

## Petitions Committee

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

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Meeting date:  
**21 January 2014**

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Meeting time:  
**09:00**

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Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



For further information please contact:

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## Agenda

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- 1 Introduction, apologies and substitutions**
- 2 New petitions (09.00 – 09.30)**
  - 2.1 P-04-524 Planning Control and the Welsh Language (Page 1)
  - 2.2 P-04-525 Funding for CREST Awards in Wales (Page 2)
  - 2.3 P-04-526 Please make Senedd TV accessible to deaf people (Pages 3 - 5)
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  - 2.5 P-04-528 All Primary Schools in Wales taught through the medium of Welsh (Page 7)
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  - 2.8 P-04-531 Renaming Cardiff Airport after Welsh Icon (Page 10)
- 3 Updates to previous petitions (09.30 – 10.55)**

### Economy, Science and Transport

- 3.1 P-04-373 School Exclusion Zones for Mobile Hot Food Vans (Pages 11 - 13)

- 3.2 P-04-506 Free bus pass / concessionary travel for benefit claimants , students and under 18s (Pages 14 - 24)

### **Culture and Sport**

- 3.3 P-04-447 Campaign for Statue of Henry VII in Pembroke (Pages 25 - 26)

### **Health**

- 3.4 P-04-456 Dementia - This Could Happen to you (Pages 27 - 29)
- 3.5 P-04-494 Robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy must be made available to men in Wales now (Pages 30 - 38)
- 3.6 P-04-520 Regarding the Cancellation of All Elective Orthopaedic Surgery by Hywel Dda Health Board During the Winter 2013/14 (Pages 39 - 53)

### **Education**

- 3.7 P-04-481 Close the Gap for deaf pupils in Wales (Pages 54 - 59)
- 3.8 P-04-516 Make political science compulsory in education (Pages 60 - 63)
- 3.9 P-04-517 Stop the Welsh Assembly Government from bringing in the monitoring of electively home educated children under the guise of safeguarding (Pages 64 - 65)
- 3.10 P-04-522 Asbestos in Schools (Pages 66 - 68)

### **Natural Resources and Food**

- 3.11 P-04-500 Call For Regulation of Animal Welfare Establishments in Wales (Pages 69 - 71)

### **Communities and Tackling Poverty**

- 3.12 P-04-511 Support for children and young people participation standards (Pages 72 - 77)

### **Local Government and Government Business**

- 3.13 P-04-482 Public noticeboards across Wales notifying the public of who all their political representatives are (Pages 78 - 81)

### **Housing and Regeneration**

- 3.14 P-04-519 Abolition of Park Homes Sales Commission (Pages 82 - 86)

### **Paper to note**

**4 P-03-262 Academi Heddwch Cymru / Wales Peace Institute  
(10.55 – 11.00) (Pages 87 - 88)**

# Agenda Item 2.1

## **P-04-524 Planning Control and the Welsh Language**

### **Petition wording:**

We the undersigned call upon the National Assembly for Wales, during its consideration of the Planning Reform Bill, to include a provision making the use of bilingual signage a legal planning condition requirement for all new builds in Wales where the public have access whether on payment or otherwise.

### **Additional information:**

More than 50 years after the Welsh Language Society started their campaign for bilingualism in Wales the private sector are still a long way off compliance. Legislation is required to ensure compliance with Paragraph 13 of TAN 20. Individual campaigns like the Premier Inn campaign should not be necessary an a blanket policy is required that puts Welsh on an equal footing within the private sector.

**Petition raised by:** Owain Arfon Jones

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 21 January 2014

**Number of signatures:** 123

## **P-04-525 Funding for CREST Awards in Wales**

### **Petition wording:**

We, the undersigned, call on the Welsh Government to reinstate the required funding for the Crest Awards in Wales, and want the National Science Academy to recognise the value of the Crest Awards to primary and secondary education, and the requirement of funding for the Crest Awards to continue.

### **Additional information:**

CREST is a project-based awards scheme for the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and maths). It links students to curriculum-based learning. Last year over 30,000 CREST Awards were undertaken in the UK giving 5-19yr olds opportunities to explore real-world projects in an exciting way. Over 10% of the Awards in the UK were awarded to pupils in Wales. The success of the increase in number of CREST Awards in Wales has been achieved with funding from the Welsh Government (NSA) to coordinate and increase activities in Welsh schools. This has enabled the scheme to be offered bilingually, subsidised the pupils' registration fee, provided grants and other supportive structures provided through See Science. CREST Awards have brought considerable benefit schools and the implications of the withdrawal of funding will be felt directly by the pupils and teaching staff. CREST Awards are recognised by all Universities in the UK and provides strong evidence of contextual data

**Petition raised by:** See Science - British Science Association

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 21 January 2014

**Number of signatures:** TBC

# Agenda Item 2.3

## **P-04-526 Please make Senedd TV accessible to deaf people**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to provide subtitling and signed language access to televised debates and proceedings, to enable the 300,000 with hearing loss and deafness in Wales to follow the democratic processes hearing people already enjoy.

**Petition raised by:** Mervyn James

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 21 January 2014

**Number of signatures:** TBC

**P-04-526 Please make Senedd TV accessible to deaf people –  
Correspondence from Petitioner to Committee, 08.01.13.**

Kayleigh Driscoll

Dirprwy Clerc y Pwyllgor DeisebauPetitions

Committee Deputy Clerk

RE petition by Mervyn James

***"We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to provide subtitling and signed language access to televised debates and proceedings, to enable the 300,000 with hearing loss and deafness in Wales to follow the democratic processes hearing people already enjoy."***

To the members of the petition committee.

When I first informed my deaf peers, that I was setting up a petition for access to televised Assembly proceedings, their first response was derision. Most said "Surely there are more important petitions you could set up for us, than accessing a boring political session on a TV ? what for ?"

I explained that the welsh assembly makes major decisions on what affects deaf welsh and hard of hearing lives, much more now we have a devolved administration. The next response was "What does the Assembly do anyway ? Everything comes from Westminster not Wales, what does an 'assembly' do ? is it about Welsh speakers? we can't do that..." I tried to explain that was my primary reason for asking for access to what goes on at the Assembly, to raise awareness of what the Assembly is, and what it does, and television being a visual medium, is a prime area of raising that awareness. Many of my peers never vote, don't know what the Assembly does, we never see politicians at our deaf clubs or anywhere else, and when it comes to voting, we never get told who stands for what, or why they stand, we are almost completely divorced from the democratic voting process.

I based my petition on initially seeing 'Parliament TV' on the BBC, which aired welsh assembly issues, only then did I know, Senedd TV existed. It very rapidly became clear both were pointless in respect to our area of disability, as there wasn't any medium of viable access to either. The Assembly website was riddled with confusions and didn't work with different systems deaf used online. The site is not accessible really, and riddled with sensory impairment comments that cover different areas we want information on, we just cannot locate what we need, and search options and terms made using the site pretty pointless, and very difficult to negotiate. There appeared no distinction between the deaf culture, and deaf as a medical term, or options on accessing formats. I just feel we are no part of what goes on.

**I fully understand the cost issues**, but it is costing the assembly nothing, because we get nothing. I believe that isn't the right way to go. I think it would be useful for the assembly to adopt as soon as possible, televised/subtitled access to the cross party committees and areas e.g. that deal directly with our issues, be they health or

whatever vital areas of our lives. I believe Senedd TV can do that, for a starting point, albeit the camera work would need to be changed so that faces can be seen better. I have read since some suggestion of access might occur, I don't deal really with maybe's and prefer a time scale. One Senedd program showed a chair leg for 7 minutes..... there seems an half-hearted attempt to use the media properly. Subtitling is very easy a service to provide, in an amateur way via youtube, I can do this myself quite easily, it should be well within the Assembly's expertise to do it. However **do NOT rely on google captions** to interpret the spoken word for us, it does not work ! So posting to youtube is not access unless in-vision captions are already on them.

With regards to the televised proceedings via the BBC, I think the welsh assembly can make it clear, coverage of the Assembly should conform with our access needs, at present there is some arbitrary 'minimum viewer base requirement' stated by Ofcom/BBC and supported by AOHL, that excludes us, because they demanded 9 times the actual welsh deaf population as viewers, for access to happen. It also ignored a very basic fact, we could never BE viewers unless we had the access first. You don't get demand without access. As it is, we don't get consulted on major issues for the same reason. This unfairly penalizes us because we cannot hear. I believe the Welsh Assembly can fight our corner, by telling the BBC it cannot cover proceedings outside Wales unless our access is there. This makes the Welsh Assembly complicit in discriminating against our access, to the democratic process, and especially if the Assembly e.g. was taking a fee from the BBC. Support for our access will be seen by deaf and HI in wales as very real support. I do not believe it unreasonable to ask for selective coverage of areas that concern us direct as a start point. Unless I get others to check I have no idea who is saying what on my behalf either. It is a policy of the systems and the 'state' operating to our exclusion. Some of want to know what is going on, as averse to other deaf feeling, what is the point we don't have the access ?

We have I think, an inherent right to know what our Assembly is saying and doing on our behalf, and hope the committee can appreciate why this petition asks for the access it has done. At this point I am not asking for sign language access, as basically subtitling or captions is the most accessible format for deaf people, and will more effectively reach the majority of the 300,000 in Wales currently excluded.. At this point also, I am uncertain of dual language approaches. In mitigation, I think using the welsh language subtitling would only work if the Assembly did two subtitled versions of the same thing, which I think the Assembly would feel cost prohibitive.... Welsh language already gets support, we don't, and factually, no deaf people can speak or read welsh, their education does not include it.. I would urge committee members to support an access to Senedd TV on the basis of my petition.

Thank you

Mr Mervyn James (Profoundly deaf), Newport, Gwent.

## **P-04-527 Campaign for a Special Cancer Drug Fund in Wales**

### **Petition wording:**

Beth Margetson is one of our town's residents whose life has been overshadowed by a dreadful disease we know as cancer and it will affect nearly 1 in 3 of us at some point during our lives. Many will survive yet others in advanced stages of this disease like Beth are unable to gain access to the latest treatments that have not been approved by NICE although a pathway exists in England & Scotland to obtain treatment via a Cancer drug fund. Here in Wales no such fund exists yet each year over 74 million free prescriptions are issued in Wales at a cost of over £550 million to the NHS in Wales. We therefore request that the Welsh Assembly Government introduce a nominal charge (e.g. £1.00) for prescriptions in order that a special Cancer Drug fund be set up in Wales with the proceeds so that people like Beth and many hundreds of others like her at least have a chance that is being denied to them thus far unlike people in England or Scotland.

**Petition raised by:** Cllr Sean Aspey

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 21 January 2014

**Number of signatures:** TBC

# Agenda Item 2.5

## **P-04-528 All Primary Schools in Wales taught through the medium of Welsh**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to make all primary schools in Wales taught through the medium of Welsh. If we and the Welsh Assembly are truly committed to restoring the Welsh language and creating a bilingual Wales then action is required. I agree this is something that cannot be done overnight, there are issues such as teacher numbers and the transition between changing the schools from English to Welsh medium. The Welsh Assembly have emphasised the importance of having communities of Welsh speakers. This will only occur if the majority of children leaving school over many generations can speak fluently in Welsh.

We call for the Welsh Government to draft a preliminary plan of action and timetable of how such a change could in theory occur.

**Petition raised by:** Phillip Worth

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 21 January 2014

**Number of signatures:** TBC

## **P-04-529 A Letting Agents Ombudsman for Wales**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to give the people of Wales a 'Letting Agents Ombudsman' by including it within their Housing Bill.

An ombudsman will give people guidance, issued by the Welsh Government, of what their rights are as a tenant. It will tell them how to complain directly through the agents' complaints procedure and when all avenues have been exhausted, they can ask the Ombudsman to step in and take action.

### **Additional Information:**

We very much welcome the regulation of letting agents and landlords set out in the Bill - this has been urgently needed for years. Students and young professionals are being robbed time and time again with invented letting agent fees and even invented letting agents and these need to be held to account now. There is not enough being done to help tenants against landlords - regulation will help, but there will always be bad landlords and letting agents that slip through the cracks and their tenants need someone on their side.

We need a Letting Agents Ombudsman. Letting agents and landlords are exempt from many of the regulations that estate agents have to follow. And many young people renting are straight from home or university and are vulnerable to their methods. They end up paying fees because they had no idea they had an option not to.

England has the 'Housing Ombudsman Service' that has worked effectively and provides a defence and a right to complaint for tenants all over the country. Wales needs one too.

**Petition raised by:** Let Down in Cardiff

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 21 January 2014

**Number of signatures:** TBC

# Agenda Item 2.7

## **P-04-530 Bilingual Labeling**

### **Petition wording:**

Like all self-respecting officially bilingual countries, (such as Canada), Wales needs legislation to ensure that all food products sold in Wales be labeled in both Welsh and English. We therefore demand that the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government enact said legislation without undue delay.

**Petition raised by:** Simon Foster

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 21 January 2014

**Number of signatures:** TBC

## **P-04-531 Renaming Cardiff Airport after Welsh Icon**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the Welsh Assembly Government to rename Cardiff Airport the Robert Owen International Airport of Wales after the Welsh hero of the Co-operative Movement.

Additional information: For Wales to become truly international a modern airport is essential. If the airport and surrounding enterprise zone marketed itself under the Robert Owen brand it could have global appeal and significantly boost the surrounding area by creating jobs and increasing trade.

**Petition raised by:** Mr. Justin Lilley

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 21 January 2014

**Number of signatures:** 11

# Agenda Item 3.1

## **P-04-373 School Exclusion Zones for Mobile Hot Food Vans**

### **Petition wording:**

The Petitioners call upon the Welsh Government to consider legislation to exclude Mobile Fast Food Vans from operating within a 400 metre exclusion zone around all schools in Wales during the hours of 8am to 4.30pm weekdays during term time.

**Petition raised by:** Arfon Jones

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 13 March 2012

**Number of signatures:** 43

**Supporting information:** Wrexham Council have recently agreed a Planning Guidance note which states that - New Hot Food Takeaways should not be located... within 400 metres of the boundary of a school or tertiary college. Planning conditions cannot be used to restrict use of mobile fast food vehicles and if they comply with highways and environmental health regulations they can operate unlicensed. It is therefore argued that to legislate as suggested will serve to promote a social objective of reducing the availability of cheap unhealthy foods to children, to reduce obesity and to promote healthy eating.

Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AC / AM  
Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth  
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-373  
Ein cvf/Our ref EH/03115/13

William Powell AM  
AM for Mid & West Wales  
Chair Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

03 October 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your request for an update on your trading in lay-bys petition.

Work is on-going to develop a policy for trading in lay-bys. Consultation with key stakeholders has commenced but will take longer than first envisaged due to the complexity of the issue. I hope to make a decision on this policy by the end of October 2013 and will write to you further then.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edwina Hart', written in a cursive style.



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-373  
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/03115/13

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions Committee

[committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

17 December 2013

Dear William

Thank you for your request for an update on your trading in lay-bys petition.

Further to my letter dated 3 October 2013, I have been considering the issues, including the advantages and disadvantages of each option for addressing trading in lay-bys across the trunk road network in Wales.

In order to introduce a consistent policy across Wales, I am considering the possible phased introduction of licencing at existing sites, combined with a prioritised lay-by upgrade programme. Whilst this would incur additional expenditure, this would enable us to allow existing traders to remain in business, address the long term safety issues, control the potential adverse effects of trading in lay-bys and facilitate the development of new services for road users.

However, before taking a formal decision on this, I wish to seek the views of social partners, in particular the Federation of Small Businesses.

I will write to you again later next month once I have received their views.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edwina Hart'.

## **P-04-506 Free bus pass / concessionary travel for benefit claimants, students and under 18s**

### **Petition wording:**

I live in an area where wealthy landowners and owner occupiers have access to free bus travel/pass due to their age , while a few miles away benefit claimants have to pay in order to sign-on ! This is another example of the poor and vulnerable being regressively charged for a public service which is essential to their daily lives, it is unfair and unjust. To remedy this unfair system I hereby petition the Welsh Assembly to set up a scheme for the poor and vulnerable in our society to have free access to bus services in wales and concessionary fares on the rail network. This can easily be funded by transferring benefits currently being wastefully awarded to the wealthy members of society.

### **Additional information:**

If adopted this measure will greatly assist the poor in Wales to have the basic human right to travel, access local services and, in addition: improve environment by reducing co2 emissions. Encourage use and increase capacity of public transport. Improve emotional well-being. Encourage aid employment opportunities for unemployed. Aid access to basic health care needs. Demonstrate the need for an integrated public (re-nationalised) transport system.

**Petition raised by:** Mark Griffiths

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 8 October 2013

**Number of signatures:** 60

Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AC / AM  
Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth  
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-506  
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/03607/13

William Powell AM

[committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

11 November 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 23 October enclosing details of the Petition received from Mark Griffiths about the Welsh Government's concessionary bus and train travel schemes.

Our free bus travel scheme remains one of the Welsh Government's flagship achievements. Currently, there are more than 700,00 pass holders throughout Wales who not only benefit from being able to undertake their day-to-day activities without worrying about the cost, but also use the buses to boost their wellbeing. In doing so, there are fewer cars on the roads, reduced traffic congestion and lower emissions.

The qualifying criteria removes any stigma which may be attached to pass holders. Means testing would be potentially expensive and could run the risk of existing pass holders returning to relying exclusively on their cars for personal travel.

I have no plans to extend the scheme as the petitioners suggest. However, I am sympathetic to the principle and will keep this issue under review subject to additional funding becoming available.

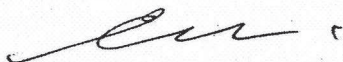
For the rail network, we have been providing a complementary concessionary service where there is limited bus provision on some lines. More detailed information of these services can be found at:

<http://www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/concessionarytravel>

Arriva Trains Wales offer several different railcards offering discounted travel for passengers. More information can be found at:

<http://www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/ATWRailcards/>

As part of our Programme for Government, the Welsh Government is committed to providing affordable and accessible public transport services through the Regional Transport Consortia and local authorities. I am reviewing the commitments in the current National and Regional Transport Plans in the light of future budgets and the need to ensure alignment with economic development priorities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Jones', is located in the lower-left quadrant of the page.



**SWWITCH**

e.mail: [Rworkman@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:Rworkman@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

e.bost:

Your ref:  
Eich Cyf:

Our ref:  
Ein Cyf:

Direct Line: 01267 224647 Date: 11/11/13

This matter is being dealt with by: Richard Workman  
Trafodir y mater hwn gan: Director of Technical Services, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1LZ

William Powell AM  
Chair of the Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CARDIFF  
CF99 1NA

Dear William,

**PETITIONS COMMITTEE – REVISION TO CONCESSIONARY FARES SCHEME**

Thank you for your letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October and SWWITCH notes the petition from Mr Mark Griffiths. This petition seeks to move away from the current situation where free concessionary bus travel is available to all citizens aged over 60 in Wales (and also to those with some mobility issues) to one which is targeted at needy residents of any age.

SWWITCH is keen to see more people using public transport to access a wide range of services and facilities including employment, training, health care and social and leisure activities.

The current all Wales scheme costs in excess of £70m per annum and this funding is currently under review. It is highly unlikely that the range of beneficiaries could be extended without moving the current universal benefit to a system where applicants are means tested, or the benefit is restricted in some way.

That would be a political decision and it is not appropriate for SWWITCH to comment further on the benefits or otherwise of any such decision.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Workman**  
**SWWITCH Lead Chief Officer**

Uned Rheolaeth  
Gorsaf y Fflint  
Y Farchnad, Y Fflint  
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Gweithio ar gyfer trafndiaeth integredig yng Ngogledd Cymru  
Working for integrated transport in North Wales

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: **Cllr Mike Priestley**  
Rhif ffôn / Telephone: **01352 704561**  
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: **Cllr MP/CLH**

12th November 2013

William Powell AC/AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Bill

Thank you for your letter of the 23 October regarding the petition received from Mr Mark Griffiths on concessionary fares eligibility criteria.

The Cerdyn Cymru concessionary bus pass is administered by local authorities on behalf of Welsh Government (WG), utilising powers contained in the Transport Act 2000. The statutory definitions for disability are set out in section 146 of the 2000 Act. Each local authority in Wales is required to issue a bus pass to eligible persons as defined in the most up to date version of the Eligibility Guidance issued by Welsh Government. The latest version of 'A Common Approach to Eligibility' being in force since 1 April this year. This guidance is largely unchanged from previous versions which reflect the 'Mandatory Travel Concessions (Reimbursement Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2001' and contains seven categories of disability which meet the criteria for eligibility to receive a bus pass.

As it stands the concession is available to persons over the age of 60 and persons with certain disabilities as specified in the guidance. For the concession to be extended to the poor and vulnerable it would require WG to amend the eligibility criteria. This could be done by utilising section 147 of the Transport Act 2000, which gives the Welsh Government powers to amend section 145 and 146 of the Act to extend the concession to 'persons of a specified description'.

Any decision to extend the scheme eligibility and as such extend the scope of the reimbursement criteria for local authorities would need to be taken by the Welsh Government.

William Powell AC/AM  
12 November 2013

In addition there are also concessions available on rail services for Senior, Disabled and Young People through the UK Wide Railcard schemes. We accept that there are differences in availability of concessions between the rail and bus networks and ideally there would be similar concessions on each network. We recognise the substantial additional costs this would generate, which would be difficult to accommodate in the current financial climate.

We believe that there is scope for a review of the eligibility criteria for concessionary travel. This is, however, for the Welsh Government to consider given the current legislative position.

Some analysis has been done of concessionary schemes in other parts of the World and some information on different eligibility schemes is attached to this response for information only.

TAITH would be pleased to contribute further to any further debate on concessionary fares eligibility within Wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Priestley', is written over a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp or watermark.

Councillor Mike Priestley  
Chair of Taith

Place	Persons 60 to 64	Persons 65 and over	Persons 16 to 18	Disabled Persons	Low Income Persons
Wales	Free	Free	limited discount (+ some discounts for students)	Free	No discount
Northern Ireland	Free	Free (also to and within Republic of Ireland if over 65)	No Discount	50% discount	No Discount
Belgrade, Serbia	65% discount for women only	Free	Approx. 65% discount for students	65% discount or free (depending upon type)	65% discount (registered unemployed)
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA	No discount	Free	Student discounts (depends on institution)	Approx. 50% discount	No discount
Columbus, Ohio USA	No discount	50% discount	Summer youth pass and student programmes	50% discount	No discount
Longueil, Quebec (Canada)	No discount	40% discount (some municipalities have 80% discount at off peak)	40% discount (students only)	No discount	No discount
Vancouver, British Columbia (Canada)	No discount	36% discount	36% discount (students only)	36% discount	No discount
Lille, France	No discount	20% discount to free (depending on income and ticket type)	20% to 75% discount (depending on income and ticket type)	No discount (blind free)	50% for those receiving a common benefit (free for unemployed)
Dresden, Germany	20% discount on day tickets (only)	20% discount on day tickets (only)	25% discount	Free	No discount

Dublin, Ireland	No discount	Free	37% discount (students only)	Free	No Discount
Christchurch, New Zealand	No discount	Free (Off peak only)	50% discount	No Discount	No Discount
Canberra, Australia	No discount	50% discount to age 75, free 75 and over	50% discount (students only)	No discount (blind free)	No Discount
Liberec, Czech Republic	No discount	60% discount	50% discount (students only)	60% discount	No Discount

## **P-04-506 Free bus pass / concessionary travel for benefit claimants, students and under 18s – Correspondence from South East Wales Transport Alliance to the Committee, 22.11.2013**

*I refer to the attached letter to Councillor Phil White, to which he has asked me to respond.*

*I note the request for a scheme “for the poor and vulnerable in our society to have free access to bus services in Wales, and concessionary fares on the rail network.”*

*The South East Wales Regional Transport Plan includes amongst its goals, providing access to employment and other facilities, promoting social inclusion and equality, and promoting modal shift in favour of sustainable transport options. However, progress in achieving these goals needs to be balanced against the availability of resources, which are coming under unprecedented pressure, and measures to pursue them need to be prioritised in terms of their effectiveness.*

*The context for the Regional Transport Plan is set by the Wales Transport Strategy, prepared by the Welsh Government. While local authorities have a role in the administration of the Concessionary Fares scheme, the terms of the scheme and its funding are determined by the Welsh Government.*

*In the event of the Welsh Government considering proposals to change the scheme or its level of funding, there would be a strong case for modelling the implications of different options, and consulting upon them, before developing a firm set of proposals. While it is possible that removing the entitlement of some to the scheme might free up resources to extend it to others, this would need to be tested. It is notable that, within South East Wales, of those concessionary travel passes issued, only 63% are in regular use. Mechanisms to increase the funding available to make concessionary fares more widely available could include the levying of a nominal charge for each journey, and levying a charge for each pass. However, it is understood that any such proposals, or any other changes to the ways in which the concessionary travel scheme operates, other than its level of funding, would require changes to primary legislation. With current pressures on revenue budgets, and in particular, projected reductions in the concessionary travel reimbursement rate determined by the Welsh Government, it is unlikely that extending the scheme could be considered without resort to measures of this nature.*

*It is notable that some bus companies have from time to time provided reduced / free travel for other groups such as young people and job seekers. Examples can be found at the following web sites.*

<http://www.traveline-cymru.info/news/2013/01/07/bus-for-jobs-scheme-giving-free-travel-to-the-unemployed-for-january/>

<http://www.stagecoachbus.com/busforjobs.aspx>

**Sewta** is the alliance of local authorities charged with developing transport policy and delivering transport projects on behalf of the 10 local authorities in South East Wales and their partners, both in the transport industry and in organisations representing passengers’ interests.

Sewta’s membership includes the local authorities of Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen and the Vale of Glamorgan. Partners are the Confederation of Passenger Transport, Arriva Trains Wales, First Great Western, Network Rail, Bus Users UK, Passenger Focus and Sustrans. Sewta works closely with the Welsh Government.

**Martin Buckle**

Secretary & Programme Manager / Ysgrifennydd a Rheolwr Rhaglenni

**Sewta**

South East Wales Transport Alliance / Cynghrair Trafnidiaeth De-ddwyrain Cymru  
Maindy Centre, Crown Way, Cardiff CF14 3AJ / Canolfan Maendy, Ffordd y Goron, Caerdydd CF14 3AJ

**P-04-506 Free bus pass concessionary travel for benefit claimants - students and under 18s – Correspondence from Petitioner to Clerking Team, 13.01.2013**

Dear Kayleigh,

Thanks again for your email , my response to the various submissions is as follows :-

The minister notes possible 'stigma' around use of concessionary bus pass for the poor in our communities , however does this not also apply to disabled awardees ? im sure the greater mobility and opportunities will allay this issue !

The uk appears to be one of the only countries giving this concession to the 60-64 age group, generally a group still in employment and relatively wealthy . i also note serbia and france have concessionary discounts for the unemployed {50 % discount } , i feel this would be a brilliant starting point for a scheme to aid mobility for the poor and vulnerable in wales ?

It would be interesting to know how much of this £ 70 m concession is going to wealthy households { who probably don't utilise the scheme } ?

Taith notes that the welsh government can easily amend section 147 of transport act 2000 to alter eligibility conditions for a concessionary scheme.

Any promotion of public transport will help the welsh government to achieve its carbon reduction and sustainability targets ..

I feel the current scheme is unjust and unfair as the poor and vulnerable are being excluded from the basic human right of mobility - ie the bus charge to a hospital when on welfare benefits can result in non access to treatment or even the choice between travel or food or power . In a civilised developed country surely we can assist those less fortunate in our communities ...

Regards,

Mark Griffiths

# Agenda Item 3.3

## **P-04-447 : Campaign for Statue of Henry VII in Pembroke**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to fund a statue of Henry VII in Pembroke, town of his birth and birthplace of the Tudor Dynasty. There is no statue or memorial in the town of this man. A statue could improve the economy of the town as a Tudor must-visit place.

**Petition raised by:** Nathen Amin

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 15 January 2013

**Number of signatures:** 144

## **P-04-447 Campaign for Statue of Henry VII in Pembroke – Correspondence from the petitioner to Committee, 19.12.13**

Dear Sir

Thank you for your correspondence and the kind words at the last Petitions Committee Meeting. Unfortunately I do not have much to add to my previous e-mail other than to reiterate my firm belief that such a statue would help raise a degree of awareness for Pembroke by linking it irrevocably to the Tudor Dynasty in such a visual and newsworthy manner.

With specific regards to the most recent developments concerning the feedback from Pembroke Castle Trust and Pembroke Town Council, my feeling is that the Statue has a solid support base within the community with many of the public figures feeling such a monument is deserving in the town. As with all things, funding is an issue and it is for this reason, without any independent benefactor, that I have appealed to the Welsh Government to intercede and if not fund then to hopefully take up the mantle of using their considerable credibility and experience to directly appeal to potential sponsors to make this idea a reality.

It is my understanding that Pembroke have recently utilised an EU grant to create a large Tudor Rose paved display in the town and a statue would certainly contribute to this development. Pembroke, and Pembrokeshire, as an ability to market itself as a Tudor County and appeal to the legions of people interested in the era across Britain and indeed the World. Warwickshire successfully markets itself as Shakespeare County and Nottinghamshire equally as Robin Hood Country. I have recently penned a book entitled Tudor Wales; A Guide for a publisher and I feel the plethora of Tudor links the county in general has would be bolstered further with a statue to complement the wonderful castle. There is currently scores of Tudor-related TV being made by many historians yet all seem unaware of the locations within West Wales, locations which are equal to anything found in England.

I once again call upon the Assembly to seriously consider accepting this petition as one that is built on a groundswell of support within the area and to aid Pembroke in furthering itself as a potential Tourist attraction to people across Britain and abroad.

Yours Sincerely

Nathen Amin

# Agenda Item 3.4

## **P-04-456 Dementia - This Could Happen to you**

### **Petition wording:**

We, the undersigned, call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to:

- i. Bring to an end the discrimination against dementia sufferers in Wales who apply for N.H.S. Continuing Care Funding, by allowing for the cognition category of need (known as the 'domain') to go up to the level 'Severe' in the Welsh version of the Decision Support Tool. This would bring it in line with the English version; and
- ii. Direct Local Health Boards to implement the National Framework for N.H.S., Continuing Care Funding correctly in terms of patient eligibility and without regard to budgetary constraints.

**Petition raised by:** Helen Jones

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 19 February 2013

**Number of signatures:** 1413

## **P-04-456 Dementia - This Could Happen to you – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Chair, 09.10.2013**

*Dear William*

*Thank you for your letter and for the copy of the letter from the Minister. I suspect that it may have been drafted by a mandarin in his department as it merely confirms what we all know, viz that the Framework states that financial criteria should not be a reason for refusing eligibility. However, many of the contacts I made while promoting and seeking support for the Petition were firmly of the opinion that lack of finance was one of the reasons that they were refused CHC and as the Wales Audit Office's report on CHC confirms, knowledge of the provisions of the Framework by assessors and administrators is limited. Furthermore, as you will have seen from the WAO report the number of cases being found eligible has declined over recent years, which coincides with the Health budget coming under financial pressure. As the number of elderly people who are more prone to dementia has increased, and proportionately more people are being diagnosed because of increased public and medical awareness, only the most naive of people would believe that the decrease in numbers being found eligible is merely a statistical blip.*

*The report also confirms in its guarded civil service jargon that there are clearly many problems with the administration of CHC across the country.*

*Hopefully when Lisa, Tony and I appeared before your committee we adequately conveyed to you the magnitude of the problem, and the reasons why I filed the petition, asking not only for the increase in the needs level for the Cognition domain from High to Severe, Severe having been there in the first instance before being removed after public consultation, but also for the Welsh Government to take active steps to make sure that Welsh Health Boards comply with the Framework. Among those steps compliance with the National Framework should surely be a given, however perhaps consideration should be given to imposing sanctions on those Health Boards who abuse the Framework because of budget constraints. From the WAO report it would appear that it would require additional funds to be spent in retraining many of those involved in the implementation of CHC in Wales as well as more effective management of the system, perhaps a more cost effective way of dealing with this would be to simply ensure that adequate training were blended within the current module.*

*I would be very much reassured if your Committee could keep a watching brief on the progress made on the review of the system referred to by the Minister and possibly list it on your agenda for the first meeting in the new year with a request that the Minister updates you on progress made by that time, with quarterly reviews thereafter. I would also be obliged if you would be prepared, as a committee to send a copy of this letter to the Minister and ask for his comments.*

*The collective fears of Lisa, Tony and me after several years experience of dealing with many CHC cases is that unless your Committee keeps a watching brief over this matter that it will be “kicked into the long grass.” This would, and I'm sure you understand, be an insult to myself who launched*

*the petition and to all of those people who took the time and the trouble to sign the petition and the many, many more who are following the campaign with great interest and involvement on social media.*

*best wishes*

## **P-04-494 Robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy must be made available to men in Wales now**

### **Petition wording:**

Robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy is the 21st Century Gold standard. Wales as a nation must be at the forefront in offering this standard. We, the undersigned, are appalled by the fact that men in Wales with prostate cancer cannot be offered robotic surgery in Wales, yet in England ALL men have this choice with at least 40 locations offering this treatment and with men from Wales having to pay thousands of pounds to access this capability in these English NHS facilities (typically between £13-15,000). Clearly, many men in Wales cannot afford this. We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government together with the National Health Service of Wales to resolve this totally unfair predicament and serious lack of essential resource within our NHS in Wales without delay. It is vital that this technology, this 21st Century Gold Standard is offered to men in Wales. It simply cannot be right that such technology is available elsewhere and that men from Wales have to pay to avail themselves of it in an NHS facility in England.

**Petition raised by:** Professor Kevin Davies MBE

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 16 July 2013

**Number of signatures:** 2090. An associated petition collected 1,000 signatures.



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
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Bwrdd Iechyd  
Cwm Taf  
Health Board

Your ref/eich  
cyf:

Our ref/ein  
cyf:

Date/Dyddiad:

Tel/ffôn:

Fax/ffacs:

Email/e-bost:

Dept/adran:

RT/AW/KB

31 July 2013

01443 744803

01443 744889

Allison.Williams4@wales.nhs.uk

Chair & Chief Executive

100.

Mr William Powell AC/AM  
Cadeirydd / Chair  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell,

### Re: Robotic Assisted Laparoscopic Prostatectomy

Thank you for your letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July, asking whether Cwm Taf ULHB currently fund robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy and whether we have plans to introduce the technology to be able to undertake surgery using this methodology.

Cwm Taf ULHB do not undertake prostatectomy's in any of our hospitals but we do commission and fund this service to be provided from Cardiff and Vale ULHB for Cwm Taf residents. Currently Cardiff and Vale only undertake open radical prostatectomy and at the current time, there is no technology available in Wales to undertake prostatectomy using robotic assisted technology. Consequently, robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy is not routinely available in Wales and therefore we would only fund clinically exceptional cases under the ULHBs Individual Patient Funding Policy.

Cardiff and Vale ULHB have, however, recently identified the requirement to introduce robotic assisted technology for prostatectomy and has submitted a funding bid to the Welsh Governments Health Technology Fund and are currently waiting to hear whether this bid has been successful. If it is, then it is planned to introduce robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy for our residents once the robot is in place and training has been completed for the surgeons.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate in contacting me again.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs Allison Williams**  
**Chief Executive/Prif Weithredydd**  
**Cwm Taf Health Board/ Bwrdd Iechyd Cwm Taf**

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**Return Address:**

Ynysmeurig House, Navigation Park, Abercynon, CF45 4SN

Chair/Cadeirydd: Dr C D V Jones, CBE

Page 31

Chief Executive/Prif Weithredydd: Mrs Allison Williams

**P-04-494 Robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy must be made available to men in Wales now – Powys Teaching Health Board to Clerking Team, 13.08.2013.**

Dear Kayleigh

Thank you for your email dated 25th July attaching William Powell's letter regarding Robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy.

Powys teaching Health Board has received no applications for funding for this surgery.

We do not have plans to deliver this locally as it falls outside the type of service we could deliver in our community hospitals. We would be happy to support referral of patients to Welsh hospitals when this service becomes available in Wales.

If I can be of more assistance then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Andrew Cottom

Chief Executive



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Betsi Cadwaladr  
University Health Board

Mr William Powell AC / AM  
Cadeirydd / Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CARDIFF  
CF99 1NA

**Ein cyf / Our ref:** GL/MD/10242/637

**Eich cyf / Your ref:** P-04-494

**☎:** 01248 384910

**Gofynnwch am / Ask for:** Geoff Lang

**Ffacs / Fax:** 01248 384937

**E-bost / Email:** [geoff.lang@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:geoff.lang@wales.nhs.uk)

**Dyddiad / Date:** 20 August 2013

Dear Mr Powell

## **ROBOTIC ASSISTED LAPAROSCOPIC PROSTATECTOMY**

Thank you for your letter of 23 July 2013 regarding patient access to robotic surgery for prostate cancer in Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB).

At this time, due to issues of capacity with insufficient Urologists with skills in laparoscopic surgery in BCUHB, we refer some patients for laparoscopic prostatectomy and nephrectomy to the Christie Hospital NHS Trust in Manchester under a contract we hold with them. We recognise that this means some patients have the disadvantage of travelling some distance for prostate surgery. However, as a result of these referrals some patients who receive laparoscopic surgery do so robotically, as this treatment modality is used at Christies.

In North Wales we are reviewing our urology practice overall, and as part of that we need to consider both the place of delivery and the future and type of laparoscopic procedures. For prostate interventions the treatment options are likely to be strongly directed by the update of the NICE Guideline on Prostate Cancer anticipated in 2014.

Yours sincerely

**GEOFF LANG**  
**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd  
Hywel Dda  
Health Board

---

Ein cyf/Our ref:	RMC	Pencadlys Bwrdd Iechyd Hywel Dda Llys Myrddin, Lôn Winch, Hwlfordd, Sir Benfro, SA61 1SB Rhif Ffôn: (01437) 771220
Gofynnwch am/Please ask for:	Dr June Picton	
Rhif Ffôn /Telephone:	01437 771229	
Ffacs/Facsimile:	01437 834436	Hywel Dda Health Board Headquarters Merlins Court, Winch Lane, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1SB Tel Nr: (01437) 771220
E-bost/E-mail:	<a href="mailto:june.picton@wales.nhs.uk">june.picton@wales.nhs.uk</a>	
Date:	21 <sup>st</sup> August 2013	

Mr William Powell AC/AM  
Chair of the Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

**Re: Robotic Assisted Laparoscopic Prostatectomy**

I write in regards to the above and your letter to Mr Trevor Purt, Chief Executive Officer, Hywel Dda Health Board dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013.

In response to your enquiry, I would advise you that Hywel Dda Health Board does not currently fund patients for Robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy and at present has no plans to acquire the technology to enable the delivery of this surgery within the Hywel Dda Health Board area.

Yours sincerely

Dr June Picton  
**Associate Medical Director for Workforce**  
**Chair of the Prior Approval and IPFR Panel**

Cc Mr Trevor Purt

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Pencadlys Bwrdd Iechyd Hywel Dda  
Llys Myrddin, Lôn Winch, Hwlfordd,  
Sir Benfro, SA61 1SB  
Rhif Ffôn: (01437) 771220  
Rhif Ffacs: (01437) 771222

Hywel Dda Health Board Headquarters  
Merlins Court, Winch Lane, Haverfordwest,  
Pembrokeshire, SA61 1SB  
Tel Nr: (01437) 771220  
Fax Nr: (01437) 771222

Cadeirydd / Chairman  
**Mr Chris Martin**  
Prif Weithredwr /Chief Executive  
**Mr Trevor Purt**



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Caerdydd a'r Fro  
Cardiff and Vale  
University Health Board

**Ysbyty'r Eglwys Newydd  
Whitchurch Hospital**

Park Road, Whitchurch.  
Cardiff, CF14 7XB  
Phone 029 2069 3191

Heol Parc, Yr Eglwys Newydd  
Caerdydd, CF14 7XB  
Ffôn 029 2069 3191

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-494  
Ein cyf/Our ref: AC-jb-08-2869  
Welsh Health Telephone Network:  
Direct Line/Llinell uniongychol: 02920 745681

**Adam Cairns  
Chief Executive**

23 August 2013

William Powell AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

**Urology Robot**

Thank you for your letter of 23 July 2013.

The current position is that Cardiff and Vale UHB do not fund patients for this robotic surgery, but provide open prostatectomy, with good clinical outcomes; one of the NICE recommended options.

We have however been reviewing our use of technology and future needs in light of the Welsh Government call for submissions to the Health Technology Fund.

In considering our priorities, we reviewed the developing evidence for robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy as one of the possible technological developments that we would like to introduce. Although current NICE guidance and a draft updated version due to be published in 2014, does not recommend that all radical prostatectomies should be undertaken by a robot, we have taken the view that we would wish to introduce one to our service, to offer this choice in Wales.

In developing our submission for the Health Technology Fund, we have collaborated with our neighbouring LHBs, as this facility should serve a wider population. We were pleased to be informed earlier this month that our submission has been successful.

We will therefore be procuring the robot soon, undertaking the necessary building works to install it and training staff in its use. Therefore during 2014 we will bring the equipment into service and be able to offer this treatment procedure.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Myhill". The letters are cursive and somewhat slanted to the right.

**Tracy Myhill**  
**Deputy Chief Executive, on behalf of**

**Adam Cairns**  
**Chief Executive**



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CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd  
Aneurin Bevan  
Health Board

Our ref: AG/WP/RB/vep  
Your ref: P-04-494

Direct Line: 01633 435958

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013

William Powell AM  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CARDIFF  
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

**Re: Petitions Committee Re P-04-494: Urology Robot**

Thank you for your letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013 concerning the petition from Professor Kevin Davies regarding robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy. The current position within Aneurin Bevan University Health Board is that we do not fund patients for this robotic surgery, but provide open prostatectomy with good clinical outcomes (as per NICE recommended options).

You will, however, be aware that Cardiff and Vale have recently submitted a proposal to the Welsh Government to introduce such technology and are likely to be procuring the robot in the near future with further building works and clinical training planned in 2014.

Current NICE guidance does not recommend that all radical prostatectomies are undertaken by a robot however Aneurin Bevan has remained supportive in principle of the bid and our clinicians will look to assess the outcomes of this new technology and potential benefits to patients and how it can be developed as a network solution for South Wales.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Andrew Goodall**  
**Prif Weithredwr/ Chief Executive**

Bwrdd Iechyd Aneurin Bevan  
Pencadlys, Ysbyty Sant Cadog  
Ffordd Y Lodj, Caerllion  
Casnewydd, De Cymru NP18 3XQ  
Ffôn: 01633 234234 (prif switsfwrdd)  
e-bost: abhb.enquiries@wales.nhs.uk

Aneurin Bevan Health Board  
Headquarters, St Cadoc's Hospital  
Lodge Road, Caerleon  
Newport, South Wales NP18 3XQ  
Tel: 01633 234234 (main switchboard)  
e-mail: abhb.enquiries@wales.nhs.uk

[www.aneurinbevanhb.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.aneurinbevanhb.wales.nhs.uk)



Mark Drakeford AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MD/03177/13

William Powell AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

25 November 2013

*Dear William*

Thank you for your letter of 23 July regarding Robotic Assisted Laparoscopic Prostatectomy. I must apologise for the delay in my response.

Please be assured that prostate cancer patients in Wales have access to a range of well-established and effective treatments. Robotic surgery in prostate cancer treatment is a relatively recent innovation and, at the present time, it is not routinely provided by Health Boards in Wales.

However the Welsh Government does recognise that technology has a major role to play in the future of the NHS in Wales and we have recently announced the Health Technologies Fund, which aims to support and fund technological advances in healthcare. Under this initiative, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board has been given funding for a robotic surgery system at the University Hospital of Wales, which could have benefits for treating a range of conditions in addition to prostate cancer.

I hope this information is helpful.

*Best wishes*

*Mark*

**Mark Drakeford AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff

CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu **Page 38**

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: Mark.Drakeford@wales.gsi.gov.uk  
Printed on 100% recycled paper

# Agenda Item 3.6

## **P-04-520 Regarding the Cancellation of All Elective Orthopaedic Surgery by Hywel Dda Health Board During the Winter 2013/2014**

### **Petition wording:**

We the undersigned believe the cancellation of all orthopaedic surgery except trauma, during the Winter months 2013/14 undermines the human rights of patients and discriminates against disability. We demand that this decision be urgently revisited. All decisions regarding the priority of patient needs should be made by clinicians rather than the administration making decisions based on financial restrictions.

There are seriously urgent cases, other than trauma, already on the waiting list who without surgery are in danger of losing mobility and consequently their livelihood.

In a political climate where patients should be listened to, in this case they have not even been informed let alone been consulted, the Hywel Dda decision would appear to be directly in conflict with this principle.

Neither can we understand why orthopaedic patients should be targeted. This seems an over simplistic approach to addressing financial problems. Not only are patients affected by such decisions but specialist staff and trainees are not allowed to do the job they are paid for and wish to do.

We call upon the Welsh Government to reverse this decision.

**Petition raised by:** Kate O'Dell

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 10 December 2013

**Number of signatures:** 490



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd  
Hywel Dda  
Health Board

Dyddiad/Date 12 December 2013  
Ein cyf/Our ref:  
Gofynnwch am/Please ask for: Mr Chris Martin  
Rhif Ffôn /Telephone: 01437 771240  
Ffacs/Facsimile: 01437 771222  
E-bost/E-mail: chris.martin@wales.nhs.uk

Mr William Powell AC/AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear William

Thank you for your letter dated 12 December 2013.

Ms O'Dell advised the Health Board of her petition and she was at the Health Board meeting held on 27 November 2013 where she was given permission to address the Board.

The Board carefully considered Ms O'Dell's concerns in reaching its decision but, on balance, felt that a reduction in orthopaedic capacity over the winter months and with a surgical focus on those with the most urgent clinical needs, emergency surgery and cancer was appropriate and would help ensure that we could manage the anticipated winter pressures. Our surgeons are reviewing their lists to determine which cases they feel to be urgently indicated and will be maximising day surgery cases. We have also advised those patients already on our lists to contact our booking offices if they have any concerns and to see their GP if they feel their clinical needs have changed.

I attach the paper presented to the Board, the draft minutes incorporating the decision made and the formal response to Ms O'Dell.

If I can be of further assistance please let me know.

Yours Sincerely

Chris Martin  
Chairman

Pencadlys Bwrdd Iechyd Hywel Dda  
Llys Myrddin, Lôn Winch, Hwlfordd,  
Sir Benfro, SA61 1SB  
Rhif Ffôn: (01437) 771220  
Rhif Ffacs: (01437) 771222

Hywel Dda Health Board Headquarters  
Merlins Court, Winch Lane, Haverfordwest,  
Pembrokeshire, SA61 1SB  
Tel Nr: (01437) 771220  
Fax Nr: (01437) 771222

Cadeirydd / Chairman  
**Mr Chris Martin**

Prif Weithredwr /Chief Executive  
Yr Athro/Professor Trevor Purt

**CYFARFOD BWRDD IECHYD  
HEALTH BOARD MEETING**

<b>Dyddiad y Cyfarfod: DATE OF MEETING:</b>	28 November 2013
<b>Eitem ar yr Agenda: TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	Proposal to temporarily reduce some non urgent elective orthopaedic operations
<b>Arweinydd Cyfarwyddwr EXECUTIVE LEAD:</b>	Paul Hawkins, Director of Operations & Delivery
<b>Swyddog Adrodd: REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Paul Hawkins, Director of Operations & Delivery

**Pwrpas yr adroddiad / Purpose of the Report** (*dilewch fel yn addas / delete as appropriate*)

<b>I'w Gymeradwyo For Approval</b>	<b>Ar Gyfer Cefnogaeth For Endorsement</b>	<b>Ar Gyfer Penderfyniad For Decision</b>	<b>Ar Gyfer Trafodaeth For Discussion</b>
√			

**ADRODDIAD SCAA / SBAR REPORT**

**Sefyllfa / Situation**

Following discussions at the Hywel Dda Health Board meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013, it was agreed that the Health Board must take measures to:-

1. Secure the quality and safety of services by reducing our reliance on temporary staff and variable pay
2. Prepare the Health Board for the winter pressures
3. Ensure that we operate within our allocated resources
4. Concentrate the resources we have on our most urgent patients.

As a consequence, a proposal to temporarily reduce some non urgent elective orthopaedic capacity across the Health Board until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 has been discussed with staff groups. Clearly, this proposal would be subject to any robust and pragmatic suggested alternatives, particularly from Orthopaedic clinical colleagues.

It was noted that this would not affect our identified priorities of cancer, emergency trauma, day cases and any other elective surgery.

Following this period of engagement with colleagues, agreement has been reached on a potential temporary reduction in elective inpatient orthopaedic capacity across the Health Board. Subject to Board approval, these reductions will take effect from 29 November 2013 until 1 April 2014.

**Cefndir / Background**

The Health Board operates the All Wales Organisational Change Policy in relation to permanent staff changes and also has a Flexible Deployment of Staff Procedure to be used in circumstances of temporary staff changes that need to be made. This procedure sets out the processes and documentation to support deployment of staff in a way that aims to ensure

individuals are treated fairly and with respect when they are asked and/or required to move to another role. Individual circumstances and reasonable travel distances will be considered by managers when implementing these changes.

As any service change necessary following a period of engagement would only equate to a temporary change we have commenced an engagement process with staff and stakeholders over a four week period. As part of this process there are ongoing discussions with staff exploring the potential for realistic and achievable options for a temporary service change which will enable us to manage any potential additional pressures through the winter period. This is consistent with the Health Boards winter plans to ensure we can flex our services according to need.

### **Assesiad / Assessment**

The engagement period runs from the 28<sup>th</sup> October until the 22<sup>nd</sup> November and an ongoing series of meetings with clinical and non clinical staff, trade union representatives, LNC and CHC colleagues have taken place. Furthermore, the Medical Director has written to all GPs advising them of the process.

Agreement has been reached with senior Orthopaedic clinical colleagues that we will, in addition to the usual cessation of inpatient elective orthopaedic work over the Christmas and New Year period, temporarily reduce by 50% inpatient elective Orthopaedic capacity for a period lasting no longer than the remainder of this financial year and subject to regular review driven by need. This will enable us to better manage the inevitable winter bed pressures leading to last minute cancellation of inpatient procedures. All sites will have elective Orthopaedic beds.

Following a series of meetings with staff and their representatives, where partial wards are temporarily closing, greater use of flexible working practices will enable staff to move to other areas to cover vacancies and/or meet additional staffing requirements in rotation.

Key learning from the process for the future is being absolutely clear about communication directly into the organisation operationally and with speed.

### **Argymhelliad / Recommendation**

The Health Board are asked to formally agree to the proposed actions to take effect from 29 November 2013

<b>Effaith / Impact: (rhaid cwblhau / must be completed)</b>	
<b>Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian Financial/VFM:</b>	This action will assist the Health Board to operate within our allocated resources.
<b>Risg / Cyfreithiol Risk/Legal/ Regulatory:</b>	The proposed action is within the relevant legal and statutory frameworks and the risks have been identified and will be mitigated.
<b>Answadd / Gofal Claf Quality/ Patient Care:</b>	This action will enable the Health Board to concentrate the resources we have on our most urgent patients.
<b>Gweithlu Workforce:</b>	Staff have been involved in discussions regarding the potential temporary service changes.
<b>Cydraddoldeb Equality:</b>	Assessment is being undertaken.

<b>Amcanion / Objectives: (rhaid cwblhau / must be completed)</b>	
<i>Safon(au) Gofal Iechyd</i> Healthcare Standard(s):	The action will support Healthcare Standards
<i>Amcanion Strategol y BI</i> HB Strategic Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Secure the quality and safety of services by reducing our reliance on variable pay</li> <li>2. Prepare the Health Board for the winter pressures</li> <li>3. Ensure that we operate within our allocated resources</li> <li>4. Concentrate the resources we have on our most urgent patients.</li> </ol>
<b>Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol / Further Information:</b>	
<i>Ar sail tystiolaeth</i> Evidence Base:	The proposed action has been discussed at length with clinical colleagues and is supported by past experiences of winter pressures and their impact on our ability to deliver inpatient elective procedures during the winter period.
<i>Rhestr Termiau</i> Glossary of Terms:	N/A
<i>Partïon/Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Bwrdd/Pwyllgor</i> Parties/Committees consulted prior to Board	<p>Executive Team</p> <p>County Management Teams</p> <p>Clinical leaders</p> <p>Staff and their Trade Union representatives</p>

**EXTRACT FROM DRAFT UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE HYWEL DDA  
HEALTH BOARD MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2013**

<p><b>PM(13)159</b></p>	<p><b>HDHB'S WINTER PLAN/PROPOSAL TO TEMPORARILY REDUCE SOME NON-URGENT ELECTIVE ORTHOPAEDIC OPERATIONS</b></p>	
	<p>Mr Paul Hawkins presented Members with the Health Board's Winter Plan, drawing attention to the comprehensive executive summary and the supplementary guidance circulated.</p> <p>Members were reminded that NHS Wales has had significant problems delivering care during previous winter periods due to unprecedented levels of urgent and emergency pressures. In light of this, Health Board's have been asked by Welsh Government to make winter planning a priority for 2013/14, particularly in terms of their alignment with Social Services.</p> <p>Members acknowledged that whilst delivering care within the winter period constitutes a challenge throughout the UK, Wales has moved forward quickly to rise to this challenge, and to better understand the connectivity involved with partner agencies such as Local Authorities and WAST.</p> <p>Members noted that all three Counties of Hywel Dda are working to the same escalating factors to ensure a prompt escalation process in place, both throughout the organisation and across neighbouring LHBs. Mr Martin commented that this will ensure that the Health Board is in a better position to manage winter pressures than in previous years, with further improvements to come for future years given the iterative process involved.</p> <p>In regard to influenza vaccination uptake, Dr Laurence Williams advised of the availability of an influenza spray for children which should be incorporated into the Health Board's Pandemic Influenza Plan. Ms Teresa Owen confirmed this would be included for the following year's plan and took the opportunity of conveying her gratitude to all those who had supported the recent flu campaign within the organisation with an uptake to date of 38% compared to 30% the previous year, and testimony to the significant work involved.</p> <p>Mr Simon Hancock added his congratulations to those involved with producing the comprehensive winter planning documentation and was pleased to note the close collaboration between Health and Local Authority Social Services departments.</p> <p>Accepting the need for the discharge of patients in a timely manner and for the monitoring of this on a daily basis, Mr Wales queried</p>	

how any reductions in Local Authority beds might impact, and Mr Martin suggested this underlined the need for Health and Social Care to work collaboratively together to gain a better understanding of the interdependencies involved.

Mr Purt referred to the effort made with Local Authority colleagues over previous years to recognise that where services sit needs to be clearly aligned to the responsibility for those services, and a need for a systematic approach to those services that should be within Local Government and those within Health.

Dr Williams commented that Residential Home capacity will be key to the management of hospital beds and suggested the requirement for GPs to understand their capacity status at all times. Mr Hawkins confirmed that sitting behind the Health Board's Winter Plan, will be operational plans to address these issues, all of which would be shared with GPs.

In terms of the proposal to temporarily reduce some non-urgent, elective orthopaedic operations, Mr Hawkins advised that this is a proposal which underpins the Health Board's Winter Plan and is therefore an integral decision. The proposal was consulted upon between 28<sup>th</sup> October and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013 with the clinicians and staff involved, and Dr Sue Fish, Medical Director and Ms Kathryn Davies were part of those discussions to address any Consultant concerns. Following several meetings, the need was agreed to ensure 50% of elective orthopaedic beds remained operational across the four hospital sites with permanent nurse staffing in place in order to maintain an appropriate patient flow and to avoid cancelling procedures on the day. Members noted that this proposal does not affect orthopaedic day surgery or emergency surgery. Members further noted that clinicians would be making decisions on the more urgent orthopaedic cases, with referral made to Dr Fish if required.

Mr Purt commented that this proposal would bring with it additional benefit in terms of an ability to release up clinical time for Consultants to spend within A&E departments to treat the anticipated increase in elderly patients suffering fractures, etc.

Members were reminded that the Health Board had opened up to 160 surge beds the previous year staffed largely by agency staff, with a whole range of elective procedures which had to be cancelled either on the day or the day prior to surgery which was agreed as unacceptable. Members were further reminded that the Health Board has already agreed to concentrate the resources allocated to it on its most urgent patients i.e. cancer, stroke and emergency trauma patients, to manage through the winter period which will allow it to plan with some certainty going forward.

Mr Eifion Griffiths welcomed the Health Board's planned approach to winter pressures, acknowledging that whilst there may be some disappointed patients facing delays to their procedures, it is preferable that patients are informed of their expectations for surgery, rather than being turned away on the day.

Whilst welcoming the Health Board's Winter Plan, Mr Wales remained concerned in terms of the planned 50% reduction of elective orthopaedic procedures given there are already 1,300 patients currently on the waiting list which will only increase by April 2014. Mr Wales also expressed concerns in regard to the communications involved in terms of being clear with patients when they will receive their surgery, adding that the CHC would also wish to have a clarity in this regard.

Mr Hawkins advised that he would be holding regular meetings with the Orthopaedic Consultants to monitor the situation as the winter period progresses, and that he would work with the Consultant body to manage the additional volume, by exploring additional day surgery procedures, etc.

Mr Martin recognised that these are difficult decisions to make but stressed the need for better planning in place, given how stressful previous years have been for front line staff, but acknowledging the need to manage patient expectations and to ensure communications are effective.

Mr Wales referred to the Health Board's routine annual close down for elective procedures between Christmas and New Year and queried its duration for 2013/14. Mr Hawkins confirmed that the close down period for elective procedures would commence on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2013 for a period of 2 weeks but that a full CEPOD theatre and trauma surgery would continue for the duration.

Dr Williams accepted the requirement for a Winter Plan, and assuming intelligent monitoring in place, queried whether the proposed end date to the temporary reduction of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 would remain a fixed point. Mr Martin advised that monitoring would be undertaken on a weekly basis throughout the next 4 months and that if winter pressures did not impact as severely as anticipated, consideration could be given to the flow of patients in a different manner, dependent upon the level of forecasting.

Mr Griffiths stressed the need to communicate effectively with GPs given that patients will rely upon them for their information and Dr Fish confirmed that communication would take place immediately following today's Board decision.

Mrs Karen Howell commented that the Health Board's Winter Plan had not been written in isolation but had benefited from significant

input from primary, community and mental health services and has therefore been communicated widely in order to reach this final version.

Mrs Sian-Marie James requested that the Board be kept apprised of the effect of winter planning on patients through the Health Board's Quality & Safety Committee and Corporate Directors Group.

Mr Martin referred to the question raised by Ms Kate O'Dell for the Public Forum section of the Board questioning the Health Board's management of its winter pressures, and checked with Ms O'Dell that the discussion held had provided her with the response required.

Ms O'Dell addressed the Board, advising of the frustration felt in terms of the lack of communication involved, including the BBC statement which had identified that all orthopaedic procedures would cease, leading to a lack of clarity for patients on when their surgery would take place. Ms O' Dell also referred to the confusion over the terminology involved, with its vague wording in terms of urgent and emergency care which patients believe is when they are waiting in agony on a list as opposed to trauma surgery. The public are also aware that the Health Board has just been provided with additional funding and should not therefore accept a seasonal elective orthopaedic service.

Mr Martin thanked Ms O' Dell for her informed insight, and agreed with the difficulty around interpretation, particularly in terms of urgent and emergency care, and some of the messaging within the proposals. However, the Board has a statutory requirement to make a decision on its winter plans, with the reasons why it considers the proposals it has made appropriate, played out in the earlier discussion.

Mr Martin accepted the frustration felt by Ms O'Dell in terms of the apparent lack of communication and vaguely worded messages involved, however, Mr Martin refuted the statement made by the BBC and quoted by Ms O'Dell as inaccurate, and advised that this had been taken up with them at the time of the statement being made. Mr Martin stressed that the Health Board continues to make every effort to provide accurate information and to keep the public and staff fully informed, and that lessons would be learned from this. Mr Martin also accepted the challenge raised by Ms O'Dell that orthopaedics should be a 12 month service, and that the Health Board would work with its Consultants to ensure that this remained the case.

Mr Martin undertook to write to Ms O'Dell with the Health Board's formal response.

The Board **AGREED** the Winter Plan and the proposal to temporarily reduce some non-urgent elective orthopaedic operations



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd  
Hywel Dda  
Health Board

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Dyddiad/Date: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013  
Ein cyf/Our ref: AG/DTS  
Gofynnwch am/Please ask for: Mr Chris Martin  
Rhif Ffôn /Telephone: 01437 771240  
Ffacs/Facsimile: 01437 771222  
E-bost/E-mail: Chris.martin@wales.nhs.uk

Ms Kate O'Dell  
(via e-mail [kate.odellm@gmail.com](mailto:kate.odellm@gmail.com))

Dear Ms O'Dell

**QUESTION FOR CONSIDERATION AT PUBLIC BOARD MEETING:**

***Question: "I've been told by the Vice-Chair that this is not about saving money. Why can't the public have a ringfenced orthopaedic service which is non-seasonal and not dependent on winter pressure admissions? The present proposals are unacceptable and vaguely worded and you've already been paid £15m for unscheduled care. We do not understand the logic."***

Thank you for your question which, as you are aware, was raised for consideration at the Health Board's meeting in public on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013. Whilst the minutes will confirm that your question was discussed at the meeting, they will also confirm that I undertook to provide you with a formal written response.

The minutes will also reflect the subsequent discussion that was held when you addressed the Board following the two agenda items pertinent to your question i.e. winter planning and the proposal to temporarily reduce some non-urgent elective orthopaedic operations.

You will know from the debate that was held, that NHS Wales has had significant problems delivering care during previous winter periods due to unprecedented levels of urgent and emergency pressures. In light of this, Health Boards were asked by Welsh Government to make winter planning a priority for 2013/14.

Part of the preparations for this winter planning have involved taking measures to concentrate the resources allocated to the Health Board on its most urgent patients i.e. cancer, stroke and emergency trauma patients, and to secure the safety of its services by reducing its reliance on temporary staff.

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Pencadlys Bwrdd Iechyd Hywel Dda  
Llys Myrddin, Lôn Winch, Hwlfordd,  
Sir Benfro, SA61 1SB  
Rhif Ffôn: (01437) 771220  
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Hywel Dda Health Board Headquarters  
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Cadeirydd / Chairman  
**Mr Chris Martin**  
Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive  
**Mr Trevor Purt**

Proposals to temporarily reduce some non-urgent elective orthopaedic capacity across the Health Board until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 were consulted upon between 28<sup>th</sup> October and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013 with the clinicians and staff involved, and, as a consequence, a proposal to temporarily reduce non-urgent, elective orthopaedic capacity across all Health Board sites by 50% to better manage the inevitable winter bed pressures ahead, was approved at the Health Board meeting in public on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

I understand from the feedback you were able to share at that meeting, the frustration felt in terms of the apparent lack of communication and vaguely worded messages involved. I acknowledge the points you have raised on this. However, the story published by the BBC you quoted was inaccurate and this was taken up with them at the time. We always make every effort to provide accurate information and to keep the public and staff fully informed and we will learn from what happened. I also accept the challenge you raised that orthopaedics should be a 12 month service, and the Health Board will work with its Consultants to ensure that this is the case.

As I stated at the Board meeting, I am grateful for the informed discussion that was held, and I trust that my written reply provides you with the response you require. Thank you, once again, for putting forward your question at our Health Board meeting in public on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

Regards.

Yours sincerely

**CHRIS MARTIN**  
**Chair**

Mark Drakeford AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-520  
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/03626/13

William Powell AM  
AM for Mid & West Wales  
Chair Petitions committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

[committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

19 December 2013

*Dear William*

Thank you for your letter of 12 December concerning the petition submitted by Kate O'Dell, following the announcement of the reduction in orthopaedic surgery by Hywel Dda Health Board.

This was not a decision of the Welsh Government, but was an operational decision made by Hywel Dda Health Board, in the context of all the circumstances, including winter pressures.

Furthermore, I believe the decision was not made in the terms described in the petition. I understand that following discussions with staff, the Health Board intends to maintain elective orthopaedic surgery across the region, but with a reduced capacity, so as to enable them to better cope with unscheduled care demand. I am told the position will be reviewed on a weekly basis. The Health Board has also stated that all cancer, urgent trauma and orthopaedic day surgery will continue during this period.

If a reduced volume of orthopaedic surgery takes place in Hywel Dda this winter, clinicians will remain responsible for the care of individual patients and the treatment and support offered to them.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu **Page 52**

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: [Mark.Drakeford@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.Drakeford@wales.gsi.gov.uk)  
*Printed on 100% recycled paper*

I note that you have raised your concerns with the Chair of the Health Board. I would expect him to provide a satisfactory response addressing the concerns of the petitioners with respect to the Health Board's decision.

*Yours sincerely*

*Mark Drakeford*

**Mark Drakeford AC / AM**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

## **P-04-481 Close the Gap for deaf pupils in Wales**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to develop a national strategy to Close the Gap in educational attainment between deaf pupils and their peers.

The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) Cymru presents this petition today as it is both Deaf Awareness Week and two years since 55 AMs pledged to take action to Close the Gap for deaf pupils.

Still, Welsh Government statistics demonstrate significant attainment gaps between deaf pupils and their peers. In 2012, deaf pupils were 26% less likely to achieve 5 GCSEs at A\*-C, and 41% less likely to achieve A\*-C passes in core subjects English/Welsh, Maths and Science.

Our video petition asks the experts (deaf pupils themselves) what matters most. They told us:

- We need appropriate support in school and college
- We need all classrooms to have good acoustics
- Some of us use sign language. Help us encourage our hearing peers and teachers to learn sign.
- We need more teachers and pupils to be deaf aware.

Too many deaf pupils are facing barriers in these areas. A national strategy is needed to address the barriers and Close the Gap!

### **Additional Information**

Our video petition and an accompanying report can be downloaded at [www.ndcs.org.uk/ClosetheGapWales](http://www.ndcs.org.uk/ClosetheGapWales)

The video petition was produced with the help of eight deaf young people outlines the four things that they feel are most important to deaf pupils at school and college.

The accompanying report outlines the barriers that many deaf pupils in Wales are facing in these areas. It also makes suggestions on how a strategy could help to overcome these barriers.

**Petition raised by:** NDCS

**Date petition first considered by Committee: 14 May 2013**

NDCS Cymru

4 Cathedral Road

Cardiff CF11 9LJ

11<sup>th</sup> December 2013

William Powell AM

Chair, Petitions Committee

National Assembly for Wales

CF99 1NA

**Petition P-04-481**

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> December. We welcome the opportunity to further clarify our response to the correspondence you have received in relation to our *Close the Gap* petition.

We welcome the support given by the Chair of the All Party Group of Deaf Issues and Action on Hearing Loss Cymru to the petition. We also welcome the opportunity offered by Governors Wales to display relevant information on their website and at conferences.

We were particularly pleased to see that the WLGA acknowledges the importance of training in ALN for all teachers and the importance of a good acoustic environment in all schools. We are also encouraged by the WLGA's commitment to joint working to meet the needs of hearing impaired children based on the example of the Gwent Hearing Impaired Service.

However we are disappointed by the response of the Minister for Education and Skills to the petition. We believe that a National Strategy to address each of the points raised in the petition is still required.

We welcome the Welsh Government's Workforce Planning Exercise in relation to supporting pupils with ALN and that provision of specialist services for deaf children will form part of the exercise. We wish to have assurances that such an exercise includes consideration not just of Teachers of the Deaf, but also of the numbers and skill sets of other key professionals working with deaf children, such as communication support workers, specialist speech and language therapists and teaching assistants. As identified in our initial campaign report, accessing these specialists, especially those with an appropriate level of training can be difficult. We also seek assurances that such a workforce planning exercise will be combined with a plan of action for addressing manpower, training and development issues.

A recent development in the field of Educational Psychology is of great concern to us. Educational Psychologists have a vital role in supporting children's development and helping them to reach their full potential. They also provide professional advice on children's emotional and educational development and help raise standards in our schools. In October 2013 Cardiff University decided it would no longer support the Doctorate in Educational Psychology therefore there will no longer be any training in Educational Psychology in Wales. This decision will lead to a drastic reduction in the supply of trained graduate educational psychologists in Wales, meaning there will not be enough educational psychologists to support local authorities and schools. This will deny deaf children and others with additional needs their chance to have their needs assessed appropriately.

We note that in its letter to the Petitions Committee the WLGA does not mention the Workforce Planning Exercise that is being undertaken by the Welsh Government. Local authorities will have a crucial role in ensuring that any staffing and development issues identified by the planning exercise are addressed.

The availability of BSL support for deaf pupils should be a vital element of the Workforce Planning exercise. We are concerned that without the appropriate skills communication support workers can neither adequately support these pupils to access the curriculum nor further enhance their linguistic skills and vocabulary in BSL. We would encourage the workforce planning exercise to consider introducing national standards for BSL support workers in schools and colleges.

The deaf young people who created the petition have also highlighted the need for more of their hearing peers and teachers to learn to sign. The vast majority of deaf pupils attend mainstream schools and for those who use sign language ensuring that other people in their schools can sign help them feel more included in school life. We would urge the Welsh Government to consider how more teachers and pupils can be encouraged to learn to sign.

The Minister in his response acknowledges that sign language classes are available. However many families find it difficult to access such courses. NDCS Cymru has a Big Lottery funded project called "It Starts Here" which provides families of young deaf children the opportunity to learn signs based on day to day family life. The funding for the project ends next year and we call on the Welsh Government to review the availability of BSL classes across Wales.

Lack of deaf awareness was one of the most significant barriers faced by the deaf young people who presented this petition. We are extremely disappointed with the Minister's response to this aspect of the petition. The present Minister for Education and Skills, Huw Lewis AM, has assured NDCS Cymru that the ALN module in the new Master in Educational Practice will include a reference to sensory impairment. We welcome this development but fear that it does not go far enough to address the lack of deaf awareness amongst teachers and support staff in schools.

We understand that the training that is being developed for Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) does not cover deaf awareness. Under the proposed ALN reforms the SENCOs will play an even greater role in developing support plans for pupils with additional needs. It is imperative that the training includes a basic level of deaf awareness and knowledge of which specialist professionals and resources can be accessed to support deaf children and young people.

99% of deaf children in Wales attend mainstream schools. Many teachers are unaware they are teaching a child with hearing difficulties due to their misconceptions around assistive listening devices. Although such technology can provide improved access to sound, it does not restore typical levels of hearing. There is also a general lack of awareness that 80% of all children will experience a temporary hearing loss that can continue for a sustained period and without appropriate support

can have a severe impact on their learning development. Ensuring that teachers and support staff are aware of some simple, but effective deaf awareness tips could go a long way to improving deaf young people's access at school. NDCS Cymru urges the Welsh Government to include deaf awareness within training courses for teachers and LSAs.

Deaf young people tell us that it is important that their peers understand deafness. NDCS has produced resources that can be used to help schools teach their pupils about deaf awareness. We would also call on the Welsh Government to include deaf awareness within the PSE curriculum.

In his response the Minister does not address the role of Estyn in ensuring that schools with deaf pupils and local authority specialist support services are meeting the needs of deaf pupils. We believe that there is scope for Estyn to provide deaf awareness training for its inspectors in order to address this issue.

We are still concerned about the impact of ALN Reforms on deaf children and young people, including post-16 provision. Last week the Minister for Education rejected the recommendation of the Children and Young People's Committee to take post-16 SEN Reform out of the Education Bill to be included in a single piece of legislation. We understand the Minister's concerns about delaying the SEN reform for post-16 students but do feel that a single piece of legislation would be more coherent and better serve the needs of deaf children and young people.

We understand that the White Paper on ALN Reform is now due to be published in the spring of 2014. We still have significant concerns about the proposals. Our concerns include the intention to develop a universal provision pathway rather than disability specific pathways. We feel that in the case of low incidence disability, such as deafness, a specific pathway is of paramount importance to ensure that staff are aware of the specialist professionals who must contribute to a child's assessment of need and to supporting the education of that child.

We are also concerned that the Individual Development Plans (IDP) will not be robust enough and may not include clear information on key points. In the case of deaf children the proposed IDP does not include key information such as the child's level of hearing loss, the agreed placement for the child and information on ongoing support.

One of our particular concerns with the proposed ALN reforms is the reduced right of appeal to the Special Educational Needs Tribunal Wales (SENTW). Only children deemed to have severe or complex needs will have the right to appeal under the present proposals. It is imperative that families of children with all levels of need retain the right of appeal to SENTW with regard to the specialist support they need.

We are disappointed that the Minister's response fails to acknowledge that the Welsh Government could do a great deal more to improve acoustic standards in schools. The Welsh Government now has powers over Building Regulations and could use these powers to strengthen acoustic standards in new schools, colleges and nurseries. These powers over Building Regulations were devolved on New Year's Eve 2011 and 39 Assembly Members from all four political parties supported our call for good acoustics in schools. In the present financial climate many existing school, colleges and nurseries with a poor acoustic environment may not be refurbished in the near future. We would urge the Welsh Government to promote measures that head teachers can take to assess and improve acoustics in existing buildings.

Good acoustics are important for deaf children and for the 80% of primary aged children who experience a temporary hearing loss. Acoustics are also important for other vulnerable children and

several organisations representing other disabilities support our campaign, including RNIB Cymru, SENSE Cymru, Autism Cymru, NAS Cymru, Downs Syndrome Association and AFASIC Cymru. There is also evidence that a good acoustic environment can improve the learning and behaviour of pupils in general.

To summarise, in 2012 deaf pupils were 41% less likely to achieve higher grade passes in core subjects – the widest gap since records began. NDCS Cymru is concerned that there are a multitude of factors which need to be addressed. Although the Minister’s response and subsequent developments outline a few positive steps many of the key issues in our petition remain unaddressed. In particular the Minister does not address our call for a National Strategy to Close the Gap in educational attainment for deaf pupils. We believe that a national strategy will present a cohesive approach to the numerous barriers that deaf pupils face. We would want the strategy to include the following points:

- Deaf awareness training for key professionals, including teachers, SENCOs and LSAs.
- Issues in staffing or training and development identified through the workforce planning exercise
- Consideration to strengthening Estyn’s role in inspecting the services local authorities and schools provide to deaf pupils.
- Raising deaf awareness amongst hearing pupils
- Improved access to BSL classes for families of deaf children
- More opportunities for pupils and teachers to learn BSL.
- A clear provision pathway for deaf children and young people.
- Building regulations to be amended to ensure all new school, college and nursery buildings are required to demonstrate compliance with minimum acoustic standards
- Improving acoustics in existing school, college and nursery buildings.

We note than in your meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013 you discussed the possibility of commissioning a piece of work in relation to this petition. We hope that this letter clarifies our position that we feel that the Welsh Government could do a great deal more to address the issues raised by the deaf young people in the petition. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you if you do commission work on this petition.

Yours sincerely

Elin Wyn

Policy Adviser, NDCS Cymru

[elin.wyn@ndcs.org.uk](mailto:elin.wyn@ndcs.org.uk)

## **P-04-516 Make political science compulsory in education**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to make political science a compulsory part of the school curriculum.

**Petition raised by:** Mark Griffiths

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 26 November 2013

**Number of signatures:** 12



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-516  
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/02033/13

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

6 January 2014

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 16 December 2013 writing on behalf of the Petitions Committee asking for my views on making political science a compulsory part of the school curriculum.

Currently, the school curriculum for Wales provides opportunities for young people to understand the principles and system of our democracy, including how young people can influence decision making. Schools mostly cover these topics through personal and social education (PSE) and focus on developing 'Active Citizenship', which is one of the five themes within the non-statutory *PSE framework for 7 to 19-year-olds-Wales*.

PSE is a statutory curriculum requirement and forms part of the Basic curriculum for all registered pupils at maintained schools who are of compulsory school age. Decisions on the precise content and model of delivery of a school PSE programme lie with head teachers and their governors, working with local authorities and other local partners. This gives schools flexibility to focus on aspects of PSE that are particularly relevant to their situation and best meet the needs of their learners. The non-statutory PSE framework is the key document which schools use to review and develop their PSE programmes.

Within the 'Active Citizenship' element of the non-statutory PSE framework, learners should:

*"Develop a practical understanding of their rights and of the links between political decisions and their own lives.*

*Learners are members of communities, from local through national to global, and can be helped to play a meaningful and active part in them. Such active citizenship implies a number of considerations. There needs to be an understanding of the nature of communities in Wales and beyond and the roles, relationships, conflicts and inequalities that affect the quality of life. Learners should explore their rights in a democratic society as underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. They have a right to be involved in making decisions, and planning and reviewing any actions that might affect them. Learners should also consider their responsibilities as young citizens and be equipped to participate in community life through service and action which promotes the well-being of that community.*

*Finally, learners need to develop a political 'literacy' which enables them to make effective decisions and judgements in the world of political and legal systems."*

I am determined to ensure that we have a curriculum for Wales that is broad, balanced and fit for the twenty first century and which addresses some of the key challenges faced by learners growing up in the modern global society. This is why on, 22 October 2013, I announced my intention to review the Basic Curriculum as part of the second phase of the review of assessment and the National Curriculum. I will be providing more details of the second phase of the review in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Huw Lewis'.

**Huw Lewis AC / AM**

Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau

Minister for Education and Skills

**P-04-516 Make political science compulsory in education –  
Correspondence from Petitioner to Clerking Team, 12.01.14**

Dear kayleigh ,

Thanks for your email and the opportunity to respond  
to the minister's submission .

i would like the following points in response considered :-

Mr lewis states that politics is part of the non-statutory part of the  
PSE , obviously making this important subject an irrelevant addition  
that most schools choose to ignore !

I have two children who both have never had lessons covering  
the uk constitution or the democratic process here etc ...  
the only mildly political discourse they appear to have experienced  
is inadvertantly through history or the very unbalanced jubilee  
celebrations of 2012.

With young person's electoral voting hitting serious lows { 39%  
in 2001 - as per electoral commision 2002} , poor political  
awareness and engagement is seriously highlighted as is the undermined  
democratic  
process . voting participation has been in the low 60% for over a decade ,  
whereas previously it was around 70 -80 % .

I work for a youth organisation and this has alerted to me  
the poor political knowledge of young adults who increasely  
feel marginalised and powerless due to their ignorance  
of the political process . their frustration unfortunately leads  
to choices that may not occur if they were better informed  
of alternative `avenues' . i hope the minister's curriculum  
review will seriously consider some sort of political science  
which will aid youngsters in their development ...

Regards  
Mark griffiths

## **P-04-517 Stop the Welsh Assembly Government from bringing in the monitoring of electively home educated children under the guise of safeguarding**

### **Petition wording:**

Serious case reviews have shown that the authorities not elective home education have let children down. The government signed up to the rights of the child in 2004 which states that they will consult with children before changing things that effect them. They are not consulting our children who have already shown last year that they are against monitoring in a different consultation. We, therefore, call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to stop bringing in the monitoring of electively home educated children under the guise of safeguarding.

**Petition raised by:** New Foundation Home Education

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 26 November 2013

**Number of signatures:** 864

Huw Lewis AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau  
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-517  
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/02032/13

William Powell AM

William.powell@wales.gov.uk

2 January 2014

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 16 December, in which you enclose a petition from New Foundation Home Education.

You may be aware that last year the Welsh Government undertook a consultation on legislative proposals to introduce a compulsory registration and monitoring scheme for electively home educated children. 550 responses were received to the consultation. The Minister made a statement on 21 December 2012 that, in view of the level of response raised by the consultation, he would not be proceeding with the proposed legislative changes as part of the Education (Wales) Bill to allow time for full consideration of views.

Officials have now completed this review and a formal response to the consultation will be published in due course. The Minister will be reflecting on any future plans in light of the consultation responses, and will set out any future plans in a ministerial statement.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was given due regard throughout the consultation process. Workshops were held in which electively home educated children were invited to discuss and explore the proposals; a child-friendly version of the consultation document was also created, presented in plain English.

These workshops were facilitated by Youth Friendly and detailed notes were taken. A report which captures the comments and feedback from the sessions is being prepared, and will be published in due course.

Yours sincerely

**Huw Lewis AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau  
Minister for Education and Skills

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence.Huw.Lewis@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)  
Page 65

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## **P-04-522 Asbestos in Schools**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to put measures in place to ensure that parents and guardians of children across Wales can easily access information about the presence and management of asbestos in all school buildings.

Given the health risks associated with the presence of asbestos in public buildings, we believe parents and guardians across Wales have the right;

- to know if asbestos is located in their school;
- to know whether, where asbestos is present, it is being managed in line with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012;
- to access that information easily online

**Petition raised by:** Cenric Clement-Evans

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 10 December 2013

**Number of signatures:** 448



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-522  
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/02030/13

William Powell AM  
AM for Mid & West Wales  
(c/o Committee Clerk: [Stephen.George@wales.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.George@wales.gov.uk))  
Chair Petitions committee

[committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

2 January 2014

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 16 December 2013, in respect of a petition from Cenic Clement-Evans, which concerns the provision of information about the presence and management of asbestos in schools.

It may be helpful if I begin by giving you some background about the management of asbestos. While devolution in 1998 brought about the transfer of responsibility for education and training to the Welsh Government, some topics remain reserved for central government. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and legislation made under this Act, including the Control of Asbestos Regulations, is one such area of policy.

Responsibility for the enforcement of the relevant legislation in relation to control of asbestos falls to the Health and Safety Executive and not the Welsh Government, as does the remit for the provision of advice and guidance.

Responsibility for the management of asbestos lies with the duty-holder. In the school premises context, this can either be the local authority or the school governing body. All duty-holders in England, Scotland and Wales are required to comply with the same legislation and standards of compliance.

In practice a duty holder's responsibilities in a school include:

- Keeping an up-to-date record of the location and condition of asbestos containing materials (ACM);
- Assessing the risk from any ACM in the school;
- Having a written asbestos management plan with actions and measures necessary to manage the risks from ACM
- Putting those plans into action
- Making information available to workers who may disturb asbestos (e.g. contractors or maintenance workers).

As the management of asbestos plans is part of the health and safety function which is not devolved to the Welsh Government, I do not have the legislative powers to compel local authorities to make this information available to parents and guardians. You can, however, be re-assured that my officials will continue to work with local authorities to ensure the safety of pupils.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Huw Lewis', with a small red mark at the end.

**Huw Lewis AC / AM**

Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau  
Minister for Education and Skills

# Agenda Item 3.11

## **P-04-500 Call For Regulation of Animal Welfare Establishments in Wales**

### **Petition wording:**

We the undersigned, call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to regulate Animal Welfare Establishments and legislate for compulsory requirements be met by all animal rescue establishments in line with the report produced by the AWW Animal Welfare Establishments Working Group October 2012. The Welsh Government need to put in place legislation for Wales under the Animal Welfare Act(2006), to protect animals from neglect and abuse.

### **Additional Info:**

More and more animals are suffering abuse, neglect and are being bred from in unregulated establishment who advertise as a Rescue Center, and we call upon the Welsh Assembly to legislate under the Animal Act 2006 to try and stop this from continuing.

**Petition raised by:** Lisa Winnett

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 24 September 2013

**Number of signatures:** 265

Alun Davies AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd  
Minister for Natural Resources and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyfi/Your ref P-04-500  
Ein cyfi/Our ref AD-/01604/13

William Powell AC  
AC y Canolbarth a'r Gorllewin  
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deisebau  
Tŷ Hywel  
Bae Caerdydd  
Caerdydd  
CF99 1NA

Hydref 2013

*Amwy 25:11,*

#### Sefydliadau Lles Anifeiliaid

Diolch am eich llythyr am Ddeiseb P-04-500 sy'n Galw am Reoleiddio Sefydliadau Lles Anifeiliaid yng Nghymru.

Rwy'n ymwybodol o'r adroddiad 'The Case for the Regulation of Animal Welfare Establishments in Wales' gan Rwydwaith Lles Anifeiliaid Cymru (AWNW); yn wir, bu fy swyddogion yn bresennol yng nghyfarfodydd y gweithgor ac maent wrthi'n adolygu'r argymhellion a gynigir yn yr adroddiad. Byddaf innau'n ystyried yr argymhellion maes o law.

O safbwynt sylw'r deisebwr "Mae mwy a mwy o anifeiliaid yn cael eu cam-drin a'u hesgeuluso ac yn cael eu magu mewn sefydliadau heb eu rheoleiddio sy'n hysbysu fel Canolfannau Achub'. Ni wn am unrhyw ystadegau yn adroddiad AWWN sy'n cefnogi neu'n gwrthod hynny.

Byddai diddordeb gennyf weld unrhyw dystiolaeth neu wybodaeth gefndir y gellid ei defnyddio fel rhan o ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cymru i godi safonau lles anifeiliaid ar draws nifer o feysydd, hwn yn eu plith.

**Alun Davies AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd  
Minister for Natural Resources and Food

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu **Page 70**

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Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: Alun.Davies@wales.gsi.gov.uk  
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Alun Davies AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd  
Minister for Natural Resources and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-500  
Ein cyf/Our ref AD-/01604/13

William Powell AM  
AM for Mid & West Wales  
Chair Petitions committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

29 October 2013

DM 15.11.

#### Animal Welfare Establishments

Thank you for your letter, regarding Petition P-04-500 Call for Regulation of Animal Welfare Establishments in Wales.

I am aware of the report 'The Case for the Regulation of Animal Welfare Establishments in Wales', published by the Animal Welfare Network Wales (AWNWW); indeed, my officials observed the working group meetings and are currently reviewing the recommendations put forward in the report. I will consider recommendations in due course.

With regard to the petitioner's comment "More and more animals are suffering abuse, neglect and are being bred from in unregulated establishments who advertise as a Rescue Centre", I am not aware of any statistics included in the AWWNW report to support that or separately.

I would though be interested in any evidence or background information that could be provided as part of the Welsh Government's commitment to raise standards on animal welfare across a number of areas, including this one.

Yours  
Alun

Alun Davies AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd  
Minister for Natural Resources and Food

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CF99 1NA  
Medi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgyfnewid 100%

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Correspondence: Alun.Davies@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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## **P-04-511 Support for children and young people participation standards**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to provide support for the National Children and Young People's Participation Standards for Wales self-assessment process.

### **Additional Information:**

The Participation standards were launched in 2007 after being developed by the Participation Unit. There are seven participation standards which are Information, It's your choice, No Discrimination, Respect, You get something out of it, Feedback and Improving how we work. The participation unit then developed a national standards kite - mark scheme based around the standards. The aim of the kite-mark was that the organisations would complete a self assessment and once it was complete a team of young inspectors would come and inspect the evidence the organisation had to see if they were up to the national standards. If they were seen as achieving they would be awarded the National Participation Standards Kit-mark. However the participation unit now no longer exists which means that's any organisation which does a self assessment now can only achieve a county level kite-mark which means that there is no national recognition and also there is no team co-coordinating the young inspectors.

**Petition raised by:** Powys Youth Forum

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 11 November 2013

**Number of signatures:** 39

Jeff Cuthbert AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchu Tlodi  
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-511  
Ein cyf/Our ref JC/00823/13

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

18 December 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 6 December and the petition you have received from Powys Youth Forum about the National Children and Young People's Participation Standards for Wales. I am aware of this petition and have looked into the matter previously.

The Participation Standards were developed by the Participation Unit hosted by Save the Children. The Welsh Government has consistently supported children and young people's participation and provided grant funding to the Participation Unit to promote and enable the participation of children and young people across Wales. While the Participation Unit led on the continuing development and embedding of the Participation Standards across Wales, we as a Government endorsed the Standards.

In 2012, the Participation Unit informed us that they would not be submitting a bid for core funding in 2012/13 as they had secured other funds to support the work of the Unit and the Participation Standards. The funding we provided to the Participation Unit was therefore reallocated to other services. Since then, Save the Children took the decision to cease the Participation Unit. I will ask my officials to see if there are other ways we could support the Participation Standards; however you will understand that there are increasing pressures on budgets within Government.

In terms of encouraging youth participation, we are one of only a few countries in the world and the only UK administration to have legislated for children and young people's participation. Section 12 of the *Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010* places a duty on Local Authorities, working with their partners, to promote and facilitate participation by children and young people in decisions that might affect them.

In addition, the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011 places the UNCRC at the heart of the government's work. Article 12 of the UNCRC particularly recognises children and young people's participation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Cuthbert'.

**Jeff Cuthbert AC / AM**

Y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchu Tlodi  
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty

**P-04-511 Support for children and young people participation standards – Correspondence from the Petitioner to Committee, 13.01.2014**

**Response from Powys Youth Forum - Response 1**

From our research from our members we have found out that many school councils have been working towards the standards to make sure that the school is being as participative as possible. The award not only gives them something physical to aim for, but also provides incentive and a sense of pride for achieving greatness in participation in their school. This acts as something for every school to aim for, allowing the levels of participation to rise, and for everyone to be aware of the standards as a result.

We are pleased with the steps that the Welsh Government has taken to increase local participation but we still believe that for the kite make to have national recognition would be beneficial and currently there is no over arching organisation or team co-ordinating the young inspectors and the Participation Kite Mark.

**Response from Powys Youth Forum - Response 2**

Powys Youth Forum have received permission from Mike Mainwaring (Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service, Children, Young People and Families Participation Officer) to include in the response to the committee a letter which has been sent to Martin Swain. We hope that you will use this information to develop a further understanding of the challenges and issues that are being faced with the National Children and Young People Participation Standards across Wales.

-----  
Martin Swain  
Director for Children, Young People and Families Division  
National assembly for Wales

Dear Martin Swain,

I am writing on behalf of the North and South Wales Participation Officer's Network in the hope that we may be able to resolve a problem we have had since the loss of the Participation Unit at Save the Children.

As Participation Officers we have sold the concept of the Participation Standards and the Kite Mark on its National credentials. Groups tell us that they wouldn't have strived to meet the Standards and subsequent re-inspections if they had not had national status. The work under

taken by the Participation Unit has left us in a good position. We have a Self-Assessment Toolkit, a process for recruiting, training and accrediting the work of the Young Inspectors and a method for assessing organisations. Prior to the closing of the Participation Unit the Young Inspectors would produce their report and the Participation Unit would check it and award the Kite Mark if appropriate. Some of us now have a system whereby we peer review other counties inspection reports and confirm the awarding of the Kite Mark.

The majority of counties in Wales have operated a Young Inspector programme, some are now unfortunately on hold, and therefore have groups who have been supported to meet the Standards and young people who are trained and awaiting the experience of conducting an inspection. In Neath Port Talbot we have 18 inspectors 10 of whom have gained an OCN in participation to Level 2 and 3. There have been 8 inspections, with 6 awarded the Kite Mark. The Participation Standards are written into our Participation, Engagement and Advocacy Action Plan, which is reported to the Local Service Board as in line with the Single Integrated Plan Guidance.

Counties such as Caerphilly have a staff member grant funded to deliver against the Standards, therefore not meeting targets due to lack of national direction; they are training young people, and have already 20 young inspectors training and are trying to get their work accredited, three inspections have been passed via peer moderation and they have produced certificates at a local level. These would benefit from being signed off nationally. They have additional organisations awaiting inspection.

Conwy are developing the Participation Standards model to encompass the three themes in the UNCRC: protection, provision and participation. They are currently at the piloting stage on this.

Many of the counties are just gaining momentum with the National Participation standards but this is being hampered by a lack of national recognition. We may be in danger of losing a well-developed and tested programme if we continue without this national recognition and therefore derailing the participation and children's rights agenda. This would have a knock on affect for Welsh Government and the implementation of the Child Rights (Wales) Measure.

We are proposing that the Participation Officer's Network continue to peer review the Young Inspector's work but that Welsh Government actually award the Kite Mark. In practice, this would mean that the Young Inspectors would be recruited, trained, supported, would inspect the organisations and submit the report. The Participation Officer's Network would peer review these reports and send them to Welsh Government for the final sign off.

Myself and others would be interested in meeting with you and other officials to discuss whether this would be a viable option for Welsh Government.

Yours sincerely

Mike Mainwaring  
Children, Young People  
And Families Participation Officer

## **P-04-482 Public noticeboards across Wales notifying the public of who all their political representatives are**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to develop a national system of placing large public notice boards (of 5x4 foot or so as an example) across all the local authorities and electoral wards of Wales, clearly notifying everyone who their local Councillor/s and AM's are, together with clear information on how, where and when all of these can all be contacted and met and with regular and updated information on when and where all local council meetings are held.

There is a real need for people to be clearly notified of who their political representatives are at all levels, with clear well laid out informative notice boards centrally placed in all the local authorities and electoral wards of Wales. Consideration could also be given for surgery hours and locations, and possibly council meetings, to be standardised around Wales (e.g. 1-3pm of every first Saturday of the month at local community centres all across Wales as a generic example) so that people can interact and connect with their representatives more effectively. This will all encourage the citizens of Wales to have better involvement in the democracy of their country and communities

**Petition raised by:** Sovereign Wales

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 14 May 2013

**Number of signatures:** 11

**Our Ref/Ein Cyf:**  
**Your Ref/Eich Cyf:**  
**Date/Dyddiad:**  
**Please ask for/Gofynnwch am:**  
**Direct line/Llinell uniongyrchol:**  
**Email/Ebost:**

ST/SJ  
29 July 2013  
Steve Thomas  
029 2046 8610  
steve.thomas@wlga.gov.uk



Mr William Powell AM  
Chair of the Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

Thanks you for the letter setting out the views of Sovereign Wales on proposals to develop a national system of public notice boards setting out who councillors and AMs are in a particular area. In these straightened times such proposals are impracticable and probably would be deemed by the public to be a waste of precious resources that could be spent on front line services. Similarly the cost of erecting, maintaining, updating and repairing due to vandalism would be prohibitive. There are already available many ways for the members of the public to access this information not least in free council newspapers, on websites and through local newspapers. As such WLGA does not support this idea.

Yours sincerely

**Steve Thomas CBE**  
Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

Steve Thomas CBE  
Chief Executive  
Prif Weithredwr

Welsh Local Government  
Association  
Local Government House  
Drake Walk  
CARDIFF CF10 4LG  
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Cymdeithas Llywodraeth  
Leol Cymru  
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[www.wlga.gov.uk](http://www.wlga.gov.uk)

William Powell AM  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

18 September 2013

Dear William,

**Reference P-04-482 and P-04-478**

Thank you for writing to seek the views of the Electoral Commission on these two petitions. I apologise for the slight delay in responding.

Firstly with reference to Petition P-04-4782, any suggestion relating to the placing of a large public notice board containing details of elected members, including dates and times of council meetings should be the responsibility of the local electoral officer who has a statutory duty to "encourage the participation by electors in the electoral process in the area for which he acts"<sup>1</sup>.

Most local authorities and elected members already provide this information at a local level either on notice boards or through the press and there is a wealth of information available online, although we recognise that not everyone in Wales will have access to this type of resource.

We therefore believe that the local electoral officer (rather than Welsh Government), in consultation with relevant elected members / organisations, would be ideally placed in taking a decision as to the feasibility of such a piece of work at a local level.

Turning to Petition P-04-478, the Electoral Commission already provides comprehensive and independent guidance for candidates and agents standing in all elections in the UK, so we would consider that the type of resource suggested by the petitioner, although not a leaflet, does already exist.

<sup>1</sup> Section 69, Para 1 Electoral Administration Act 2006

Putting voters first  
Rhoi pleidleiswyr yn gyntaf

An independent body established by Act of the UK Parliament  
Corff annibynnol a sefydlwyd gan Ddeddf Seneddol y DU

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English

The Electoral Commission  
Companies House  
Crown Way  
Cardiff CF14 3UZ

Y Comisiwn Etholiadol  
Tŷ'r Cwmnïau  
Ffordd y Goron  
Caerdydd CF14 3UZ

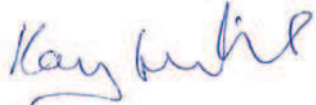
Tel/Ffôn 029 2034 6800  
Fax/Ffacs 029 2038 0996



This guidance is widely used, partly as a result of it being available through the Commission's website ([www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)) and also due to its dissemination through a variety of networks, including each relevant democratically elected body.

It is a matter for the individual local authority, Parliament or Assembly to encourage individuals to stand as a candidate in any given election.

Yours sincerely,



Kay Jenkins

Head of Electoral Commission Wales and English Regions

02920 346800

[kjenkins@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:kjenkins@electoralcommission.org.uk)

## **P-04-519 Abolition of Park Homes Sales Commission**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly For Wales to urge the Welsh Government to remove from Legislation the right of Park Owners to demand commission on the private sale of park homes now that they are no longer involved in the selling process.

**Petition raised by:** Caerwnon Park Residents Association

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 10 December 2013



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Carl Sargeant AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio  
Minister for Housing and Regeneration

Eich cyfl/Your ref P-04-519  
Ein cyfl/Our ref CS/02114/13

  
January 2014

William Powell AM

[committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of the 16 December on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding the petition from Caerwnon Park Residents Association, which calls for the removal from legislation of the commission paid to park owners on the sale of a mobile home.

The 10% commission rate is paid by the new occupier of the mobile home to the site owner. The commission rate was introduced in 1983 and the rate of commission has not been changed since its introduction. The Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 restates this provision and allows for Welsh Ministers to amend the rate by regulation.

The commission rate is a core element of the business model for residential mobile home site owners and any change to the rate would potentially have a knock-on effect on other fees paid by home owners, otherwise the financial viability of sites would be undermined. The UK Government consulted in 2006, on what the appropriate maximum rate should be. Some residents who stated that they intended to sell their home at some point in the future favoured a reduction in, or abolition of, the commission rate, but accepted that it would result in higher pitch fees. Other residents who saw their mobile home as their "home for life", wished to retain the existing rate in return for the protected pitch fees.

The commission on sales is an important source of revenue for site owners and provides funding for the management and maintenance of sites. A change could disturb the balance between commission and pitch fees, resulting in a significant and unwelcome increase in pitch fees for many residents on fixed incomes. Given this I see no strong reason to amend the commission rate at this time.

Yours sincerely



**Carl Sargeant AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio  
Minister for Housing and Regeneration

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu **100%**  
**Page 83**

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## **P-04-519 Abolition of Park Homes Sales Commission – Correspondence from Peter Black to the Chair, 18.12.13**

Thanks for the letter concerning the commission payable on the sales of Park Homes. This provision was not on the face of the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 nor any of its predecessor legislation. It is a matter for the Minister who can vary the commission rate through secondary legislation using the negative procedure. As I understand it the last UK Government carried out a consultation as to whether the commission should be abolished but took no action as the responses were inconclusive.

The commission forms an integral part of the economics of Park Homes and is payable because the site owner retains ownership of the pitch. The Park Home owner owns the home itself and pays a monthly fee for the use of that pitch. In that respect the arrangement is unique in land law but of course mirrors the situation in the holiday sector where the caravan owner pays to park his or her caravan on a particular site. I believe that in both instances a commission is payable if the caravan/mobile home changes hands so as to cover the costs of the site owner. Ten per cent is of course a maximum commission rate but I am not aware of anybody who charges less.

I did not tackle this issue when taking my own legislation through as it seemed to me to be peripheral to the main thrust of the bill, namely to put in place a suitable licensing regime. It is also my view that if the commission was abolished then site owners would raise pitch fees to recover their loss. This would penalise the many elderly and vulnerable residents living in mobile homes on fixed incomes. It struck me that this was a danger that needed to be avoided and that we would not be able to sustain a challenge to the requirement only to increase pitch fees in accordance with CPI if site owners lost such a substantial source of income.

Of course this is a matter for the Minister not me, and he will have to take all these factors into account. I hope that is helpful.

Peter

**Peter Black AM**

Welsh Liberal Democrats Spokesperson on Local Government, Heritage,  
Housing and Finance.

Assembly Commissioner for ICT and Sustainability

**P-04-519 Abolition of Park Homes Sales Commission – correspondence on behalf of the Petitioner to the Chair, 10.01.13**

F.A.O.  
Mr. William Powell  
Chairman  
Petitions Committee  
Welsh Government.

Caerwnon Park Residents Association thank you for the copies of the correspondence received by you from:  
The Minister for Housing and Regeneration, Mr. Carl Sargeant AC / AM and Mr. Peter Black AM, Welsh Liberal Democrats Spokesperson on Local Government, Heritage, Housing and finance, in response to our Petition for “The Abolition of the 10% Sales Commission on Park Homes.

We would respectfully point out the following corrections and observations contained in these two communications.

Letter from Mr. Carl Sargeant.

Paragraph 2 line 1. The 10% commission is paid to the site owner by the vendor not the “new occupier”.

Paragraphs 3 & 4. There is an implication here that site owners are free to increase the Pitch fee at their own discretion.

This is not so; the Pitch Fee may only be increased in one of two ways: Once annually by the rate of C.P.I., (formerly R.P.I.), or by agreement from the residents as an increase in maintenance charges resulting from improvements made to the Park and all such improvements having been agreed by the residents before being implemented.

Letter from Mr. Peter Black.

Paragraph 2 lines 7 & 8. The sale of the Park Home requires no involvement of the site owner and consequently the site owner incurs no costs.

Paragraph 3 lines 3 & 4. The site owner may only increase the Pitch Fee for the reasons stated above.

Any increase to the Pitch Fee other than those allowed, and as stated above, would therefore require a change in Legislation.

We would also point out that prior to the introduction of the 10% commission in 1983 many hundreds of Park Home Sites had existed for many years presumably without affecting the “core element of the business model”.

The claim that income from sales is an important part of revenue for site owners, (apart from the sale of new homes by the site owner), may be interpreted that an unscrupulous site owner would benefit from having disenchanted residents constantly wishing to sell their property; whilst well run sites with happy residents, of which there are many, would probably only benefit from the commission on rare occasions such as death of the occupant.

Our conclusion is that the abolition of the 10% commission would have little impact on the profitability of the site owners business, that unscrupulous site owners would be unable to benefit and that the life of Park Home residents would be greatly improved as a result.

Mr. P. Roberts  
Caerwnon Park Residents Association.  
P.P. Mr. R. Mountford, Chairman.

# Agenda Item 4

## **P-03-262 Wales Peace Institute**

### **Petition wording**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to investigate the potential for and practicality of Wales having a Peace Institute concerned with Peace and Human Rights, comparable with those supported by state governments in Flanders, Catalonia and elsewhere in Europe

**Petition raised by:** Welsh Centre for International Affairs, Cymdeithas y Cynod, Cynefin y Werin and CND Cymru

**Petition first considered by Committee:** November 2009

**Number of signatures:** 1525



Eich cyf/Your ref:P-03-262

William Powell AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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25<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter dated 23 October regarding the Petitions Committee's report on the Academi Heddwch Cymru / Wales Peace Institute.

I wholly support the promotion of peace within our society but I agree with the Committee that further exploratory work is needed to consider the role and function that a Peace Institute could have within Wales. I note that that the Committee has not been able to come to a view on the details of how such an Institute would be constituted and that the petitioners themselves were reluctant to provide further detail on what they saw as the role, function and activities of a Peace Institute.

In these circumstances, I feel that the case for establishing a Peace Institute in Wales continues to be inconclusive. I note that the Committee has recommended further discussions between interested parties within the academic community and civic society to enable further scoping work to be undertaken. I agree that this would be an important step if a case for an Institute is to be established but I do not accept that this work should be facilitated by Welsh Government.

As the Committee has acknowledged, we are operating in times of considerable fiscal constraint. The Welsh Government is not in a position to devote resources to the level of exploratory and scoping work that is still required and I think, in any event, that this work would be better led by an independent organisation. I have concerns also that a Welsh Government facilitated discussion would set expectations about the establishment of the Peace Institute which may not then be realised. However, Welsh Government officials would be available to take part in discussions if that is helpful.

Yours sincerely

**CARWYN JONES**