

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: Monday, 3 February 2025

Meeting time: 14.00 – 14.46

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/14832>

Attendance

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

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies.

Vaughan Gething MS declared the following relevant interest under Standing Order 17.24A:



When the Committee came to consider Petition P-06-1450, under item 3.6, he would absent himself from discussions at that point, given that it substantially dealt with some of his record in Government.

Carolyn Thomas MS declared the following relevant interest under Standing Order 17.24A:

Before she was a member of the Committee she had signed two petitions on the agenda – item 3.1, petition P-06-1272, 'Ban the use of "no pet clauses" in tenancy agreements in Wales', which she declared had also been submitted by a member of her staff, and item 3.4, petition P-06-1394 in regard to Penrhos coastal park.

2 New Petitions

2.1 P-06-1492 Maintain 24 hour access to the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) at Prince Philip Hospital, Llanelli

The Committee considered the petition and there was a divergence of views on whether to keep it open, given that the matter was likely to be raised in plenary. However, the majority view was to highlight the petition with the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care (also noting the separate non-Senedd petition from the campaign group SOSPPAN with over 10,000 signatures), and to keep the petition open a further six months to see the outcome of the Cabinet Secretary and Health Board's monitoring of the situation.

2.2 P-06-1495 Create a structure within the Senedd to ban politicians convicted of intended deception.

Following discussion there was a consensus that, as the matter was being taken forward by the Standards of Conduct Committee, it was appropriate to thank the petitioner and to close the petition.

2.3 P-06-1496 To make heart screening a mandatory requirement for membership of sports clubs and gyms in Wales

Members appreciated this was an important and sensitive issue. However it was clear from the evidence of the experts that advise the UK nations that they do not recommend this for the time being, and it is not something that the Welsh Government are looking to do. The Committee therefore thanked the petitioner but agreed to close the petition.

3 Updates to previous petitions

3.1 P-06-1272 Ban the use of 'no pet clauses' in tenancy agreements in Wales

Members noted the work done on this issue by the Senedd Local Government and Housing committee, and that the Welsh Government has set out in its White Paper the way it intends to address the barriers facing pet owners. Members therefore decided to thank the petitioner and to close the petition.

3.2 P-06-1389 Introduce a 30mph limit on the trunk road through the villages of Eglwys Fach and Ffwrnais

Members agreed to share the petitioner's latest comments and questions with the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales and to keep the petition open until a further update on the agreed option for the road was received, but to close the petition the next time it was considered with a view to local Members then taking it forward.

The Committee would ensure local Members knew about the issue, in case they were unaware.

3.3 P-06-1390 Stop all subsidies on food in the Senedd and for Welsh Government staff in general

The petitioner had secured explanations from both the Permanent Secretary and the Llywydd of the extent and rationale for catering subsidies in both the Welsh Government and Welsh Parliament. Members therefore thanked the petitioner and agreed to close the petition.

3.4 P-06-1394 Intervene in the development of the Penrhos Coastal Park into a holiday resort in Anglesey

In discussing the petition there was a divergence of views between Members. However, the majority view of the Committee was not to take any further action, but to thank the petitioner and close the petition without requesting a plenary debate. The Chair noted that she would continue to pursue the issue in her capacity as Member for North Wales.

3.5 P-05-1448 Stop pollution at Watchtower Bay and Ogmore by Sea

The Committee considered the petition, and also noted that petition P-06-1478 at Item 3.7 on the agenda also referred to issues with water quality at Ogmore by Sea, so deferred a final decision on action until consideration of that item. The Committee subsequently agreed to thank the petitioner and close the petition, but in doing so to highlight the petition and the petitioner's comments to the Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee for consideration in its forthcoming scrutiny of NRW in March 2025.

3.6 P-06-1450 Welsh Government to take action to protect people from airborne infections in health care settings

Vaughan Gething had declared an interest at the start of the meeting for this item, given that the petition substantially dealt with some of his record in Government, and recused himself from consideration of the petition.

The rest of the Committee considered the petition. Members agreed that because of the nature of the petition, that the Petitions Committee was not the best place to take forward what the petition is asking for. Members therefore agreed to close the petition and to forward the petitioner's response to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, and the co-chairs of the Wales Covid-19 Inquiry Special Purpose Committee, for awareness.

Members also noted that it was possible to follow the work of the Wales Covid-19 Inquiry Special Purpose Committee on the Senedd's website.

3.7 P-06-1478 Comprehensively review NRW and its failure to deliver its statutory obligations to protect Wales

Members agreed it was most appropriate for the Senedd Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee to pursue these matters in its scrutiny of NRW in March 2025. The petitioners' questions and comments – along with those of petition 1448 Stop pollution at Watchtower Bay and Ogmore by Sea – would be sent to the Chair of that Committee. Members thanked the petitioner and agreed to close the petition.

3.8 P-06-1485 Introduce a network of Toy Libraries around Wales

The petitioner had had an encouraging response to his proposal and the Committee was pleased to have helped. There was little more the Committee could now do on the issue however, so Members thanked the petitioner and agreed to close the petition.

4 Papers to note

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

Members noted the papers.

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

The motion was approved.

6 Discussion on the draft report – P-06-1482 Ban smartphones in all schools in Wales with exemptions for exceptional circumstances

The Committee considered a first draft of the report and agreed it in principle, subject to minor amendments to the report text being agreed via email.