

Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date:

29 April 2014

Meeting time:

09.00

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



For further information please contact:

Steve George

Committee Clerk

029 2089 8421

Petition@wales.gov.uk

Kayleigh Driscoll

Deputy Committee Clerk

029 2089 8421

Petition@wales.gov.uk

Agenda

- 1 Introduction, apologies and substitutions**
- 2 New petitions (9.00 – 9.20)**
 - 2.1 P-04-541 Support for the Mentrau Iaith (Language Initiatives) (Pages 1 – 3)
 - 2.2 P-04-542 Practical Opportunities for Young People (Page 4)
 - 2.3 P-04-543 No Increase to University Tuition Fees (Page 5)
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 - 2.8 P-04-548 The Reintroduction of Welsh Classes in Rennes University (Pages 10

- 12)

- 2.9 P-04-549 Make 'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau' the Official Welsh National Anthem (Page 13)

3 Updates to previous petitions (9.20 – 9.45)

Housing and Regeneration

- 3.1 P-04-365 Protect buildings of note on the Mid Wales Hospital site (Pages 14 – 17)
- 3.2 P-04-519 Abolition of Park Homes Sales Commission (Pages 18 – 27)

Health

The following two petitions are grouped together for consideration

- 3.3 P-04-408 Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service (Pages 28 – 34)
- 3.4 P-04-505 Eating Disorder Unit in Wales (Page 35)
- 3.5 P-04-456 Dementia – This Could Happen to you (Pages 36 – 39)
- 3.6 P-04-494 Robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy must be made available to men in Wales now (Pages 40 – 42)
- 3.7 P-04-527 Campaign for a Special Cancer Drug Fund in Wales (Pages 43 – 48)

Economy, Science and Transport

- 3.8 P-04-459 A direct rail connection from Cardiff Airport to Cardiff central and west Wales (Pages 49 – 50)
- 3.9 P-04-506 Free bus pass / concessionary travel for benefit claimants , students and under 18s (Pages 51 – 52)

Local Government and Government Business

- 3.10 P-04-510 Public inquiry into the Breckman case in Carmarthenshire (Pages 53 – 56)

Evidence Session – Defibrillators (9.45 – 10.15)

4 P-04-471 Mandatory Welsh legislation to ensure Defibrillators in all public places (Pages 57 – 64)

Phil Hill, Petitioner

Mr Richard Lee, Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust

June Thomas, Local Defibrillator Campaigner

Evidence Session – Bus Services in Wales (10.15 – 10.45)

John Pockett, Confederation of Passenger Transport

5.1 P-04-475 Wanted – Buses for Meirionnydd (Page 74)

5.2 P-04-513 Save the Wrexham/Barmouth X94 bus service (Page 75)

5.3 P-04-515 Increase Funding for Welsh Bus Services (Page 76)

Agenda Item 2.1

P-04-541 Support for the Mentrau Iaith (Language Initiatives)

Petition wording:

We call on the Assembly to ask the Welsh Government:

to congratulate the Mentrau Iaith for their innovative work in promoting the use of the Welsh language across Wales;

to confirm that the Mentrau are a key partner for the Government in the context of implementing its Welsh-language strategy;

to provide a prompt response to Cardiff University's survey of the Mentrau's work, ensuring that the funding that is given to them is a fair reflection of the scale of the task that they face – while accepting that the amount of money that is available to them needs to be increased substantially;

to accept that there is a need for consistency between the Mentrau in terms of funding and that the current inconsistency needs to be addressed;

to fund Mentrau Iaith Cymru fairly, ensuring that it can play a full role in co-ordinating the work of the Mentrau and providing them with assistance and guidance;

to ensure that the Welsh-language standards compel Welsh local authorities to support the work of the Mentrau and to ensure that the authorities work closely with the Mentrau;

to play a full role in providing strategic guidance in the context of community planning.

Petition raised by: Heini Gruffudd

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 29 April 2014

Number of signatures: 1346

P-04-541 Support for the Mentrau Iaith – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee, 25.02.2014

Dear members of the Petitions Committee,

We are pleased to hear that you will be considering the *Support for the Mentrau Iaith (Language Initiatives)* petition at your next meeting on 29 April 2014. We very much hope that you'll be able to proceed further with the petition following this meeting.

Mentrau Iaith are community organisations that work for the benefit of the Welsh language in their local area, and they provide a wide range of Welsh medium activities and projects for people of all ages and from all backgrounds within Welsh communities. Cardiff University's report, commissioned by the Welsh Government, states that this work should continue and develop. The report also notes that Mentrau Iaith do not receive enough core funding to operate to their full potential. You can read the report here:

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/130130-adroddiad-y-mentrau-en.pdf>

Dyfodol i'r Iaith (A future for the language) decided to submit the petition to support the Mentrau following the survey of their work in order to call upon the Assembly to ask the Welsh Government to increase its support for the Mentrau, and to respond in a prompt and positive manner following this survey.

I was therefore very pleased to hear the First Minister stating his support for the Mentrau Iaith in several statements recently, and within the Assembly, stating that he considers them to be "powerful and valuable tools", and that he would like to "ensure that their work continues in the future". We now believe it is time for the First Minister and the Government to act to make a real difference to the future of the Mentrau and the Welsh language by investing in them.

We would be happy to discuss this further with you, and I'd be more than willing to come to one of your meetings in the near future to discuss how you as a Committee can help us to support the Mentrau Iaith for the benefit of the Welsh language in Wales.

All the best,

Heini Gruffudd

Agenda Item 2.2

P-04-542 Practical Opportunities for Young People

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to provide more opportunities for unemployed young people to undertake voluntary work to help them develop new skills, particularly skills that are more practical in nature.

Petition raised by: George Colville

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 29 April 2014

Number of signatures: 32

Agenda Item 2.3

P-04-543 No Increase to University Tuition Fees

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government not to increase tuition fees for Welsh students for a minimum of five years.

Petition raised by: A LEVEL STUDENTS / MYFYRWYR LEFEL A

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 29 April 2014

Number of signatures: 22

Agenda Item 2.4

P-04-544 Ban the Shooting of Greenland White-fronted Geese

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to reverse their decision not to ban the shooting of an endangered species, the Greenland White-fronted goose, meaning that Wales remains the only country on the flight path of this endangered species where they can still be legally shot and killed. Scientific evidence has shown that the species is extremely vulnerable to hunting pressures. In their consultation report, the Welsh Government also admit that failure to take appropriate steps to reduce as far as possible Greenland White-fronted geese adult mortality could be seen as a failure to meet conservation obligations. Unlike Scotland, Ireland, Iceland and Greenland there is no current ban on the shooting and killing of this endangered bird in Wales. A voluntary ban is in place on part of the Dyfi estuary in Wales but there is evidence that the geese also use other areas away from the estuary in mid and North Wales where no voluntary agreements are in place.

The population of these geese, as a whole, is declining and they have been of conservation concern since the late 1970s when sharp declines triggered protection from hunting on their wintering grounds. They receive heavy statutory protection. However, since the mid 1990s the population has again declined sharply. While WOS has acknowledged that long running voluntary bans on shooting are in place at some wetlands such as the Dyfi Estuary, it believes that nothing less than a statutory ban on shooting will ensure its protection. The society is concerned that any voluntary ban could be lifted at any time and that the current approach does not cover all the sites where this declining subspecies spends the winter.

Petition raised by: Aaron Davies

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 29 April 2014

Number of signatures: 240

Agenda Item 2.5

P-04-545 Aneurin Bevan Hospital Procedures

Petition wording:

We the undersigned call upon the Welsh Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to order a review into Aneurin Bevan LHB procedures regarding the following:

1. Discharging vulnerable patients late at night without hospital transport
2. The Virtual Inpatient Scheme
3. Aneurin Bevan LHB Complaints Procedures, especially when a patient is still in poor health or pain
4. Dealing with mental health patients in general hospitals

Petition raised by: Paul Ward

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 29 April 2014

Number of signatures: 20

Agenda Item 2.6

P-04-546 Rearing of Animals in Unnatural Conditions

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to prevent the rearing of animals in unnatural conditions and environments.

Man has interfered with our food chain too much for too long. If the government & supermarkets acted more responsibly and abandoned this cruel and absurd idea we would find our own levels naturally. This is all coming about for one reason mans greed.

Petition raised by: Jeanii Colbourne

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 29 April 2014

Number of signatures: 23

Agenda Item 2.7

P-04-547 Ban Polystyrene(EPS) Fast Food and Drinks Packaging

Petition wording:

The time has come to halt the sight of millions of polystyrene food and drinks cartons littering the beaches and countryside of Wales.

Polystyrene(EPS) is a major component of urban litter and marine debris. It is detrimental to wildlife that ingests it and costs millions for Welsh Councils to remove from our streets. Polystyrene takes hundreds of years to degrade.

Over 100 US (including New York),Canadian, and also European cities have banned polystyrene food packaging as a result of the negative impacts of the Environment. We hope that wales will have the vision to join that list.

Therefore, with so many alternatives to polystyrene(EPS) packaging now available which has significantly less impact on the environment and human health and also to save Welsh taxpayers millions of pounds in street cleansing costs we, the undersigned, request that the Welsh Government introduces a ban on all polystyrene fast food and drink packaging.

Petition raised by: Friends of Barry Beaches

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 29 April 2014

Number of signatures: 295

Agenda Item 2.8

P-04-548 The Reintroduction of Welsh Classes in Rennes University

Petition wording:

We are visitors from Brittany and we would like the National Assembly for Wales to discuss the reintroduction of Welsh classes in Rennes University.

Petition raised by: Cedric Choplin

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 29 April 2014

Number of signatures: 14



**UNIVERSITÉ
RENNES** ueb

UNIVERSITÉ RENNES 2
CAMPUS VILLEJEAN
Place du recteur
Henri Le Moal CS 24307
35043 Rennes cedex
France
T +33 (0)2 99 14 10 00
www.univ-rennes2.fr

Rennes, January 10, 2012

Mr. Prime Minister,

Teaching and studying Welsh has been present at the University of Rennes since the end of the nineteenth century, when Breton and Celtic Studies were established there by Joseph Loth.

In the 80s, with the setting up of a degree in Breton, thanks to the work of Per Denez, a Welsh language course came into being and the post of Welsh Tutor was created in cooperation with the Welsh Department of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth (now Aberystwyth University). Up to now, this partnership has meant that Aberystwyth University and the University of Rennes 2 have been able to jointly develop research, publish research and cooperate regarding teaching and educating. Welsh plays a prominent role in the provision of the Department of Breton & the Celtic Languages at our university, where teaching Irish is given similar attention. Our university is the only one in France which offers Welsh courses (including distance learning). As there is a disaffection amongst students for studying languages and as financial conditions are increasingly difficult, our university is compelling us to end the teaching of Welsh at Rennes 2 from September 2012. Such a closure would be very prejudicial to our department, without any doubt, but also to the place Wales and Brittany within France. The step would also be prejudicial to the exchanges and cooperation with the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies. We know that there are many strong links between the Welsh Government and the Regional Council of Brittany. We also know how much the President of our Regional Council, Jean-Yves Le Drian, is implicated in these connections.

We are also writing to you to ask you for some financial aid, so as to assure the continuation of the teaching of Welsh (degree and further degree). I would be very happy to provide you with any complementary information you would require. I could also come to Cardiff to meet you, or one of your representatives, so as to be able to better answer any questions you would like to ask.

Yours sincerely

Prof. Herve Le Bihan
Director of the Department of Breton and Celtic

Copie to :

M Jean-Emile Gombert, Président Université Rennes 2

M Jean-Yves Le Drian, Président Conseil Régional de Bretagne

CAMPUS LA HARPE
Avenue Charles Tillon
CS 24414
35044 Rennes cedex

CAMPUS MAZIER
2, Avenue Antoine Mazier
22015 St-Brieuc cedex 1

Y Gwir Anrh/Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AC/AM
Prif Weinidog Cymru/First Minister of Wales
Ein cyf/Our ref: FM/05045/12

Professor Herve Le Bihan

Herve.lebihan@uhb.fr

9 February 2012

Dear Herve,

I write in response to your email dated 11 January, in which you asked for funding in order to continue to provide a Welsh course at Roazhon University (Rennes).

As you know, the Welsh Government has committed to ensure that the Welsh language prospers. The Welsh Government wants to support the language, and to give Welsh citizens the opportunity to use either one of the two official languages of Wales. It will emphasise this in its new Welsh language strategy, "A Living Language: A Language for Living", which will be published in mid-February.

However, regarding your request, I am unable to find any funding for this course within the Welsh Government's budget lines. I am sure that you will appreciate the difficulty of the current climate. In such a climate, it is essential that we use our budget in an effective and efficient way in order to improve public services in Wales. Bearing that in mind, I am unable to commit the scarce resources that we have in Wales to fund a course at a higher education institution in France.

Although I realise that the University and the Regional Council of Brittany have strong links with Wales, higher education institutions are independent bodies and the funding of this course is a matter for the University to decide. I sincerely hope that the University can find another way of funding this course however the choice is theirs to make.

Yours sincerely,

CARWYN JONES

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Linell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Ffacs • Fax 029 2089 8198
Ps.firstminister@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Agenda Item 2.9

P-04-549 Make 'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau' the Official Welsh National Anthem

Petition wording:

January 2016 will mark the 150th anniversary of the composition of Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau by Evan and James James of Pontypridd. December 16th 2015 will be the centenary of Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau being used as Wales' anthem at sporting events. For the first time ever the players and crowd sang an anthem before an international match. This would become a staple tradition of international sporting events across the world. But it all started in the old Arms Park because Wales wanted to mitigate the infamous haka used by New Zealand. Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau became our battle cry and we won the game 3-0. Now, it is time to make this battle cry the official Welsh national anthem.

Petition raised by: Stuart Evans

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 29 April 2014

Number of signatures: 1012

Agenda Item 3.1

P-04-365 Protect buildings of note on the Mid Wales Hospital site

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to list or otherwise protect buildings of note on the former Mid Wales Hospital site. Unlisted but in the Conservation Area they are an invaluable part of the architectural and social heritage of Talgarth.

Petition raised by: John Tushingam

Date petition first considered by Committee: 28 February 2012

Number of signatures: 206

Supporting information: The Brecon and Radnor County Asylum had a Grand Opening in 1903. The souvenir booklet describes how ' thousands of people were present and every nook and corner of the huge building was inspected.' Altogether the establishment was a wonder of its time. It is now in an appalling state of decay but this important example of an early Edwardian asylum of the compact arrow echelon style, designed by Giles, Gough and Trollope, noted by Pevsner and on SAVE Britain's' Heritage, Buildings at Risk register, is thoroughly worthy of conservation. Situated approximately half a mile from Talgarth in outstandingly beautiful countryside within the Brecon Beacons National Park, and Talgarth Conservation Area, it has a special relationship with Talgarth. Loss of any of the original/notable buildings would be an unacceptable loss of Talgarth's heritage assets.



Le i enaid gael llonydd
One of Britain's breathing spaces

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

9th April 2014

Dear Mr Powell,

Former Mid Wales Hospital Draft Local List

Thank you for your letter regarding the above received in this office on 21st March 2014.

The National Park Authority did not consider the proposed Local List for the Former Mid Wales Hospital on 7th February 2014 and at the present time I am not in a position to confirm a date when it will be considered by the Authority.

I trust this updates the Petitions Committee on the current situation.

Yours sincerely

Tracy Nettleton
Planning and Heritage Manager



Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog

Plas y Ffynnon, Ffordd Cambrian, Aberhonddu, Powys, LD3 7HP

Ffôn: (01874) 624437 Ffacs: (01874) 622574

E-bost: [ymholiadau@bannaubrycheiniog.org](mailto:yhmoliadau@bannaubrycheiniog.org)

Safle ar y we: www.bannaubrycheiniog.org

Mae'r Awdurdod yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn yr Iaith Gymraeg neu'n Saesneg

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Plas y Ffynnon, Cambrian Way, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7HP

Telephone: (01874) 624437 Fax: (01874) 622574

E-mail: enquiries@breconbeacons.org

Website: www.breconbeacons.org

The Authority welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English

**P-04-365 Protect buildings of note on the Mid Wales Hospital site –
Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Clerking, 15.04.2014**

Dear Kayleigh

My sincere thanks to the committee for staying the course with this one.

I received a similar response from the BBNP myself recently. Yet again the subject of the Mid Wales Hospital appears to have disappeared down a rabbit hole without any proper explanation. Fortunately, like the committee seemingly, patience is something I have in abundance so I am going to keep an eye on the agendas for meetings of the BBNPA and wait for it to reappear – maybe then it will be clear why it has been deferred and why Ms Nettleton is unable or unwilling to provide an explanation at this time.

All the best

John

Agenda Item 3.2

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

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-519
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/00287/14

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

18 March 2014

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 26 February which seeks further comment on additional points raised by petitioners regarding the abolition of park home sales commission.

Currently the 10% commission rate is often paid by the vendor to the site owner, but the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 clarifies the process by setting out that the buyer will be required to pay 10% of the purchase price in commission to the site owner and the remaining 90% to the vendor.

The petitioners also ask for clarification on the implication that site owners are free to increase the pitch fee at their own discretion. The petitioners are correct that the 2013 Act has changed the rate of increase for pitch fees from RPI to CPI. New regulations which set out the new procedure for undertaking pitch fee reviews require site owners to consult with their residents providing a breakdown of the proposed increase. These regulations are currently being consulted upon and can be found at the following link - <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/housing-and-regeneration/?lang=en>.

The Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 made changes to the list of factors that regard is to be had to when determining the amount of a new pitch fee. The list of factors states that other relevant factors can be taken into account, including any change in the amount of commission. As I have stated previously there is evidence to suggest that a reduction in the commission rate will lead to an increase in the pitch fees.

Finally the Petitions Committee have asked me to address the claim made by the petitioners that the current commission rate provides a perverse incentive for site owners to try to force occupiers to sell their property to increase the amount of commission they receive from sales. Harassment and intimidation of site residents has always been, and remains, unlawful. Residents cannot be evicted from their property without a court order and cannot be forced to sell their property. The new law provides greater protection for residents against intimidation from site managers and introduces a 'fit and proper person test' to help prevent unscrupulous or dishonest individuals from operating within the industry. Local authorities have also been given greater powers to enforce licence conditions and can impose fixed penalty notices and compliance notices for breaches of site licence conditions including a level 5 fine (an unlimited fine) if found guilty of harassing or unlawfully evicting a resident. Therefore I do not think that there is an incentive for forcing occupiers to sell their homes.



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

P-04-519 Abolition of Park Homes Sales Commission - Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Clerking Team, 02.04.14.

Dear Ms. Thomas,

I am forwarding this e.mail to you for Mr. Powells' and the Petition Committee's perusal, I think it may help our case. I presume that our petition will not now be considered until after the 29th April. It would be a sorry state if we lag behind England again as we did on the new Park Home legislation, why should Wales lag behind? Why can't we lead?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards
Sue Richardson
Secretary, Caerwnon Park Residents Association

The Park Home Owners JUSTICE Campaign

Dear Campaign Member

[LATEST UPDATE ON OUR PETITION FOR
A "DEBATE TO REVIEW THE 10% COMMISSION CHARGE"](#)

It's confirmed.

Our Petition is going to Downing Street.

We are rallying in London

and after the rally

*we have again been afforded a Committee Room in the Palace of
Westminster*

for a one and a half hour meeting.

At that meeting residents will hopefully be able to put forward their opinion on

the 10% Commission Charge

and Peers, Ministers, Shadow Ministers and MP's will be invited to attend.

[It does not get better than that and we are on our way again.](#)

Firstly, may I say a big thank you to all members of our Justice Campaign. You have done a brilliant job. Your signed petitions have and still continue to arrive every day and you have also supplied me with the answers and pictorial evidence needed to help build the statistical material that MP's can use to debate our campaign.

Thanks must also go to Lord Graham of Edmonton for his valued support. My excellent MP, Annette Brooke OBE who is bidding weekly for an "Adjournment Debate" to get MP's talking about our campaign and who has agreed to accompany us to Downing Street and has secured a Committee Room in the Palace of Westminster for our meeting. The many other MP's and MEP's who have also offered support and the Advisory Services IPHAS and NAPHR along with the JBS Residents Alliance who have all supported us by informing their members of our petition.

Sadly and although I did not make a lot of it, many of you have contacted me after realising and hearing stories that the Industry have brought pressure to bear in such a way that it could only be seen as an attempt to hinder our campaign's effort to bring our petition to the attention of all the Park Home Residents in our country.

This action, although one that was clearly designed to hinder the democratic right of the park home owner to petition and peacefully protest, has, I believe been done out of fear. It was an effort to prevent our campaign's petition from reaching every park home owner in the residential and holiday sector. Personally, I believe the reason for this can only be:

The Site Owners have and want to continue to enjoy this unearned commission bonus at our expense – and I believe they are rightly concerned that we – the Park Home Owners – are collectively using our voice and that our Justice Campaign will help to bring about the further justice and fairness that is sorely needed in this Industry.

Well, they are right to be concerned because site owners have had it their way for far too long. They take our equity. They benefit from the improvements that we make to our homes. They pocket much of the equity from our homes that is needed if we have to go into care and they receive this unearned bonus every time the home is sold, in-short they make us feel trapped because we can only buy something inferior to what we have if we wish to move on.

However, I can report that their efforts to thwart our campaign have not succeeded because we have done what we set out to do. Literally thousands of park home residents from every part of our country have signed our petition and this is something that cannot be ignored. These signatures will send a very clear message to all Parliamentarians in this run up to the election year and I am pleased to be able to tell you that we are now on the second leg of our journey.

ON WEDNESDAY 2nd JULY 2014 OUR PETITION WILL BE PRESENTED TO DOWNING STREET AT 2.30PM.

A RALLY OF PARK HOME RESIDENTS is being arranged in London on that day and following the Rally and the presentation of the Petition to Downing Street, a Committee Room in the Palace of Westminster has now been booked to allow an important meeting to take place for all those residents who will be attending the rally. The meeting will last for one hour and a half. The agenda will be "our petition for a Debate to Review the 10% Commission Charge" and Ministers, Shadow Ministers and MP's will be invited to attend.

About 200 residents rallied in London with their wonderful banners when we successfully petitioned to stop "Sale Blocking" and I hope that an even larger number of park home residents will attend this rally – because strength in numbers is the only way that we can show those in power that we want them to act and give us a proper Parliamentary Debate to Review this 10% Commission Charge.

The TV, Radio and Press will be informed and I hope that we will get good coverage on the day.

Full details of the days events, times, parking for coaches and directions etc., will be sent to all those who wish to attend the Park Home Owners JUSTICE Campaign Rally on Wednesday 2nd July 2014.

I appreciate that before deciding if you can attend you will want to know the time that you need to assemble in London. The assembly point will be in a designated area at 12.30pm. This will most probably be "Old Palace Yard" near the green in front of the Palace of Westminster where we will rally with our banners for approximately one hour and hopefully gain TV, Radio and Media coverage. There are plenty of wooden benches in this area, so those who wish to sit down may easily do so.

There will be various events during the rally. We will walk (at a steady pace) with our banners to the Downing Street enclosure for the presentation of our petition. Then we will return to the Palace of Westminster, go through airport style security before being directed to the impressive Committee Room for our meeting that will begin at 4pm and end at 5.30pm. This timing should allow us all to get the early evening transport to our respective homes – or go back to our respective coaches or mini buses. I believe that coaches will be able to park on the embankment – but I will check this and add it to the details that will be sent to all those who are attending our Rally.

This is your opportunity to have a memorable and unforgettable day out – but more importantly, your opportunity to come to Westminster and let all Members of Parliament know that you want a "Debate to Review the 10% Commission Charge." In short, this will be something that you can tell to your grandchildren about.

As you will appreciate, there is a lot of organising to do, so may I ask if you would please let me know BY EMAIL as soon as possible if you, or a party from your park will be attending (please give me approximate numbers.) I will then confirm everything with you and send the full details that you will need.

May I also ask if you would please do as you did at our last rally – and bring your own banners. If possible, could you please include the name of your County on your banner as it shows the TV News Reporters and the media that our campaign is one that is supported nationwide.

As a footnote, may I say, we have all worked so hard to get this far and whilst many rallies go to London. Few are given the opportunity to have one and a half hour meetings in the Palace of Westminster with Peers, Ministers and MP's in attendance. However, our Justice Campaign has always handled itself in a respectful and dignified way and the doors have again been opened for us by the people who have the power to change things. So lets make a big effort to get a large number of park home residents to peacefully rally in London and attend this special meeting.

We now have 200% more signatures than we had when we successfully petitioned to stop "Sale Blocking" (which is amazing) and I am going to close the petition on **Sunday 8th June 2014** as all the signed petitions (except for a token box that will be delivered to Downing Street) will have to be delivered to London with the online petition before the 2nd July.

Therefore we have just ten weeks to gather as many petitions as we can. To this end I have attached a Petition Form and would ask you to please give our campaign one last push and use it to gather as many signatures as you can before sending it back to me by Saturday 7th June. And please do not forget that you and your family and friends can also sign the online petition at:

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/54396>

Also, you will all be aware that I do not charge for membership of our campaign – but sadly everything has a cost. Most things I manage to deal with, but there is one major cost to

cover that is more difficult. That is the cost of sending thousands of your signed petitions, properly boxed to an official address in London by courier. Therefore, may I please ask if there is anyone out there who could help the campaign by collecting me and the boxed petitions from Dorset and taking us to a delivery address in London? – if there is, would you please contact me by telephone or email.

SOME MORE NEWS FOR YOU

AN IMPORTANT DECISION FROM THE FIRST LANDS TRIBUNAL CASE.

It rules that Site Owners cannot charge for "ADMINISTRATION" including meter reading and issuing invoices that cannot be made in respect of ELECTRICITY OR GAS SUPPLY unless there is an express term in the Written Statement saying an administration charge for this can be levied.

PLEASE GO TO OUR CAMPAIGN WEB SITE (STOP PRESS NEWS) TO READ THE FULL FACTS.

www.parkhomeownersjusticecampaign.co.uk

COWBOY TRADERS

I have received complaints from residents about a trader who is advertising in a glossy magazine. Apparently, the refurbishment and maintenance work that has been done to park homes is not up to the expected standard and the residents who have contacted me are concerned that elderly or vulnerable park home residents could fall foul of this type of advertisement and receive shoddy workmanship. Whilst I cannot name names, I share the concern of those who have contacted me and can only recommend that if you are looking to have maintenance done on your park home. Get a quote from a reputable well known company who will give you a guarantee. Be very wary. Do not be taken in by big advertisements – or even a trader's membership to what you might consider to be reputable organisations. Do talk to neighbours, family and friends and if possible use traders who are recommended by your family, friends and neighbours – or whose work you have seen.

Once again. Thank you all for the work that you have done. Please gather some more signatures from your friends and family on the attached petition form and I hope to hear from you soon with the message that you will be able to attend our rally and we can all meet in London on the 2nd July 2014.

Best Wishes

Sonia.

Sonia McColl

Park Home Owners JUSTICE Campaign

**P-04-519 Abolition of Park Homes Sales Commission - Correspondence
from the Petitioner to the Clerking Team, 21.04.2014**

Dear Kayleigh,

Many thanks for your e.mail dated 15th April 2014.

We have read a copy of the letter that Carl Sargeant sent to you dated 18th March 2014 and we are still of the opinion that the 10% commission should be scrapped. By his own admission the proposed legislation is ambiguous to say the least, as far as the increases in pitch fees are concerned, this is an ambiguity that must not take place.

The park owners that this legislation is being brought in to rid the industry of will be rubbing their hands with glee. The legislation should be fair but strong and these loopholes must be omitted otherwise we will be back to where we started.

We will be replying to the draft legislation sent to us by Carl Sargeant and we will be pointing out our concerns. We just hope that the exercise is not a charade and that he takes our views in to consideration.

Yours sincerely

R.G. Mountford

Chairman Caerwnon Park Residents Association

Agenda Item 3.3

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

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to fund the Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service in Wales to the same degree as the Adult Eating Disorder Service in Wales.

It has come to my attention that there is a disparity in funding between Adult Services and Child and Adolescent Services as regards funding for Eating Disorder Treatment. At the present time Adult Eating Disorder Services receive £1 million per year from the Welsh Assembly, as well as 4 specialist trained provider groups.

Sadly research points to the fact that Eating Disorders, especially Anorexia Nervosa, are predominantly first experienced around puberty. Historically puberty was around 12-15, however, puberty is becoming younger and therefore statistics are beginning to show the prevalence of Anorexia Nervosa starting at younger ages is apparent. Bulimia Nervosa is generally a disease with an onset age of 18-25, however as with Anorexia this may differ from person to person. The fact that in both disorders, and indeed all diagnosable Eating Disorders, early intervention is the key to a quick recovery, therefore preventing long term financial implications for the WAG, makes this plea more pertinent.

I therefore implore the Assembly to consider this a priority for debate and to mend this disparity by giving equal finances and services to the Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder service in Wales as already given to Adult EDS.'

Petition raised by: Helen Missen

Date petition first considered by Committee: 17 July 2012

Number of signatures: 246

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-04-408
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/03563/13

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

6 January 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 6 December 2013 regarding the Petitions Committee consideration of Eating Disorder (ED) services for children and young people.

I would be pleased to provide you with an update on the impact of my recent announcement to invest £250,000 additional funding annually into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. I have been clear that my intention is that this investment should not only improve ED services, but should also bring wider benefits for children and young people suffering the range of complex disorders which require specialist treatment.

Clearly services will not improve overnight, and it will take time to recruit the necessary specialist staff and provide the training to other staff to enable them to be competent in dealing with complex disorders such as ED. My officials are working with the Health Boards and Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee on the implementation plan at present. I will therefore provide you with a further update in early 2015 which should coincide with the first 12 months of the new service being operational.

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

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: Mark.Drakeford@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%) **Back Page 29**

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P-04-408 Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Chair, 19.12.13.

Dear Mr Powell

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition and giving me the opportunity to respond to the Health Minister, Mark Drakeford's comments on the 8th October.

I have a couple of points that I would like considered, and would feel happier if we could somehow keep the pressure on the Health Minister regarding the provision of equal, if not more funding for CAMHS Eating Disorder services in Wales, which as you probably remember, was the original plea.

I do think that asking Mr Drakeford for a review into how the promised £250,000 for South Wales has been used in a years' time will be interesting in its results. However, I still believe that he has made an error in his oversight of not providing funding for Mid and North Wales CAMHS eating disorder services.

A debate in the Senedd might be a way forward, but not knowing if this is even feasible, I am in your hands as to the pressure that is applied.

I am resending the questions that were pressing following the hearing on the 8th October, they are as follow:

Following the evidence session we (Dr Robin Glaze, Susannah Humphrey and myself) had a couple of questions that we wondered if the committee might consider:

1) We wondered if at some point Mark Drakeford could clarify how he is going to use the £250,000 for South Wales. In our calculations this may not even cover the annual costs of employing 3 or 4 team members, let alone the new state of the art unit he alluded to.

In our calculations: Psychiatrist pay: £90– £100,000

Psychologist pay:£50–£80,000

Dietician pay. : £35–£40,000

Rough estimate: £175,000. Which doesn't leave much for the other costs, for example he mentioned going into schools, plus clinics which have overhead costs.

2) The tier 4 unit is obviously further funding, he spoke of the repatriation of children that have cost Wales £1.9 million in funding across the border to England. These children will still cost almost the same amount if funded by Wales, which does not seem to equate to the £250,000.

3) Clearly he has not taken into account the vital role that Beat Cymru play in Wales, and had not realised that the funding finishes in March 2014. At the moment Beat Cymru are a satellite of the larger charity based in England who subsidise all the leaflets, translate them and keep the master copies. Would there be funding for them (this does not come under the original petition).

4) Please would Mark Drakeford redress the issue of Mid and North Wales? The services in both Mid and North Wales need extra funding and this should not be forgotten.

I would like to also highlight the findings below, that were released this week by the Auditor General and the Health Inspectorate of Wales after a review into CAMHS in Wales. Although this is a review of the general state of CAMHS and admissions in Wales, it is obvious that Eating Disorders would be high on the list of needing an overview and funding, especially as they remain the mental illnesses with the highest mortality rate.

The Auditor General for Wales, Huw Vaughan Thomas said today:

“Despite the steps taken to address the safety concerns raised in the 2009 report, children and young people continue to be put at risk. The Welsh Government therefore needs to take a stronger grip to ensure that health boards are designing and delivering services which protect children and young people and minimise the risks to them”

Chief Executive for Health Inspectorate Wales, Kate Chamberlain said today:

“The problems with delivering safe mental health services for children and young people identified in 2009 still remain, and there are considerable challenges for Health Boards to address in developing services and changing professional practices on the ground. Health Inspectorate Wales will continue to monitor progress being made across Wales in improving the effectiveness and safety of services delivered to children and young people”

The Framework for Eating Disorders was published in 2009, and would in likelihood have been reviewed as part of this audit. Whether reviewed or not, the findings highlight that children and adolescents with mental health illnesses, including Eating Disorders, are still being woefully and dangerously, let down.

Thank you once again for your continued support of this petition. I remain hopeful that the outcome will benefit the whole of Wales and that children and adolescents affected by Eating Disorders will be high on the priority list of Mr Drakeford.

Yours sincerely

Helen Missen

Dear Mr Powell

Further to my letter last night I would like to add the following points for consideration:

I wonder if we could ask the Minister to confirm that the money (the promised £250,000) will be directly spent on Eating Disorder care. How will he ensure that the money won't be used to prop up the inpatient service. Please would he respond to how he envisages the hub, spoke assessment and treatment service would work practically because poorly adolescents would need seeing at least 2-3 times a week in each area, clearly requiring a huge specialist service and thus unworkable.

Please could he clarify the measures he will put in place to ensure that specialist community ED services will also be available in North Powys and North Wales.

Finally if the minister could confirm how many ED cases were really treated out of area because I think the South Wales units prioritise ED cases so his numbers seem way too high.

Thank you and I apologise for the 'add on'.

Helen Missen

P-04-408 Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Clerking Team, 27.03.14.

Dear Stephen

Thank you for the conversation that we had this morning regarding the petition that was heard in October last year.

As it stands at the moment, I believe that the petition committee has decided to let the matter lie for a year, as of November 2013. I would very much like to bring this forward if at all possible, and wondered if you might take this thought to the petitions committee?

Further to, and in addition to our email exchange in December 2013, it might be prudent to add some developments to my plea.

On 18th March 2014 during question time to the First Minister, the matter of CAMHS provision both from a staffing perspective, as well as a financial lack was raised by Kirsty Williams AM, leader of Liberal Democrat party.

I would echo her concerns regarding the lack of staffing and shortcomings in the CAMHS services, but more importantly I would like clarification of the 'quarter of a million pound provision recently given by the Health Minister' that was alluded to by both herself and then the First Minister in his response.

When I attended, and presented to the committee in October, Mark Drakeford had promised £250,000 for CAMHS Eating Disorder Services in South Wales just the day before.

Has this now been extended to provision within CAMHS as a general area, or is it still safeguarded for CAMHS Eating Disorder Services?

I would also like to remind the petition committee that the original petition was for equal, if not more financial provision to that given to Adult Eating Disorder Services across Wales. As yet this has not been provided. I still stand by the fact that early intervention in eating disorders is paramount to a good recovery and prognosis; a fact backed up by countless research papers. Eating Disorders (especially Anorexia Nervosa) remains the highest mortality rate of any mental health diagnosis. Eating Disorders, especially Anorexia Nervosa, are generally first found/diagnosed around puberty adding to the urgency of my appeal.

The North-South divide within Wales was never clearer than on the 8th October 2013 when Mark Drakeford failed in the provision of equal funding across Wales. This is given for Adult Eating Disorder Services equally across Wales on a yearly

basis. Children across Wales with Eating Disorders are being failed by the services provided. I am concerned that without a tragedy, nothing will be done.

The longer an eating disorder is left without specialised intervention, the longer the time to recovery. The longer the time to recovery, the more it costs the Minister for Health in caring for these patients.

His triumphant statement for providing a state of the art facility for children with eating disorders to be repatriated from England, will be full and overflowing before it is built!

To provide assistance prior to inpatient care is financially more viable. Whilst I agree there should be an inpatient provider for the critically ill, I would love to see those funds being channelled into early intervention provided by specialist teams, as is in place for adult services.

Thank you once again for your continued support in this matter. I look forward to the petition committee supporting me by adding pressure over this matter to Mark Drakeford.

(I am not a politician, and have no place in giving my thoughts; however at an educated guess I feel it would take a brave person or indeed party, to charge even a fraction of England's prescription fee to provide the funds so badly needed across Wales, perhaps this would be a way forward?)

Yours sincerely

Helen Missen

P-04-505 Eating Disorder Unit in Wales

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to inform the Welsh Government of the urgency and necessity to provide a specialist eating disorder unit in Wales.

Additional Information:

We would like to see a specialist eating disorder unit built in Wales to reduce the stress and disruption of traveling so far from family and friends by having to go to England to receive treatment. In 2007 the government acknowledged that there was no specialist treatment in Wales and that this needed to change, yet 5 years on we are still waiting for that change. I know from personal experience how hard it is to be in hospital so far away from home and believe that an eating disorder unit in Wales would make the process of treatment and recovery easier for Welsh sufferers.

Petition raised by: Keira Marlow

Date petition first considered by Committee: 8 October 2013

Number of signatures: 526

Agenda Item 3.5

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

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-04-456
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/01315/14

William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

7 April 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 25 March, in which you raise concerns, on behalf of Mrs Helen Jones, regarding the consultation process on the revised National Framework for Continuing NHS Healthcare (CHC).

Further to our correspondence in August last year, I formally notified the Petitions Committee, the Health and Social Care Committee and opposition party leaders on 13 December of the launch of the consultation process on the CHC Framework. However, my officials did not contact the Clerk of the Petitions Committee and Mrs Jones was not therefore personally involved in the consultation process. Although the formal process of consultation has concluded, my officials would be happy to meet with Mrs Jones so her views can be considered and inform the revised Framework. Should Mrs Jones be willing to meet, I would be grateful if your committee clerk could provide Mrs Jones' contact details to my official, Lynda Chandler at ChandlerL@Wales.GSI.Gov.uk. I have also asked my officials to contact Mrs Jones to apologise.

The three regional events were held in Carmarthen, Cardiff and North Wales during February. Invitations to these events were only extended to practitioners of CHC within Local Health Boards and Local Authorities, as the events were designed to explore the practicalities of implementing the proposed revisions to the Framework.

My officials have been working closely with health professionals, user groups, the Wales Audit Office and the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales to inform the development of the revised Framework. The consultation exercise launched through the Welsh Government website was well-publicised and has been the process for wider engagement with stakeholders and the public. My officials also wrote to Health Boards, Local Authorities and third and independent sector organisations. These included the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, the Welsh Local Government Association, Care Forum Wales, the Welsh NHS Confederation and Community Health Councils.

My officials also made the Task and Finish Groups involved in the development of the revised Framework aware of the consultation exercise. These Task and Finish Groups included representation from third sector groups, such as the Alzheimer's society. Officials separately contacted Carers Wales, MIND Cymru, Stonewall Cymru, Disability Wales, Race Equality Wales, Learning Disability Wales and the Over-50s Forum Co-ordinators. Many of these and other organisations publicised and provided details of the consultation to their own stakeholders.

The testing of the new Decision Support Tool (DST) has taken place in Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and Hywel Dda University Health Board. Early indications are that the use of the English version of the DST will improve the quality and consistency of the evidence used to determine eligibility but is unlikely to significantly change the outcome. This will continue to be monitored as the new Framework is implemented.

We have received more than 50 responses, from health, local authority and the third sector, as well as members of the public as part of the formal consultation period. In addition to this there have been a number of informal meetings and other discussions, all feedback is being used to inform the development of the revised Framework. My officials are in the process of reviewing the responses and we plan to issue the revised Framework by the end of June 2014.

Best wishes

Mark.

Mark Drakeford AC / AM

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

P-04-456 Dementia – This Could Happen to you – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Clerking Team, 18.04.2014

Hi Kayleigh,

Thank you for this. Sorry I've not been back to you. I was of course aware of the email but I was staying down in Devon for a week.

Yes, I'm happy for the clerking team to liaise with the Ministers officials on my behalf.

The award winning voluntary advocate for the Alzheimers Society Mr. Tony Alexander who was presented with his award at the Senedd last year has expressed an interest in accompanying me to a meeting with Mark Drakeford and so perhaps whoever makes contact with his officials would bear that in mind.

I would like to be there in the viewing gallery on the morning of the 29th, which is of course the day after the Easter break, and if you get this in time Kayleigh perhaps you'd be kind enough to inform reception.

Kind regards,

Helen

Agenda Item 3.6

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.

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-04-494
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/00860/14

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

5 March 2014

Dear William

Thank you for your letter regarding Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB) being allocated funding from the Health Technologies Fund for a robotic surgery system at the University Hospital of Wales for treatment for prostate problems.

You have asked about ensuring equal access to treatment across Wales. Currently patients in South Wales do not have access to robot assisted minimally invasive surgery. This contrasts to the position in North Wales where patients travel to Manchester for robot assisted surgery where it has been commissioned at the Christie Hospital.

Cardiff & Vale UHB proposed the development of a central service across South Wales based on draft National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines and evidence from the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) which set out a minimum of 150 cases per annum.

Cardiff & Vale UHB is in the process of procuring the first robot for the treatment of prostate cancer and establishing a regional service, which draws in activity and consultant support from the South Wales region, particularly from Abertawe Bro Morgannwg and Aneurin Bevan UHBs. As such, the proposed development would ensure that there is no inequity in access to this specialist service in Wales.

Best wishes

Mark

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

P-04-494 Robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy must be made available to men in Wales now – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Clerking Team, 05.03.2014

Dear Kayleigh,

Thank you for the response to the petition.

Please can you convey the following to Mr Powell.

I can confirm that I have now had a chance to relay the response to the very many interested parties within Wales. To say that we are extremely disappointed but completely unsurprised is an understatement. The FACT that men in England can access over 40 robotic NHS (free of charge) centres for early prostatic cancer surgery is unequivocal. They have a patient choice to do so.

The FACT that no men in Wales have such a choice is damning. The FACT that Welsh men are paying anything from £13,000 for this service in English NHS centres is an indictment on the Welsh system. We are not talking about a rare condition here. The FACT is that it is very common and to potentially minimise the risk of impotence, incontinence and depression is surely in the best interests of the patient, their family and society in terms of personal, social and employment relationships.

I could of course go on but I have written to the current health minister and indeed his predecessor with the detail of the situation. The FACT is that I have only ever received terse and obtuse answers from staff and NEVER from the minister to whom I addressed the papers. Another member of group has though received a response from the First Minister which was equally disappointing and dismissive. The one centre which will in time come to Cardiff will not be enough to treat all of the men in Wales who could benefit but it is a start. That said the way in which the disparate components of health delivery operate in Wales will probably mean inter health board payment constraints which will of course further impair the patient choice.

Kind regards Kevin

Professor K Davies MBE, RRC, TD

PhD, MA, RN, PGCE

Agenda Item 3.7

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

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-04-527
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/00625/14

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

19 February 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 31 January regarding the petition from Porthcawl First about establishing a Cancer Drugs Fund funded by prescription levy. The Welsh Government has no plans to introduce a Cancer Drugs Fund. This decision is based upon the view that the NHS Wales must be an equitable health system and that treatment decisions must be based on evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness. A Cancer Drugs Fund, such as the one run in England, would unfairly disadvantage many patients with serious conditions other than cancer and it is not supported by all clinicians or the general public when presented with balanced information. Our commitment in Wales is to provide evidence based, cost-effective treatments to everyone, rather than give preference to one set of patients.

In Wales we have our own medicines appraisal system (the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) which determines whether a medicine is cost-effective and should be made routinely available to patients in Wales, often before NICE complete their appraisal process.

Even where medicines have not been approved by NICE or the AWMSG, there is no blanket ban on availability and these non-approved treatments can still be funded if the patient meets the necessary criteria set out in the individual patient funding request (IPFR) process. In 2012-13 more than 210 of the IPFR requests were approved

The Welsh Government Cancer Delivery Plan focuses on what makes a difference and it covers the whole spectrum from prevention, early detection, through to treatment and sadly for those at the end of their lives – palliative care services.

Our free prescriptions policy is a key element of an equitable health service in Wales. One of our biggest challenges is improving the health of all Welsh citizens and treating major life threatening conditions like diabetes and heart failure as early as possible to stabilise the condition and prevent complications. Research tells us that many people with these conditions were unable to afford the medication they needed to manage their chronic health conditions before the prescription charge was abolished in Wales. It is not our intention to change the current arrangement. A levy of £1 per prescription item for the 74 million items dispensed in Wales last year would mean that some of our most disadvantaged and elderly patients would have to pay more than £8 a month (for 8 items at £1 per item) to pick up their regular, prescribed medication. This would simply not be fair and the associated administrative burden of re-introducing a system to collect and account for the monies would also present a significant challenge.

Our evidence based approach to accessing new medicines is a logical one and we believe it is the fairest way to use the resources available to Wales. The free prescription policy has not contributed to our decision not to establish a cancer drug fund in Wales; rather it is an extension of our commitment to ensuring all patients can access the medicines they need.

Best wishes

Mark

Mark Drakeford AC / AM

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

William Powell, AM

Chair – Petitions Committee

National Assembly for Wales

Pierhead Street

Cardiff, CF99 1NA

14th March 2014

Dear *William,*

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the petition from Porthcawl First on a Special Cancer Drug Fund in Wales (P-04-527).

The difficulties faced by patients across the UK in gaining access to modern medicines is a longstanding problem, leading to political debate and media articles, which often cite challenging personal testimonials. We have nothing but sympathy for the individual circumstances being experienced by Ms. Margetson and others.

In 2013, analysis from the Office of Health Economics (OHE)¹ confirmed that the UK lags behind comparable countries in terms of use of branded medicines. This followed on from The International Variations in Drug Usage Report² which, worryingly, showed that for patients suffering from a range of conditions, including cancer, the UK had fallen behind most countries with similar economies and health systems.

The work of the International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership³ has shown the contribution to improving survival rates that high quality treatment for patients with advanced forms of lung, breast and ovarian cancer can make. Many of the cancers with the highest survival rates are also those characterised by significant improvements in treatment on recent years. News that prostate cancer mortality rates have declined by 20 per cent over the past two decades shows what can be achieved. But for every breast cancer, prostate cancer or lymphoma, there is a lung, pancreatic or oesophageal cancer, where outcomes remain stubbornly poor.

The comparison with outcomes in other countries also indicates how far we have to go if we are to achieve the aspiration of having the best cancer outcomes in the world.

The Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) in England has been highly effective in allowing tens of thousands of NHS patients to benefit from innovative new cancer medicines that they otherwise would not have been able to receive. However, whilst the ABPI welcomed its announcement and the associated improvement in access to a range of cancer medicines in England, the existence of the Fund is indicative of the challenge in ensuring that current UK health technology assessment (HTA) methods and processes are able to work effectively for cancer and other specialist medicines. The ABPI

¹ OHE analysis for the ABPI, Benchmarking the uptake of new medicines in the UK – international perspective, 2013

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/extent-and-causes-of-international-variations-in-drug-usage>

³ <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-info/spotcancerearly/ICBP/>



believes that the CDF in England should continue until such time as HTA evaluation processes are reformed to better encourage and reward innovation, and are shown to be appropriate for the evaluation of cancer medicines.

In Wales, the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) appraises all new medicines for which no National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance is expected for at least 12 months from the date of submission (i.e. normally 6 months from AWMSG appraisal and the anticipated date of NICE final advice). This comprehensive and compulsory use of HTA introduces significant challenges for clinicians, patients and the pharmaceutical industry, especially;

- when the evidence-base needed for HTA appraisal may be limited e.g. treatments for ultra-orphan, orphan diseases and small applicable populations in Wales
- if the appropriateness of HTA methodology is not suitable or aligned to the disease area in question, such as cancer treatments or end of life / palliative care, and
- in advance of either a NICE or AWMSG published guidance and implementation

In Scotland and England, the current limitations of HTA are recognised with additional and alternate methods of funding (such as the CDF, Routine Commissioning Lists, Specialised Commissioning, Baseline Commissioning, Medicine's Fund (for rare disease), etc.) providing alternative national routes to funding and fair patient access to innovative treatments when supported by clinical opinion.

Until very recently, in Wales, the only alternative route to funding a medicine not approved by AWMSG or NICE was for clinicians to progress their patients through an Individual Patent Funding Request (IPFR). These are deemed time consuming and bureaucratic by patients and clinicians alike, and require evidence of patient "exceptionality" which excludes some individual patients and disqualifies multiple applications, as would be expected for a clinically effective new cancer medicine. Concerns relating to the IPFR process have led the Minister for Health and Social Services to ask for a Review to be undertaken, which is due to report back to him by the end of March, 2014.

However, and whilst this review of process is on-going, AWMSG has agreed that if a new medicine – regardless of the disease area – is not recommended for use by NICE on the grounds of cost-effectiveness, an opportunity should be extended to the pharmaceutical company concerned engage subsequently for further HTA re-assessment by AWMSG, who will be able to consider the evidence base in relation to the specific Wales context. However it remains unclear and untested as to whether this additional re-assessment will overcome the current limitations with the HTA process and improve the range of medicines routinely funded.

The Committee may wish to gain further evidence from the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group on its agreed change of process to inform its response to the petition.

I hope that the above is useful to the Committee in its consideration of (P-04-527) Campaign for a Special Cancer Drug Fund in Wales. Naturally, if we can provide any further information or clarification we would be very happy to do so.

Regards

Dr Richard Greville
Director – ABPI Cymru Wales



Note:

Who We Are:

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) represents innovative research-based biopharmaceutical companies, large, medium and small, leading an exciting new era of biosciences in the UK.

Our industry, a major contributor to the economy of the UK, brings life-saving and life-enhancing medicines to patients. Our members supply 90 per cent of all medicines used by the NHS, and are researching and developing over two-thirds of the current medicines pipeline, ensuring that the UK remains at the forefront of helping patients prevent and overcome diseases.

The ABPI is recognised by government as the industry body negotiating on behalf of the branded pharmaceutical industry for statutory consultation requirements including the pricing scheme for medicines in the UK.

ABPI Cymru Wales was established in 2003 in recognition of the evolving distinctiveness of the health agenda in Wales. We enable the collaborative working of ABPI members with a declared interest in Wales. ABPI Cymru Wales currently has an active membership of over 25 ABPI member companies.

Agenda Item 3.8

P-04-459 A direct rail connection from Cardiff Airport to Cardiff central and west Wales

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government develop a direct rail connection from Cardiff Airport itself to Cardiff central and west Wales.

There is a substantial need for a fast direct rail route straight from the actual Cardiff International Airport itself directly into Cardiff Central train station (and westwards to west Wales) so that national and international visitors are properly serviced and catered for at our National Airport. There is already a railway stop at Rhoose which is less than a mile away from the airport. It is a wasted opportunity not to extend this line to Cardiff International Airport itself so that travellers from all over the world, straight from their flight, can jump straight on to a train that takes them to the capital city of Wales and beyond.

Petition raised by: Sovereign Wales

Date petition first considered by Committee: 19 March 2013

Number of signatures: 39

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-04-459
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/00913/14

William Powell AM
AM for Mid & West Wales
Chair Petitions committee
committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

20 March 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your email of 11 March regarding an update for the Petitions Committee on a direct rail connection from Cardiff Airport to Cardiff Central and West Wales.

I have established a Metro Implementation Group to bring forward proposals on the South East Wales Metro. The Group is exploring future options to improve public transport access to and from the airport including the potential for a direct rail line. Improved rail connections to West Wales will be considered as part of the next Wales and Borders franchise.

The Metro Implementation Group are due to deliver their Implementation Plan to me in June, I will of course up date you when I have considered their proposals.

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

Agenda Item 3.9

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

P-04-506 Free bus pass / concessionary travel for benefit claimants, students and under 18s – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Clerking Team, 14.04.14

Dear Kayleigh,

I would appreciate it if you could pass on my response to the minister's letter to the committee;

Im fully aware of the current difficult financial circumstances but feel the concession in its present guise is unjust and ill conceived as it is awarded to many individuals with both the means and resources to travel as and where they please - even globally !!

I strongly recommend as a method of progressive redistribution the concession be focussed upon the members of society subject to exclusion and poverty and , therefore , restrictions upon their ability to fully participate and engage with their local communities .

I suggest an unbureaucratic and low cost scheme to administer would be to instruct bus companies to accept proof of means tested benefit , the cost for this could be redirected from the wasteful schemes that private employment agencies {such as 'working links' } currently administer ...

I hope this can be seriously considered

Regards
Mark Griffiths

P-04-510 Public inquiry into the Breckman case in Carmarthenshire

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to establish a public inquiry into the maladministration of Carmarthenshire County Council's planning department regarding the case of Mr. and Mrs Breckman of Maes Y Bont, Carmarthenshire.

Petition raised by: Alan Evans

Date petition first considered by Committee: 11 November 2013

Number of signatures: 63

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 4

P-04-471 Mandatory Welsh legislation to ensure Defibrillators in all public places.

Petition wording:

We call on the Welsh Government to provide funding to ensure that, as with basic fire fighting equipment (eg. Extinguishers), Automated External Defibrillators are available in all Welsh Public places (either NHS, Charity or Privately funded) to ensure the rapid treatment of any Victim of Cardiac arrest. Supporting Information: Wales has led the way with important Public Health issues such as the smoking ban/s and the organ donor issue. Unlike fire extinguishers and first aid kits there is currently no legislation in the UK to ensure that an Automated External Defibrillators are available treat victims of sudden Cardiac Arrest in Public. Several recent high profile incidents have demonstrated how important they are in saving lives in our communities.

Petition raised by: Phil Hill

Date petition first considered by Committee: 16 April 2013

Number of signatures : 78

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Cyddfederasiwn Cludwyr Teithwyr Cymru
Confederation of Passenger Transport Wales

CPT CYMRU WRITTEN SUBMISSION TO THE PETITIONS COMMITTEE INQUIRY, BASED ON THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Cyddfederasiwn Cludwyr Teithwyr Cymru/The Confederation of Passenger Transport Wales (CPTCymru) is the professional trade association of the bus, coach and light rail industry in Wales and is part of CPT UK. Its members in Wales include operators forming part of large multinational transport operators, municipally owned operators, medium sized independent operators and small family businesses. CPT Cymru members provide over 90% of all bus journeys and some 70% of all public transport journeys made across Wales.

Its governance includes the Bus Commission Cymru, Coach Commission Cymru and also its Committee for Wales, which all members may attend, and members are consulted widely on the whole range of issues affecting road based public transport.

We are pleased to be able to contribute this brief submission to this enquiry by the Petitions Committee of the National Assembly for Wales.

Are current levels of public financial support for bus and community transport services sufficient to secure an effective network?

CPT Cymru understands the budgetary pressures placed on Welsh Government across the range of services it provides. This includes, of course, financial support for public transport in Wales. We do not, however, feel that current levels are sufficient to meet the needs of the travelling public or the strategic aspirations of the government.

The effect of recent changes, and proposed future changes, in public funding levels and mechanisms on bus and community transport services.

It is clear that the reduction in public funding for transport services over recent years has had a detrimental effect on the level of services operators are able to provide, therefore reducing the effectiveness of the overall network throughout Wales. This is now evident in both rural and urban areas where services have been cut or withdrawn entirely, with further knock-on effects such as depot closures and job losses.

The social and economic impact of recent and proposed future changes in public funding levels and mechanisms for the bus and community transport sectors.

The loss of bus services in both urban and rural areas has had a detrimental impact on both social and economic aspects of Wales. Service withdrawals have led to some areas being isolated and passengers forced to seek alternative methods of transport in order to travel to places of employment and access to social and other activities. Cuts to bus services can have a profound effect on people, from young people unable to access their place of education or training, to older people who are left in isolation after their lifeline to the outside world has been cut. These cuts often affect the most vulnerable in our society who frequently have no access to a car.

It is estimated that, across Wales, around 8,000 people are employed in the bus and coach industry. Bus operators are, therefore, not just providers of public transport services, but also significant employers – nowhere is this more evident than in some of the rural parts of Wales. Therefore, bus operators make a significant contribution to the economic activity of their localities.

What steps should the Welsh Government take to support bus and community transport services, given the overall reductions in Welsh Government budget since 2009-10?

Buses provide the backbone of public transport right across Wales, serving all parts of the country, including those areas not served by other forms of public transport. Passenger numbers clearly demonstrate this - the annual number of bus passengers is over 110 million, whereas the all Wales rail franchise carries less than 30 million passengers. CPT Cymru strongly believes, however, that buses are not given the political importance they deserve, and are treated as the Cinderella of public transport. The annual rail subsidy for the all Wales rail franchise amounts to over £9.00 per journey, whereas the bus industry receives total public funding (both subsidy and reimbursement for carrying passengers) of £90 million, rather less than one pound per journey.

Whilst more people commute to work by bus than any other mode of transport and more shoppers travel to our high streets by bus than by any other mode, decision makers do not appear to understand fully the social, economic and environmental importance of buses; this is often reflected in the lack of priority to buses in the decisions they make. We are aware that government at all levels faces a very difficult financial situation, but we are concerned at the apparent lack of appreciation of the impact that cutting funding for buses is having on communities across Wales. The economic case for funding buses is clear and it is a false economy to make short term savings as the longer term consequences can be far reaching. Moreover, the consequences of the funding reduction for buses will also adversely affect the environmental and sustainable aims of government.

JOHN POCKETT

Cyfarwyddwr : Director

CPT Cymru

Ebrill 2014 : April 2014

By virtue of paragraph(s) ix of Standing Order 17.42

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Agenda Item 5.1

P-04-475 Wanted – Buses for Meirionnydd

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to:

- Review the funding for rural bus services to ensure adequate levels of service for the whole of Gwynedd but particularly south Meirionnydd.
- Consider funding to be ensured for additional services to improve access to health services, education, and employment, and thus support the economy and tourism of the area.

Petition raised by: Barbara Snowball

Date petition first considered by Committee: 30 April 2013

Number of signatures : 174

Agenda Item 5.2

P-04-513 Save the Wrexham/Barmouth X94 bus service

Petition wording:

Arriva Buses has announced that they will cut the X94 service which links the towns of Barmouth, Dolgellau, Bala, Corwen, Llangollen and Wrexham and 5 other bus services on December 21st this year. All of these bus services connect communities across Wales from north to south and east to west. We call on the Welsh Government to investigate how cutting these bus services might be avoided and what is the best way of securing and promoting national bus services that link the regions of Wales, especially where there is no equivalent railway service.

Petition raised by: Karen Dunford

Date petition first considered by Committee: 11 November 2013

Number of signatures: 494

Agenda Item 5.3

P-04-515 Increase Funding for Welsh Bus Services

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to provide increased funding to bus services so that it adheres to its own policy aims of reducing poverty and exclusion, ensuring that people across Wales are not socially or economically disadvantaged by their location.

Additional information: This petition aims to increase the level of funding given to hard to reach, and disadvantaged areas of Wales. A number of local authority areas have had to reduce the frequency and range of bus routes since the Regional Transport Services Grant was introduced. This has left some residents isolated, especially on weekends and bank holidays.

Petition raised by: Daniel Thomas

Date petition first considered by Committee: 26 November 2013

Number of signatures: 246