

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1

Meeting date: Monday, 20 January 2025

Meeting time: 14:00 – 15:00

This meeting can be viewed
on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/14801>

Hybrid

Attendance

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

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Joel James MS.

Item 2.2 – Vaughan Gething MS declared that he is mentioned by name in the text of the petition

Item 2.8 – Vaughan Gething MS declared that he was Minister for Health for part of the vaccination programme

Item 3.6 – Carolyn Thomas MS declared that the petitioner is a member of her staff.



2 Updates to previous petitions

2.1 P-06-1482 Ban smartphones in all schools in Wales with exemptions for exceptional circumstances

The Committee held a round table event on the issue and will be producing a report in March, containing recommendations for the Welsh Government.

2.2 P-06-1468 Set stricter rules to limit gifts, donations and payments received by Members of Senedd

The Committee considered the petition and noted that an inquiry into the registration and declaration of interests is being undertaken by the Standards Committee on this issue, therefore agreed to keep the petition open until that work has been completed.

2.3 P-06-1469 Any Government policy or project that costs more than £10 Million must be voted in by the electorate

The Committee considered the petition and agreed that £10 million was an unrealistic limit. The Senedd already has a clearly set out process for budget scrutiny and previous petitions calling for similar measures have made no headway. In light of this, the Committee agreed to close the petition and thank the petitioner.

2.4 P-06-1470 Scrap the Racist and ridiculous Anti-Racist Wales Plan

When discussing the petition, Members noted that the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan had been endorsed by the Senedd across all parties and that there was no more action the Committee could take. In light of this, Members agreed to close the petition.

2.5 P-06-1477 A new Senedd Act to Recall Local Government Councillors

The Committee considered the petition and noted that the Cabinet Secretary's response states that the current ethical framework for Councillors was judged fit for purpose by independent review. Members also noted that there were existing

mechanisms to remove councillors and that it was unclear what more the Committee could do. In light of this, Members agreed to thank the petitioner and close the petition.

2.6 P-06-1483 Give neighbours their say when holiday let owners start applying for licences

The Committee agreed to highlight the petition to the Local Government and Housing Committee for consideration in their forward work programme as well as write to the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government seeking further views on the issue. Members agreed to keep the petition open pending the two responses.

2.7 P-06-1487 Provide a pedestrian crossing on A4042 Llanover; make safe for bus users and reduce the speed limit

The Committee considered the petition and noted that constituency Members in both Parliaments have made representations on the issue. The Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales has asked officials to arrange a meeting with the petitioner. Members agreed to keep the petition open pending an update on the outcome of the meeting.

2.8 P-06-1493 Ensure diagnosis and treatment for people suffering from adverse Covid-19 vaccine side effects

The Committee considered the petition and noted that module four of the COVID-19 inquiry are beginning work on this issue and that it will also be considered by the Senedd's COVID-19 Inquiry Special Purpose Committee. The Committee agreed it was not appropriate for the petition to be debated in the Senedd given that it is currently being addressed in other forums. In light of this, the Committee expressed their sympathy, thanked the petitioner and closed the petition.

2.9 P-06-1494 Welsh Government to protect funding in education from WG and Local Authority cuts

The Committee considered the petition and acknowledged it had exceeded the threshold to be considered for a debate. However Members agreed that there was little point in asking for a debate on this specific issue immediately because of the upcoming budget debate in February.

The Committee agreed to forward the petitioner's comments to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and copy in the Chair of the Senedd's Children, Young People and Education Committee, as a priority for consideration in its budget scrutiny reporting.

3 New Petitions

3.1 P-06-1184 Immediately ban the use of toxic lead in all ammunition in Wales... lead is killing our wildlife!

The Committee considered the petition and congratulated the petitioner on his success. The Health and Safety Executive has announced plans for a three nation ban (England, Wales and Scotland). Before closing the petition, Members agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to confirm the date a ban will come into force.

3.2 P-06-1220 Increase funding available for Women's Health Services, Education and Awareness

This petition and 'P-06-1220 Increase funding available for Women's Health Services, Education and Awareness' and 'P-06-1444 Women of North Wales have the right to have a Menopause Services/Clinic in Ysbyty Gwynedd' were considered together.

The Committee considered the petitions and noted the publication of the Women's Health Plan. Members agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care to seek further clarity on a question asked by Jenny Rathbone in the 10 December 2024 debate regarding tertiary care in the Women's Health Plan. The Committee will

also share the response from Fair Treatment for Women in Wales with the Cabinet Secretary.

Members agreed to close the petition.

3.3 P-06-1242 Improve Endometriosis Healthcare in Wales

This petition and 'P-06-1220 Increase funding available for Women's Health Services, Education and Awareness' and 'P-06-1444 Women of North Wales have the right to have a Menopause Services/Clinic in Ysbyty Gwynedd' were considered together.

The Committee considered the petitions and noted the publication of the Women's Health Plan. Members agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care to seek further clarity on a question asked by Jenny Rathbone in the 10 December 2024 debate regarding tertiary care in the Women's Health Plan. The Committee will also share the response from Fair Treatment for Women in Wales with the Cabinet Secretary. The Committee will also write to the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing to ask how specific data collection on endometriosis is being addressed in the Plan. Correspondence will be copied to the Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee to inform its scrutiny of the Health Plan.

3.4 P-06-1444 Women of North Wales have the right to have a Menopause Services/Clinic in Ysbyty Gwynedd

The Committee considered the petition and noted that the petitioner did not feel her questions had been adequately answered. Members agreed to write to Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board to ask whether more clinics could be held at Ysbyty Gwynedd (meaning one consultant has to travel to Bangor, rather than dozens of women needing to make arrangements to travel to hospitals in east Wales) to receive specialist services. The Committee will also ask which menopause services can be provided through the medium of Welsh. The Committee will also write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care to ask what plans they have to publish an easy-read version of the Women's Health Plan.

3.5 P-06-1258 Make individuals in Wales with Hidden disabilities eligible for the Blue Badge

The Committee considered the petition and noted that the Government have commissioned research on this issue and to keep the petition open pending publication of the research (later this year).

3.6 P-06-1387 Provide humanitarian aid to Gaza

The Committee considered the petition and noted that the First Minister's response was helpful and constructive. Since the last consideration, there has been a ceasefire deal and it is hard to see what more the Committee could do. In light of this, the Committee thanked the petitioner and closed the petition.

3.7 P-06-1425 We ask the Welsh Government to reverse its decision to stop T2 buses calling at Garndolbenmaen

The Committee considered the petition and noted the strength of feeling locally. An online meeting on the issue is set to be held in February and Members agreed to wait for the outcome before closing the petition.

3.8 P-06-1439 Improve vital late night public transport infrastructure in South and South West Wales.

The Committee considered the petition and expressed sympathy with the petitioner. As the transport issues are recognised by the Cabinet Secretary and have been brought to the attention of the local authority, there seems little more that the Committee can do at this time. The Committee thanked the petitioner and closed the petition.

3.9 P-06-1454 Calling Welsh Government to provide urgent mental health support for New Dads

The Committee congratulated the petitioner on the impact they have had regarding this issue. In her response, the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing confirmed work was underway on a pathway to support dads and partners of individuals under the care of the specialist perinatal mental health team. Members agreed there was little else they could do on this issue and to close the petition.

3.10 P-06-1452 Meat-free Monday in every school in Wales.

The Committee congratulated the petitioner for using the petitions system to raise an important issue. The Cabinet Secretary's response stated that a public consultation on the Healthy Eating in Schools Regulations is being developed and revised regulations will be laid before the Senedd in January 2026. In light of this, Members agreed to thank the petitioner and close the petition.

3.11 P-06-1474 Stop Natural Resources Wales closing Bwlch Nant yr Arian, Coed y Brenin & Ynyslas visitor centres

This petition and 'P-06-1447 Stop Natural Resources Wales closing the visitor centre at Ynyslas National Nature Reserve' were considered together.

The Chair agreed to raise the petitions in the upcoming 22 January 2025 debate on Natural Resources Wales. The Committee agreed to write to Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee to highlight petitioner's concerns ahead of scrutiny in March and to Natural Resources Wales.

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

This petition and 'P-06-1474 Stop Natural Resources Wales closing Bwlch Nant yr Arian, Coed y Brenin & Ynyslas visitor centres' were considered together.

The Chair agreed to raise the petitions in the upcoming 22 January 2025 debate on Natural Resources Wales. The Committee agreed to write to Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee to highlight petitioner's concerns ahead of scrutiny in March and to Natural Resources Wales.

3.13 P-06-1464 Allow Welsh families who have experienced Baby loss before 24 weeks to obtain baby loss certificate

The Committee agreed to keep the petition open and write to the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing requesting a date on when discussions between the Welsh and UK Governments will conclude, in the expectation of closing the petition next time.

4 Papers to note

4.1 P-06-1380 Make Blue badge Applications Lifelong for individuals who have a lifelong diagnosis

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

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

The motion was agreed.