

Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 1 – Senedd**

Meeting date: **Tuesday, 18 June 2013**

Meeting time: **09:02 – 10:55**

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales

This meeting can be viewed on Senedd TV at:

http://www.senedd.tv/archiveplayer.jsf?v=en_200000_18_06_2013&t=0&l=en



Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

William Powell (Chair)
Russell George
Elin Jones
Joyce Watson

Witnesses:

Arfon Rhys, Lead Petitioner
Emma Sangster, Forces Watch
Sara Hawys, Ban Schoolyard Recruitment

Committee Staff:

Naomi Stocks (Clerk)
Kayleigh Driscoll (Deputy Clerk)
Matthew Richards (Legal Advisor)
Sian Hughes (Researcher)

TRANSCRIPT

View the [meeting transcript](#).

1 Introduction, apologies and substitutions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Committee. Apologies were received from Bethan Jenkins AM, who was substituted by Elin Jones AM.

2 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:

The motion was agreed.

3 Discussion on Committee activities

Members discussed the Committee activities they wish to undertake in the autumn term.

4 P-04-457 The Charitable Chaplaincy Campaign

5 P-04-474 Support for NHS chaplaincy services

Members discussed the evidence session on 2 June agreed to write to;

- individual LHBs asking if they record any data in relation to the use of chaplaincy services; and asking a sample on how funding is allocated across services within the LHB area; and
- the Minister for Health and Social Services informing him of the work the Committee has undertaken on the petitions, highlighting the Charitable Chaplaincy petitioner's concerns about definitions of spiritual and religious care and asking whether the Welsh Government requires LHB's to provide Chaplaincy Services.

Depending on the responses received from the LHBs and the Minister the Committee may take further oral evidence on the petitions.

6 New petitions

6.1P-04-487 A Welsh Government deposit loan scheme for first time Welsh home buyers

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the Minister for Housing and Regeneration seeking his views on the petition.

6.2P-04-488 The right to decide: an end to the compulsory study of Welsh to GCSE

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the Minister for Education and Skills seeking his views on the petition.

6.3P-04-489 A National affordable and priority housing Act of Wales

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the Minister for Housing and Regeneration seeking his views on the petition.

6.4P-04-490 Antiretroviral Medication in Cardiff

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to;

- the Minister for Health and Social Services; and
- Cardiff and Vale LHB seeking their views on the petition.

6.5P-04-491 A National Bank of Wales and complementary Welsh currency

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to;

- the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport; and

- the Minister for Finance seeking their views on the petition.

6.6P-04-492 Diagnosis of autism in children

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the Minister for Education and Skills seeking his views on the petition.

7 Updates to previous petitions

7.1P-03-262 Wales Peace Institute

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to produce a report summarising the Committee's findings throughout the consideration of the petition.

7.2P-03-150 National Cancer Standards

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to Public Health Wales clarifying their role in relation to patient information about cancer services.

7.3P-04-366 Closure of Aberystwyth Day Centre

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to Ceredigion Council highlighting the petitioner's concerns about the independent review, and asking for their views on these concerns.

7.4P-04-408 Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to;

- take oral evidence on the petition from the petitioners and the Minister for Health and Social Services; and
- write to the Minister for Health and Social Services prior to him giving evidence, highlighting the petitioner's continued concerns about inadequate funding and services for young people with eating disorders.

7.5P-04-460 Lives not Airports

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to;

- share the Minister for Health and Social Services recent written statement with the petitioner, and seek their views on the correspondence from the Minister and WHSSC; and
- write to WHSSC about concerns over the length of time taken to respond to the Committee.

The Committee indicated they may consider taking oral evidence from WHSSC at a future date.

7.6P-04-463 Reduction of Salt Levels in Food

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the Minister for Health and Social Services seeking his views on the petition.

7.7P-04-396 Emergency Life Support Skills (ELS) for Wales Schoolchildren

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to close the petition, in light of the Minister stating that he has no intention of making ELS training a compulsory part of the curriculum.

Additionally the Committee agreed to highlight the petition to the Governors Wales.

7.8P-04-467 January exams

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to close the petition in light of the Minister for Education and Skills announcement.

Additionally the Committee agreed to forward the petitioners a copy if of the Minister's written statement.

7.9P-03-263 List Stradey Park

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the Minister for Culture and Sport, asking if CADW would consider 'sport registration' for the pitch at Stradey Park.

7.10 P-03-317 Hijinx Funding for Arts

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to close the petition in light of the previous work undertaken on the petition, and as the Welsh Government are not providing additional funding.

7.11 P-04-477 Support for the Control of Dogs (Wales) Bill

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the Environment and Sustainability Committee highlighting the petitioner's concerns in advance of further consideration of the issue.

7.12 P-04-454 Call to end Councillor and Assembly Member Dual Role

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the following stakeholders seeking their views on the issue;

- Electoral Commission;
- Electoral Reform Society Wales;
- WLGA; and
- Onc Voice Wales.

7.13 P-04-435 Wales & Border Railways Franchise 2018 to be Operated on a Not-for-Dividend Basis

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport asking that the petitioner is included on the consultation list for the future consultation on rail in Wales.

7.14 P-04-438 Shopping Access

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to facilitate a meeting between the petitioners and Cardiff Council to address some of the concerns raised during the visit.

7.15 P-04-475 Wanted – Buses for Meirionnydd

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the following stakeholders seeking their views on the issue;

- Gwynedd Council;
- Disability Wales;
- Age Cymru;
- the Older People's Commissioner; and
- the Children's Commissioner;

Joyce Watson informed the Committee of her findings from the visit that took place with the petitioners. She thanked the petitioners for meeting with her and talking about their issues of concern and the staff at Barmouth library for their hospitality during the visit.

8 P-04-432 Stop the Army Recruiting in Schools: Evidence Session

Arfon Rhys, Sara Hawys and Emma Sangster answered questions from the Committee.

Emma Sangster agreed to provide the Committee with further details on the level of armed forces activity by local authority areas in Wales.