

Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date:

23 September 2014

Meeting time:

09.00

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



For further information please contact:

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Agenda

MeetingTitle

- 1 Introduction, apologies and substitutions**
- 2 New petitions**
 - 2.1 P-04-579 Reinstate funding for Skomer Island's Guillemot monitoring (Page 1)**
 - 2.2 P-04-580 Restrictions on Donating Blood (Page 2)**
 - 2.3 P-04-581 Opposition to cuts in provision for learners of English as an Additional Language (Page 3)**
 - 2.4 P-04-582 Much Needed Change to the Rules in our Schools with Regards to Head Lice and Nits (Page 4)**
 - 2.5 P-04-583 Ban all Growing and Selling of all GM seeds / Foods and Animal / Fish Feed in Wales (Pages 5 – 6)**
 - 2.6 P-04-584 Wales Planning Bill to Protect Town and Village Greens in Wales**

(Page 7)

- 2.7 P-04-585 Changes to A494/A470 Junction Dolgellau (Page 8)
- 2.8 P-04-586 All NHS Wales staff to be Paid at Least the Hourly Living Wage Rate of £7.65. (Page 9)
- 2.9 P-04-587 A Dedicated Support Team for Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (M.E.), Chronic Fatigue Syndrome & Fibromyalgia Sufferers in South East Wales (Page 10)
- 2.10 P-04-588 Charter for Children and Fathers (Pages 11 – 12)
- 2.11 P-04-589 Reduce the Number of Councillors and Executive Members in Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (Page 13)
- 2.12 P-04-590 Funding for the Cardi Bach Coastal Bus Service (Pages 14 – 16)
- 2.13 P-04-591 Fair Funding for Local Government (Page 17)
- 2.14 P-04-592 Democratically Binding Plebiscites at Local Government Level (Page 18)
- 2.15 P-04-593 Advise schools on visits to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm (Pages 19 – 22)
- 2.16 P-04-594 Cilmeri Community Council Appeal for The Prince Llywelyn Monument (Page 23)
- 2.17 P-04-595 Foresight Pathway (Pages 24 – 25)
- 2.18 P-04-596 Save Porth Fire Station – SECONDS COST LIVES! (Page 26)
- 2.19 P-04-597 Protect the future of Funky Dragon, the Children and Young People's Assembly for Wales (Pages 27 – 30)
- 2.20 P-04-598 Disability Awareness Training (Page 31)
- 2.21 P-04-599 Impact of Domestic Rating on Self Catering Accommodation (Pages 32 – 33)

3 Updates to previous petitions

- 3.1** P-04-549 Make 'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau' the Official Welsh National Anthem (Pages 34 – 35)

Economy, Science and Transport

- 3.2** P-04-319 Newtown traffic petition (Pages 36 – 37)
- 3.3** P-04-555 Stop the unethical and draconian proposed compulsory microchipping of dogs (Pages 38 – 80)
- 3.4** P-04-556 No to Junction 41 closure (Pages 81 – 85)
- 3.5** P-04-565 Revive disused railway lines for leisure (Pages 86 – 87)
- 3.6** P-04-574 Bus Services in Burryport (Pages 88 – 90)

Culture and Sport

- 3.7** P-04-539 Save Cardiff Coal Exchange (Pages 91 – 92)

Health

- 3.8** P-04-440 Say NO to Asset Stripping Bronllys Hospital (Pages 93 – 126)
- 3.9** P-04-492 Diagnosis of autism in children (Pages 127 – 131)
- 3.10** P-04-505 Eating Disorder Unit in Wales (Pages 132 – 133)
- 3.11** P-04-568 Public Inquiry into ABMU Health Board (Pages 134 – 187)
- 3.12** P-04-571 Treating Pernicious Anaemia (Pages 188 – 189)

Education

- 3.13** P-04-528 All Primary Schools in Wales taught through the medium of Welsh (Pages 190 – 192)

- 3.14 P-04-538 Involving lecturers to ensure a Further Education Inspection Framework that is fit for purpose (Pages 193 – 196)
- 3.15 P-04-543 No Increase to University Tuition Fees (Pages 197 – 198)
- 3.16 P-04-551 Basic First Aid To Be Taught In Schools (Pages 199 – 201)
- 3.17 P-04-567 A Fair Deal for Welsh Students (Pages 202 – 211)
- 3.18 P-04-569 Stop National Tests for Primary School Children (Pages 212 – 214)

Natural Resources, Culture and Sport

- 3.19 P-04-544 Ban the Shooting of Greenland White-fronted Geese (Pages 215 – 216)
- 3.20 P-04-547 Ban Polystyrene(EPS) Fast Food and Drinks Packaging (Pages 217 – 224)
- 3.21 P-04-572 Grants for Flood Resilience (Pages 225 – 227)

Housing and Regeneration

- 3.22 P-04-550 Planning Powers (Pages 228 – 229)

Local Government and Government Business

- 3.23 P-04-557 Valuation Tribunal Service (Pages 230 – 234)
- 3.24 P-04-563 Provision of Services at Pontypridd Fire Station (Pages 235 – 238)

Finance

- 3.25 P-04-577 Reinstate Funding to the Real Opportunities Project (Pages 239 – 254)

Agenda Item 2.1

P-04-579 Reinstate funding for Skomer Island's Guillemot monitoring

Petition Wording:

Natural Resources Wales have cut the £12,000 annual funding they provide for the on-going Guillemot monitoring study on Skomer Island. This is a hugely important study, and gives valuable insights into seabird life and what affects their populations. Not only is it a shame to end such a long running (and therefore valuable) data set, but the cut couldn't have come at a worse time, considering the huge impact the recent storms have had on seabird populations (current death toll 25,000 and rising). This is a very bad decision on the part of Natural Resources Wales, and we'd like to see it amended.

Petition raised by: Cardiff University Ornithological Society

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of signatures: 1687

Agenda Item 2.2

P-04-580 Restrictions on Donating Blood

Petition Wording:

Giving blood is a very honourable and helpful thing for someone to do in this country to help out people in desperate need of it. However, not everyone is eligible to donate blood, some for reasons that are very understandable, but there is one reason that it not understandable at all. Homosexual men are not allowed to give blood if they have engaged in sexual intercourse with someone within the last year, it is wrong and unfair. The NHS is worried about getting blood infected with HIV/AIDS, however, anyone can contract AIDS, not only homosexuals, all the blood is processed and tested before offering it anyway, so there is no reason why a homosexual man should have to remain abstinent for a year in order to do a noble act. This inequality needs to end now and we must allow people of all sexual orientations the option to donate blood.

Petition raised by: Scott Dymond

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of signatures: 83

Agenda Item 2.3

P-04-581 Opposition to cuts in provision for learners of English as an Additional Language

Petition Wording:

We, the undersigned, call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to reconsider its cuts to pupils acquiring English as an Additional Language (EAL) in schools. Additional funding is required to prevent the marginalisation of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds in schools through specialist support which aims to raise educational standards and ensure equality of opportunity for all.

The reduction in the MEAG grant impacts exclusively upon ethnic minority pupils at a time when unprecedented numbers of EAL learners are in our schools. Lack of consultation fails to examine the scale, scope and impact of our support upon individuals, their families and whole school achievement.

Additional Information:

The reduction in the MEAG grant impacts exclusively upon ethnic minority pupils at a time when unprecedented numbers of EAL learners are in our schools. Lack of consultation fails to examine the scale, scope and impact of our support upon individuals, their families and whole school achievement.

Petition raised by: Helen Myers

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of signatures: 37

Agenda Item 2.4

P-04-582 Much Needed Change to the Rules in our Schools with Regards to Head Lice and Nits

Petition Wording:

There needs to be a change in the rules with regards to Head Lice in school children. Currently school staff are not permitted to point out, even to the offending child's parent, who it is in the class has Head Lice and a generic letter is just handed out. Why can't a parent, whose child is visibly infected and infecting a class, be informed and asked to collect said child. This child should then be kept off school until they have been deemed clear by a member of staff to return as they do in some schools in the US! If a child vomits in school, they are sent home immediately. Head Lice are just as infectious and cause just as much distress to our children. This can be done discreetly, nobody has to know. Unless the parent themselves choose to share the information. It is not a violation of anybody's human rights, if anything it would protect the children of us who are diligent and care, and subsequently spending a lot of money to treat our children to no avail!

Petition raised by: Marnie Hill

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of signatures: 31

Agenda Item 2.5

P-04-583 Ban all Growing and Selling of all GM seeds / Foods and Animal / Fish Feed in Wales

Petition Wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to establish, as far as that is consistent with EU law, an Act banning all GM food, plants and seeds from being grown and sold in Wales, as well as GMO used in all animal, game and fish feed. Food sovereignty and health is a crucial issue to the future of Wales and the world and is something that will further positively distinguish Welsh food products in the worldwide market. As presented by the great work done by GM Free Cymru and by key scientists such as Irina Ermakova, Professor Vyvyan Howard and Malcolm Hooper, Dr Stanley Ewen, Dr Arpad Pusztai, Manuela Malatesta and colleagues at the Universities of Pavia and Urbino in Italy to name a few, there is now overwhelming evidence available about the inherent dangers of GM foods.

Additional Information:

GM Cymru's Dr Brian John states that "The European Commission appears to be intent upon issuing one contentious GM authorization after another, basing its decisions upon highly selective and biased research by the applicants themselves, and taking guidance from a despised European food safety authority which has lost the confidence of NGO's and consumer groups across Europe". Politicians are blindly promoting the merits of the large biotechnology companies such as Monsanto in spite of massive opposing public and scientific voices. Patenting nature and intervening through genetic engineering is also an act against nature itself and brings in to question morality, ethics, natural and human rights. An increasing number of countries such as Hungary, Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Japan, Switzerland, the Basque country and Peru, to name but a few, are now

expelling the chemical and bio tech giant Monsanto and eliminating all GM crops, seed, plants and foods from their country.

Petition raised by: Gruffydd Meredith

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of signatures: 13

Agenda Item 2.6

P-04-584 Wales Planning Bill to Protect Town and Village Greens in Wales.

Petition Wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to legislate to ensure that the public and their needs for public open space in Wales is favoured against private developers, land bankers and Local authority Local development plans.

Because the notion of accessible open space in Wales used for sports, recreation and pastimes for over 20 years should be protected and enhanced in the public interest for the citizens in Wales. The guidance and law should reflect the importance of town and village greens to the many communities in Wales.

Additional Information:

Because the notion of accessible open space in Wales used for sports, recreation and pastimes for over 20 years should be protected and enhanced in the public interest for the citizens in Wales. The guidance and law should reflect the importance of town and village greens to the many communities in Wales.

Petition raised by: Nortridge Perrott

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of signatures: 19

Agenda Item 2.7

P-04-585 Changes to A494/A470 Junction Dolgellau

Petition Wording

In the six weeks since the completion of changes to the junction of the A494/A470 at Dolgellau there have been three serious road traffic collisions, two fatalities, two seriously injured and two "minor injuries". Many people have expressed concerns locally and with the coming summer holidays and an increase to the traffic at this junction there are likely to be more such incidents. We call on the Welsh Government to consider, urgently, changes to this junction before more lives are lost or changed for the worse.

Additional Information:

This junction has always caused concern but in the six weeks of the changes people are very wary of using it and 'locals' change their routes to avoid it when possible. The deaths and injuries are a needless waste of life and lives will be saved if a clearer system is in place, maybe a small roundabout or at least, in the short term, additional signage.

Petition raised by: Kathryn White

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of signatures: 1,288 electronic signatures and 1,581 paper signatures collected. Total 2,869.

Agenda Item 2.8

P-04-586 All NHS Wales staff to be Paid at Least the Hourly Living Wage Rate of £7.65.

Petition Wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to recognise the vital work undertaken by staff working for the NHS in Wales, and urge the Welsh Government to implement the recommendation made by the NHS pay review body, and ensure that all NHS Wales staff are paid at least the hourly living wage rate of £7.65.

Additional Information:

NHS staff do some of the hardest jobs in the world – saving lives, caring for people, and helping us stay healthy. It is essential that NHS staff are rewarded appropriately for the work that they do as they are undeniably worth it. The UK government has decided not to implement the recommendation made by the Pay Review Body (PRB) and UNISON believes that this is an insult to staff in England. We believe that the National Assembly and the Welsh Government should do all they can to stand up for NHS workers in Wales, and that must include awarding staff the PRB recommendation and ensuring staff are paid at least an hourly living wage rate.

Petition raised by: UNISON Cymru/Wales

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of signatures: 174

Agenda Item 2.9

P-04- 587 A Dedicated Support Team for Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (M.E.), Chronic Fatigue Syndrome & Fibromyalgia Sufferers in South East Wales

Petition Wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that a dedicated Consultant/Clinic and medical support team for Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (M.E.), Chronic Fatigue Syndrome & Fibromyalgia sufferers is set up in South East Wales. I request that this petition be treated as an official voice of M.E. sufferers, their families, carers and interested parties.

Currently, sufferers of the above ailments are not being supported, with a few exceptions, by the medical profession. They are unable to work but the government bodies assessing them do not appear to understand their problems. This is the basis for this petition.

Petition raised by: M.E.S.I.G. (M.E Support in Glamorgan)

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of signatures: 368 electronic signatures and 826 paper signatures. 1,196

P-04- 588 Charter for Children and Fathers

Petition Wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to adopt all six points in the Charter for Action for Children & Fathers in Wales.

1. All Welsh Government funded programmes to record gender of parents / carers they work with.
2. Set S.M.A.R.T. targets to increase participation of fathers and all other Non Resident Parents with Welsh Government services.
3. First Minister to make annual statement on the importance of fathers AND what the Welsh Government has done to help them in the past 12 months.
4. Encourage improved shared care of children to allow more parents (particularly single parents) to take up training or employment programmes.
5. Recognition of Parental Alienation as a form of emotional abuse of children.
6. Establish a work group under the Family Justice Network for Wales to co-ordinate improved collaboration for those organisations who hold the DWP's Help and Support for Separated Families (HSSF) Mark in Wales

Additional Information

1. Welsh Government has confirmed family support services are not currently asked to record the gender of the parents they work with.
2. Our research with parenting initiatives in Wales shows the average engagement level is between 3 and 11% of service users being male.
3. The precedent is from the USA: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/06/14/weekly-address-celebrating-fathers-day-weekend>
4. Several US states require the 'right of first refusal' to non-resident parents and grandparents for them to undertake child care:
<http://ilfamilylaw.com/new-law-right-first-refusal-child-care/> In Illinois

they equate 'the best interests of the child' with 'maximum time with both parents'.

5. The Family Justice Network for Wales rejected our call to recognise Parental Alienation as a form of emotional abuse of children in May 2014⁶. The DWP have confirmed their support for this proposal and Albert Heaney Chair of the FJN has also indicated his support.

Petition raised by: FNF Both Parents Matter Cymru

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of signatures: 335

P-04- 589 Reduce the Number of Councillors and Executive Members in Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Petition Wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to instruct the Local Government Boundary Commission to review the number of Councillors and Executive Members for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council with a view to reducing their numbers.

Additional Information:

Blaenau Gwent has more Councillors per head of population and more Executive Members than neighbouring Councils. Independent Members of the council put in a proposal to the council to reduce the number of executive members to 6 or 7. The Labour ruling council refused this. These savings could reopen the local toilets. Blaenau Gwent has 42 councillors and 10 executive members and the population is 69300, giving a count of 1 councillor for 1611 people. Merthyr Tydfil has 33 councillors and 7 executive members and the population is 58800 giving a count of 1 councillor for 1781 people. Caerphilly has 72 councillors and 10 executive members and the population is 178800 giving a count of 1 councillor for 2384 people.

Each Blaenau Gwent Councillor has the lowest population per councillor rate in Wales. Blaenau Gwent council has made staff redundant in all areas of the council but are not prepared to lower their head count when they are clearly over the amount needed. Can the Welsh Government look into this and force the council to reduce their numbers in order to save money and services in Blaenau Gwent.

Petition raised by: Julian price

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of signatures: 34

Agenda Item 2.12

P-04-590 Funding for the Cardi Bach Coastal Bus Service

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to re-instate the funding of the Cardi Bach coastal bus service in Ceredigion.

Further information :

The Cardi Bach coastal bus service that runs between Cardigan and New Quay will be stopped on 30th September due to a lack of funding. The service received some funding from the Welsh Government under the Rural Development Plan 2007-2013.

There has been a noticeable increase in visitors to this area, particularly walkers, since the opening of the Wales Coast Path in 2012. The coastal bus service has enabled visitors to go to the towns and villages along the route.

This bus service brings custom to local businesses.

It is popular with walkers on the Wales Coast Path, enabling them to enjoy linear walks.

It provides both residents and visitors with an alternative to using the motor car.

Some rural areas will be particularly inconvenienced if the bus service ceases. For example, Cwmttydu is a popular village on the coast path, midway between New Quay and Llangrannog. If someone wanted to access a bus from here he would have to walk 4 miles to the nearest service bus route. He would have difficulty calling a taxi as there is no public phone box and the mobile phone signal is very poor.

Petitioner : Janet Richardson

First considered by the Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of Signatures: 1,084 paper signatures and 121 electronic signatures. Total 1,205

Rebecca Evans AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Amaeth a Physgodfeydd
Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref RE/00162/14

Janet Richardson

12 September 2014

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your e-mail addressed to Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AM, Minister for the Economy, Science and Transport, dated 26 August. I am responding as this matter falls within my portfolio.

The Cardi Bach bus service has received funding under Axis 3 of the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2014 as part of a wider project called 'Ceredigion: A Better Place to Live'. The aim was to develop the service from a visitor focused transport scheme to a demand led scheme and to assist in encouraging sustainable transport initiatives.

Ceredigion County Council is responsible for managing Axis 3 funding in Ceredigion on behalf of the 'Sustainable Futures Executive Group' Partnership. The 'Ceredigion: A Better Place to Live' project is due to end on 31 December 2014 and cannot have an extension beyond this date due to the end of the current European funding programme.

It is now up to Ceredigion County Council to review the success of the project and to consider the future sustainability of the service.

I would suggest that you contact Ceredigion County Council to discuss their future plans. For further details please contact Gareth Rowlands, Community Regeneration Manager at Ceredigion County Council either by telephone on 01545 572 065 or by e-mail at: gareth.rowlands@ceredigion.gov.uk.

Yours,
Rebecca

Rebecca Evans AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Amaeth a Physgodfeydd
Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

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P-04- 591 Fair Funding for Local Government

Petition Wording:

UNISON Neath Port Talbot Branch call for the Welsh Government to reconsider the proposed budget cuts of up to -4.5% to Local Government funding. Local Government budgets are at breaking point and any further cuts will have a devastating effect on local services which the most vulnerable of society rely upon. Cuts to local government services will put further pressure on an already over-loaded NHS. These cuts are short sighted and the funds that are being diverted from local government to the NHS will not have the desired effect. Local government social services has a positive effect on keeping people out of hospital and maintaining these services is imperative in order to ease pressures on the NHS.

Petition raised by: UNISON

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of signatures: 180 electronic signatures and in excess of 800 signatures collected by an associated petition.

Agenda Item 2.14

P-04- 592 Democratically Binding Plebiscites at Local Government Level

Petition Wording:

We, the undersigned, call upon the Welsh Government to legislate to allow for Welsh citizens to call plebiscites on issues at the level of Local Government, and for such votes to have the effect of, either [1] calling-in decisions made by Councils for reconsideration, or [2] allowing votes above a two-thirds majority to be democratically binding.

Additional Information:

Plebeian Laboratories is aware of an endless number of decisions made at Local Government Level, which negatively affect the lives of citizens, but over which they have very little direct control. In recent years, Direct Democracy has gained in popularity in many countries throughout the world, not least as a means to increase civic participation and Democratic Rights. Although we do not anticipate Assembly Members voting to enact direct democracy at Welsh national level any more than turkeys would vote for Christmas, a degree of limited direct democracy at Local Government level would bring Welsh democracy to life.

The creation of the National Assembly for Wales has permitted Welsh citizens a limited democratic voice over decisions affecting their lives, however Plebeian Laboratories is aware of an endless number of decisions made at Local Government Level, which negatively affect the lives of citizens, but over which they have very little direct control. In recent years, Direct Democracy has gained in popularity in many countries throughout the world, not least as a means to increase civic participation and Democratic Rights. Although we do not anticipate Assembly Members voting to enact direct democracy at Welsh national level any more than turkeys would vote for Christmas, a

degree of limited direct democracy at Local Government level would bring Welsh democracy to life.

Petition raised by: Plebeian Laboratories

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of signatures: 38

P-04-593 Advise schools on visits to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm

Petition wording:

We request the Minister for Education and Skills in the Welsh Government reviews the suitability of Noah's Ark Zoo Farm for visits from Welsh schools. We consider the zoo unsuitable because: 1. It undermines the understanding of science and contradicts the national curriculum. 2. The zoo was expelled from the zoo industry body, BIAZA, in 2009.

Going on school trips is a vital part of our children's learning, helping them to get hands on experience of the world around them. Teachers and parents value this, and put in a lot of time and effort to making sure that the trips they run support children's learning and are safe. In order to do this, they rely on guidance and information. We ask that you investigate Noah's Ark Zoo Farm immediately and make sure that all schools are made aware of the findings of the investigation.

Additional information:

1 The Department for Education 2011 – Free Schools FAQs – Curriculum:

“We would expect to see evolution and its foundation topics fully included in any science curriculum. We do not expect creationism, intelligent design and similar ideas to be taught as valid scientific theories in any state funded school” <http://www.education.gov.uk/a0075656/free-schools-faqs-curriculum#faq5>;

<https://humanism.org.uk/2014/02/04/alice-roberts-bha-complain-michael-gove-noahs-ark-zoo-farms-quality-badge-breaching-creationism-policy/>; <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/08/wont-go-back-to-creationist-zoo-bristol>

2 BIAZA (2009):

'Council believes that the behaviour of NAZF has brought the association into disrepute'

TM<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/somerset/8391779.stm>

Petitioner : Jane Henderson

First considered by the Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of Signatures: 221

P-04-593 Advise Schools on visits to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm – Correspondence from Noah's Ark Zoo Farm to the Committee, 03.07.14

FAO Dame Rosemary Butler & the National Assembly Petitions Committee

Dear Sirs

Noah's Ark Zoo Farm, the national award-winning animal park in North Somerset (England), has been informed that an e-petition has been started on the National Assembly website aiming to dissuade Welsh schools from visiting us. It was drawn to our attention by some concerned Welsh teachers who enjoy bringing school groups to us and feel (as we do) that this petition is baseless and unfair.

Under the guise of "Advise schools on visits to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm", the petition is clearly aimed at encouraging your Committee to consider contacting Welsh schools about supposed Creationist education at our park, which the petition leader (Jane Henderson) hopes will put schools off booking a trip.

https://www.assemblywales.org/epetition-list-of-signatories.htm?pet_id=1020

It is important for us to clarify a few key points misrepresented by the Petition. We hope this will help you have all the facts for your consideration.

- Noah's Ark Zoo Farm was awarded the national 'Quality Badge' for education from the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom in December 2013 in recognition of our professional Education Program for schools and our high-quality teaching by trained Education Officers at the zoo.
- We do not teach Creationism in workshops or classes, to suggest otherwise is simply untrue. Our taught workshops for schools are purely national curriculum based and conducted by an Education Officer who has QTS to teach Primary level. We would only hold a workshop on Creation if specifically requested by a school. The Education provision we offer can be viewed on our website here:
<http://www.noahsarkzoofarm.co.uk/pages/education/>
- Noah's Ark Zoo Farm is owned and run by Christian directors. We have some informative wall displays at the park which discuss origins, the diversity of life and the theories which are commonly used to explain the natural world. This includes evolution by natural selection, creation, and Recolonisation Theory. These posters are for public interest, should visitors like to read them – they do not form part of the school teaching resources. We encourage discussion and independent thought.
- There are a small number of atheist campaigners who have attempted to misinform the public and schools with the aim of discouraging visits, citing 'creationism'. One or two celebrity scientists like Prof. Alice Roberts have written heavily biased articles

on the zoo for the British Humanist Association, again to try to push their own agenda. These campaigns have been heavily criticised in the press because of the public misrepresentation of our business and the surprising level of hostility directed at us.

- There is no requirement to be a member of BIAZA (British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums) to operate as a zoo. BIAZA is a useful membership organisation for the exchange of information and animals between members. Out of 350 UK zoos and farm parks, 250 are not members of BIAZA. We are currently non-members but are in regular communication with BIAZA and work with other members frequently. We are in discussion with BIAZA about our reapplication as we plan to rejoin shortly. The reason for our leaving BIAZA in 2009 was due a breakdown in communication between ourselves and the then BIAZA director, and nothing to do with education.

We welcome over 200,000 visitors a year which includes 23,000 school children as part of organised school trips. We're very popular with South Wales schools and enjoy a good relationship with them.

If you'd like to speak to us in more detail, we'd be pleased to. You're also very welcome to visit us if you'd like to see what we offer in person.

Kind regards

Jon Woodward

Communications Manager

Noah's Ark Zoo Farm

Clevedon Road, Wraxall, Bristol, BS48 1PG

Tel: 01275 866904 (Direct) / 01275 852606 (Switchboard) **Fax:** 01275 857080



www.noahsarkzooofarm.co.uk

P-04-594 Cilmeri Community Council Appeal for The Prince Llywelyn Monument

Petition wording:

Due to the National importance of our Prince Llywelyn Monument we, the Community of Cilmeri call, on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to:

- Install locational signage boards, incorporating a brown signage battlefield icon, to denote the historical significance of our village, on the A483 at both main road entrances to the village;
- Work in partnership with Powys County Council, Cilmeri Community Council and CADW to help maintain the famous monument, so that visitors can enjoy our national historical amenity in a safe and befitting environment;
- Help identify resources to implement, in a phased manner, the Lloyd Brown Interpretation Plan (January 2013), commissioned by CADW.

Additional Information:

The interpretation plan highlights the fact that Llywelyn was the last native Welsh Prince to fall in battle, marking the effective end of the powerful dynasty of Gwynedd, which played an important role in forging a sense of Welsh nationhood and identity.

Petitioner: Cilmeri Community Council

First considered by the Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of Signatures: 205

Agenda Item 2.17

P-04-595 Foresight Pathway

Petition wording:

We the undersigned , call upon The National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to safeguard the vital future health and wellbeing of the people of Wales by making food security the direct responsibility of an independent person to ensure future overview of food production. He or she must be answerable to the First Minister. The security of food production is of the first order in importance to the people of Wales. Energy already is the First Minister's remit.

Additional Information:

Whilst acknowledging the significance of safeguarding our natural environment, we earnestly believe that food production must be funded by adequate inflation proof measures, to all sectors of Welsh agriculture and included within the First Ministers remit. This would serve to address the serious malaise and lack of confidence in the future of the industry which has afflicted Welsh farming in recent years. We are convinced that making the reliability and sufficiency of food supply a central objective of Welsh Government policy will ensure national survival in the turbulent years ahead.

Petitioner : David Hardwick

First considered by the Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of Signatures: 2 electronic signatures and 89 paper signatures collected.



DEAR SIR/M, THERE IS NOW NO QUESTION THAT OUR CLIMATE HAS BECOME MUCH HOTTER IN THE AFTERNOONS WITH WARM NIGHTS MAKING FOR CONSIDERABLE RISK TO FOOD GROWING SYSTEMS, LEADING TO FOOD INSECURITY (I.E) PRECIPITATION EVAPORATES BEFORE IT IS TAKEN UP BY PLANTS AND CROPS, THERE IS ALSO CHANGES IN PRECIPITATION PATTERNS IN BRITAIN AND IN MOST OTHER FOOD EXPORTING COUNTRIES.

I HAVE NOW STUDIED THE U.N I.P.C.C. CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT A SECOND TIME AND WISH TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE A.R.5. TECHNICAL SUMMARY PAGE 16.

- (I.E) KEY RISKS ACROSS SECTORS AND REGIONS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE ARE.
- ① RISK OF DEATH, INJURY AND DISRUPTION TO LIVELIHOODS, FOOD SUPPLIERS, WATER AVAILABILITY AND USE, DISPLACEMENT OF PEOPLE WITH THE HIGH COSTS OF DISRUPTION TO ECONOMIC ACTIVITY (I.E) IMPOSSIBLE TO DO MANUAL WORK IN HIGHER TEMPERATURES, SEA LEVEL RISES BRINGING ADDITIONAL STORM SURGES, MORE FLOODS, MORE COSTLY DROUGHTS (GOVERNMENTS MUST ADDRESS THE ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS)
 - ② RISK OF FOOD INSECURITY AS FOOD SYSTEMS BREAK DOWN.
 - ④ KEY RISK IS OF THE LOSS OF RURAL LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME OF RURAL PEOPLE

WITH THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FROM THIS IS ONE OF REDUCED AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTION CAUSED BY TOTALY INADDIQUATE INCOME (I.E) GOVERNMENT CUTS CAUSE FOOD INSECURITY AND THEN SHORTAGE, FOOD PRODUCTION IS NOW AT RISK. THE FOLLOWING ASSESMENTS ARE FACTS (I.E) FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ARE NOW INEXORABLY LINKED AND THE MONEY INCOME TO MITIGATE THE ONGOING PROBLEM HAS EVAPORATED IN GOVERNMENTAL CUTS TO FOOD GROWING ABILITY, THIS IS WHY GOVERNMENTAL DECISIONS ARE DANGEROUSLY ANTHROPOGENIC THEY ARE ALSO FINANCIALLY RUINOUS TO FOOD PRODUCING FARMS.

IN MY OWN CASE THE ACTUAL "VEHICLES" OF FOOD PRODUCTION WEAR OUT (I.E) DAMAGE TO INFRASTRUCTURE, LIFE THREATENING WEATHER MAKING THE LAND POOR, SO THAT THE LAND THEN REQUIRES INVESTMENT NOURISHMENT WITHOUT WHICH FOOD PRODUCTION WILL FALL BELOW A TIPPING POINT. FACT, IT THEN ONLY REQUIRES AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT AN EVENT THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS MUST FULLY REALIZE WILL OCCURE TO BRING INTO QUESTION

GOVERNMENTAL FAILURE TO DIRECTLY FUND FOOD PRODUCTION,

YOU DO NOT NEED ME TO TELL YOU THAT SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS HAVE TAKEN AWAY FINANCIAL ABILITY TO FARM AND THAT THEIR SHORT SIGHTEDNESS MEANS THAT THE PATHWAY THY ARE ON HAS NO (FORE SIGHT) COMPETENCE PLAN. THE FORESIGHT REPORT WAS A WAKE-UP CALL, BUT ALL GOVERNMENTS WENT BACK TO SLEEP THEY FORGOT TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE & WELLBEING OF PEOPLE. NOW WE HAVE THE I.P.C.C. FINAL DRAFT WARNING AND JUST WHAT ARE GOVERNMENTS DO,ING (I.E) THEY ARE CONTINUING TO RELIE ON IMPORTED FOOD

FROM OTHER COUNTRIES KNOWING FULL WELL THAT THE EVIDENCE FROM THE I.P.C.C. SHOWS CLEARLY THAT ALL COUNTRIES MUST ADMINISTER FINANCIAL HELP TO PRODUCE EXTRA FOOD FROM LESS LAND AND THAT GOVERNMENTS MUST AIM FOR 82% OF FOOD GROWN IN EACH AND EVERY COUNTRY, SO THAT WHEN A WEATHER EVENT OCCURES IN 5 COUNTRIES THE OTHER 20 NEAREST COUNTRIES ARE IN A POSITION TO HELP SUPPLY FOOD AND WATER, ELECTRICITY REPAIR MEN AND EVEN MONEY DONATIONS. THE WORD "COMPETENCE" IS WHAT GOVERNMENTS MUST ADMINISTER NOW.

Yours sincerely
D.L. Hardwick

Agenda Item 2.18

P-04-596 Save Porth Fire Station – SECONDS COST LIVES!

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to review the proposal to close Porth fire station leaving the communities of Porth 10 – 15 minutes away from the nearest fire engine located at either Tonypandy or Treforest.

Due to the public sector cuts and the fire review cover being carried out, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service has made a proposal to permanently close Porth fire station. This will leave no fire cover within the Porth community

Petitioner : Gerwyn James

First considered by the Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of Signatures: 5 electronic signatures and in excess of 9,000 paper signatures.

P-04-597 Protect the future of Funky Dragon, the Children and Young People's Assembly for Wales

Petition wording:

We, the undersigned, call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to protect the future of Funky Dragon, the Children and Young People's Assembly for Wales by restoring core funding. Wales must have an independent, youth led, publically funded, national platform for children and young people, democratically elected at a local level, to give voice to their views and opinions and to hold the Welsh Government to account. The national platform must be empowered to work with all elected members to further children and young people's issues and to report directly to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child as Funky Dragon did so successfully in 2008.

Funky Dragon still believes that:

1. Young people, democratically elected at a local level, should have a National Platform to voice their views and opinions.
2. That platform should be called The Youth Assembly for Wales.
3. It should be able to work with all Elected Members including Assembly Members and Members of Parliament to further young peoples issues.
4. It should be supported to allow Welsh young people to report directly to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, in commenting on the last UK State report stated: Concluding observation 33. That governments' 'Support forums for children's participation, such as the United Kingdom Youth Parliament, Funky Dragon in Wales and Youth Parliament in Scotland should be implemented.

Petitioner : Catherine Patricia Jones

First considered by the Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of Signatures: 1,212 electronic signatures and 429 paper signatures. Total 1,641

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JC/00712/14

Tricia Jones
Funky Dragon

tricia.jones@hotmail.co.uk

8 September 2014

Dear Tricia

Thank you for your letter dated 4 August to Mr Eric Pickles MP. As this is a devolved matter this has been transferred to the Welsh Government to reply and as you are aware, I have ministerial responsibility for children and young people's participation.

As I stated in my letter of 24 July to you, I remain committed to seeing children and young people having a voice on a local and national level. Children in Wales' successful CFDG bid states that they, along with their partners, will work with youth forums, networks and other groups across Wales to hear the views of children and young people, raise issues and influence the workings of government.

There is also a significant role for the National Assembly for Wales as the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales, and holds the Welsh Government to account. I was particularly pleased that the Assembly Commission has now agreed and launched a new vision for youth engagement, including providing information about the political landscape and enabling young people to take part in debates in a variety of ways. The Presiding Officer wants the Assembly to be seen as a world leader in youth engagement as young people are enabled to have their opinions on the issues that matter to them heard and valued at the heart of Welsh democracy.

I very recently met with the British Youth Council to explain that the Government remains committed to the principle of youth participation in Wales. I am of a strong belief that the contact between young people representatives from Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland and England, through the BYC and UKYP, add value to their experience and to the development of policies in the context of both the UK and Europe.

My officials have also met with BYC together with Children in Wales to productively and pragmatically explore ways in which young people can be represented at the 2014 House of Commons debate. We will continue to work together to explore meaningful representation from local authorities, to continue a pan Wales structure that will feed into the UK Youth Parliament now and in future years.

Yours sincerely

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

Jeff Cuthbert AC / AM

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

P-04-598 Disability Awareness Training

Petition wording:

We want to make disability awareness training compulsory across any organisation providing face to face customer service. So that staff know how to assist and support a disabled person confidently, safely, effectively and equally. The Equality Act 2010 states that all organisations should make a reasonable adjustment for a disabled person, however there are many organisations that are unsure how to do this correctly and reasonably. Therefore we would like to see a more inclusive society and a law put into place so that people are aware of disability and raise the quality of customers experiences for disabled people or currently know how to support disabled people.

The training should incorporate adequate time of each element of disability separately. Mental health, visual impairment, learning, hearing and physical. I recommend half day training per element. This training should be renewed every 3 years to keep up to date.

Petitioner: Visualise Training and Consultancy

First considered by the Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of Signatures: 62

Agenda Item 2.21

P-04-599 Impact of Domestic Rating on Self Catering Accommodation

Petition wording

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

1. Undertake a thorough review and impact assessment of the Non Domestic Rating (Definition of Domestic Property) (Wales) Order 2010, with particular reference to:

a. the potential for adverse impact on new self catering tourism businesses, as they develop their marketing strategies during the first two years of trading;

b. the critical impact of severe weather events on marketing strategies and hence occupancy rates during a particular calendar year.

2. Have regard to the findings of such a review, specifically by instructing the Valuation Office for Non Domestic Rates in Wales to adopt a flexible and business friendly approach, including potential for the retrospective waiving of Council Tax, where there is clear evidence of a genuine case.

3. Review its overall tourism marketing strategy, to ensure that Visit Wales registered self catering businesses are not disadvantaged by disproportionate emphasis upon coastal tourism and serviced accommodation, such as cruising and hotels.

As well as fostering a positive climate for new self catering business, this would also serve to create a level playing field for business with England and the other nations of the United Kingdom – and ensure that the self catering sector, so vital to the Welsh tourism economy, is no longer marginalised.

Petitioner : Chris Harris

First considered by the Committee: 23 September 2014

Number of Signatures: 27

Agenda Item 3.1

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



Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-549
Ein cyf/Our ref: FM/00648/14

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

23 June 2014

Dear William,

I am writing in response to your letter dated 30 May seeking views on a petition to make Hen Wlad fy Nhadau the official Welsh National Anthem.

The proposal is inaccurate in some respects. Hen Wlad fy Nhadau was composed in January 1856 and its 150th anniversary was marked in 2006, notably by a concert in its composers' hometown of Pontypridd, supported by the Welsh Government. Wales' victory over New Zealand took place on 16 December 1905 so its centenary was in 2005.

Following its composition in 1856, the popularity of Hen Wlad fy Nhadau increased until it became acknowledged as our national anthem, although it has no official or legal status. This is the case with all national anthems across the United Kingdom: they have no legal standing, rather their use is a matter of tradition and continued popularity.

There is no mechanism available, therefore, to the Welsh Government to designate Hen Wlad fy Nhadau as the official Welsh National Anthem. This does not detract from the national anthem status it already enjoys in practice as a result of its popularity and acceptance by the people of Wales.

Yours sincerely

CARWYN JONES

Agenda Item 3.2

P-04-319 Newtown Traffic Petition

Petition wording

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

1. Install a roundabout at the Kerry road junction and, if flow improves, reinstate a permanent roundabout.
2. Issue an early start date for construction of a Newtown Bypass and for works to be fast-tracked through to completion.

Petition raised by: Paul Pavia

Petition first considered by Committee: June 2011

Number of signatures: 10 (an additional petition collected approximately 5,000 signatures)



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-319
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/03282/14

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

29 August 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 31 July, on behalf of the Petitions Committee, about the Newtown traffic petition.

Powys County Council is currently finalising negotiations with the land owner regarding the works to widen the Cambrian Way approach to the junction of Pool Road and Kerry Road.

I will continue to keep you informed of developments.

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

Agenda Item 3.3

P-04-555 Stop the unethical and draconian proposed compulsory microchipping of dogs

Petition wording:

We call on the Welsh Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to stop their proposed planned compulsory microchipping of dogs. Microchipping of dogs has not been proven to be more effective, cheaper or kinder to dogs. It has proven to be far more expensive than normal methods such as tattooing or permanent tags, is intrusive and brings in to question basic animal rights and ethics. There is also increasing evidence that chips can cause cancer in animals. A collar with a tag is by far the easiest and most effective way of reuniting a dog and its owner– anyone who can read can use this system. According to campaign groups such as ChipMeNot, there would also be a real environmental impact from microchips due to the chips themselves, the need for readers, batteries for each reader, the computers to administer the database and so on.

Petition raised by: Sovereign Wales + ChipMeNot

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 13 May 2014

Number of signatures: 11

P-04-555 Stop the unethical and draconian proposed compulsory micro chipping of dogs – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 18.08.14

Dear Mr Powell and the Petitions Committee,

I'm grateful for your latest letter requesting further information on the petition calling for the compulsory microchipping of dogs to be stopped. I very much hope it will be reconsidered and curtailed before it becomes a legal requirement in 2015, as is being proposed. I hope the following will help to give some insight on the matter.

The change will mean that around 190,000 dogs in Wales will need to be microchipped over the next year, and that with effect from 1 March 2015, all puppies in Wales would need to be microchipped by the time they are 56 days old.

Before he left his Ministerial role recently, Alun Davies had stated:

“I am committed to promoting responsible dog ownership in Wales. Whilst dog owners already have a duty of care under the Animal Welfare Act, it is increasingly important that we have a reliable way of tracing dogs back to their owners.

“Our decision to introduce compulsory microchipping will create a clear link between a dog and its owner and will increase the accountability of dog owners right across Wales.

“It will make it much easier for an owner to be identified if its dog has strayed or been injured, it will help us to deter dog theft, and the traceability back to breeders should also help us to reduce the incidence of infectious or inherited disease.

“Microchipping will become a legal requirement on the 1st of March next year so I would urge all dog owners in Wales who have not yet had their dogs microchipped to do so before that date.”

There are numerous flaws with microchipping and how it is being promoted to us. Microchips can in theory help to reunite a dog with its owner if it has been lost and caught but then so can a tattoo or a collar and tag which are far cheaper, are less intrusive and cause no harm to the dog. In all cases the dog has to first be caught so that its collar and tag can be read, or, in the case of a microchip, scanned with the zapping machine placed right up against the dog's body.

No one has yet been able to explain how a microchip inserted under the skin is going to stop dogs from being a danger to people and other animals, from spreading potential diseases or from being treated irresponsibly.

There are also obvious serious moral, ethical and practical flaws in these Government proposals. As stated above, a collar and tag does exactly the same job as a micro chip and is cheaper and far less contentious and invasive. And a microchip won't make the dog less dangerous whereas a simple lead and a muzzle will.

The dog's and owner's details will also be registered on an authorised commercial database, providing authorities with yet more information about people's whereabouts and activities at a time when civil liberty groups are campaigning against increased invasions of privacy.

The decision to introduce compulsory microchipping follows a public consultation by the Welsh Government that ended in 2012. According to the Welsh Government the overwhelming majority of respondents were in favour of the move

However, as pointed out by the British Association of Shooting and Conservation in the consultation responses (found in the attached PDF: Question 1, page 11), in a 2009 Welsh local authorities survey regarding microchipping, only seven authorities responded from the 12 asked (not all 22 authorities were asked for reasons unknown)

A similar unclear picture can be seen with the responses of Welsh vets although many of the veterinary corporations and dog charities that are in favour of dog chipping also stand to make a good deal of money from the chipping of dogs.

The British Association of Shooting and Conservation further commented: "BASC believes that whilst micro chipping has benefits, its use should be down to individual choice and not a mandatory requirement – the case for compulsory microchipping has not yet been made"

As seen in the consultation responses in the attached PDF's, The Pet Care Trust also strongly disagreed with the compulsory microchipping plans.

The Self Help Group (The SHG)

<http://the-shg.org/Compulsory%20Microchipping%20in%20Wales.htm>, a group set up for farmers, pet owners and others experiencing difficulties with the RSPCA, is another group opposing compulsory microchipping. The group provides support and legal advice to people who may consider that they are being unfairly investigated or prosecuted for Animal Welfare related offences, usually by the RSPCA. The group state that:

"in the face of this powerful organisation (the RSPCA), the defendant, often through lack of funds, may be unrepresented, or represented by an inexperienced solicitor. Potential professional witnesses will often decline to even consider his case on hearing that the RSPCA is involved."

It does not make any sense for the RSPCA especially to be supportive of the microchipping plans when microchipping has not been proven to be safe or ethical for dogs and all evidence points to the fact that it isn't either safe or ethical.

The SHG and other groups such as ChipMeNot also point out that the microchipping procedure means responsible pet owners have to risk the health of their animal in a futile act that might well be in breach of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. As evidence emerges that chips can cause cancer and other illnesses, it might be presently possible to prosecute those who implant chips for causing unnecessary suffering to animals. ChipMeNot states that according to The Animal Welfare Act 2006 [7] Section 4(3)(b), rather troublingly, if chipping becomes compulsory, the suffering will be state sanctioned and as a result, those who implant chips will have immunity from prosecution and cannot be prosecuted. This would arguably include any financial claims for compensation for injury and suffering caused to dogs as well as the inevitable associated veterinary fees that could result from migrating or faulty chips placed in the animal (http://www.chipmenot.org.uk/whats_wrong.asp)

The Farmers Union of Wales could also not find genuine good reasons for supporting the compulsory microchipping scheme. All these responses can be seen in the two attached pdf's produced by the Welsh Government as some of the responses received in the open consultation.

From looking at a 'Road map on dog welfare' produced by the Welsh Government going back to 2007, it seems to the observer that the end result of compulsory microchipping has already been predetermined by some, rendering the consultation process a futile exercise if so and making the microchipping bill even less credible. This map is also attached.

At a time of serious austerity, the £15 charge for dog owners (up to £2.85 million in total) and the extra enforcement and manpower costs for local authorities makes this plan draconian and out of touch. It could also mean that, rather than risking prosecution and fines, dogs could be killed or chips physically removed by impoverished owners especially, leading to an increase in animal suffering as a result of such enforcement.

As mentioned there is also increasing evidence by anti chipping groups and from scientific research that chips cause cancer in animals, with tests reported by the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) showing a 1–10% lethal cancer rate in tests on microchipped mice and rats . A comprehensive 2007 report by Dr Katherine Albrecht Ed.D titled 'Microchip-Induced Tumors in Laboratory Rodents and Dogs: A Review of the Literature 1990–2006' also points out very serious concerns regarding the safety of microchipping. A link to this report can be found here: <http://www.antichips.com/cancer/albrecht-microchip-cancer-full-paper.pdf>

According to campaign groups in Britain such as ChipMeNot, (http://www.chipmenot.org.uk/whats_wrong.asp) there would also be a real environmental impact from microchips due to the chips themselves, the need for readers, batteries for each reader, the computers to administer the database and so on. A collar with a tag is still the easiest and most effective way of reuniting a dog and its owner by far – anyone who can read can use this system.

The Control of Dogs Act 1992 already requires a collar and tag with the owner's name and address on it in a public place as well as a muzzle for breeds considered dangerous. As previously stated, microchipping does not make dogs or people safer and charging owners for microchips and on-going database updates, as well as the additional manpower costs for local authorities needed to enforce such a policy, reflects badly on the Welsh Government's claims to be concerned with unnecessary expenditure in a time of austerity. Furthermore, any problems are caused by a minority as confirmed by Welsh Environment Minister John Griffiths when he said:

“We believe the majority of dog owners in Wales are responsible and take good care of their animals.”

Many would argue that only responsible owners would have their dog microchipped, while irresponsible owners would ignore any such requirement, driving dangerous dog breeding and irresponsible ownership further underground.

The people of Wales and Britain share a common love of dogs but humans could also be under threat. According to ChipMeNot, it is worth noting that RFID / Radio Frequency Identification (another name for microchip technology) is being pushed in an increasing number of areas. The RFID chips – which can be detected and read by radio waves – are already used in new UK passports and numerous other systems such as London's Oyster card system to name but a few.

Many would argue that allowing for such interference and compulsory intrusiveness into the body of a well liked pet sets a dangerous precedent. According to ChipMeNot "There have been recurrent attempts to introduce mandatory chipping of selected humans in the UK, but these have been defeated either due to public reaction or the fact that the proposals were technically not possible"

http://www.chipmenot.org.uk/where_next.asp

The compulsory microchipping of dogs is both draconian, non nonsensical and out of touch. Wales and its politicians can take this opportunity to represent the fundamental rights of the dogs and dog owners of Wales and, based on their common sense and the obvious substantial flaws in the microchipping programme as hopefully described above, reject this bill.

Thank you again for taking the time to read and digest this information. I very much hope that you will give due consideration to the importance and significance of this subject matter which is very relevant to all of us,

Sincerely,

G.Meredith.

Ref	Response
0017	Yes
0018	Yes. Reasons stated here/in this document. It will help with strays, disease tracing. I am less convinced about arguments for fouling.
0019	Yes. For traceability of owner AND breeder.
0020	Yes if licensed breeders have to everyone should.
0021	Yes – promotes responsible ownership.
0022	No. Exempt foxhounds if tattooed.
0023	All dogs through the UK not only Wales.
0024	Yes but I think puppies new owners should have the option of doing it if they wish.
0025	It refers to do we microchip dogs yes or no. the answer is yes. If so then all dogs in Wales – UK should be microchipped.
0026	Yes – because they can be returned to owner if lost or stolen.
0027	<p>Yes I consider this to be a vital tool to identify dogs and provide a clear link to owners for the purposes of return in cases of loss and to aid enforcement of dog control and other legislation.</p> <p>There are problems regarding the phrase “all dogs in Wales”, but I will deal with that later in my answer to question 8.</p>
0028	Yes. If dog found without a chip, what happens? Is there any enforcement for dog found with microchip yet owners say not mine or doesn't want dog? Can breeder be contacted as should be traceable if registered as first owner or “breeder” like car manufacturer.
0029	Yes – Not only for the reasons set out in the consultation document but it would help with the control of ‘dog mess’ which is a major issue in the UK.
0030	<p>Yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To identify ownership ○ To identify any inherited health issues that the dog may have ○ To identify health records for puppies that will follow the dog through its lifetime <p>I feel larger breeds such as Great Danes should be microchipped at 8 weeks. Smaller breeds could be microchipped at 14-16 weeks.</p>

0031	Yes. Primarily to ensure dog welfare and ownership issues when dogs are lost / stolen. An additional cost may also deter or at least make people think more about getting dogs 'on a whim' without properly thinking through the implications of dog ownership.
0032	Absolutely. Promotes animal welfare and makes owners more accountable
0034	Yes, to safeguard the welfare of dogs and encourage responsible ownership
0035	Yes to reduce the stray dog population and to make dogs owners more responsible
0036	Yes. I agree with the cogent points raised in the consultation document. I would also suggest that if technologically and financially practicable, these microchips be utilised for purpose as Wi-Fi hotspots. I believe this would be good business sense in times of recession. I'm not sure if this would require secondary legislation.
0037	Yes - all dogs, however benign they may appear are a potential danger to the Public Health.They are both a potential physical danger and can carry a number of pathogens dangerous to man.
0038	YES their is no valid reason not to have it done
0039	No. I am in favour of permanent identification, but think people should be given a choice between tattooing or microchipping. So I am in favour of permanent ID
0040	yes - to allow accountability of owners
0041	For reunification in event of loss or theft, also for tracing where a dog has come from should it be abandoned, abused, neglected or put in to a rescue centre. This is the only way some people will ever become responsible
0042	Yes I believe there should be compulsory identification for all dogs though not necessarily Microchipping as there are other means available (tattoo, DNA)
0043	Yes - this would save councils considerable expense in housing strays and enable most of the costs involved with collecting them to be recovered from the owner. It would make it much easier to determine who the owner was when prosecuting under the dangerous dogs or welfare legislation. It may help to reduce theft.
0044	No - Because: 1) The irresponsible people who ought to have their dogs microchipped simply will not do it. 2) The Police will neither have the time or the resources to enforce the legislation. 3) The vulnerable (pensioners etcetera) will be unable to afford it.
0045	Yes – for all the reasons you state
0046	No - Because it simply will not work. Responsible dog owners (me included) would I am sure, comply if legislation were introduced. However, many others would not comply, which would make the whole thesis of microchipping in

	<p>the first place redundant.</p> <p>Take the analogy of compulsory car tax and insurance for example. There are many thousands of untaxed and uninsured cars in Wales even though the Police have proactive automated systems for detecting defaulters. It will be pretty much impossible (or extremely expensive) to 'police' chipped or unchipped dogs, and to put the onus for this on local authorities would certainly not work.</p>
0047	<p>Yes - Compulsory microchipping of dogs in Wales is likely to significantly increase the likelihood of reuniting stray dogs with their owners, as currently only about 30% of dogs arriving in pounds are micro-chipped and a substantial proportion of dogs fail to be re-united. This would be of benefit to both owners and dogs. It would benefit dog welfare by reducing time in kennels, and reducing risks of euthanasia. It should also make available more places at rescue centres for dogs that require rehoming.</p> <p>Compulsory microchipping of dogs, particularly puppies and breeding dogs, has the potential to ensure that puppies developing health or significant behavioural problems may be traced back to the breeder. This would facilitate taking action under trading regulations for provision of unhealthy animals or for misrepresentation. It may also encourage breeders to take steps to prevent health problems arising for which they may be held liable. Microchipping of breeding parents may help determine if they have been tested for genetic disease. It may also provide a basis in the future for veterinary research on aspects of genetically-based disease.</p> <p>Where micro-chipping is widespread, there is likely to be increased potential for holding owners to account for a range of irresponsible actions, from dog-fouling to allowing dogs to be out of control or to behave aggressively.</p> <p>It is possible that in future instances of disease monitoring and management programmes (e.g. in relation to diseases introduced from other countries) that microchipping of dogs may support tracing of routes of transmission or provide other useful information.</p> <p>In each of the above, microchipping will represent only part of any solution and must be considered alongside other measures.</p>
0048	<p>The Kennel Club believes that all dogs in Wales should have to be microchipped as this form of permanent identification is deemed to be the most efficient in identifying and returning stray dogs to their owners and as a</p>

	<p>result, the most beneficial in relation to welfare and cost savings.</p> <p>The most important reason for microchipping is to enable a straying or lost pet to be returned quickly to its owner. Microchipping has also a number of advantages over other forms of identification. With regards to the collar and tag, it may fail to reunify pet and owner as the collar and tag could fall off or the writing on the tag can fade making it illegible. Additionally, if a dog was stolen, the collar and tag could be removed easily. Permanent identification via microchipping would be effective at all times and difficult to remove or alter.</p> <p>All dogs should be microchipped in Wales in order to reap the wide range of welfare benefits that microchipping provides. As stated above, the main welfare benefit is for dogs to be promptly identified and returned to their owners. In addition, microchipping and registration to a database allows quick and simple detection, acts as a deterrent to dog theft, provides easier identification of owners who persistently allow their dogs to stray, cause nuisance or are culpable of animal cruelty, helps puppies be traceable to their breeder and as a consequence helps to tackle puppy farming problems.</p> <p>Lastly, as microchipped dogs can be returned to owners faster, there are significant economic benefits that can be accrued from saving local authority and rescue centres kennelling costs. This is expanded further in question 2.</p>
0049	<p>To assist with encouraging more responsible dog ownership, all dogs should be permanently identified, i.e. through microchipping so that animals can be matched to their owners and traceability can be improved. The RSPCA firmly believes that this should be part of an annual registration scheme. Such a scheme, implemented at a local level, would ensure there are sufficient funding streams for dog wardens and police Dog Legislation Officers (DLO) roles so that the law can be adequately enforced and public safety and animal welfare improvements can be seen in practice.</p> <p>The RSPCA believes that compulsory microchipping is a useful tool to allow for the traceability of dogs back to their owners (providing the owner's contact information remains up to date on one central database). This can be beneficial for ensuring dogs that are lost or stray can be returned to their owner more quickly and also encourages more responsible dog ownership. However, microchipping on its own will not solve irresponsible dog ownership and as such we are concerned that the Welsh Government may be placing too much weight on what compulsory</p>

	microchipping can deliver especially when no extra resources are being provided for local authorities for the enforcement of such provisions.
0050	<p>Yes, we support the compulsory microchipping of all dogs. We believe;-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is an effective way to link a dog to its owner and to make all owners accountable for the actions of their dog. ○ Compulsory microchipping will improve animal welfare by making it easier to reunite a stray dog with its owner. ○ Develop further, responsible ownership by introducing greater traceability of owners (past and current). ○ Act as a deterrent against dog theft.
0051	<p>Yes</p> <p>Rapid identification of dogs would allow enforcement authorities to deal more effectively with straying, fouling and dangerous dog issues, and micro-chipping is the only way in which this can be achieved in a cost effective way.</p>
0052	No – it is not enforceable and will cause good/ honest breeders and owners into spending money as vets wont do this for free.
0053	<p>PDSA would support microchipping all dogs within a year of any legislation coming into effect.</p> <p>If there were no change to the current situation whereby owners can choose whether or not to microchip their puppies and older dogs, this would not be supported by PDSA. Approximately 80% of the public want to see microchipping for all dogs and various organisations have long been promoting microchipping outlining the benefits to the dog and their owner.</p>
0054	<p>Yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To improve animal welfare; easier to return stray dogs to their owners, owners more easily identified where suffering is found, greater traceability of dogs from breeders etc. ● Promote responsible ownership; dog's owners could be identified from microchip information.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deter the theft of dogs, as the owners of dogs can be identified from the microchip information. • Aid any investigation in connection with dogs as owner can be identified and held liable.
0055	<p>Yes. Over 120,000 dogs were picked up as strays by Local Authorities across the UK last year, an overall increase. In Wales some 9,482 dogs were dealt with as strays, which is a slight decrease on the year before (<i>Dogs Trust; Annual Stray Dog Survey 2011</i>). However, despite the slight decrease the number being returned to their owners remains below half at just 42%.</p> <p>The result of this is financial cost to the Local Authorities, a continuing burden on rehoming and rescue organisations, and the destruction of hundreds of dogs for want of a good home. The introduction of mandatory permanent identification by microchip would enable many more dogs to be returned to their owners and fewer having to be destroyed, or passed on to already overstretched rehoming and rescue centres.</p> <p>Permanent identification would also allow the easy identification of an owner where allegations of cruelty are being investigated, the policy could have a positive impact on the problem of puppy farming and irresponsible breeding, and it will promote the principles of responsible dog ownership. It is also hoped that the need to permanently identify a dog, combined with useful outreach work to inform the dog owner of their responsibilities, will also have a positive impact on the dangerous dog problem in Wales.</p>
0056	<p>In principle the micro chipping of all dogs is agreed because it would enable the Council's dog wardens to trace the owners of any stray dogs collected and return them directly to the owners; this would effectively reduce the kennelling costs for the Authority.</p>
0057	<p>Yes but it isn't just the micro-chipping that is the issue it is making sure that details are kept up to date.</p> <p>I don't think that compulsory micro-chipping is going to miraculously solve all dog related problems including dog attacks as many people seem to think it will. However, I do think it is a good starting point and a step forward in responsible dog ownership and it should in theory help Local Authorities and stray dog facilities in identifying owners of dogs which may be straying, fouling or behaving in a dangerous manner.</p>

	<p>We have been offering free micro-chipping at Cardiff Dogs Home for a number of years and although we micro-chip all the dogs we home and many public take up the offer of micro-chipping there are still a large number of people that don't get their dogs chipped. Further action is needed to make it compulsory but not only compulsory to get it done but to also keep records updated.</p>
0058	<p>Yes. Compulsory microchipping is an essential element of the excellent animal welfare work already in place in Wales.</p> <p>The benefits of permanent identification are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The easy return of stray dogs; b. The ability to identify any dog that may transgress including being out of control or dangerously out of control; c. The ability to identify the owner of a dog where there may be an offence under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and subsequent secondary legislation introduced by the Welsh Assembly Government; d. The ability to trace the provenance of a dog to its breeder; e. The ability to trace dogs for disease control purposes. <p>None of these benefits can be attained except by the introduction of compulsory permanent identification and this is currently best achieved using the microchip.</p> <p>While voluntary microchipping has been available for more than fifteen years, it is clear that dogs belonging to two groups are most likely to be microchipped: the responsible owner who wishes to ensure their lost dog can be returned promptly; and the dog owner who has had their dog microchipped free of charge or at a reduced rate by a charity. Sadly this latter group are less likely to amend their contact details and it seems likely that their dogs represent the majority of microchipped stray dogs whose owners cannot be traced. A properly constructed compulsory scheme is likely to encourage this latter group to keep their details up to date.</p>

	<p>The owners of dogs that have not been microchipped probably fall into two groups: those who just haven't got round to it and the majority of whom will comply with a compulsory scheme; and those who have no regard for any legislation and are probably the most irresponsible owners. While some of this group may be forced to comply by their housing provider, there will inevitably be some who will never do so.</p>
0059	<p>No, we do not think that all dogs in Wales should have to be microchipped, we believe it is overly intrusive and only offers limited suggested "possible benefits".</p> <p>At a time of national austerity and public sector cut backs, it would place an unnecessary financial burden on many hundreds of thousands of already responsible dog owners and an additional financial and administrative burden on our already overstretched public sector services, and is also likely to be ignored by those less responsible dog owners it is most intended to target.</p> <p>The enormity and the financial and administrative implications of enforcing and <u>accurately</u> maintaining such records should not be underestimated. Particularly bearing in mind that not only do dogs change owners, but that owners also change addresses. This coupled with the fact that new owners may have no way of verifying for themselves that a dog is microchipped, or that any microchip number with which they are provided is accurate, it has the potential to become an administrative nightmare which realises few of the suggested benefits and at significantly higher costs.</p>
0060	<p>Given the increasing concerns of NFU Cymru members throughout Wales of livestock worrying by stray dogs, particularly with sheep worrying around the spring lambing season, it is our view that dogs in Wales should be microchipped.</p>
0061	<p>Like the majority of individuals and organisations involved in dog welfare, I believe that microchipping can help with a number of welfare issues. Microchipping can reunite lost and stray dogs with their owners. When dogs are tragically killed in road accidents, scanning for chips can allow information to be relayed back to an owner who may be worried about a missing dog.</p>

	<p>I am involved in voluntary work with greyhounds. Currently, these are routinely tattooed for identification in the racing industry. Sadly it is not unknown for dogs to have their ears mutilated (cut off) to eliminate tracing identification. Universal microchipping would ensure there is less motivation for this to occur, and may assist in reducing the problem of ex-racing dogs being abandoned.</p> <p>Easier identification of dogs will assist considerably in managing the problems caused by irresponsible dog ownership and “status dogs” – compulsory chipping for dogs who belong to social housing tenants will help in the management and identification of disputes caused by episodes of anti social behaviour linked to dog ownership.</p> <p>Easier identification of dogs will assist in the enforcement of dog fouling legislation.</p> <p>Clear identification of individual dogs will assist in the welfare issues associated with management of dog breeding premises. The issues attached to this are already being dealt with via the proposed changes to dog breeding legislation in Wales, so it is unnecessary to repeat the points here, except to say that chipping will be warmly welcomed.</p> <p>Finally, chipping of the dog population could be of considerable assistance in respect to issues of disease management.</p>
0062	<p>Yes</p> <p>Our experience as Dog Wardens is that it is often difficult to identify owners of dogs that are straying, fouling or acting in a dangerous manner. Rapid identification of dogs would allow enforcement authorities to deal more effectively with these issues, and micro-chipping is the only way in which this can be achieved in a cost effective way.</p> <p>Free or low cost micro-chipping has been offered by charities and local authorities across Wales over many years, but this has not led to universal coverage and further action is therefore required.</p>
0063	<p>We understand the reasons for microchipping as set out in the consultation document and agree with the points made. We recognise in particular that microchipping will assist greatly with returning lost, stolen or stray dogs to</p>

	their respective owners.
0064	We are in support of compulsory microchipping of puppies for the reasons given in the consultation document.
0065	<p>The Union supports in principle microchipping dogs as a backup mechanism for identification should collars and tags be lost or tattoos faded, although it does believe that some of the issues raised in the document in support of compulsory chipping, such as encouraging responsible dog ownership, will be dependant on owners actually microchipping their dogs in the first place. There is also concern at the use of legislation rather than positive voluntary measures, which adds another layer of unnecessary bureaucracy whilst achieving very little in return.</p> <p>The Union fully supports the promotion of voluntary microchipping for older dogs, although agrees that there might be a case for microchipping puppies from licensed breeders to improve the perception of Wales as a centre of puppy farming. This, however, will only work if the public buy microchipped puppies.</p>
0066	<p>Yes</p> <p>Our experience as local authorities – and specifically in this instance – dog wardens- is that it is often difficult to identify owners of dogs that are straying, fouling or acting in a dangerous manner. Rapid identification of dogs would allow enforcement authorities to deal more effectively with these issues, and micro-chipping is the only way in which this can be achieved in a cost effective way.</p> <p>Free or low cost micro-chipping has been offered by charities and local authorities across Wales over many years, but this has not led to universal coverage and further action is therefore required.</p>
0067	<p>We have long called for the microchipping of all dogs to be made compulsory. Compulsory microchipping is beneficial for animal welfare and responsible pet ownership for the reasons given below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Microchipping is a permanent form of identification; 2. It enables pets and owners to be reunited in cases of straying, accident or theft; 3. It could help reduce the numbers of stray dogs; 4. As the owner/breeder of the animal can be identified, it can promote responsible pet ownership and responsible breeding practices; 5. It allows for the identification of individual animals for certification, test results and medical history; 6. It enables veterinary surgeons to contact owners more easily in case of an emergency – e.g. with an animal

	<p>brought in after a road traffic accident.</p> <p>It is important to stress, however, that compulsory microchipping will be ineffective without a robust registration system that needs to be well regulated in any legislation along with a requirement for the owner/registered keeper to be responsible for keeping the details up to date. A central reunification mechanism for databases will need to be established to facilitate access through a single point of entry.</p>
0068	YES - It will promote traceability, enabling authorities to reunite stray dogs with their owners and make it very difficult (if not impossible) for irresponsible owners to deny ownership and avoid liability for their dogs. It will also deter dog theft
0069	BASC believes that whilst micro chipping has benefits, its use should be down to individual choice and not a mandatory requirement and that the case for compulsory microchipping has not yet been made. The consultation document quotes figures from a 2009 survey regarding local authorities in which seven of the twelve that responded were in favour 58.3%. It would therefore follow that 41.7% were not. With 22 Unitary Authorities in Wales, if all of these were surveyed the proportion of positive responses received actually decrease. The same could be true in respect of the figures quoted for vets. Whilst 65% of the 81 who responded felt that microchipping should not remain voluntary. What was the original number surveyed? Is this a true representation?
0071	Yes, we believe that all dogs in Wales should be microchipped irrespective of where they have been bred, and that this will be a major step forward in improving animal welfare. From an enforcement perspective, compulsory microchipping proves ownership and therefore who is liable/responsible for an animal. In addition, it will also reunite stray dogs with their owners and reduce incidences of stolen dogs as it will act as a deterrent. Compulsory microchipping will reduce the numbers of dogs that have to be impounded and will be a very useful tool for the Police when dealing with dangerously out-of-control dogs as they will be able to quickly identify owners.
0072	Yes. For welfare reasons with stray or abused dogs and traceability of breeders as well as owners. This would make them responsible for their dogs.
0073	Yes

0074	no. My experience of microchipping companion animals is that the system does not always work. An animal of mine was killed by a car, left on the side of the road and neighbours arranged for local environmental services to destroy the remains whilst I was at work. The animal was microchipped. So it did not help in this situation.
0075	Yes because there are too many irresponsible owners who abuse, abandon and use their dogs for harmful acts such as dog fighting or training them to be aggressive towards people. In order to hold them accountable they need to be traced.
0076	No. But I have to say that all our lggies are microchipped, I just don't agree with compulsory chipping, as there are perfectly good alternatives ie tattooing
0077	yes because I think the owner will then take better responsibility of the dog, police will have better evidence to act on dogs that have attacked someone so there is no question then who the dog belongs to and the animal welfare would be able to take action much quicker.
0078	Yes - to deter owners from abandoning dogs and from irresponsible breeding (breeders should take responsibility for dogs they have bred.) This should include ALL breeders - not just those licensed by their local authority.
0079	I think it would be a good idea for all dogs in Wales to be microchipped when they are born. This will ensure all dogs are registered to an owner and the types of dogs that people own is also registered.
0080	Consolidate responsibility of dog owner /positive ID of dog throughout its life. makes dog a member of society by association with owner/not anonymous/traceable/ accountable.
0081	Yes, it will improve the ability of councils to trace the owners of stray dogs and hopefully discourage people from abandoning dogs. It will aim to create a culture of responsible dog ownership.
0082	Yes. It will encourage owners to take greater responsibility for their dogs.
0083	yes It will improve identification and help reunite lost animals it will help prove accountability and liability of ownership and help prevent theft.
0084	No, worthwhile objective but unworkable, what happens to an owner who has had their dog chipped and the chip migrates/ceases operating? is the owner prosecuted? if only 1% are not readable that is over 4,000 dogs (some evidence suggests the figure is nearer 5% failure. consultation states that tattoos can be removed so can microchips either surgically or with more cruel methods (there is thriving underground vet side to dog fighting) what is the position with dogs that come in from countries where it is not compulsory to microchip. Obviously this will not be a factor if all parts of the UK implement at the same time with the same rules.
0085	Yes, to ensure that traceability of dogs can be ascertained. That puppy farms can be monitored accordingly and that

	criminals can be prosecuted by proving ownership of dogs in cruelty cases etc.
0086	Yes. Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, one of the oldest and best-known animal welfare organisations in the world, supports the compulsory microchipping of all dogs in Wales and throughout the UK. Although not a catch-all solution in its own right, we believe that compulsory microchipping will provide an essential framework for creating a culture of responsible ownership of dogs. Compulsory microchipping of all dogs in Wales would be an efficient way of reuniting lost dogs with their owners and would combat unidentifiable strays. Both of these create higher kennelling costs organisations such as Battersea and Local Authorities.
0087	Unlike other animals dogs are associated closely with areas inhabited by humans. Dog numbers are increasing. Dogs do not have a moral compass and their safe and civil conduct is under the direct control of their owners. There must be a means to identify and hold to account the owner of animals causing civil nuisance and exhibiting behaviours that threaten the well being of citizens.
0088	Will help control of stray dogs and make it easier for authorities to deal with owners who do not control their dogs. It will make it easier for victims of dog attacks to get justice from the owner.
0089	Yes, logged on a single database. This would enable the owners of dogs to be identified so that prosecutions can be brought against their owners when a dog attacks a horse or rider, or any other person. It would also help to ensure improved regulation of breeding dogs in a region that is stigmatised by the number of <u>_puppy farms_</u> . Legislation regarding the passporting and microchipping of horses has been in place for a number of years now, microchipping dogs would be the modern replacement for the licence that owners used to have to have. Responsible dog owners would welcome the introduction of microchipping; it would help to relocate dogs if lost, it could be used to improve breed standards (to confirm that it is the correct dog) and help to reduce the number of <u>_puppy farms_</u> .
0090	No, it should be the owner's free choice.
0091	yes. My cat was chipped and when he got lost someone took it to a vet and so he was identified and came home.
0092	Tracability
0093	Yes. This will control all dogs especially violent and illegal dogs. It will make policing the dog problem a lot easier.
0094	Yes It would make people more responsible for their animals' behaviour and safety, and for leaving their faeces in inappropriate places. It would make people think more responsibly about acquiring dogs at all.
0095	Yes, to reduce the number of stray animals and to improve animal welfare, forcing owners to take responsibility for thier dogs.

0096	<p>No: Whilst the Pet Care Trust supports microchipping and believes that microchipping is an excellent method of permanently identifying a dog, it should not be made mandatory.</p> <p>The present legal requirement for dogs in public to wear a collar and tag showing the owner's name and address is perfectly serviceable as a way of reuniting the vast majority of dogs with their owners. Whilst microchipping is desirable as an extra safeguard in case the collar falls off, it would be disproportionate to criminalise pet owners who do not comply.</p> <p>You state that compulsory microchipping could :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Shorten the period of confinement for stray dogs, thus reducing stress for the animal and costs for the local authority.</i> <p>However this does not guarantee that animals will be reunited with their owners. For instance, if a vet finds a chip which has different owner details from that of his client, he is under no obligation to inform the original owner.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <i>Introduce greater traceability</i> <p>This will only happen if transfer papers are up to date, this is also important when establishing liability and proof of ownership</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <i>Could act as a deterrent against theft</i> <p>This is not an automatic deterrent to theft, as microchips are not visible. How will it be policed? Will owners become criminalised if the chip has become dormant? What level of fine would be levied on an owner? Who will bring prosecutions?</p> <p>The Pet Care Trust believes that enforcement of mandatory microchipping would only further burden an overworked police force and local authority. It would require further investment in infrastructure.</p> <p>The Pet Care Trust strongly recommends the Welsh Assembly Government adopt option 1.</p> <p>Not introduce legislation but continue to work with local authorities and third sector organisations to</p>
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	<p>encourage owners to microchip their dogs on a voluntary basis</p> <p>STATE This approach also complies with the Hampton review for better regulation by making use of bodies and systems already in place.</p>
0097	<p>The SHG is opposed to compulsory micro-chipping. The decision to micro-chip should remain with the individual dog owner in Wales.</p> <p>The UK government has recently committed to closing down the ID card database. Dog microchipping is just another register of people. It does nothing to prevent dog theft or to help find dogs that are lost. Indeed, reading reports of missing dogs there seem to be as many lost and stolen that are micro-chipped as those that are not. There is no evidence that this leads to an increased percentage of dogs that are micro-chipped being found and returned to their owners when either lost or stolen. <i>See "Pet owner hits out as dog re-homed"</i>. http://www.blackpoolgazette.co.uk/news/local/pet-owner-hits-out-as-dog-rehomed-1-4733856</p> <p>The SHG opposes compulsory micro-chipping on the grounds that it is dog registration and licensing under another name, that it creates a database registry of people and their movements, thus representing great intrusion into people's privacy, and that it punishes responsible dog owners for the actions of a minority.</p> <p>We know that any problems are caused by a minority because Welsh Environment Minister John Griffiths said: <i>"We believe the majority of dog owners in Wales are responsible and take good care of their animals."</i> http://www.vetsonline.com/actualites/detail/53831/welsh-to-consult-on-compulsory-dogmicrochipping.html</p> <p>Clearly the Welsh Government must consider the proportionality of forcing uncalled for restrictions on the peaceful enjoyment by people of their property (dogs) when it is clear from the proposals that the majority of people have chosen not to take up offers of free or cheap micro-chipping.</p> <p>We have been unable to find any figures to show the actual voluntary uptake of micro-chipping among Welsh or UK dog owners. Nor have we found any figures for compliance with compulsory microchipping in Northern Ireland although we accept that this is new legislation. It should be remembered</p>

	<p>that when the dog licence was abandoned it had an uptake of only 50%. A large number of people who would need to be forced to comply.</p> <p>There are serious health issues with microchips. They may move within the dog's body. There are certainly instances where chips that have been inserted for pet passports have not been found resulting in dogs facing long stays in quarantine. Microchips appear to be associated with the appearance of tumours at the site of the chip. No responsible pet owner is going to want to risk the health of their animal for a dubious benefit. Indeed, the procedure might well be in breach of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (AWA), although we note that the Act makes government sponsored cruelty exempt. See: http://www.chipmenot.org/ and http://www.antichips.com/cancer/</p> <p>This does not sit easily with the claim that these proposals will serve to improve animal welfare. Worse, by creating compulsory micro-chipping the Welsh Government will provide micro-chippers with the protective cover of S. 4(3)(b) of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. This essentially states that state sanctioned cruelty is exempt from prosecution – and arguably from any financial claims for compensation for injury and suffering caused to dogs and the inevitable associated veterinary fees.</p> <p>Tattooing appears to be a far less dangerous procedure and at least is visible on the dog, unlike microchipping which needs specialist equipment. There is already a dog tattoo register and it should be noted that the Dangerous Dogs Act insists on a tattoo as well as a micro-chip. http://www.dog-register.co.uk/ .</p> <p>It is impossible to see how micro-chipping could reduce dog fouling.</p>
0098	Yes. So that strays and lost dogs can be found easier. It could also mean that puppy farms and breeders would need to take more responsibility so that you could see just how many they are breeding, plus the welfare of these dogs can be monitored. An entire history of a dogs life can be recorded and the issues surrounding them tackled more easily.
0099	Yes, because it would force owners to take responsibility for their animals and make any necessary actions against those owners easier, as it would be like owning your car..... you're responsible for the actions of anyone driving your car etc.
0100	DEFINATELY!!! I think if all dogs were microchipped, you could trace owners who dump or neglect their dogs. I also

	believe there should be a ban on breeding also, social networking sites are rife with dogs for sale or free, ban on advertising on networking / selling sites.. with ever increasing horror stories of dogs being used for dog fighting etc. Neutering should also be compulsory to prevent breeding unless people have applied for a special licence. We need dog licences, special licences to allow breeding with restrictions and guidelines on re-homing, making people take responsibility, ownership.. this cruelty has to stop!!
0101	Yn bendant. Mi fyddai hyn yn golygu bod perchnogaeth ci yn rhywbeth i'w ystyried o ddifrif. Mi fyddai hefyd yn golygu bod modd canfod perchnogion cwn strae.
0102	Yes, I work for an animal rescue centre and promote microchipping as a responsible way of taking responsibility for dogs. People should be prepared to look after animals they buy or adopt.
0103	Absolutely, definitely NOT. Irresponsible owners will take no notice and how can it possibly be enforced. Local councils already stretched to deliver essential services. Dog licences were dropped as impossible to administer. Won't help dangerous dog situation. Identification following dog attacks not usually a problem as it is more often than not a family pet or neighbour's dog who commits attack. Won't help stray situation. Most strays are abandoned and owners don't want them back. An owner whose dog is genuinely lost will move heaven and earth to get them back. Highly efficient websites have an interactive network, rescue centres, dog wardens, vets etc would be contacted routinely
0104	YES - to tackle the increasing problem of strays, fouling and encourage more responsible dog ownership.
0105	No, we do not think that all dogs in Wales should have to be microchipped, we believe it is overly intrusive and only offers limited suggested "possible benefits". At a time of national austerity and public sector cut backs, it would place an unnecessary financial burden on many hundreds of thousands of already responsible dog owners and an additional financial and administrative burden on our already overstretched public sector services, and is also likely to be ignored by those less responsible dog owners it is most intended to target. The enormity and the financial and administrative implications of enforcing and accurately maintaining such records should not be underestimated. Particularly bearing in mind that not only do dogs change owners, but that owners also change addresses. This, coupled with the fact that new owners may have no way of verifying for themselves that a dog is microchipped, or that any microchip number with which they are provided is accurate, has the potential to become an administrative nightmare which realises few of the suggested benefits and at significantly higher costs.

0106	<p>Microchipping is proven to be the most effective way of ensuring lost dogs are returned to their owners. However of the 8.2 million pet dogs currently in the UK, more than a third remain unidentifiable, by permanent means.</p> <p>As a further encouragement, according to recent independent economic research carried out by the Alliance, it has revealed that if the Welsh Government were to introduce compulsory microchipping it could save the public purse between £2.39 and £2.67 million per year¹.</p> <p>If more dogs were microchipped, more could be returned direct to their owners enhancing animal welfare as well as the cost savings to local authorities. We believe that microchipping could help with the enforcement of other existing legislation such as the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 or Dogs Act 1871.</p> <p>The most important reason for microchipping is to enable a lost, stolen or straying dog to be returned promptly to its owner. Permanent identification has a number of advantages over the use of a collar and tag. A collar and tag can easily be removed from a stray or stolen dog. Conversely, permanent identification by means of a microchip is effective at all times, is impossible to alter and extremely difficult to remove.</p> <p>However, the microchip number on its own is meaningless. Owners need to register the microchip number along with their personal details with an appropriate computerised database. The databases currently used in the UK can only be accessed by authorised bodies such as animal wardens, the police, animal welfare centre personnel and vets. Once an individual or organisation has been verified they are allocated a PIN number to facilitate such access. It is essential that database details are kept up to date, and, that the database is available 24 hours a day. All databases must be compatible with a single point of entry.</p> <p>We believe that the introduction of compulsory microchipping of all dogs will help to improve animal welfare, aid the government in tackling a large number of issues relating to irresponsible dog ownership and ease financial pressures on local authority services.</p>
0107	<p>Yes. Guide Dogs concur with the potential benefits identified by compulsory microchipping within the consultation document. We believe that the compulsory microchipping of all dogs at the earliest opportunity is the best and most</p>

¹ Microchipping Alliance independent economic research 2011

	<p>effective way of improving animal welfare; reducing the level of stress for a dog when separated from it's owner and helping establish ownership liability where required. We believe compulsory microchipping should be an important element of any future dog control legislation that may be introduced as the result of the forthcoming Control of Dogs (Wales) Bill consultation that was recently announced.</p>
0108	<p>Yes. Dogs if strayed, can be reunited with their owners. Dogs that do damage can be traced back to their owners.</p>
0109	<p>Yes. I think there are many benefits to having all dogs microchipped and it will encourage dog owners to take more responsibility for their animals.</p>
0110	<p>Yes encourages responsible ownership. I particularly relate to geyhounds who are often abandoned after their racing days. Also if you loose your dog can be easily identified.</p>
0111	<p>Dogs Trust believes that all dogs in Wales should have to be permanently identified via a microchip.</p> <p>Microchipping is proven to be the most effective way of ensuring lost dogs are returned to their owners. However, of the estimated 8.2 million pet dogs currently in the UK, more than a third remain unidentifiable by a permanent means of identification. According to recent independent economic research carried out by Dogs Trust on behalf of the Microchipping Alliance, if the Welsh Government were to introduce compulsory microchipping it could save the public purse between £2.39 million and £2.61 million per year. If more dogs were microchipped, more could be returned to their owners and in a timelier manner. As such the cost to local authorities would be vastly reduced. Dogs Trust is aware that the Local Government Authority believes voluntary microchipping is working. However, despite years of endless education and free microchipping offers from charities, only an estimated 59% of the dog population is currently microchipped and stray dog figures for the UK continue to rise year on year, last year standing at over 9,482 in Wales.</p> <p>The most important reason for microchipping is to enable a lost, stolen or stray dog to be returned promptly to its owner. Permanent identification has a number of advantages over the use of a collar and tag. Some dogs are not left with their collar and tag on at all times and dogs, stolen from owners' premises, are likely to have their collar and tag removed if they are wearing them at the time. Permanent identification is effective at all times, is impossible to alter and extremely difficult to remove.</p> <p>As stated above, the main welfare benefit is for dogs to be promptly identified and returned to their owners. In</p>

	<p>addition, microchipping and registration to a database allows quick and simple detection, acts as a deterrent to dog theft, provides easier identification of owners who persistently allow their dogs to stray, cause nuisance or are culpable of animal cruelty, helps puppies be traceable to their breeder and as a consequence helps to tackle puppy farming problems.</p> <p>However, the microchip number alone is meaningless. Keepers need to be compelled to register the microchip number and their details with an appropriate computerised database. It is essential that dog owners update their personal details; to be effective this needs to be mandatory with a penalty imposed for non-compliance. Any database should be available 24 hours a day and all databases compatible and communicate with each other. Dogs Trust is adamant that an independent single point of access to the databases, signed up to a Code of Practice, is essential. A PIN number is needed to access the databases, which can only be accessed by authorised bodies such as animal wardens, the police, social housing landlords, animal welfare centre personnel and vets.</p>
0112	Yes eventually all dogs ... so each owner can take responsibility
0113	Yes Because it would make dealing with the huge numbers of stray dogs so much easier and make owners more responsible for their dogs
0114	Yes. To enable easy identification of stray or lost dogs. To ensure that the necessary authorities can track down owners in the case of animal maltreatment or dog attacks against humans. To ensure that farmers can locate dog owners if a dog is worrying their flocks to help prevent immediate premature shooting of dogs. Chipping might also encourage a more responsible attitude towards dogs e.g. fouling.
0115	Yes.It would result in a full data base of all dogs in Wales. Lost dogs would be rehomed quicker and save on expensive kennelling costs, it would demonstrate responsible dog ownership and identify those dogs that are repeatedly allowed to stray.
0116	Yes, as hopefully this would prevent as many dogs finding thier way into pounds that are there now.
0117	No, there is already to much legislation surrounding hunting, docking tails, etc the goverment should concentrate on more important & relevant issues. eg education, economy health
0118	No. There are health issues arising from the use of microchips. If my dog develops a tumour at the site of the microchip, will I be able to sue the government? The chips can also migrate .
0119	Yes. Animal welfare reasons such as reunite lost animals with owners and potential prosecution of owners for animals discovered in poor health. Public health reasons such as identifying and potentially prosecuting owners of

	dangerous dogs - and by dangerous I mean an animal that is behaving dangerously NOT an animal that simply passes some measurements and ticks a few dubious boxes relating to 'type'
0120	Yes – it will promote traceability, enabling authorities to reunite stray dogs with their owners and make it very difficult (if not impossible) for irresponsible owners to deny ownership and avoid liability for their dogs. It will also deter dog theft

Ref	Response
0027	I think that all dogs should be microchipped within 1 year of the legislation being enacted. The idea of microchipping is sound and, so long as the microchipping companies can cope with the number of dogs to be chipped, it would serve no useful purpose by delaying Wales-wide coverage.
0029	In the view of Welshpool Town Council all dogs should be microchipped.
0030	<p>I feel all breeding bitches should be microchipped and health checked before they are used for breeding. This will prevent over-breeding and keep a record of the litters they produce. Each dog should then receive a health check after each litter, e.g. between 6-8 weeks post litter.</p> <p>The microchipping number of the mother should then also be recorded on the puppies chip.</p> <p>All dogs to be used as a stud dog should also be microchipped and health checked, because of potential inherited health issues.</p> <p>All puppies should be microchipped after a certain date and have a health check before leaving a breeder.</p>
0041	The first two points should be the requirements although I would make the second within 6 months of introduction
0042	In addition I feel that all puppies should be identifiable prior to leaving it's breeder with breeder details being kept on record so that they are also accountable for any offspring they produce. All older dogs should be permanently identifiable within an agreed timescale which I suggest to be 1 year from the date of legislation.
0043	<p>All puppies (including (and indeed especially) those bred by people other than licensed breeders should be microchipped and registered before a certain age (I would suggest around 14 weeks). Although requiring microchipping before leaving the breeders might make enforcement easier neonatal animals may feel more pain from the chipping procedure than those at 14 weeks (in my experience pups complain a lot more about their first vaccination at 6-8 weeks than their second one at 10-12 weeks). That said the pain involved is likely to be quite a bit less than other procedures such as tail docking and dew claw removal which are allowed in neonates.</p> <p>All dogs should be microchipped within one year of legislation being made, assuming the database companies are sure they can cope. If the approach is phased it will be over a decade before an owner guilty of not chipping his/her dog can claim it was born before the legislation was made.</p>

0044	This should not be introduced, therefore this question is NOT APPLICABLE
0045	All dogs be microchipped within 1 year of the legislation being made. Because most effective and easiest to implement & enforce.
0046	IF microchipping legislation were introduced it would make sense to microchip all dogs within a given time period perhaps a year. Microchipping puppies at time of sale would mean there would be a gap of at least ten but possibly up to seventeen or twenty years during which some dogs would be chipped and others not (because some non chipped dogs would live that long) – clearly this would be counterproductive, especially if the disease transmission to humans scenario should ever occur.
0047	It is important that all new puppies are microchipped, that microchipping is required on change of ownership, and that the adult dog population is microchipped within a relatively short period. This would aid publicity campaigns, enforcement by agencies such as local authorities and the police, and create early benefits (eg of reduction of the stray population). However, a one-year time-scale may be too short for effective administration. It is suggested that all dogs should be microchipped within 2 years of the date of implementation of legislation, but that microchipping of new puppies and at change of ownership be required from date of implementation.
0048	<p>The Kennel Club supports Option 2, which requires all dogs be microchipped within 1 year of the legislation, as the best option out of the 5 proposed as it has both the highest welfare and economic benefits combined.</p> <p>Option 1 which would require microchipping puppies born after the legislation has been enacted would eventually lead the outcome of compulsory identification of all dogs. However, this option alone would not be immediately effective in securing both the welfare and economic benefits associated with microchipping all dogs without efforts to ensure existing adult dogs are also included.</p> <p>Option 3 may cover a larger proportion of the dog population as it includes both the microchipping of new puppies and a requirement to microchip upon change of ownership, however it would also not be immediately effective in securing the benefits as it would take years in order for the entire dog population to be microchipped and registered to a database. Furthermore, the Kennel Club's concern regarding the change of ownership element is that dogs which are kept in the ownership of the breeder (for example working dogs) would not need to be microchipped as they have not changed ownership. Problems could arise when an un-chipped animal strays, gets lost or is involved in a dog bite incident. The ability to identify owners to reunite them with their dog and possibly hold them responsible for</p>

	<p>an incident would be a longer and more complicated process. Additionally, there is a higher chance of finding legal loopholes which would allow owners to legally avoid microchipping their dogs.</p> <p>With regards to Option 5 which involves a phased in approach by microchipping puppies at the time of sale, the concern is once again that both welfare and economic benefits would not be delivered fast enough as well as the segment of dogs that might be excluded because they are never transferred to a new owner. This option would offer extremely slow progress for both animal welfare and financial gains for both local authorities and rescue centres.</p> <p>Option 4 which requires new puppies to be microchipped and all dogs on change of ownership as well as the remainder microchipped within an agreed timescale would be the second best option as it would cover a greater proportion of the dog population which would ensure faster delivery of benefits. However, instead of having three different requirements placed on the public, Option 2 which requires all dogs to be microchipped within one year of the legislation would be an easier and more digestible requirement for the public to understand and comply with.</p> <p>Based on a cost impact analysis undertaken by the Microchipping Alliance, the Kennel Club considers Option 2 to be by far the most beneficial in terms of cost savings. The cost analysis looked at implementation costs, enforcement costs, cost savings in Wales and the total estimated cost. The calculated annual cost savings relating solely to dog welfare amount to between £2.39-£2.61 million in the first year of introducing such legislation. These savings could enable local authorities to offer further assistance in other canine related matters as well as potentially providing extra income.</p> <p>Option 2 would allow all dog owners sufficient time to get their dogs microchipped which would ensure that should any dog get lost or stray, the chances of their reunification with the owner are higher and kennelling time lower. In addition, legislation centred on Option 2 could also include measures to avoid possible welfare implications of microchipping older dogs who may find the microchipping process distressing.</p> <p>For these reasons, the Kennel Club considers Option 2 to be the most efficient, beneficial and best 'catch all' option that has the highest welfare benefits as well as lowest costs to both local and national government.</p>
0049	The RSPCA's preferred position of the options listed is the second of those above – all dogs to be microchipped

	<p>within 1 year of the legislation being made - however this is not the solution we would choose.</p> <p>The consultation document states that compulsory microchipping would improve animal welfare by making it easier to re-unite stray dogs with their owners; develop responsible ownership through greater traceability; help establish liability and prove ownership; assist with disease control; and act as deterrent against dog theft. All of these objectives rely on the quality and integrity of the database(s) that holds the information on the owner and the dog. The current situation which allows for any number of private database companies with no central portal for information to be inputted or extracted cannot meet the objectives the Welsh Government want to achieve with this legislation. A new system of registration with a Government-owned database, where owners are required to keep their data up-to-date, would however satisfy these objectives.</p> <p>This is why the RSPCA supports and believes a national dog registration scheme should be brought in because it would also provide a funding stream at a local level to ensure education and enforcement can take place. An annual fee would ensure such resources could be made available and ensure preventative action could be taken to deal with irresponsible dog ownership.</p>
0050	<p>We believe if compulsory microchipping is introduced in Wales then -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It should be required for new puppies and all dogs on change of ownership and the remainder microchipped within an agreed timescale ○ This should be regardless of age (not just those born after a certain date) with implementation from a certain date. This set date should commence as soon as possible, rather than a phased-in approach. ○ The microchipping of all dogs should be completed within 2 years, as this would coincide with the vet visits and booster vaccinations programmes that many dog owners use.
0051	<p>We would support all dogs being micro-chipped within a year, as this would allow for a more rapid resolution of the issues which are currently occurring through inappropriate or irresponsible dog ownership. This is also the easiest option for dog owners to understand and for enforcing authorities to implement.</p>
0053	<p>PDSA would support the second option (microchip all dogs within a year of legislation coming into effect), assuming that this generic phrase includes puppies. We believe the other options could not be enforced and would provide few welfare benefits to dogs in the immediate future.</p>

The other options would not tackle irresponsible dog ownership, under which the changes are proposed. The Microchip Alliance estimate that, at the very least, 60% of dog owners already have their dogs microchipped, and therefore many already view microchipping as a responsible part of dog ownership.

The UK's stray and abandoned dog numbers are vast, with nearly 127,000 dogs being picked up by Local Authorities (LA's) over the year. Over 6% of these strays were euthanased by LA's, an 18% increase on the previous year.

If more dogs were microchipped, this would inevitably result in more being re-united with their owners, fewer being euthanased or housed in rescue centres. The Microchip Alliance estimates these benefits could save LA's approximately £22 million a year.

PDSA also supports the Microchipping Alliance Group's belief that **the first option** (microchip only puppies) is ineffective in improving dogs' welfare and would not ease the burden on charities. In addition, owners of unidentified dogs that were lost or involved in an incident may not be re-united with their owners.

There are also concerns about enforcement if this option (microchip only puppies) were adopted. An enforcement officer may be unable to ascertain if the owner were complying with legislation based on the dog's age if there was no record of the dog's date of birth.

If **the third option** (microchip new puppies and all dogs on change of ownership only) were adopted, PDSA believes that this would have little benefit as dogs usually stay with the same owner for their whole life and under this option the dog would never be microchipped.

The fourth option (microchip all dogs on change of owner and then after a period of time) may have better welfare and financial benefits than previous options, but only if it were necessary for all dogs to be microchipped within 2 years of the legislation coming into effect rather than five years. PDSA would cautiously welcome this option but only if the period of time for compliance was fixed and lower.

	The fifth option would not be supported by PDSA. Approximately 80% of the public want to see microchipping for all dogs and various organisations have long been promoting microchipping outlining the benefits to the dog and their owner.
0054	All dogs are microchipped within 1 year of the legislation being made. This will enable there to be a clear start point. If all dogs are microchipped then reuniting lost/stray dogs with their owners would be easier. Regulators would be better placed to take action against irresponsible dog owners where appropriate.
0055	Blue Cross considers the legislation should provide for all dogs be microchipped within 1 year ideally. But we acknowledge that this could provide some implementation issues. However, due to the outreach (microchipping services) already offered by the voluntary sector in Wales we don't consider that the supply of microchips would be a barrier. All puppies should be microchipped at time of sale, and we consider that a two year implementation period would be more than adequate to ensure that all dogs in Wales were permanently identified by microchips.
0056	If compulsory micro chipping was introduced it should be applied to all dogs. It is estimated that there are 463,000 dogs in Wales therefore sufficient time needs to be allowed for this to happen. Assuming the above figures are accurate there are approximately 21,000 dogs per Authority. Whilst it is appreciated that many of these dogs would already be chipped, it is doubted whether 1 year would be sufficient to ensure that the remainder are chipped. Notwithstanding this a five year period would likely be too much. It is suggested that all new puppies and dogs that change ownership are immediately micro chipped with all other dogs being chipped within a two year period.
0057	I feel that all dogs be micro-chipped within 1 year of the legislation being made is the best option. It is probably the easiest to understand and enforce and will also see the quickest results.
0058	The average life expectancy of a dog is 10-11 years and consequently any scheme that relies solely on microchipping puppies would take ten years to be fully effective. The adverse welfare consequences of such a delay are unacceptable. However the compulsory microchipping and registration on a database of puppies before they change hands is an essential element of the introduction of compulsory microchipping. A phase in period is essential to the introduction of compulsory microchipping to allow owners and the industry a reasonable time to react. A year is the maximum that should be allowed for dogs born after the date of implementation of any legislation. Dogs have temporary teeth which are readily distinguishable from permanent teeth, with permanent teeth all erupted by the age of six months. It is therefore possible to identify whether a dog is

	<p>aged more or less than six months and so a six month phase in period may be easier to enforce. However such a measure on its own would not be sufficiently effective as there would be many young puppies that were perceived to be too young to be microchipped and therefore not microchipped prior to sale.</p> <p>If the ability to identify the owner of a dog is to be possible there must also be a requirement to identify dogs as they change hands. Such a requirement is also an essential element of the legislation.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to including a residency requirement in the legislation as some visitors to Wales may, sadly, not have their dogs microchipped. I consider that any person who owns property in Wales, even if it is not their primary residence, or who has been resident for more than thirty days should be required to have their dog microchipped under the legislation. Any person whose dog is not microchipped should be required to show that they do not meet the residency stipulations.</p>
0059	We do not support the compulsory microchipping of all dogs. However if made compulsory, and if enforcement/compliance are to become effective within a reasonable timescale, the requirement for all dogs to be microchipped within 1 year of the legislation would seem the most appropriate option
0060	Given the severity of the problem of livestock worrying by stray dogs and the urgent need for a solution to this problem it is NFU Cymru's view that all dogs should be microchipped within 1 year of the legislation being made. This would be in line with the scenario outlined in Option 4 of the consultation document and this would give a clear enforcement date by which all dogs must be microchipped. We recognise that the need to register a large number of dogs in a short time period may put some pressure on microchip database operators but feel that the potential benefits would outweigh the costs.
0061	Adoption of a phased approach may initially appear to be attractive, but could be problematic for anyone involved in enforcement of the requirement. Since the majority of dogs already are chipped, and action is forthcoming also on chipping of all dogs produced in licensed breeding kennels, it makes sense to adopt the requirement for all dogs to be chipped within one year of the legislation being introduced.
0062	We would support all dogs being micro-chipped within a year, as this would allow for a more rapid resolution of the issues which are currently occurring through inappropriate or irresponsible dog ownership. This is also the easiest option for dog owners to understand and for enforcing authorities to implement.
0064	The most logical approach is to microchip all new puppies after the legislation is made. This would ensure that all

	<p>dogs of a certain age should be expected to have a microchip making it easier to enforce. Micro chipping of older dogs should remain voluntary but should be promoted by increasing the information available to owners (e.g. through the media, veterinary surgeries). Given the average dog's lifespan it should then take between 10-15 years for all dogs to be microchipped.</p> <p>If all dogs are immediately to be microchipped then a much greater resource is needed to supply and implement this.</p>
0065	<p>The FUW believes that most responsible owners will microchip their dogs as a matter of course, as the benefits are primarily to their advantage, such as reunification and or identification in cases of theft etc, however, the Union is unconvinced that the wider benefits cited by the welsh government, of promoting responsible dog ownership can be backed up by fact. Indeed, there may well be welfare issues if chips are removed by unscrupulous dog owners and this needs to be considered in the context of this consultation.</p> <p>Under the Control of Dogs Order 1992, dogs are already required to be identifiable in public by wearing a collar and tag with the owner's name and address. The Union believes that irresponsible dog owners are as likely to not use a microchip as they would a collar and indeed, there is anecdotal evidence to suggest that some dog owners stop using collars and tags once their dogs have been chipped.</p> <p>The agricultural industry has suffered increasing problems associated with sheep worrying on farmland, and so it is extremely interested in any measures which would help mitigate these problems. Unfortunately, the FUW does not believe that compulsory microchipping will have any real impact on irresponsible dog owners who are unlikely to comply and so the decision whether or not to microchip older dogs should remain a voluntary.</p> <p>The FUW also believes that any consideration of a statutory framework must be done on a Wales/England basis, as legislating in Wales only will be almost impossible to police, particularly in border and tourist areas.</p>
0066	<p>We would support all dogs being micro-chipped within a year, as this would allow for a more rapid resolution of the issues which are currently occurring through inappropriate or irresponsible dog ownership. This is also the easiest option for dog owners to understand and for enforcing authorities to implement.</p>
0067	<p>We support the microchipping of all dogs after a certain period (e.g. a year from the introduction of the legislation) as this is likely to make enforcement easier. We therefore support the second consultation option. We further advise that</p>

	<p>puppies should be microchipped and registered before the first change of ownership such that the breeder is the first registered owner. This will provide transparency regarding a pup's origin.</p> <p>We believe that requiring all dogs to be microchipping within a year of the legislation will be the most effective option as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Only microchipping puppies will mean that it will be 10-12 years before the legislation is fully effective meaning that the full welfare benefits will not be realised until this time. It will also be difficult to enforce as it is hard to accurately estimate the age of an adult dog and therefore whether or not it should have been microchipped. 2. Requiring microchipping on change of ownership will be difficult to enforce as it will be difficult to ascertain whether or not an animal had a previous owner. <p>It will of course be vital to ensure that all microchip implanters are adequately trained.</p>
0068	<p>Option 2 in the above list; all dogs to be micro-chipped within 1 year of the legislation coming into force. Continued reliance on voluntary registration leaves the key group of irresponsible owners and thieves largely unaffected. Confining registration to new puppies will take 10- 12 years to implement complete coverage and this is too long. Simply micro-chipping new puppies and other dogs on a transfer of ownership would be difficult if not impossible to enforce. Option 2 in the above list could be applied in a phased way, new puppies, change of ownership by sale or gift and within one year of the legislation coming into force if the other two eventualities have not occurred. Failure to register within time should be an offence. Penalties for failure to register should include a fine and/or imprisonment coupled with a ban on ownership of a dog as is appropriate in the circumstances.</p>
0069	<p>If compulsory microchipping is introduced in Wales then BASC would suggest that the option to microchip all puppies born after the legislation is made would be the easiest and most straight forward. It would also be in harmony with the proposed legislation regarding licenced breeders in that all breeders of dogs would have to microchip puppies born after this date.</p>
0070	<p>ACPO support compulsory microchipping of puppies at the earliest opportunity, and all dogs over a period of three years. This is primarily an animal welfare issue, but will assist the Police in assisting other agencies. Aside from owner accountability and a stray dog being involved in an incident of being dangerously out of control, there are few public safety issues benefited from, or affected by, compulsory microchipping.</p>

However, this would address a number of areas of current concerns including:

- A phased approach is necessary to ensure that the workload being placed on microchipping companies with a surge of applications is taken into account.
- That sufficient and reasonable period of notice is given to the public to have their dogs microchipped, maximising compliance.
- Those involved in the microchipping of dogs, such as veterinary practices and the charitable sector, are not overwhelmed but rather experience a gradual increase over the period of three years.
- ACPO suggests a three year lead time on implementation. In the first year microchipping should take place at sale or change of ownership. In the second year microchipping should take place of any animal that comes to local authority and third sector possession/attention. By the end of year three the Police would wish to see the microchipping of all dogs. This would greatly assist a long term solution to irresponsible dog ownership.

The potential benefits of compulsory microchipping would include:

- Empowering the local authorities and voluntary sector to microchip dogs that come into their possession. It is important that, to be effective, the agencies have the power to microchip a dog that is in their temporary possession without having to seek the permission of the owner.
- Empowering enforcers to take action against those irresponsible individuals who will not microchip and register their dogs. Without this power, any other type of compulsory microchipping risks becoming a tax on responsible dog owners. With the context of 20% cuts in police funding and the low numbers of Dog Legislation officers in Wales we do not see the police having the capacity to undertake enforcement action on any significant scale.
- The suggestion that only puppies should receive compulsory microchipping will not address or affect the many back street breeders, which are proving to be the main aggravating factor with regards to irresponsible dog ownership within our society.
- The quick locating of owners of dogs that may have been involved in an incident. This will increase the accountability of those who allow their dogs to stray and be dangerously out of control. It would also reduce the unnecessary kennelling of dogs that can be returned immediately by the local authority.

ACPO agrees that microchipping should be introduced as an amendment within the Animal Welfare Act 2006, as a welfare issue. This is also the view of DEFRA and leading Animal Welfare charities, such as Dogs Trust. As such the

	<p>responsibilities within this area should fall with Local Authorities and the charitable sector in line with DEFRA's preferred approach.</p> <p>What is clear in the current budgetary circumstances is that the Police are not resourced to facilitate the microchipping of dogs. In the context of the reduction in Police funding, it will be not be realistic to divert resources away from core public protection duties. Changes in legislation need to take cognisance of this reality.</p>
0071	<p>In an ideal world all dogs would be microchipped within a year of the legislation coming into force although the enforcement of this would put a lot of additional pressures on local authorities in the already difficult current climate and ineffective enforcement may be worse than leaving the rules as they currently stand. A more realistic approach may be to bring in compulsory microchipping for new puppies and dogs on change of ownership from the date the legislation comes into force and then all other dogs to be microchipped within an agreed timescale. This would lessen the pressure on enforcement agencies and would also leave owners of elderly dogs for example with the option of whether to put their animals through the process of microchipping or not.</p>
0097	<p>Compulsory micro-chipping should not be introduced in Wales. It would be abhorrent to put people who have chosen not to micro-chip for health or privacy concerns in the position of having to decide whether to break the law or put their dog at what they believe to be serious risk of micro-chip induced health problems and to give up their own right to privacy.</p> <p>If it is to be imposed then clearly it should only be imposed on those who choose to buy puppies or dogs in future and who are prepared to take the known risks. It should not be imposed on dog owners retrospectively.</p> <p>Only those people who buy puppies or dogs who will continue to live in Wales should be affected by this legislation. There should be an exemption for people wishing to buy a puppy who live in other parts of the UK, otherwise it will serve to disadvantage Welsh dog breeders when selling to other parts of the EU and UK.</p>
0105	<p>We do not support the compulsory microchipping of all dogs. However if made compulsory, and if enforcement/compliance are to become effective within a reasonable timescale, the requirement for all dogs to be microchipped</p>

	within 1 year of the legislation would seem the most appropriate option.
0106	<p>The Microchipping Alliance supports option 2, which requires all dogs be microchipped within 1 year of the legislation, as the best option out of the 5 proposed as it has both the highest welfare and economic benefits combined. Stray and abandoned dog numbers in Wales over recent years have either increased or remained static. 9,482 stray dogs were picked up by Local Authorities in 2011 and of that number, 486 of those dogs were put to sleep in the last year under the aegis of the Environmental Protection Act. We believe if more dogs were microchipped then more dogs would be rapidly reunited with their owners and fewer dogs would be put to sleep or end up in rescue centres</p> <p>If option 1 was adopted, the Microchipping Alliance believes that it would be ineffective, in the short and medium term, in improving welfare and reducing the burden on charities. It would also mean thousands of dogs could be left unidentified in Wales with their owners unable to trace them if they are lost or involved in an incident. We also question how this would be enforced. For example, how could any enforcement officer gauge whether an owner should be complying based on a dog's age, when they cannot possibly know how old the dog is?</p> <p>If option 3 was adopted by the Welsh Government, the Microchipping Alliance believes that this may have better welfare and financial benefits than option 1 but only if it was required for all dogs to be microchipped within 2-3 years of the legislation coming into effect. Otherwise, it would also not be immediately effective in securing the benefits as it would take years in order for the entire dog population to be microchipped and registered to a database.</p> <p>With regards to option 5 which involves a phased in approach by microchipping puppies at the time of sale, the concern is similar to option 1 that once again that both welfare and economic benefits would not be delivered fast enough as well as the segment of dogs that might be excluded because they are never transferred to a new owner. This option would offer extremely slow progress for both animal welfare and financial gains for both local authorities and rescue centres.</p> <p>Option 4 which requires new puppies to be microchipped and all dogs on change of ownership as well as the remainder microchipped within an agreed timescale would be the second best option as it would cover a greater proportion of the dog population which would ensure faster delivery of benefits. However, instead of having three</p>

	<p>different requirements placed on the public, option 2 which requires all dogs to be microchipped within one year of the legislation would be an easier and more digestible requirement for the public to understand and comply with.</p> <p>Based on a cost impact analysis undertaken by Dogs Trust on behalf of the Microchipping Alliance, we believe option 2 to be by far the most beneficial in terms of cost savings. The cost analysis looked at implementation costs, enforcement costs, cost savings in Wales and the total estimated cost. The calculated annual cost savings relating solely to dog welfare amount to between £2.39-£2.61 million in the first year of introducing such legislation. These savings could enable local authorities to offer further assistance in other canine related matters as well as potentially providing extra income.</p> <p>Option 2 would allow all dog owners sufficient time to get their dogs microchipped which would ensure that should any dog get lost or stray, the chances of their reunification with the owner are higher and kennelling time lower.</p>
0111	<p>Dogs Trust supports option 2, which requires all dogs be microchipped within 1 year of the legislation, as the best option out of the 5 proposed as it has both the highest welfare and economic benefits combined. Stray and abandoned dog numbers in Wales over recent years have either increased or remained static. 9,482 stray dogs were picked up by Local Authorities in 2011 and of that number, 486 of those dogs were put to sleep in the last year under the aegis of the Environmental Protection Act. We believe if more dogs were microchipped then more dogs would be rapidly reunited with their owners and fewer dogs would be put to sleep or end up in rescue centres</p> <p>If option 1 was adopted, Dogs Trust believes that it would be ineffective, in the short and medium term, in improving welfare and reducing the burden on charities. It would also mean thousands of dogs could be left unidentified in Wales with their owners unable to trace them if they are lost or involved in an incident. We also question how this would be enforced. For example, how could any enforcement officer gauge whether an owner should be complying based on a dog's age, when they cannot possibly know how old the dog is?</p> <p>If option 3 was adopted by the Welsh Government, Dogs Trust believes that this may have better welfare and financial benefits than option 1 but only if it was required for all dogs to be microchipped within 2-3 years of the legislation coming into effect. Otherwise, it would also not be immediately effective in securing the benefits as it would take years in order for the entire dog population to be microchipped and registered to a database.</p>

	<p>With regards to option 5 which involves a phased in approach by microchipping puppies at the time of sale, the concern is similar to option 1 that once again that both welfare and economic benefits would not be delivered fast enough as well as the segment of dogs that might be excluded because they are never transferred to a new owner. This option would offer extremely slow progress for both animal welfare and financial gains for both local authorities and rescue centres.</p> <p>Option 4 which requires new puppies to be microchipped and all dogs on change of ownership as well as the remainder microchipped within an agreed timescale would be the second best option as it would cover a greater proportion of the dog population which would ensure faster delivery of benefits. However, instead of having three different requirements placed on the public, option 2 which requires all dogs to be microchipped within one year of the legislation would be an easier and more digestible requirement for the public to understand and comply with.</p> <p>Based on a cost impact analysis undertaken by Dogs Trust on behalf of the Microchipping Alliance, we believe option 2 to be by far the most beneficial in terms of cost savings. The cost analysis looked at implementation costs, enforcement costs, cost savings in Wales and the total estimated cost. The calculated annual cost savings relating solely to dog welfare amount to between £2.39-£2.61 million in the first year of introducing such legislation. These savings could enable local authorities to offer further assistance in other canine related matters as well as potentially providing extra income.</p> <p>Option 2 would allow all dog owners sufficient time to get their dogs microchipped which would ensure that should any dog get lost or stray, the chances of their reunification with the owner are higher and kennelling time lower. If the Welsh Government were to go ahead with option 2, Dogs Trust would offer free microchips for all dogs in Wales for a period leading up to the enactment of the legislation (working in partnership with the Welsh Government, Local Authorities and with the help of the veterinary profession) to allow owners to comply with any new regulations.</p>
0120	<p>Option 2 in the above list; all dogs to be microchipped within 1 year of the legislation coming into force. Continued reliance on voluntary registration leaves the key group of irresponsible owners and thieves largely unaffected. Confining registration to new puppies will take 10-12 years to implement complete coverage and this is too long. Simply microchipping new puppies and other dogs on a transfer of ownership would be difficult if not impossible to</p>

<p>enforce. Option 2 in the above list could be applied in a phased way, new puppies, change of ownership by sale or gift and within one year of the legislation coming into force if the other two eventualities have not occurred. Failure to register within time should be an offence. Penalties for failure to register should include a fine and/or imprisonment coupled with a ban on ownership of a dog as is appropriate in the circumstances.</p>

Road Map on Dog Welfare

Delivering Improvements to Dog Welfare

Aim: Working with groups and individuals to improve awareness of the welfare needs of dogs and where necessary providing guidance and legislation to ensure key welfare improvements are achieved

Key

-  Policy established
-  Implementing policy
-  Linked policy

Animal Health and Welfare Strategy 2004

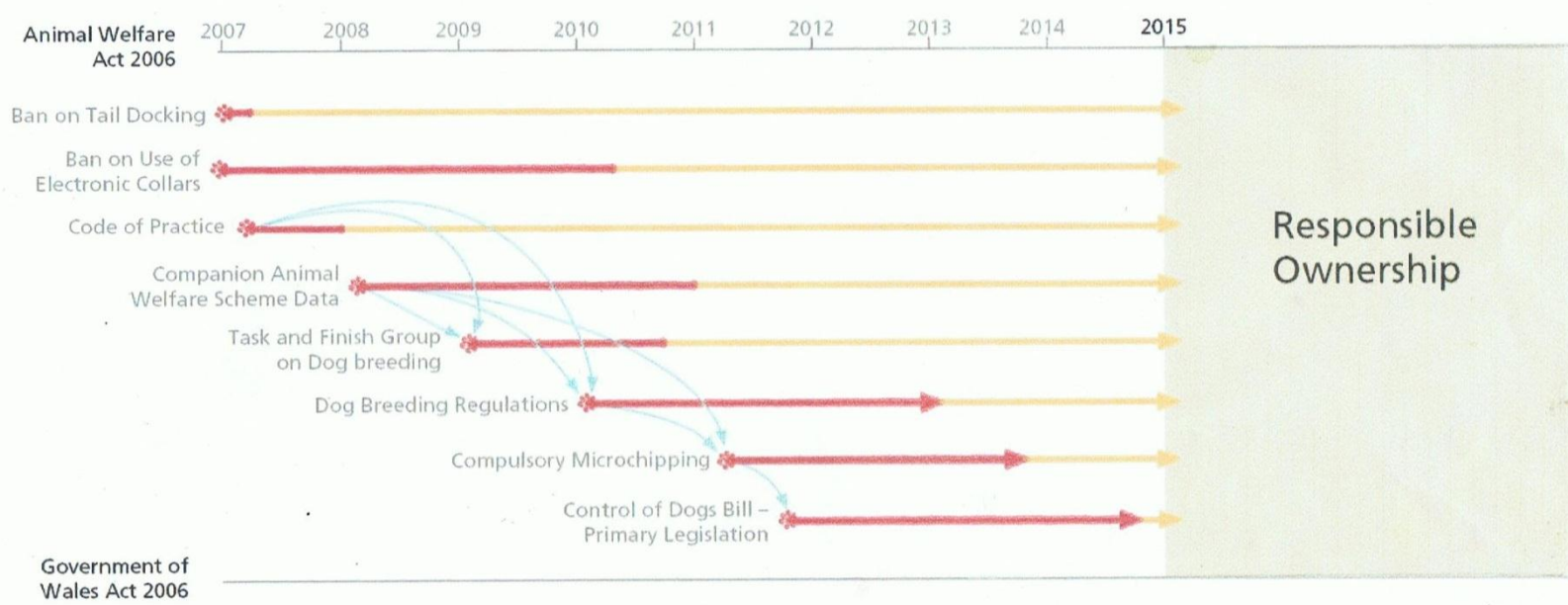
Working in partnership.

Prevention is better than cure.

Delivering and enforcing standards.

Understanding and accepting roles and responsibilities.

Understanding the costs and benefits.



Responsible Ownership

Better understanding of dog's needs through responsible ownership. Improve awareness of animal's socialisation and training needs, their interactions with other animals and their environment.

P-04-556 No to Junction 41 closure

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government not to close Junction 41 of the M4 for the following reasons: 1. The closure will negatively impact the town centre traders and businesses. 2. The closure will cause traffic chaos in the town as residents try to access the motorway. 3. There has been insufficient consultation with the townspeople. 4. Further research is needed into alternative solutions. 5. The new train station cannot be a transport hub if it is not easily accessible. 6. It will adversely affect the town redevelopment.

Additional Text: Again, the needs of motorists have been prioritised over those of the people of Port Talbot. The town was desecrated when the motorway was originally built through the heart of the town and now we are expected to suffer the pollution whilst traffic passes through our town on the way to somewhere else! The motorway, not the Steelworks, is the towns biggest polluter, and yet we who breathe it in will be unable to gain access to it. Plans to reroute the towns traffic through the streets will add to traffic pollution and bring chaos. People of the town understand the issues with the motorway but demand real consultation on options and alternatives. Please give us a chance to protect our town.

Petition raised by: Rose David

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 13 May 2014

Number of signatures: 1652. An associated paper petition was handed in and collected 22,467 signatures.

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-04-556
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/03036/14

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

14 August 2014

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 30 July regarding Petition P-04-556 'No to Junction 41 Closure'.

The trial part time closure of the westbound on-slip at M4 Junction 41 began on 4 August and will end in March 2015. The times for the trial closure are 0700-0900 and 1600-1800 Monday to Friday. The eastbound off-slip at J41 will remain fully open during this time.

I met with representatives of Neath Port Talbot on 4 June to discuss the trial closures and to agree how we will share information as the trial progresses. Councillor Ali Thomas, Leader of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council; Steve Redmore, Manager of Aberafan Shopping Centre; and Steve Garvey, President of Port Talbot Chamber of Trade were present. Canon Nigel Cahill and Rose David were also present as representatives of the community.

To establish any impact on the town centre traders and businesses, we will be using Port Talbot town centre car park ticketing data to monitor car park usage, and we will monitor footfall data adjacent to the Aberafan Shopping Centre before and during the trial. The Council are monitoring air quality.

Temporary signs on the approach to the on-slip advise the times of closure and are supported during the closure periods by variable electronic message signs warning drivers that the closure is in place. A signed diversion route is provided for affected traffic.

Information about the trial is on display at the Neath Port Talbot Civic Centre, Aberafan Shopping Centre, St Agnes' Church and St Mary's Church. Further information regarding the trial can also be found on the Traffic Wales website at the following link:

<http://www.traffic-wales.com/VoyagerNews.aspx?NEWSID=1214>

We will be inviting comments from the public on the Traffic Wales website from October 2014 to March 2015, prior to reviewing the effect of the peak time closures and taking a decision on the way forward.

Public consultation would take place as part of plans for any permanent closure.

As part of the ongoing study, a number of options have been considered, including a variety of closure options and hard shoulder running, supplemented by improved speed enforcement using variable speed limits or average speed enforcement. Hard shoulder running was discounted on grounds of safety and value for money. Average speed enforcement (ASE) was selected as the desired alternative for speed enforcement and is being installed currently.

Access to the Port Talbot Parkway will remain available via Junction 40.

We will continue to work closely with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and local representatives to ensure that the changes are implemented as smoothly as possible.



CEX.BLA

William Powell AM
Chair,
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff
CF99 1NA
(by email)

Dear Mr Powell,

Thank you for your letter of 30 July regarding the Junction 41 closure on the M4 at Port Talbot.

I should start by saying that the Council was clear in its opposition to the earlier more comprehensive proposal for junction closures both east and west bound, reflecting views locally. However, to her credit, the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport listened carefully to the representations made by the Council, the local community and the business community. Following Mrs Hart's meeting with the Leader of the Council and local interests earlier this year, there has been close consultation in recent months with all interested parties over the more limited peak period trial closures that are now in place. At the time of writing, you will appreciate that it is too early to comment on the trial itself as it has been in operation for little more than a week.

Whilst it is, of course, the responsibility of the Welsh Government to manage motorways and trunk roads, the Council has a clear responsibility to engage in this process to manage and mitigate the impact on the local road network. This is what we have been doing in close consultation with the Minister's officials and local people.

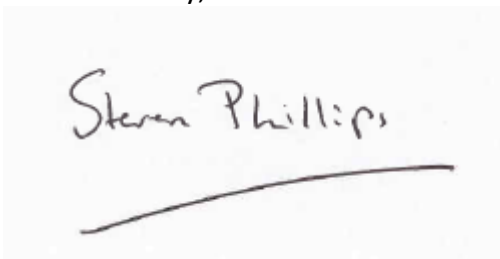
I should stress that the Council also has wider issues to take into account (arguably from J38 at Margam to J43 at Llandarcy and including Port Talbot town centre itself). In other words, given the full range of regeneration programmes in the area - and related infrastructure improvements - there are wider considerations to ensuring optimum traffic flows and access. These include the following (this part of my letter might be best read against a road map of the area):

- The completion of the Harbour Way Peripheral Distributor Road last Autumn;
- The redevelopment of the Port Talbot Parkway Railway Station (ongoing and for completion by June 2015 at the latest);

- The completion of the Quays/Baglan Energy Park Bridge (also ongoing and for which the Minister has provided additional funding to accelerate the construction programme for completion by March 2015);
- The construction of the new school at Seaway Parade which is scheduled to commence by the end of this year or early next (and is linked to the new bridge – above – in terms of providing a potential safe route to school);
- The construction of the new Health Centre at the Quays which is scheduled to be completed by the end autumn of 2015 (also linked to the new bridge in terms of improving access);
- The completion of the second Swansea University Campus at Fabian Way and the currently ongoing Highways Infrastructure works which are due to be completed by April 2015; and
- The ongoing development of the Coed Darcy site at Llandarcy.

These are in addition to other mitigation works on Pentyla Baglan Road, the Rutherglen Roundabout, Seaway Parade and Ty Draw Hill. All these local road improvements will be part of the evidence base that will be submitted to the Minister in the context of her review of the part time closures before a final decision is taken on whether to proceed with full time closures next year. Meanwhile, the Council has given a commitment to continue to work constructively with the Welsh Government and local interests on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a white background. The signature reads "Steven Phillips" in a cursive style. Below the signature is a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line.

Steven Phillips
Chief Executive

Agenda Item 3.5

P-04-565 Revive disused railway lines for leisure

Petition wording:

The Welsh Government should look turning the hundreds of miles of disused railway lines (axed under Beeching) into high quality cycle/walk ways. The lines cover the whole of Wales and this scheme would: encourage healthy activities and lifestyle; provide a safe way to travel for those who want a green alternative; provide safe cycling for children and encourage use for going to school, clubs etc; reduce traffic on our roads; boost Welsh tourism especially by cyclists and walkers; enable the establishment of a vast number of varied, small businesses along the routes – shops, B&B etc. Rural areas will benefit. The potential good for the health of the population of Wales and its economy is unlimited and the return in this investment can be understood before it even starts.

Petition raised by: Albert Fox

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 17 June 2014

Number of signatures : 14

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-04-565
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/03037/14

William Powell AM
Assembly Member for Mid & West Wales
Chair Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA
committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

11 August 2014

Dear William

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of Albert Fox and his fellow petitioners suggesting that old railway lines are used as walkways/cycle routes.

There is no official scheme in place to enable the relevant bodies to carry out a project such as the one suggested by Albert Fox and his fellow petitioners, however my tourism officials would welcome a business case that can demonstrate the tourism potential of suitable routes outlining a clear funding package and delivery model.

Agenda Item 3.6

P-04-574 Bus Services in Burryport

Petition Wording

We the undersigned, request that the direct service from Burryport to Prince Philip Hospital be reinstated with immediate effect.

Petition raised by: John James

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 15 July 2014

Number of signatures : 572



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-574
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/03279/14

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

29 August 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 14 August, on behalf of the Petitions Committee, enclosing a copy of the petition to reinstate the direct bus service from Burry Port to Prince Philip Hospital.

I very much recognise the importance of bus services to communities throughout Wales, especially to key facilities such as hospitals. While most bus services are provided commercially, local authorities are able to subsidise socially-necessary services based on their assessments of local circumstances and priorities. I am providing local authorities with £25m in grants this year to enable them to support such non-commercial services. Each local authority determines which services to support.

You may wish to forward this petition to Carmarthenshire County Council to ask if it might use its allocation from this grant or its own funding to reinstate the services to which you refer.

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

The direct bus service from the Sheltered Accommodation at Tanybryn, Burry Port to Prince Philip Hospital, picking up passengers in Burry Port, Pwll and Llanelli, has been a great loss to the people of these areas.

Residents who once used a bus stop at the complex now have to cross a busy road that is part of the Swansea to Carmarthen bus route.

The elderly, disabled, infirm and the unemployed are groups that rely heavily on public transport in particular for hospital visits.

Residents from these areas also have to use Glangwili Hospital, which is nearly 20 miles away, and again with no direct service.

On top of the original cuts in service the Sunday service to Llanelli from Burry Port has been cut altogether, which is ironic because Prince Philip Hospital now has appointments for patients on Sundays.

Below is the latest data to confirm the points above concerning the affected residents in Burry Port.

Highest proportion of people aged over 45; proportion aged over 65-74 and 75+ higher than the Carmarthenshire average.

Higher proportion than the Carmarthenshire average of people with limiting long-term illness.

The highest level of deprivation attributed to **Burry Port 1** is the Income domain, being ranked 16th in Carmarthenshire and 406 in Wales for this domain. Whilst in **Burry Port 2** the Employment domain is the most prominent both ranking 9th in Carmarthenshire and 223 in Wales. The Employment domain ranks as the highest level of deprivation in **Burry Port 3** ranking 53rd in Carmarthenshire and 861 in Wales.

The social profile information indicates a higher than average level of people in semi-routine occupations (Level 6) and a slightly higher than average number of people who have never worked or are long term unemployed.

It is very much hoped that support for the reinstatement of this service will lead Carmarthenshire County Council recognising how crucial a service this is to the people of Burry Port and its surrounding communities.

Yours Sincerely

Cllr. Pat Jones
Cllr. John James

Agenda Item 3.7

P-04-539 Save Cardiff Coal Exchange

Petition wording:

This petition seeks a commitment from the Welsh Government to set up a public enquiry into the events surrounding the Coal Exchange and to support public opinion which seeks to protect and conserve the building.

The Coal Exchange is one of Cardiff's most important buildings and one of the finest buildings in Wales. It's where the world's first million pound deal was struck during the city's industrial heyday (equivalent to over £100m today). Yet far from cherishing this building, Cardiff council proposes to demolish the main body of the building, keeping only the facades.

If this happens, then the magnificent interior with its immense historical significance will be lost forever. This grade 2* listed building deserves better, and the views of the public need to be heard.

The Council have been claiming for the past year that it is on the point of collapse. No works have been done, yet there is no apparent evidence that the building is about to collapse. It is questioned if Cardiff Council were able to use section 78 powers under the building act to progress their plans, and this needs to be investigated openly.

So much of Cardiff Bay's social and built heritage has already been destroyed; it seems inconceivable that more can be cast aside with cynical abandon.

It's unclear why the council refuses to see the value of restoring the Coal Exchange to protect this iconic building for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

The issues are of the highest level of public interest, and it is considered essential that an open public consultation occurs to review matters.

Petition raised by: Jon Avent

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 11 March 2014

Number of signatures: TBC

Agenda Item 3.8

P-04-440 : Say NO to Asset Stripping Bronllys Hospital

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to reject any attempt by the Powys Teaching Health Board to asset-strip the Bronllys Community hospital by closing or moving its Stroke Unit, nor by placing new services or service facilities for the region elsewhere and rather to instruct the Health Board to devise a strategy to build or re-build, improve and/or extend this NHS Hospital's facilities, and services and resource expertise; and to retain and re-build this valuable community asset as a centre of excellence.

We further call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to instruct the Health Board to place Bronllys Hospital at the centre of its strategy for the provision of adult and older people's health services in South East Powys for the next 50 years, and to release the necessary resources to make this happen.

Petition raised by: Michael Eccles

Date petition first considered by Committee: 4 December 2012

Number of signatures: 3,144

P-04-440 : Say NO to Asset Stripping Bronllys Hospital – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 17.09.14

Dear Kayleigh

Thank you for your email. I trust you will be able to include this email and the attached documents for the Petitions Committee meeting to be held on the 23rd September.

In reference to our Petition, as the Powys Teaching Health Board have FAILED to meet the caveats they agreed to, prior and post moving the Stroke Unit from Bronllys Hospital, we would urge the Petitions Committee to request that the Welsh Assembly Government instruct the Health Board to re-transfer the Stroke Unit back to Bronllys Hospital IMMEDIATELY.

The Powys Teaching Health Board moved the Stroke Unit SUBJECT to the following caveats:

1. That they RESOLVE the parking difficulties at Brecon War Memorial Hospital PRIOR to moving the Stroke Unit out of Bronllys Community Hospital in February 2014.
 2. That they come up with a Robust Plan for Bronllys Community Hospital.
- The Health Board broke their first caveat and despite it, moved the Stroke Unit ignoring the parking issue.

On the Plan for Bronllys Community Hospital, the Health Board have set up an 'engagement process' as what to do with the 'Hospital grounds', **but** not the NHS Community Hospital. It appears that as we thought, the Board have misled the public and the Community Health Council.

3. The Petitioners are still very unhappy about the way the previous Chair of the CHC, Gill Thomas, responded to our complaint about the CHC, Exec David Adam's reply to the WAG Petition Committee. We will be taking this up with her, when we can.

4. Local people involved in our petition and other health concerns have set up "Powys Health and Well Being Action Group" This group has responded to the PtHB engagement and have come up with proposals for a Health and Well Being Park, with Bronllys Community Hospital at the heart of it. The report "Bronllys Park: a vision for the next 100 years" is being released, to all interested parties and

it attached with this reply.(Along with the report are two abstracts, best viewed in print layout.)

5. The PH&WB group is also very concerned that the PtHB will replace Bronllys Community Hospital with a Health and Social Care Centre, as has happened in Builth Wells. The facility Glan Irfon is a Care home with 12 beds designated to GPs and the nursing input has to be provided by already stretched Community Nursing Teams.

6. There are many health concerns that people are bringing to PH&WB but the most pressing is the early resignation of the Consultant for Older people, Dr Dunne and the PTHBs inability to replace her.

In closing, we feel it is vital for the Petitions Committee to continue to monitor what is happening. There is a real danger that our part of Mid Wales, becomes the rural equivalent of Mid Staffs

Sincerely,

Michael Eccles

For and on Behalf of The Powys Health and Wellbeing Action Group

Work of the Petitioners: The Powys Health and Wellbeing Action Group

The Powys Health and Wellbeing Action Group Report: Bronllys Park – a Vision for the next 100 Years (Bronllys Health & WellBeing 4 Sept 14).pdf

Since raising the Petition, the Petitioners and Signatories have formed "The Powys Health and Wellbeing Action Group" to make proposals to the Powys Teaching Health Board AND to monitor their activities, and specifically in relation to Bronllys Hospital (See Appendix 2 – Page 23 of The Powys Health and Wellbeing Action Group Report: *Bronllys Park – a Vision for the next 100 Years* – Bronllys Health & WellBeing – Attached.)

The Petitions Committee may also be interested in the attached SUMMARY Documents:

The Powys Health and Wellbeing Action Group Proposals at a glance: Work, Play and Social Life in the Bronllys Health and Well Being Park.pdf

and

The Powys Health and Wellbeing Action Group Proposals at a glance: Living Life to the Full in Bronllys Health & Wellbeing Park.pdf

The Proposals at a glance Work, Play and Social Life in the Bronllys Health and Well Being Park cont.

□

Work in the Park: open to all

Bronllys hospital already offers valuable, skilled jobs. There will be increases in knowledge based businesses, eco, bio and Hitech research bases. High level skill training for clinical and care staff, will be available. This will encourage well qualified young people to remain or return to Powys. The Park and its feel good factors and its facilities, will assist in staff recruitment and retention. The setup of the site with all kind of homes new businesses and facilities, will boost the local services industry. The community will also assist in the extending of older peoples working lives both paid and unpaid. Market Gardening on the site along the "Severn Project" lines, could offer not only fresh food sales but empowerment. The project is financially self-sustainable and offers people the chance to gain independence. Increasing in Park employment, will also make for a more mixed and vibrant community. This will also regenerate the area.

Play in the Park: open to all

Play and recreation, crucial for gaining and maintaining fitness and well being, will be enhanced in the Park. Healthy living life styles will feature. Tennis, bowls, petanque and crochet will be restored to the Park. Fishing pursuits will return as the small lake is restored. Walks will be extended to gain safe access to nearby facilities of Gyms and swimming pool. The Woodland Military walk will be extended into the landscape.

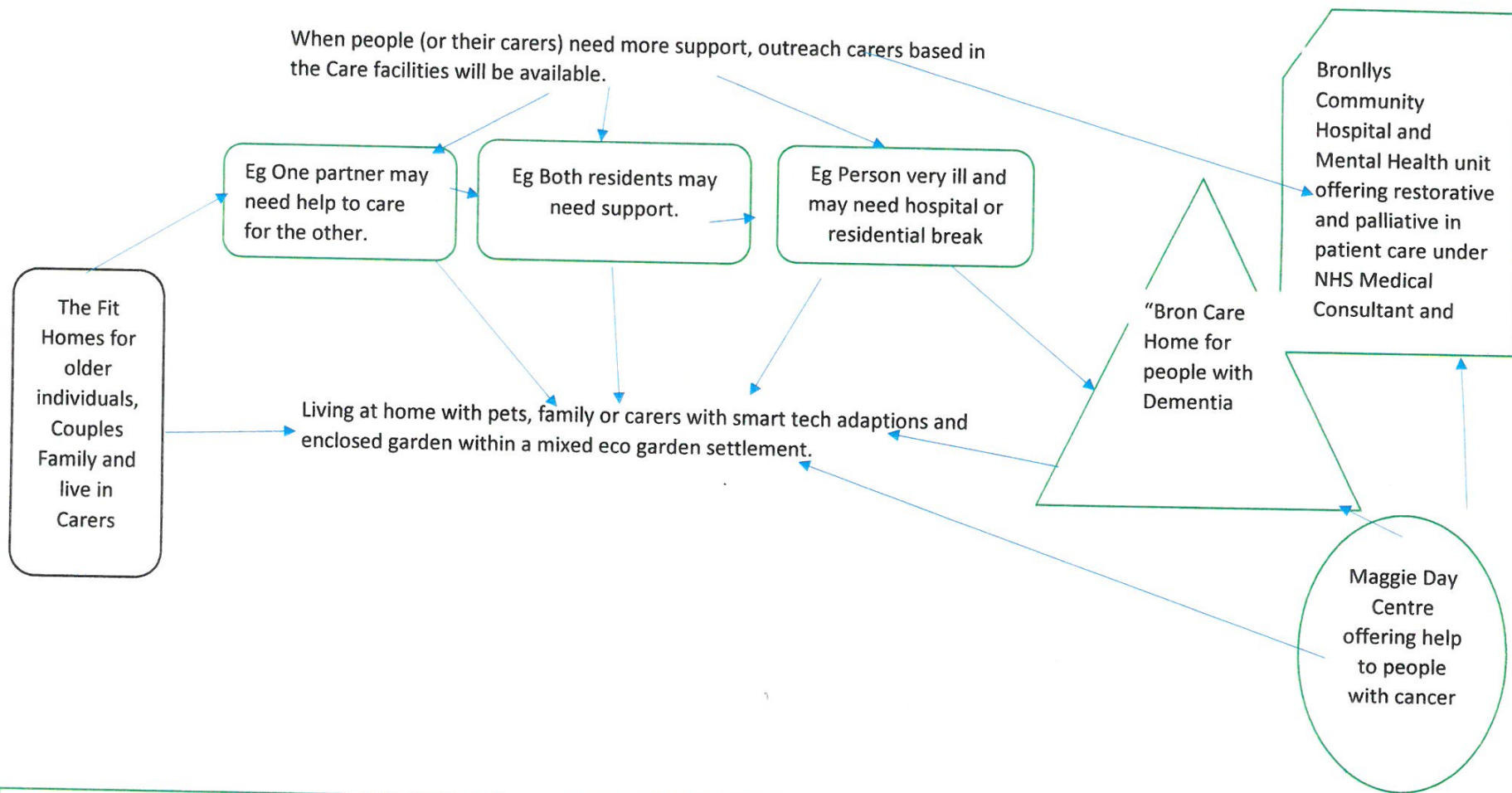
Safe Cycleways through the Park will offer safe places for people to learn and train on Tandems and tricycles will be available for disabled or those too timid for the open road initially. The wider environs of the Park set in stunning Hills, Mountains and sweeping Valleys offers wonderful opportunities to people who wish to maintain their health. The Park proposers feel that it will offer the chance to make a national base for Cycle Road Racing. This sport has become iconic in recent years, is easily accessible and is gaining in popularity

Social: Open to all

A rich social and cultural life are also central to wellbeing, the new Park would have a reading room, book share scheme, and a range of bookclubs. There would be a regular visit by the mobile library. There would be a tea room and a Social Club hosting Dances, Bands, Jazz and Open Mike evenings. A Cyber Cafe hosting whist, quoits, darts, bar billiards. Board Games from Scrabble and Ludo to Dragon Chase. There will be facilities for Seminars Conferences, Lecture and catering. There will be space for a range of hobby groups, gardening, sewing, wildlife study. Art, singing and music group will be offered. Skills Exchanges will be set up from tractor maintenance to furniture restoration to jewellery making to.... The listed Chapel will offer spiritual focus for the Park, and more secular support with talks, poetry readings, concerts and singing groups, seasonal Floral shows etc. The Health and well Being Park will also be designed to have outdoor places where people can meet and talk and have fun. There will also be space for solitude and contemplation.

The Park: open to all
It will remain close to nature, in its beautiful setting with high quality landscaping; protecting and complementing what was already there. Careful building design will be core to the Park and biodiversity will be enhanced with sensitive planting. The Park will only use surplus land, not needed now or in the future, by the PtHB.
The new Park will enhance the existing facilities and become a place to visit (not just when you are poorly). It will be an asset to the village and wider community, bringing Health and Well Being to Mid Wales. It will also become a Flagship for Quality Rural Health Care

At a Glance: Living Life to the Full in Bronllys Health and Well Being Park



Among the Fit Homes there will be a range of homes to buy and rent to meet community needs. Built to the same high build standards and latest eco. Designs to ensure low carbon and low fuel bills. The houses will be low level with glazed courtyards offering secure all year gardens.

A mix of homes will be offered to buy and rent affordably from single to family to work from home dwellings. The range of housing will offer key workers, downsizers self builders and those just starting out. First homes using Ycubelike designs, will be part of the mix. Solar gain technology is integral to the Park

Healthy Living will be a feature of the Park. So sport, recreation, cultural, and social facilities will be enhanced and developed. The settlement will compliment and be supported by the Community Hospital and Mental Health Unit and Rehab Services already on site.

Bronllys

Health and
Wellbeing

Aberhonddu
Brecon
A438 (A470)



Llanfair-
ym-Muallt
Builth Wells
A479 (A470)
Henffordd
Hereford
(A438)



Bronllys Park – a vision for the next 100 years

LIST OF CONTENTS:

Front Page

Site Plan

P.1 A Study Into the Future of Bronllys Hospital Site by Powys Health and Wellbeing Action Group

P.2 Introduction

P.3 Existing Medical Services

P.4 Proposed New Developments

- New health care proposals
- Extended care home
- Maggie's Centre for Terminally Ill [photo on next page]
- P.10 ➤ Tele-Health care
- Open market housing
- Homes for the future
- Affordable housing
- Visitor Accommodation
- Community club/pub/café, concert hall
- Solar energy farm
- Self-building housing/YCubes
- Adaptation of the Chapel into a mixed religious/secular hall
- New allotments/market garden/orchards/greenhouses
- Enhanced Biodiversity and landscaping quality
- Re-conditioning of the sports facilities
- Transport and car pool – shared
- Designated helicopter landing site and ambulance services
- Possible compatible, commercial and educational uses

- P.10 ➤ Staff skills and employment
- Opportunities for sport – “Prevention is better than cure”
- Bio-diversity
- Listed buildings

P.11 The Built Environment and Architecture

P.14 How do we make things happen?

P.15 Next Steps

P.16 Conclusion

Appendix 1 – The Health Challenges in the 21st Century and meeting them

Appendix 2 – The Objectives of Powys Health and Wellbeing Action Group

Appendix 3 – “Build Homes for the Elderly on NHS Land, says MP” – BBC News, 3 Sept 2014

Appendix 4 – The proposals at a glance – Work, Play and Social Life

Appendix 5 – The proposals at a glance – Living Life to the Full

P.17 References, Research and Source Material

The boundaries shown by dotted lines have been plotted from the original plans. The plan may be amended from later surveys.



THE SITE



6660 4-812ha

A STUDY INTO THE FUTURE OF BRONLLYS HOSPITAL SITE BY POWYS HEALTH AND WELLBEING ACTION GROUP

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Thanks to all our PHWB members who have helped and contributed pro bono, and especially Tim Organ of CO2 Architects Ltd. for making this study and report possible.

We also thank the following for their advice and assistance:

David Palmer, Wales Co-operative Housing Centre
 David Jackson, Hay Energy Group
 St. Monica Trust
 Quarto Group, photographs of "The Architecture of Hope – Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres", by Charles Jencks and Edwin Heathcote
 Edition Blondal, photographs of Jørn Utzon's work, "Utzon" by Richard Weston
 Charles Hall, photographs of "Discovering Welsh Gardens"
 Georgina Funnell

The group wishes to thank the Health Board for the opportunity to put forward proposals to add to the potential of the site and for future health services in mid-Wales.

We welcome and support the objectives set out in the December 2013 document [*"The Potential Development of a Health and Wellbeing Park on the Bronllys Site"*] also the County Council's 'One Powys Plan 2014-2017, and hope that you will find, in our response, a positive and constructive contribution. The current financial difficulties are recognised, but equally we are anxious to assist in the retention of a very valuable site for the benefit and wellbeing of the local community.



INTRODUCTION

The proposals in this submission are a response to Powys Teaching Health Board's document "The Potential Development of a Health and Well-being Park on the Bronllys site" and Powys County Council's "One Powys Plan 2014-2017". They follow a meeting with Bob Hudson, when our draft submission was discussed.

Following helpful and encouraging exchanges of views, we now present what we hope will be a positive and constructive contribution to the debate, for the benefit of PthB, the County Council, the Hospital staff, local communities, community organisations, our elected members and policy makers. We look forward to their support, advice and especially their participation in making the Bronllys Health and Well-Being Park happen.

The development can offer a special, wide range of health services and housing for leasing, purchasing and rent. In addition, it is proposed that an extensive range of affordable houses be included to meet the desperate shortage in the locality, which will benefit nurses and carers plus other site staff as well as local individuals and families.

Housing for the elderly, or those needing care, will be designed to ensure that they can live at home surrounded by family, friends, dogs and cats, plus well-loved furniture and trappings of life for as long as possible. Those needing extra care will be able to stay on site at a new 40-bed nursing home. All-important social contact will be encouraged, utilising a community centre housing a cafe/pub, library, computer resources, workshops etc., and the Chapel refurbished to accommodate both religious and secular activities. The objective being to create a vibrant and sustainable settlement, not just a retirement home for an ageing population but a balanced extension of Bronllys Village for people of all ages.

We are very well aware that the resources and finances available to the Welsh Assembly, the NHS and County Councils are exceptionally difficult and are beyond that required to meet the challenges of an ageing population. We therefore believe that it is necessary to create a more flexible legal entity which will enable access to other sources of finance. We propose a not-for-profit community interest company formed with trustees drawn from the NHS medical staff, national and local Government, community organisations, commercial concerns and other charitable bodies.

This organisation will manage and develop the site, oversee and maintain the Park, at the same time ensuring that revenues remain in Wales for the benefit of the community at large.

This operational structure does not involve any untried ideas. All aspects of the scheme have been undertaken not just in the UK but in most European countries, and we can raise our standards by drawing on the lessons from elsewhere. It can also be especially appropriate in generating commitment and pride amongst staff and users.

We are convinced this formula and these proposals will offer real Health and Well-Being in answer to the significant future demographic challenges, and be a Beacon of Excellence for rural health care in mid-Wales.

EXISTING MEDICAL SERVICES

The alternative of selling the site to a housing building company will, of course, help to overcome current budget deficits, but the time bomb of an ageing population will not go away. The projections in "One Powys Plan" that people aged over 80 in the county will rise from 8,600 in 2014 to 18,900 in 2036, and be 14% of the population, mean that the challenge will still have to be confronted. Given that the care of the elderly is already a problem, and that redevelopment of the site will take perhaps five years, it must be prudent to retain the site for the longer term needs of the community.

We are very concerned that it appears that the site is being sold off in bits. The preparation of a master plan for the whole site is urgently needed to ensure that the legacy of nearly one hundred years is not lost, and the site is not available for future generations.

And building on what's already there

In addition to the valued existing Community Hospital and Mental Health Unit, there are a number of ventures which the new Park would support. The excellent Pain Clinic is renowned in Wales and beyond and would be supported. Their model of short courses might be applicable to other conditions, problem eating, anger management, PTSD and cognitive behaviour therapy etc under proper clinical supervision. Further work needs to be undertaken to examine the support and medical care of military personnel damaged, both psychologically and physically by active service.

We understand that PthB intends to retain

- palliative care accommodation for post-operational patients, respite and other neurological specialist care
- the pain clinic
- the physiotherapy clinic for on-site and outpatients.

Our proposals intend to complement these and more detailed discussions will be necessary to ensure that there will not be overlapping competition and/or, if possible, gaps. Hopefully a seamless service for visiting and resident patients alike would be maintained.

We are proposing that the land, surrounding Bronllys Community Hospital and the Mental Health Unit, becomes a new settlement, both for the healthy and those needing a wide variety of care.

We support the retention of the following existing services:

Palliative Care and Accommodation

Neurological Care

Respite Care

Pain Clinic Day Centre

An important connection to the surrounding communities as well as an essential element of care.

Physiotherapy

Children's Nursery

The existing nursery to be supported and perhaps expanded [subject to discussion]. If possible this facility to be positioned near to the care home for patients to benefit from having young children at play within earshot.

SOURCES OF FINANCE

- NHS Wales
- Powys teaching Health Board

Notes

We would welcome discussions with the Health Board in order to obtain a greater understanding of the financial and legal complexities of the site.

- Lottery funding with other community elements of the scheme.
- Local community fundraising
- Subscriptions
- Sponsorship

PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENTS

These proposals have the objective of creating a wide-ranging health care and well-being centre of excellence and a balanced community of those needing medical support and care.

In addition the facilities are to stimulate healthy life-styles for residents and staff alike, taking advantage and adding to the beautiful site and landscape.

A major bonus will be the construction of affordable housing for the benefit of members of staff and the local community; an invaluable asset when recruiting highly skilled and motivated staff.

New health care proposals

These will offer the highest quality of palliative care for people at their most vulnerable. "Bron Home" will offer residential care, when a person with dementia has become unable to live in their own home or when their carer needs a break. Outreach support from the "Bron" will also be a feature in the Park and beyond. The "Maggie Centre" would be only the second of its kind in Wales. The work of the Maggie Centre is "to help cancer sufferers to help themselves, and to inspire carers to care more. Whilst the quality of architecture, usually designed by a world-class architect on an honorary basis, is of secondary importance, the buildings do encourage the highest standards generally. They are complementary to large hospitals and the scale of the NHS. They present a face that is welcoming, aesthetic and spiritual, together with a commitment to the arts and landscape, and they bring in a full range of restorative experiences.

Extended care home

This can be linked or separate from the Mental Health/Crisis Unit, the existing care bed facilities, to assist transfers and staffing.

Long term residents
Dementia sufferers
PTSD home [SAFA]
Other residential clinics

Provisionally estimated at 40 beds

Notes:

Quality for the benefit of patients, taking into account recent studies which concluded that these need to be non-institutional and more domestic in spirit, giving rise to faster rates of recovery

Maggie's Centre for Terminally Ill

Or those receiving treatment for cancer and other terminal conditions. This could be linked to the Community Centre and to share common services like kitchens, libraries, computer access and other resources

SOURCES OF FINANCE

- Institutional commercial undertaking e.g. like St. Monica Trust model
- BUPA
- MacMillan
- Commercial finance
- Charitable bank
- Local fund-raising

- Charitable donations
- Sponsorship
- Local fund-raising
- Lottery funds integrated with community centre managed by CIC



MAGGIE CENTRE, LONDON – MORE DOMESTIC, LESS INSTITUTIONAL

Note

Maggie's Centres for reference. Recent research by Oxford and Edinburgh Universities concludes that a more integrated approach is needed in the management of depressed cancer patients. Their distribution map of the UK shows that there is a need for one in mid-Wales

Tele-Health Care

Integrated with Shropdoc?

Bronllys may provide an ideal base for a regional Telehealth service, and the idea merits further discussion with the appropriate health providers, including local GPs.

- NHS

It is important to note that none of the elements proposed are unique or untried.



COURTYARD HOUSING – PRIVACY, SECURITY AND SHARED SPACE

Open market housing for sale and leasing

Designed specifically with the ageing and less able in mind. The homes should be predominantly single storey with safe and secure courtyard gardens for dementia sufferers and with winter gardens [i.e. glazed, covered planted links between the house and the exterior] and designed to maximise views and connections with nature and passive warming.

Homes for the future

In the surplus 70 acres of parkland the Park would offer individuals, couples and families homes to buy and rent. Some of the accommodation, which we call "Fit Homes", will be specially designed to meet the needs of residents who have age related illnesses. The homes will have courtyard gardens with glazed winter gardens to offer all year round use. All the Fit Homes will have smart technology and adaptable floor plans to accommodate the changing needs of the occupiers. [Depending on the individual's need, outreach support can come from what we are calling "Bron Home" a 40-bedded residential home, specialising in supporting people who have dementia.]

The mix and number of homes will require a detailed study. Those for sale will subsidise other buildings. Surpluses will be retained within the scheme, as opposed to developer profits ending up in national contractors' headquarters elsewhere.

Alongside the Fit Homes a range of accommodation will be offered to buy and rent affordably. These homes for individuals and families will offer a mix of housing solutions including "home working" dwellings, key worker and starter homes. Downsizing and self-build opportunities will also be in the range offered. It is also hoped that short break "Fit housing" can be provided for disabled people and their carers to have short breaks and holidays.

All the housing will be designed to passive house standards to exploit the open aspect of the lovely setting and views. They will be built to a high standard, above that normally created by volume builders.

Numbers: say 80, subject to further analysis
Made up of varying accommodation

Flexible homes and apartments for sale or lease-purchase [St. Monica Trust]' freehold to remain with the CIC.

This model is worth exploring in detail as a financially-sustainable method of operating

- Charity bank
- Housing Association
- Wales Co-operative/ Community led housing centre

- The St. Monica model
- The Vale, Oxford

- Private house building
- Building companies

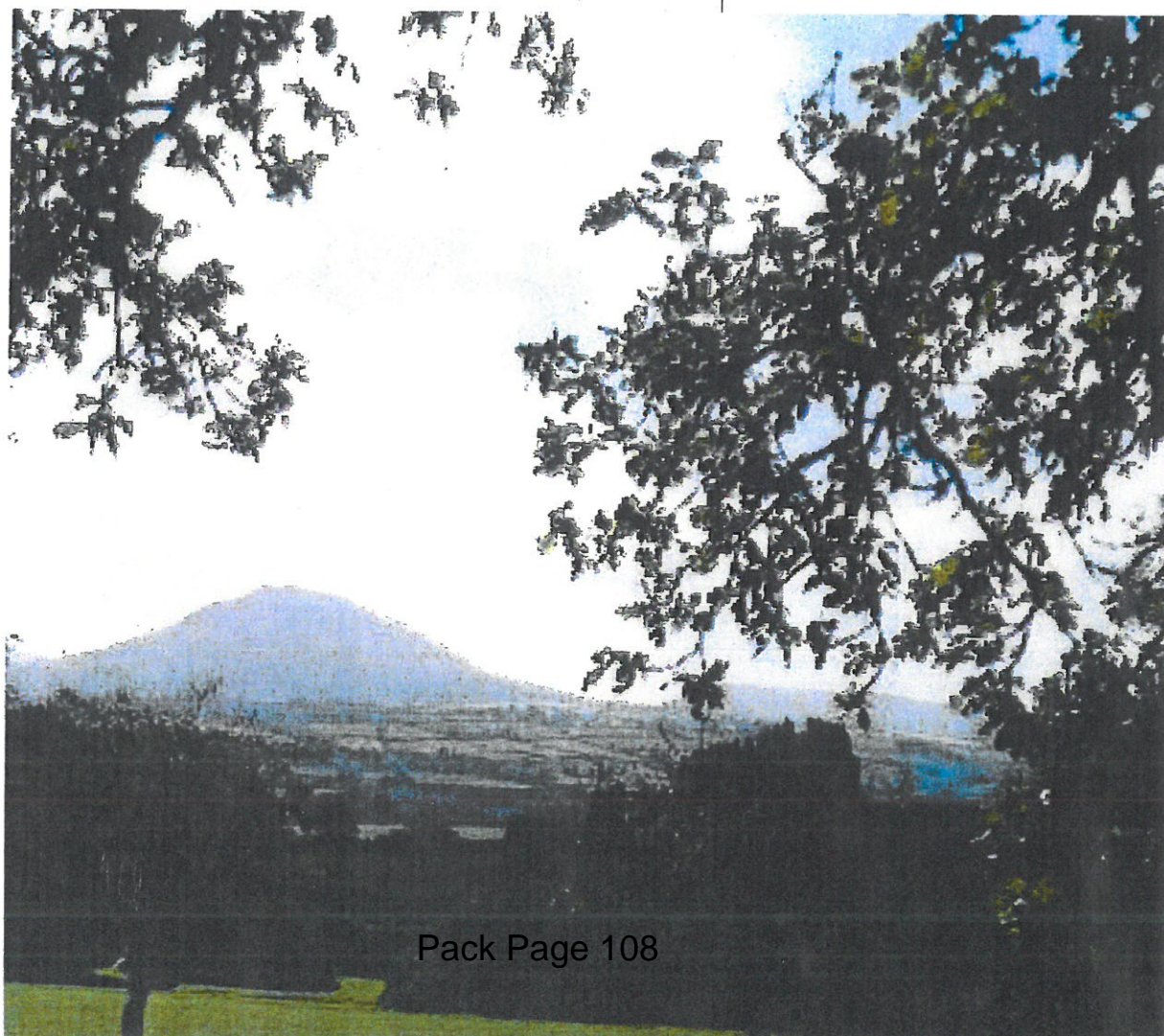
It must be stated that the large housing companies all too often do not measure up to the Welsh Assembly's vision in respect of the sense of place, spatial standards and energy performance.

Any plans should be design-led, pursuing the highest standards of design and specification incorporating specialised 'smart' electronic installations and soft and hard landscaping appropriate for:

- the elderly and impaired
- patients confined to bed
- blind, deaf, severely visually-impaired patients
- wheelchair users
- individuals who are physically disabled

Any development profits [as opposed to building profit] should remain within the scheme for community benefit. Selling off the site to a national house builder wishing to build executive homes to standard plans would be inappropriate and would dilute financial returns within the project

We would welcome clarification of the current ownership in order to maximise the financial potential of the site and the costs of new infrastructure including drainage, demolition and enhancement.



Affordable Housing*

With priority to be given to key medical and nursing staff, support staff, including carers, maintenance personnel etc.

Numbers: say 80, subject to further analysis
Made up of varying accommodation

Designs to be energy-efficient, extendable for growing families and seamlessly integrated with the houses for sale/lease.

Also the affordable housing needs to incorporate models suitable for ex-service personnel and others suffering from injuries, psychological and social problems.

Low wage earners who rely on housing benefit.

Quality, added-value design, with energy conservation, space and landscaping, to attract the best staff.

Visitor Accommodation

Accommodation for visiting consultants and other medical staff, visiting family members and friends.

Non-local individuals who may be severely disabled[or who have a family member who is] for respite care

Community club/pub/cafe, concert hall

Social centre, shop, pharmacy, resource centre, library for all local residents, staff and patients

To encourage sense of community, reduce isolation, and provide activities and fun.

The community centre, apart from serving the local area, could also be a point of contact for those from further afield.

- Housing Associations
- Wales Co-operative Housing
- Charity bank
- Building societies

*Note

In this case the affordable housing designation is used in its widest sense:

- Housing to rent
- Shared equity
- Co-ownership
- Self-build

Affordable housing for sale limited to Powys CC's Section 106 conditions.

- Form links with other local providers of accommodation.
- Private funds by potential owner/operator
- Powys Teaching Health Board
- Specialist non-local individuals operation

- Lottery funds
- CADW
- EU Rural Alliances fund/BBNPA
- Local fund-raising

Solar energy farm

300Kw array of photo-voltaics

Panels to be integrated into the architecture or free-standing
Bronllys site to be carbon-neutral

To provide lower energy costs as a benefit for all site users.

Self-Building Housing/YCubes

A small component of new housing could be a self-build project for young locals who are unable to raise the capital to secure a home for themselves. To ensure quality, this can, if necessary be done using pre-fabricated elements. There are few opportunities for this sort of initiative in the area.

To attract the local young to achieve ownership through self-help.

Adaptation of the Chapel into a mixed religious/secular hall

For:

Services
Concerts and plays
Dances
Workshops, carpentry, joinery, Perma-culture,
including programmes designed for
those with disabilities and to suit
recreational interests of residents
Recreation

Form link with caravan park in order to provide swimming

New allotments/market garden/ orchards/ greenhouses

For residents, medical patients and local people plus the local community

Enhanced Biodiversity and Landscaping Quality

New pond for the above

Fishing [recreation]

The integration of nature with the architecture.
Mid-Wales has few gardens of distinction compared with other areas of Wales. The site already retains a rich layout of soft landscape. Both private and communal areas should be enhanced by an integrated commitment to high quality architecture and landscape.

- Funded by public subscription based on Llangattock Green Valleys Co-operative Ltd. Micro Hydro project which was funded 90% from the community and the balance from a grant

- Co-operative Housing Movement
- Building societies
- CIC to maintain title

- Lottery fund
- CADW
- Local community groups

- CIC
- Local groups, Green Valleys
- Grant aid
- Sponsorship
- Advice Perma-culture Association
- Volunteers and recreational participation by all residents and staff

- Welsh Assembly grants
- In-house project
- Wildlife Trusts
- Lottery fund

Re-conditioning of the sports facilities

- Tennis, bowls, Gymnasium
- Walking and cycling routes. We would like to explore the potential for a Welsh Road Racing and Sportif Centre.
- Cycling for softies and veterans

Transport and Car pool – Shared

- Electric cars powered by the PV energy farm. Apart from the low cost of fuel, the car pool could reduce the number of cars and parking provision and infrastructure costs.
- Bus services will require modification and enhancement following redevelopment of the site
- Dial-A-Ride services to be embraced

Designated Helicopter Landing Site and Ambulance Services

Taking into account the location of the site and the provision of specialist services there will be a need for a designated helicopter landing area, and the provision of appropriate ambulance services.

Possible compatible, commercial and educational uses

Offices and studios for commercial companies

Research facilities

Live/work housing

Accommodation for knowledge-based businesses

- Lottery funding
- Sports Council
- Welsh Assembly
- Charitable donations
- Sponsorship
- CIC

- Hay Town-in-Transition
- Public subscription
- Existing energy not for profit

- Welsh Assembly
- Local fund-raising

- Any appropriate organisations which would make a contribution to the capital and revenue budgets, As well as adding to the social balance and vitality of the settlement.
- Sharing of facilities

Staff skills and employment

Bronllys Hospital already offers valuable skilled work to the area. This new development will offer even more employment; new health and fitness related businesses could spin off from the project. Vital skills training for clinical staff and quality need to be offered by the new care services, in conjunction with the Health Board. The retention of young people in the area is highlighted as a priority in the "One Powys" report, and we are confident that the proposals will be highly supportive of this aim. The development of the Park will also boost local service businesses, attract and retain high skills to Powys.

Opportunities for sport – "Prevention is better than cure"

As advocated in "One Powys" recreational sport is crucial for gaining and maintaining fitness and well being and, it will be a feature of the Park. Walking routes to a nearby swimming pool will be set up. Cricket, tennis, football, bowls, (indoors and out), croquet, fishing in the small lake and outside table tennis will be available in response to demand. Safe cycle routes through the Park will offer use by tandems, tricycles for disabled people and for those too timid for the open roads. Set as Bronllys is, in the heart of fantastic hills and mountains, with low traffic levels on the roads in the Park, we are proposing that this offers the opportunity to become a National Cycle Racing Centre. The Park will then offer a highly valued tourist appealing venue internationally, as well as a resource to growing Powys people, following this healthy pursuit.

Recreation

A rich social and cultural life is also central to health and well being. The new Park would have:

- a reading room, book share scheme, range of book clubs and regular visits from the mobile library
- a tea room, a social club hosting dances and village concerts, and outdoor ones in the grounds
- a café offering computer access and darts, bar billiards and board games from Scrabble to Dragon Chase
- facilities for conferences
- a restaurant and catering would be incorporated
- gardening, an allotment, conservation and wildlife groups would also be set up
- art and music workshops, and a skill-sharing project where older residents can pass their knowledge onto others
- areas where people can meet, walk and talk and share experiences and have fun will be incorporated in the overall design.

The benefits for the able-bodied and those requiring care, especially dementia sufferers, cannot be underestimated.

Social life

A community club, pub, café, library, pharmacy, and a resource centre for the use of the Bronllys community as well as residents and staff. Again the "One Powys" report stresses the importance of social activities, reducing any sense of isolation, raising morale and creating enjoyable activities and fun. It is hoped that the Centre will also provide the base for a regional support system for the geographically isolated population of mid-Wales, especially the farming community, as noted in the report. A vibrant social centre will help to unite the new community with the established residents of Bronllys.

Energy

In addition to adding to the solar panels located on the roofs of existing buildings, and the objective of Passive house standard new buildings, we propose the creation of a solar farm on site. This would be a self-funded installation providing substantial electricity for the site.

Transportation

This also integrates with the idea of a car club and Boris-type bicycle hire for the use of residents and staff, and also a source of energy for a Dial-a-Ride scheme. An extensive installation will avoid the necessity of cluttering up the roof-scape of otherwise beautiful buildings.

The ambulance station could be enhanced by having a helipad, for people who need urgent transfer to specialist hospitals.

Childcare

Bronllys Hospital already has a children's Nursery, provided by a private contractor, which may well have potential for improved accommodation and support bearing in mind the increasing demand which the redevelopment will generate. The presence of young children on site will contribute to the stimulating and enjoyable environment of the complex, and also stir memories of childhood in dementia patients.

Landscaping and gardens

The Veterans Walk, already developed, will dovetail into the landscaping plans. The extension of wilderness spaces, community orchards and secret gardens could complement the walk.

The redundant walled vegetable garden could provide allotments for those dwelling in the Park and Bronllys residents, or used for rehabilitation of vulnerable people. A working example of this would be the Severn Project in Bristol. The production of food in this way is a deeply satisfying and rewarding therapy and a totally sustainable pursuit.

Care will also be essential in siting and detailing the farm so as not to damage the quality of the landscape.

Bio-diversity

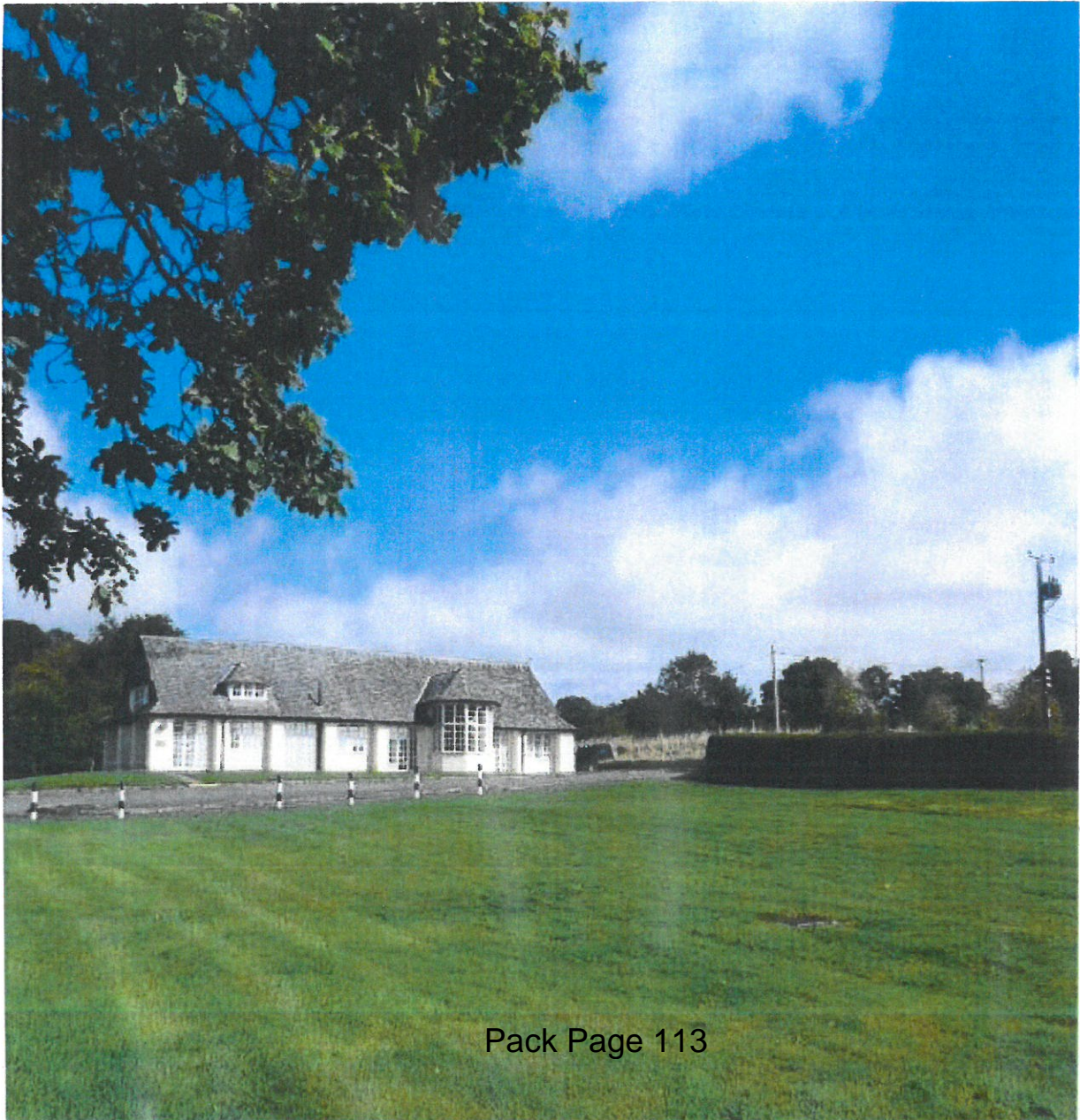
CADW has rightly listed the grounds of the Hospital as being of special importance. As part of the project a detailed landscaping scheme and management plan will be required to enhance the site and to carefully integrate new buildings and infrastructure. Enrichment of the bio-diversity will encourage wildlife and enhance the sensory benefits of all participants.

Listed Buildings

The listed Chapel will offer not only a religious and spiritual focus for the Health Park, it will meet secular needs as well as a venue for discussion, music and choral groups, exhibitions and writers groups, Floral shows etc. The Basil Webb building would be an ideal venue for the social centre. We would welcome discussions with PthB as to its availability.

We have not, as a Group, had access to the Basil Webb Building or the church. Clearly both have the potential for community use. No doubt CADW will need to explore options, and may make a small contribution to repair costs.

These are our main proposals that we are putting forward at this time and that were unanimously supported by members at our recent meeting. We will be sharing these widely and will welcome further queries, advice, and support as we move forward to achieve, a future for Bronllys Hospital within a Health and Well Being Park.



THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND ARCHITECTURE

DESIGN

Where possible the design should incorporate the existing infrastructure to minimise cost and retain the historical characteristics of the site. The layout of the roads provides the main access road. We propose that the housing should be predominantly single storey and single aspect orientated, as existing buildings, to engage with the views and to maximise passive warming. Open market and affordable housing should be designed using the same visual characteristics and materials, making them indistinguishable one from the other: a coherent palette of materials reinforcing a strong sense of place.

In order to create safe, secure homes, especially for dementia residents, we would recommend that each house would have a richly planted courtyard, secure whilst connecting occupiers with Mother Nature, the objective being to keep patients in their own homes surrounded by family, friends, animals, furniture and much-loved possessions for as long as possible.

Internal planning needs to be flexible, allowing for varying layouts to facilitate changes in levels of health and care requirements. In addition, the close relationship of care facilities and homes will ensure that families and friends are never far away, encouraging regular visits both ways, saving staff journey times and transportation costs.

All new buildings should be constructed to Passive house standards.

The requisite quality of medical and residential accommodation dictates that the design process, within some of the Master Plan, should be of the highest standard. As stated before, volume house builders currently build to the smallest space standards in Europe. We believe that a high quality, spacious built environment is required. Excellent standards of warmth, comfort, movement and visual stimulation will demonstrate our respect and collective concern for the wellbeing of those in need of medical support.

The embodied site value and use of local builders for the scheme will retain profits and value which should be used to enhance the excellence of the project rather than adding to the profitability of volume builders

Current planning legislation and market forces have consistently failed to produce the numbers and range of housing required in the UK, especially affordable homes. Nor have homes incorporated standards of sustainability or the technology to ensure the wellbeing and safety of the infirm and elderly.

This project represents aspirations which will meet these objectives and, in our opinion, should be embedded in Planning and Building Regulations, to make homes fit for purpose whilst recognising the anticipated dramatic changes in demography.

With this in mind, we have had expressions from one University to monitor the development so that invaluable lessons can be learned.



HOW DO WE MAKE THINGS HAPPEN?

Taking into account the complexities, breadth of scale and the undertaking involved we are of the opinion that the Health Board cannot cope with the financial task on its own. There are insufficient funds available in the system, not only to deal with the burden of health care, but also the scope presented by a magnificent site and the potential opportunity to address the extent of future care.

The Welsh Assembly advocates in its "One Wales: One Planet" vision that we should "build a resilient and sustainable economy, including fostering local economies and suppliers, supporting innovation, achieving the transition to low carbon, low waste economy" and to "enjoy communities which are safe, sustainable and attractive, where people enjoy good health, by having a much stronger connection with local economies and communities."

They also advocate strong active resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.

Wales leads the way in promoting more sustainable and good quality architecture; more energy-efficient, together with the enhancement of the environment, encouraging working with existing networks, groups and associations at local level, which is "critical to maintaining long term involvement within that community" ["One Wales: One Planet"].

Fundamental to our proposals is the desirability for a new partnership between the Welsh Assembly, Powys County Council, the Health Board, the clinical multi-disciplinary team, local and national charitable bodies together with local communities.

In this case it can be achieved by the creation of a Community Interest Company or a similar legal entity, representing all of the above interests. Not only does such an organisation garner the active support of the wider community, it also opens up new sources of skill, capital and revenue which would lower the burden on the Health Board's finances, and widen the potential of the site as a settlement where care and improved health are priorities – a committed response to changing demographics. The appendices illustrates the extensive range of funding organisations made possible by dividing the project into parcels.

Faced with the austerity in the public sector, there are a growing number of community not-for-profit companies and co-operative ventures successfully working in the UK and across Europe [see Appendices]. They offer a creative and appropriate mechanism for action and commitment

We suggest that such an organisation should have a body of trustees from the following:

- The Welsh Assembly
- Powys County Council
- Powys teaching Health Board
- The clinical multi-disciplinary team
- Powys Health and Wellbeing Action Group
- Bronllys Hospital League of Friends
- Bronllys and Talgarth Community Council
- Local medical practitioners
- Representatives of the local community and interest groups
- The third sector

This list is not necessarily definitive, and other suitable candidates and organisations can be added to broaden the expertise required.

We regard the retention of the site in this form to be the over-riding priority.

NEXT STEPS

The organisation will be not-for-profit. Funding will be sought from a variety of sources – banks, Government grants, housing associations, Lottery funding, philanthropic donations, community fund-raising, etc. This will significantly enlarge the funds necessary to meet the future demographic challenge and, at the same time, embed the residents of Powys into the project. Revenues will be ploughed back into the Health and Well Being Park facilities and into benefitting local communities. Mechanisms will be in-built to ensure that the benefits remain within the community, consistent with the original objectives of the TB hospital initiators, funded by public subscription for the common good.

Independent scrutiny and transparency will be ensured by outside fiscal audit and evaluation of how we make this happen. Regular progress updating will be built in to the development process and we will share this with other communities who have similar opportunities to serve their growing community needs.

Following the support shown at these early stages:-

- We will share these proposals with our wider community those who represent them and all interested groups.
- We will meet jointly with the CEOs of Powys County Council and the Powys teaching Health Board, to look at progressing the Park and the resources it offers.
- Present the proposals to elected members of our community and Community Health Councils and third sector organisations in Powys, to gain further support.
- Given that there is a great deal of common ground in the thinking of PCC, the PthB and ourselves, backed up by existing Europe-wide practice, it is vital that we design a master plan for the whole site and before any sections of the site or buildings are sold. Joined-up thinking and planning is essential to avoid losing the embedded value of the estate gathered over the last one hundred years.
- Practically we need to establish what exactly will be available and what the NHS is keeping for the current community hospital, pain clinic and mental health unit and what area they may need to reserve for future contingencies.
- From this we can draft planning proposals which will be complementary to the current use and the beauty of the setting. This will then make it possible to work out costings, revenue streams and funding targets to make up the financial plan.
- At the appropriate time we will appoint a project development worker. This person will be able to continue the work of the community members, who have brought this proposal forward. Funding will be sought for this and the independent monitoring that will be required.
- The setting up of a Community Interest Company or similar legal entity to take the Park Development forward will continue.
- For our part we will continue with our efforts with the objective of assembling a coherent strategy for the next hundred years.

The proposals put forward by the PH&WB will make the Bronllys Health and Well Being Park a beacon of excellence in care for older members of our community. It will also bring regeneration and vitality to Bronllys and the surrounding community, including the creation of high value jobs and skills training. Additionally these proposals offer cultural, educational, social and health gaining opportunities to our area. The proposals are green, sustainable and low carbon and are respectful and caring of the spectacular and much loved setting.

This is not an exhaustive list of options. The Group recognises that some may be inappropriate, but the Group is equally convinced that a partnership between the County Council and the local community can [as others have done] create a mechanism for a successful and sustainable centre of excellence.

The proposals that we are putting forward are not unproven, they have all worked in other instances. We hope that a partnership can develop between our healthcare givers and the community they serve to make this happen here in Mid-Wales, for the most vulnerable in our community.

We firmly believe that we have the opportunity here in Bronllys, to make this Health and Well Being Park a Centre for Excellence, not only in Wales but internationally.

IN CONCLUSION

Bronllys Hospital is a very special place serving its community for over a century, enhanced by one of the most beautiful settings that could be found anywhere in the world. These health giving resources can now combine in the Bronllys Health and Well Being Park, to enrich the lives of residents and the people of Mid and South east Powys.



"Care in the Community"

The Health Challenges in the 21st Century and meeting them.

The Health challenges that face the UK, Wales and the people in Powys are somewhat daunting, in time of scarcer finances.

These challenges are clearly put in Powys teaching Health Boards own reports. In *"Dementia Care Annual Report June 2014"*, in the UK, it is estimated that 820,000 people have the diagnosis of dementia with Wales making up 44,598, of that number. *"The estimated number of people aged 80 or over in Powys is currently 8,600 and by 2036 this figure is predicted to rise to 18,900. This means the proportion of people aged over 80 will increase from 6.5% in 2012 to 14% in 2036. It is also estimated that, in 2011, there were 1,058 people aged over 85 with dementia in Powys. However, by 2031, this number is projected to double to 2,236. This will significantly increase demand on our services as growing numbers of older people will need support and care."*[Powys Council's "One Powys Plan 2014-2017]

When looking for inspiration and guidance for the proposals that the PHWB group are putting forward to help meet these challenges, we referred to:

- NHS Wales
- Powys teaching Health publications
- Aneurin Bevan Commission's document May 2011 "Forging a Better Future"

"Now is the time for NHS Wales to take further bold and courageous action, in partnership with the people of Wales, to secure the future for a national health service forged and implemented by previous generations." Professor Aylward goes on to say *"Ensuring the future of the NHS is about keeping people as fit and healthy as possible, successfully tackling inequities, alleviating suffering, and bringing comfort, dignity and hope to people when they are at their most vulnerable."* and *"It is essential that Wales will demonstrate that it can deliver health services at a level comparable with the best examples found anywhere in the world".*

Powys Health and Wellbeing are clear that the proposals that we are putting forward are going to be more than comparable. *"Comparable"* is not good enough for Powys or Mid Wales, and we hope that if our partnership project works, we can have an internationally acclaimed project; a Health and Well Being Beacon of Excellence for Rural areas

In addition, in *"Silver lining: the Active Third Age"* Hunter and Parkinson tell us that *"in post retirement age we can all expect to live over half of our remaining lives in good health. An increased number of active, healthy members of society approaching (or beyond) retirement represents a new phenomenon, unique to this period in history. Known as the "Active Third Age" this group is 60-74 year olds, and still very much engaged in leisure and cultural pursuits. This demographic shift will present challenges, but more interestingly, significant opportunities: a cohort fully able to contribute to both society and the economy. This group has a key role to play in the successful transition to a new demographic landscape; one in which older age is more widely considered as a dynamic and productive phase of life."*

Bearing in mind the challenges and opportunities, we have formulated the Health and Well Being Park proposals. We firmly believe that our proposals offer the opportunity to create a partnership which will help those generations who forged our health care system, and be there for those to come.

We are clear that our plans share these goals and provide infrastructure both physical, economic and social to meet the challenges that the people of Powys are facing.

The Group has also looked at how our proposals contribute to the aims of *"Together for Health: a five year NHS Wales Vision"*, and that they are imbued with an underlying health and well being ethos, which chime clearly with those espoused in the *"Together for Health"* guidelines.

Looking beyond Wales, we have found the recent *"Looking Forward to Later Life"* by Early Action Task Forces and *"Making our Communities Ready for Ageing"* by AgeUK and the International Centre for Longevity, both inspirational and encouraging. We have looked also to Scandinavia and Europe for information on their provision for supported living, care models, as well as accommodation design.

The challenge of fuel poverty and sustainability assails all ages but mostly the vulnerable. In addressing these issues to guidance "One Wales One Planet" has been invaluable and we have also looked to local working examples.

We have been guided by the part of the "One Powys Plan", "older people in Powys will be supported to lead fulfilled lives within their communities". We have measured our proposals to meet the 8 specified outcomes and, in partnership with all involved agencies, we can contribute greatly to them.

These are to:-

- Maximise the quality of life for our local population
- Maintain as far as possible, a normal pattern of life within their community
- The local population will be supported to achieve improving levels of health.
- People will receive enhanced services closer to home
- Individual's needs for hospital admission will be reduced
- Once in hospital, people's length of stay will be minimised
- People will be able to stay at home for as long as possible
- Increasing the network of community based services.

To close, we share a recent letter to the Guardian 4th June 2014 written by Ron Webster, Chief Executive, NHS Confederation and 70 other Hospital CEOs across England.

"We as leaders of the NHS and organisations providing NHS care across England, believe that the NHS is at it's the most challenged time of its existence..... At the same time, the services we commission and run are not designed to cope with the care needs of the 21st Century- especially the needs of the large numbers of people with multiple long term conditions and an increasing elderly population.

Local organisations are urgently planning the transformation of how we care for people to ensure we continue to deliver a service that meets people's needs and improve the public's health. Our challenges are well set out in the 2015 Challenge Declaration published by the NHS Confederation on 6th May."

We have our own Welsh NHS but face the same 7 Challenges of the Declaration as England does: Need; Culture; Design; Finance; Leadership; Workforce; and Technology. We rely on NHS Wales to maintain and enhance our existing clinical capacity and meet these 7 "burning issues". We are confident that when the the Health and Well Being Park proposals are achieved, they will be of considerable help to meeting the challenge. The Park will enhance our NHS capacity, and help us as community members to meet the 21st Century, challenge in Mid Wales.

Demographic Discussion Paper August2014

THE OBJECTIVES OF POWYS HEALTH AND WELL BEING ACTION GROUP;

PH&WB Action Group* was formed following a petition of 3,114 signatures, presented to the Welsh Assembly Government on 4th December 2012 in defence of Bronllys Community Hospital and against the "Vision for Health Care in South East Powys" that the PtHB was presenting.

The petition:-

We call upon the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to reject any attempt by the Powys Teaching Health Board to asset-strip the Bronllys Community Hospital by closing or moving its Stroke Unit, nor by placing new services or facilities for the region elsewhere and rather to instruct the Health Board to devise a strategy to build or rebuild, improve and/or extend this NHS Hospital's facilities and services and resource expertise; and to retain and rebuild this valuable community asset as a centre of excellence.

We further call upon the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to instruct the Health Board to place Bronllys Hospital at the centre of its Strategy for Older Peoples Health services in South east Powys for the next 50 years, and to release the necessary resources to make this happen.

It was collected by a very small group over a very short time and during severe weather conditions and shortened day light hours. It clearly demonstrated how valuable Bronllys Hospital is regarded by its community.

The PtHB were planning to move the Stroke Unit to Brecon War Memorial Hospital yet, in that same consultation, replacement of Bronllys by a nursing home was presented. The petition showed how vehemently opposed our community is to any downgrading of Bronllys Hospital.

As part of one of the caveats the PtHB agreed to meet, before moving the Stroke Unit, was to come up with a "robust plan for Bronllys" In December 2013 the PtHB launched with stakeholders, an engagement process looking at the surrounding site called "Bronllys Health Park".

In January 2014 an engagement process began, using a visual depicting 26 possible uses for the site. The PH&WB group were asked by its members to develop a constructive response for the Board and to work positively with them.

To this end a core group of PH&WB members developed initial proposals and presented them then to Bob Hudson the Chief Executive of Powys Teaching Health Board in April. This core group went on, encouraged by this initial engagement, to further develop the proposals. They were joined by volunteer experts to work on the completed proposals.

Underlying these proposals is a strong commitment to see the whole of the Bronllys site, given to our community nearly a hundred years ago for its Health and Wellbeing, become an even more valuable resource to meet the challenges of the 21st Century for people in Mid-Wales.

PH&WB wish to positively contribute to developing a Health and Well Being Park, to surround and support the NHS Wales provision on its retained 10 to 12 acres with a sympathetic and self-financing development.

Recognising the serious financial and demographic challenges facing our Health Services in meeting our growing community health needs, the PH&WB proposals are geared to take the pressure off our frontline health services and enable them to make every pound count.

The proposals put forward by the PH&WB will make the Bronllys Health and Well Being Park a beacon of excellence in care for older members of our community. It will also bring regeneration and vitality to Bronllys and the surrounding community, including the creation of high value jobs and skills training. Additionally these proposals offer cultural, educational, social and health gaining opportunities to our area. The proposals are green, sustainable and low carbon and are respectful and caring of the spectacular and much loved setting.

The proposals explore the potential for a wider catchment of health services and skills, recognising the contemporary and continuing limitations of public monies.

In addition to the medical and financial benefits the Group is anxious to enhance the vitality of Bronllys Village, the intention being to create employment, cultural, educational and social opportunities for local people.

This is not an exhaustive list of options. The Group recognises that some may be inappropriate, but the Group is equally convinced that a partnership between the County Council and the local community can [as others have done] create a mechanism for a successful and sustainable centre of excellence.

The embodied site value and use of local builders for the scheme will retain profits and value which should be used to enhance the excellence of the project rather than adding to the profitability of volume builders.

All too often high value sites like Bronllys are sold off in lots, or as a whole, for others to maximise their potential, producing commercial profit.

We are anxious to see the site and future activities benefitting the community, utilising funds and expertise from a variety of sources, whilst at the same time retaining overall management and control.

The proposals that we are putting forward are not unproven, they have all worked in other instances. We hope that a partnership can develop between our healthcare givers and the community they serve to make this happen here in Mid-Wales, for the most vulnerable in our community.

We firmly believe that we have the opportunity here in Bronllys, to make this Health and Well Being Park a Centre for Excellence, not only in Wales but internationally.



3 September 2014

BUILD HOMES FOR ELDERLY ON NHS LAND, SAYS MP

By Nick Triggle, Health correspondent, BBC News

Surplus NHS land should be used to build dedicated housing for older people, a former care minister says.

Lib Dem MP Paul Burstow - who led a review of residential care for the think tank Demos - said retirement villages and adapted flats were needed as well as traditional care homes.

The review also suggested planning rules could be relaxed and discounted prices offered to encourage investment. In return, care providers could be asked to contribute to council care. This could be done by setting quotas for the proportion of the new complexes set aside for state-funded care. The model mirrors the Section 106 laws currently used to ensure property developers build affordable housing.

About 450,000 people in England live in residential care homes, but the numbers living in adapted housing known as extra care apartments or retirement complexes are much smaller.

'Genuine choice'

Mr Burstow said this needed to change as the term residential care had become "fatally damaged" by recent scandals about abuse and neglect in homes. He said another solution to help care homes would be to offer residents "tenancy rights" when they move into the homes to give them more influence in how the homes are run. "As we are living longer lives, housing with care is going to become increasingly important in helping us stay independent, happy and healthy. It is vital that government wake up to this reality sooner rather than later and helps create the right incentives to ensure older and disabled people have a genuine choice when they need to move."

It is believed that less than 40% of land held by NHS trusts is used for hospitals and medical buildings.

But the Department of Health said it was working to free up land - although admitted it was not offering the incentives the Demos report called for. Since 2010, NHS land with the capacity for more than 10,000 homes has been sold. Not all of this would have been used for housing for older people however.

Health Minister Dr Dan Poulter said he felt what was being done was appropriate.

"We agree that the NHS can make better use of surplus land. That is why we have a programme to identify and sell surplus land."

Publication of the review came as a report from Age UK called for all new homes to be built to a lifetime homes standard, which means they can be easily adapted as people age, by introducing things such as grab rails and level-access showers.

Adapting a standard new house design costs about £1,500 extra at the building stage, government research shows.

The charity said action was needed as thousands of older people face delays in being discharged from hospital because they are waiting for home adaptations that are harder to do in older properties.

Age UK charity director Caroline Abrahams said: "Ensuring all new housing can be easily adapted would save the country millions and help end the nonsense of older people lingering for long periods in hospital, simply because of delays in fitting adaptations like grab rails and ramps."

Work in the Park: open to all

Bronllys hospital already offers valuable, skilled jobs. There will be increases in knowledge based businesses, eco, bio and Hitech research bases. High level skill training for clinical and care staff, will be available. This will encourage well qualified young people to remain or return to Powys. The Park and its feel good factors and its facilities, will assist in staff recruitment and retention. The setup of the site with all kind of homes new businesses and facilities, will boost the local services industry. The community will also assist in the extending of older peoples working lives both paid and unpaid. Market Gardening on the site along the "Severn Project" lines, could offer not only fresh food sales but empowerment. The project is financially self-sustainable and offers people the chance to gain independence. Increasing in Park employment, will also make for a more mixed and vibrant community. This will also regenerate the area.

Play in the Park: open to all

Play and recreation, crucial for gaining and maintaining fitness and well being, will be enhanced in the Park. Healthy living life styles will feature. Tennis, bowls, petanque and croquet will be restored to the Park. Fishing pursuits will return as the small lake is restored. Walks will be extended to gain safe access to nearby facilities of Gyms and swimming pool. The Woodland Military walk will be extended into the landscape. Safe Cycleways through the Park will offer safe places for people to learn and train on Tandems and tricycles will be available for disabled or those too timid for the open road initially. The wider environs of the Park set in stunning Hills, Mountains and sweeping Valleys offers wonderful opportunities to people who wish to maintain their health. The Park proposers feel that it will offer the chance to make a national base for Cycle Road Racing. This sport has become iconic in recent years, is easily accessible and is gaining in popularity

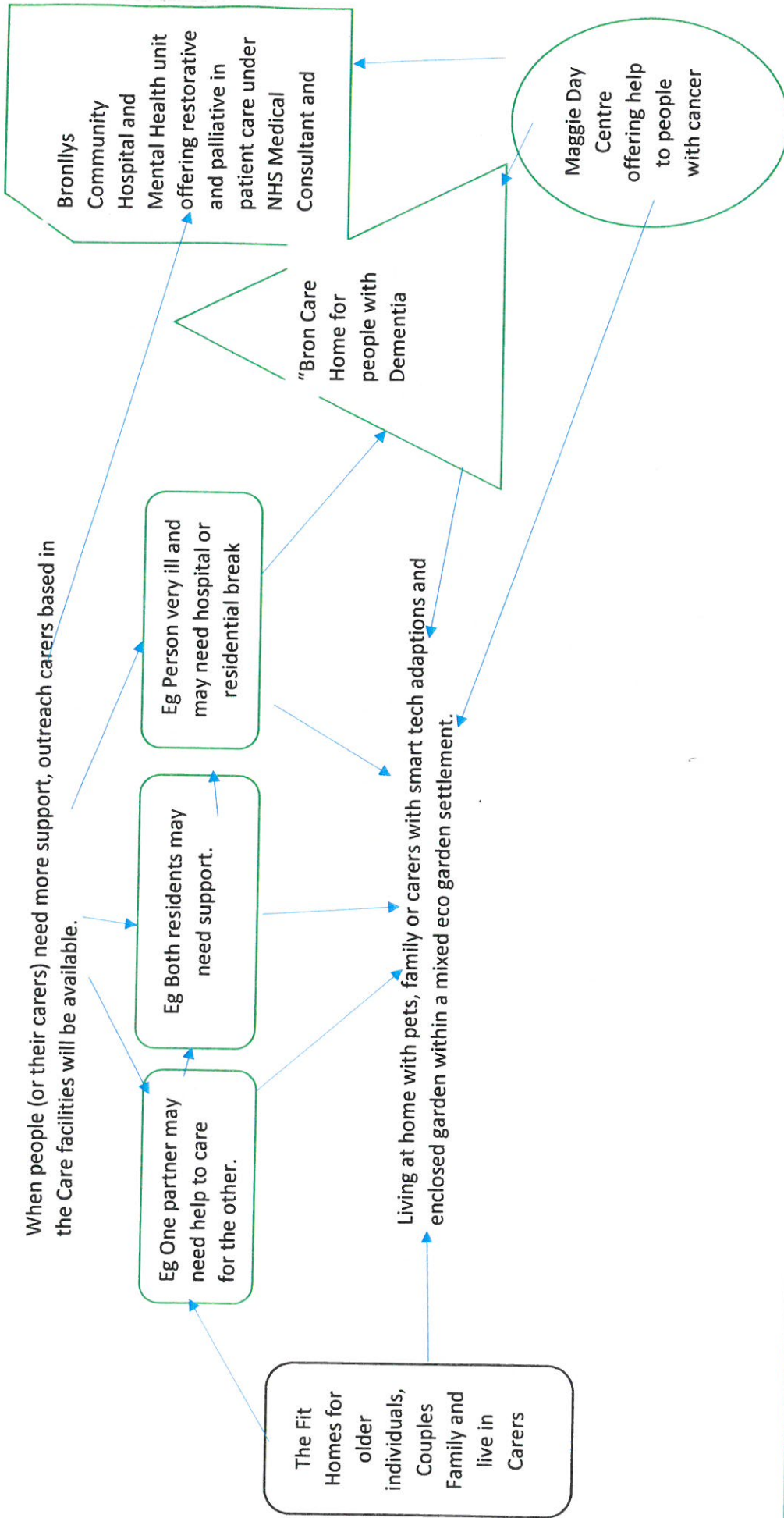
Social: Open to all

A rich social and cultural life are also central to wellbeing, the new Park would have a reading room, book share scheme, and a range of bookclubs. There would be a regular visit by the mobile library. There would be a tea room and a Social Club hosting Dances, Bands, Jazz and Open Mike evenings. A Cyber Cafe hosting whist, quaits, darts, bar billiards. Board Games from Scrabble and Ludo to Dragon Chase. There will be facilities for Seminars Conferences, Lecture and catering. There will be space for a range of hobby groups, gardening, sewing, wildlife study. Art, singing and music group will be offered. Skills Exchanges will be set up from tractor maintenance to furniture restoration to jewellery making to.... The listed Chapel will offer spiritual focus for the Park, and more secular support with talks, poetry readings, concerts and singing groups, seasonal Floral shows etc. The Health and well Being Park will also be designed to have outdoor places where people can meet and talk and have fun. There will also be space for solitude and contemplation.

The Park: open to all
It will remain close to nature, in its beautiful setting with high quality landscaping; protecting and complementing what was already there. Careful building design will be core to the Park and biodiversity will be enhanced with sensitive planting. The Park will only use surplus land, not needed now or in the future, by the PtHB.

The new Park will enhance the existing facilities and become a place to visit (not just when you are poorly). It will be an asset to the village and wider community, bringing Health and Well Being to Mid Wales. It will also become a Flagship for Quality Rural Health Care

At a Glance: Living Life to the Full in Bronllys Health and Well Being Park



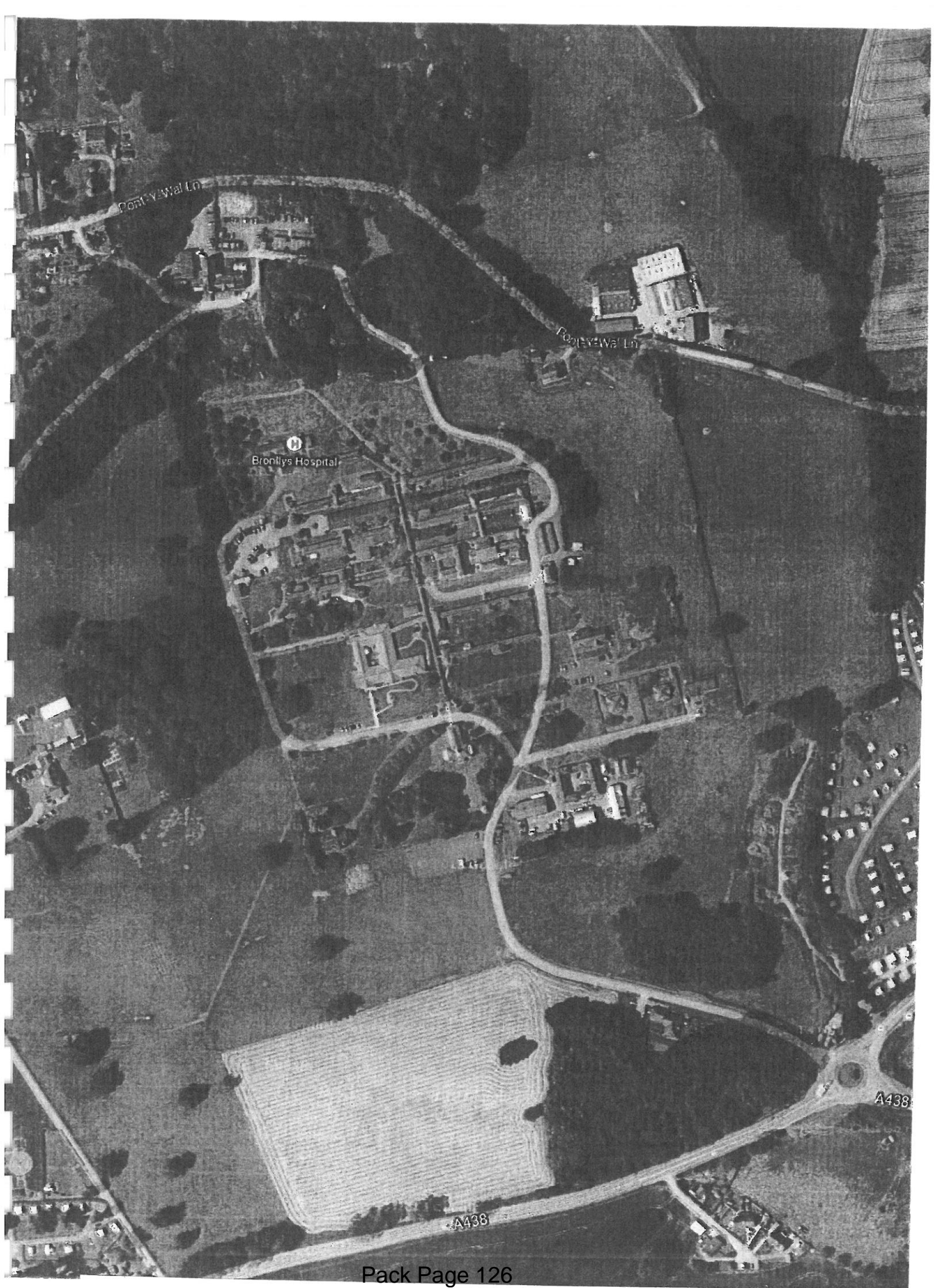
Among the Fit Homes there will be a range of homes to buy and rent to meet community needs. Built to the same high build standards and latest eco. Designs to ensure low carbon and low fuel bills. The houses will be low level with glazed courtyards offering secure all year gardens.

A mix of homes will be offered to buy and rent affordably from single to family to work from home dwellings. The range of housing will offer key workers, downsizers self builders and those just starting out. First homes using Ycubelike designs, will be part of the mix. Solar gain technology is integral to the Park

Healthy Living will be a feature of the Park. So sport, recreation, cultural, and social facilities will be enhanced and developed. The settlement will compliment and be supported by the Community Hospital and Mental Health Unit and Rehab Services already on site.

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P-04-492 Diagnosis of autism in children

Petition wording:

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

- ensure timely diagnosis for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder [ASD], regardless of where they live, so that children with autism can be supported and lead fulfilled lives; and
- review implementation of and ensure compliance with the NICE guidelines on recognition, referral and diagnosis of children and young people on the autism spectrum as part of the Welsh Government's refresh of its ASD Strategic Action Plan.

Supporting information:

Diagnosing can be a critical milestone for people with autism. For children, it can help ensure that the right support is put in place from an early age.

Diagnosing autism can be difficult because autism is complex condition that affects each person in a different way. We therefore support the view that a number of different specialists should be part of the process to ensure a correct diagnosis.

However a timely diagnosis is vital in order to minimise anxiety and stress for children with autism and their families. The Deputy Minister for Social Services supports this view and in response to a question from Rebecca Evans AM said: 'I fully recognise the importance of receiving a timely diagnosis.' We also know that early intervention for children with autism is crucial in their educational, emotional and social development and for their longer-term health.

While there are good examples of diagnostic and assessments services in Wales, we are very concerned that not everyone can access a timely diagnosis and that not every area is following the NICE guidelines on

recognition, referral and diagnosis of children and young people on the autism spectrum.

Our experience in Pembrokeshire has been particularly difficult, with some members of the branch waiting up to seven years for a diagnostic assessment. This lengthy wait for diagnosis is having a huge impact on families across Pembrokeshire.

We have tried on several occasions to engage with Hywel Dda Local Health Board. We have also met with local AMs Paul Davies and Angela Burns outlining our concerns. Paul Davies has written to Hywel Dda Health Board urging them to meet with the branch. We are still waiting for the Health Board to act on that request.

One of the branch members has 'waited over six years for my one son to get a diagnosis. Now I'm waiting for the other it's been about two years and it fills me with dread.'

We want to ensure timely diagnosis for all children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder across Wales so that they can be supported appropriately to lead fulfilled lives.

About autism

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects the way a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them. It is a spectrum condition, which means that, while all people with autism share three main areas of difficulty, their condition will affect them in different ways. The three main areas of difficulty are:

- Difficulty with social interaction. This includes recognising and understanding other people's feelings and managing their own. Not understanding how to interact with other people can make it hard to form friendships;
- Difficulty with social communication. This includes using and understanding verbal and non-verbal language, such as gestures, facial expressions and tone of voice; and

- Difficulty with social imagination. This includes the ability to understand and predict other people's intentions and behaviour and to imagine situations outside of their own routine. This can be accompanied by a narrow repetitive range of activities.

Some people with autism are able to live relatively independent lives but others may need a lifetime of specialist support. People with autism may also experience some form of sensory sensitivity or under-sensitivity, for example to sounds touch, tastes, smells, light or colours. Asperger syndrome is a form of autism.

Research has shown that 1 in 100 people have autism. By applying the 1 in 100 figure we estimate that over 30,000 people in Wales have autism. Together with their families, they make up over 100,000 people whose lives are touched by autism every single day.

About the NAS and Pembrokeshire Branch

The National Autistic Society Cymru [NAS Cymru] is Wales' only member-led charity for people affected by autism. The National Autistic Society was founded in 1962 by a group of parents who were passionate about ensuring a better future for their children. In Wales, since 1994, we have been providing local support, services and actively campaigning so that people with autism get to lead the life they choose.

NAS Cymru believes that the right support at the right time makes an enormous difference to the lives of those affected by autism and we are committed to ensuring that their voices are heard.

Across Wales we have over 900 members and 11 local branches including the one in Pembrokeshire. Launched on the 1st April 2011, the branch is for parents of children with autism to provide a network of support for people connected through autism living in Pembrokeshire and surrounding areas. The branch meets on a regular basis holding formal and informal events, as well as campaigning and fundraising locally.

Petition raised by: National Autistic Society Pembrokeshire Branch

Date petition first considered by Committee: 18 June 2013

Number of signatures: 902

Gwenda Thomas AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref GT/00482/14

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

21 August 2014

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter about the Task and Finish Group being established on children's autism diagnosis.

I greatly appreciated the contribution that NAS Cymru made to the original ASD Strategic Action Plan and understand that they are playing a major part in the drafting of the ASD Strategy refresh document. I value their contribution and would welcome a representative of the organisation being on the Task and Finish Group. My officials will soon be in a position to seek members for the Group and will contact NAS Cymru directly seeking a nomination.

I expect the Task and Finish Group to produce a report with recommendations, which I will have the opportunity to consider in due course. It is at that time that I will be able to make a final decision on whether the report will be made public, although I do not anticipate there being any barriers to its publication.

Yours Sincerely

Gwenda

Gwenda Thomas AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchwrdd (100%)

Back Page 131

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Agenda Item 3.10

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

P-04-505 Eating Disorder Unit in Wales – Correspondence, Petitioner to the Chair, 04.09.14

Dear Mr Powell,

Thank you for your letter and informing me of the considerations that have been made, regarding the separation of the two petitions.

I have been involved in another campaign called 'cwtch' which is also calling for an eating disorder hospital to be built in wales and the video I made was telling of my experiences and the reasons why I think a hospital is necessary, however the original plan for the video to be used in was withdrawn and the video has now not been used.

If I could be of any help please let me know.

Best
wishes,

Keira

Agenda Item 3.11

P-04-568 Public Inquiry into ABMU Health Board

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to hold a full public inquiry in order to investigate the serious concerns raised about standards of care and complaints handling within ABMU Health Board that have caused so much avoidable harm and suffering for patients and bereaved relatives at hospitals administered by the Board and its predecessor bodies and, where necessary, to hold the Chief Executive and the Management Team to account.

Petition raised by: ABMU Victim Support Group

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 1 July 2014

Number of signatures : 87

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-04-568
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/02705/14

William Powell AM
Assembly Member for Mid & West Wales
Chair Petitions committee

Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

25 July 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-04-568 - Public Enquiry into Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.

The 'Trusted to Care' report findings did not make easy reading and I gave an unreserved apology to those individuals and their families whose care had fallen short of what they might expect from the Welsh NHS. I have made clear I expected immediate improvements to patient care at both hospitals concerned.

The Welsh Government is determined that nothing of this sort will be tolerated in these two hospitals, in this health board, or indeed anywhere else in Wales in the future. This is why we ordered a series of actions to ensure that the standards that we demand of our health service are being delivered and to reassure patients.

This included instigating a programme of unannounced spot checks in all district general hospitals across Wales to test standards of care and reassure patients. These unannounced spot checks are now well underway and being carried out by a team of senior individuals who will report directly to me. I updated Assembly Members on progress before the summer recess. I am also, over the Summer, seeking feedback on the Evans Report on complaints handling in the NHS in Wales.

*Best wishes,
Mark.*

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

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Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchwr (100%)
Pack Page 135

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**INFORMATION FOR CONSIDERATION BY
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES PETITIONS COMMITTEE
AT A MEETING DUE TO BE HELD ON THE 23 SEPTEMBER 2014**

INTRODUCTION

ABMU Victim Support Group is an unincorporated association set up to;-

- a. Find out what happened to their loved ones, why it happened, who was accountable, and why serious mistreatment and in some cases, deaths were not prevented;
- b. Support one another; and
- c. Help prevent the same mistreatment occurring at Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, ("ABMU"), through a desire to get to the bottom of what has happened so that lessons can be learned, not only to benefit ABMU but also other health boards throughout Wales.

THE PETITION

ABMU Victim Support Group request the Petitions Committee to compel the Minister for Health and Social Services, (the “Minister”), to order a full public inquiry to investigate the serious concerns raised about standards of care and complaints handling within ABMU.

Under Section 1 (1) of the Inquiries Act 2005 the Minister, has the power to establish an inquiry:

(1) A Minister may cause an inquiry to be held under this Act in relation to a case where it appears to him that–

(a) Particular events have caused, or are capable of causing, public concern,

or

(b) There is a public concern that particular events may have occurred.

In *R v. Secretary of State for Health ex p. Wagstaff* [2000] WHC 34, before deciding that the Secretary of State’s decision not to hold a public inquiry was irrational, the Divisional Court analysed a number of factors which could be regarded as persuasively in favour of opening a public inquiry:

“(1) the fact that when a major disaster occurs, involving the loss of many lives, it has often been considered appropriate to hold a full public inquiry, and the case for such an inquiry would seem to be enhanced where –

(a) there is doubt as to how many and which deaths are properly attributable to the known cause of many other deaths:

(b) the fact that deaths occurred over a long period without detection is suggestive of a breakdown in those checks and controls which should operate to prevent such a tragedy:

(c) as a result there is likely to be a widespread loss of confidence in a critical part of the National Health Service which needs to be addressed.

(2) There are positive known advantages to be gained from taking evidence in public, namely –

(a) witnesses are less likely to exaggerate or attempt to pass on responsibility:

(b) information becomes available as a result of others reading or hearing what witnesses have said:

(c) there is a perception of open dealing which helps to restore confidence:

(d) there is no significant risk of leaks leading to distorted reporting.

(3) The particular circumstances of this case militated in favour of opening up the Inquiry because –

(a) by April 2000 it was clear that was what the families wanted, and that the Secretary of State had been mistaken to think otherwise. As he chose to rely on what he had believed to be their state of mind he should have consulted them before reaching his decision of 27th January 2000, and he should therefore have given them a proper opportunity to deal with his new reasons for maintaining his position if he was not to accede to the written submissions of their solicitor:

(b) the wide and unamended terms of reference gave those relatives and friends of persons not named in the indictment good

reason to believe that the Inquiry would investigate how and why their relatives died:

(c) even if Parliament was not misled, what had been said and what had not been said in the House of Commons on 1st February 2000 had for obvious reasons given rise to misunderstanding:

(d) there was no obvious body of opinion in favour of evidence being received behind closed doors:

(e) given an inquisitorial procedure and firm chairmanship, there was no reason why the Inquiry should take longer if evidence were taken in public, nor was there any tangible reason to conclude that any significant evidence would be lost.

(4) Where, as here, an Inquiry purports to be a public inquiry, as opposed to an internal domestic inquiry, there is now in law what really amounts to a presumption that it will proceed in public unless there are persuasive reasons for taking some other course. Although Article 10 of the European Convention is not yet incorporated into English law it does no more than give expression to existing law as to the right to receive and impart information.

(5) If the Inquiry has been conducted in public, then the report which it produces and the recommendations which it makes will command greater public confidence. Since all members of the community, especially the elderly and vulnerable, have been accustomed to place great trust in their GPs, such restoration of confidence is a matter of high public importance.”

There are parallels between the case being presented to the Petitions Committee and *R v. Secretary of State for Health ex p. Wagstaff [2000] WHC 34*, as such it would seem appropriate and reasonable to apply the same factors.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Mr Gareth Williams is the founder of ABMU Victim Support Group.

Mr Williams’ mother, Lilian Maud Williams (“Lilian”), died on the 17 November 2012 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. The treatment leading up to her death and the circumstances surrounding her death are yet to be fully investigated.

Lilian's family have raised concerns about the care provided to her in a period that began in the Autumn of 2010. The Williams family have vividly described the systemic neglect of vulnerable patients at the hospital, including Lilian; and incidents including the inappropriate use of sedative medication; the failure to help patients with toileting or feeding; the withdrawal of food and nutrition for long periods, often days on end, pending inefficiently arranged speech and language therapist assessments; the falsifying of records to indicate that basic nursing care had been provided; the failure to ensure that medications were given or taken; and the inappropriate use of the end of life pathway by designating patients with life threatening conditions that they did not in fact have. Such concerns are reiterated by other members of ABMU Victim Support Group and those that have come forward to the group.

In June 2013 Mr Williams was attended by CID officers at his home and informed that Lilian was one of 39 patients whose medical observations had been falsified by a member of nursing staff who had been allegedly falsifying blood sugar readings.

As of September 2014 a total of 15 nurses, (14 from the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend and one from the Morriston Hospital, Swansea) had been suspended as

part of the same investigation. Five of those nurses have been charged with the wilful neglect of nine patients under the Mental Capacity Act 2005. One of those nurses has pleaded guilty to wilful neglect in relation to nine patients. The others are yet to enter pleas.

In November 2013 the Minister ordered a 'deep dive' review seeking to answer four questions;-

- d. how professional nursing standards are protected and delivered consistently and to determine how ABMU responded to lapses in delivery of these standards;
- e. the culture of care, particularly focusing on the care of older patients in the medical wards;
- f. responding to complaints, particularly looking at how complaints were handled by ABMU and how professionals were held to account for lapses in care through investigation of complaints (including protection of vulnerable adults investigations); and
- g. the administration and recording of medicines, particularly looking at how medicines are administered to patients who are cognitively impaired or have other challenges in taking medicines orally.

The review was undertaken between December 2013 and April 2014 and was led by Professor June Andrews. The Trusted to Care Report, (the “Report”), was published on the 6 May 2014.

The Report states:

“The Review Team visited the hospitals on a number of occasions over a four month period and spoke to a range of people including staff, managers, patients, volunteers, external voluntary and statutory organisations, non-executive board members, local elected representatives, staff representatives, health department officials, police officers and relatives. It visited people in their homes, observed clinical areas during the day and night-time, and attended clinical and management meetings”

The review identified a number of issues in the care provided at ABMU hospitals.

These are summarised at page 2 of the Report as being;-

- a. Variable or poor professional behaviour and practice in the care of frail older people;
- b. Deficiencies in elements of a culture of care based on proper respect and involvement of patients and relatives;
- c. Unacceptable limitations in essential 24/7 services leading to unnecessary delay to treatment and care;
- d. Lack of suitably qualified, educated and motivated staff particularly at night;
- e. Adversarial and slow complaints management;
- f. Disconnection between front-line staff and managers and confusion over leadership responsibilities and accountabilities;
- g. Problems with organisational strategies on quality and patient safety, capacity development and workforce planning.

The Report goes on to say:

“The sense the Review Team developed was that some staff in certain wards felt ill equipped to meet the needs of patients with dementia and other frail older people and were unclear of what to do about it. This was not true of all wards or even shifts, with the variation depending on specific circumstances. There was a sense

of hopelessness and 'learned helplessness' and the resulting variation in care seems to result from the lack of immediate advice and support from senior clinical leaders when needed, the apparent failure to act or provide feed-back on reports of problems and incidents, the absence of basic knowledge and know-how and a fundamental lack of clarity from the managers about what was expected of staff".

The language of the Report becomes more evocative as it continues:

"My first impression was of a chaotic atmosphere. Staff appeared stressed and not in control. They told me that they were six senior staff down, with one suspended and one on sick leave. The agency staff nurse had not appeared. There were patients calling out, one stuck in bed with bed rails and one lady said to me "I am in Hell". There were more beds in the bays than was planned for. The consultant only visits a couple of times a week, and the out-of-hours cover was described by the nurses as "hit or miss". Staff were not confident about caring for confused people. Newly qualified staff weren't being supervised and junior doctors came and went

with very little interaction with the nurses. The noise and clutter was over stimulating, with TVs on but not being watched, and an atmosphere where there were too many people – doctors, cleaners, nurses, all in the patient space at once. (Review Team member)”

Patient accounts are also listed within the Report, which mirror those expressed independently by members of ABMU Victim Support Group:

“We couldn’t look to the nurses to care for mum. They had no power. They couldn’t get a doctor when we needed one. They couldn’t get medicines over the weekend, or a swallowing test. My mum had no medication or food or water for days. (Daughter)” and:

“Nurses have to wait until another staff member has finished with the trolley before they can give out their medicines – so some patients never get their medicine on time. The chaotic atmosphere increases the risk of drug errors. Patients that probably have dementia were being prescribed antipsychotics without a proper risk assessment. The inappropriate use of sedation for “aggression” was observed. Nurses are administering medicine who don’t know the procedure or policy about mental capacity and one said she did

not know what to do if a patient without capacity refused medication. (Review Team member)”

The Report goes on to say:

“The Health Minister made it clear to the Review Team that he was concerned about historic complaints that medicines were not properly administered to frail older people in these hospitals. It had been alleged to him that in the past unwell older patients in ABMU had been found with medicine pots containing prescribed pills that had just been left near them on a locker or table. These confused or immobile patients were unable to take their pills without supervision or assistance and so did not get their medication at the right time, if at all. Abandoned pills had been pointed out at various times by relatives, other patients and visitors, and other staff members. The danger of this practice is that a different confused patient may be harmed by accidentally taking the medicine. The medicine could get lost, or dropped on the floor, or into the bedclothes. If the patient’s condition gets worse because they missed a dose, the prescribing doctor may assume that the

initial dosage has been too small and make a decision to increase or change the prescribed medicine which could cause an overdose or other harm”.

This makes reference to historical events and an understanding by the government that the problems identified were also historic.

The Review Team note their dismay at the extent to which doctors, pharmacists nurses and managers tolerate: *“hazardous, prohibited and unjustifiable practice”* in relation to drugs and medications.

It was evident that despite the recommendations made by the Review Team that no action was taken by staff at the ABMU in response:

“The Review Team offered practical advice and support to staff, but three months into the Review a ward visit resulted in the Team again witnessing this completely unacceptable and dangerous practice”.

There is further clear evidence that historical steps to improve standards through advice have not been successful:

“This toleration of lack of care acted for the Review Team as a diagnostic measure of the culture of care in ABMU. It demonstrated to us that there is a disconnection between members of the health care team, an overwhelming sense of powerlessness and a failure of individuals to demonstrate personal professional responsibility. The debilitating public campaign against the hospitals must have had a negative effect on ABMU staff morale and made it more difficult to recruit and retain staff and support staff to make improvements. However given that the public concern has focussed on medicines being left with elderly frail patients it is incredible that existing staff in the whole system would not by the time of this Report have worked together to make sure that it never, ever happens again in ABMU hospitals... The Review recommendations for dealing with this issue at the bedside are practical and could be implemented at once. The records indicate that when this poor practice has been pointed out in the past general education is provided and nurses are warned that it must not happen. That

clearly has not worked. As a temporary measure we propose that all medicine pots are signed for and disposed of after dosage, so that nurses better understand that witnessing the swallowing of medicine is part of the procedure and it is easy to identify any nurse who left medicine out. Medicines must not be given out by inexperienced nurses without supervision. Nurses must be given a formal procedure to follow when the patient refuses or fails to take the medicine in the time the nurse has to spend with that patient”.

Where the Review Team did engage in a ‘look back’ exercise they identified a significant history of other cases where neglect of the elderly and frail was reported:

“During the Review and in particular during the “Look Back” process the Review Team interviewed and received written submissions from people who had complaints about both the Princess of Wales and Neath Port Talbot hospitals.⁶ Most of the complaints were about the Princess of Wales Hospital and the Review Team concentrated on those complaints relating to older, frail patients. Those complaining were upset in large part about the way that

their complaint had been handled. It is clear that complaints management was slower and more cumbersome than anyone would expect. People waited for months in some cases for an acknowledgement and some lost the will to pursue the problem long before the system responded to them. Not least there was evidence of one POVA investigation process that appears to have handled wrongly by ABMU staff giving misleading and confusing messages about whether it was actually happening. Delay, prevarication and misinformation seemed to lead in the end to either the aggrieved person giving up or to them becoming so angry that they became litigious or vexatious"

The investigation was limited to two hospitals within the ABMU Health Board, the Review Team commented at paragraph 2.10 of the Report:

"It is not obvious how other Welsh hospitals might stand up to a similar process of scrutiny and that must be addressed by the Department of Health and Social Care in the wake of this Report".

Although the report is at pains to distance the problems within the ABMU from those identified by Sir Robert Francis QC in the Mid Staffordshire Inquiry it is impossible not to draw comparisons with the following features of that Trust, identified within the executive summary to the Francis Report:

“A culture focused on doing the system’s business – not that of the patients;

An institutional culture which ascribed more weight to positive information about the service than to information capable of implying cause for concern;

Standards and methods of measuring compliance which did not focus on the effect of a service on patients;

Too great a degree of tolerance of poor standards and of risk to patients;

A failure of communication between the many agencies to share their knowledge of concerns;

Assumptions that monitoring, performance management or intervention was the responsibility of someone else;

A failure to tackle challenges to the building up of a positive culture, in nursing in particular but also within the medical profession;

A failure to appreciate until recently the risk of disruptive loss of corporate memory and focus resulting from repeated, multi-level reorganisation.”

Various recommendations were made in the Andrews Report regarding changing practice in the future. The recommendations were directed towards the ABMU in the whole, although four recommendations were made to and addressed by the Welsh Government.

Following publication of the Report Mr Williams' Solicitor wrote to the Minister on the 14 May 2014 setting out concerns about the breadth and quality of the Report and asking that he use his discretion under Section 1(1) of the Inquiries Act to order a public inquiry. In particular:

- a. The primary focus of the review was not on the historical issues or patient experiences at the hospitals significantly prior to December 2013. It did not engage in any detailed review of the matters that had led to members of

nursing staff being suspended prior to December 2013 or for that matter investigate the broader reasons why ABMU had reached the position identified on review.

- b. The review did not examine mortality rates or the likely contribution of the issues that they identified to the apparently increased mortality rates at ABMU.
- c. The investigation did not examine why it had taken until 2013 to identify problems within the trust, that is to say why necessary safeguarding mechanisms were not in place or were ineffective in highlighting these issues sooner.
- d. The investigation was carried out behind closed doors. There were no open hearings; witnesses were not questioned in public and interested parties were not provided with facility to make representations to the investigation.
- e. The Report makes reference to three nurses being suspended whereas by the time that the Report was published it was evident that many more had been suspended and a number were facing criminal charges. The Report

made no effort to investigate the circumstances of those cases or examine whether patients had been put at risk or harmed as a consequence of the issues surrounding those cases.

- f. The review was not able to examine whether similar issues existed in other hospitals across the Welsh Health Authority.
- g. The review did not examine the extent to which budget restrictions, management and spending had led to poor delivery within the hospitals.
- h. The review made only a superficial assessment of the management at the hospitals. It did not engage in any proper exploration of whether management targets had contributed to poor care.
- i. The review did not look into historic allegations relating to the alleged euthanasia of patients across ABMU.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The relevant provisions of the ECHR are as follows;-

- a. Article 2 – everyone’s right to life shall be protected by law;
- b. Article 3 – no one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; and
- c. Article 8 – everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.

The appalling standards of care received by Lilian and others give rise to breaches of the positive substantive duties under Articles 2, 3 and 8 ECHR. This is in respect of:

- a. The systemic Article 2 duty to ensure that hospitals adopt systems of work which will protect the lives of patients and to employ competent staff who are trained to a high professional standard. A failure to perform these general obligations will result in a violation of Article 2 –

Savage v. South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust [2008] UKHL 74.

Similar principles apply in respect of Articles 3 and 8. The Articles 2, 3 and 8 investigative obligation therefore applies in respect of the systemic failures which led to an excess mortality rate at ABMU hospitals.

- b. Breaches of the operational duty to protect patients in cases where an appalling standard of care has been received. *Rabone v. Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust* [2012] UKSC 2. The language of the Supreme Court in the *Rabone* case makes clear that whilst the court were considering the case of Melanie Rabone there are broader categories of voluntary hospital patients for whom the operational duty may be engaged, beyond merely psychiatric patients. In the present cases, it is crucial to consider that a great number of the victims were elderly, cognitively impaired and exceptionally vulnerable.
- c. Gross negligence in a medical context – which may constitute a breach of Article 2 ECHR – *R (Takoushis) v HM Coroner for Inner London North* [2006] 1 WLR 461.

There is an obligation upon the State to comply with its investigative duties under Articles 2, 3 and 8 in respect of the causes of deaths resulting from patient neglect and inhumane and degrading treatment that has occurred and continues to occur at ABMU hospitals. In order for the procedural, investigative duties under Article 2, 3 and 8 to be engaged such breaches need only be 'arguable.' It is, of course, a low threshold.

WHY IS THE PETITION BEING MADE?

It is submitted that a decision not to order a public inquiry is unlawful in that it is a violation of the investigative obligations under Articles 2, 3 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, ("ECHR") and / or it is irrational and / or it is unreasonable for the following reasons:

- a. In order for the procedural duty to be discharged, the investigation into the alleged breaches must as a minimum, inter alia (*R (Amin) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2004] 1 AC 653):

- (i) Be independent.
- (ii) Be effective.
- (iii) Be reasonably prompt.

(iv) Involve a sufficient element of public scrutiny.

(v) Involve the next of kin and families of the victims to a sufficient extent.

Independence

b. The Welsh Government commissioned investigation led by Professor June Andrews, ('the Investigation'), necessarily involved close interaction with the hospitals under scrutiny, and with the Welsh Government and was undertaken without proper input from the victims or their families. There is very little, if any, information about what evidence was gathered. An investigation commissioned by the Government into which only the Government and the Health Boards under investigation have any proper input cannot provide the necessary appearance of independence. In any event, the lack of any public scrutiny in the Investigation: its remit, its methods and the information and instructions that are provided to it inevitably influences the extent to which it appears independent in the minds of the public.

Effectiveness

c. There has, to date, been no effective investigation of patient deaths. Many if not all of the deaths have fallen outside of the jurisdiction of the Coroner because they were certified by doctors at the hospitals as being brought about by natural causes. Where inquests have been held, they have not addressed wider systemic issues and would not in any case discharge the investigative duty.

d. Considering the very serious and widespread evidence of inhumane and degrading treatment found at ABMU hospitals, the findings of the Report are extremely flawed and offer nothing to heighten public confidence. The Report cannot be considered to constitute an effective investigation, for the following reasons:

(i) The Report admits that poor professional practice evident in the past is still happening today. This is the same poor professional practice complained of by patients and relatives at every level. Their complaints have clearly not resulted in change.

(ii) The review was not enough to prevent poor professional practice in

relation to the administration of medication. Direct, on the spot, recommendations made by the review team were ignored. Key aspects of an Article 2 compliant investigation are to ensure that lessons are learned that may save the lives of others; and to safeguard the lives of the public, and to reduce the risk of future breaches (*Amin*, para.31). It is clear that the Report is not capable of discharging these duties.

(iii) The Report advocates that it is acceptable to set a standard of care based upon financial constraints.

(iv) The Report makes many a sweeping statement that it cannot possible justify, e.g. there was no evidence of criminal activity, there were no cases of euthanasia, ABMU is not another 'Mid Staffs'.

(v) The review team were not made aware as to the scale of the concerns at ABMU. They were only made aware of three nurses having been arrested when in fact it is now common knowledge that there are fifteen nurses suspended and most were suspended prior to the commencement of the review. The Report is therefore not capable of

ensuring that the full facts of the appalling standards of care are brought to light; nor of ensuring that culpable and discreditable conduct is exposed and brought to public notice, and those responsible identified and brought to account – both are key aspects of the investigative duty. Fundamentally, the Report was not capable of identifying properly and rectifying the dangerous practices and procedures.

(vi) The investigation should be broad enough to permit the investigating authorities to take into consideration not only the actions of the employees involved but also the surrounding circumstances including such matters as the planning, management and control of the operations in question (*R (Ali Zaki Mousa) v Secretary of State for Defence (No.2)* [2013] EWHC 1412, paras 148–149). The Report confirms the existence of “unacceptable” standards of care but does not properly analyse the cause and surrounding circumstances, and nor was it possible to do so within the limited remit set:

- The review was restricted to examining the practice at only two out of the thirteen hospitals under the control of ABMU. The

Report admits that it is not obvious how other Welsh hospitals might stand up to a similar process of scrutiny (paragraph 2.10 of the Report).

- The review was conducted between December 2013 and April 2014, an extremely limited timeframe.
- The review team only investigated whether the current level of care was acceptable, i.e. the review was forward looking and did not investigate the historical issues that might have contributed to this appalling statement of affairs. In the circumstances it cannot therefore have amounted to an investigation of the matters complained of by patients at the hospital prior to December 2013. Those patients have not been provided with any Article 2 or 3 compliant investigation.

e. Where the investigation concerns systemic failures, an effective investigation should be capable of ascertaining;–

- (i) Any shortcomings in the system (*Oneryildiz v Turkey* (2005) 41 EHRR 20, para.94;

(ii) Defects in the instructions and training of the employees involved, and the planning, management and control of the actions under consideration, including the supervision of staff (*Al-Skeini v UK* (2011) 53 EHRR 18, para.174; *R (Wright) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2002] HRLR 1.);

(iii) The relevant legal or regulatory framework in place (*Kakoulli v Turkey* (2007) 45 EHRR 12, para.106; *Oneriyildiz*, above, para 94); and

(iv) Individual failings that sound system is expected to detect and remedy before harm is done (*Middleton v HM Coroner for West Somerset* [2004] 2 AC 182).

It is plain that the Report is not thorough or wide enough in its scope to discharge these duties.

f. Finally, a crucial aspect of the effectiveness of an Article 2, 3 and 8 compliant investigation is that reasonable steps should be taken to ensure that evidence which is reasonably available should be secured – *R (Rowley) v DPP* [2003] EWHC 693 (Admin) para.55; *Al Skeini v UK* (2011) 53 EHRR 18,

para.166. As stated below, the evidence reviewed for the Report has not been disclosed to the families of the victims, and the assurances given in the Report as to the scope of the evidence surveyed are vague (e.g. para.2.7). Given the scope of the issues involved, a full forensic inquiry into the documentary evidence is required in order to satisfy Articles 2, 3 and 8. Oral evidence should be heard, and there should be a mechanism for oral evidence to be tested. The interspersing of apparent quotations regarding standards of care throughout the Report, is clearly insufficient to discharge the burden to ensure that the proper, relevant evidence is received by the investigation.

Public Scrutiny

- g. The Report has not allowed for a sufficient element of public scrutiny to discharge the investigative duty. The degree of public scrutiny required by the Convention depends on the circumstances of the case. However, in a situation of the seriousness and scope of the present, a 40 page report, limited in its scope, with no evidence heard in public, and no disclosure of the evidence on which it was based, cannot be considered adequate to discharge this duty.

The Effective Participation of the Families

h. In all cases where the procedural duty under Article 2 and/or 3 and/or 8 is engaged the families of the deceased/victims must be able to participate effectively in the investigation (*R (Humberstone) v Legal Services Commission* [2011] 1 WLR 1460, paras 75–77). This requires more than merely informing the next of kin of the progress of the investigation, and includes their active involvement in it (*Anusca v Moldova* App No 24034/07, 18 May 2010, para 44).

i. As regards the participation of the families in the preparation of the Report, upon asking Professor June Andrews to meet with Mr Williams, his Solicitor received an e-mail from Professor Andrews on the 10 January 2014 that stated:

“...at this stage, the review is not looking at previous events, but rather auditing the current position. Although I am looking forward to meeting with Mr Williams it is important that this meeting is

uncoupled from the review that I have been asked to undertake. I have been asked initially to look at the current position. I will do that initially without reference to what has happened in the past..."

On the 24 February 2014 the following statement was issued on the website of ABMU:

"Professor June Andrews ... today asked people who have made complaints about the Princess of Wales or Neath Port Talbot Hospitals in the past three years to come forward and share their experiences with the Review team ... Now the Review Team ... wish to look more closely at the way complaints have been handled in the recent past.

Professor Andrews comments:

"We want to hear directly from patients and families who made any complaint about the Princess of Wales or Neath Port Talbot Hospitals (ABMU Health Board) between December 2010 and December 2013.

"We want to get a clearer picture about what complaints were made, from local people themselves, and to understand the levels

of satisfaction with what happened as a result, particularly about the care of older people.

"We are using a short, simple-to-use questionnaire to gather some information. Then we hope to talk to a number of those who respond about their experiences ..."

Participation of bereaved families was extremely limited and focused only on the way complaints were handled and not the nature of the complaint. Such level of participation does not discharge the States procedural duty under Article 2 and/or 3 and/or 8 for there to be effective participation of the families of the deceased/victims in the investigation.

A full public hearing, in the form of an Inquiry under the 2005 Act, with the families being legally represented, disclosure to them of the relevant evidence, and a right to ask questions of witnesses, will properly discharge the State's investigative duty.

Any decision not to hold a public inquiry, is irrational, and/or unreasonable under domestic public law principles for the following reasons:

- a. There is a need to identify personal responsibility but also to understand the systemic problems that have led to good staff trying to do their best but being unable to do so – whether it is due to staffing resources, financial constraints, lack of management and direction, lack of scrutiny internally and externally, targets, a culture of acceptance of poor care, or a combination of all those factors. Fundamentally, the present Report is not adequate to enable lessons to be learned and similar deaths prevented in the future.

- b. Poor care has been independently identified, yet up until recent media pressure, no whistleblowers have come forward. There must also be an examination of the possible reasons for this reluctance. Poor care would have been evident to staff working on ABMU wards.

- c. There is a need to determine exactly why things appear to have gone so wrong at ABMU and why poor care has not been properly detected or acted upon for so many years despite patients and relatives raising concerns.

- d. Only through a public inquiry can the relevant facts be determined, key

themes identified and important lessons for the future learnt about the appalling standards of care found at ABMU hospitals, in a way that will ensure public participation and engagement.

EVIDENCE OF BREACHES OF ARTICLES 2, 3 AND 8

There is sufficient evidence, from a variety of sources, including members of ABMU Victim Support Group, but also the Trusted to Care report itself, as well as public sources of information, to establish that arguable breaches of Articles 2 and/or 3 and/or 8 have occurred on a systematic level, over a period of years, in hospitals run by the ABMU, and particularly in respect of the care provided to elderly, vulnerable patients.

Article 3 ECHR

The following practices, whether taken individually or in the round, constitute arguable breaches of the basic, negative duty under Article 3:

The systematic neglect of patients.

Assigning elderly patients nil by mouth without justification and with prolonged delays before patients are seen by SALT teams.

Failure to assist with taking prescribed medications.

Falsification of medication charts.

Falsification of blood sugar readings

Deprivation of prescribed medication.

Failure to provide essential care – e.g. fitting of a venflon and feeding tubes without prolonged delays.

Inappropriate sedation of patients carried out by nurses without the direction of a doctor.

Patients being allowed to remain in soiled clothing and bedclothes for persistent lengths of time.

A chaotic atmosphere inappropriate for the care of patients.

Failure to assist with eating and drinking.

Deprivation of nutrition and hydration.

Failure to assist with toileting needs

Failure to assist with hygiene needs including the removal of false teeth overnight.

Failure to assist with the removal of an artificial limb overnight

Failure to perform basic medical observations

Inappropriate use of end of life care pathway

The taking place of the above breaches over a persistent period of time, and in circumstances where the Health Board were clearly aware of the allegations,

constitutes a breach of the operative substantive duty to prevent breaches of Article 3.

The following constitute arguable breaches of the positive duty to establish an adequate system to prevent breaches of Article 3:

Inadequate complaints systems.

Inadequate use of the POVA system by a failure to notify other agencies regarding a POVA investigation in accordance with the ABMU's statutory duties

Failure to engage/invoke the POVA procedures

Inadequate provision of trained nurses.

Inadequate staffing e.g. failure to provide an adequate level of clinical care/monitoring, especially over a weekend

Failure of management to act upon alerts made

The following is evidence of the above breaches:

- a. The witness evidence of members of ABMU Victims Support Group
- b. The full POVA report in the Williams case
- c. Rebecca Jones pleading guilty on 07.08.14 to charges of wilful neglect of 9 patients at the Princess of Wales Hospital between April 2012 and February 2013.
- d. The charging of four other nurses from the Princess of Wales Hospital with wilful neglect in respect of treatment of several patients.
- e. The suspension of 15 nurses from the ABMU in May 2014 in relation to an investigation regarding the falsification of blood tests.

- f. Ongoing NMC investigations.

- g. The AQuA report dated the 12 May 2014 headed “Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board Mortality Review”. Of note, the report found that there were issues regarding levels of clinical staff and cover. Also, leadership, accountability and governance arrangements appeared unclear at times. The example used was where infection rates were high but there was a reluctance to challenge the behaviors that enabled poor practice to continue. In addition, the report found that there were issues with end of life care in that there were a limited number of consultant led ward rounds and this could negatively impact on the assessment of patients at the end of their lives.

- h. The Report of Keith Evans dated June 2014 relating to the Welsh complaints handling system. The report criticises the implementation of the Putting Things Right Scheme.

- i. A Dignified Revolution’s, (“ADR”) published response to the Trusted to Care

Report. Of note, ADR have, since their formation in 2008, continually raised the following issues to those in a position to influence change:

- (i) Poor nurse leadership
- (ii) Disregard for hydration and nutritional needs
- (iii) A fundamental lack of respect for the care needs of vulnerable people
- (iv) Patients being told to 'go to the toilet' where they lay
- (v) Poor infection control
- (vi) Poor record keeping
- (vii) Concerns about the fundamentals of care audit
- (viii) Serious problems around the administration and recording of medications
- (ix) Inappropriately immobilising patients
- (x) Absence of positive culture of care
- (xi) Lack of awareness of responsibilities towards POVA, the nurses' code, mental capacity, etc.
- (xii) Poor handling of complaints

- (xiii) Inappropriate medical and nursing education leaving staff ill prepared for the care of all older people including those with dementia and confusional states
- (xiv) Lack of public involvement

j. The following, inter alia, from the Trusted to Care Report:

3.8 - *"It was reported to the Review Team that older patients were kept nil by mouth for longer than we would have expected. Reports from families of missed medicines that had been recorded as having been taken by the frail elderly patient were not unusual. We were shocked to be told of numbers of older patients who had been instructed to "go to the toilet" where they lay. Although some of these allegations remain unsubstantiated the Review Team found the accounts given by relatives and staff sufficiently credible to support our conclusions."*

3.20 - *"... Medical and nursing staff in the Princess of Wales Hospital appeared not to know about ameliorating the common problems in care of frail older patients, including management of continence, delirium, mobility,*

nutrition, dementia, hygiene, and fear.”

3.27 – *“The Review Team observed medical ward layouts with bays where extra beds were placed against the wall in bays, and the chaotic atmosphere made it difficult to concentrate and think. **Vulnerable elderly patients will remain at risk if the bed numbers are not reduced in some of these areas and other changes made.**”*

3.28 – *“Clinical staff, in both hospitals, seem unaware of serious problems with administration and recording of medicines.”* Further, a member of the Review Team notes that *“patients with dementia were being prescribed anti-psychotics without a proper risk assessment. The inappropriate use of sedation for “aggression” was observed.”*

3.29 – Incapable patients not being assisted with taking medication. A lack of risk assessments being carried out regarding self-medication.

3.31 – The Review Team noted that *“Doctors, Pharmacists, Nurses and Managers in ABMU knowingly tolerated this practice.”*

3.32 – Three months into the Review the Review Team again witnessed this practice despite having warned against it previously.

3.38–39 – The Management structures regarding nursing in ABMU and the lack of leadership added to the problems (evidence in respect of the systemic claims).

3.40 – The uncertainty regarding whether the newly appointed nurse director will be able to take these issues forward.

3.45 – The Review Team were also concerned that lapses in care were largely blamed on poor “*nursing*” standards alone, as opposed to management standards or other clinical standards that are shared responsibilities with other members of the team (evidence in respect of the systemic claims).

3.52 – Patients requiring support were immobilized and left to soil themselves in their beds.

3.52 – The Review Team raises the issue of lack of responsiveness of staff levels to the specific needs of patients at a given time (evidence in respect of

the systemic claims).

3.53 – concludes that *“lapses in standards have not been picked up by the Board early enough, and the response has been limited in its effectiveness.”*

3.61 – in terms of the effectiveness of any investigation and the involvement of families – *“The Review Team met families who appeared to have received little support and information from the hospital, the Community Health Council, the Ombudsman or the Older People’s Commissioner about how to pursue complaints and we signposted them to that help.”*

3.79 – The paragraph states that *“Current assurance processes cannot be said to be fit for purpose.”* It also states that *“both hospitals also appear to be operating a sedation policy which is not acceptable, with sedation being used to enable staff to cope with the pressures of caring for patients overnight.”* It also recognises that *“older patients have been deprived of water and food without protection from some staff of all professional backgrounds”* and that *“medicines were not reaching patients as prescribed.”*

The paragraph also provides the example of a patient being asked to urinate in bed due to staff shortage.

3.80 – In terms of the effectiveness of an investigation: the Report suggests that the *“volume of undigested data at Board and sub-Board level means Board members are denied the ability to understand and act on symptomatic complaints. The focus appears to be too much on managing down the numbers of the complaints rather than learning the lessons.”*

The following paragraphs raise significant issues in terms of the causes of the lack of care provided by ABMU being financial, including an over-emphasis on targets.:

3.93 – *“The Review Team does have a concern that the Board over a number of years appears to have been driven mainly by a model of short-term financial planning required by the operational and planning framework processes in place across the NHS in Wales. The question should be asked about whether such a relentless focus on financial delivery year-on-year prompted by the national system is distracting NHS Boards from a proper focus on quality and patient safety.”*

3.94 - *“The Review Team feel that, however admirable and necessary this might have been at the time, the issues which the Review and this Report are addressing now may well reflect an overemphasis on short-term financial targets at the expense of quality and patient safety.”*

3.95 *“It is not too great a stretch to see current muddled management structures, lack of clinical cohesion and failures to have sufficiently skilled and oriented staff working in front-line settings, as being directly traceable to an overemphasis on short-term operational and financial delivery at the expense of the underlying core purpose of providing best possible care and treatment to local people.”*

Article 2 ECHR

The following practices constitute arguable breaches of the basic, negative duty under Article 2:

The systematic and repeated neglect of patients affecting their ability to recover.

Inappropriate use of the end of life care pathway.

The failure to prevent the real and immediate risk to the lives of vulnerable patients subject to the above treatment constitutes a breach of the operative substantive duty to prevent breaches of Article 2. Further, the treatment amounts to gross negligence, which is also capable of breaching the substantive duty.

The following constitute arguable breaches of the positive duty to establish an adequate system to prevent breaches of Article 2:

Inadequate complaints systems

Inadequate use of the POVA system.

Failure to engage/invoke the POVA procedures

Inadequate provision of trained nurses.

Inadequate staffing e.g. failure to provide an adequate level of clinical

care/monitoring, especially over a weekend

Failure of management to act upon alerts made

The following is evidence of the above breaches in addition to the evidence listed above.

- a. Paragraph 3.18 of the Trusted to Care Report comments:

The Review Team is still concerned about how death is described in terms of “withdrawal of care”, in a relatively unsophisticated way in ABMU. It seemed that it was often not explained well that a patient was dying, what dying looks like or how death happens. In particular ABMU doctors need more education about how to manage and talk about death and dying in hospital.

- b. The report of Professor Palmer regarding mortality rates dated the 25 June 2014 is clear evidence that the current system for review of mortality rates is not a meaningful measure of hospital quality. Whilst it is accepted that a high mortality rate does not necessarily indicate a

poor standard of care, it has to be an alert that something may be wrong at the very least, as was the case in Mid Staffordshire. However, if the necessary checks and balances are not fit for purpose then there is no adequate system in place for raising alerts that could prevent breaches of Article 2. Professor Palmer notes that the key challenge is to accurately and quickly identify the minority of all deaths which were as a result of poor care/treatment in order to learn what went wrong so that future care can be improved. The system currently in place and that has been in place throughout the relevant period is not adequate to identify deaths which were as a result of poor care/treatment so that breaches of Article 2 can be prevented.

- c. The Report of Professor Palmer recognises that there is poor clinical engagement at ABMU in case note reviews which is the main barrier to providing assurance that all in hospital deaths can provide learning.

Article 8 ECHR

As an alternative that, regarding the alleged breaches of Article 3 ECHR, if they

should not meet the requirement threshold for inhuman or degrading treatment, then they nonetheless constitute breaches of Article 8 – still necessitating an investigation.

Approved but not signed by
Mr Gareth Williams on behalf of ABMU Victim Support Group

Agenda Item 3.12

P-04-571 Treating Pernicious Anaemia

Petition Wording

We call on the Welsh Government to change the way Pernicious Anaemia is treated away from the current one-size-fits-all format towards a regimen based on the patient's individual needs and where the patient is offered a choice of how he or she receives their replacement therapy B12 including self-administered injections.

Additional Information: The usually prescribed treatment of Pernicious Anaemia is one injection every three months. For a great many patients this is totally inadequate. Some doctors will prescribe more frequent injections but where this isn't the case patients are sourcing B12 injections from various sources including the internet which is unsatisfactory. They then inject themselves without any training and without using antiseptic wipes or lockable sharps bins.

Petition raised by: The Pernicious Anaemia Society

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 15 July 2014

Number of signatures: 126

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-04-571
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/03175/14

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

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

3 September 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 14 August on behalf of the Pernicious Anaemia Society.

I note the concerns of the Society regarding treatment for pernicious anaemia and the options available.

In general terms, Health Boards are responsible for the provision of services that meet the needs of their local populations. The management of pernicious anaemia would be a matter for the patient's clinician to decide, in consultation with the patient. Together, they should discuss and agree what treatment would be most appropriate to meet the patient's individual needs and agree individual treatment plans that best reflect the latest available clinical evidence.

However, as this is a clinical issue I have asked my officials to seek advice from the Haematology National Specialist Advisory Group (NSAG). I will then write again to the Petitions Committee.

*Best wishes,
Mark.*

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

Agenda Item 3.13

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: 528

Phillip Worth
1 Bron Y Bryn
Killay
Swansea
SA2 7NP

Ref: P-04-528
September 2014

Petitions Committee
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1NA

Dear William Powell

Petition P-04-528 All Primary Schools in Wales taught through the medium of Welsh.

Firstly I'd like to thank everyone for their time and effort and getting involved in the discussions of the above petition. I've read through the responses and have some additional comments.

NUT: You paint a very positive picture that English medium primary school teachers have a good level and understanding of Welsh. Over the past year I have spoken to three primary schools teachers (two are friends of mine) and the level of Welsh they possess was non-existent. I tried to engage in the most basic Welsh conversation I could think of at the time and all I had back was blank faces. And these three teach Welsh as part of the curriculum in school. How can you have primary school teachers teaching a language they cannot speak, not even a little (I'm sure they are the minority)?

Regards to **parentally choice**, very few parents make a conscious effort, most don't know there is a choice or there are no other choices in their area, most just default to the closest school without a thought (if that school was Welsh they would choose it). Then on the other hand there are parents who want to make a conscious effort to send their children to a Welsh medium school but have little to no option of a Welsh medium education.

It is a post code lottery in Wales. You either live in an area where by default you will be a Welsh speaker; or live in an area where if your parents want to make a commitment and a lot of effort to transport you long distances to a Welsh school; or live in an area and by default you have to no option but English medium. On one hand you're concerned by people **not** wanting Welsh medium education but mention nothing about people who **do** but have no option. A rebalance is required.

You also mention 'growing organically' is the course of action. Yet this has been done since the 1960's, although the language has seen some successes in terms of numbers it is agreed that the language is struggling and at a cross road, heartland areas are losing speakers, its less of a community language than ever before, and speakers in anglicized area's don't use it and lose it. So growing organically doesn't work.

Your comment how parents will support reading and listening. You obviously do not understand how bilingualism works or the benefits of it. All research shows that bilingual children do better in education not just in core subjects like maths and sciences but even English. Research has shown that the child of whose parents do not speak or read Welsh benefit enormously from interpreting Welsh to English to their parents and actually brings child and parents closer. Most parents who read with their children from a young age quickly pick up the Welsh require to read and listen. In Swansea we have two Welsh comprehensive schools which the majority of children come from English speaking homes. These two schools have some of the best results in the county, YG Gwyr is currently

ranked 2nd by the council and 1st by Walesonline's own ranking system (Also ranked 4th in Wales). So your argument about how parents will struggle with their children is invalid and the same old rubbish that was spouted off a few generations ago which helped put us in this situation.

Capacity: I acknowledge the issue which is why this isn't a short term project and just a proposal to build better ideas upon. That's why I'd like to see a clear strategy in place from the Welsh government. Is it not the Welsh governments aim to create a truly bilingual Wales? How else can you get there, the current strategy despite what everyone says, isn't working.

Huw Lewis: Just to comment on growing demand. Councils in Wales do nothing proactive; they simply meet the bare minimum and drag their feet to achieve that. Swansea council will do absolutely nothing until there is an emergency. They let Welsh primary schools fill up beyond capacity before reacting. RHAG frequently research into Welsh medium education and when I spoke with them they told it is the same old formula, increase provision = increase demand. They told me every time a new Welsh school is opened despite its location it quickly fills up. Instead of waiting to see demand the Welsh government needs to be proactive.

You quoted 'able to use the language with their families, in their communities and workplace.' I live in the community of, Killay, I have zero opportunity to use my Welsh or live in my language, should I move?

What I think is unacceptable is the fact that there are many villages and towns with zero provision of Welsh medium education. For example, my village Killay, Two primary schools both English. Village west of Killay, Dunvant, two primary schools both English. Village to the east, Sketty, two primary schools both English, village to the North West, Three crosses, 1 primary school, English. The whole of the Gower peninsular, number of Welsh Schools... Zero. Ask yourself if this is acceptable? Or Balanced? Or fair? What option does a child on the end of the Gower peninsular have?

My wife is from Tredegar, Blaenau Gwent, there are 6 primary schools, all English. The whole of Blaenau Gwent has 26 primary schools, 1 Welsh medium. Is this acceptable? What options do the parents of Blaenau Gwent have?

Perhaps all primary schools in Wales taught through the medium of Welsh is too difficult but a rebalance and equal opportunities for all are required! My wife and her sisters are all disappointed they never had the opportunity, and it's all down to where they were born.

Thank you again for your reading my letter and giving me the opportunity to respond.

Kind Regards,

Phillip/

P-04-538 Involving lecturers to ensure a Further Education Inspection Framework that is fit for purpose

Petition wording:

We believe that: 1. The inclusion of the views of lecturing staff, in the early decision making process would be of great benefit to the development of an inspection framework that is fit for purpose; 2. Due to the increased emphasis there will be on soft skills, professional input from those who understand and work with the complexities of balancing pedagogy, with the demands of students, employers and Welsh Government priorities, it would seem prudent to include those that are at the heart of delivering this agenda; 3. Education services in Wales should be seen as part of a wider family, but are concerned that the FE sector and in this case in particular, FE lecturers are rather excluded from this family and are not being afforded the professional respect that they deserve.

Additional Information: 1. As the largest Union representing Further Education lecturers in Wales, the University and College Union has been excluded from the Estyn Advisory Group that has been set up to develop the new inspection framework for Further Education Institutions in Wales; 2. The Advisory Group currently consists almost entirely of Principals or Vice Principals and representatives of Estyn; 3. The University and College Union has been excluded from being involved in the Advisory Group despite making numerous requests to Estyn to be involved.

Petition raised by: Ian Whitehead-Ross

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 11 March 2014

Number of signatures: 145

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

28 July 2014

Dear William

Petition – P-04-538 Involving lecturers to ensure a Further Education Inspection Framework that is fit for purpose

Thank you for your recent letter requesting further clarification about Estyn's consultation arrangements in relation to making changes to the inspection of further education institutions.

I would like to assure the committee that Estyn is using a range of inclusive consultation arrangements, as I outlined in my previous letter. It has always been our practice to consult with a wide range of stakeholders when we make changes to our inspection model. The methodology, format and groupings of these consultations may, however, vary from time to time.

For example, this is not a 'big bang' change to further education institution (FEI) inspections in the sense that we are moving away from the common inspection framework. It is more about amending the inspection model to take account of how we will inspect and report on the impact of significant changes that are external to Estyn, namely:

- the FEI mergers
- the introduction of new 'learning area programmes'
- a new governance system in FE
- a new funding system for FE.

On this occasion, therefore, we decided to consult on the changes to inspections of further education institutions by using a series of small 'seminar' type groups and working parties of different groups of stakeholders as we feel that the more informal, small-scale discussions that arise as a result are more useful at this stage than a large formal consultation.

The strategic advisory group was set up specifically to take the views of FE principals and that is why we do not consider it 'relevant' to include staff representatives in the group. This group is not the only vehicle of consultation and advice of course. We have held and will continue to hold meetings with other groups, including curriculum managers and other staff members, some of which I describe below. It is important to remember that Estyn is an independent body and final decisions about methods of inspection are our responsibility although we naturally want those decisions to be informed by a balance of opinion from a variety of consultative processes.

The rationale for setting up advisory and consultative groups is inclusive and the groups we set up or are invited to meet certainly do not 'only represent employers and the Welsh Government' as you suggest. We set up meetings with a range of groups and are open to invitations from any interested groupings to attend meetings to discuss the progress of plans for inspection.

Let me outline some of the consultation meetings we have held:

HMI held several meetings with UCU officials, beginning with two in March (one on 5th March and another on 26th March) to discuss how Estyn would involve union members in the consultation and to allow the UCU to raise any points of concern.

Further to these meetings, on Saturday 21st July Lin Howells and Liam Kealy HMI met a larger group of UCU representatives from colleges across Wales, at the union headquarters in Tondy, Bridgend. The meeting was well attended and well received. Inspectors outlined the developing thinking about inspection arrangements and conducted a robust open discussion with union delegates. Inspectors noted the concerns raised by delegates and where these were not already factored into the changes, promised to consider the suggestions. For example, several delegates were keen on having unannounced inspections and this is currently under consideration.

Inspectors explained the different approach that will be taken to classroom observations such as the inclusion of 'learning walks' as carried out on the recent annual review of performance (ARP) visits to the colleges. Delegates generally considered learning walks to be an effective addition to the way that teaching and learning are observed during inspection.

Many of the issues discussed were not concerned with Estyn's procedures but with college's data handling, the use of observation for performance management purposes and the perceived excessive demand for paperwork. These are not areas over which Estyn has control. The HMI assured the meeting that Estyn's observations concentrate on quality improvement and that the inspectorate does not focus on the work of individual teachers but rather the learning that takes place across the college. Delegates were also reassured that Estyn does not require large amounts of paperwork, just evidence of good planning of teaching. The delegates and union officials thanked Estyn at the end of the meeting for the open discussion.

A further consultation session took place on 8th July in Cardiff. The meeting was attended by both practitioners and union representatives. The following issues were discussed in an open 'table discussion' format:

- an overview of the proposed changes;
- inspection of subject sector areas and how learning areas should be judged;
- classroom observations (covering a raft of issues);
- use of data; and
- the practicalities of inspection across multiple FEI sites.

The feedback from the session was overwhelmingly positive, with 100% of delegates scoring excellent (70%) or good (30%) for the event overall. The two inspectors who ran the session were congratulated on the format and content at the end of the session by a guest union representative with experience of inspections in England.

There has been no motive for changing the timing of some consultation events other than that of enabling us to hold more effective sessions. We postponed the generic post-16 stakeholder forum which includes delegates from further education, work-based learning, adult community learning, offender learning, careers and Welsh for adults providers and from national representative bodies as well as the trades unions as we were not at a suitable stage in the development of our work to have a meaningful discussion. Our intention was not to hide anything but to use scarce resources wisely.

We intend to continue with a couple more meetings with the group of principals and will also meet other groups of managers or staff but the main vehicle for consultation will be the post-16 stakeholder forum with a focus on further education. We plan to hold the post-16 stakeholder forum in the early autumn and invitations and the agenda will be sent out in due course.

We will also continue to work with the trades unions and the further education sector in a spirit of cooperation as we always have done in the past.

Yours sincerely



Ann Keane
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of
Education and Training in Wales

c.c. Huw Lewis AM, Minister for Education and Skills

Agenda Item 3.15

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

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-543
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/01800/14

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

8 September 2014

Dear William

Thank you for your further letter of 1 September 2014 in relation to Petition P-04-543, which calls for no increase to university tuition fees. You note that the Committee would appreciate being kept up to date with the progress of Sir Ian Diamond's Review. This is an independent Review. Therefore, the only information we would be able to share would be details of when the interim and final reports have been submitted and perhaps when a call for evidence has been launched (all of which would be in the public domain).

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-04-551 Basic First Aid To Be Taught In Schools

Petition wording:

We, the undersigned, hereby call upon the Welsh Government to make it compulsory for all pupils in their GCSE years to undergo basic First Aid training.

We believe that first aid is an essential life saving skill that every young person has the right to have and as such should become a compulsory part of secondary education. Being trained in first aid can carry a lot of responsibility but has a lot of benefits. In dangerous situations first aid training can make the difference between life or death. So just knowing how to put someone in the recovery position or even by calling an ambulance effectively can save lives.

Petition raised by: Tim Clarke

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 13 May 2014

Number of signatures: 11



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-551
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/01611/14

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

24 July 2014

Dear William

Thank you for your letter dated 23 July informing me of Mr Clarke's petition on the subject of making basic first aid skills compulsory in Welsh secondary schools.

Clearly, basic first aid skills are important and the Welsh Government recognises the contribution that schools can make to help our children and young people learn these skills. Schools can and do teach basic first aid, in the form of emergency life saving skills, through personal and social education (PSE) which is a compulsory part of the school curriculum.

The PSE framework for 7 to 19 year olds in Wales sets out the aim to provide the foundation for a broad, balanced holistic approach to PSE which features a range of experiences to promote the personal and social development and well-being of learners. This framework is the key document that schools should use in planning their personal and social education programme. A copy of this framework can be accessed from the link shown below:

<http://learning.wales.gov.uk/resources/personal-and-social-education/?skip=1&lang=en>

The five key themes identified in the PSE framework are: Active Citizenship; Health and Emotional Well-being; Moral and Spiritual Development; Preparing for Lifelong Learning; and Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship.

Through the Health and Emotional Well-being theme, learners can be helped to maintain their emotional and physical health, sustain their growth and development, and know how to keep themselves safe. Learners should be given opportunities to develop the practical skills necessary for everyday life, including emergency aid procedures and how to administer basic first aid.

In addition, the Welsh Government's PSE guidance website has links to a range of voluntary organisations including the British Heart Foundation (BHF) who support schools on teaching of basic first aid. A link to the website is shown below:

<http://wales.gov.uk/psesub/home/themes/healthandemotionalwellbeing/supportingorganisations/?lang=en>

The delivery of the curriculum is delegated to schools and decisions on the precise content, materials and resources of a school's PSE programme lie with head teachers and their governing bodies to ensure that this meets the needs of the children and local community.

I hope that this information will reassure Mr Clarke that the Welsh Government is committed to working with secondary schools to support teaching of first aid and emergency life support skills to children and young people.



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

Agenda Item 3.17

P-04-567 A Fair Deal for Welsh Students

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh government to address growing commercialisation and introduce an open and transparent system to scrutinise the standards of service to students and value for public money offered by the Higher Education sector in Wales, and to ensure changes in service levels are subject to public consultation. To include: 1. A Welsh student complaints process with compulsory compensation, greater transparency and accountability than the current English scheme. 2. The teaching aspect of Higher Education Institutions should be subject to similar standards and safeguards as schools and colleges. 3. Statutory regulation, the Quality Assurance Agency as a registered charity with no powers of intervention is no longer fit for purpose. 4. The Letter of Understanding between the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales to provide value for money should include public complaint via the Welsh Audit Office. 5. An effective Whistle Blower process.

Petition raised by: Trevor Mayes

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 17 June 2014

Number of signatures : 18

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-567
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/01724/14

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

2 September 2014

Dear William

Petition – P-04-567 A fair deal for Welsh students

Thank you for letter of 14 August regarding the above petition. You may be aware that the correspondent submitted a very similar petition in 2009 (P-03-204 refers). I understand my predecessor responded comprehensively to all of the issues raised by the correspondent and the Petitions Committee at the time. This latest petition in my view raises no new issues.

The Committee will be aware that higher education institutions are independent and autonomous bodies responsible for their own academic and administrative affairs including student complaints. Similarly, HEIs are responsible for issues in relation to academic, staffing and structural changes arising from institutional mergers. The Welsh Government has no locus in such matters and I am unable to comment further.

Yours sincerely

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

P-04-567 A Fair Deal for Welsh Students – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 12.09.14

Letter from the Minister for Education and Skills 2nd September 2014

- The previous Minister for Education and Skills did not comprehensively respond to the issues raised in my previous petition, in fact I wrote to the First Minister in January and again in April 2014 complaining of a breach of the Ministerial Code in that the Petitions Committee had been knowingly misled regarding student dissatisfaction with the Welsh Assembly’s designated students complaints scheme which under Section 13(2) of the Higher Education Act 2004 is administered by the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education OIA.
- Comments by Mr Lewis are in my opinion a dictatorial attempt to conceal the conduct of his predecessor, prevent Welsh Students from getting a fair deal and the people of Wales having a say in these issues or how their money is spent.
- The Petitions Committee is again being misled in breach of the Ministerial Code with regard to the nature of the issues raised within my petition in particular the misleading claim that *“The Welsh Government has no locus in such matters and I am unable to comment further.”* Moreover, they do not impinge upon the independence or autonomy of Higher Education Institutions.
- I am not aware of any legal impediment to the consideration of the issues in my petition, they are only admissible if they come within the ‘*competence*’ of the Welsh Assembly and acceptance is a statement to that effect. However, I am sure that the Clerks to the Committee will advise on this matter accordingly.
- *“The Minister for Education and Skills Huw Lewis made a statement on the Introduction of the Higher Education (Wales) Bill on 20 May 2014.*

*The Higher Education (Wales) Bill seeks to legislate to:
ensure robust and proportionate regulation of institutions in Wales whose courses*

are supported by Welsh Government backed higher education grants and loans;”
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/wales-27474329>

Clearly, this is a direct contradiction of the comments made by the Minister in his letter to the Petitions Committee but then this is not the first time that a Minister for Education and Skills has publically spoken out and acted against their own legislation.

Additional Information

Background

With massive increase in tuition fees, student rights as consumers have failed to keep up with the commercialisation of Higher Education Institutions as Charity Companies, while the forthcoming Consumer Rights Bill at Westminster addresses some issues it does not go far enough. Student loans are one of the biggest financial commitments facing young people and could last a lifetime making students vulnerable. Higher Education Institutions while in receipt of public money are not in public service they are ‘autonomous’, staff cannot be charged with misconduct in public office. Standards should match those being brought into place in other institutions and services to provide a balance between autonomy and accountability. The Welsh Assembly Government should consider setting up a Commission to safeguard Welsh students and ensure that Higher Education Institutions play it by the rules and comply with relevant law.

This petition is similar to ‘P-03-204 Public Accountability and Consultation in HE’ which should be read for further details. This petition was closed down by the Petition Committee for the following reason:

“The Committee agreed to close the petition and recommend that the petitioners raise any further concerns with their constituency and regional Assembly Members

once the Minister for Education and Skills has published his response to the Review of Higher Education Governance in Wales.”

Unfortunately there is no legal obligation for Assembly Members to act on behalf of their constituents, my concerns were subsequently ignored and these matters were never raised. The Petitions Committee felt that there was nothing more that it could do to progress these matters. That being the case it should have been referred to the Children and Young Peoples Committee for investigation. Mr Powell raised a ‘conflict of interest’ being a constituent and his position as Chair of the Committee, however, this no longer applied after the petition was closed.

On the bottom of the email from the Petitions Committee there is the statement that says:

“The National Assembly for Wales is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales and holds the Welsh government to account.”

Unfortunately as far as the treatment of Welsh students are concerned that is yet to happen.

Petition Item 1. A Welsh student complaints scheme including compulsory compensation and compliance with greater transparency and accountability – We deserve something better.

In keeping with the concept of devolution and the people of Wales having a greater say in the issues that affect their lives the Welsh Assembly should introduce a Students’ Complaints Scheme specifically for Welsh Students based upon their experiences. The current designated students’ complaints scheme for England and Wales is administered by the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education known as the OIA.

A survey of the current students' complaints scheme administered by the OIA entitled *Report of the OIA Student Survey 2009* concluded:

"There was widespread dissatisfaction with the remit of the OIA. That academics escape any outside professional scrutiny in the way they conduct business is considered by many students to be inappropriate in the modern world. The inequality of arms between universities and students is a source of dissatisfaction, and the burden of proof on students considered by many to be inappropriately high. Many students were angry and frustrated that in the event of a conflict of evidence, they perceived that the HEI account was accepted and their own rejected for no satisfactory reason that they could see. The OIA was also criticised by students for failing to hold HEIs to account, failing to ensure fair procedures at the HEI level, and providing remedies that were insufficient and that would fail to ensure HEIs took the issues seriously. There was dissatisfaction with the time cases take, with a perceived failure to recognise the importance of timing to the student, particularly the academic year timetable, and a feeling that HEIs are indulged by the OIA, particularly over the summer. Many disabled students expressed dissatisfaction with the understanding of their complaints by the OIA. Students wanted to be told where they could go if dissatisfied with the OIA. Finally, it is important to recognise that for students a complaint starts at the beginning at the HEI, and ends at the end of the OIA process, and the holistic and continuous nature of this experience should be recognised." Page 82

With regard to the stress this puts on students the report stated:

"Respondents were asked how they felt at the end of the OIA process. Negative emotions predominate. The most commonly reported feelings were disappointed, let down, angry, emotionally drained, exhausted, discriminated against, depressed and sad. More than 30% reported feeling victimised. Only very small proportions reported any positive feelings." Page 79

“Other emotions expressed by students were predominantly negative. Although one student said ‘supported’ and one ‘neutral’, negative emotions included cheated, confused, disbelieving, disgusted, disillusioned, frustrated, helpless, outraged, shocked, unreasonably or unfairly treated, that the process had been utterly pointless and that the University had been allowed to ‘get away with’ its behaviour.”

Figure 21 Page 48

Student Opinions of the OIA

“When students were asked what they thought about the OIA overall, as Figure 22 shows, the most commonly expressed view was that they were ‘on the side of the HEI’, with almost half of respondents (48%) saying this.” Page 48. It is hardly surprising that another survey has not been undertaken.

National Union of Students Wales (NUSW)

NUSW is the representative body for Welsh students and claims to *“promote, defend and extend the rights of students.”* However, they have ignored the opinion and experience of its own members, here is an extract from the response given by the NUSW to the issues in P-03-204 is as follows

*“In addition to our belief in the independence of the OIA, the recent judicial review of *Budd v OIA2* confirmed this independence. The Judge, Mr Ockelton (sitting as a Deputy High Court Judge) confirmed that “there is simply no evidence that the Independent adjudicator is not independent..”* Petition P-03-204.

Issues concerning the self regulated involvement of the Judiciary in Universities are outside the remit of the Petitions process.

Welsh Assembly Government Statement on the *Report of the OIA Student Survey 2009*

“The OIA has recently conducted an extensive review of its operations, including customer satisfaction and the views of users on its independence. The evidence

gathered during the consultation process showed that while there are differences of emphasis, universities, students' unions and sector groups overwhelmingly endorsed the independence of the Independent Adjudicator, the Office and the Scheme. However, the evidence also showed that concerns were raised by some students' unions and a small number of universities about the perception of some students of the OIA's independence, due to the current funding model. The OIA acknowledged that, when one side in a dispute is totally responsible for funding the process, the other party may not always feel that the system is impartial. Indeed, the evidence gathered shows a direct association between outcome of complaint and complainants' views of whether the OIA's process was independent. The OIA acknowledges that there is work still to be done to raise complainant awareness of the OIA's independent status and operations".

Leighton Andrews AM Minister for Children, Education & lifelong Learning 5th May 2010 Petition P-03-204.

Please note that I have complained to the First Minister of Wales on this statement as being misleading and should be corrected.

Petition Items 2 – 5

2. Those teaching in Higher Education Institutions should be subject to similar standards and safeguards as schools and further education colleges, teachers in higher education should be required to register with the General Teaching Council for Wales.

"The Council's Role

We are responsible for investigating and hearing cases of professional misconduct or incompetence on the part of registered teachers."

3. In keeping with the Eleventh Report of Session 2008-09 of the former House of Commons Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee there should be statutory regulation as the Quality Assurance Agency as a registered charity with no

powers of intervention or enforcement is no longer fit for purpose. In this respect an extended role for Estyn could be considered.

4. The Letter of Understanding between the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales HEFCW to provide value for money should include public complaint via the Welsh Audit Office. I have written to the Minister asking why HEFCW is still providing public funds the University of Wales Trinity St David while in breach of its Royal Charter and articles of government. Unfortunately I received a similar reply to the Petitions Committee on this issue refusing to answer the question and enter into any further correspondence.

5. As recommended again in the Eleventh Report of Session 2008–09 of the former House of Commons Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee there should be an effective Whistle Blower process as current arrangements such as the *Cause for Concern* process administered by the QAA and HEFCW are inadequate.

These items are already explained in P-03-204

Please note that issues such as the gagging of students and the imposition of a duty of candour to force universities to tell the truth in what is a system of public justice for students are beyond the competence of the Welsh Assembly and therefore not included in this petition.

First Minister of Wales and the Ministerial Code

Please see the letters to the First Minister of Wales whose job it is to uphold the Ministerial Code seeking clarification on this subject that is essential to the progress of this petition, I fail to see how my petition can be given a fair hearing until I receive a reply. Therefore, I would be grateful if the Committee write to the First Minister asking him to clarify these issues before considering my petition. Had petition P-03-204 been referred to the relevant scrutiny committee these issues could have been resolved earlier instead of being closed down following a letter from Leighton Andrews without consideration of the issues involved.

Trevor Mayes

Attachments

1. P-03-204 Public Accountability and Consultation in Higher Education.pdf.
2. Students as Vulnerable Consumers.doc – Written Evidence to the Public Bill Committee – Consumer Rights Bill published at <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmpublic/consumer/memo/cr07.htm>
3. Letter to the First Minister and Permanent Secretary 19012014.doc
4. Letter to the First Minister for Wales 140414.doc
5. Final Report of the OIA Student Survey with Appendices.pdf
- 6.

[Attachments have not been included in the public papers because of the volume of material they include, however copies are available on request from the Committee Clerk]

Agenda Item 3.18

P-04-569 Stop National Tests for Primary School Children:

Petition Wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to remove national tests for primary school children.

Additional Information: I believe that National Tests for Primary School children cause unnecessary stress and anxiety in young children. Children should feel nurtured and positive in their attitude to school, not pressured and anxious about doing well in an unrealistic exam environment that only rewards those who perform well under such conditions, and punishes those who do not. To set children against one another and force them to consider the consequences of 'failure' at such a young age is cruel. The National Tests are also widely condemned by teaching professionals as an ineffective motivating and measurement tool that does not work in determining a young child's potential and current state of knowledge.

Petition raised by: Alexander Roberts

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 15 July 2014

Number of signatures :123



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-569
Ein cvf/Our ref HL/01723/14

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

1 September 2014

Dear William

Thank you for your letter dated 14 August asking for my views on the petition to stop national tests for primary school children (P-04-569).

The petitioners appear to assume that these tests are the only, or critical, measurement tool for literacy and numeracy skills. I can assure them that they aren't. They also appear to assume that outcomes of these tests are to reward success and punish failure. That doesn't chime with how I've seen them used. Also, the petition notes that they are widely condemned by the profession. I haven't seen that criticism, but I have seen how they are being used to inform and improve teaching practice. Let me expand further.

The National Reading and Numeracy Tests were introduced to help schools across Wales assess their learners' reading and numeracy skills and track learner progress to gain a clearer insight into each learner's development. Schools are now beginning to use data from the tests to inform target setting for all learners to ensure they are appropriately challenged. Test data also helps schools to diagnose any difficulties with the development of reading or numeracy skills at the earliest possible opportunity so that additional support can be directed to those in need.

The tests are aligned to the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework (LNF) and are trialled extensively in Wales, by the National Foundation for Educational Research, before they are finalised. This process ensures that the questions are set at the appropriate level and that the majority of learners taking the tests are able to complete them within the set timeframe.

Tests are one of the tools traditionally used by both primary and secondary schools to assess learners' progress, yet studies into reading and numeracy testing in schools in Wales prior to the introduction of the national tests showed that the frequency, quality and relevance of these tests were highly variable – not to mention expensive. The implementation of national, annual tests, funded by us and developed by an organisation respected internationally, gives schools much better information on how to support their learners. I've also seen them used by schools to identify professional development needs for their staff.

In terms of primary school learners taking the test, there is absolutely no reason for learners to feel anxious or stressed. The [2014 Administration Handbook](#) was issued to schools and practitioners advising how the tests may be conducted and how particular provisions, such as rest breaks for year 2 and 3 children, can help learners who have difficulty concentrating or who tire easily. We are clear about minimising anxiety in our younger learners.

Furthermore, our guide to parents [Reading and Numeracy Tests in Wales - Information for Parents/Carers Years 2-9](#) makes it clear that parents should not prepare their children for the tests other than by ensuring that they are not worried or anxious. To overinflate the significance of the tests to learners as being the only measure of their progress is unfair and could indeed cause distress and feelings of negativity. We communicate this as broadly and clearly as we can.

I would also like to make the point that there is no stipulation that learners have to sit the tests under examination conditions as a year group in the hall or gym and that many primary teachers administered the tests to their own classes, in their own classrooms. There is also no need for schools to remove or cover all wall displays; the Welsh Government asks that schools ensure that learners do not have access to materials that could give them an unfair advantage which may mean, in some cases, taking down posters with numerical or spelling rules.

Improving the literacy and numeracy skills of children and young people are two of my main priorities. In school, an inability to read well or to work confidently with numbers will stop learners from effectively accessing the areas of the school curriculum that have their roots in literacy or numeracy. Outside of school those learners whose needs have not been identified and addressed at the earliest possible opportunity, and who go on to leave school without an acceptable degree of competency in reading and numeracy skills, are likely to face a lifetime of social and economic disadvantage.

I am committed to ensuring that no child falls through the net and that no child leaves compulsory education without the necessary reading and numeracy skills that will enable them to progress into further education or employment.

Yours sincerely



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

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

:Shooting of White-fronted Geese in Wales – response to evidence from the Welsh Ornithological Society and from Alun Davies AM to the Welsh Assembly Petitions Committee.

I very much thank and welcome the evidence submitted by the Welsh Ornithological Society who has been of very great support throughout the petition process, along with the RSPB. I fully support and agree with everything mentioned in their statement.

Additionally, I would like to thank the minister for also kindly responding and for any previous correspondence we have had. However, I still feel he has not, as in previous correspondence, addressed why exactly a full ban has not been implemented.

The minister states that there have been no official records of GWFG been shot in Wales in the last decade and very few before that. I just question what is meant by official records – has there been any unconfirmed reports? The Welsh Ornithological society say in their response that the geese are hard to differentiate in the field so there is always potential for accidental mortality to occur and go unnoticed even in the area with a voluntary ban.

I also seriously question the statement that very few of the geese were shot before the last decade. In their response to the petition the Welsh Ornithological Society state that between 1998 and 2010 a total of 29 Greenland White-fronts were shot on Anglesey. In a population where only 55 birds returned from their breeding grounds last year and this has dropped from 167 individuals in 2000 how can the minister justify these comments, as that is clearly a significant proportion of the population.

The minister does declare that he would be prepared to reconsider if he receives robust evidence of a rise in actual shooting of these birds. Evidence shows, of which there is plenty, addressed in this petition and by the Welsh Ornithological Society, the Greenland White-fronted goose study, by the RSPB and countless other researchers that the GWFG is extremely vulnerable to excess mortality and therefore, not just a rise in shooting should be a cause for concern and action, but any reports of shooting whatsoever. The Welsh Ornithological Society, in their response address this with the reports of 29 white-fronts been shot between 1998 and 2010 and this alone should be justification of a complete ban on the shooting of this endangered species.

With a support of currently 3,678 petitioners there is obviously a great support of the need for the ban. The Welsh Assembly themselves admitted in their consultation report 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 both international and domestic conservation obligations.

Aaron Davies MSc BSc (Hons)

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

John Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol, Diwylliant an Chwaraeon
Minister for Natural Resources, Culture and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-547
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/00826/14

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

17 July 2014

Dear W Minister,

Thank you for your letter concerning the petition requesting a ban on polystyrene fast food and drinks packaging, from Friends of Barry Beaches. I am responding as this issue now falls within my portfolio.

Litter, in all its forms, is a problem that the Welsh Government takes very seriously and is committed to tackling. We work with a variety of partners to change public attitudes and behaviour towards littering through education, partnership working and enforcement programmes. Many of these initiatives and programmes are supported by and involve fast food chains and outlets. Our aim is to prevent litter from occurring in the first place.

The Welsh Government provides funding annually to local authorities and to Keep Wales Tidy to help in their delivery of community engagement activities in support of our *Tidy Towns* programme. The aim of the *Tidy Towns* programme is to empower the people of Wales to take responsibility for the quality of their own local environment. This programme is tackling littering through education and specific projects aimed at changing the behaviour of litterers. We provide additional funding to Keep Wales Tidy (KWT) to deliver campaigns aimed at tackling all types of litter and to encourage the people of Wales to bin their litter, rather than drop it onto the street or throw from their vehicles.

The funding that we provide to KWT is also used to carry out annual Local Environment Audit and Management System (LEAMS) surveys to assess the cleanliness of streets in Wales. The most recent results show that the percentage of litter free streets has increased and the percentage of heavily littered streets has decreased in 2013-14. The amount of fast food litter recorded has also dropped and it was the lowest presence of the four types of litter recorded; the others are smoking-related litter, confectionary litter and drink-related litter.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

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

In 2014-15 the Welsh Government is providing further funding to KWT to undertake a 'Coast Care' pilot. This pilot will gather information on coastal littering in Wales to identify priority areas for improvement and to test innovative interventions. The coast care officers will also work with community groups to scope potential coastal litter improvement projects, and will promote good practice in beach management in Wales by helping beaches to achieve more Blue Flag, Green Coast and Seaside Awards.

In addition, I have commissioned KWT to produce a research paper specifically on polystyrene litter and its effect on the environment along with recommendations for further interventions. This paper and the findings from the pilot will inform further practical actions that can be taken.

The Welsh Government is pursuing a range of interventions to help reduce waste packaging and increase its recycling. Reducing food and associated packaging waste is a key focus of Towards Zero Waste, the overarching waste strategy document for Wales. A UK Voluntary Agreement known as the Hospitality and Food Services Agreement is in place with businesses, including restaurants and takeaway food establishments. This includes targets agreed by industry and support for them to reduce and recycle their wastes and optimise food packaging so that its impact on the environment throughout its life, and when it becomes waste, is as low as possible whilst protecting the food that it contains. This Agreement is brokered by the Waste Resources and Action Programme (WRAP), and is funded and supported by the Welsh Government and other UK administrations. Two hundred hospitality businesses in the UK are signed up to the agreement including 28 businesses in Wales. The Welsh Government has also funded WRAP to work with retailers and their suppliers to optimise food packaging, and to manage a fund to provide infrastructure that enables people to recycle when away from home.

The Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations sets responsibility on those packing or filling products to meet specific requirements. This includes minimising the volume and weight of packaging to permit reuse or recovery. The trading standards departments of local authorities are responsible for enforcing the Regulations within their areas.

There is little evidence to suggest that polystyrene is a major component of the packaging waste stream. Relatively few of the major fast food chains use polystyrene, which is more associated with independent fast food outlets. Therefore this problem needs to be dealt with at a local level and there is legislation in place to allow local authorities to do this.

Local authorities in Wales have a statutory duty to ensure that the highways, public walkways and recreational areas are kept clear of litter and they are responsible for enforcement. The Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990 and the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (CNEA) 2005 provide a range of powers to allow local authorities to deal with those who undertake an environmental crime. Amongst these are powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices ranging from £75 to £150 to people who are caught littering.

Under sections 93 & 94 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, local authorities are able to serve Street Litter Control notices requiring businesses, such as fast food outlets, to clean up the litter caused by their activities adjacent (within 100 meters) to their premises. Fixed Penalty Notices can be issued by local authorities where the premises fail to comply.

I can assure you that this is a matter that I take very seriously and that we will continue to tackle with determination.

Yeu,
John

John Griffiths AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol, Diwylliant a Chwaraeon
Minister for Natural Resources, Culture and Sport



FOBB—Friends of Barry Beaches

Chairman:
Robert Curtis
118 Merthyr Dyfan Rd
Barry CF629TJ
Tel: 01446 736287
rob.curtis1@ntlworld.com

Secretary:
Verity Allely
19 Maple Close
Barry CF629BX
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Treasurer:
Claire Curtis
118 Merthyr Dyfan Rd
Barry CF629TJ
Tel: 01446 736287
claire.curtis6@ntlworld.com

To Members of the Petition Committee:

Dear Assembly member,

We would like to strongly welcome the Ministers commitment to “commission KWT to produce a research paper specifically on polystyrene litter and its effect on the environment along with recommendations for further interventions”.

We also support the Welsh Governments commitment to tackling litter and would especially encourage its stated aim of preventing litter from occurring in the first place.

We believe that our petition would support such a policy of litter prevention. In fact, as stated in the Ministers letter, many of the multi-national fast food businesses have already converted to bio-degradable food and drink container alternatives, so why not encourage the remaining smaller but more numerous fast food outlets to also convert to bio-degradable alternatives as soon as possible?

We applaud the Welsh Governments enlightened policy of charging for single use plastic bags. This has made a dramatic difference to the cleanliness of our towns, countryside and beaches.

We would like to see a similar policy of charging for single use polystyrene fast food and drinks cartons. Such a policy would encourage smaller traders to convert to cardboard/cornstarch alternatives and help reduce the blight of polystyrene entering our environment.

Finally, we have no doubt that fast food polystyrene packaging will eventually become a practice of the past. We hope the Welsh Government will have the foresight to lead such a change instead of following in the footsteps of others!

Thank you for your consideration of this vital issue,

Rob Curtis
Chairman of Friends of Barry Beaches

PS ...There is an open invitation for any of your AM's to join our volunteers at any of our monthly beach litter picks.



FOBB—Friends of Barry Beaches

Chairman:
Robert Curtis
118 Merthyr Dyfan Rd
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Dear Alun,

I am the Chairman of a voluntary group which carries out monthly voluntary litter picks at one of Barry's five main beaches (recycling as much as we can in the process). We have the support of Keep Wales Tidy and regularly attract 20 to 30 volunteers spending an hour removing rubbish. Over the last four years we have removed hundreds of bags of litter/rubbish from our beach environment, thus helping to protect our marine wildlife.

One of the most numerous items of litter we remove is items of polystyrene, especially single use polystyrene food and drink cartons. These items remain in our environment for hundreds of years while cardboard/cornstarch alternatives would biodegrade within a matter of weeks/months.

In fact, many of the major food chains have already switched their supplies to biodegradable alternatives (MacDonald's, KFC, Burger King, etc.)

We believe that the Welsh Government helped to lead the way in the UK by introducing a 5p charge on single use carrier bags. By banning or even placing a charge/tax on these polystyrene single use food containers, the Welsh Government could once again show their strong commitment to protecting our beautiful Welsh environment.

We submitted a 295 online petition earlier this year and I have also raised a further "written" 232 signature petition which I have enclosed. I now understand that the National Assembly petitions committee are contacting you to "seeking his views on the petition". I know the Polystyrene carton manufacturers will do their best to protect their profits but they do not seem concerned about the cost to both Councils and the environment.

I have no doubt that as a society we will move away from the madness of polystyrene single use cartons, I just hope Wales makes that commitment sooner rather than later. I hope you will decide to take positive action on this issue in order to stop the blight of polystyrene food and drinks cartons littering our Welsh streets, countryside and beaches?

If you would like further information then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks

Cllr Rob Curtis

P.S. If you would like to volunteer at one of our many beach cleans then please just choose a date from the attached list and we would be happy to welcome you.

P-04-572 – Grants for Flood Resilience.

Petition Wording

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to approve grants for properties that have recently flooded to fund work to make them more resilient to future flooding.

Petition raised by: Charles Edward Moore

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 15 July 2014

Number of signatures : 88

John Griffiths AC /AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol, Diwylliant a Chwaraeon
Minister for Natural Resources, Culture and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JG/01135/14

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

September 2014

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter dated 14 August 2014 regarding a petition from Charles Edwards which calls on the Welsh Government to approve grants for properties that have recently flooded to fund work to make them more resilient to future flooding.

In 2010, a pilot was run by Environment Agency Wales which concluded that providing individual grants to homeowners for property level protection was not cost effective and did not necessarily focus funding on the highest priority areas. For this reason we have continued to focus our funding on making repairs to existing defences or funding new flood/coastal defence schemes to benefit whole communities in specific areas taking a risk based approach to the location of our investment.


Since the original pilot, Environment Agency Wales (now Natural Resources Wales) initiated its own Individual Property Protection Scheme. In 2011/12 it arranged for 257 properties to be protected for a cost of £317,000, an average cost per property of £1,200. The approach of the NRW scheme is on a community basis, providing individual property protection to a whole community at flood risk rather than individual homes. This is funded from the Welsh Government's Capital grant provision and offers better value for money and better take-up compared with individual applications.

This option can be used where a larger flood defence scheme is not viable or appropriate and will take a risk-based approach to the location of investment.

It would cost a few thousand pounds per property to make homes in Wales flood resilient, with limited budgets available, this is funding that the Welsh Government has earmarked for community wide alleviation schemes which, in most cases, have a greater cost benefit and provide a greater level of protection.

Welsh Government and NRW are working with the BRE to develop a Property Flood Resilience Database which will provide to the insurance industry information on investment made by both the insured property owner and the Government in protecting property through the implementation of flood resilience. This will provide relevant data for insurers that could assist in providing more appropriate insurance pricing for high flood risk areas.

We are keen to continue to work with the insurance industry to ensure that they recognise resilience measures installed and investment made to help to reduce premiums in high risk areas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Griffiths', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Griffiths AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol, Diwylliant a Chwaraeon
Minister for Natural Resources, Culture and Sport

Agenda Item 3.22

P-04-550 Planning Powers

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to investigate how devolved planning powers could be used to bring vacant or derelict sites of land into beneficial use".

We are especially concerned that vacant or derelict sites like the former Kwik Save site in St Mellons, Cardiff can become a blight upon communities and attract anti-social behaviour.

We wish the investigation to consider whether current powers to take action against landowners of vacant or derelict land are adequate, including the potential to compel owners to take action at their own expense to remove eyesores or derelict structures.

We call for an investigation to take place before the proposed Planning Bill is passed by the Assembly.

Petition raised by: St Mellons Action Group

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 13 May 2014

Number of signatures: 41

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-550
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/01052/14

William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales

19th
August 2014

William.powell@wales.gov.uk

Dear Bill

Petition – P-04-55 Planning Powers

Thank you for your letter about a petition inquiry about planning powers to deal with unused and vacant sites blighting communities and attracting anti-social behaviour.

Currently, section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 provides local planning authorities with powers to tackle the condition of land that is having an adverse effect on their area. A local planning authority can serve a notice on the owner and occupier of the land requiring any steps necessary to remedy the condition of the land. Such action should improve the appearance of unused sites.

The existing powers granted by section 215 currently enable local planning authorities deal with the negative impacts on amenity caused by derelict sites. I am currently considering whether further improvements are required including the recommendations from the review I commissioned into the planning enforcement system in Wales, published in June 2013. Any appropriate changes will be included within the Planning (Wales) Bill when it is introduced to the National Assembly for Wales later this year.

A copy of this letter will be sent to the Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee, Alun Fred Jones.

Yours sincerely

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

Agenda Item 3.23

P-04-557 Valuation Tribunal Service

Petition wording:

We, the undersigned, call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge Welsh Government to undertake a full review of the procedures, management and administration of the Valuation Tribunal Service for Wales and to produce an effective, transparent and accountable service for the people of Wales.

Petition raised by: Mr David Grant

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 3 June 2014

Number of signatures: 8 online signatures and a paper petition gathered an additional 5 signatures.



Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-557
Ein cyf/Our ref: LG/00812/14

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

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

29 August 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter dated 31 July regarding Petition P-04-557 Valuation Tribunal Service, received from Mr David Grant which seeks a full review of the procedures, management and administration of the Valuation Tribunal for Wales (VTW).

The VTW is a quasi-judicial Welsh Government Sponsored Body which is wholly independent of the Welsh Government, the Valuation Office Agency and Local Authorities. It provides a free service dealing with appeals regarding Non-Domestic Rates, Council Tax and Drainage Rates. The Valuation Tribunal for Wales (VTW) has both judicial and administrative functions and these are prescribed by the Valuation Tribunal for Wales Regulations 2010.

A full review of Tribunals in Wales was undertaken by the Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council (AJTC) in 2010. The report addressed the need to ensure devolved tribunals are accessible to citizen users and dispense justice fairly, clearly and efficiently. The report made a number of recommendations which are highlighted in the Written Statement in the attached link.

<http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2010/270410trib/?lang=en>

A full copy of the report can be found via the link below.

<http://ajtc.justice.gov.uk/welsh/publications.htm>

As the VTW is a Welsh Government Sponsored Body, measures have been taken to ensure effective controls are in operation. A Framework Agreement is in place which addresses propriety regarding their governance and accountability, management arrangements and financial responsibilities. This framework is regularly reviewed and monitoring meetings are held between officials on a monthly basis. Alongside this, the VTW publishes annual reports and operational forward plans on its website, a link to which is provided below.

<http://www.valuation-tribunals-wales.org.uk/publications.html>

In addition, the Governing Council of the VTW seeks to promote enhancement of the management disciplines adopted by the VTW, driving a strong corporate governance culture which ensures proper process, propriety, scrutiny and accountability are demonstrated and robust accounting procedures are in place. Alongside all of these arrangements, the VTW is also held accountable to the Public Service Ombudsman in Wales.

As a result, I am confident the VTW provides an effective and transparent service for the people of Wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth
Minister for Local Government and Government Business

P-04-557 Valuation Tribunal Service – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 12.09.14

Given it appears that the recommendations of the first report of the AJTC chaired by Sir Adrian Webb in 2010 on the various Tribunal Services have been implemented it is hoped that the reasons for the petition have been addressed.

John Griffiths, Counsel General is reported to have said on the 27 April 2010 that the report contained 21 "Core" and "Other" recommendations and that "acceptance of all these would imply a programme of work over 2-3 years". It therefore seems possible at the time of the Valuation Tribunal Hearing on I believe the 28 September 2011 [I am away from home and do not have access to my papers] that led to my complaint about its conduct and the subsequent petition [a complaint about the conduct of an earlier Tribunal had been upheld by the Ombudsman- not Mr Tyndall] there had been insufficient time for the report's recommendations to be implemented. That said even if you have the best procedures in place if so minded, individuals will subvert them. To that end I would still like to see steps taken to provide a tamper proof record of Tribunal proceedings.

My detailed complaint that accompanied the petition shows massive interference with my evidence by the Tribunal and I provided examples of this in an outline for the Committee's meeting on the 3 June. I note that Mr Tyndall then Public Services Ombudsman for Wales was an "ex officio" of the AJTC that produced the report on the Tribunal Services. The report makes reference to the earlier Franks report that "Tribunals should be Open ,Fair and Impartial

Yet it was Mr Tyndall who refused to investigate my complaint and Mark Williams MP and I both thought he had abrogated his responsibilities. It was the same Mr Tyndall who was seen on BBC TV last year being questioned about his seeking powers to prevent people who disagreed with his decision going to the media. When it was put to him by the interviewer that he was seeking "gagging powers" he denied it!

So the issues surrounding my complaint remain unresolved

The "spin off" of the local authority failing in its responsibilities that led to my then new property and others having serious building defects remain unaddressed. I have a property that from new required demolition and rebuilding of 5 retaining

walls and a garage plus replacement of a long dangerous balustrade [publicly funded experts recommendations] costing now in excess of £70000 plus a shared and private access that does not comply with planning permission despite local authority assurances at the time to the contrary and whose boundaries cannot be defined.

A property for which no mortgage would be made available and a Valuer has advised that in effect it has no value. Yet I continue to pay Council Tax.

D A Grant.

P-04-563 the Provision of Services at Pontypridd Fire Station

Petition wording:

PLEASE HELP SAVE OUR FIRE ENGINE! Due to public sector cut backs and a recent review carried out by the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, we are faced with the prospect of only having one fire engine for the whole of the Pontypridd area.

The proposal is to get rid of a fire engine and the team that serve the growing population of Pontypridd

Petition raised by: Ben Croxall

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 17 June 2014

Number of signatures : Over 9000

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth
Minister for Local Government and Government Business



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-563
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00754/14

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk
Stephen.George@wales.gov.uk

3 August 2014

Dear Bill

Thank you for your letter of 24 July with regard to a petition received from Ben Croxall to help save a fire engine and team stationed at Pontypridd Fire Station.

Fire and Rescue Authorities are autonomous, independent bodies and as such, it is for them to determine the provision of services in their geographical area.

The Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery Report sets out some clear recommendations specific to Fire and Rescue Authorities. The Welsh Government published its response to the Commission's report in 'Devolution, Democracy, Delivery – Improving public services for people in Wales' on 8 July. Aligned with this, I announced a White Paper 'Reforming Local Government'. Paragraphs 46 and 88 of the White Paper deal specifically with fire specific issues. The White Paper includes recommendations which impact on the whole of Local Government, such as the role of audit, inspection and regulation and how these are more closely linked to revised scrutiny and governance arrangements. These considerations will apply to Fire and Rescue Authorities. These reforms will be critical to build the capacity, sustainability and efficiency of the Public Sector, and so minimise the need for cuts to front-line jobs and services.

Regards

Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth
Minister for Local Government and Government Business

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu

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

Our Ref: SC/HE
Your Ref:
Date: 4 August 2014
Contact: Sally Chapman
Tel: 01443 232007

(via email to Stephen.George@wales.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Powell

Petition Title: P-04-P-04-563
Provision of Services at Pontypridd Fire Station

Thank you for your recent letter addressed to the Chief Fire Officer concerning the above petition that you have received.

As you may be aware, this proposal comprises part of the South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority Fire Cover Review and has recently been the subject of staff, public and stakeholder consultation. The consultation the petition relates to centres around the provision of appropriate fire cover in the Rhondda Cynon Taf Unitary Authority area. The review highlighted that there was an overprovision of cover and that as a consequence Members could consider **either** closing Porth Fire & Rescue Station **or** removing the second retained duty system appliance from Pontypridd Fire & Rescue Station, **but not both**.

The outcome of this consultation is currently being evaluated and will be formally reported to the Fire & Rescue Authority at their meeting on 29 September 2014. At this meeting, Members will consider their views on the proposal in the light of the consultation responses and could take any number of decisions on fire cover in the area. Until this time, the proposal remains purely that.

A copy of the report to the Fire & Rescue Authority will become public in the normal way on the Service's website three working days before the meeting should you require sight of it; and the issue will be discussed in public session at the meeting should a representative from your committee wish to attend.

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters,
Forest View Business Park, Llantrisant, Pontyclun, CF72 8LX.

Telephone 01443 232000 • Fax 01443 232180
www.southwales-fire.gov.uk

Pencadlys Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub De Cymru,
Parc Busnes Forest View, Llantrisant, Pont-y-clun, CF72 8LX.

Ffôn 01443 232000 • Ffacs 01443 232180
www.decymru-tan.gov.uk

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English
Croeso i'n ymwelddith yn y Gymraeg neu Saesneg

RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK

CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAW PERYGL

Should you require any further clarification in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sally Chapman', with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Sally Chapman
Deputy Chief Officer

P-04-577 Reinstate Funding to the Real Opportunities Project

Petition Wording

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to reinstate funding to the Real Opportunities project previously funded by the European Social Fund in Wales, or some new similar project that has the same values as Real Opportunities. The project is vital to helping 14-19 year olds with a learning disability or autistic spectrum disorder to gain life skills and independence.

Additional Information:

The Real Opportunities project enables 14-19 year olds with a learning disability or Autism Spectrum Disorder to develop skills vital for their transition into a college education as well as enabling them to transition into the world of work and develop basic life skills vital to their independence. The project has helped over 1700 young adults with learning disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder and has helped train over 1000 peer mentors with the intention of increasing the levels of integration between mainstream school pupils and those in a special needs unit. The values of this project are vital to these young people who at the start may have little or no awareness of personal hygiene etc and at the end are self aware of their personal hygiene and have completed Agored Cymru qualifications that they would otherwise be unable to do.

Petition raised by: Aled Davies

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 15 July 2014

Number of signatures: 25 - An associated e-petition collected 226 signatures.

Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid
Minister for Finance



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-577
Ein cyf/Our ref: JH/00388/14

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

stephen.george@wales.gov.uk

14 September 2014

Dear William,

I am writing in response to your recent letters to the Minister for Education and Skills, the Minister for Health and Social Services, and I about a petition your Committee has received from Aled Davies regarding the Regional SEN Transition into Employment Initiative (Real Opportunities project). The project is currently being supported through the 2007–2013 European Structural Fund programmes and I am responding as these programmes fall within my Ministerial portfolio.

I wrote to Mr Davies on 28 July noting that I am pleased that European Structural Funds has supported such a successful project, which has helped him and the lives of over 1,760 young people and their families in Wales.

The project started in September 2010 and was initially due to finish on 30 September 2013, but was later extended by the Welsh European Funding Office to September 2014. I understand that Caerphilly County Borough Council, the lead project sponsor, had requested an additional extension which would have required additional EU funding, but unfortunately, due to current ESF programme 2007–2013 commitment levels, WEFO was unable to agree to this request.

I am pleased, however, that the new European Structural Funds programmes 2014–2020, which are currently being negotiated with the European Commission, include dedicated investment priorities to support youth employment and attainment in Wales as these are high priorities for the Welsh Government.

WEFO recognises the achievements of the Regional SEN project and is keen to see the activity continue. It has therefore encouraged Caerphilly Council to explore opportunities for funding within these new programmes and to submit a new project proposal to help progress discussions as quickly as possible.

*Your sincerely,
Jane*

Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid
Minister for Finance

P-04-577 Reinstatement Funding to the Real Opportunities Project – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Clerking Team, 16.09.14.

Hi Kayleigh,

Many thanks for your assistance & to Jane Hutt for her response to our Petition. The Petition has been organised by the Peer Mentors (trained by the now disbanded Real Opportunities Team) who volunteer at "The Mix" youth club for young people with learning difficulties.

We are aware that additional requests for European funding have been made for which we are grateful. Unfortunately there are no indications of what funding will or won't be found, what it will be for, or when it will or won't be released.

In the meantime the service that was being provided has now ceased & many of the key staff who provided it have been made redundant.

Our petition isn't to blame anyone for the situation. We believe there is a consensus that Short Break & Transition support for young people with learning difficulties & their families is inadequate. However, waiting in the hope of more funding isn't an effective strategy for families in need right now. We care greatly about the support our learning disabled friends deserve and have worked really hard to come up with something we feel could be helpful and affordable.

We have worked with "The Mix" Committee & attach an Outline proposal document to provide details of the specific issues faced & some ideas to address them. We are not experts in proposals ... but we are young people who understand the needs of our learning disabled friends & who want to communicate them to people who can make a difference.

Please can you circulate the attached documents to the Petitions Committee for consideration with the Petition? The proposal is not intended as a panacea – but as an outline document to demonstrate cost efficient services can be provided now to help the majority of young people with learning difficulties with essential Short Break & Transition support.

Regards

Aled

SHORT BREAK AND TRANSITION SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARMARTHENSHIRE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES INCORPORATING “*THE MIX*” YOUTH CLUB MODEL

OUTLINE PROPOSAL

Introduction

This is an outline proposal document focussing on Short Break and Transition facilities for young people with learning difficulties in Carmarthenshire.

The proposal has been prompted by the closure of the Real Opportunities Transition project in August 2014 which has left many young people with learning difficulties and their families without the crucial Short Break & Transition support they have come to depend upon.

“*The Mix*” is a private Youth Club for Young people with learning difficulties living in Carmarthenshire. There are 53 registered members with average weekly attendance ranging between 24 – 40 per session.

The majority of attendees are unable to access “mainstream” youth clubs without additional support. Members and their families travel from all over Carmarthenshire to access what they describe as a “unique environment”.

Proposal

The aims of this outline proposal are to identify potential opportunities to ;

- **Cost efficiently increase the Short Break availability for young people with learning difficulties in Carmarthenshire.**
- **Maximise return on investment by integrating support for learning disabled young people and adults to create a unique and complimentary environment for 16–30 year olds.**
- **Deliver Short Break support that is safe, inclusive, fun & Transition focussed**

- Address core support areas lost with the closure of the Real Opportunities project. In particular
 - Restoring the Peer Mentor Programme
 - Creating opportunities for paid employment for young people with learning difficulties in Carmarthenshire
- Provide security for the future of “*The Mix*” through the provision of public support

Demand for Services

In August 2014 “*The Mix*” Committee met with the Children's Commissioner for Wales. The Commissioner highlighted his focus on Short Break & youth Transition facilities. His views are summarised in the June 2014 report entitled “*Full Lives – A Study of Short Breaks Provision.*”

The “Real Opportunities” Transition project, supplying young people with learning difficulties across Wales with skills for learning and employment, has run for the past 3 years. In Carmarthenshire the project funded 6 full time front line specialist support staff. The Real Opportunities team delivered a range of transition activities throughout term time and holiday periods at a cost of approximately £300K per annum. The project benefited from European funding and has been very successful.

Real Opportunities project funding ended in August 2014 leaving a huge vacuum for the 198 young people in Carmarthenshire who were accessing the social and personal support facilities and the additional 60 young people waiting to join. For most of these young people Real Opportunities was the backbone for transition assistance and the primary route to meet and socialise with their peers. The loss is already being acutely felt by project participants and their families. A brief summary of the project achievements are attached in the “*Real Opportunities What Works In Wales*” PowerPoint presentation.

Short Break provision in Carmarthenshire is **not** available to all learning disabled families. Indeed the majority of families of young people with learning difficulties receive little support until their needs are assessed as critical. In February 2014 a proposal by Carmarthenshire County Council to save £200K per annum by closing either the Blaenau Respite Centre in Ammanford or Llys Caradog Respite Centre in Llanelli was withdrawn following an overwhelmingly negative public response. Two on-line petitions calling for the maintenance of services for young people with learning difficulties have been presented to the Welsh Assembly this year. One of the petitions has been prepared by young peer mentors trained by the Real Opportunities team. The mentors want to support their learning disabled friends and a great deal of their input is included in this outline proposal.

participants and others “*The Mix*” now provides the only social activity of the week, and the only chance for parents and carers to have a regular break.

Peer Mentoring

The Real Opportunities project has trained over 1000 Peer Mentors across Wales. Mentors complete a 30 hour training programme which includes direct working sessions with their learning disabled colleges. Peer Mentors receive an Agored certification once their course work is successfully completed and assessed.

Peer Mentors are a valuable resource to their schools providing additional support to their learning disabled friends. These friendships have also continued outside of school. “*The Mix*” have 4 regular Peer Mentors who attend from Amman Valley Comprehensive. Several “*Mix*” club members have joined as a result of having worked with peer mentors at school. Only with the support of their mentor friends have they felt confident enough to join the club and take the first steps towards independent activities. Peer Mentors have proved pivotal in transitioning young people into a broader social environment.

The Peer Mentors enjoy their involvement both at school and at “*The Mix*.” The work they do is a great way of demonstrating to future Colleges and Universities their ability to take on responsibility and their social conscience. With the closure of the Real Opportunities project no other training exists to create future Peer Mentors. This hugely valuable resource will now be lost.

Present Situation

“*The Mix*” operates from facilities at Llandybie Memorial Hall and also pro-actively organises social events in the wider community. It receives no financial support from Carmarthenshire County Council with service users instead paying a £3.00 weekly subscription. Sessions run from 5–7pm every Wednesday evening. Unlike publicly funded youth services, “*The Mix*” also runs through school holiday periods when young people and carers are often in most need of support.

There are 53 registered members with average weekly attendance ranging between 24 – 40 per session. The operation of the group is entirely dependent on the goodwill and availability of the parents and peer mentors who volunteer. As the group continues to expand, with around 5–10 new applicants per month the club now also pays 2 additional workers to help ensure a safe and stimulating environment.

Many club members find the current 2 hour timeslot difficult to co-ordinate with school and college timetabling and travel arrangements. Funding for more staff and regulatory difficulties make operating for more than 2 hours at a time difficult. “*The Mix*” members would also welcome the opportunity to attend twice weekly sessions

but unfortunately the commitment is too great for the already hard pressed volunteers and Mentors.

Operating Model

The model is based around a core provision of regular, Transition focussed Short Breaks accessible to the majority rather than the minority of learning disabled young people. The Short Break provision will be available for at least 2 separate 2 hour sessions per week including during holiday periods when families are often under most strain.

Learning difficulties mean that chronological age is often not a true indicator of the cognitive & social abilities of an individual. A learning disabled adult of 30 may typically be more comfortable and responsive to Youth Club environments than traditional adult services. Accordingly we would propose that the age range for “*Mix*” groups would be in the region of 16–30 yrs. This allows for an ability rather than chronologically based social mix, accessible by both adult and youth service user groups.

The 2 hour sessions will be planned and supervised by 2–3 Full Time Short Break Transition Managers (assuming an additional venue can be found in the Carmarthen area) operating within an agreed Annual Budget. The Short Break Transition Managers will also be responsible for liaising with local schools, colleges and families to continue the Peer Mentor programme and for developing a range of Transition focussed activities to take place in the wider community. These will include the delivery of appropriate education and employment based Agored courses and Travel training to assist service users accessing educational, social and ultimately employment opportunities.

During each of the 2 hour weekly sessions the Short Break Transition Managers will be assisted by 3 Youth Service Session Workers. These will help with the delivery of the sessions through a range of differentiated activities.

In turn, the Youth Session Workers will each be responsible for and supported by a Learning Disabled Staff Worker and volunteer Peer Mentor from the Mentoring programme. This will provide invaluable paid work experience for young disabled people who will be both supporting and supported by their Peers.

Youth Service Session Workers, Learning Disabled Staff and Peer Mentors would also assist with community based events. The **additional Short Break provision from these community activities** can be included in the cost model once a calender of events has been agreed.

The Cost model shown in the attached *Appendix 1 “Mix Working Model”* spreadsheet includes indicative Short Break Transition Managers salaries at £22K per annum, Youth Service Session worker rates of £10 per hour and Learning Disabled Staff

Worker payments at £6.31 per hour. Additionally cost inclusions have been made for venue hire & insurance, equipment and consumables refresh and administrative overheads. The proposal is therefore that for each session staffing will be

2/3 x	Full Time Short Break Transition Managers	
3 x	Youth Session workers	(2 hrs / session)
3 x	Learning Disabled Staff Workers	(2 hrs /session)
3 x	Accredited Peer Mentors	(2 hrs / session)

Outline Job Descriptions

Full Time Short Break Transition Manager

- Plan and deliver weekly *Mix* sessions differentiated to support the range of members and publish a monthly event calender.
- Plan and deliver monthly Community based outings and school/college holiday activities (cinema, bowling, surfing etc.) Participants to pay own costs
- Ensure all activities are planned and delivered within identified Budget
- Ensure Security and Health and Safety/Risk Assessments are in place
- Identify additional Transition support needs for club members and signpost to relevant teams
- Work with Carmarthen County Council to promote awareness of the group to potential new members
- Supervise and support Youth Session, Young Learning Disabled and Peer Mentor workers
- Collate 1 Page Profiles for each service User
- Co-ordinate with local schools to train and accredit 10 x Peer Mentors per qtr (40/annum)
- Ensure Hall and Equipment is ready for each session and left in appropriate condition
- Travel training where appropriate

- Support and deliver weekly session plans agreed with Short Break Transition Managers
- Supervise and support Young Learning Disabled session workers and Peer Mentors
- Assist with completion of 1 Page Profile for each service user
- Work with Carmarthen County Council to promote awareness to potential new members
- Ensure Hall and Equipment is ready for each session and left in appropriate condition
- Assist in planning monthly activity calendar
- Ensure Security & Health and Safety/Risk Assessments in place
- Support community trips

3 x Young Learning Disabled Session Workers

- Assist Youth Session Workers in delivery of agreed session plans
- Provide Peer support to service users
- Ensure Hall and Equipment is ready for each session and left in appropriate condition
- Support monthly community based activity and holiday plans

3 x Peer Mentors

- Complete Accredited Peer Mentor Training Package
- Provide minimum 1 hr per week Peer Mentor support at school
- Provide Peer support at Mix sessions
- Assist with community activities
- Provide support during school/college holiday sessions
- Assist in planning monthly activity calendar

Single Site Costs

(See **Appendix 1 "Mix Working Model"** for full cost/benefit analysis).

The example below shows costs to support a single site "**Mix**" environment similar to the current arrangements in Llandybie. The figures are based on existing building arrangements and a staffing mix of ;

- 2 x Full Time Short Break Transition Managers
- 3 x P/T Youth Session workers (2 hrs / session)
- 3 x P/T Learning Disabled Youth Workers (2 hrs /session)
- 3 x Accredited Peer Mentors (2 hrs / session)\

The single site model for Llandybie running 2 sessions per week for up to 60 service users per session would provide 10,400 hrs/annum of high quality transition focussed respite care for as little as £5.35 per hour per service user. There would be minimal additional costs for Transition activities delivered outside of *Mix* club environment as they will encompass part of the Full Time Short Break Transition managers core responsibilities. Participants attending Community based activities (meals out, cinema, bowling, surfing, craft day etc) will pay their own costs.

	Llandybie single session/wk	Llandybie 2 sessions/wk
Average short break cost per participant per hour	£9.09	£5.35
Available short break capacity hours per annum	6,240 hours	12,480 hours
Total Cost per annum	£56,749	£66,714

Dual Site Costs

(See *Appendix 1 "Mix Working Model"* for full cost/benefit analysis).

The provision of a second site would allow potential service users currently restricted by time/travel constraints from attending Llandybie to attend a more convenient location. It would probably be best placed in the Carmarthen area where it would similarly benefit Peer Mentors living or attending schools in the Carmarthen area. The costs are based on similar building arrangements to Llandybie and include an additional Full Time Short Break Transition Manager. The 3 x Full Time Short Break Transition Managers would not be site specific and hence would support both centres and all eligible young people with learning difficulties across the County.

- 3 x Full Time Short Break Transition Managers
- 3 x P/T Youth Session workers (2 hrs / session)

3 x P/T Learning Disabled Youth Workers (2 hrs /session)

3 x Accredited Peer Mentors (2 hrs / session)

See **Appendix 1 “Mix Working Model”** for full cost/benefit analysis.

	Llandybie single session/wk	Llandybie 2 sessions/wk	Llandybie + Carmarthen single session/wk	Llandybie + Carmarthen 2 sessions per week
Average short break cost per participant/hr	£12.62	£7.11	£7.33	£4.48
Available short break capacity hours/annum	6,240 hours	12,480 hours	12,480 hours	24,960 hours
Total Cost/annum	£78,749	£88,717	£91,497	£111,935

The models show that this safe, stimulating, socially integrated & Transition focussed model is cost effective & scalable. The 2 site option similarly catering for up to 60 service users attending twice per week would mean the County could offer a total of 24,960 hours/annum of Short Break support for as little as £4.48 per hour per service user.

Summary

“*The Mix*” model would secure and increase the Short Break & Transition opportunities for young people with learning difficulties in Carmarthenshire. It provides for a regular, fun, safe, stimulating and Transition focussed social environment accessible to families before their needs become critical.

The model helps fill some of the vacuum left by the closure of the Real Opportunities programme and reduces the likelihood of a surge in demand for Short Break support at Carmarthenshires remaining residential centres. It also provides a platform to build on the work of the past 3 years delivering a greater return on the European and match funded investment already made. Embracing a 16–30 age group helps broaden social skills and deliver cost efficient integration of adult and youth service support.

Full time staffing would allow for the restoration of the highly valued Peer Mentor programme benefiting mainstream and learning disabled young people, their schools, colleges and the wider community. The mix of social and Transition support helps prepare young learning disabled people for further education and provides paid work experience in an appropriately supervised environment. “*The Mix*” Peer Mentors and Committee would welcome an early opportunity to discuss this or any other proposals to support young people with learning difficulties in their Short Break and Transition needs.

MIX CLUB SINGLE SITE OPTION		
	Weekly cost @ 1 session/wk	Weekly Cost @ 2 session/wk
Short Break Transition Manager	£1,269.23	£1,269.23
Learning Disabled Youth Worker	£37.86	£75.72
Youth Session Workers	£60.00	£120.00
Equipment Refresh	£57.69	£86.54
Hall Hire	£50.00	£100.00
Insurance/Liability Cover	£9.62	£9.62
Admin Costs	£30.00	£45.00
TOTAL WEEKLY COST	£1,514.40	£1,706.10
ANNUAL COST	£78,748.72	£88,717.44
Cost per Service User/wk	£25.24	£28.44
Average Short Break Cost/hr	£12.62	£7.11
TOTAL SHORT BREAK HRS/ANNUM	6240	12480

MIX CLUB DUAL SITE OPTION		
	Weekly cost @ 1 session/wk	Weekly Cost @ 2 session/wk
Short Break Transition Manager	£0.00	£0.00
Learning Disabled Youth Worker	£37.86	£75.72
Youth Session Workers	£60.00	£120.00
Equipment Refresh	£57.69	£86.54
Hall Hire	£50.00	£100.00
Insurance/Liability Cover	£9.62	£19.23
Admin Costs	£30.00	£45.00
TOTAL WEEKLY COST	£245.17	£446.49
ANNUAL COST	£12,748.72	£23,217.44
ANNUAL COST (2 sites)	£91,497.44	£111,934.88
Cost per Service User/wk	£14.66	£17.94
Average Short Break Cost/hr	£7.33	£4.48
TOTAL SHORT BREAK HRS/ANNUM	12480	24960

ANNUAL COST ITEMISATION		
Short Break Transition Manager	£66,000.00	assumes average salary £22K per annum
Learning Disabled Youth workers	£1,968.72	2 hrs per week @ £6.31/hr/ worker
Youth Session Workers	£3,120.00	2 hrs per week @ £10.00/hr/ worker
Equipment Refresh	£3,000.00	
Hall Hire	£2,600.00	Sports hall + youth centre
Insurance Liability Cover	£500.00	
Admin Costs	£1,560.00	Mentor leaflets/Newsletters/Badges/Calls etc
TOTAL	£78,748.72	

*Peer Mentors are Volunteers & are not salaried

Average Number of Service Users Llandybie	60
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Average Number of Service Users Carmarthen	60
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Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid
Minister for Finance



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JH /00326/14

Aled Davies
Tyler Payne

mailto:mail@changemail.org

28 July 2014

Dear Aled and Tyler

I am writing in response to your petition regarding the Regional SEN Transition into Employment Initiative (Real Opportunities Project) that is currently being supported through the 2007–2013 European Structural Fund programmes. I am responding as the European Structural Funds programmes fall within my Ministerial portfolio.

I am pleased that European Structural Funds has supported such a successful project, which has helped you and the lives of some 1760 young people and their families in Wales.

The project started in September 2010 and was initially due to finish on 30 September 2013, but was later extended by WEFO to September 2014. I understand that Caerphilly County Borough Council, the lead project sponsor, recently requested an additional extension which would have required additional EU funding, but unfortunately, due to current ESF programme 2007–2013 commitment levels, WEFO was unable to agree to this request.

I am pleased, however, that the new European Structural Funds programmes 2014–2020, which are currently being negotiated with the European Commission, include dedicated investment priorities to support youth employment and attainment in Wales, as these are high priorities for the Welsh Government. WEFO recognises the achievements of the Regional SEN project and is keen to see the activity continue. It has therefore encouraged Caerphilly Council to explore opportunities for funding within these new programmes and to submit a new project proposal to help progress discussions as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,
Jane Hutt

Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid
Minister for Finance

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)
Pack Page 254

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