regarding devolved matters, a legislative consent memorandum will be laid in due course. I look forward to scrutiny of the Bill by Members, and to hearing the views of all our partners during the legislative process.

[Tobacco and Vapes Bill 2024: creating a smoke-free generation and tackling youth vaping](#)

Agenda Item 2.2

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

This petition was submitted by Jacqueline Wilding, having collected a total of 407 signatures.

Text of Petition:

We call on the Welsh Government to:

- Support the transfer of underutilised land at Bronllys Community Hospital site to Bronllys Well Being Park CLT Ltd for a nominal sum to develop a community well-being hub.
- Encourage Powys Teaching Health Board to respond to community issues and concerns with respect, transparency, and support for the proposed community-led initiative.
- Embrace the long-term objectives of this carefully researched proposal, which aims to improve local people's lives.

Additional Information:

The land surrounding BCH has remained vacant for over a century. It is at risk of being sold to developers.

A community-led organisation with nearly 700 members, Bronllys Well Being Park CLT Ltd (BWBP) has tirelessly worked to collaborate with PTHB to explore the transfer of unused land for community development.

Regrettably, PTHB has repeatedly failed to engage in meaningful discussions or provide a clear plan for its future use.

Our vision is to create a Community Well-Being Hub in Bronllys, with BCH as its centre, to address the needs and aspirations of our local community. It would set the standard for genuine community involvement, future readiness, and long-term sustainability.

Numerous feasibility studies, including one conducted by The Prince's Foundation, validate the benefits of repurposing unused BCH land this way. This proposal has garnered widespread support from the community, civic leaders, and political figures.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Brecon and Radnorshire
Mid and West WalesNorth Wales



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1431
Ein cyf/Our ref JMHSC/10504/24

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

petitions@senedd.wales
Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

23 October 2024

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 16 October about Petition P-06-1431 A Beacon of Hope at Risk: Please Support Bronllys Wellbeing Community Hub!

As noted in the former Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care's letter in July 2024, the use and development of the Bronllys Hospital site is a matter for the Powys Teaching Health Board. I am assured by my officials that the health board is clear this is an operational asset and there are no land and buildings surplus to requirements.

Welsh Ministers are required to approve or note all NHS land and property disposals and whilst delegated authority for this has been given to the chief executive of NHS Wales, no such approval has been issued nor applied for.

I can assure the committee there are also set protocols in place in that NHS bodies are required to consider the suitability of land/property for affordable housing prior to marketing it more widely. There are also established land transfer protocols that public sector bodies use around the availability of public sector estate.

Powys teaching Health Board has been actively engaging with the Bronllys Wellbeing Park CLT Ltd since it was established in 2016 and these links remain the most appropriate route for discussions around the site going forward.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

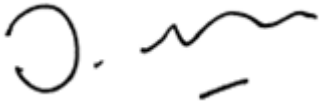
Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1431
Ein cyf/Our ref JB/10317/24

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee

14 November 2024

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 16 October regarding 'Petition P-06-1431 A Beacon of Hope at Risk: Please Support Bronllys Well-Being Community Hub!' submitted by Jacqueline Wilding.

The Welsh Government, in partnership with Ystadau Cymru, has recently established a [Community Asset Commission](#) following the work undertaken by the Local Government and Housing Senedd Committee. The commission will be reviewing current systems of community asset transfer to encourage innovative thinking on community ownership.

Ystadau Cymru has also developed and published a '[Community Assets Transfer Best Practice Guide](#)' in 2019. This included a due diligence guide, a practical example of the transfer process and real-life case studies. The guidance is scheduled for review in 2025, in line with recommendations made by the Community Asset Commission.

In terms of the development of the Bronllys Hospital site, this is a matter for the Powys Teaching Health Board. Set protocols are in place and NHS bodies are required to consider the suitability of property and land for affordable housing prior to marketing. There are also established land transfer protocols that public sector bodies utilise around the availability of public sector estate. The best route of communication for Bronllys Wellbeing Park CLT Ltd is to continue to engage directly with Powys Teaching Health Board.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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Gohebiaeth.Jayne.Bryant@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jayne.Bryant@gov.Wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Please be aware that assistance for third sector organisations is available through [Third Sector Support Wales \(TSSW\)](#). TSSW is a network of support organisations for the whole of the voluntary sector in Wales. This may also be a useful support mechanism for Bronllys Wellbeing Park CLT Ltd.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jayne Bryant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jayne Bryant AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Thai
Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

P-06-1431 A Beacon of Hope at Risk - Please Support Bronllys Well-Being Community Hub! - Correspondence from Powys Teaching Health Board to the Committee, 20 November 2024

Thank you for your email regarding the above.

Powys Teaching Health Board and Bronllys Well-Being Park are currently in the process of setting out how we will work together, both now and into the future, through a joint Memorandum of Understanding.

I can confirm that there is currently no land available on the hospital site for development. We are committed to agreeing a development plan for the site as part of a wider discussion with patients and communities, regarding the future shape of safe and sustainable services in the county. Later in 2024/25 we will be establishing a range of mechanisms by which local community groups can work with us, to develop a compelling vision for the future and we will ensure that information is shared with Bronllys Well-Being Park and more widely with other community groups and members of the public, to contribute openly and fully to this process.

This will be in addition to our ongoing discussions with Bronllys Well-Being Park, who we currently meet on a frequent basis, to explore other projects of joint interest. This has included joining the recent public Health and Wellbeing Forum event arranged by Bronllys Well-Being Park on 3 October 2024. We are next due to meet on the 11 December 2024.

I hope this answers your questions, please do come back to me should you have any further questions.

Agenda Item 2.3

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

This petition was submitted by Simon Scheeres, having collected a total of 5,339 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Lung cancer claims 1,800 lives each year, more than any other cancer in Wales.

This must change.

We can do things to reduce this impact. One of these is targeted lung cancer screening, which would invite people aged 55-74 to be screened if they have a high-risk of lung cancer.

This screening can catch lung cancer at an earlier stage: and can save lives from lung cancer.

By taking 2 minutes to sign, you can aid calls for the Welsh Government to commit to implementing this screening in Wales.

Additional Information:

In Wales, almost half of lung cancers are caught at the latest stage. Too many die from lung cancer for this reason.

By screening those most at risk we can detect lung cancer earlier: when survival is highest.

We know this works, as an evaluation of English Targeted Lung Health Checks (a pilot programme) saw:

- 76% of lung cancers caught at an early stage.

Last year, the UK National Screening Committee recommended targeted lung cancer screening to all UK nations, with the provision of stop smoking

support. This screening is for people aged 55–74 without symptoms, who hold a high risk of lung cancer (those with a history of smoking). Sadly, only one UK nation (England) has committed to a national rollout of this. This must change.

Lung cancer takes a terrible toll on Wales. Targeted lung cancer screening can help reduce this toll, giving more people precious time with family and friends.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff South and Penarth
- South Wales Central



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf Morgannwg
University Health Board



Cyfeiriad Dychwelyd/ Return Address:

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol	Cwm Taf Morgannwg
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	University Health Board
Pencadlys	Headquarters
Parc Navigation,	Navigation Park
Abercynon	Abercynon
CF45 4SN	CF45 4SN

Ffôn/Tel: 01443 744803

Eich cyf/Your Ref:

Ein cyf/Our Ref:

Ebost Email:

Dyddiad/Date:

PM/TLT

Paul.Mears@wales.nhs.uk

31 October 2024

Ms Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1 SN

Dear Ms Thomas

Thank you for your letter dated 17th October 2024 in relation to the Lung Health Check Operational Pilot (OP).

I am pleased to update that significant progress has been made and that the pilot is now close to completion, with the first evaluation report published in September 2024, available at the following link: [Lung Health Check - NHS Wales Executive](#). I also attach a copy of the Executive Summary and full report.

The OP aimed to offer low-dose CT screening scans to 500 people identified to be at high risk of lung cancer from the North Rhondda area, plus repeat scans at 3- and 12-month intervals for surveillance of any small lung nodules that were detected. The OP achieved this goal, with 547 initial baseline scans undertaken and the 3-month surveillance scans now also complete. The final 12-month surveillance scans are now underway and will be completed by the end of November 2024.

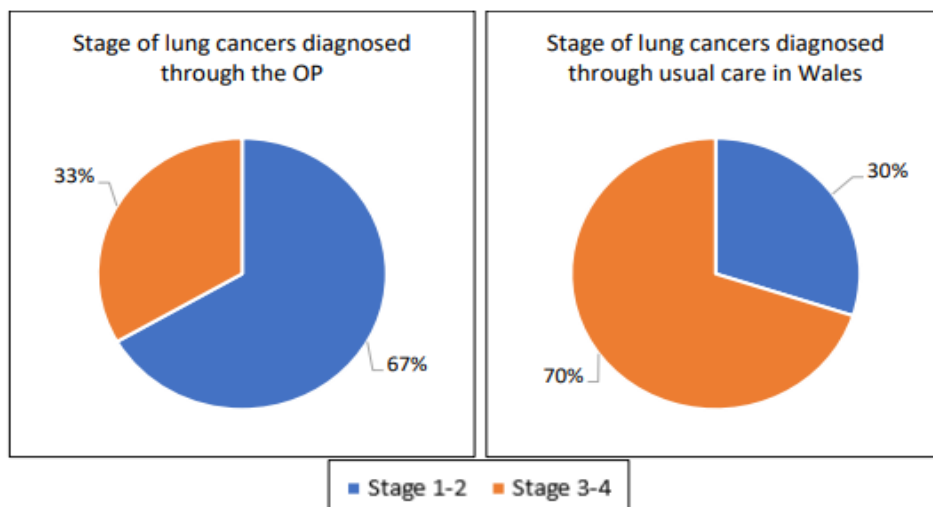
Cadeirydd/Chair: Jonathan Morgan **Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive:** Paul Mears

Croeso i chi gyfathrebu â'r bwrdd iechyd yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg. Byddwn yn ymateb yn yr un iaith a ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi. You are welcome to correspond with the Health Board in Welsh or English. We will respond accordingly and this will not delay the response.

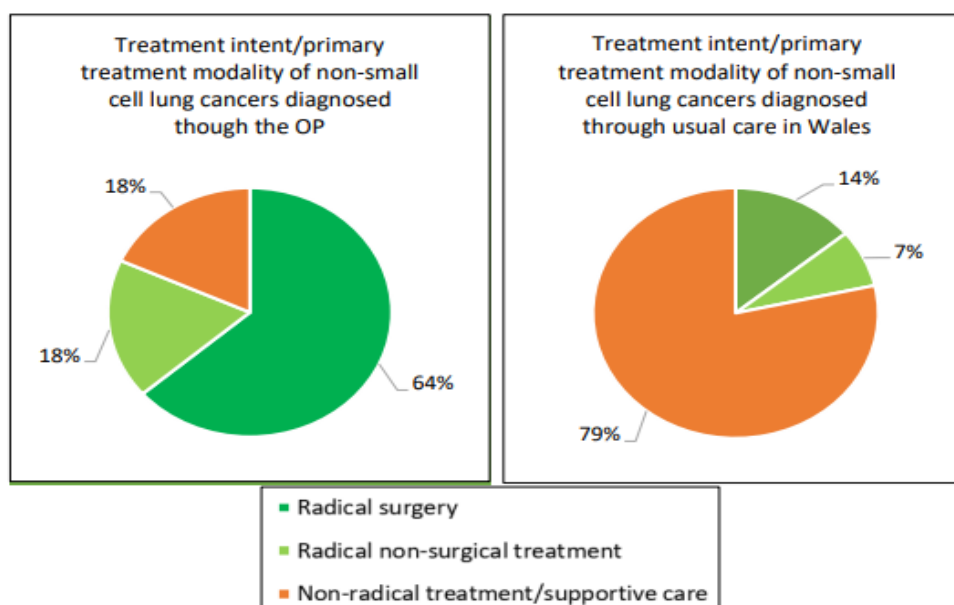
<https://ctmuhb.nhs.wales>

The OP plans to deliver two evaluation reports. The first report published in September 2024 discusses the planning, delivery and results of the pilot up to the point of the 3-month surveillance scans. As this represents the majority of the clinical activity in the pilot, the desire was to share the learning from this as soon as possible, prior to the conclusion of the pilot, to inform national planning work. A second evaluation report focussing on smoking cessation pathways and participant experience is planned for publication in March 2025.

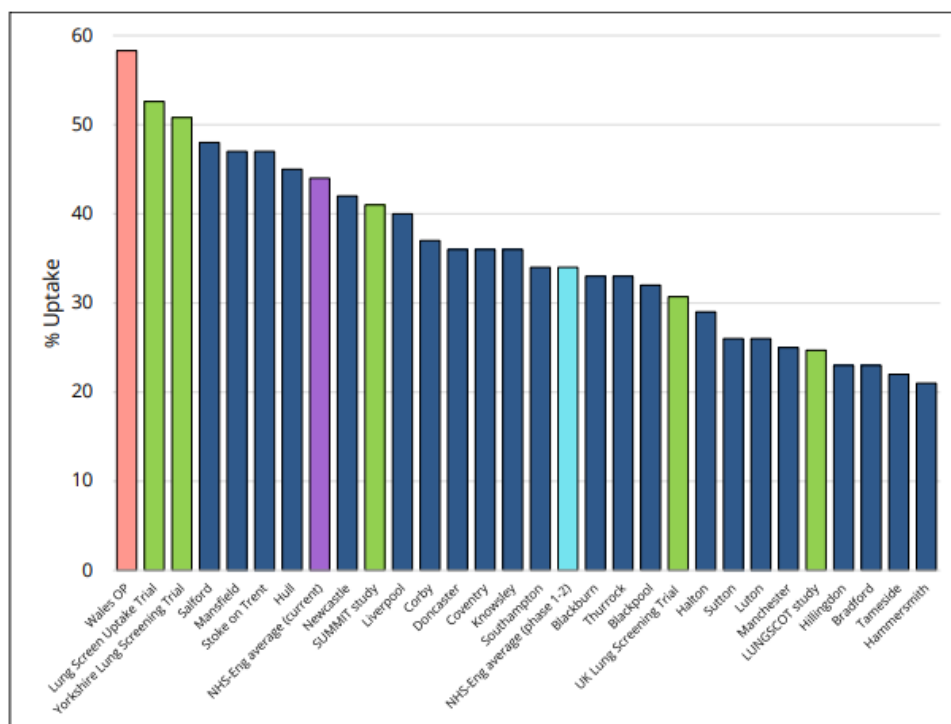
As set out in Evaluation Report 1, all of the key objectives of the pilot have been met, with highly positive results. As expected, a major shift in the stage of diagnosis of lung cancers was seen, with 67% of lung cancers diagnosed through the OP at stage 1 or stage 2, as opposed to 30% through usual care in Wales (figures below).



This enabled most people who were diagnosed with lung cancer through the OP to undergo treatment aimed at curing their cancer (“radical treatment”), either by surgery or non-surgical (e.g. radiotherapy) treatment. This is in stark contrast to the small minority who undergo radical treatment when diagnosed through usual care in Wales (figures below).



Furthermore, it was demonstrated that with a with a carefully planned invitation strategy, incorporating learning from other areas and insight from a range of professionals including Behavioural Science, and extensive patient/public involvement, that a high uptake for lung cancer screening can be achieved in Wales. As the following chart demonstrates, **uptake for the pilot was higher than any of the phase 1 and 2 Targeted Lung Health Check programme sites in England or other UK-based lung screening trials** (the uptake for the pilot is the pink bar on the left of the chart below):



The results from the pilot have therefore demonstrated that:

- Lung cancer screening can be delivered effectively within the Welsh healthcare system
- Lung cancer screening is likely to yield benefits in Wales as seen elsewhere
- A lung cancer screening programme would significantly improve lung cancer outcomes in Wales

Following completion of the 12-month surveillance scans in November 2024, the second evaluation report will be published in March 2025, at which point the pilot will be complete.

In recognition of the positive results from the pilot, there is a separate project running in parallel that is also being led by members of the pilot's programme team, reviewing how lung cancer screening could be delivered in Wales in the future. This work is being delivered by Public Health Wales, who have been commissioned by Welsh Government to undertake this work and provide an interim report with recommendations in relation to the pathway and estimated costs by March 2025, and a final report by September 2025. There is a significant risk to this project, however, that has been escalated to colleagues in Welsh Government, relating to the fact that the funding for the Project Team is currently fixed term to the end of March 2025. This therefore creates an

immediate risk to the ability to complete the work and submit a final report in September 2025, and also in the longer term related to fixed term posts and the high likelihood that key individuals will leave before the project is completed. A case for recurrent funding (or, if that is not currently possible, longer-term funding) has been submitted and a commitment to this will be essential to secure the future progress of this work, and the transition from the current planning work through to implementation.

Related to this, it is noted that the petition that was discussed in the Senedd was titled '**We're calling on the Welsh Government to commit to implementing targeted lung cancer screening**'. At present the Project Team are seeking clarity from Welsh Government in relation to the next steps beyond submission of the report in September 2025 and a commitment to the implementation of lung cancer screening, any assistance that you can provide in attaining this in line with the intent of the petition would therefore be welcomed.

You have also asked for feedback on our work in relation to smoking cessation and improving air quality. As an organisation we are committed to improving the health of our populations and reducing the impacts of climate change. We have a large programme of work around the decarbonisation agenda to support the national ambition for a Net Zero public sector and improve air quality. We are committed to reducing emissions through our building efficiencies programmes and procuring energy from low carbon sources. We also have a number of initiatives which look to reduce the emissions from transport, such as switching to Electric vehicles.

Our Help Me Quit (HMQ) smoking cessation services aim to offer people who want to quit a choice of accessible and flexible services, including the offer of telephone or face-to-face support and additionally many community pharmacies provide a 'Help Me Quit @ Pharmacy' service. Over the past 12 months we have been developing our 'Help Me Quit in Hospital' model, which aims to routinely identify and offer patients admitted to hospital support to start their quitting journey. In addition we provide a specialist 'Help Me Quit for Baby' service to pregnant smokers through our Maternity services, and aim to identify and offer support to those who smoke as early as possible in their pregnancy.

Our HMQ team were part of the Lung Health Check OP, looking at effective methods to identify smokers at the earliest stage and offer them the HMQ service. This included being present at some screening sessions to offer immediate stop smoking advice following the consultation, providing support to the participants that attended on those days and valuable learning to inform the national planning work.

We are constantly working on raising awareness of Help Me Quit services, both with professionals who can refer patients and the public, in co-ordination with Public Health Wales who manage the national HMQ marketing campaigns. Anyone interested in quitting smoking can contact the national [HMQ service](#) where support options will be discussed and they will be directed to their local service.

As the first Evaluation Report demonstrates, lung cancer screening can be delivered effectively and can yield significant benefits for our communities in Wales. The support of the Petitions Committee in securing a commitment for targeted lung cancer screening across Wales would be very welcome.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Mears', with a long, sweeping underline.

Paul Mears
Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive

Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

Friday 22nd of November 2024

Dear Members of the Petitions Committee,

Thank you for requesting our views on your recent correspondence with the Lung Health Check Operational Pilot.

It is promising to see that this pilot is close to completion, with its key objectives met and showing promising results. We welcome this work, as it will help inform national planning.

It is concerning to read that this national planning may be at risk due to uncertainty around funding. It would be helpful if the Petitions Committee could assist in liaising with the Welsh Government to see if this funding issue is being resolved.

As mentioned within the letter, without this funding, the Project Team will be unable to complete its work, which is vital for the scoping and planning of a national targeted lung cancer screening programme.

We welcome the letter's reference to the petition and echo its request for clarity from the Welsh Government regarding its commitment to rolling out this screening in Wales.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Scheeres
CRUK Public Affairs Manager (Cymru)

Agenda Item 2.4

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

This petition was submitted by Michael John Hampshire, having collected a total of 5,439 signatures.

Text of Petition:

This is to counter the petition to abolish the name 'Wales' and to only refer to our fine land as 'Cymru'.

We are proud of our Welsh roots but this would be a pointless waste of taxpayers money. Cymru OR Wales—let people refer to God's country however they want and not impose an ideology on anyone.

Let the silent majority be heard!

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

Agenda Item 2.5

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

This petition was submitted by Arfon Jones, having collected a total of 12,101 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Wales is a name imposed on Cymru and is essentially not a Welsh word at all. The world knows about Wales because of its English connection since 1282. Hardly anyone has heard of Cymru or realises that we have our own unique language and culture which is totally different from the other countries within the United Kingdom.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Clwyd West
- North Wales



Y Gwir Anrhydeddus Elin Jones AS

Llywydd, Senedd Cymru

Right Honourable Elin Jones MS

Llywydd, Welsh Parliament

Senedd Cymru

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Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair of Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

18 November 2024

Dear Carolyn,

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

You will be aware that the name of the legislature is a matter for the Senedd to decide and requires legislation to make any change, with two-thirds of the number of Members of the Senedd voting in favour.

The Senedd considered the change of name of the institution during the passage of the Senedd and Elections (Wales) Act 2020. The Commission undertook the work to explore the name change and introduced the Senedd and Elections (Wales) Bill following a clear mandate from the Senedd. The Commission would not otherwise proactively propose legislative changes to the Senedd's name.

The Explanatory Memorandum (EM) for the Act which was revised following Stage 4 of the Bill, provides an overview of the considerations regarding the name change including the Official Languages Impact Assessment. Section 4.2 and 18.10 of the EM set out the Commission's considerations relating to its original proposal in the Bill. Section 26.2.1 of the EM provides an overview and rationale of the amendments to the Bill which were tabled by Carwyn Jones AM and agreed by the Senedd at Stage 2, and the Official Languages Impact Assessment of those changes. The Senedd voted in favour by majority for a name in both languages: "Senedd Cymru" or "Welsh Parliament", and agreed other amendments aimed at

normalising the use of 'Senedd' as the commonly-used name for the institution. The EM can be found here: [**Senedd and Elections \(Wales\) Bill - Revised Explanatory Memorandum**](#). The transcripts of the relevant debates by Members during the passage of the Bill can be found here: [**Senedd and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2020**](#)

Section 5.2 of the Explanatory Memorandum refers to the consultation undertaken on the name change. Here is the link to the 'Consultation Results Report: Changing the name of the National Assembly for Wales' [**Results report-E.PDF**](#)

The minutes of the Commission's considerations relating to the Bill can be found in the 'Related Meetings' section here [**Constitutional reform \(senedd.wales\)**](#)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elin Jones'.

The Rt. Hon. Elin Jones MS/AS

Llywydd

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

**P-06-1446 Diddymu'r enw 'Wales' a gwneud 'Cymru' yr unig enw ar ein gwlad -
Gohebiaeth gan y deisebydd, 19 Tachwedd 2024**

I bwy bynnag a wnelo,

Drwy gyfeirio at y ddogfen atodol mae'n amlwg iawn fod mwyafrif llethol o'ch aelodau wedi pleidleisio o blaid defnyddio'r ddwy iaith er mwyn caniatu yr un statws cyfreithiol i'r enw Senedd a sydd i'r enw WelshParliament. Wel, dyna benderfyniad twp ynde sydd yn gwneud dim i ddyrchafu y defnydd o'r Gymraeg yn yr union le ble mae ei hangen fwyaf er lles y genedl. Ac o ystyried y penderfyniad yna mae'n edrych yn debyg iawn bod eich agwedd tuag at Gymru ein gwlad a Chymry ein pobol yn rithiol llwyr. Diolch i'r drefn nad oes yr un ohonoch sydd ar hawl i bleidleisio dros unrhywbeth i wneud a Chymru yn gweithio i barc Cenedlaethol Eryri a pharc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog dyweda i. O leia mae ein parciau cenedlaethol yn gweld y gwerth o ddyrchafu'r Gymraeg i'r entrychion - yn wahanol iawn i'r hyn a welwn gan ein aelodau seneddol yma yng Nghymru.

Dwi'n mawr obeithiol pan ddychwelyd y ddeiseb i'r pwyllgor deisebau y gwanan ystyried yn o ddifrif yr hyn mae ein parciau cenedlaethol yn eu cyflawni er lles Cymru, er lles yr iaith Gymraeg a mynd ati i adlewyrchu ar hyn cyn gwneud penderfyniad terfynol arni. O gofio yr hyn mae ein parciau cenedlaethol yn gyflawni er budd Cymru a'r Gymraeg mae'n amlwg nad oes ganddynt ofn gwneud penderfyniadau anodd a nid chwarae'n saff fel mae'r Senedd yn tueddu i wneud - mae genai ofn bydd rhaid i'n aelodau seneddol feithrin yr asgwrn cefn sydd ei angen ar gyfer gwneud penderfyniadau anodd er mwyn dyrchafu Cymru i fod yn gyfartal a holl wledydd y byd a nid cuddio tu ôl i'r enw 'Wales' - enw does a wnelo hi ddim byd o gwbl a'n gwlad ni. Felly ewch amdani da chi a gwnewch y peth iawn dros Gymru am unwaith mewn 500 can mlynedd.

Mae'r genedl gyfan ynghyd a'r 12,101 a bleidleisioedd dros diddymu yr enw Wales yn haeddu llawer mwy genych na i chi gyfeirio'r ddeiseb i'r domen sbwriel oherwydd nad oes gennych yr asgwrn cefn i wneud beth sydd yn iawn er lles ein Cenedl. Dangoswch i'r byd eich bod o'r diwedd wedi cael eich dadrithio o beth mae'r enw Wales yn ei olygu a'i ddylanwad andwyol i hunaniaeth y Cymry. MEDDYLIWCH eich bod yn barc cenedlaethol am unwaith a gwnewch y peth iawn.

Gobeithiaf am y gorau ond disgwyliaf y gwaetha gennych yn anffodus.

Yn gywir,

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

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 2 December 2024
Petitions Committee | 2 Rhagfyr 2024

Reference: SR24/9547-3

Petition Number: P-06-1459

Petition title: Wind farm developments are akin to the drowning of Welsh valleys and old slate industry. Stop them.

Text of petition: The exploitation of wild Welsh hilltops for the use of giant coal mining companies and other energy companies is akin to the drowning of Welsh valleys and Victorian slate industries.

These developments are not being permitted in wealthy parts of England but the poorer Welsh communities must carry the burden.

Climate change should not be an excuse to cut out carbon storing peatland and pour millions of tonnes of concrete into the habitats of Curlews and other endangered flora and fauna.

In North Wales, RWE, a giant German coal mining company propose to develop Gaerwen Wind Farm, which would result in ripping up ancient peatbog (Mynydd Mynyllod) which is the home to many endangered species and pour millions of tonnes of concrete. This is happening across Wales.



We recognise climate change is a threat to our planet but this is not an excuse to irreversibly damage habitats and wild Welsh hilltops. When the Welsh people look back on these irreversible developments and those that were involved we believe they will compare them to the drowning of Welsh valleys and the destruction of mountains for their slate.

Energy companies see great profits in wind turbine farms and developments and are not building them for the good of mankind. They are building them to create share holder profits.

We will look back on these irreversible developments that have destroyed our mountains and ask why those in power didn't stop the exploitation of our countryside. Those involved need to think about how they're perceived historically.

1. Background and Welsh Government action

Wales has a legislative commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, with interim targets for 2030 (63% reduction) and 2040 (89% reduction).

The Welsh Government published [Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 \(2021-25\)](#) ("the Net Zero Plan") in 2021. It sets out how Wales will meet its [second carbon budget](#) (CB2), and build the foundations for Carbon Budget 3 (CB3) and the 2030 emissions reduction target. The targets and budgets are summarised in this Senedd Research article on the [Path to Net Zero](#).

In November 2023, responding to a [similar petition](#) calling for a moratorium on onshore wind developments, the then Minister for Climate Change, Julie James MS, [said](#):

Wind energy, along with solar are the most mature technology and these are likely to make the most significant contribution to our energy needs in the short to medium term. We anticipate much of this will be offshore, but we will need further onshore generation.

Planning policy

The Welsh Government's national planning policy is set out in [Planning Policy Wales](#) (PPW) which [states](#):

The planning system should secure an appropriate mix of energy provision, which maximises benefits to our economy and communities whilst minimising potential environmental and social impacts. [...]

The benefits of renewable and low carbon energy, as part of the overall commitment to tackle the climate emergency and increase energy security, is of paramount importance.

On large scale wind development, [PPW says](#) "Wales has an abundant wind resource and, as a result, wind energy forms a key part of meeting the Welsh Government's vision for future renewable energy production".

Policies for determining applications for wind development are set out in [Future Wales](#) - the Welsh Government's 'National Development Framework' (NDF).

Future Wales is a 20-year national strategy setting out the government's policies on development and land use in a spatial context. It was published in February 2021 and has 'development plan' status. This means planning decisions must be made in accordance with it. It sits at the top of the planning policy hierarchy alongside PPW.

Future Wales identifies a number of ['Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy'](#). In these areas, the Welsh Government has already modelled the likely impact on the landscape and has found them to be capable of accommodating development in an acceptable way. It has also published the detailed [assessment used to identify these areas](#).

In these areas there is a presumption in favour of large-scale wind energy development as set out in [policy 17 of Future Wales](#). However any potential development would be subject to a number of criteria which are set out in [policy 18](#) and include, amongst other things, criteria relating to biodiversity and environmental designations.

The pre-assessed areas don't attempt to identify specific development sites (nor do they exclude the potential for development in other locations), rather they're broad areas not all of which will be suitable for development. More detailed site-

specific assessment needs to be undertaken on a case by case basis as specific projects come forward.

Consenting process

Certain categories of development are currently classed as Developments of National Significance (DNS) and are consented by the Welsh Ministers as opposed to the local planning authority (LPA).

All onshore wind projects with an expected generating capacity of over 10MW fall within the DNS regime and are decided by the Welsh Ministers. More information on DNS can be found in this Senedd Research guide.

However following the Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024 gaining Royal Assent, a new consenting regime known as an Infrastructure Consent for 'Significant Infrastructure Projects' is being established to replace the existing DNS regime.

The Act changes the threshold in relation to energy generation and means energy generation projects of between 10-49MW, currently consented by the Welsh Ministers through the DNS regime, will in future be consented by LPAs. Onshore wind projects over 50MW will still be consented by the Welsh Ministers.

The Welsh Government is currently consulting on the detail of the new consent regime.

Senedd Research has published a range of resources which provide further detail on the Act.

2. Welsh Parliament action

As outlined, the Petitions Committee previously considered a similar petition calling for a moratorium on onshore wind developments.

At that time the Committee agreed to close the petition on the basis that the Welsh Government's position on the issue was clear

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

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

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1459
Ein cyf/Our ref HIDCC/10173/24

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee

02 October 2024

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter dated the 6 September regarding petition P-06-1459: 'Wind farm developments are akin to the drowning of Welsh valleys and old slate industry. Stop them.'

The Welsh Government has statutory commitments to reach net zero, and in a climate and nature emergency we recognise the need to support the development of a renewables-based energy system for current and future generations. We are keen to emphasise the importance these renewable energy projects will have not only in combatting the climate emergency, but in bringing economic and nature benefits to Wales. I want to make it clear we understand that in order to reach our target to meet the equivalent of 100% of our annual electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2035, we will need a range of renewable technologies of different types and scales. As wind energy is one of the most mature and cost-effective technologies, it is likely to make the most significant contribution to our energy mix in the short to medium term.

Similarly, the UK Government has now lifted the ban on wind farm developments in England and is now working with stakeholders to consider how best to encourage renewed investment into onshore wind farms in England.

I cannot comment on plans for individual projects such as Gaerwen Wind Farm as this may compromise the decision-making process around them. However policies 17 and 18 of Future Wales: the national plan 2040 set out the Welsh Government's position on large scale onshore renewable and low carbon energy development.

Policy 17 identifies 10 'Pre-Assessed Areas' (PAAs) within which the principle of accommodating windfarm developments in terms of landscape impact has been found to be acceptable. Within PAAs there is a presumption in favour of windfarm development. However, any planning applications that come forward within these areas remain subject to the assessment criteria set out in policy 18 and any other material planning considerations that apply.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

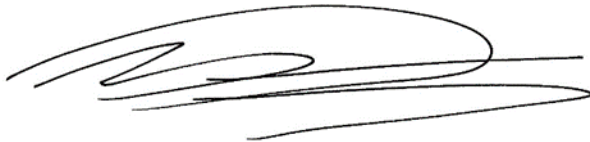
Back Page 64
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Policy 18 criteria ensures that planning applications for Developments of National Significance are rigorously assessed so that communities, designated areas and landscapes, and protected habitats and species are protected from unacceptable adverse impacts. When assessing new development proposals Policy 18 also requires consideration be given to the cumulative impact of existing and consented schemes.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 ensure that public bodies must maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems (section 6), and in doing so protect habitats of principal importance (section 7). Habitats which are considered irreplaceable (including peatlands) are afforded additional protection as part of the Environment Act's step wise approach.

I hope this letter addresses the issues raised in the petition, and I look forward to hearing the Petitions Committee's views on this subject.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Irranca-Davies', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

Continue to fund school police officers who educate children and support schools

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 2 Rhagfyr 2024
Petitions Committee | 2 December 2024

Reference: SR24/9547

Petition Number: P-06-1463

Petition title: Continue to fund school police officers who educate children and support schools

Text of petition: This will negatively impact schools and police resources, which are already under significant pressure. In addition to educating pupils, school police officers respond to incidents which take place in schools. They have developed specific skills and knowledge to address issues within schools and built working relationships with staff and pupils. Without a specific police officer, schools will have to call 101, which could also overwhelm the communication centre and place additional demands on general response officers. This will further decrease resources to respond to other calls. Incidents in schools, particularly secondary schools are a regular occurrence, and having a dedicated officer, is a more effective and efficient way to address such situations.



1. Background

The Wales Police Schools Programme (WPSP) was a collaborative initiative between the Welsh Government and the four Welsh Police Forces. The programme aimed to educate children and young people about various issues affecting their safety and well-being through crime prevention education and supportive policing services. These included:

- Crime Prevention Education: delivering lessons on issues such as substance misuse, personal safety, safeguarding, and community behaviour.
- Supportive School Policing: Schools Police Officers (SPOs) were assigned to every school in Wales.
- Community Engagement: The programme aimed to promote positive citizenship and community cohesion by addressing issues like bullying, internet safety, domestic abuse, and radicalisation.

2. Welsh Government action

Funding for the Wales Police Schools Programme came from the Welsh Government, with additional support and resources provided by local police forces and other stakeholders involved in promoting youth safety and well-being. The programme ran from 2004 with annual funding from the Welsh Government's health budget, most recently with an allocation of £1.98m in 2023-24. Funding was matched by the police forces. The funding from the Welsh Government was withdrawn from 31 March 2024. [The Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2024-25 narrative](#) (paragraph 53) stated:

In prioritising funding to the NHS, we have reviewed all centrally held budgets in Health and Social Services and have redirected funding from several areas. These include substance misuse budgets. While we are protecting core provision, we have reprioritised funding from the Wales police schools programme, which provides support in all primary and secondary schools in Wales on a range of topics, including substance misuse, online safety and personal wellbeing.

In a [letter to the Health and Social Services Committee](#) (7 February 2024), Lynne Neagle, the Deputy Minister for Health and Well-Being at the time said that:

The landscape around wellbeing for learners on a range of important issues has changed significantly since the introduction of the programme.

The Deputy Minister also said that many areas would be considered in mandatory health and well-being learning in Welsh schools, noting that Relationships and Sexuality Education covers a number of areas, including substance misuse, online safety and domestic violence.

In answer to [an Oral Question on 9 January 2024](#), Mark Drakeford, First Minister at the time said:

we have to focus on the responsibilities that have been devolved to the Senedd. And when there is less money available, one of the things that we can do is focus on those things where we receive funding to do things.

It was [reported in September 2024](#) that the programmes would continue in the Dyfed Powys and North Wales police areas. Gwent Police said it has now moved to a model of "building closer connections between schools and their local policing teams".

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1463
Ein cyf/Our ref SM/10078/24

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions Committee
Senedd

petitions@senedd.wales

04 October 2024

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for the letter on 6 September about *Petition P-06-1463 Continue to fund school police officers who educate children and support schools*. I am replying as responsibility for the programme is in my portfolio.

The funding for the WPSP was withdrawn due to the unprecedented financial constraints when the draft Budget 2024-25 was being developed. The priority for the budget was to protect funding for frontline public services.

The Cabinet was faced with a series of very difficult decisions and as it developed the budget, it considered whether to continue funding non-devolved areas where we have traditionally stepped in to provide funding in the absence of support from the previous UK Government.

As you will be aware, match funding for the programme was provided by the four police forces. I understand the police are currently considering their involvement in schools and will be taking views from stakeholders about the future model of engagement with the education sector. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys has said they will continue to fund a police schools programme.

Education officials are also liaising with Public Health Wales, which is co-producing a toolkit to support schools to design and develop their Health and Well-being Area of Learning and Experience through identified high-priority health and well-being topics.

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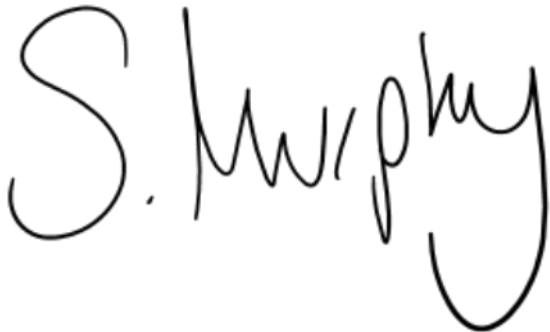
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Welsh Government officials will be working with a range of internal and external stakeholders to examine what existing or alternative provision and resources are available to ensure children are have information to allow them to make informed decisions and keep them safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "S. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Sarah Murphy AS/MS
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing
Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant

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

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 2 Rhagfyr 2024
Petitions Committee | 2 December 2024

Reference: SR24/9547-11

Petition Number: P-06-1467

Petition title: Instruct NHS Wales to add Adenomyosis to its 111 A-Z webpages

Text of petition:

April is Adenomyosis Awareness Month and Fair Treatment for the Women of Wales (FTWW) would like to see that awareness extend to NHS Wales. Adenomyosis is one of the most common menstrual health conditions – yet many have never heard of it.

Unlike NHS England and NHS Scotland, the NHS Wales 111 website A-Z does not feature adenomyosis, despite it affecting more than 1 in 10 women and people with a uterus - the same as the number of women living with diabetes or asthma!

FTWW calls on the Senedd to instruct NHS Wales to add Adenomyosis to its 111 A-Z webpages, so patients in Wales can access trusted information in English and Welsh, and aren't left behind patients in England or Scotland, for whom this information is already available.

Adenomyosis occurs when the lining of the uterus (womb) starts growing into the muscle in the wall of the womb. It is more commonly diagnosed in women over the age of 30 but can affect anyone who has periods. Symptoms can include very heavy and painful periods, bloating and a feeling of heaviness or fullness in the tummy, backache, upper leg ache, fatigue, and painful sex.

It's commonly seen alongside endometriosis; often when patients report having relief from symptoms after a hysterectomy, it's likely adenomyosis was the culprit - but many have no idea they had it and aren't given any information about it. We'd like that to change!



1. Background

Information about adenomyosis is now provided on the [NHS 111 Wales website](#). This includes information about symptoms and treatment options. The web page was updated on 24 April 2024.

Sioned Williams MS [highlighted the petition in a 90-second statement](#) on 24 April 2024, saying:

patients, healthcare professionals and the wider community must have access to bilingual, accurate, accessible and official information, to not only raise awareness of adenomyosis, but to ensure that all are informed about the symptoms, treatments and symptom management options that are available.

During a [Member debate on women's healthcare](#) on 2 October 2024, it was noted that [information on adenomyosis is now published](#).

The Welsh Government's response to the Petitions Committee (dated 8 October 2024) confirms that:

Eluned Morgan MS, in her previous role of Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, asked for information about adenomyosis to be added to the NHS 111 website Health A-Z page on 23 April and this was completed the following day.

The information can be found at the following link: [NHS 111 Wales - Health A-Z : Adenomyosis](#)

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-06-1467
Ein cyf/Our ref: JMHSC/10083/24

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions committee

petitions@senedd.wales

08 October 2024

Dear Carolyn,

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

Thank you for your letter of 17 September regarding the above petition from Dee Montague-Coast.

Eluned Morgan MS, in her previous role of Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, asked for information about adenomyosis to be added to the NHS 111 website Health A-Z page on 23 April and this was completed the following day.

The information can be found at the following link: [NHS 111 Wales - Health A-Z : Adenomyosis](#)

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

**P-06-1467 Instruct NHS Wales to add Adenomyosis to its 111 A-Z webpages –
Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 22 November 2024**

Thank you very much for getting in touch.

We would like to extend our thanks to the Committee and Cabinet Secretary for their swift response to this petition. We are delighted that information about adenomyosis is now available bi-lingually on the NHS Wales 111 A-Z. It is vitally important that this incredibly valuable and trusted resource is kept up to date with general and Wales-specific evidence-based health information as it is often the first port of call for patients.

However, since the petition, we have become aware that the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust, who host the website, do not necessarily have the requisite funding or infrastructure in place to continually update or provide new or Wales-specific clinical information, including translation into Welsh, on the A-Z webpages. Presently, for the most part, information is syndicated from NHS England. We are concerned that this might present some problems for Welsh patients if NHS England signposts services, pathways, or other England-based organisations whose information is not relevant to Wales or is not available in Welsh.

Whilst we recognise that this is beyond the scope of our original petition, we feel it potentially warrants some additional attention from the Committee, especially if the public would wish to see more information available via the NHS Wales 111 website in the future.

Many thanks again.

Best wishes, Cofion gorau,

Dee, cc Debbie, on behalf of the FTWW team

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

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 02 Rhagfyr 2024
Petitions Committee | 02 December 2024

Reference: SR24/9617-1

Petition Number: P-06-1475

Petition title: Urgently improve the safety of the A458, Middletown, Powys in light of continuous dangerous driving

Text of petition:

Following many crashes & the tragic death of a local resident on the A458, Middletown (outside Bank Farm), the Community Council & Local Councillor has called for urgent safety improvements on this stretch of road to help prevent dangerous overtaking where there are two hidden dips. A recent response from the Minister for Transport states "we don't have any current plans for road safety improvements at this location". We cannot wait for another death. We urge the Welsh Government to act.

Local residents, as well as many other members of the public who regularly travel this road, are upset and frustrated that nothing more is currently being considered by the Welsh Government to improve the safety of the road in this area. The Cabinet Secretary should attend a site meeting to further discuss the concerns.



In order to improve this stretch of road, urgent consideration needs to be given to providing the following:

- A permanent speed camera
- The double white 'no overtaking' lines extended in both directions
- The road resurfaced, specifically the red tarmacked areas.
- A flashing light that indicates a driver's speed and saying there should be 'no overtaking'.
- A flashing light to highlight that there is a car in the hidden dip ahead.

As part of the road safety review, we would like the speed of the road to be taken into consideration and whether reducing the speed would help cease any future accidents.

1. Background

The Welsh Government is the highway authority for the Welsh trunk road and motorway network including the A458. The North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent (NMWTRA) has responsibility for the day to day operation and maintenance of the road.

CrashMapUK, which produces an interactive map of police recorded traffic collision data, shows 3 "slight" and 4 "serious" incidents on the road in the Middletown area between 2018 and 2022. Guidance on the definitions used to categorise incidents is published by the Department for Transport (DfT). It should be noted that the data only includes collisions that resulted in a personal injury and were reported to the police within 30 days of the accident.

2022 data is the most recent available through CrashMap. However, as reported in the media, and highlighted by the petitioner, collisions in 2023 resulted in serious injuries and a fatality on the stretch of road in question.

In addition to other safety measures, the petitioner calls for a lower speed limit to be considered. The Welsh Government is responsible for setting speed limits on trunk roads in line with its current guidance issued in 2009. This guidance is in the process of being reviewed in light of the default 20mph speed limit policy. In

response to a written question relating to a different trunk road, the Welsh Government stated in 2023 “we will review the speed limits across the trunk road network, following publication of the [updated] guidance”.

2. Welsh Government action

In his letter to the Chair dated 19 November, the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales, Ken Skates MS outlines work undertaken on the road to assess the issue of overtaking.

He states that CCTV and telematic surveys have been used to determine “the volume of overtaking movements occurring”. He says the results were inconclusive however:

...as officials have attended the site and seen the overtaking movements first hand, they will undertake a further CCTV survey when traffic flows are lower to see whether this has any effect on the findings.

He states that once the survey has been completed, officials will consider suitable mitigation measures to prevent overtaking. However “not all of the measures put forward by the petition will be applicable”.

3. Welsh Parliament action

In August, Russell George MS tabled a written question asking for an update on any safety improvement works taking place on the road. In response, the Cabinet Secretary advised that road markings had recently been renewed following concerns from local residents. He also highlighted the investigative study referred to above that was being conducted at the time.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

Ken Skates AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Your ref P-06-1475
Our ref KSNWT/10386/24

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee

19 November 2024

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 17 September regarding Petition P-06-1475 Urgently improve the safety of the A458, Middletown, Powys in light of continuous dangerous driving.

The Welsh Government have undertaken CCTV and Telematic Surveys to determine the volume of overtaking movements occurring at this location. Unfortunately, the surveys were inconclusive and did not warrant further investigation. As officials have attended the site and seen the overtaking movements first hand, they will undertake a further CCTV survey when traffic flows are lower to see whether this has any effect on the findings.

Once the survey has been completed, officials will consider suitable mitigation measures to prevent overtaking. Unfortunately, not all of the measures put forward by the petition will be applicable due to their conflict with existing road markings etc.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Skates AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

P-06-1475 Urgently improve the safety of the A458, Middletown, Powys in light of continuous dangerous driving – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 26 November 2024.

Good morning.

thank you for the email. Would it be possible for the committee to consider writing further to the officials in consideration of my further comment on behalf of the community.

Given the letter regarding the attached CCTV, we would like to know that the timetable is for the next stage of these investigations please. Residents are deeply concerned that there could be another fatality. Given the Trunk Road officials have seen first hand how dangerously people drive in this area (when they attended a site visit), is that not evidence enough for them to put in place further safety measures. Secondly given the resource on this matter today and further investigations needed, wouldn't it be prudent to install measures now, such as a camera to help try to prevent further dangerous driving.

Kind regards,

Amanda Jenner

Stop the detention of learning disabled and autistic children, young people and adults in hospital

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 2 Rhagfyr 2024
Petitions Committee | 2 December 2024

Reference: SR24/9803/2

Petition Number: P-06-1479

Petition title: Stop the detention of learning disabled and autistic children, young people and adults in hospital

Text of petition: There are people with learning disabilities and/or autism from Wales who are living in hospitals. This is a human rights scandal which has been ignored for too long.

Many people with learning disabilities and/or autism are trapped in hospitals due to a lack of appropriate housing and support in their community. Many are sectioned due to placement breakdown and they have been inappropriately placed.

Welsh Government must recognise that sectioning people under the MHA is not the solution.

Stolen Lives are a campaign group consisting of families who have loved ones with a learning disability and/or autism who are, or have been incarcerated, in hospitals.

They are supported by members of the Wales Learning Disability Consortium: Learning Disability Wales, All Wales Forum of Parents and



Carers, Mencap Cymru, All Wales People First, Down's Syndrome Association and Cymorth Cymru.

Hospitals are not a home. Many hospitals are far from people's families, and cases of abuse and neglect are all too common.

Welsh Government must tell us how they plan to stop sectioning under the Mental Health Act and how they plan to bring children, young people and adults who have been sectioned closer to home and out of hospitals, and tell us exactly how many children, young people and adults with learning disabilities and/or autism are currently away from home in mental health hospitals and so-called assessment and treatment units

1. Background

Some people with a learning disability and/or autism are placed in secure mental health units or hospitals due to a lack of available alternatives, because the services they need cannot be provided in their communities.

As mentioned in the petition, the Stolen Lives campaign group, supported by members of the Wales Learning Disability Consortium, are campaigning for this to end.

Learning Disability Wales explains:

A learning disability is not a mental health issue, which means people are wrongly being placed in hospitals when they should be given support to live their lives at home. [...] today people with a learning disability are still being sectioned and inappropriately placed in hospital settings simply because the right support is not available in their local area.

All Wales People First says:

Too many people with learning disabilities are being kept in hospital settings. Many have been there for several years with no plans for integrating them back into their communities.

In 2020, the Welsh Government published the report of the Chief Nursing Officer's National Care Review of NHS learning disability hospitals provision and made 70 recommendations for improvement.

In April 2024 the Welsh Government stated that the last audit showed there were 140 Welsh residents with a learning disability residing in a specialist inpatient service; 118 were receiving care in a learning disability provision and 22 were receiving care in a mental health provision.

The Stolen Lives group organised a "Homes not hospital" protest outside the Senedd in April 2024 to launch the petition.

2. Welsh Parliament action

Members have asked a number of questions on this topic in Plenary and by written questions, for example Sioned Williams MS asked about the number of people in these situations in April 2024.

in May 2024 Hefin David MS asked what action the Welsh Government is taking to ensure that people with learning disabilities receive appropriate care in the community. He also tabled a motion in September 2024 focused on the Stolen Lives campaign calls, which received cross party support.

A number of Members also supported the Homes not hospitals protest.

3. Welsh Government response

The Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing responded to the petition on 12 November 2024. She said the Welsh Government shares the campaign's view that a hospital bed is not a home and wherever possible people with learning disabilities should receive their care at home or as close to home as they can. "This is a key priority for us and a specific commitment within the Learning Disability Strategic Action Plan 2022-2026".

The Minister goes on to say the Welsh Government is undertaking a significant amount of work in this area, working with stakeholders and partners from the NHS Executive, health boards, local authorities, the third and private sectors under the umbrella of the independent Learning Disability National Implementation and Assurance Group.

The Minister acknowledged in her response that a lot of this work is being carried out beyond the public's view and notes the need to keep people informed and give them the opportunity to contribute in helping to tackle these issues.

The Minister says the Welsh Government is working with the NHS Executive to improve the capture and analysis of data around the number of adults with a learning disability who are receiving care in an inpatient environment. It is exploring how to publish this information and starting work on a similar data collection process for children and young people.

The Minister also states she has tasked the Learning Disability Ministerial Advisory Group (LDMAG) with establishing a task and finish group which will work to address the five key concerns raised by the Stolen Lives campaign. She says members of the Stolen Lives campaign are key contributors to this group, which held its inaugural meeting on 15 October. The Minister finishes by saying she's asked the group to provide recommendations by the summer 2025.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/JB/5958/24

Members of the Senedd

August 2024

Dear colleagues

I know many of you are interested in – and have asked for information about – the number of Welsh people with a learning disability who are being cared for in inpatient facilities. The issue has been highlighted by the Stolen Lives, Homes Not Hospitals campaign; my predecessor Jayne Bryant met members of the campaign team in May.

I am writing to provide you with information about the work we are doing in Wales to reduce the number of people with learning disabilities who are cared for in hospitals.

Our guiding principle is that a hospital bed is not a home, and people should be treated at home or as close to home wherever possible. However, for a small number of people, whose health and care needs are so complex, there may be a need for assessment and treatment in a hospital setting.. When this happens, we do everything we can to ensure their care is appropriate, effective, and meets the highest standards and should be for the shortest time possible.

Everyone has a care and support plan, which is regularly reviewed to ensure their ongoing care remains appropriate and to identify if, and when, they can be transferred to a long-stay setting, to community support or to a family home.

There are between 50,000 and 60,000 people in Wales who are believed to have a learning disability, but many are undiagnosed. About 16,000 adults are identified on a GP register as having a learning disability.

We have commissioned the NHS Wales Executive to undertake a series of regular learning disability inpatient censuses to provide data to support the development of policies to help reduce the number of people in hospital accommodation and to reduce length of stay.

The most recent census July 2024 shows there were 135 people being cared for in either a learning disability or mental health hospital setting. The latest census shows, of the 135 people:

- 85% were receiving their care in a hospital setting designed as a learning disability provision.

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- 32% were in long-term continuing care environments.
- 81% were receiving their care in Wales
- 45% had a dual diagnosis of a learning disability and a mental health condition.
- 26% had a dual diagnosis of a learning disability and autism.

The person length of stay is measured as the overall length of time a person has been in a hospital environment of any type (including transfers between units). The average all-Wales person length of stay across all unit types is 7.3 years.

The hospital length of stay is measured as the length of stay someone has been in their current hospital environment. The average all-Wales hospital length of stay across all hospital unit types is 3.6 years.

We recognise there can be a number of significant barriers to discharge from hospital . These include the availability of appropriate and suitable local housing as well as ongoing workforce challenges such as trained support staff to care for individuals within the community. Discussions between health and social care providers about who should supply and fund ongoing support can also be a cause of delay. We are working through the Learning Disability National Implementation and Assurance Group (LDNIAG) to identify solutions and address the barriers to pathway of care delays.

I turn now to progress in implementing the [Improving Care, Improving Lives](#) report. The LDNIAG has three specific task and finish groups focused on early intervention, timely transitions and reducing pharmaceutical interventions. Each will provide a report and recommendations about how we can align our priority activities to meet these challenges.

The group has provided me with an interim report on progress against the national actions to date. I will be seeking a fuller update on progress against all the actions in the *Improving Care, Improving Lives* report later this year and I intend to publish this. I will also consider extending the work of the LDNIAG to continue to support delivery of the long-term plans and activities we know will need to be taken forward in this area.

After she met the Stolen Lives Homes Not Hospital campaign in May, Jayne Bryant asked the Learning Disability Ministerial Advisory Group to consider the issues raised in the manifesto and to advise us how we can address these and align them with the work we are doing. Our work depends on having reliable and regular information available – this process began [in June 2024 with an overview of mortality rates and causes among people with a learning disability between 2012 and 2022](#). We will use this report as the basis to continue to identify where lessons can be learned to help avoid future unnecessary deaths and improve healthcare.

I have also written to the Stolen Lives Homes Not Hospital campaign to update it about our work to date and to offer a further meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Murphy AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl a'r Blynyddoedd Cynnar
Minister for Mental Health & Early Years

Sarah Murphy AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1479
Ein cyf/Our ref SM/10180/24

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru

Petitions@senedd.wales

12 November 2024

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter dated 16 October enclosing details of the Stolen Lives, Homes Not Hospitals campaign petition.

I met members of the Stolen Lives campaign and several Senedd members earlier this month to listen to their concerns and to outline the Welsh Government's position on this matter. I also wrote to all Senedd members covering many of the issues covered in this petition on 29 August. I enclose a copy of that letter for your information.

We share the campaign's view that a hospital bed is not a home and wherever possible people with learning disabilities should receive their care at home or as close to home as they can. This is a key priority for us and a specific commitment within the Learning Disability Strategic Action Plan 2022-2026.

We are undertaking a significant amount of work in this area to achieve this objective, working with our stakeholders and partners from the NHS Executive, health boards, local authorities, the third and private sectors under the umbrella of the independent Learning Disability National Implementation and Assurance Group. However, I acknowledge that a lot of this work is being carried out beyond the public's view and we need to ensure people are aware of and can contribute to helping tackle these issues.

We are working with the NHS Executive to improve the capture and analysis of data around the number of adults with a learning disability who are receiving care in an inpatient environment. This work will help us determine how we can best reduce these numbers. We

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

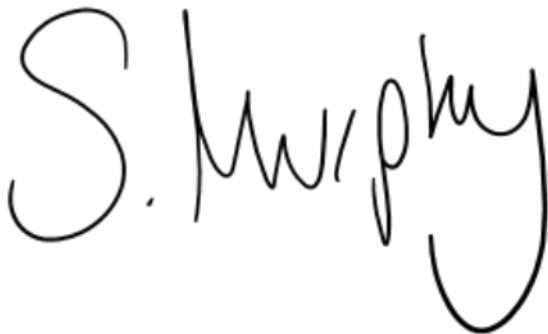
are exploring how we can publish this information as well as starting work on a similar data collection process for children and young people.

I have tasked the Learning Disability Ministerial Advisory Group (LDMAG) with establishing a task and finish group which will work to address the five key concerns raised by the Stolen Lives campaign in its manifesto, aligning this to the work we are already undertaking in this area. Members of the Stolen Lives campaign are key contributors to this task and finish group, which held its inaugural meeting on 15 October.

This is a complex area of work. I have asked the group to provide me with recommendations about how we address these key challenges and barriers by the summer 2025.

I would be happy to share the report and my response with Senedd Members and the committee when it is available.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "S. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Sarah Murphy AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

P-06-1479 Stop the detention of learning disabled and autistic children, young people and adults in hospitals - Petitioner to Committee, 21 November 2024

Dear Carolyn Thomas

Here are our views in light of the document that you sent to aid the Petition Committee's consideration of our petition at their next meeting.

1. What are your thoughts on the attached document? Does it adequately address the issues you raised?

We had a positive meeting with the minister Sarah Murphy and welcome that the Welsh Government 'shares the campaign's view that a hospital bed is not a home and wherever possible people with learning disabilities should receive their care at home or as close to home as they can.' The fact that 'this is a key priority' for the Welsh Government and a 'specific commitment within the Learning Disability Strategic Action Plan 2022-2026' is a positive start.

We do, however, have some concerns.

The first concern is that this is a human rights issue. People have experienced human rights abuses, and we have evidence of ongoing human rights cases. We would like the Welsh Government to acknowledge this issue as the human rights issue that it is. It is not an access to services issue.

Secondly, despite the Welsh Government stating that they are 'undertaking a significant amount of work in this area to achieve this objective' and a lot of this work is being carried out beyond the public's view' we are not seeing any real evidence of this on the ground. Stolen Lives cases are increasing, and people are remaining trapped in hospitals (some on DoLs). The Welsh Government states that 'we need to ensure people are aware of and can contribute to helping tackle these issues.' However, what we really want to know is what is the Welsh Government doing around the issue of avoidable and/or unlawful sectioning and what is it doing to get people out of hospitals and into their own homes in their own communities. A communication plan to better understand the progress of the 'behind closed doors' work that is happening would be beneficial.

In relation to data with regard to this issue, Stolen Lives has been asked to present a paper on this and I have attached it for you here.

We welcome that a Task and Finish Group has been established. However, we have concerns that such a 'complex area of work' is being rushed, with a deadline of March. We are also concerned that the group doesn't yet feel like a *collective* attempt to address the urgent policy issues at hand and doesn't yet have the specialism to do this. Furthermore, we want our engagement to continue beyond 'recommendations' – we need to see an action plan, with specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-based goals. We need to be able to

hold people to account. So, there is a need for more cross-party scrutiny to ensure that this happens.

2. Do you have further questions in response?

We have raised concerns about the closure of specialist inpatient services, resulting in people with learning disabilities being detained in mainstream mental health provision. This has happened in Hywel Dda, for example. This has led to people being looked after by staff who are not trained in learning disability and/or autism, people being placed in even more unsuitable environments and subjected to restrictive practices (such as long-term segregation, seclusion and physical and chemical restraint), people being viewed under a mental health lens and even subjected to inappropriate forensic gateway assessments. As yet, our concerns on this issue have not been addressed.

We also have concerns about Mental Health Act reform. We would like to know what the Welsh Government is doing to prepare for this. Without the funding for good community support and provision, changes to the act, could have unintended negative consequences for people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people, such as more people being detained under DoLs or being criminalised.

Best wishes

Stolen Lives

A Paper presented to the Task and Finish Group by Stolen Lives on the need for improved data collection regarding people with learning disabilities and autistic people in secure hospitals.

2nd December 2024

The following paper outlines what datasets are available in England and Wales relating to information about people with learning disabilities and autistic people in secure hospitals and what issues there are with the datasets. Recommendations are made for what is needed in Wales.

In England:

In England, there are two main national datasets that collect information about people with learning disabilities and autistic people in secure hospitals. They are the Assuring Transformation Dataset and the Mental Health Services Dataset, and data from these is published monthly.

Assuring Transformation Dataset

Assuring Transformation is a data collection about people with a learning disability or autistic people who are in a mental health hospital and collects data about the care they are getting in hospital.

The Assuring Transformation information is collected by NHS England and is collected from NHS commissioners.

Commissioners hold, manage, and maintain Assuring Transformation. Commissioners are people who pay for services which includes hospital care.

Hospitals share information about the person's care with commissioners to be included in Assuring Transformation.

The Assuring Transformation data collection includes information on:

- the number of people with a learning disability and autistic people getting care in a hospital and the type of hospital unit they are in
- how long they have been in hospital
- why they were sent into hospital
- their care during hospital stay
- how many people have moved from hospital to the community
- whether people have had their care plan checked, have a care co-ordinator and have regular reviews
- whether people have access to independent advocacy
- whether people are visited regularly by their commissioner
- the age, gender and ethnicity of people

More information can be found here:

[NHS England » What is Assuring Transformation?](#)

The latest AT statistics can be found here:

[Learning Disability Services Monthly Statistics, AT: September 2024, MHSDS: August 2024 - NHS England Digital](#)

The Mental Health Services Dataset

All activity relating to patients who receive assessments and treatment from Mental Health Services is within the scope of the Mental Health Services Data Set, where the patient has, or is thought to have:

- a mental health condition and/or
- a need for support with their mental wellbeing and/or
- a learning disability and/or
- autism or any other neurodevelopmental condition

The scope of the Mental Health Services Data Set requires patient record level data submission from services as follows:

For each patient attending a service located in England

- If the care is wholly funded by the NHS: the data submission for that patient is mandatory
- If the care is partially funded by the NHS: the data submission for that patient is mandatory
- If the care is wholly funded by any means that is not NHS: the data submission for that patient is **optional**.

For each patient attending a service located outside England, but commissioned by an English Integrated Care Board or NHS England specialised commissioner, the data submission is **optional**.

More information can be found below:

[About the Mental Health Services Data Set \(MHSDS\) - NHS England Digital](#)

Some issues have been flagged regarding the two datasets in England and there are differences in the inpatient figures between the datasets. For example, **the Assuring Transformation dataset only collects data on inpatients in specialist provision**, and the optional nature of data submission for the independent sector under the Mental Health Services Dataset means that the full picture is unclear. Restraints data is also only included within the Mental Health Services Dataset.

For further information, please see: [Chris Hatton's blog: What can the statistics tell us about people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people in inpatient units during COVID-19? Part 1 - number of people](#)

In Wales:

The Patients In MH Hospitals and Units Dataset (2015-2019)

In Wales this dataset provides information on residents in NHS hospitals and units for people with a mental illness or learning disability.

This has not been updated since 2019 and the Welsh Government website notes that there are currently no plans to update this data. (WG, 2024).

The last available data, published in November 2019, notes that on March 31st 2019 there were 87 resident patients in Wales.

This represents a decrease of 30 (26%) from 2018 and since 1979 the number resident on the census date has fallen by 2,186 (96%).

On 31 March 2019, 23 males and 7 females had been residents for 10 years or more.

The data from 2019 also revealed that 24 patients with learning disabilities (28 per cent of the total) were detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation and that this was the largest percentage in the last 10 years.

The data here are collected from individual Health Boards by NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS). Agreed standards and definitions within Wales provided assurance that the data was consistent across Local Health Boards.

Limitations to data in Wales:

The data focuses on a small number of patients with learning disabilities. **It does not include data on autistic patients.** It does not cover smaller units due to confidentiality issues.

The data does not include Welsh residents who are patients at hospitals in England.

Each year, on 31st March, a census is taken of residents in NHS hospitals and units for people with a mental illness or a learning disability in Wales. It is a snapshot on that date so it is difficult to determine short stay and discharge (and where people may have gone).

It is unclear whether the data for people with learning disabilities refer to mental health hospitals or specialist inpatient LD provision or both. When it states hospitals/units for people with a learning disability this implies Assessment and Treatment Units, but we know that people with learning disabilities are also placed within mental health hospitals and the data does not appear to be available here.

There are two charts which give some indication of length of stay in units, but data for before 2015 contains some patients with an unknown duration of stay which is likely to have affected the figures for length of stay of 10 years or over.

There is similar information available from other parts of the UK, but the data is not exactly comparable due to local definitions and standards in each area.

Admission of Patients to MH Facilities Dataset (Oct 2022)

This dataset provides data on the number of patients admitted to mental health facilities both formally and informally, and patients subject to supervised community treatment.

It does not provide specific data on people with learning disabilities.

What we need:

A national dataset that collects information about all people with learning disabilities and autistic people in secure hospitals and units. This needs to include information on people in secure hospitals and units in Wales and those placed out of county in England.

The data from this dataset needs to be made publicly available on a monthly basis online.

We recommend the data collected should include:

1. The age, gender, ethnicity of people. Also may want to cover LGBTQ+
2. Information on primary, secondary or tertiary diagnoses – e.g. Learning disability, autism, ADHD, mental health, dementia. (With MH reform, it will be important to keep a check on number of additional co-occurring MH diagnoses).
3. Number of people who have been at threat of admission to secure hospitals and units (joint working with social services for data collection).
4. Information on where people were living prior to admission. This is important for flagging where people may have been inappropriately placed and where sectioning could have been avoided. This should include people who were placed in a community placement that was deemed unsuitable for their needs according to local authority/health board/family prior to admission.
5. Data on admissions by legal status showing those admitted formally and under which section of the Mental Health Act, and those who were admitted under DoLS (Mental Capacity Act). (Also important to keep a record of number of people placed under DoLS and to see if this number increases with MH Act reform).
6. Were detained subject to a legal framework which is not the least restrictive to meet their needs.

7. Is the person detained under a forensic or non-forensic pathway? (Important to keep a check of MH Act reform. Do we see an increase of people detained under the forensic pathway? Do the numbers in prisons increase when the provision to detain in psychiatric settings is removed?).
8. Identifying data for category of low/ medium/ high secure setting.
9. The number of people with a learning disability and/or autistic people getting care in a hospital and the type of hospital they are in (Assessment and Treatment Unit/non-specialist, NHS or operated by an independent provider).
10. Size of setting (for example number of beds) and staff-to-person ratio.
11. Staff qualifications (for example, LD trained, autism trained, trauma-informed, human rights trained...)
12. Name of Health Board or Local Authority that the person comes under -This is important for noting potential trends and whether person is out of county or country (for example, Stolen Lives has noted that there is a tendency for people from Cardiff to be placed in St Andrews in Northampton).
13. Data on how long person has been in hospital.
14. Information on the use of seclusion, restraint, long-term segregation. This should include an outline of the policy and practice for each setting and also detailed figures on the rates of use for each person. Is there a Reducing Restrictive Practice lead? Reviews of the use of RP?
15. Information detailing refusal of regular contact with family (for any reason).

16. Information detailing if the person has experienced any human rights violations. [guide mental-health-human-rights-practitioner-guide learning-disability.pdf](#)
17. Information on the use of psychotropic medication. This should include prescribed daily long-term usage, PRN usage and short-term usage.
18. Regular updated information on the average length of stay someone spends across all units. It is important to distinguish this. Figures should not be for each individual unit because the way people get transferred around implies several "short stays", this is a misrepresentation of experience.
19. Data on inpatient deaths. This should include all causes (and suicide rates).
20. Data on numbers of Mental Health tribunals, managers hearings, formal complaints etc.
21. Data on access to independent advocacy service/Learning Disability/Autism support specialist? Detail of provision and take-up rates of this.
22. Data on numbers of people (patients) invited to care reviews. Are people being supported to have a say in their care and in long term planning?
23. Data on allocation of care-coordinators and regularity of formal reviews for care plans. Is care planning person-centred? Does it include the family?
24. Data on whether people have had an Annual Health Check /have a health profile.

25. Whether people are visited regularly by their commissioner (to determine how well the commissioner knows the person they are commissioning services for).
26. It would be useful to have a map of all available placements/beds and step up/step down to build an understanding of what provision is currently there.
27. Data on transition planning and processes in preparation for discharge
28. Details on the numbers of people who have moved from hospital to the community. It is not enough to simply state number of people who have been discharged, it would be beneficial for planning and policy to know the pathways back to community living. Has the person been moved from one hospital to another? Has there been a step down/step up approach?
29. Data on cases where there has been a failure to draft or implement appropriate aftercare provision as owed by the duties in s117 of the Mental Health Act 1983.
30. Trauma-informed support for the person discharged and the family?
31. Data on readmissions (How long it has it been since the person was discharged? Possible factors leading to readmission, etc.)

Without good quality data it is hard to build a picture of what is happening to people with learning disabilities and autistic people in Wales before, during and after admission to a secure hospital or unit. Good quality data can be used to help prevent admission, can be used to support the person whilst an inpatient and can be used by NHS Wales to track and plan inpatient provision. Moreover, it can be used to plan and commission good quality community services.

Good quality data makes for good quality research and analysis, which, in turn, can help inform and shape both local and national policy decisions - the quality of the insights, and the accuracy and reliability of the conclusions drawn can only be as good as the quality of the data.

Make menopause a mandatory part of the curriculum for all healthcare sciences and medical students

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 2 Rhagfyr 2024
Petitions Committee | 2 December 2024

Reference: SR24/9803/3

Petition Number: P-06-1480

Petition title: Make menopause a mandatory part of the curriculum for all healthcare sciences and medical students

Text of petition: Menopause is experienced by approximately 50% of the population. There are a wide variety of symptoms and long term health risks associated with it which can significantly impact physical and mental health, and which for some people can affect their ability to work, socialise, and maintain good health and wellbeing.

In spite of this, education about menopause during healthcare and medical training programs in Wales is minimal, and there is no mandatory requirement for including this topic.

It is not just doctors who will care for people experiencing perimenopause and menopause symptoms. As such, as well as calling for all medical students to be taught about menopause symptom and interventions, we also call for all students of healthcare sciences in Wales to be educated. Nurses, physiotherapists, dentists, optometrists, pharmacists, radiographers, ODPs, speech and language therapists, and occupational therapists will all encounter people experiencing menopause in their professional practice.



Mandatory education will enable greater confidence and competence in identifying perimenopause/menopause, and improve outcomes for patients.

Promptly identifying perimenopause/menopause can enable healthcare and medical professionals to empower patients to work in partnership to manage their own health effectively, minimise waste through unnecessary prescribing, and reduce repeat appointments and unnecessary referrals at a time where resourcing in the Welsh NHS is under strain.

1. Background

Women make up 51% of the population of Wales, and all of them will experience the menopause. The menopause is a natural part of ageing, and occurs when a woman stops having periods and is no longer able to become pregnant naturally. Menopause happens when the ovaries stop producing reproductive hormones, particularly oestrogen and progesterone. Symptoms include hot flushes, night sweats, mood changes, memory and concentration loss in addition to long-term conditions such as osteoporosis.

Typically menopause occurs between 45 and 55 years of age, with an average of 51 in the UK. However, 1 in 100 women experience the menopause before the age of 40; this is known as premature menopause or premature ovarian insufficiency. Menopause can also be caused surgically, when a woman's ovaries are removed (oophorectomy), and medically, when a woman is given hormone altering drugs called Gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) analogues.

Despite the universality of menopause, the British Menopause Society, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and Society for Endocrinology say there has been a lack of support for women going through this phase. They say many women report a lack of education and their healthcare professionals' lack of adequate training on the menopause.

To tackle issues surrounding the menopause UK Menopause Taskforce was created with ministers and senior clinicians from all four nations.

Following this, [the Quality Statement for women and girls' health](#) (July 2022) was produced by the Welsh Government. It describes what health boards are expected to deliver such as:

- health boards will work with partners to further develop research, innovation, and education to enable delivery of a high quality, evidenced based, gender and culturally competent clinical care by a well-trained workforce.

An NHS Wales discovery report on [Women's Health in Wales report](#) (November 2022) highlighted that respondents felt like they were “not always ‘listened to’ or ‘heard’ by their healthcare professional”. They felt more could be done to improve their experience and that better education and training of GPs and other healthcare professionals is required.

The [All-Wales Menopause Task and Finish Group](#) (February 2023) report made recommendations to the Welsh government, such as:

- Timely access to a healthcare professional with expertise in the menopause in each general practice cluster; and
- Access to timely availability of multiprofessional menopause services.

The Welsh Government [has emphasised](#) the importance of menopause in GP training and continuous professional development provided by Health Education and Improvement Wales.

The NHS Wales Executive established the [National Strategic Clinical Network for Women's Health](#) in 2024 to develop a Women's health plan for Wales. The [work plan for 2024/2025](#) aims to achieve this by building on the Government's Quality Statement for Women's and Girls' Health and the Discovery Report.

2. Welsh Parliament action

There have been questions asked in the Senedd on menopause. For instance,

- [Conservative MS Laura Anne Jones](#) shared her personal experience of menopause in May 2024. She called on the Welsh Government to ensure better employment support is available for women experiencing menopause.

- Labour MS Vikki Howells asked the then Health Minister, Eluned Morgan MS about support for women in Wales who are experiencing the menopause in June 2021. Eluned Morgan MS responded that “the Welsh Government takes women’s health, including menopausal concerns, very seriously and expects all health boards to provide a full range of services to women experiencing the menopause in accordance with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance”.

The Petitions Committee also recently considered (September 2024) Petition P-06-1444: Women of North Wales have the right to have a Menopause Services/Clinic in Ysbyty Gwynedd.

3. Welsh Government response

The Welsh Government provided a response to the Petition on the 14 November 2024 from Jeremy Miles, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care.

The response states that, although every university, medical facility and medical school have their own syllabus and regulations for studying courses in medicine, they must follow the overall supervision and standards set by the General Medical Council (GMC). It says the Welsh Government is committed to improving menopause services. It references the 2023 report from the All-Wales Menopause Task and Finish Group and the NHS Executive National Strategic Clinical Network for Women’s Health., and notes that the network is developing a 10-year Women’s Health Plan for Wales, which will be published in December.

The response highlights that education on menstrual and reproductive health and wellbeing (including menopause) is mandatory for school aged children in the new Curriculum for Wales framework.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1480
Ein cyf/Our ref JMHSC/10498/24

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

petitions@senedd.wales

14 November 2024

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 16 October regarding Petition P-06-1480 Make menopause a mandatory part of the curriculum for all healthcare sciences and medical students.

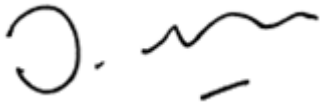
The General Medical Council (GMC) sets the standards expected of medical training organisations and the outcomes students and doctors in training should achieve. Under the overall supervision of the GMC, every university, medical faculty and medical school has its own syllabus and regulations for the course of study in medicine.

The Welsh Government is committed to improving menopause services. In February 2023, the All-Wales Menopause Task and Finish Group, which brought together professional groups, NHS, patient voices, Welsh Government policy leads and advisors, published its [report](#).

The NHS Executive has established a National Strategic Clinical Network for Women's Health. The network, under the leadership of the National Clinical lead for Women's Health, is developing the 10-year *Women's Health Plan for Wales*, which will be published in December. The task and finish group's recommendations will feed into the development of the plan.

Learning about menstrual wellbeing and conditions which can affect the reproductive system, including menopause, starts at school age and is mandatory for pupils through the new Curriculum for Wales framework.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

We feel there should be a Referendum before the Senedd has a further 36 members

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 2 Rhagfyr 2024
Petitions Committee | 2 December 2024

Reference: SR24/10118/1

Petition Number: P-06-1490

Petition title: We feel there should be a Referendum before the Senedd has a further 36 members

Text of petition:

The Senedd costs a lot of money. Local Authorities are struggling with funding. We don't feel that more money should be wasted on Members of the Senedd when we need improvements to NHS, Education and Social Care.

Local Authorities are so cash strapped that they cannot deliver services. Waiting lists are endless.

Elderly are bed blocking hospitals because of the lack of care homes and carers.



1. Background

Since 2004, a series of reports have recommended that the size of the Senedd should increase from its current size of 60 Members.

The Wales Act 2017 gave the Senedd powers over its size and electoral arrangements without requiring a referendum. Any provision in a Bill which would change the number of Members of the Senedd requires a supermajority (40 of the Senedd's 60 Members) to pass.

Section 64 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 gives the Welsh Government the power to hold a poll to ascertain the views of the people of Wales relating to functions of the Welsh Ministers. However, this is not a mechanism for a direct vote or direct referendum on a particular proposal.

1.1. Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Act 2024

The Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Act 2024 was passed by the Senedd on 8 May 2024. Royal Assent was given to the Act on 24 June 2024.

The Act addresses some of the recommendations made by the Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform, which reported in May 2022.

The changes in the Act include:

- Increasing the number of Members of the Senedd from 60 to 96;
- Introducing a closed-list proportional electoral system to elect Members;
- A return to the Senedd being elected for four-year terms;
- Enabling the Senedd to elect a second Deputy Presiding Officer;
- Increasing the maximum number of Welsh Ministers from 12 to 17 (with potential to increase to 19);
- Putting provisions in place for reviews of Senedd constituency boundaries to be undertaken; and
- Making it a requirement for candidates to, and Members of, the Senedd to be registered to vote at an address in Wales.

The provision of the Act relating to the number of Members of the Senedd (section 1) came into force on 24 August 2024. In order to change this, the Senedd would need to pass a new law to amend or repeal this section of the Act.

2. Welsh Government action

The former Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution, Mick Antoniw MS, was the Member in Charge of the (then) Bill.

The former Counsel General gave an oral statement to the Senedd on 19 September 2023, coinciding with the Bill's introduction. When asked about whether the (then) Bill's proposals should be subject to a referendum, he said:

The 2017 Act [*Wales Act 2017*] gave us very specific powers in respect of elections and in respect of the Senedd. We have mandates in terms of our election manifestos. We're carrying out the powers that were given to us. If Westminster had intended for us to be able to use those powers only with a referendum, they would have said so. They didn't say so, and you'll be aware of all the commissions, all the debate, all the discussions that we've had, and I think the argument is completely clear. The mandate that we have is completely clear, and this legislation is going forward to scrutiny.

3. Welsh Parliament action

3.1. Committee Scrutiny

The Reform Bill Committee was established on 12 July 2023 and led on the Stage 1 scrutiny of the (then) Bill. It published its report on 19 January 2024.

Some of the evidence provided to the Committee called for there to be a referendum on the (then) Bill's proposals. However, when asked about whether a referendum should be held, the former Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution, Mick Antoniw MS, told the Committee:

"I don't think a referendum is necessary. And I think putting these things in terms of manifestos and commitments for reform et cetera is actually the way forward. We are an accountable, elected parliamentary democracy, and that's the way our democracy works".

He emphasised that the powers over the Senedd's size had been devolved by the Wales Act 2017 and that there was no requirement for a referendum to confirm any changes.

3.2. Proposed amendment

At the (then) Bill's stage 2 proceedings, an amendment was tabled in the name of Darren Millar MS which would have required the Welsh Ministers hold a referendum about whether all the provisions of the Act should come into force.

The amendment was defeated in a Committee of the Whole Senedd by 40 votes to 14.

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

This petition was submitted by Nanette Davies, having collected a total of 10,800 signatures.

Text of Petition:

The Senedd costs a lot of money. Local Authorities are struggling with funding. We don't feel that more money should be wasted on Members of the Senedd when we need improvements to NHS , Education and Social Care.

Additional Information:

Local Authorities are so cash strapped that they cannot deliver services.

Waiting lists are endless.

Elderly are bed blocking hospitals because of the lack of care homes and carers.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Delyn
- North Wales

Call for an early Senedd election

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 2 Rhagfyr 2024
Petitions Committee | 2 December 2024

Reference: SR24/9547/10

Petition Number: P-06-1466

Petition title: Call for an early Senedd election

Text of petition: Now there is a new "unelected" First Minister running Wales the public should have the right to vote for who they want running the country.



1. Background

Any Member of the Senedd can be appointed as First Minister of Wales. There is no requirement for a Senedd election to take place if the First Minister leaves their post unless the Senedd does not nominate a new First Minister within 28 days of the office becoming vacant.

1.1. Nomination of a First Minister

Section 47 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 states that the Senedd must nominate a Member of the Senedd for appointment as First Minister in the event of any of the following:

- a. the holding of a poll at a Senedd general election;
- b. the Senedd resolving that the Welsh Ministers no longer enjoy the confidence of the Senedd;
- c. the First Minister tendering resignation to His Majesty;
- d. the First Minister dying or becoming permanently unable to act and to tender resignation; or
- e. the First Minister ceasing to be a Member of the Senedd otherwise than by reason of a dissolution.

Following the resignation of Mark Drakeford MS as First Minister on 19 March 2024, the Senedd voted on 20 March 2024 to nominate Vaughan Gething MS as First Minister.

Similarly, following Vaughan Gething MS's resignation as First Minister, Eluned Morgan MS was nominated by the Senedd to become First Minister on 6 August 2024.

1.2. Senedd Elections

1.2.a. Ordinary General Elections

Section 3 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 ("GoWA") provides for 'ordinary' general elections to be held for the Senedd on the first Thursday in May every five

calendar years. This can be varied by up to one month before or after to avoid a clash with UK Parliament general election

The Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Act 2024 will change the period between Senedd general elections to every four years.

1.2.b. Extraordinary General Elections

As set out in section 5 of GoWA, there are two circumstances where ‘extraordinary’ general elections (i.e. an early election) can be held for the Senedd:

- In the event that at least two-thirds of the total number of Members vote in favour of a motion that the Senedd is to be dissolved; or
- In the event that the Senedd is unable to appoint a First Minister within 28 days of either a general election or the office of First Minister becoming vacant (for example, by the Senedd resolving to no longer have confidence in the First Minister or the First Minister tending their resignation).

If either of these circumstances were to occur, the Presiding Officer would be required to propose a day for the holding of an extraordinary general election.

If an extraordinary general election is held within six months of the next scheduled ordinary general election, that ordinary general election would not need to be held. For example, if an extraordinary general election was held after 7 November 2025, the next scheduled ordinary general election on Thursday 7 May 2026 would not be held.

2. Welsh Government action

On 6 August 2024, the Senedd nominated Eluend Morgan MS to become First Minister of Wales.

The First Minister appointed her new Cabinet on 11 September 2024 and set out the Welsh Government’s priorities in an oral statement to the Senedd on 17 September 2024.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.



Ein cyf/Our ref FM -/10334/24

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru

11th November 2024

Dear Carolyn,

I am writing in response to your letter of 27 September regarding Petition P-06-1466 'Call for an early Senedd election'.

Wales' electoral system provides for a parliamentary democracy, in which members of the public vote to determine the composition of the Welsh Parliament, and the Members of that Parliament then elect their proposed candidate for appointment as First Minister of Wales.

This is reflected in my own appointment.

I was appointed as Welsh Labour leader on 24 July 2024.

The Welsh Parliament was recalled during its summer break to nominate a new First Minister of Wales. Ahead of the meeting, Vaughan Gething MS officially submitted his resignation to the King and this was accepted by His Majesty.

The Senedd met on [6 August 2024](#) and under Standing Order 12.3 invited nominations for the appointment of First Minister of Wales.

As there was more than one nomination a vote was conducted by roll call. The Presiding Officer invited each Member present to vote for a candidate.

As I received more votes than the total number of votes cast for all other candidates I was nominated for appointment as First Minister of Wales, and in accordance with Section 47(4) of the Government of Wales Act, a recommendation was made to His Majesty that I was appointed as First Minister. I was subsequently appointed as First Minister on the same day.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

It may be noted that Senedd elections currently take place every five years. However, the **Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Act**, which was given Royal Assent on 24 June 2024 provides for the reduction of the length of Senedd Terms from five years to four years by changing the frequency of ordinary general elections. This would mean that following the ordinary general election in May 2026, the following ordinary general elections will be held on the first Thursday in May 2030, then May 2034 and so on.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the petition.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan

- **What are your thoughts on the attached document?**

I think the attached document is purely a protocol response, and not an acceptance of the scrutiny and disappointment with the Welsh Labour Government in the Senedd the Welsh public are seeing. It is indicative of the abhorrent ignorance regarding the public's thoughts and wishes. Although I accept that, yet another First Minister was chosen due to the Governing parties' policies and protocols I cannot accept the ignoring of record-breaking petitions as a democratic/protocol stance., basic decency would acknowledge the misgivings.

- **Does it adequately address the issues that you raised?**

It 100% doesn't come anywhere near addressing my concerns, just because protocols are adhered to doesn't make it right, and the ignoring of the Welsh people's voices is a dictatorship not a democracy.

- **Do you have further questions in response?**

Do the Government know about the lack of faith the Welsh people have in them, or do they not care?

- **Is there anything additional that you would like the Committee to know at this stage, either in response to this document or as an update to the Committee?**

Only 517,00 people voted in the 2021 Welsh election, obviously not all of these voted for Welsh Labour, and unless a coalition with Plaid Cymru was formed there would have been no ruling party. Yet the 20mph petition reached 440,00 signatures just 11 days after the shambolic implementation – this figure alone should have hit home with the Government, but unfortunately the resolution was put back onto the public who were expected to contact their local councils with their concerns. It really doesn't portray the Welsh Labour Government in a good light with the public, and the fact the Plaid Cymru have now ended their alliance with them speaks volumes, but that hasn't deterred the Draconian stance of the Welsh Labour Government. If Eluned Morgan, or any other Labour Senedd member thinks that they have the right to rule the country after these figures, then we are truly lost as a nation.

Further to my original reason to raise a petition there have been several further misgivings by the Government. Taking away the winter fuel allowance from our pensioners, increasing business tax relief on hospitality businesses, doing absolutely nothing to rescind the laughable 20mph law, even though many of us believe that 20mph where appropriate is common sense, this fact has also been ignored, the disgusting decision to ban the word 'blanket' when mentioning the 20mph embarrassment is more like the actions of a dictatorship than a democracy. The fact that NOTHING has been done to re-visit the shambolic law also suggests a dictatorship.

The obvious war on motorists with no M4 relief road (even though properties were previously purchased costing more public money) is detrimental to the Welsh economy, with many businesses avoiding Wales because of logistic issues.

The complete waste of funds to purchase the most expensive aviary in the world at Gilestone Farm is just another example of wasting public funds, but then increasing Council Taxes!

Farmers livelihoods and futures are being put into extreme jeopardy by the actions of the Senedd.

And to top all that off, dogs are now being deemed racist – you really cannot make this up!

In 25 years of this devolved nation Welsh Labour have failed to hit any KPIs, if that was a member of the public in their day-to-day jobs they would soon be taken to task. Unfortunately, the audacity that Labour winning any election (although the 2021 figures and subsequent coalition would suggest otherwise) has been expected and not earned.

Fortunately/Unfortunately the 20mph debacle has opened up a can of worms on the perennial failings of the Welsh Government, the public would be oblivious to these otherwise, again, the audacity of the Government makes them blinkered to any scrutiny or failings. After all, they cannot blame Westminster for under-funding anymore can they with their Lord and Master running the show?

And finally, there have been over 1.5 million petitioners against many different policies – I believe none have gone further than a discussion in the chamber, and correct me if I'm wrong there was one that got approved regarding saving owls or similar that only gained 250 signatures??

All in all 1.5 million petitioners is three times the amount of people that voted in the 2021 Senedd elections!! All ignored!!

I hope Eluned Morgan see's sense and calls for an early election, if Welsh Labour win by the required majority then I would accept that as a democratic victory, if they don't win then can I ask that no coalition is formed to accommodate remaining in power?

The people of Wales require a public inquiry into the £200,000 donation made to Vaughan Gething

Petitions Committee | December 2024

Reference: SR24/9803/4

Petition Number: P-06-1481

Petition title: The people of Wales require a public inquiry into the £200,000 donation made to Vaughan Gething.

Text of petition: A donation of £200,000 was made to Vaughan Gething in pursuance of his bid to become First Minister, even though this essentially only involved canvassing votes from Labour unions. The company making that donation also received a substantial loan from the Development Bank of Wales, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Welsh Government. A full public inquiry should be held to determine details of the loan, its purpose, the subsequent donation and how that donation was spent.

Background

The donations

As part of his campaign for the leadership of Welsh Labour, Vaughan Gething MS accepted a total of £200,000 in donations from Dauson Environmental Group. David Neal, who is a director with significant control in the company, was prosecuted for illegally dumping waste at a conservation site on the Gwent Levels in 2013. He was prosecuted again in 2017, for failing to remove the waste.



On 14 March, it was [reported that](#) in January 2024 Atlantic Recycling, which is part of Dauson Environmental Group, pleaded guilty to failing to operate according to a condition of its permit.

On 22 April, it was [reported that](#) the Development Bank of Wales had loaned Neal Soul Suppliers (a subsidiary of Dauson Environmental Group) £400,000 in February 2023.

On 3 June, the BBC [reported that](#) a criminal investigation into Resources Management Limited (a firm linked to David Neal) was being carried out by Natural Resources Wales.

The Ministerial Code

The [Ministerial Code](#) provides guidance to Ministers, deputy Ministers and the Counsel General on expected standards of constitutional and personal conduct.

It consists of a Ministerial code of ethics, procedural guidance for Ministers, and seven principles of public life.

Reporting donations

Under Schedule 7 of the [Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000](#), “regulated donees” (which includes Members of the Senedd) “[are subject to](#) controls on the acceptance and reporting of donations”.

The Electoral Commission keeps a register of donations. The relevant donations were declared with the Electoral Commission and can be [viewed here](#).

The Development Bank of Wales

The [Development Bank of Wales](#) (DBW) funds businesses it believes will benefit Wales. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Welsh Government [with a directive](#) to support the Welsh Government’s Programme for Government. The Welsh Government set out the strategic priorities for the Development Bank for Wales in its [remit letter](#) for 2021-26.

Chief Executive of DBW, Giles Thorley, [told the Senedd’s Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee](#) in April that the Bank has “full independence” from Welsh Government Ministers.

The Committee [published a report](#) on DBW in July 2024, which included discussion of the loans to Dauson Environmental Group. In the [Welsh](#)

Government's response to the report, it accepted the Committee's recommendation to task DBW with reviewing its due diligence processes.

Welsh Government action

On 27 February 2024, the BBC reported that then First Minister, Mark Drakeford MS, found that Vaughan Gething MS had not broken the Ministerial Code, as the Code “does not govern the process for the receipt of donations to Senedd members”. He added that “these are set and regulated by the Electoral Commission”.

Vaughan Gething was nominated as First Minister on 20 March.

On 23 April, First Minister Vaughan Gething said that he would “not commission any further advice or an independent inquiry” on his decision to accept the donations. He said that the Development Bank of Wales are wholly independent of Welsh Government, and that there was no conflict of interest.

Response to the petition

In her response to the petition, the First Minister stated that:

This matter was considered by the previous First Minister, Mark Drakeford who concluded that there had not been a breach of the Ministerial Code.

I do not intend to revisit that decision, as there is no additional evidence available as part of this petition submission.

Welsh Parliament action

First Minister's Questions

The donations were discussed several times at First Minister's Questions, including:

- 27 February: Welsh Conservative leader in the Senedd, Andrew R.T. Davies MS, asked the then First Minister, Mark Drakeford MS, whether he would launch an investigation into the donations. The First Minister advised that he asked for an investigation and was advised that there had been no breach of the Ministerial Code;
- 23 April: The First Minister, Vaughan Gething MS, noted an internal Labour Party review being held which would include a consideration of campaign finance. He said this review would be made public. The DBW loan was raised; the First Minister stressed that DBW is independent of Welsh

Government, and that an independent investigation was not needed. Plaid Cymru leader, Rhun ap Iorwerth MS, revealed that he wrote to the Welsh Government's Permanent Secretary, Andrew Goodall, to ask for an independent inquiry; and

- **4 June:** Andrew R.T. Davies MS asked whether the First Minister was aware that a company owned by David Neal was under criminal investigation at the time the donations were made. The First Minister said that he was not aware until the BBC reports were published.

The donations were also discussed in First Minister's Questions on **16 April**, **30 April**, **21 May** and **11 June**.

Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister

On 26 April, the **Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister** met. Llyr Gruffydd MS raised questions about the donations; the First Minister said that he had "been honest throughout this about what [he had] done and why".

Debates

Three relevant debates took place in the Senedd.

On 1 May, the Welsh Conservatives **led a debate** on "leadership campaign donations and the ministerial code". The following motion, as amended, was agreed:

Motion NDM8562 as amended:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises that the Welsh Government takes seriously the Ministerial Code and the responsibilities it places upon Welsh Ministers.
2. Notes that loan and investment decisions taken by the Development Bank of Wales are done so entirely independently of the Welsh Government.

Also on 1 May, Plaid Cymru **led a debate** on a "cap on political donations". The following motion, as amended, was agreed:

Motion NDM8561 as amended:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes that Members of the Senedd have a responsibility to declare interests on the Members' Register of Interests and to identify such declarations where relevant in written and oral contributions to Senedd Business.

2. Notes that members are also required to check that donations of £500 or more are from permissible donors and report full details of those over £2230 to the Electoral Commission.
3. Recognises that political parties, and their constituent governing bodies, are responsible for setting and monitoring compliance with rules which go beyond existing legal requirements.
4. Calls on the Standards of Conduct Committee to continue to ensure that the highest standards of conduct are observed by all Members.

On 5 June, the Welsh Conservatives led a debate on confidence in the First Minister. The following motion was agreed:

Motion NDM8593 Darren Millar

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises the genuine public concern over the First Minister accepting a £200,000 donation for his Labour leadership campaign from a company owned by an individual who has two environmental criminal convictions, and regrets the poor judgement shown by the First Minister in accepting this donation, and his failure to repay it.
2. Regrets the publication of Welsh Government ministerial messages where the First Minister states his intention to delete messages that could have later been helpful to the COVID inquiry in its deliberations around decision making at the time of the COVID pandemic, despite the First Minister telling the UK COVID inquiry that he didn't delete any messages.
3. Notes the dismissal by the First Minister of the Minister for Social Partnership from his Government, regrets that the First Minister is unwilling to publish his supporting evidence for the dismissal, and notes the former Minister for Social Partnership's strong denial of the accusations levelled against her.
4. For the above reasons, has no confidence in the First Minister.

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Eich cyf/Your ref: P-06-1481
Ein cyf.Our ref: FM -/10434/24

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

11 November 2024

Dear Chair,

Rwy'n ysgrifennu mewn ymateb i'ch llythyr dyddiedig 16 Hydref ynghylch Deiseb P-06-1481 ynghylch ymchwiliad cyhoeddus.

Cafodd y mater ei ystyried gan y Prif Weinidog blaenorol, Mark Drakeford a ddaeth i'r casgliad na fu toriad yn y Cod Gweinidogol.

Nid wyf yn bwriadu ailedrych ar y penderfyniad hwnnw, gan nad oes tystiolaeth ychwanegol ar gael fel rhan o'r ddeiseb hon.

I am writing in response to your letter of 16 October regarding Petition P-06-1481 about a public inquiry.

This matter was considered by the previous First Minister, Mark Drakeford who concluded that there had not been a breach of the Ministerial Code.

I do not intend to revisit that decision, as there is no additional evidence available as part of this petition submission.

Yours sincerely,

Eluned Morgan

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.