

Agenda – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: 9 January 2018

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

Graeme Francis – Committee Clerk

Kath Thomas – Deputy Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

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Natural Resources Wales

- John Wheadon, Permitting Service Manager
- Adam Cooper, Senior Permitting Officer

Cefas

- David Carlin, Science Director
- Kins Leonard, Head of Radiological Protection

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6 Discussion of Previous Evidence Session

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 2.1

P-05-791 Terminate Private Parking Contracts at Welsh Hospitals

This petition was submitted by Nick Harding having collected 102 signatures online.

Petition text

It has been nearly 10 years since the Welsh Government abolished hospital parking charges yet Cardiff and Vale UHB still contracts Indigo Parking UK who ruthlessly rack up charges against hard working NHS staff and sick patients. The members of society who can least afford it!

It is time to terminate private parking contracts across Welsh hospitals with immediate effect and stop these companies charging the weak and vulnerable.

Additional Information

This petition aims to show support for those who have been charged by enforcement companies like Indigo Parking UK, often when they are at their most in need.

Removing these companies should be a matter of Law and it should be shown that they are not welcome in Wales.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff Central
- South Wales Central

Briefing for the Petitions Committee

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 9 Ionawr 2018
Petitions Committee | 9 January 2018

e-Petition number: [P-05-791](#)

Petition title: **Terminate Private Parking Contracts at Welsh Hospitals**

Text of petition:

It has been nearly 10 years since the Welsh Government abolished hospital parking charges yet Cardiff and Vale UHB still contracts Indigo Parking UK who ruthlessly rack up charges against hard working NHS staff and sick patients. The members of society who can least afford it!

It is time to terminate private parking contracts across Welsh hospitals with immediate effect and stop these companies charging the weak and vulnerable.

Additional Information:

This petition aims to show support for those who have been charged by enforcement companies like Indigo Parking UK, often when they are at their most in need.

Removing these companies should be a matter of Law and it should be shown that they are not welcome in Wales.

Background

In March 2008, the then Health Minister, Edwina Hart AM, [announced](#) that free parking would apply from 1 April 2008 at all NHS hospitals, except where external contracts were in place. The former NHS Trusts that had external contracts in place were expected to reduce parking fees, and were required to propose and fund schemes to reduce costs until contracts expired or ended.

With regards to Welsh NHS hospital sites that currently have [parking contracts](#) still in place, Barry Hospital, St David's Hospital and University Hospital Llandough sites have parking contracts with Parking Eye which end on 31 October 2018 and the University Hospital of Wales (UHW) Cardiff site has a parking contract with Indigo that ends in March 2018.

The cost of parking at UHW has been [frozen](#) and has not risen with inflation since 2008. Patients who require an extended period of treatment or relatives visiting for an extended period can purchase an Alpha Pass which offers a reduced rate.

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and Indigo, the company who manage parking on the UHW site, have agreed a [new set of measures](#) to improve the car parking on the UHW site which came into force on 1 April 2016. A series of short term measures were put in place, with a view to providing longer term, more sustainable solutions that aim to improve access and traffic flow as well as parking facilities.

As part of a re-negotiated contract, Indigo agreed to suspend the enforcement of parking charge notices to the end of March 2016. As of 1 April 2016, new contractual arrangements are in place until the contract with Indigo ceases in 2018.

Welsh Government action

The Welsh Government's response to the petition confirms that there is an external car parking contract in place at UHW until March 2018 and that where external contracts have been in place, the NHS organisations were asked to reduce costs until the contracts ended. The response also notes that the costs of withdrawing from the individual contracts were considered prohibitive.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-791
Ein cyf/Our ref VG/02792/17

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@gov.wales

21 November 2017

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 23 October regarding Petition P-05-791 from Nick Harding regarding terminating private parking contracts at Welsh hospitals.

I note the issues raised in the petition.

Since 1 April 2008 car parking on all health board and NHS trust sites in Wales has been provided free of charge, except where external contracts are in place. I note that this is not the position in England. Where external contracts were in place at that time NHS organisations were asked to reduce costs until these contracts ended. The costs of withdrawing from the individual contracts were considered prohibitive.

There is an external car parking contract in place at the University Hospital Wales (UHW) which expires in March 2018 and after this on site parking will be free. It is one of only three remaining hospitals in Wales that still charge for car parking and all the external contracts will end in 2018.

The UHW is the largest hospital in Wales with over 16,000 vehicles entering the site each day. Cardiff and Vale University Health Board has introduced measures to manage car parking on the site. This has been done for operational reasons. It is to take action to prevent illegal parking and to ensure pedestrian safety and access for emergency vehicles.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

After the external contract expires in 2018 at UHW and it is free to park for patients, staff and visitors the Health Board will still need to manage their car parking on a day to day basis. The need for appropriate enforcement measures for illegal parking and similar transgressions will still apply. As parking will be free the Health Board will also need to ensure that those parking at the site are there to use the hospital.

The cases that went to court involve multiple outstanding car parking charges for illegal and unsafe parking by staff incurred over the last year. I understand 98% of the staff comply with the car parking arrangements on site.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V'.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services

Agenda Item 2.2

P-05-792 Petition to extend the 40mph speed limit in Blaenporth.

This petition was submitted by Rosemarie Chaffers-Jones having collected 74 signatures on paper and 1 signature online.

Text of Petition

We the undersigned do hereby petition the Welsh Assembly to extend the 40mph speed limit on the A487 to the parish boundary where the 50 mph limit begins.

At present the 40mph limit ends before what was the local school at Lon-Yr-Ysgol road. The school has now closed, however the children are still here as they are now picked up at the Lon-Yr-Ysgol bus stop where they wait, sometimes accompanied by parents with toddlers, for the school bus. In the afternoon, when they are dropped off at the end of the day it is a different situation in that the children have to negotiate the A487 from the opposite side of the road.

The speed limit at the point where the children have to cross the road is 60mph and traffic, which has been released from the 40mph zone, speeds up and very often overtakes on this straight stretch of road. On the far side of the road there is no slow children crossing sign, no bus stop sign, no bus shelter to give motorists warning of pedestrians crossing.

This is also the point where the disabled access ramp is positioned on both sides of the road which is used not just by disabled but also parents with pushchairs and the elderly with walking frames etc.

There has already been one fatality on this stretch of road and just last week another big vehicle crashed off the road and through the hedge breaking down a large section of fence.

I believe it is only a matter of time before we lose a child.

Since the road speed limit was set, a solar farm has been built with access onto this stretch of road and additional traffic. Also the old school buildings have become a business park with a chip shop, a chiropractor, carpet warehouse, car wash and more to come.

This has all led to an increase in heavy traffic turning into and attempting to exit Lon-Yr-Ysgol.

This petition requests that the Welsh Assembly puts the safety of our children first and foremost and extend the 40mph zone to include the entire stretch of the A487 within the parish boundary.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Ceredigion
- Mid and West Wales

Petition: Road Safety Improvements Along the A487.

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 9 Ionawr 2018
Petitions Committee | 9 January 2018

Research Briefing:

Petition number: P-05-792

Petition title: Petition to extend the 40mph speed limit in Blaenporth.

Text of petition:

We the undersigned do hereby petition the Welsh Assembly to extend the 40mph speed limit on the A487 to the parish boundary where the 50mph limit begins.

At present the 40mph limit ends before what was the local school at Lon-Yr-Ysgol road. The school has now closed, however the children are still here as they are now picked up at the Lon-Yr-Ysgol bus stop where they wait, sometimes accompanied by parents with toddlers, for the school bus. In the afternoon, when they are dropped off at the end of the day it is a different situation in that the children have to negotiate the A487 from the opposite side of the road.

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There has already been one fatality on this stretch of road and just last week another big vehicle crashed off the road and through the hedge breaking down a large section of fence.

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This has all led to an increase in heavy traffic turning into and attempting to exit Lon-Yr-

Ysgol.

This petition requests that the Welsh Assembly puts the safety of our children first and foremost and extend the 40mph zone to include the entire stretch of the A487 within the parish boundary.

Background

The A487 trunk road forms part of the north–south network of trunk roads linking Fishguard in Pembrokeshire with north Wales. A map of the Welsh trunk road network is available [here](#).

The Welsh Government is the highway authority for the Welsh trunk road and motorway network, including the A487. Maintenance and operation of the A487 north of Cardigan is the responsibility of the [North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent](#). The Welsh Government is responsible for the safety of the trunk road network.

The *Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008* (as amended) sets out school travel policy for Wales. Section 2 of the Measure establishes a duty to assess learner travel needs. [Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance](#) (2014) (PDF 800KB) makes clear that in assessing learner travel needs the local authority must **have regard to**:

The nature of the route that the learner is expected to take between home and the places where they receive education or training.

The [Welsh Government’s Road Safety Framework](#) (2013), sets out the Government’s road safety targets and associated actions. For all Welsh roads by 2020 the Welsh Government wants to see the following compared to the average for 2004–2008:

- 40% fewer people killed and seriously injured on Welsh roads;
- 25% fewer motorcyclists killed and seriously injured on Welsh; and
- 40% fewer young people (aged 16–24) killed and seriously injured on Welsh roads.

Paragraph 53 of the Framework says:

We recognise the importance of having safe school transport for all learners. The safety record of dedicated school transport in Wales is very good – we must work to ensure that this remains the case.

The Welsh Government issued guidance on [Setting Local Speed Limits in Wales](#) in 2009. This guidance is to be used in setting “all local speed limits on trunk and county roads”.

Welsh Government Action

In 2013 the Welsh Government undertook a Trunk Road Safety Review. As indicated in the Cabinet Secretary’s letter to the Chair of the Petitions Committee, following this review a 40mph speed limit was introduced on a section of the A487 at Blaenporth in 2014.

The Welsh Government has [mapped the results of the road safety review](#). This indicates that the review concluded that the 60mph speed limit should be retained either side of the 40mph zone, with no engineering works or other road safety interventions proposed.

However, the Cabinet Secretary's letter concludes:

We have recently commenced a three year Speed Limit Review looking at road safety issues at over 600 sites on all trunk roads in Wales. I have asked my officials to take on board the comments raised within the petition as part of this process, when this section of the A487 is reviewed.

The Cabinet Secretary referred to this review [in Plenary on 29 March 2017](#):

I am looking this year.....at the speed limit review, which is a review that examines whether speed limits should be reduced in congested areas, especially where there are schools. I'm looking to update that this very year because, as I said, I think it's imperative that we do reduce the speed at which vehicles are travelling outside and near schools.

National Assembly for Wales action

Research Service has found no record of reference to the extension of the 40mph speed limit at Blaenporth referred to in this petition.

As the Cabinet Secretary's letter indicates, the Petitions Committee in the Fourth Assembly considered a petition calling for "[a mandatory 40mph speed limit on the A487 at Blaenporth Ceredigion](#)". The petition was first considered in October 2012 and closed in September 2013 following confirmation from the then Minister that a 40mph speed limit was planned for introduction in early 2014.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

Ken Skates AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-792
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/03934/17

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

24 November 2017

Dear *David,*

Thank you for your letter of 30 October regarding Petition P-05-792, to extend the 40mph speed limit in Blaenporth.

We have recently introduced a 40mph restriction on a section of the A487 at Blaenporth to improve road safety. However, I fully appreciate the continued concerns within the community.

The petitioner may wish to be aware that under the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 (the Measure), local authorities have a duty to risk assess walked routes to school, including walked routes between home and pick-up/drop off points.

Parents and learners have a right to request that the local authority assesses the safety of the route described and to accompany the risk assessors along the route to explain their concerns.

More widely, section 2 of the Measure also places a statutory duty on local authorities to assess the travel needs of learners. Travel needs are defined as the needs of learners in terms of the travel arrangements between home and school. The safety of the walked route and the route between home and the pick-up/drop-off point is fundamental to such travel arrangements.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Pack Page 44

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

In addition, we have recently commenced a three year Speed Limit Review looking at road safety issues at over 600 sites on all trunk roads in Wales. I have asked my officials to take on board the comments raised within the petition as part of this process, when this section of the A487 is reviewed.

The results will be made available online and any works arising from the wider review will be programmed over the next three to four years.

Yours ever,

Ken

Ken Skates AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport

**P-05-792 Petition to extend the 40mph speed limit in Blaenporth. –
Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee, 02.01.18**

In response to the information sent to me may I respond as follows.

1. As the number of school closures in Ceredigion moves on it has become impossible sadly, for our children to walk to school. I believe the use of 'lollypop' ladies has also reduced and as there is no street light on these dark mornings or evenings and no bus stop for people to shelter in I am at a loss as to what to suggest other than to reduce the speed limit.
2. The community has tried to get a bus stop but were told the people must wait in the bus stop on the other side of the road and then cross when they see the bus coming. Not a task to be undertaken lightly when traffic is moving at 60+mph.
3. In addition we have had another vehicle attempting to overtake which ended up upside down in the hedgerow just before where the children wait. Another lucky escape as they have no protection whatsoever.
4. The section I refer to is a straight, downhill section where drivers are inclined to pick up speed after leaving Tanygroes.
5. Another planning application has been submitted by the business site for car sales so more traffic at this particular junction.

My apologies for the last minute submission of these points due to me having only just returned from America visiting family.

Kind regards

Rosemarie Chaffers-Jones

Agenda Item 2.3

Petition P-05-793 Hi speed broadband to Llangenny village

This petition was submitted by Llangenny Village residents having collected 72 signatures online.

Petition text

We, the residents of Llangenny village in Powys call upon the National Assembly for Wales to ensure that Welsh Government manage their contract for hi speed broadband in Wales with BT in such a way that Llangenny village is connected to hi speed by 31st December 2017.

Additional information

At present residents in our village experience regular loss of service or speeds as low as 0.01Mb/s. Several residents run businesses or voluntary organisations from home and need hi speed broadband. The current service is completely unacceptable.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Brecon and Radnorshire
- Mid and West Wales

Broadband

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 9 Ionawr 2018

Petitions Committee | 9 January 2018

Research Briefing:

Petition number: P-05-793

Petition title: High Speed Broadband to Llangenny village

Text of petition:

We, the residents of Llangenny village in Powys call upon the National Assembly for Wales to ensure that Welsh Government manage their contract for hi speed broadband in Wales with BT in such a way that Llangenny village is connected to hi speed by 31st December 2017.

At present residents in our village experience regular loss of service or speeds as low as 0.01Mb/s. Several residents run businesses or voluntary organisations from home and need hi speed broadband. The current service is completely unacceptable.

Background

There are a number of UK and Welsh Government backed initiatives that seek to both extend broadband provision, and increase access to high-speed broadband.

Latest [research from Ofcom](#) shows that in 2017, more than 84% of households in Wales have access to the internet and almost eight in 10 households (78%) have access to fixed broadband at home.

Action by the Welsh Government

[Taking Wales Forward](#), the Programme for Government, includes a commitment to:

Bring people together digitally by offering fast reliable broadband to every property in Wales.

Superfast Cymru is the Welsh Government's scheme to roll out superfast broadband (typically speeds of 24 megabits per second or more) to about 96 per cent of Wales by the end of December 2017. This scheme is only active in areas that the Welsh Government has assessed would not otherwise be covered by market-driven rollout of broadband infrastructure. BT is delivering this scheme, using funding from the Welsh Government, the EU and the UK Government, alongside its own investment.

The project was originally working to a deadline of June 2016, but this was extended to June 2017 to enable BT to include a greater number of premises. BT then had a 6-month window to finish off any outstanding work before the contract's "drop-dead date" of 31 December 2017. The agreement with BT to deliver the Superfast Cymru project dictated that they provide access to superfast broadband to 690,000 premises by the end of December 2017. BT is giving evidence to the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee on 11 January 2018 to discuss progress it has made in meeting the contractual requirements of Superfast Cymru. A successor project to Superfast Cymru is being developed.

The Welsh Government runs two other schemes to improve broadband availability:

- [Access Broadband Cymru](#): grants of up to £800 are available where premises cannot currently access fast broadband;
- [Ultrafast Connectivity Voucher](#): grants of up to £10,000 are available to fund (or part-fund) the installation costs of new ultrafast connections for businesses in Wales.

Further detail is provided in the letter to the Chair from the Welsh Government.

Action by the UK Government

There will be some interaction between Welsh Government and UK Government initiatives in this policy area. In November 2015, the UK Government set out its intention to introduce a broadband universal service obligation (USO), which would give everyone in the UK a legal right to a fast (expected to be 10 Mbps) broadband connection on request, subject to a limitation on the cost to the provider of providing the service (similar to that which applies to the right to have a landline telephone). Enabling powers for a broadband USO were subsequently included in the *Digital Economy Act 2017* which received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017.

On 30 July 2017, the UK Government launched a consultation on the specification for a new broadband USO that would be set in secondary legislation. On the same day, it was announced that BT had made a detailed voluntary proposal for delivering universal broadband of at least 10Mbps to premises across the UK. The UK Government welcomed this proposal, as it had the potential to deliver better connections to people more quickly than under a regulatory route.

However, on 20 December 2017, [the UK Government confirmed](#) that it will not enter into a voluntary agreement with BT and the whole of the UK, subject to certain caveats, would have access to speeds of at least 10 Mbps by 2020.

National Assembly for Wales action

In its report into [Digital Infrastructure in Wales](#), published in September 2017, the Assembly's Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee called on the Welsh

Government to consider innovative ways to connect those areas of Wales without high-speed broadband access.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

Julie James AC/AM
Arweinydd y Tŷ a'r Prif Chwip
Leader of the House and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-793
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/05049/17

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

28 November 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 15 November enclosing a petition you have received from the residents of Llangenny Village regarding the provision of hi speed broadband services to the village by December 2017.

The agreement with BT to deliver the Superfast Cymru project dictated that they provide access to superfast broadband to 690,000 premises by the end of December 2017. However the agreement did not stipulate that any particular area take priority over another and or that connectivity work to an area was completed in one particular block of time. Similarly, the agreement sees no payment to BT until a connection to a specific property has been independently tested and verified.

There are also numerous factors that influence why BT reaches some premises but not others, and why forecast delivery dates can fluctuate significantly for individual premises. These factors are beyond the control of the Welsh Government and include a range of technical, civil engineering, geographical issues that in turn impact delivery cost or timescale and, ultimately, lead to alternative premises being taken forward to completion.

As such, it is impossible to ensure that all properties within Llangenny are provided with a superfast broadband connection by 31 December 2017 under the Superfast Cymru project.

The Welsh Government has announced a further £80million to extend broadband reach across Wales by 2020. A review of broadband connections across Wales has been completed to identify which premises will remain unserved by superfast broadband. The results will shape a new contract(s) to extend the availability of superfast broadband from 2018 onwards.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

In parallel, financial assistance will also remain available to secure a superfast broadband connection through alternative means through the Access Broadband Cymru (ABC) and Ultrafast Connectivity Voucher (UCV) schemes.

The ABC Scheme provides grants to fund (or part-fund) the installation costs of new broadband connections for homes and businesses in Wales (it does not include monthly rental costs). New connections through this scheme must deliver a step change in speed - with at least double current download speeds. The amount of funding received is dependent on the speed of the new connection.

The business focused Ultrafast Connectivity Voucher Scheme is also available if your business/constituent wishes to upgrade an existing connection to an ultrafast service (100+Mbps downstream, 30+Mbps upstream). The scheme provides up to £10,000 to fund (or part-fund) the installation costs of new ultrafast connections for businesses in Wales but does not include monthly rental costs. Further information on both schemes can be obtained by calling 0300 025 8887 or emailing broadband@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

I trust this clarifies the latest position and covers the issues raised.

Yours sincerely



Julie James AC/AM
Arweinydd y Tŷ a'r Prif Chwip
Leader of the House and Chief Whip

P-05-793 Hi speed broadband to Llangenny village – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 02.01.18

Thank you for your email

I appreciate that Welsh Government cannot prescribe which properties are connected and in what order.

However, I would make a number of points:

1. Despite this being a public contract and the connections being paid for by the public, it is impossible to get any accurate and truthful picture from BT about their plans and timescales. I have personally been advised by as BT director, through our Assembly member and on the phone to the call centre of three different dates; the end of November (past), the end of December (past) and the end of January. Kirsty Williams was advised 5 months from mid October. None of the promises so far have been kept and there is no sign of any future timescales being met. Welsh Government should ensure that BT are accountable to the public for their performance under this contract and are providing reliable and accurate information.
2. The Welsh Government contract should be targeted on improving the service to those villages which are receiving the worst low speed broadband including our own. By way of examples, we have GCSE students in the village who have to go to friends' houses to do their homework because the low speed broadband signal is so bad; a pub that cant take card payments because the signal is so bad and they are embarrassed and have to send customers home promising to do a bank transfer for the cost of their meals; farmers who cant fill in documentation for the Government on line because the signal drops out before it is completed (and who face fines for late returns); a woman who has to take holiday because the signal is too bad to log on to her employer's server. I am a coordinator of the Brecon Mountain Rescue Team and have to run rescues from home using the internet and I need a reliable service to do so.

Across the village, our broadband speeds are shocking. My phone can measure a signal as slow as 10kb/s (yes kilobytes!) and at times the signal has dropped below 5 kb/s meaning it records as 0.0 on the phone. That's slower than the old dial up speed and too slow to download emails let alone carry out any other sort of transaction.

I would urge the Committee to support our petition and urge Welsh Government to hold BT accountable for sorting out the broadband signal

Many thanks

Duncan Forbes

P-04-522 Asbestos in Schools

Petition wording:

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

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

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

Petition raised by: Cenric Clement-Evans

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 10 December 2013

Number of signatures: 448

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-522
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/01786/17

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

3 November 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 24 October following the Petitions Committee meeting on 17 October. You have raised two issues which I will address as they appear in your letter.

1. Whether, and how, the Welsh Government intends to share the results of its data collection into schools with asbestos plans;

My officials have written to each local authority asking them to complete a school condition survey report. This report includes a request for information about the presence of asbestos in schools and for confirmation that asbestos management plans are in place if necessary

When all data has been received my officials will analyse the survey information and update me. At present I have no plans for my officials to share the data; however I will consider the appropriate way forward when the information is to hand

2. When the Asbestos in Schools Working Group will meet to consider recent developments in England and their applicability to schools in Wales.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

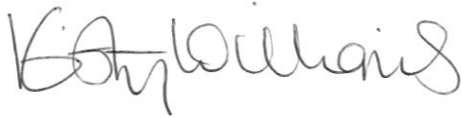
Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

My officials are planning a meeting of the Working Group in November to consider the developments in England and their relevance to schools in Wales. Key stakeholder groups will be invited to attend as necessary.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education

P-04-522 Asbestos in Schools – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee, 29.11.17

Dear Chair,

Once again may I thank this Committee for its continuing interest in this important issue. Whilst I broadly welcomed the letter of the Cabinet Secretary of the 16th June, I am afraid that the letter of the 5th November seems neither open nor transparent.

The Committee will no doubt be aware of the sad case reported by WalesOnline of a teacher dying from mesothelioma spending his final days in a hospice after being exposed to asbestos at the Newport College of Further Education.

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/former-teacher-living-final-days-13857602> It is avoid such cases in the future that I presented this petition seeking a right to know.

The response to the letter from the Committee asking about sharing the information collected from local authorities is opaque and unhelpful. It is also in sharp contrast to the position now being adopted by the UK Government with regard to schools in England and I refer to my email to the Committee of the 14th November 2017, when I brought to the attention of the Petitions Committee the response of the UK Government in mid-October 2017 to the report of the Public Accounts Committee of the 26th April 2017. I drew the Committee's attention to both Recommendation 5 of the PAC and the response of UK Government that it agrees that the Department for Education should set out a plan by December 2017 including enabling it to understand the prevalence, condition and management of asbestos in the school estate.

I would respectfully ask the Cabinet Secretary be asked whether it is intended that similar action be taken in Wales, if not then it would seem that schools in Wales are less well-served than those in England. I have set out for convenience the relevant passages,

“5. The Department still does not know enough about the state of the school estate, meaning that it cannot make well-informed decisions about how best to use its limited resources. The Department now has a better understanding of the condition of school buildings after completing a survey of the estate in 2014. This property data survey estimated that it would cost £6.7 billion to return all school buildings to satisfactory or better condition, and a further £7.1 billion to bring parts of school buildings from satisfactory to good condition. Much of the school estate is over 40 years old, with 60% built before 1976. The Department estimates that the cost of dealing with major defects will double between 2015-16 and 2020-21, even with

current levels of investment, as many buildings near the end of their useful lives. The property data survey did not assess the safety or suitability of school buildings or the extent of asbestos. Over 80% of schools responding to a separate survey by the Department had asbestos, with 19% reporting that they were not complying with asbestos management guidance. However, only a quarter of schools responded to the survey, meaning that the Department does not have a complete picture. The Department estimates that it would cost at least £100 billion to replace the entire school estate which it believes would be the only way to eradicate asbestos from school buildings. The Department is undertaking a second property data survey but, until this is complete, it cannot assess reliably how the school estate is changing and does not know the extent to which its funding is helping to improve the condition of school buildings.

Recommendation: The Department should set out a plan by December 2017 for how it will fill gaps in its knowledge about the school estate in areas not covered by the property data survey. Specifically it needs to understand the prevalence, condition and management of asbestos, and know more about the general suitability and safety of school buildings.

UK Government Response October 2017

“5 : Committee of Public Accounts conclusions : The Department still does not know enough about the state of the school estate, meaning that it cannot make well – informed decisions about how best to use its limited resources .

Recommendation: The Department should set out a plan by December 2017 for how it will fill gaps in its knowledge about the school estate in areas not covered by the property data survey. Specifically it needs to understand the prevalence, condition and management of asbestos, and know more about the general suitability and safety of school buildings .

5.1 The Government agrees with the Committee’s recommendation.”

I am aware that this has been drawn to the attention of the Cabinet Secretary by Dawn Bowden AM as Chair of the Asbestos CPG. I enclose a copy of her letter of the 14th November and the response of the Cabinet Secretary of 24th November. I would suggest that the lack of clarity and lack of urgency speak for themselves.

On the 16th June the Cabinet Secretary wrote to the Chair of the Committee, “My officials are now in the process of organising a Working Group meeting in Wales to consider these developments in England and their relevance to schools in Wales. Key stakeholder groups will be invited to this meeting”

It would now appear from her letter of the 3rd November in response to a simple question from the Chair of the Committee asking as to when the meeting was to take place that a meeting was to have taken place some 5 months after her earlier letter. Surprisingly the date was not provided and one can only assume that the letter from the Petitions Committee has prompted action.

“My officials are planning a meeting of the Working Group in November to consider the developments in England and their relevance to schools in Wales. Key stakeholder groups will be invited to attend as necessary.”

The final sentence is also concerning in that the words “as necessary” appear to be a rowing back from the statement in the 16th June.

It would appear that since then there have been further developments, and in addition to the Cabinet Secretary’s letter of the 24th November, I refer to the question asked by the Chair of the Asbestos CPG on the 21st November to Leader of the House on the 21st November. You will note her reply that there is to be a consultation early in 2018 on the revised asbestos management in schools guidelines before then a further meeting of the asbestos in schools group is invited, when key stakeholders are to be invited.

Can I take this first formal chance to congratulate the Leader of the House in her new role and wish her well in her work? Can I please request that the Cabinet Secretary for Education bring forward a statement to update the Assembly on the important issue of asbestos in school buildings? We know from representations to the Petitions Committee and also from some related correspondence that the Welsh Government has now formed a working group on the issue and I hope you would agree that we would all now benefit from hearing more about this work as part of our Plenary business.¹⁰⁸

The cross-party group on asbestos, which I chair, is also keen to ensure that the working group is based upon the principles of social partnership that’s reflected in the work of this Welsh Government, so can I ask that the statement also addresses the membership of the working group, the terms of reference, and the forward work programme?¹⁰⁹

A gaf i achub ar y cyfle ffurfiol cyntaf hwn i longyfarch Arweinydd y Tŷ yn ei swyddogaeth newydd a dymuno'n dda iddi yn ei gwaith? A gaf i ofyn, os gwelwch yn dda, i Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg gyflwyno datganiad i roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Cynulliad ar y mater pwysig o asbestos mewn adeiladau ysgolion?

Gwyddom o sylwadau i'r Pwyllgor Deisebau a hefyd o ohebiaeth berthnasol fod Llywodraeth Cymru erbyn hyn wedi ffurfio gweithgor ar y mater ac rwy'n gobeithio y byddech yn cytuno y byddai o fudd i bawb glywed mwy am y gwaith hwn fel rhan o fusnes y Cyfarfod Llawn.

Mae'r grŵp trawsbleidiol ar asbestos, yr wyf yn ei gadeirio, hefyd yn awyddus i sicrhau bod gwaith y gweithgor yn seiliedig ar yr egwyddorion o bartneriaeth gymdeithasol sy'n bodoli yng ngwaith y Llywodraeth hon. Felly a gaf i ofyn hefyd fod y datganiad yn ymdrin ag aelodaeth y gweithgor, y cylch gorchwyl a'r rhaglen waith yn y dyfodol?

14:30



Julie James AM 14:30:11

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The Member has taken a keen interest in this—and thank you very much for your kind remarks at the beginning there. My understanding is that the asbestos management in schools working group has decided that a consultation should take place early in 2018 on the revised asbestos management in schools guidance for Wales, and at the end of the consultation period a meeting will be convened with all the key stakeholders, including the union representatives. I'm sure that the Member will be able to take part in that. And I'm sure that once that's happened, the Cabinet Secretary will be very pleased to update the Assembly on the position once the working group and the consultation has had the opportunity to go forward. 110

Mae'r Aelod wedi ymddiddori'n frwd yn hyn—a diolch yn fawr iawn am eich sylwadau caredig ar y dechrau. Fy nealltwriaeth i yw bod y gweithgor ar reoli asbestos mewn ysgolion wedi penderfynu y dylid cynnal ymgynghoriad yn gynnar yn 2018 ar ganllawiau diwygiedig ar reoli asbestos mewn ysgolion yng Nghymru, ac

ar ddiwedd y cyfnod ymgynghori bydd yr holl randdeiliaid allweddol, gan gynnwys cynrychiolwyr undebau, yn ymgynnull mewn cyfarfod. Rwy'n siŵr y bydd yr Aelod yn gallu cymryd rhan yn hynny. Ac rwy'n siŵr, pan fydd hynny wedi digwydd, y bydd Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet yn falch iawn o roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Cynulliad ar y sefyllfa pan fydd y gweithgor a'r ymgynghoriad wedi cael cyfle i symud ymlaen.

Perhaps understandably, there is no detail from the Leader of the House as to dates of the consultation and no date for the meeting when key stakeholders will be invited. I would remind the committee however that it was on the 16th June that the Cabinet Secretary advised of her decision, which as the Committee will recall I broadly welcomed, but making suggestions as to likely stakeholders. It seems that if we are further forward, then it is not far and progress is at snail's pace.

Finally I have shared this correspondence with Joseph Carter, the Head of the British Lung Foundation in Wales. I attach his letter of the 23rd November and I trust that note will be taken of its contents.

In summary the Committee is asked whether it would ask the Cabinet Secretary the following questions,

1. Whether she intends to follow the example adopted by UK Government and have a plan prepared allowing Welsh Government and/or UK Government to understand the prevalence, condition and management of asbestos, and know more about the general suitability and safety of school buildings in Wales and if so when is it proposed that such a plan be delivered?
2. When is the consultation referred to by her to commence and close?
3. When will the results of the consultation be released?
4. When will the meeting take to which key stakeholders will be invited?
5. Who are the proposed key stakeholders and how has this been determined?

Once again I thank you for your further consideration.

Diolch o galon

Cenric Clement-Evans

29.11.17

Kirsty Williams AM

Cabinet Secretary for Education

Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA

14th November 2017

Dear _____,

CROSS PARTY GROUP ON ASBESTOS: ASBESTOS IN SCHOOLS

You may be aware that I chair the CPG on Asbestos and have therefore followed with interest your correspondence with Mike Hedges AM dated 16th June 2017 (your ref KW/00885/17), 16th October to Rebecca Evans AM (your ref KW/01628/17) and to David Rowlands AM on 3rd November 2017 (your ref KW/10886/17).

1. Working Group

The CPG has an interest in learning far more about the “Working Group” that is referenced in these letters: the membership, remit and work programmes. The CPG is very keen to ensure that appropriate voices (e.g. the trade unions and other expert advice) are available to the Working Group based on our standard practice of social partnership work in Wales. This very matter has been referred by the CPG for the attention of the Trade Union members of the Workforce Partnership Council.

Clearly if your Working Group is meeting imminently then there is a need for **early clarification** on this matter so I can seek to satisfy the members of the CPG about the actions being taken here in Wales.

Can you please assist me with further information on the Working Group?

2. CPG – January 17th 2018

The CPG next meets on 17th January and I wondered whether at that point you could arrange to have us updated on the work of the Working Group, indeed whether there is someone available to address the CPG on that date?

3. PAC report

My attention has been drawn to the report of the House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts report – Capital funding for schools – published on 26th April 2017. In particular Recommendation 5, and the response of the UK Government as contained in appendix one to this letter.

I hope this letter can receive your early attention and we can provide members of this CPG with further clarity around the important issue of tackling asbestos in schools in Wales.

Yours sincerely

Dawn Bowden AM

Appendix One

“5. The Department still does not know enough about the state of the school estate, meaning that it cannot make well-informed decisions about how best to use its limited resources. The Department now has a better understanding of the condition of school buildings after completing a survey of the estate in 2014. This property data survey estimated that it would cost £6.7 billion to return all school buildings to satisfactory or better condition, and a further £7.1 billion to bring parts of school buildings from satisfactory to good condition. Much of the school estate is over 40 years old, with 60% built before 1976. The Department estimates that the cost of Capital funding for schools dealing with major defects will double between 2015–16 and 2020–21, even with current levels of investment, as many buildings near the end of their useful lives.

The property data survey did not assess the safety or suitability of school buildings or the extent of asbestos. Over 80% of schools responding to a separate survey by the Department had asbestos, with 19% reporting that they were not complying with asbestos management guidance. However, only a quarter of schools responded to the survey, meaning that the Department does not have a complete picture. The Department estimates that it would cost at least £100 billion to replace the entire school estate which it believes would be the only way to eradicate asbestos from school buildings. The Department is undertaking a second property data survey but, until this is complete, it cannot assess reliably how the school estate is

changing and does not know the extent to which its funding is helping to improve the condition of school buildings.

Recommendation: The Department should set out a plan by December 2017 for how it will fill gaps in its knowledge about the school estate in areas not covered by the property data survey. Specifically it needs to understand the prevalence, condition and management of asbestos, and know more about the general suitability and safety of school buildings.

UK Government Response October 2017

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Recommendation: The Department should set out a plan by December 2017 for how it will fill gaps in its knowledge about the school estate in areas not covered by the property data survey. Specifically it needs to understand the prevalence, condition and management of asbestos, and k now more about the general suitability and safety of school buildings.

5.1 The Government agrees with the Committee’s recommendation.”

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05089/17

Dawn Bowden AM
Assembly Member for Merthyr
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dawn.Bowden@assembly.wales

24 November 2017

Dear Dawn,

Thank you for your letter of 14 November in respect of the Asbestos Management in Schools Working Group in Wales. For ease of reference I will address the issues you raise in the order in which they appear in your letter.

Working Group

The Asbestos Management in Schools Working Group currently comprises Welsh Government officials, representatives of Public Health and the Health and Safety Executive. The function of the Working Group is to review the current guidance for Wales and update when required; review and discuss the ongoing work of the English Government with respect to asbestos management in schools; and make recommendations where appropriate for new policy strands in this field.

The terms of reference for the Welsh Asbestos Management in Schools Working Group differ from those for the Department for Education (DfE) in England Asbestos in Schools Steering Group and this reflects the complementary role of the two groups. As asbestos in schools presents similar problems in both England and Wales, we are satisfied that the work carried out in England will provide the Welsh Government with enough information to take any appropriate action.

When developments occur the Welsh Ministers will consider the implications for Wales with respect to guidance and policy decisions.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Most recently, the Working Group has agreed that they would consult with all relevant stakeholders, including unions, early in 2018 on revised Asbestos Management in Schools guidance for Wales. A further meeting will be held with these key stakeholders to discuss their responses.

My officials will write shortly to make stakeholders aware of the forthcoming consultation and to arrange a meeting to discuss this matter.

CPG Meeting - January 2018

As we will have only begun our consultation process shortly before your meeting, I suggest that it would be more appropriate for my officials to forward you a written update.

House of Commons PAC Report Recommendation

Members of the Working Group, including my officials, continue to monitor developments in England, most recently at the November DfE Steering Group meeting.

At the Asbestos Management in Schools Working Group meeting in Cardiff on 16 November it was agreed that development plans in England, and their relevance to Wales will be considered. In the meantime, my officials continue to review the information held on this issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education

Cenric Clement-Evans
Secretary of the Cross-Party Group on Asbestos
Helmont House
Churchill Way
Cardiff
CF10 2HE



23 November 2017

Dear Cenric

Asbestos petition

Following sight of the letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Education to the Chair of the Petitions Committee on 03 November 2017, I would like to enter this correspondence from the British Lung Foundation into the debate.

Whilst we were pleased by some aspects of the letter there were other areas that left unanswered questions and we would like to query it.

Data collection

We were pleased to hear that local authorities will be required to report on asbestos in their school condition survey report. This is a positive development but were concerned that there are 'no plans for ... officials to share the data.' Whilst we appreciate the need not to create alarm we feel this should be published so that the public are aware of the risks to lung health as result of the asbestos.

Asbestos in Schools Working Group

We were pleased to learn that the Asbestos in Schools Working Group will meet to consider recent developments in England, but we still remain concerned about the membership of this body. We believe (and this is view is supported by colleagues in the Cross-Party Group on Asbestos) that the group would be strengthened if there was representation from Governors Wales, teaching unions, the third sector and others. The commitment to involve key stakeholder groups as necessary appears slightly ambiguous, so we would like to see this group opened out as many other working groups have been.

I hope these views can be recorded appropriately. Thank you for all of your work to keep this important issue on the agenda.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Carter
Head of Wales / Pennaeth Cymru
British Lung Foundation – Wales

One Caspian Point, Pierhead Street, Cardiff, CF10 4DQ

Un Pentir Caspian, Stryd Pierhead, Caerdydd, CF10 4DQ

tel/ffôn 03000 030 555 wales@blf.org.uk @blfwales

blf.org.uk/Wales

Agenda Item 3.2

P-05-690 Resurfacing of the A40 Raglan–Abergavenny Road

This petition was submitted by Sara Jones, having collected 22 signatures. The petition also collected 142 signatures on an alternative e-petition website

Text of the Petition

This petition calls on the Welsh Government to replace the old concrete surface on the A40 road from Raglan to Abergavenny with whispering tarmac.

The Noise Action Plan (2013–18) states that this road is a priority, after the consultation responses received and the measurements taken. Yet no progress has been made despite repeated calls from residents, the local County Councillor, Assembly Member and Member of Parliament.

We, the undersigned, state that this road should be given immediate priority, given the numerous concerns raised from both public and representatives and that it has been identified under the existing Welsh Government Noise Action Plan.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Monmouth
- South Wales East

Ken Skates AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-690
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/03861/17

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

1/4 November 2017

Dear

David,

Thank you for your letter of 18 October regarding P-05-690 resurfacing of the A40 Raglan-Abergavenny Road.

Following investigations it was established that the A40 at this location is not life expired and there are currently no plans to resurface this section.

The Noise Action Plan for Wales identifies areas adjacent to the motorway and trunk road network that are experiencing noise issues. I can confirm that noise fencing has been considered as part of an initial design assessment for noise mitigation at this location. However, mitigation measures are being implemented on a priority basis with progress dependent on available funding. The following link provides further information.

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/epg/noiseandnuisance/environmentalnoise/noisemonitoringmapping/noise-action-plan/?lang=en>

We intend to conduct a new noise survey in the current financial year, which will establish whether there has been any significant change in noise level at specific locations across the trunk road network. This could result in new sections being added to the prioritised list.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Skates AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Agenda Item 3.3

P-05-721 Penegoes Speed Limit Petition

This petition was submitted by Isabel Bottoms, Peter Bottoms and Sarah Holgate, having collected 298 paper signatures.

Text of the Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales urge the Welsh Government to introduce a 30 miles per hour speed limit throughout the village of Penegoes (from the Penegoes village sign entering from Machynlleth, to the other side of the Maesperthi Caravan Park's Proposed new entrance) on the A489 road towards Newtown; and a 40 miles per hour speed limit from Machynlleth to Pengoes.

Assembly Constituency and Region:

Montgomeryshire

Mid and West Wales

Ken Skates AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-721
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/03845/17

David J Rowlands
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

14 November 2017

Dear *David,*

Thank you for your letter of 24 October, on behalf of the Petitions Committee, regarding the Penegoes Speed Limit Petition P-05-721.

The Speed Limit Review is a three year programme of work focused on over 600 sites across the Welsh trunk road network. Unfortunately we cannot yet specify when the Penegoes site will be assessed.

The results will be made available online and any works arising from the wider review will be programmed over the next three to four years.

Yours ever,
Ken

Ken Skates AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Agenda Item 3.4

P-05-748 School Buses for School Children

This petition was submitted by Lynne Chick, having collected 1,239 signatures – 502 on paper and 737 on-line.

Text of the Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure every child's safety is put first when traveling to and from school.

We want designated school buses so children can travel safely to and from school, each with a seat and seat belt, with no child forced to travel on overcrowded public buses. Children's safety must come first.

Our children have a right to feel safe. Public buses can become over crowded. We have no clue who may board a public bus. Public buses are for public use not school transport. We are not asking for this service to be free, We don't want something for nothing, Just peace of mind that our children are safe when traveling to and from school. We teach our children about stranger danger yet we are expected to send them on a public bus full of strangers daily.

Having lost my daughter under the wheels of a public bus she had travelled home from school in, I feel it's only a matter of time before another parent lives my nightmare if something isn't done to ensure children have a safe means of transport to and from school.

Additional Information

A lot of people will remember my Daughter Louise and the horrific way she lost her life. For those that don't, Louise was 11 years old and had not long started high school. Because of the distance to get to school my children relied on using a public bus. On the 19th March 2001 Louise was due home from Connah's Quay High school at her normal time, only this day the bus was late. I started to worry as I headed out the door I was greeted by Louise's friends telling me she had been run over. I ran to the end of my street to find my beautiful Daughter clinging to life in the road, distressed school children all around. I couldn't understand what had happened. Over months it emerged the bus Louise had travelled home from had been over crowded, adults had stood talking to the driver, there was an alleged push, also a mention her bag had got caught in the door or wheel causing her to be

dragged under the bus she had just alighted from, it was proven the mirrors had blind spots that had been a contributing factor.

After the decision to close a local school, John Summers High School, a lot of parents have spoken to me with concerns for their Child's safety travelling on public buses to and from school. Points have been raised that totally alarm me, So I'm heading a campaign in my Daughter's name to make sure no Child is forced to use public transport buses as school transport.

Assembly Constituency and Region.

- Alyn and Deeside
- North Wales

Ein Cyf /Our Ref:
Dyddiad /Date:
Llinell uniongyrchol/Direct line:
Ebost/Email:

ST / P-05-748 School Buses for School Children
15th November 2017 [F]
02920 468600



David J Rowlands AC/AM
Chair of the Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear David J Rowlands AC/AM

P-05-748 School Buses for School Children - Petitions Committee

My apologies for the delay in responding to the Petitions Committee on the matter raised by Lynne Chick, School Buses for School Children. I have written to you separately on the matter.

Local authorities in Wales take the safety of all children and young people very seriously, including those who are travelling on home to school transport. Local authorities are governed by the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 and the Safety on School Transport (Wales) Measure 2011 and the associated statutory guidance provided by Welsh Government. The implementation of these pieces of legislation has improved the safety on school transport, on both dedicated school buses and for children and young people who travel on public service routes. Key safety measures include the compulsory use of three point seat belts on dedicated routes, improved methods of assessing risk on transport and walking routes, and also the development of behaviour codes for children and young people using home to school transport.

Local authorities are constantly keeping arrangements for learner travel, including safety, under review and aim to provide an effective and efficient service. Current provision across Wales is mixed in terms of how learner travel is provided, this includes dedicated transport, use of public service routes, taxi service and in many cases ensuring that children and young people have a safe route to walk or cycle to school. The decision as to which service is appropriate for each learner is governed partly by legislation, in terms of the statutory distances for entitlement to free school transport, and partly by local circumstances.

In some cases it is appropriate for children and young people to travel on public service routes. Local authorities have a duty to provide services that are not only safe and appropriate but also that provide value for public money. It is the case that there are some circumstances in which it would not be practicable for a dedicated

Steve Thomas CBE
Prif Weithredwr
Chief Executive

Cymdeithas Llywodraeth
Leol Cymru
Tŷ Llywodraeth Leol
Rhodfa Drake
CAERDYDD CF10 4LG
Ffôn: 029 2046 8600

Welsh Local Government
Association
Local Government House
Drake Walk
CARDIFF CF10 4LG
Tel: 029 2046 8600

wlga.cymru
wlga.wales

@WelshLGA

Croesawn ohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb i ohebiaeth yn yr un iaith.

Ni fydd defnyddio'r naill iaith na'r llall yn arwain at oedi.

**We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English and will respond to correspondence in the same language.
Use of either language will not lead to a delay.**

school transport service to be provided where a public service route is already in existence. Local authorities do have a responsibility however, to ensure that the service is safe and appropriate for the children and young people who are using that route.

The WLGA does not hold data on the provision of school transport across Wales, however, if the Committee requires any specific information then please do not hesitate to contact me and I will liaise with local authorities to obtain that information if possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and the last name "Thomas" clearly distinguishable.

Steve Thomas CBE
Prif Weithredwr | Chief Executive

P-05-748 School Buses for School Children – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 22.12.17

Dear Sir/ Madam

In reply to your email below.

I have read the attached letter and feel it's a case of book passing, When speaking with local authorities they claim it's not their issue. I feel I'm told one thing and then another and it's really hard and frustrating to get clear facts of who deals with what.

My petition was never about getting free school transport but safe school transport, along the way I've been made aware of the fact that commercial bus drivers do not by law have to under go DSB (CRB) checks this i feel is shocking as there is always a chance that a child or vunrable person could be that last passenger on that bus, meaning the driver is alone with them, you only have to think about the Jamie Lavis case where a bus driver befriended eight year old Jamie and let him hand out bus tickets before sexually abusing and then murdering him, and yet we are expected to be ok with letting our children travel to and from school on commercial services with unchecked drivers!!

I understand there are budgets and council have to deliver value for money but as I've stated above this was never about a free for all, this is about safe transport for school children.

1. Dedicated school buses
2. Every child should have a seat.
3. Every child should have a seat belt.
4. All drivers should have relevant DSB checks.
5. All buses should be fit for purpose.

I never want another parent to go through my nightmare.

Kind regards

Lynne Chick #Schoolbusesforschoolchildren

Agenda Item 3.5

P-05-767 A487 Trunk Road Through Tre-Taliesin: Urgent Need for Effective Speed-Calming Measures

This petition was submitted by Antony Foulkes, having collected 52 signatures online.

Petition text:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to introduce effective traffic speed-calming measures along the A487 Trunk Road which flows directly through the middle of the neighbouring villages of Tre-Taliesin and Tre-r-ddol, and to consult and seek the views of local residents living in these villages.

Additional information:

The A487 is the major North to South Wales Trunk road running along the breadth of the West Wales Coast. This Trunk Road carries high and increasing volume of speeding vehicles and heavy goods traffic into and through the narrow middle of the Ceredigion villages of Tre-Taliesin and Tre-r-ddol. In late 2016, villagers formed the A487 Taliesin Action Group. This local action group has met and communicated closely with the LLangynfelyn Community Council, Dyfed Powys Police, Ceredigion County Council and the local Member of Parliament to undertake an analysis of the issues and potential solutions. The group have also raised their concerns and offered to meet and share their views with the North West Wales Trunk Road Agency, but this invitation has not been accepted to date.

It important that villagers who live day to day with the speeding traffic are listened to and their views fully taken into account by the Welsh Government, in order for effective speed calming measures which safeguards the villagers and road users, to be planned and implemented.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Ceredigion
- Mid and West Wales

Ken Skates AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-767
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/03776/17

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

6 November 2017

Dear David,

Thank you for your further letter of 7 August in relation to Petition P-05-767 regarding the A487 trunk road through Tre-Taliesin and Tre'r Ddol. I am sorry for the time it has taken for you to receive a response.

We are unable to provide a definitive date of when the survey and assessment work will be carried out on the A487 at Taliesin and Tre'r Ddol. However, it remains committed for this financial year. We currently have several hundred similar commitments to be addressed this financial year across the whole of Wales, all of which will be taken forward by our Agents.

Given this workload it is not always practicable for our Agent to meet with individual residents and communities on these routes. Although, any concerns that we or our Agents are informed of are logged and considered when work is being taken forward. We are aware of the concerns among the local community in Tre-Taliesin and Tre'r Ddol which are logged for consideration as part of our work there.

Should the community have anything further to add to those comments; they may wish to contact the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent (NMWTRA). Contact details can be found at the following link <http://www.nmwtra.org.uk/en/contact-us/>

Yours ever,

Ken Skates AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

P-05-767 A487 Trunk Road Through Tre-Taliesin: Urgent Need for Effective Speed-Calming Measures – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 27.11.17

Dear Petitions Committee

Ref: Petition P-05-767

We would be grateful if the Petitions Committee could consider our response to the Minister's reply dated 6th November:

From the outset we are very disappointed by the Minister's reply in which he effectively tells us that his 'Agent' is too busy to meet with us. His response fails to understand the substantial contribution that our voluntary community group has been making to try to reduce speeding vehicles through Taliesin and Tre 'r' Ddol and the importance of his 'Agent' engaging, listening and fully taking into account our 'on the ground' contribution.

All of us in the Taliesin and Tre 'r' Ddol community, also lead very busy lives. Yet in addition to the many local actions we have undertaken including coordinating very well attended public meetings to discuss and plan road-calming measures and obtaining police and local and national politician support; we have also since the summer implemented our community speed watch scheme which takes place on a regular basis, in partnership with Dyfed Powys police.

Our plans for speed-calming measures involve the whole of the community, have been achieved by democratic process, and it is only right that the Minister instructs his 'Agent' to meet with us and to carefully consider our evidence-based plans as part of their survey and assessment process. We live with the daily impact of speeding HGV's and other vehicles along the A487 through both villages and have experience, knowledge and valuable insight which can inform the Welsh Government's planning process. We therefore deserve to be treated with respect and listened to by the Welsh Government's 'Agent'.

We would therefore be very grateful if the Petition Committee could again request that the Minister instruct his Agent to meet with us as part of their planning process.

With appreciation for your help so far.

Kind Regards

Antony Foulkes

Agenda Item 3.6

P-05-772 No to the proposed Iron Ring at Flint Castle

This petition was submitted by Gerwyn David Evans, having collected 11,091 signatures online.

Petition text:

We the undersigned call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to scrap the proposed plans of building an Iron Ring outside of Flint Castle as we are well aware of the historical significance of Edward I and his so called Iron Ring as a use to subjugate and oppress our people.

We find this extremely disrespectful to the people of Wales and our ancestors who have battled oppression, subjugation and injustice for hundreds of years.

We ask that you please rethink the decision to build this monument and use the money elsewhere.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Rhondda
- South Wales Central

Dafydd Elis-Thomas AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Diwylliant, Twristiaeth a Chwaraeon
Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-772
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/05007/17

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

21 November 2017

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 24 October which asks for confirmation that the "iron ring" sculpture will not be going ahead as part of the investment in Flint Castle. I can confirm that that is the case.

The Welsh Government has acknowledged that the proposal for the Iron Ring sculpture at Flint Castle has been divisive and, following extremely constructive and productive meetings with local stakeholders, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure took the decision to cancel the project in September. I am sorry that his letter to you dated 20 September did not reflect the updated position, as set out in the Welsh Government's press statement of 7 September.

For clarification, we will use the investment allocated for the artwork as a contribution to the wider masterplan for the foreshore, taking in the views of local people. This will include developing a range of capital investments for the area and holding a number of events and activities to increase the understanding of the history of the Castle and the significance of the foreshore. Alongside Flintshire County Council and Flint Town Council, we see development of the masterplan as a high priority.

In relation to any future public artwork, I understand that the early indications are that the local community has shown enthusiasm for something that could provide a real visitor destination piece. Flintshire County Council will now, through an arts based engagement commission, be exploring the views and thoughts of the community before taking any proposals forward. This work would be led by the Council, rather than Welsh Government.

Yours sincerely,

Dafydd Elis-Thomas AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Diwylliant, Twristiaeth a Chwaraeon
Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Dafydd.Elis-Thomas@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Dafydd.Elis-Thomas@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Agenda Item 3.7

P-05-780 Reopen Carno Station

This petition was submitted by Carno Station Action Group, having collected 877 signatures on paper.

Petition text:

We, the undersigned, welcome the development of a Business Case for the re-opening of Carno station, following Carno Station Action Group's petition to the Assembly 10 years ago. We note that the revised Business Case demonstrates a ratio of benefits to costs of 1.65 and that the stopping of most trains at Carno is compatible with the existing enhanced timetable. Carno is a relatively remote community on the longest stretch of railway without an intermediate station in the whole of Wales and a station here would open up dramatically improved, sustainable access to jobs and services. We therefore call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to reopen Carno station within a 5 year timescale.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Montgomeryshire
- Mid and West Wales

Ken Skates AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-780
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/03846/17

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

30 November 2017

Dear *David,*

Thank you for your letter of 24 October regarding Petition P-05-780 to reopen Carno Station.

As per my previous response, the powers, funding and responsibility for the development of rail infrastructure in Wales is reserved to the UK Government. As a result, the Welsh Government currently receives no funding from the UK Government for new rail infrastructure and stations.

Despite the current devolution settlement and on-going pressures on our capital funding, we have continued to invest in the rail network to deliver services and infrastructure that meet our objectives. Indeed, since 2011, the Welsh Government has consistently invested more than the UK Government on enhancing the network in Wales.

I expect, and continue to make the case for, the UK Government to significantly increase expenditure on enhancements in Wales. Nevertheless, I will also continue to assess the case for further investment in the rail network and, when necessary and appropriate, will continue to direct the use of Welsh Government resources as budgets allow.

Your emw,
Ken

Ken Skates AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Agenda Item 3.8

P-05-743 End the Exotic Pet Trade in Wales

This petition was submitted by David Sedley, having collected 222 signatures.

Text of the Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to take action against the trade in exotic animals captured and bred for the pet trade in Wales, and to forbid the licensing of all businesses involved in this destructive, cruel and unethical trade, with clear exemptions for rescue centres and licensed rescue centres. We further urge the Welsh Government to follow the example of the Scottish Government which committed to a review of the trade and importation of exotic animals for the pet trade in Scotland in February 2015, led by The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment. For Wales to be taken seriously in the global conservation community, we maintain that we cannot be seen to be allowing this trade – which elicits the concerns of the British Veterinary Association (BVA), The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) and the RSPCA – to continue in our own country.

Additional Information

Animals such as monkeys, meerkats, reptiles and turtles are wild animals who belong in their natural habitat, not in cages and glass tanks in somebody's home. Over 1000 species of mammals, birds, invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and fish are bred and captured for the exotic pet trade, and it is our argument that the complex social, physical and behavioural needs of these animals cannot be met other than in their natural habitats. Furthermore, there is strong evidence linking the trade in exotic animals with habitat destruction and the extinction of species in the wild. In tandem with the suffering of such animals in transit – including many documented deaths – young animals can grow into dangerous adults which can become unmanageable in domestic environments not conducive to satisfying their welfare needs for increased space and food.

Assembly Constituency and Region.

- Swansea West
- South Wales West



Cymdeithas Frenhinol er Atal Creulondeb i Anifeiliaid Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

David Rowlands
Chair of the Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

29 November 2017

Dear Chair,

Petition P-05-743: End the Exotic Pet Trade in Wales

Thank you for your letter regarding petition P-05-743 on ending the exotic pet trade in Wales and we are delighted to reply based on the work of the RSPCA and will attempt not to duplicate the petition briefing already supplied to members by the Members Research Service.

As many of your committee members will know, the RSPCA is the oldest animal welfare organisation in the world and has a unique perspective on animal welfare issues with our role in taking private prosecutions against those that commit animal offences.

The RSPCA defines 'exotics' as wild (non-domesticated) animals kept as pets, which includes reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, exotic mammals (such as African pygmy hedgehogs or raccoon dogs), birds and fish. The RSPCA has concerns about the trade and keeping of exotic pets, which have increased in popularity.

The RSPCA believes that animals should only be kept in captivity if good welfare can be assured. We are opposed to the trade in wild-caught animals for the exotic pet trade, as these animals are taken from the wild and often transported long distances. We are also opposed to the trade in captive-bred wild animals where there are grounds for believing that suffering may be caused as a result of breeding, holding, transportation or use of the animal.

Exotic pets are wild animals kept in captivity and so their needs (as defined under the Animal Welfare Act 2006) are essentially no different to animals of the same species living in the wild. The needs of exotics can be challenging to meet by members of the public because they are fundamentally linked to certain behaviours, diets or environmental conditions that can be difficult to replicate in a home. As a result we believe that there are some exotic pet species, such as primates and raccoon dogs, which are never suitable as pets as it is not possible to meet their needs in a typical household environment.

RSPCA Cymru
6 Cae Gwyrdd
Greenmeadow Springs
Business Park
Cardiff
CF15 7AB

Cruelty Line
0300 1234 999

@RSPCAcymru
Facebook.com/RSPCAcymru
YouTube.com/RSPCAcymru
www.RSPCA.cymru
www.politicalanimal.wales

Elusen a gofrestrwyd yng
Nghymru a Lloegr
Charity registered in
England & Wales
Rhif/No 219099

www.RSPCA.cymru

Noddwr Ei Mawrhydi
Y Frenhines
Patron HM The Queen

Exotics are commonly found in pet shops nowadays; however it is sadly often the case that they are handed over to buyers with very little or no information about how to care for them or the commitment that is involved in keeping them healthy. Impulse buying risks people not understanding fully what they need to provide for the animal. Without proper care exotic animals can suffer from serious diseases and, in severe cases or if left untreated, they can die.

These animals often end up in our care after people realise they're not easy to care for (or once the novelty wears off). Others are rescued after they have been abandoned, escaped or been released on purpose, which then could be an invasive alien species risk to our native wildlife. Animals may become aggressive, grow very large, live for a long time or require a licence or paperwork to be legally kept or sold. Some species can be difficult for us to rehome, due to lack of suitable homes or interest.

In many cases owners are unaware that they are causing any suffering through being so poorly acquainted with the complex need of the species.

Over the last five years, the RSPCA has received, on average, 332 calls each year from Wales regarding reptiles and officers collected 498 reptiles over the five year period.

Scientifically-based expert care information for exotics can be hard to find and an inexperienced owner may not be able to tell the difference between quality and inaccurate care information. Many owners of exotic pets may also struggle to find a qualified vet who is able to provide the specialised treatment that these animals require. As with every animal, appropriate veterinary care is an essential part of ensuring the animal's welfare needs are met.

The RSPCA's campaigns are based on the latest research and thinking on animal welfare by our science teams covering companion, farm, wildlife, and exotic animals.

As the committee will be aware from receiving emails from constituents, RSPCA Cymru is actively campaigning for the end of the keeping of primates as pets. We believe that the keeping of these intelligent, sociable and complex animals in a household environment is incompatible with the primates' wild nature and that their needs cannot be adequately met in a domestic setting, leading to the primate suffering and their welfare compromised.

RSPCA Cymru concerns include:

- **Social Isolation:** Primates are highly social animals and a lack of socialisation can cause the primates to become seriously depressed, to self-mutilate, pluck their hair until bald and show abnormal behaviours such as rocking and self-hugging.
- **Early weaning:** Like humans, young primates are dependent on their mother and other family/group members for socialisation and in the wild common marmosets would remain with their parents for at least the first year. When young primates are removed early from their mother, it has severe, long-lasting harmful effects including aggression and abnormal behaviours. RSPCA Cymru research has shown that primates as young as three months are being sold online without their mother.
- **Housing:** Following RSPCA investigations, in England and Wales, primates have been found in a variety of 'homes' including parrot cages, glass-fronted cupboards, aviaries and sheds and



Cymdeithas Frenhinol er Atal Creulondeb i Anifeiliaid Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

have been found located under stairs, in living rooms and garages, offering little or no access to the outdoors. Poor housing can lead to more abnormal behaviours and a lack of sunlight can cause, crucially, Metabolic Bone Disease, (more commonly known in humans as rickets and osteomalacia) which can lead to fractured and/or misshapen bones.

- **Poor diet:** A lack of understanding, by owners, of the correct diet for a primate means that they are regularly fed 'human' food such as junk/fast food, sweets and chips. This diet does not adequately meet the needs of the primate and does lead to health problems, such as obesity, diabetes and malnutrition.

RSPCA Cymru's full briefing on the keeping of primates as pets can be found online at www.PoliticalAnimal.wales and is attached with this letter.

The RSPCA would urge the committee to recommend to the Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs to introduce a ban on the keeping of primates as pets where research has indicated that their needs cannot be met and that their welfare will suffer. If a ban is not introduced, there should be a detailed Code of Practice for ensuring the standards primates are kept in, such as the code in England but at a much enhanced level.

Local authorities already have the ability, under the Pet Animals Act 1951, to set conditions on pet shop licences, including restricting species that can be sold. Pet shops must also ensure they meet the welfare requirements of section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act. It is the RSPCA's opinion, that the inclusion of evidence-based written care information should be a mandatory licence condition on those selling pets in Wales, a move that the Society and keepers have long called for.

The RSPCA has raised our concerns over the keeping of primates as pets with the Welsh Government.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Claire Lawson'.

The case for a ban on monkeys and other primates being kept as pets

RSPCA CYMRU BELIEVES PRIMATE OWNERSHIP IN A DOMESTIC SETTING IS CRUEL AND DANGEROUS

Current position

Keeping a primate in a domestic setting is entirely legal within Wales. We believe there is a hidden problem which is causing the unnecessary suffering of primates that are being kept as pets. With monkeys and other primates being readily sold as pets online, RSPCA Cymru is concerned that there is an unknown population of primates - hidden victims - which are suffering behind closed doors.

Currently in Wales, there is a lack of detailed legislation regarding the keeping of primates and no statutory Code of Practice exists under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, in the same way as they do for dogs, cats, horses and rabbits.

The Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 (DWAA) covering the UK includes a Schedule that lists the specific species of primates (and other species) that are required to have licences. However, the Act is largely focused on keeping people safe and is very inconsistently applied. Rates of non-compliance are also thought to be very high¹. As a result, it does not provide for the welfare of the animals it covers. Although most primates are covered by the Act, the most commonly kept primates that are kept as pets, as found by RSPCA Cymru research, are not covered by this UK legislation as they do not require a licence.

In 2010, Defra published a "Code of Practice for the welfare of privately kept non-human primates"² to cover primates in England. However, RSPCA Cymru believes that the code has totally failed to achieve the original intention of restricting primate ownership - the only way of achieving this is through a ban.

Due to the lack of legislation and registration, there is currently no systematic way to know how many or where primates are being kept in domestic settings in Wales as the main primates kept as pets do not require a licence. Based on research by RSPCA Cymru, in conjunction with Wild Futures, looking at online sales and licences for primates under the DWAA, we estimate that there are around 120 primates being kept as pets in Wales, out of an estimated 5,000 across England and Wales³.

RSPCA Cymru has undertaken two surveys looking at the online sales of primates. Over the course of eight weeks in 2015 and 2016, RSPCA Cymru found for sale online 19 marmoset monkeys in the Ammanford, Cardiff, Pontypridd and Rhondda Cynon Taff areas.⁴ The primates were mostly sold as individual monkeys, with some being as young as three months old, for between £600-£800 per primate. RSPCA Cymru is concerned, as detailed below, around the ownership of young and individual primates as their needs cannot be met leading to the suffering of the primate.

During RSPCA Cymru's research it was discovered that some websites, such as Gumtree, already do not permit the selling of primates on their websites "because they need specialist care and could risk going to someone who isn't

¹ See Case Study of Boo Boo the capuchin monkey, below, or in *Wild Animal Welfare Indicators*, RSPCA Cymru. 2015. p12 <http://politicalanimal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Wild-animal-welfare-indicators-bilingual.pdf>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-for-the-welfare-of-privately-kept-non-human-primates>

³ *Wild Animal Welfare Indicators*, RSPCA Cymru. 2015. p13

<http://politicalanimal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Wild-animal-welfare-indicators-bilingual.pdf>

⁴ Online survey data collected by Positif Politics between 3 and 28 August 2015 and by RSPCA Cymru between 15 August and 9 September 2016.

experienced enough to handle them”.⁵ Companies that sign up to the Pet Advertising Advisory Group (PAAG) voluntary minimum standards do not permit the advertising of primates as pets online, a clear indication of the seriousness that these companies take animal welfare.⁶

Need for a ban of primates as pets

RSPCA Cymru believes that the keeping of these intelligent, sociable and complex animals in a household environment is incompatible with the primates wild nature and that their needs cannot be adequately met in a domestic setting, leading to the primate suffering and their welfare compromised.

RSPCA Cymru concerns include:

SOCIAL ISOLATION

Primates are highly social animals and a lack of socialisation can cause the primates to become seriously depressed, to self-mutilate, pluck their hair until bald and show abnormal behaviours such as rocking, self-hugging, and even a premature death.

EARLY WEANING

Like humans, young primates are dependent on their mother and other family/group members for socialisation and in the wild common marmosets would remain with their parents for at least the first year. When young primates are removed early from their mother, it has severe, long-lasting harmful effects including aggression and abnormal behaviours. RSPCA Cymru research has shown that primates as young as three months are being sold online without their mother.

HOUSING

Following RSPCA investigations, in England and Wales, primates have been found in a variety of “homes” including parrot cages, glass-fronted cupboards, aviaries and sheds located under stairs, in living rooms and garages, offering little or no access to the outdoors. Poor housing can lead to more abnormal behaviours and a lack of sunlight can cause, crucially, Metabolic Bone Disease, more commonly known as rickets and osteomalacia, which can lead to fractured and/or misshapen bones.

POOR DIET

A lack of understanding, by owners, of the correct diet for a primate means that they are regularly fed “human” food such as junk/fast food, sweets and chips. This diet does not adequately meet the needs of the primate and does lead to health problems, such as obesity, diabetes and malnutrition.

Case studies

LORRAINE BARRETT: “ONE OF THE MOST TRAUMATIC SITUATIONS OF MY LIFE”

Former Assembly Member, Lorraine Barrett, bought a monkey from a pet shop in Penarth in the early 1980s after seeing him tied up with a collar and feeling sorry for him. Borrowing £200 from her brother, Lorraine bought the monkey called Spike and she received no advice from the pet shop, and the only advice she had was from reading a book from the library.

Lorraine recalls an incident where the monkey attacked her, commenting, “He was wild. We had a wild animal in our house. One time he was on the top of the cupboard and jumped on my son’s head. I went to grab him and he bit me all around my arm. We were all just screaming. It was crazy. I know it can’t have been the monkey’s fault - it must have been such an incredibly stressful experience for him.

“Looking back, it was so scary how little information was available about how completely inappropriate it is to keep a monkey in a domestic environment. The only advice people need is that primates should never be kept as pets.”

You can watch Lorraine’s story in a special video produced for RSPCA Cymru here: <https://youtu.be/q0wFzk66WnQ> or at www.youtube.com/RSPCAcymru

⁵http://help.gumtree.com/articles/General_Information/Posting-Rules-Pets-Category?retURL=%2Fapex%2FknowledgeFAQs%3Fc%3D Pets%26k%3Dmonkeys&popup=false&at=Rules%20in%20Pets&c=Pets&k=

⁶ <http://paag.org.uk/about-paag/faq/>

Boo Boo THE CAPUCHIN MONKEY

Boo Boo was brought from Wales to be traded in a car park for £2,000 plus two marmosets. Both the seller and new owner thought her to be a male monkey, which is why the cost of the exchange was relatively low, as female monkeys are worth much more within the primate trade as they are used for breeding.

Her new owner kept her for six years, alone, at the end of the garden, in a cage 10' x 7' x 10' with a hatch to a heated 8' x 3' x 7' shed. A TV was left on between 8am and 6.30pm and the owner visited when he had time.

During her life there, Boo Boo never saw a vet and was never licensed under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act even though not being licensed is illegal. After she started to show signs of aggression – a common development in primates as they mature – had bitten someone and had escaped several times, her owner contacted Wild Futures to provide her with a “better life”.

A fecal test showed strongoloides parasite just before Boo Boo arrived at the specialist sanctuary. She was overweight, attributed to the fact that she was denied the opportunity to exercise adequately in her small cage and also fed a diet that included a lot of fruit, as well as milk, cheese and human sugary sweets like marshmallows and lollipops – recommended by the person who sold her.

She displayed neurotic pacing and head-twisting behaviours, which could be the result of severe boredom and stress or an inappropriate environment, and she seriously lacked social skills. Her integration with other monkeys was difficult and it took many months due to the fact that she had been denied the opportunity to interact with her own kind from such a young age.

Happily, Boo Boo now lives in a social group and has many friends – her social skills continue to improve.

Public opinion

A YouGov poll for RSPCA Cymru in 2015 found that 72 percent of people in Wales support a ban on the keeping of all primates as pets.⁷ A ban on keeping primates as pets is also supported by vets, primatologists and other organisations including the British Veterinary Association, Wild Futures, Primate Society of Great Britain and Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries.

Elsewhere, there are currently 15 European countries that have banned keeping primates as pets, including France (certain species), Italy, Romania and Sweden.

RSPCA Cymru recommendations

RSPCA Cymru believes that the following recommendations should be taken to protect primates:

- A full ban on the keeping of all primates as pets;
- A grandfather clause allowing for a transitional period for primates currently kept as pets to be registered within three months of the ban coming into force;
- A scheme, with a Code of Practice, to be introduced to include an inspection system of those primates registered to monitor their welfare for the remainder of their lives;
- The breeding of primates currently kept as pets to be prohibited;
- Code of Practice for the legitimate keeping of primates e.g. in licensed sanctuaries etc and primates kept as pets in the transitional period.

⁷ YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 1,036 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 19th–22nd August 2015. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all Welsh adults (aged 18+).

Agenda Item 3.9

P-05-753 Strengthening the Legislative and Regulatory Framework Surrounding Waste Wood Processing Facilities

This petition was submitted by Alexander Williams having collected 232 signatures.

Text of the Petition

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

Direct Natural Resources Wales, local authorities and other relevant public bodies to work together to use their existing powers and duties to take effective and efficient enforcement action within the recycling industry.

Strengthen the legislative and regulatory framework where required to enable relevant public bodies to undertake more efficient and effective enforcement action (including monitoring), and enable them to prosecute and impose stronger financial penalties on companies and individual company directors who breach their operational controls such as planning conditions or terms of their operational licences and environmental permits;

Review existing legislation to allow the public, Fire and Rescue Services and other public bodies to recoup the costs of dealing with incidents, such as the recent fire at South Wales Wood Recycling Ltd, if the cause of the fire is found to be as a result of the company's negligence, criminal action or breaches of other regulations, conditions or permissions.

Review environmental protection rules and provide guidance to local authorities to ensure that all waste wood processing facilities are not located in close proximity to residential premises, sites of special scientific interest or sites of importance for nature conservation.

Undertake a comprehensive assessment on the long-term health implications of the inhalation of wood dust caused by the processing of waste wood and undertake an ongoing assessment of the dust deposits at wood processing facilities.

Assembly Constituency and Region.

- Ogmore
- South Wales West

David Rowlands Chair of Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

21 November 2017

Dear Mr Rowlands,

P-05-753 Strengthening the Legislative and Regulatory Framework Surrounding Waste Wood Processing Facilities

Following your letter on the 18th October to Emyr Roberts. I welcome the opportunity to respond in my capacity as interim Chief Executive of Natural Resources Wales and share our views with the Petitions Committee in relation to the above referenced petition and following consideration of the points raised in previous correspondence.

Natural Resources Wales is responsible for providing a risk-based approach to regulation of the waste industry to ensure the sustainable management of our natural resources for human and environmental well-being.

We seek to achieve this directly through delivery of our regulatory duties, using powers and tools available as set out in legislation; and indirectly through wider interventions that support the delivery of relevant outcomes, such as raising awareness with waste producers to ensure they are taking steps to segregate, classify and manage their waste responsibly.

In relation to the specific waste operator referenced by the petitioner, it is important to highlight that we have a prosecution case in progress within the court system. This limits what we can discuss in this response. We have met with local elected representatives previously to understand their concerns and we will ensure that we contact them again. We are therefore limiting our response here to provide a view on

our generic approach to regulation and progress being made to improve the legislative framework and our approach.

The responsibility of complying with permit conditions and relevant legislation lies with the waste operator and they are ultimately in control and responsible for what happens on site. By applying for a permit they have made a commitment to operate lawfully and in line with the conditions within it. The majority of the waste industry operates responsibly, but there is a part of the industry that fails to meet the required standards or operates outside the law. These non-compliant, poor performing or illegal sites can impact on the environment, communities, reputation of a sector and legitimate waste business. These sites also pose a greater risk of incidents and can consume a large amount of the collective resources of Welsh public bodies.

Our initial regulatory approach is to work with legitimate operators to bring them into compliance. This approach reflects our wider duty to follow the Regulators' Code and is reflected in our organisation's Regulatory Principles. Where operators fail to take adequate steps we then seek to use our other powers, though our use of powers must be proportionate, justified and based on sound evidence. We recognise that there are some operators within the industry that will make some short-term progress to demonstrate a shift to compliance, for example with meeting the requirements of enforcement notices served, but then demonstrate further non-compliances in the same or different areas of their activities. We recognise this issue and are seeking to better address this through the effective use of our existing and recently enhanced powers.

We are committed to working with Welsh Government, Local Government and the Fire and Rescue Services in Wales to tackle the problems caused by poor compliance and illegal waste sites. In response to some significant incidents in the last 24 months we prioritised work to ensure that our regulatory approach to poor performing, illegal sites and sites posing high fire risk is robust. For example, we used additional Welsh Government funding to second an officer from the South Wales Fire and Rescue service to work with us to help develop, review and revise our Fire Prevention Mitigation Guidance for permitted sites. We have provided training for our regulatory officers, Fire and Rescue officers and waste operators to embed this guidance. We are progressing with a programme to include a permit condition to require operators of specific sites to develop a Fire Prevention Mitigation Plan which provides a stronger basis for tackling compliance issues. This programme is being targeted at sites posing a high fire risk. We have a further two officers from the fire and rescue services seconded to support continued delivery of a prioritised operational work programme.

Specifically, in relation to the management of waste wood we are working with the Environment Agency and other organisations to address concerns we have with the segregation, classification and destination of waste wood. We have highlighted these concerns to the Welsh Local authorities to ensure that they are managing their waste wood appropriately and there is consistency in reporting this material for Local Authority Recovery Targets.

We are also supporting Welsh Government in some significant areas of regulatory reform; for example, new powers under the Environmental Permitting Regulations introduced in October 2015 have already improved our ability to take action against some aspects of poor performance by waste operators. We believe the further amendments expected in early 2018 to introduce powers to secure premises that pose a high risk of pollution and to require removal of waste at abandoned sites will provide us with additional tools. In parallel, we continue to work with Government to reinforce the fundamental basis to Environmental Permitting Regulations including Operator Competence, Technical Competence and Financial Provision. We believe that strengthening these provisions will improve operator competence and enable us to reduce opportunities for poor operators to enter the industry. A joint Welsh Government/DEFRA public consultation will be published shortly and we encourage interested parties to respond.

In addition, we have provided our views to the Cabinet Secretary and continue to explore, with her officials, additional regulatory approaches, powers and funding that we believe would improve our ability to undertake waste regulation effectively and encourage the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources.

We will continue to undertake our risk based regulation and focus the resources available to us on those who operate below a level of compliance, but recognise that our regulation will not be effective in isolation. We face similar resource constraints and challenges to other public sector organisations such as local authorities. It will take concerted action from all those involved in the waste chain; producers, collectors, carriers and waste management operators, to create an environment where compliant businesses can flourish on a level playing field.

We support Wales's ambition to create a circular economy that moves away from the current linear model, where materials are fed in to the economy at the start and discarded at the end. Whilst increasing recycling rates is important, it is essential that mechanisms and drivers are put in place to encourage prevention and re-use of waste as recognised by Welsh Government's waste prevention programme. Manufacturers have a role to prevent waste through designing out waste in products as well as ensuring their products and packaging can be re-used or widely recycled. Public

sector organisations, including Natural Resources Wales, must ensure that they take steps to influence sustainable procurement so that it optimises low waste.

I trust that this response explains our position on the legislative and regulatory framework surrounding waste wood processing facilities and our commitment to working with other public bodies to tackle issues in the waste sector but please let us know if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Ingram', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Kevin Ingram

Prif Weithredwr Interim, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Interim Chief Executive, Natural Resources Wales

Agenda Item 3.10

P-05-759 Re-open the Cwmcarn Forest Drive at Easter 2018

This petition was submitted by The Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive having collected 1450 signatures – 353 on paper and 1097 on-line.

Petition text:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to provide the necessary means to allow Natural Resources Wales to fully re-open the Cwmcarn Forest Drive to private cars at Easter 2017.

Additional information:

In the summer of 2014 Natural Resources Wales stated that the Cwmcarn Forest Drive, also known as the Scenic Drive, would be closed for a minimum of two years from November 2014 and that this was necessary because of the infection of the Japanese larch in the Cwmcarn valley and surrounding hillsides. The removal of the larch is now almost complete and NRW are beginning to reinstate the cycle tracks and footpaths, however there does not appear to be a plan to reinstate the scenic drive, even though the vast majority of the route is undamaged. To single out private car users of the drive is unfair and unnecessary when other users will face only temporary disruption. Many of those who access the Drive via private car do so because they have limited mobility, some are families with small children, many are elderly, disabled or from our ethnic minority and immigrant communities. Failing to provide a facility for these people is discriminatory especially when there are plans, and funds available, to provide further facilities for other users. The lack of a fully accessible scenic drive deprives those people who are our most culturally and materially deprived of their main facility for health and well-being. Our organisation, the Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive wants equality of access for all users of the scenic drive and calls for the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales to provide the means to make this possible.

Assembly Constituency and Region.

- Islwyn
- South Wales East

David J Rowlands
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

15 November 2017

Dear Mr Rowlands,

Thank you for your letter of 18 October 2017. You will be aware that Dr Emyr Roberts has retired from NRW and so I am responding as interim Chief Executive until our new Chief Executive, Clare Pillman takes up her position in February 2018.

Can I begin by saying that we do understand the frustrations felt by the community and it is acknowledged that progress has been slower than we would have wished. We do take seriously the comments of Mr Southall, on behalf of the Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive, which you enclosed with your letter. Mr John Hogg our Head of Operations South Central, who has attended the public meetings at Cwmcarn, spoke with Mr Southall on 10 November 2017 in order to explain the current position and respond to the issues that were raised by him. He has also offered to speak with him in one month to update him further.

Before responding to the specific points in Mr Southall's letter I should like to explain the position of NRW. Without a significant capital sum we will not be able to undertake the necessary work to re-open Forest Drive to a standard that permits public vehicle usage. Initial surveys that we have carried out indicate that stability in some areas would require further investigation and it would not, in our opinion, be as straight forward as suggested by Mr Southall. We need to better understand those likely costs so that we can make a funding bid to the Welsh Government (WG). Discussions with WG have started on exploring funding options e.g. re-prioritisation of WG capital funding, WG's Targeted Regeneration Fund and Heritage Lottery funding.

Mr Southall is correct that we have not gone out to tender on the feasibility study but we have continued to discuss how best we and Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) could work together. The feasibility study will look at how working with the local authority and/or others we can ensure a sustainable future for Forest Drive and the other amenities. It is regrettable that we have not been able to progress this as quickly as we would have

wished and this has been due in part to staff absence, however, we are making every endeavour and as mentioned above Mr Hogg will be updating Mr Southall on progress.

We are sorry that Mr Southall feels he has not been kept informed of progress and specifically that a member of our staff has not responded to his emails. It is not acceptable to not respond to emails and Mr Hogg has apologised to Mr Southall. We believe that through Mr Hogg, and in due course other staff, we can update Mr Southall on a more regular basis. We have also agreed to attend a public meeting in the spring of next year.

The new mountain bike routes being proposed at Cwmcarn are a council initiative. The council approached us with the idea to find out if we would allow them on our land and this in turn led to an approval in principle to allow them to proceed to a planning application. However, they would take full responsibility for the trails, including design, construction and ongoing maintenance. I would add that we did suggest to the council that if they were developing new mountain bike routes they should as part of the project include other recreational improvements such as improved walking trails etc. No official agreements have been developed with the council, so perhaps this could be a matter for the community to raise directly with them? The way these routes will be managed in practice will be determined at a later stage but we would of course work with the council on things like route maps, marketing information, and on physical management, as long as NRW was not losing out financially.

Thank you for telling us that Ken Skates AM has advised through a response to a question from Rhiannon Passmore AM that the WG hoped to reopen the Forest Drive to cars in 2019. As mentioned above we are in discussion with WG on sources of funding and can include that information in our discussions.

In summary, I hope the above reassures your Committee that we continue to progress our work at Cwmcarn, albeit progress to date has been slower than we would wish. Keeping the community informed of our work is important to us and I hope that you will see that we have taken steps to remedy that break down in communications.

Kind regards

Kevin Ingram
Interim Chief Executive



24 Mount Pleasant Terrace, Pontywaun, Crosskeys, NP11 7GH

David Rowlands AM
Chair – Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales,
Ty Hywel,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff,
CF99 1NA

████████████████████

Monday 1st January 2018

David

Thank you very much for forwarding the letter from Kevin Ingram, Interim Chief Executive, of NRW's dated 15 November 2017. I am pleased to confirm that I have now spoken to John Hogg, the south Wales Regional manager for NRW, on several occasions and he has promised to keep our society updated regarding developments at the Cwmcarn Forest Drive. In addition I have also received two emails from Derek Stephen, NRW's Commercial Business Development Manager, who is now troubleshooting the issues at Cwmcarn on behalf of the South East Wales region of NRW. Unfortunately we have yet to speak to him face to face and I hope to remedy this situation later this month. We will be linking up for a telephone conversation next Monday 8th January and we also hope to arrange a public meeting at Cwmcarn village in March. Derek is aiming to draft a Project Initiation Document [PID] before the end of January and he has indicated that he needs to fully understanding the issues and concerns we have surrounding the future of the facilities at Cwmcarn.

We continue to have concerns about the opening up of new 'elite' mountain bike trail while the majority of people are being overlooked in favour of the needs of a relatively small number of mountain bikers. This matter was brought to the fore by

our committee member Mrs Maggie Thomas who wrote to NRW about her concerns that these cycle tracks would pass over public rights of way, back in July. She has yet to receive a response. She has also informed me that she asked in one of our public meetings about the reinstatement of all public rights of way after the felling was complete. Ms Sally Tansey gave an assurance at our public meeting last March, which you attended, that they would all be cleared along the legal line. She has recently walked on some of these routes and found that that FP 119 & FP 115 in the community of Abercarn were not visible on the ground and have not been fully cleared. Whilst it is accepted that rights of way can be closed temporarily for felling purposes, they must be reopened at the earliest opportunity by law. She has also received no response to this request. Given that the Forest Drive remains closed it is of utmost importance that walkers have places where they can walk in safety. It is also vital that every public footpath is unobstructed and easy to use, whether they have been obstructed for years or whether the obstructions have been as a result of the recent felling. We have found consistently that paths used by cyclists are cleared immediately after felling but those dedicated to walkers often take months to properly reinstated or remain indefinitely closed or impassable.

There is one matter that is very close to my heart that I would also like to raise at this time. I have always said that I started the campaign to get the Drive re-instated to ensure that those with mobility issues can once again visit the Drive to enjoy its magnificent scenic views. Unfortunately in early October I suffered an arthritis attack on my knees which has left me functionally immobile so I can no longer (at least for the time being) walk from my home in Pontywaun up onto the Forest Drive. Up to the time of my attack I was regularly able to survey the condition of the Drive on foot, however I am no longer able to do this and I have asked John Hogg whether it might be possible for me to become a key holder for the barrier which blocks access to the Drive. I believe that this is essential if the Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive are able to assess the condition of the Forest Drive, monitoring usage by cyclists and walkers, and to determine other factors that may be important to building a cogent case for a re-opening. Currently the Drive can be accessed by NRW staff and contractors, the driver of the Cwmdown minibus who takes cyclists up to the top of the steep downhill track on Mynydd Medart, CCBC Cwmcarn visitor centre staff, Mrs Barbara White who lives at Ty'n y Ffynnon farm and the Lewis family who keep

sheep at the farm and on surrounding hillsides. I would like to ask if you would be supportive of our group becoming key holding as not being able to access the Drive at all puts us at a major disadvantage in our campaign to get the Drive re-opened.

Finally the question raised by our petition asks for the Welsh Government to help source the finances required to re-open the Forest Drive and if there is a requirement to draw on European Union (WEFO) funding then time is now of the essence and it should be done as soon as possible. The Welsh government were consultative on the closure of the Forest Drive and as an aspect of this they should have insisted upon NRW ring-fencing a re-instatement fund. As they failed to do this our society considers that the problems surrounding this issue were caused by the Welsh government's lack of due diligence on this matter and hold them accountable. As a consequence of this we feel that this issue requires the oversight of your committee until at least the time of our public meeting in March and for this reason we would like to request that you keep our petition open. We continue to believe that this is essential if we are to get a positive outcome for 'the many' and not just for 'the few' and we repeat our desire that the Welsh Government will provide the resources to ensure that the drive is once again open to the general public in private cars.

Yours faithfully

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

Robert Southall

Chair, Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive

Agenda Item 3.11

P-05-773 Don't Fill Landfill!

This petition was submitted by Claire Perrin, having collected 33 signatures online and 139 on paper – a total of 172 signatures.

Petition text:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to either issue new black wheelie bin stickers ([see example included*](#)) or printed wheelie bins which urge households across Wales to consider the bin's contents before leaving it on the kerbside for collection.

We feel that by explicitly describing the bin as a 'landfill' bin, this will serve to reinforce consideration for the items contained within it. We have included some factual information about the amount of time certain everyday items will stay in landfill if not recycled. We think this is very powerful and may improve Wales' commitment to recycle and therefore meet our targets for the future.

Ultimately, we want to encourage people to recycle more as well as help to reduce the amount of recyclable goods that end up in landfill.

*The graphic was submitted as part of the petition and is available in English only.

Additional information:

My name is Claire Perrin and I am a teacher at Celtic English Academy. At the start of this term, I started a class project on recycling and encouraged my 10 students to identify the possible options residents have in the capital. We also discovered that Wales is exceeding its commitment to reduce landfill by 2025 and is leading the rest of the U.K in terms of improving access to recycling centres and household collections in general.

However, my students began to notice that many residents weren't recycling correctly. We have included photographic examples of green recycle bags in black wheelie bins, food in kerbside green and black bags and recyclable items in black bags. We held class discussions about the possible reasons behind these errors. We also conducted a survey which asked people to identify recyclable goods from the following list: pet food pouches; personal hygiene items; Aluminium sheets; take away trays; magazines; crisp packets; egg boxes; plastic carrier bags; clothing

We found that a lot of people simply did not know which items could be recycled. We also discovered that people did not contemplate how long landfill items would take to biodegrade. When we informed them, they were shocked and wanted to do more to recycle. This encouraged us to come up with a possible solution to the amount of items placed incorrectly in black/green bags which could be rolled out across Wales, thus encouraging people to take more responsibility for their waste management and in the process, preventing recyclable items from going straight to landfill.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff North
- South Wales Central

P-05-773 Don't Fill Landfill! - Correspondence from Cardiff Council to the Chair, 08.12.17

Dear David Rowlands AM

Re: Bin Sticker Petition

Thank you for your correspondence dated 22 November 2017 regarding the above and thank you for the information provided.

During the last roll out of wheeled bins in Cardiff, 'no food waste' and 'no dry recyclables' stickers were placed on to the black bins to act as a 'nudge' for the other recycling services we offer. This was a one off project funded by the Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP) and they provided the design using their knowledge and communications expertise. Moving forward, we can change the designs on the lids of wheeled bins to include more awareness about the end destination of the waste.

We take the comments on board about the green recycling bags, and would welcome a meeting with Claire Perrin to discuss ways in which we can improve communications with residents. I would therefore be grateful if you could share her contact details with us so we can get in touch directly.

I trust the above is of assistance. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Jane Cherrington

**Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Ailgylchu/ Head of Recycling Services
Masnacholi a Chydweithredu / Commercialisation & Collaboration**

Agenda Item 3.12

P-05-777 Application of the Automatic Fire Suppression Systems Legislation within the current Building Regulations for Wales.

This petition was submitted by Nick Harding, having collected 62 signatures online.

Petition text:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to review and amend the current implementation of the Fire Sprinkler Regulations, within the current Building Regulations, that came into force in January 1st 2016 (Wales).

The review to amend should specifically take into consideration how the regulation has been integrated into the current Building Regulations with regards to projects that fall within the "Material Change of Use" category (Regulation 5) and the requirement to retrofit Automatic Fire Suppression Systems. The review should primarily take into consideration what is actually achieved when 2 properties are amalgamated into 1 given that:-

- 1) Where 2 dwellings become 1 the actual building process should be deemed no different from what would be considered as an Extension to a dwelling. Under the current Building regulations Extensions do not require an automated fire suppression system to be installed regardless of size.
- 2) The requirement is to install an automatic fire suppression system into the building as a whole and not just the developed part.
- 3) The Regulation does not take into account any substantial fire reduction measures already taking place as a result of the building project, such as reducing the number of kitchens within a property (70 – 80% of all domestic fires start within kitchens – Firesafe.org.uk).
- 4) The current costs for "Retrofitted" automatic fire suppression systems make the requirement not cost effective, a fact backed up by every commissioned and independent study undertaken thus far. (Collected costs and quotations range from £5000 to over £10000 depending on flow availability, number of heads actuating and tank plus infrastructure requirements).
- 5) The Legislation has been implemented without sufficient infrastructure being in place. Within the whole of Wales there are only are only 7 registered BAFSA companies. This is highly likely to lead to non-competitive pricing.

Additional information:

The review should also look at the wider implications of how this Legislation has been implemented now that it has been in place for some time.

Considerations should include:

1) Maintenance of the Systems – The Legislation does not include anything for any ongoing maintenance requirements once the system has been installed. The Welsh Assembly’s approach to this is to provide the public with a “Leaflet” which is supposed to provide information to the home owner regarding the maintenance requirements of the system; however this falls short of what would be achieved if it was part of the legislation to ensure ongoing maintenance of the system. However the knock on effect of this is to further burden homeowners with higher home owning and running costs, with ongoing maintenance costs estimated at over £2000 per year.

2) Legionella Risk (due to lack of maintenance) – It is widely thought that in general sprinkler systems are not a source of Legionella (FPA RC63), however as Wales is the 1st country in the world to legislate Domestic Sprinkler Systems as a requirement for all new build and converted homes we believe that more investigation is required especially as the regulation negated to include the maintenance of the system. We believe that as systems age and are not maintained due to costs, Legionella risk will become more prevalent putting the public at a higher risk of infection.

3) Costs – Due to the tight margins for House Builders and Developers, some have now stopped or will be stopping House building in certain areas of Wales (Persimmon & Redrow) as a direct result of this Legislation.

4) Cost Benefit Analysis – During the initial investigation it was estimated that the system would cost £1500 – £2500 per household. In reality the cost are between £5000 and £10000 per installation. Additional equipment is often required because Dwr Cymru cannot guarantee minimum water flow and pressure.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Bridgend
- South Wales West

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-777
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/02564/17

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

16 November 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 24 October, regarding the Domestic Fire Safety (Wales) Measure 2011 and the subsequent building regulations made in 2013.

The work identified by the petitioner is the conversion of two dwellings into one dwelling. In these circumstances the requirements, Regulations 5 (Meaning of material change of use) of the Building Regulations 2010 apply. (Regulation 5 (g) - the building, which contains at least one dwelling, contains a greater or lesser number of dwellings than it did previously). In situations where Regulation 5 (g) apply there is a requirement to install an automatic fire suppression system.

In relation to the requirements applicable to Regulation 5 (g) of the Building Regulations 2010 and the need to provide automatic fire suppressions systems, there are currently no plans to review these requirements.

Regards

Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Pack Page 109

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

P-05-777 Application of the Automatic Fire Suppression Systems Legislation within the current Building Regulations for Wales – Correspondence from the petitioner, 20.12.17

Dear Petitions Committee,

Again many thanks for discussing what I believe should be a significant discussion point for the economic future of the Building trade in Wales as well as ensuring a reasonable, rationalised approach to preventing Fire deaths in Wales.

With reference to Lesley Griffith's reply, it is disappointing that she has chosen not to address the outline questions proposed in the petition. Having shared previous correspondence with Lesley Griffiths on this matter for some time this seems to be a common trait.

Lesley's reply is a clear demonstration of how disconnected from reality the current Assembly lawmakers are, ignoring wider implications and ramifications whilst not even attempting to substantiate with facts and figures reasons behind the legislation implementation only supports that fact that this piece of legislation is not fit for purpose. The basis for this piece of legislation is completely unfounded, there were promises made by the Assembly members, in particular Ann Jones, to provide supporting evidence that Sprinklers were more effective in reducing deaths in dwellings that say, working maintained smoke alarms. No evidence was ever given for this, along with no data provided on type, style, size or age of buildings deemed to be at the highest risk of fire. However, clear evidence has been given by the BRE studies stating that in buildings with less than 3 stories, sprinkler systems are not a financially viable option compared to a working smoke alarm.

News released this week identifies that the Welsh economy is starting to suffer, with Wales currently being bottom of the UK trade and economy table; other news also related specifically to this legislation states that now councils have had to take their own initiative and essentially create their own building companies to enable them to meet their sustainable housing criteria. This current situation is a direct result of building companies choosing to develop over the border in England rather than Wales due to legislative red-tape such as the blanket implementation of the Sprinkler System regulation.

Again in this week's news another clip mentions that homes with broken / unmaintained smoke alarms are the primary cause of fire related deaths. How embarrassing will it be in

the future when the same applies to Sprinkler Systems due to the fact that the Welsh Government refused to include maintenance legislation to back up the primary Sprinkler installation requirements!

After all if people won't even pay for batteries or replacement of out of date alarms, there will be no chance of paying the extortionate annual costs associated with maintaining a Sprinkler System!

Given all the above and also that Fire loading (Hoarding) has just started to be mentioned in the news, surely it is time for the assembly to step-up and recognise that this current piece of legislation needs reviewing and amending.

In light of all the comments mentioned above and supported by other members of the public. I again call for a formal independent review of the current Building Regulations for the removal of the requirement to install or retrofit Sprinkler Systems to dwellings with a) *less* than 3 stories, b) Authorised modifications with an a *reduction* in primary fire sources (Kitchens) as a result of the modification work and c) Amalgamations with the intent of *reducing* the number of dwellings.

Nick Harding

Agenda Item 3.13

P-05-779 Compulsory scanning of domestic pets for microchips by councils

This petition was submitted by #CatsMatter Campaign, having collected 910 signatures online.

Petition text:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to introduce a policy to implement the compulsory scanning of domestic pets by councils.

Vets and shelters will scan pets found but there is no requirement from councils. The microchip system can only be fully effective if animals that have been microchipped are scanned and this is vital for the owners who have to endure the mental torment of never knowing and continuing searches for weeks/months when a family pet goes missing.

Currently there is no policy in place for councils to scan cats & dogs found by the street cleaning teams within councils. When a pet is missing it is devastating for their owners. But sometimes, when a cat goes missing, its owners may never find out if they are lost or have been killed in a road accident. There is no closure for the owners and their feelings of loss may go on and on.

Additional information:

At present, the Welsh councils who do not scan are Gwynedd, Anglesey, Cardiff, Newport, Blaenau Gwent and Neath Port Talbot. The remaining councils do currently scan. However, these councils admit they only scan when they deem the animal in a state to be so. This only partly eases pet owners grief as still many will never find out. Most animals involved in road collisions do sustain major injury which should not be used as an excuse to barricade the moral duties of letting the owners know. All domestic animals should be scanned, regardless of state, and the owners notified. Whilst it is considered the unfortunate upset or distress the street clean may endure when scanning animals found in a bad way, the fact is they will handle these animals regardless of our proposed policy. They will handle these cases on a regular basis at present. Although we appreciate the upsetting nature, the proposed policy does not encourage this any further than it currently is and the heartache would not be consistent with the owners who love and know

these animals personally and morally have a right to know what has happened.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Not residing in Wales

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-779
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/02563/17

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

15

November 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 24 October regarding the compulsory scanning of deceased domestic pets for microchips by councils.

As previously advised, it is for Local Authorities themselves to determine their own financial affairs and conditions of contract and to justify those decisions within their own communities. The cost of including the scanning of all animals for microchips via a waste contract would have to be carefully quantified.

Whilst I have every sympathy with pet owners who lose their beloved animal and wish to be informed if it is found, in whatever circumstances, the handling, storage and disposal of any animals carcass must comply with the provisions Regulation (EC) No. 1069/2009 and Regulation (EU) No.142/2011 which is enforced, in Wales, via The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (Wales) Regulations 2014. There would also have to be considerations given to bio-security issues and the health and safety of those employed in waste control.

Given the above I do not intend issuing additional guidance to Local Authorities on this issue.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

P-05-779 Compulsory scanning of domestic pets for microchips by councils - Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 07.12.17

Local Authorities do determine their own financial affairs, and contract conditions. The reason we feel Government intervention is needed is simply because certain councils in Wales are not so much as considering introducing microchip readers in to their depots, regardless of the numerous requests of the councils constituents. We have supporters in the 5 target areas who have requested the council look in to adopting this approach, plus there has been numerous independent petitions from locals – Cardiff in particular, yet the councils refuse to listen to residents requests, and simply file the petitions regardless of the number of signatures. Regardless of financial issues, councils do have a responsibility to act upon the concerns of its citizens.

In terms of financial restraints, we feel this is an excuse because all but 5 Welsh councils do currently have this procedure in place, and will agree it is inexpensive to operate. A 1 off cost for a freezer, and microchip readers is the only additional cost required of the councils, of which we have offered to help with previously. An example would be Powys, who only recently introduced this measure. Financial restraints were expressed so we donated scanners to each of their depots, which was received well. The scanners donated would not have exceeded £100, to give you an idea of cost for the 5 depots.

The main point to note is that every local authority in Wales already currently collects animal carcasses from public property. We do not ask for any additions or changes be added to the current operations of collection and disposal, just that the use of scanners becomes a mandatory requirement within the departments for domestic pets, specifically cats.

In terms of disposal, councils do collect carcasses already, and will proceed to do this following regulations set under the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (Wales) Regulations 2014, the Environment Protection Act 1990, and also follow requirements that need meeting from organisations such as Natural Resources Wales (NRW). Legislation currently set upon councils would not change, nor would any need introducing, as they each already comply with all of the above – regardless of them having a scanning procedure in place or not currently. The introduction of a mandatory scanning approach, would not alter any current legal requirements, nor would any additional ones need to be included. The approach has been adopted, and is working, for the majority of Welsh councils at present, there is no apparent reason why the remaining 5 councils could not also follow the methods set by all the others for the benefit, and mental wellbeing, of residents.

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, and the Animal and Plant Health Agency, do not recognise domestic pets as being placed in either a Category 1 or category 2 ABPs. As low-risk material, there are a much wider range of options for use and disposal compared to higher risk material, which local authorities and their contractors do already comply with current regulations to either landfill or incinerate the carcasses. In terms of bio-security, workers in the waste departments currently will already follow Health and Safety legislation set out for those handling uncontaminated animal by-products.

We do not ask this change, we just ask for the additional use of scanners so the owners have the chance to come forward and either collect them for private burial, which is permitted, or that they are simply notified so as can process their pets fate, and have closure. There would be no increase in cats collected, and the average number of cats collected monthly by councils stands at an average of just 7, of which around 3/4 will be microchipped. This means any burden to workload would be kept to an absolute minimum, in terms of phone calls to notify the owners.

Of the 22 authorities in Wales, just 5 currently do not scan. Should the Welsh Government consider placing a mandatory requirement upon all councils to scan domestic pets collected, we believe it should come in to play with all new waste contracts, giving the remaining 5 councils time to prepare for change. We, and our larger partners, have already agreed to work with those to ensure a smooth and effective roll out, should the councils wish assistance.

We continue to hear of sympathy toward pet owners, but without any action taken this remains just words. Action would signal the Government understands what people's pets mean to them in contemporary times, and respect citizens right to closure should the worst happen to their pet.

CatsMatter

- www.catsmatter.org
-
- www.facebook.com/catsmatteruk



Agenda Item 3.14

P-05-769 South Wales Major Trauma Centre – Cardiff & Swansea Please

This petition was submitted by Hywel Ap John Griffiths, having collected 69 signatures online.

Petition text:

We call on the Welsh Government to provide major trauma centres at both the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, and at Morriston Hospital, Swansea rather than at a sole site.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Dwyfor Meirionnydd
- Mid and West Wales

**P-05-769 South Wales Major Trauma Centre – Cardiff & Swansea Please –
Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 17.11.17**

Dear Hannah,

My sincerest thanks for your recent e-mails.

As I am not mandated to speak on behalf of those who have signed the petition, I am unable to offer any response to the letter presented by the Minister for Health.

It is now for the Assembly Members who sit on the petitions committee to carefully consider whether or not what is asked within the wording of the petition is worthy of any further action.

Kindest regards,

Hywel Ap John Griffiths

Agenda Item 3.15

P-05-781 Port Talbot Community Against the Super Prison

This petition was submitted by The Port Talbot Super Prison Protest Group, having collected 1,263 signatures online and 7,528 on paper – a total of 8,791 signatures.

Petition text:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government not to release or sell land to the UK government for the development of a super prison in Baglan.

The UK Government, with the support of the Welsh Government, proposes to build a 1600 capacity mens' 'super prison' on Baglan Moors.

The site is near to homes and local facilities, local businesses and will place significant strain on roads and health services in the area. The site is in an enterprise zone and designated for economic use as well as being in a flood risk area.

Wales already has a large surplus of prison places with its existing prisons.

This prison would bring with it all of the associated problems with large prisons and there has been no guarantee from either government on what protections would be put in place to help Port Talbot cope with such a large number of prisoners.

There is no long term guarantee that the new prison would remain housing category C prisoners. It could be changed in future to hold more dangerous criminals.

Port Talbot can do better than this and our town deserves much more. Will you sign the petition and tell the UK Government and the Welsh Government, NO to a super prison in Port Talbot?

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Aberavon
- South West Wales

**P-05-781 Port Talbot Community Against the Super Prison –
Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee, 01.01.18**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was contacted recently to advise me that there is a meeting to consider my petition against the building of a super prison here in Port Talbot. The hearing date is January 9th 2018.

I was asked to send comments for the committee to take into consideration regarding the petition. I would like to submit the following statement for the committee's consideration:

When it was first announced that a super prison was planned for Baglan Moors, Port Talbot it was first met with disbelief. The site selected is a flood plain & is wholly unsuitable for a building of that magnitude. If built it risks water damage/subsidence issues to neighbouring business premises and over 2000 residential houses, a health centre that houses 5 doctors surgeries & a sheltered housing complex, all of these are within metres of this proposed site. There are also over 5000 school children all under a mile away from this site. As a town, over 8000 residents signed a petition in under 2 months to show how much we do not want or need this prison in Port Talbot. Had we had longer the petition would have been in 10's of thousands in strength.

There is a covenant on this land that states only business premises may be built on it. A prison is not a business premises. It is classed a secure residential building, therefore not in keeping with this covenant. We believe that the Welsh Assembly Government, as owners of this land should now remove this site from the list submitted to the MoJ for consideration as it is unsuitable for the use. We petitioned the Senedd back in September to show how much we as a town are against the idea of this prison. It will not bring jobs to the area as the MoJ promise, it will cause unnecessary increased pressure on our infrastructure, which is already struggling with one huge new super school.. another Welsh Medium super school is opening in September 2018 which is going to add to congestion. Imagine what a 30+ month build of a prison scale is going to do to the traffic situation? The proposed prison is a Cat C, rehabilitation prison which will encourage and support inmates leaving the prison daily to attend training placements and jobs within our community. Our community already has high unemployment, with inmates attending placements and jobs that SHOULD by rights be going to local people to alleviate our high unemployment figures. Residents surrounding the proposed site are naturally concerned about subsidence problems that would/could occur. A smaller housing

estate has already had issues with structural damage from the build of the Welsh Medium School, imagine the damage the prison build could cause. These fears are real, this is how the residents of Port Talbot feel about this proposed built, should it go ahead.

We, the people of Port Talbot urge the Welsh Assembly Government & The First Minister to please reconsider allowing the Ministry of Justice to buy this site. Please remove Baglan Moors from the list of 'suitable' prospective sites for the super prison. The site is NOT away from residential areas or schools, it would be IN a community, it would stretch already stretched resources from our depleted hospital, our police force & our fire service.

Please do not sell the land to the Moj

Yours sincerely

Victoria Griffiths

5:	<i>Total radioactivity in samples and sediments</i>	<i>p 7</i>
6:	<i>Baseline radioactivity (Cardiff Grounds & s. Wales coast)</i>	<i>p 8</i>
7:	<i>Conclusions</i>	<i>p 9</i>

1: Baseline data:

1:1 Introduction: Acquisition of baseline data is of the greatest importance when assessing the risks attached to any major development involving the proposed deposition/dumping of large volumes of radio-active sediments which might be radio-toxic to the environment or deleterious to public health.

1:2 Baseline data provides information on the current levels of such material in the immediate “receiving” environment and those “downstream” areas likely to be impacted in the intermediate or long term. Such information enables both the assessment of current environmental concentrations of the radio-active materials and the monitoring and analysis of trends following the disposal/dump of the radioactive materials.

1:3 Full and detailed baseline data on the radio-activity in the sedimentary material proposed for the disposal/dump will permit a fuller understanding of the potential risks, potential pathways of exposure and potential doses of radio-activity to the public.

1:4 Baseline data on the fate and behavior of sediments, and their associated pollutants, dumped at the Cardiff Grounds site is similarly vital for the identification of those regional inter-tidal and sub-tidal deposits (mud flats, salt marsh etc) where marine sediments, suspended in the water column after being dumped at the Cardiff Grounds site, will eventually be deposited.

1:5 Baseline data would provide highly relevant information on the significance (to the Bristol Channel, Welsh coastal zone) of those sea to land transfer mechanisms reported to be occurring on the north and west coasts of Wales (coastal flooding, inland penetration of sea spray and marine aerosols).

1:6 The texts of the Campaign’s Petition to the National Assembly listed the Campaign’s concerns and included reference to a number of issues relating to the absence of baseline environmental and radiological data and requested that the National Assembly seek to arrange for the clarification, and data improvement re such issues.

The Senedd Petitions Committee first meeting (21st Nov) appeared to support that position and to express agreement with the need to acquire more information and clarification.

1:7 After many weeks of public discussion, followed by presentations to, and cross examination by, the Senedd Petitions Committee, there are still a number of outstanding issues about which EDF, the proposers of the “Dump/disposal”, have supplied none of the requisite” baseline” data.

.....

2: The Precautionary Principle (PP) is detailed in Article 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The PP aims at ensuring a higher level of environmental protection through preventative decision-taking in the case of risk. In other words, prevention is better than cure, also called the “preventative principle”.

2:1 A twenty-nine page Communication on the PP issued by the European Commission (EC) in February 2000 provides detailed guidelines on when recourse to the PP should be triggered. The Communication defines the PP as a risk management tool which is to be applied only after a scientific evaluation of the available risk data (i.e., risk assessment). **The Communication describes two outputs from this risk assessment that are necessary to justify recourse to the precautionary principle.**

2:2 The risk assessment must

A: identify potentially negative effects resulting from the product or activity, and/or

B: the available scientific data must be so insufficient, inconclusive, or imprecise as to make it impossible to "determine with sufficient certainty the risk in question." (*Ref: European Commission, Communication for the Commission on the Precautionary Principle (2000). Mossman & Marchant: Precautionary Principle & Radiation Protection*)

2:3 In the context of the Linear Non Threshold effect (i.e. that no dose, to humans, of radioactivity is absolutely without impact) a major component of the Campaign's concern about the proposed dump is the widely supported view **that the available data is so insufficient, inconclusive, or imprecise as to make it impossible to determine, with sufficient certainty, the risk in question.**

In that context, the Campaign also asserts that there **may be potentially negative effects resulting from the activity proposed by EDF.**

Therefore the campaign invokes the Precautionary Principle until such time as the scientific data is suitably **sufficient, conclusive and precise as to "determine with sufficient certainty the risk in question."**

.....

3: Bristol Channel hydrodynamics

3:1 Water body movements in the Bristol Channel: The "general" movement of the water column is as follows: Marine/oceanic water, derived in part from the N/.Atlantic Drift current enters the Channel, in an eastward flowing direction, along the English coasts of Devon, Somerset and Avon. In the Severn Estuary sector this water body crosses to the south coast of Wales and then moves westward along that coastline towards the Pembroke peninsula before entering the Irish Sea via the Cardigan Bay.

3:2 This general water body movement is subject to modification by wider sea area, and more localized, natural phenomena such as spring/neap cycles, super tides, storm surges, gales and fluvial inputs moderated by rainfall. On occasion these factors may be so powerful as to temporarily disrupt the established flow for time periods reflecting the duration of the phenomena. (*REF: "Atlas of the Seas around the British Isles". Directorate of Fisheries Research. Ministry of Ag', Fish and Food (MAFF) 1981. Chapter/page 2:16*)

3:3 It is universally noted that the Bristol Channel/Severn estuary has the second most extreme tidal range in the world and that tidal influences are unusually active and relatively powerful. It is also widely understood that the Inner sections of the Bristol Channel, and all of the Severn Estuary coastline are characterized by shallow water, and extensive inter-tidal and near shore sub-tidal deposits of fine sediment, while the offshore/central zone of the Bristol Channel is characterized by deeper water channels with a largely rocky seabed

3:4 General sediment movement in the Bristol Channel: There is a strong consensus that the movement of fine sediments, suspended in the water column, is a major factor in the behavior and fate of pollutants because many toxic substances (including radioactivity) associate with fine sediments, which are potentially the most mobile sedimentary fraction under all sea conditions. (*REF: A Review of Sediment Dynamics in the Severn Estuary: Influence of Flocculation" Marine Pollution Bulletin 2010. Vol 61, Issues1-3: pps 37-51 (Para 1: introduction)*)

3:5 This review noted that "despite its high mobility, the exchange of fine suspended particulate material between the (*Severn*) estuary and the open sea occurs at relatively low rates **with a minimum retention time of at least ten years**", i.e. a long life span of fine sediments and their associated pollutants **within** the Bristol Channel sea area. (*REF: A*

Review of Sediment Dynamics in the Severn Estuary: Influence of Flocculation” Marine Pollution Bulletin 2010. Vol 61, Issues1-3: pps 37-51 (Para 3:1)

3:6 Tracer studies using “marked” fine sediments indicate that the most significant areas for deposition of fine sediments along the south coast of Wales are the coastal fringing, inter-tidal mudflats of the Gwent levels (from Cardiff eastward to the Severn Crossings), the estuaries of the Wye and Usk, and a few offshore sites such as the Newport Deep and the Nash Passage. At greater distances are the fine sediment deposits in Swansea and Carmarthen Bay and their associated river estuaries. ***(REF: A Review of Sediment Dynamics in the Severn Estuary: Influence of Flocculation” Marine Pollution Bulletin 2010. Vol 61, Issues1-3: pps 37-51 (Para 3:2)***

3:7 The review highlighted a number of significant **unknowns** with regard to the behaviour of fine sediments in the inner regions of the Bristol Channel and stated that **“With respect to current understandings of the sediment dynamics and physical processes, much of the research and data collection was undertaken several decades ago”** and comments that **“ A better understanding of these features and their linkages would improve management options for the system”**

In which context, the study lists the following research necessary in order to understand the behavior of Bristol Channel sediments and their associated pollutants

- a: investigate how flocculation (aggregation, followed by deposition) of suspended sediments responds to different degrees of turbulent mixing
- b: develop better sediment transport models to quantify the settling of flocs, erosion of bed sediments, and the settling of sediments during different tidal conditions
- c: examine how the mineralogical composition of muddy sediments influences their capability to both generate flocs and adsorb and release pollutants
- d: provide representative distributions of both suspended sedimentary matter and salinity through seasonal and neap/spring tidal cycles and time scales
- e: determine the extent to which biological processes affect the behaviour of sediments and the bio-availability of sediment associated pollutants”.

(REF: A Review of Sediment Dynamics in the Severn Estuary: Influence of Flocculation” Marine Pollution Bulletin 2010. Vol 61, Issues1-3: pps 37-51 (Para 5: pps 13 &14)

3:8 Physical empirical observation (satellite photography) clearly shows that the coastlines of the Inner Bristol Channel and the Severn Estuary (especially the estuaries and the inter-tidal zone of the south Wales coast east of Cardiff) hold major deposits of sedimentary material and that the sea area from the tidal reaches of the Severn Estuary west of the Lavernock Point/Brean Down line, is characterized as a maximum turbidity zone where the suspended sediment load is very high, with some of the highest loadings found in the UK

3:9 However, there is a consensual view that data for many of the relevant parameters at the local and regional level is incomplete and some cases weak. Certainly there is not enough observational, empirical data to provide more precise information on the movement of sediments within the Bristol Channel/ Severn estuary at large, let alone locally and at the site specific level.

3:10 Scientific reports have also commented on the lack of useful data covering such parameters in the Bristol Channel. In the absence of appropriately detailed data sets the bulk of the information currently available is reliant upon numerical/computer modeled information using inputs of whatever empirical data is available.

Thus we find that “modeling studies have been performed to investigate the hydrodynamics, sediment transport system and coastal processes in the Bristol Channel to develop the understanding of the sediment regime and be able to

differentiate sediment transport cells” (REF: “*Bristol Channel Marine Aggregates: Resources and Constraints Research Project*” Final Report: August 2000: Volume 2 : Technical Appendix 06: Section1, Page 1. DETR et Al’.)

3:11 Models clearly demonstrated that sediments were carried eastwards and inland, along the Bristol Channel coastal margins and into and up the Severn estuary on flooding tides. Stronger prevailing winds (from generally western directions) tended to increase the magnitude of the effect. Sediments thus transported consisted of fine particles suspended in the water column through to heavier particles carried closer to, or on, the seabed. Strong winds from other directions were shown to have a modifying effect on the phenomenon. (REF: “*Bristol Channel Marine Aggregates: Resources and Constraints Research Project*” Final Report: August 2000: Volume 2 : Technical Appendix 06: Section4:3, Pages25 & 26. DETR et Al’.)

3:12 The outcome of the modeling exercise clearly implies that radioactively contaminated sedimentary material from the Hinkley site, dumped at the Cardiff Grounds, would be transported eastwards and inland into the coastal margins of South Wales between Cardiff and the River Severn.

However, the Report in question warns **that the absence of empirical data means that modeled outputs should be taken as “purely qualitative rather than quantitative due to the lack of any coherent long-term sediment transport data”** (REF: “*Bristol Channel Marine Aggregates: Resources and Constraints Research Project*” Final Report: August 2000: Volume 2 : Technical Appendix 06: Section4:3, Page 28. DETR et Al’.)

3:13 Conclusion:

No reference is made to these perceived data gaps in the EDF dredge & dump proposal, or any of the EDFs recent submissions. Similarly, no reference has been made to these major uncertainties by the regulating agencies (Natural Resources Wales and the UK Env Agency), nor by the UK Marine Management Organization (who licensed the “dredge”) or by CEFAS.

In such a context it remains uncertain whether those organizations are actually even aware of these scientifically identified, and very significant, data gaps.

.....
4: Behaviour and fate of Bristol Channel radioactivity:

4:1 It is notable that the documentation submitted by EDF, the proposers of the Cardiff Grounds dump, has failed to address a range of baseline data issues relating to the potential radiological impact of the proposed action as follows:

- a: incomplete data on the radiological constituents of the dredged material (exactly how many of the 50+ radio-nuclides discharged from the Hinkley site are present in the sediments to be dredged and dumped?)
- b: incomplete (and now contradictory) information on “the “aggregated” radio-activity content of the 300,000 tonnes of sediment to be dumped
- c: incomplete data on the “sub-surface” radio-activity of the dredged material
- d: no data on the post-dump maritime transport of the dredged material once placed into the marine environment, (movement and final deposition of the sediments)
- e: no empirical data on the current status/concentrations of man-made radioactivity (from contemporary and historical Bristol Channel nuclear power stations: *Oldbury, Berkeley and Hinkley*) in Welsh coastal waters, welsh coastal/estuarine inter-tidal and sub-tidal sediment deposits
- f: no empirical data on the current status/concentrations of man-made radioactivity (from contemporary and historical Bristol Channel nuclear power stations: *Oldbury, Berkeley and Hinkley*) in the coastal zone (up to 10 miles inland) of south Wales

4:2 **incomplete data on the radiological constituents of the dredged material** The Campaign has consistently referenced this issue in the context of 50+ radio-nuclides known to have been constituents of the liquid radioactive waste discharges from the Hinkley nuclear sites (A & B stations) and therefore also likely to be associated with the sedimentary material to be dredged.

4:3 EDF have insisted that there is no evidence for the presence of any man made radioactivity other than the Americium 241, Caesium 137 and Cobalt 60 which the published CEFAS radio-analytical reports have mentioned. At the 5th Dec' meeting of the Senedd Petitions Committee EDF appeared to argue that the digital printout of the Gamma Spectrometry radio analysis demonstrated the absence of any man made radio-nuclides other than those 3.

4:4 However, given that the annual RIFE reports show that the 2016 analytical investigations of marine radioactivity around Hinkley analysed for a total of 11 man-made radio-nuclides, and in the context of the Campaigns (not refuted) claim that the site has historically discharged 50+ radio-nuclides, the Campaign remains un-convinced, and has **accordingly requested EDF and CEFAS to supply copies of the “digital read out” of the gamma spectrometry machine used by CEFAS in fulfillment of their contract with EDF to analyse the sediments.**

4:5 This request was made soon after the 5th of December meeting and specifically requested that the Gamma Spectrometry “digital read-out” be made available to us ASAP in order that our radio-activity specialists can review the data and the EDF claim, prior to the next proposed meeting of the Petitions Committee. To date (19th Dec: 2017) that request has not been fulfilled.

4:6 **incomplete (and now contradictory) information on “the “aggregated” radio-activity content of the 300,000 tonnes of sediment to be dumped:**

Two radiological analysis reports relating to the sediments proposed for the dredge and dump have been made available. **(REFs: CEFAS: “Radiological Assessment of Dredging Application for Hinkley Point C Power Station, Somerset (2013)”: and “Radiological analysis results from samples acquired using vibro-coring at Hinkley Point C in 2009”).**

4:7 The 2013 Assessment is assumed by the Campaign to have taken 17 “surface samples” only (i.e. from the top 5cm surface layer of the Bridgwater Bay sediments) and this assumption has not been challenged/refuted by EDF.

The Campaign has provided evidence that other studies (based on sediment core samples from elsewhere in the Irish Sea), indicate that samples from between 5 and 50cms depth show higher concentrations of man-made radio-nuclides than the surface samples.

As a result of this data, early on in its evidence, the Campaign warned that surface samples only were unlikely to be fully representative of the aggregated/total radioactivity in the dredged material.

4:8 **EDF has contested this assertion and argued that the 2013 surface sample results are confirmed by the 2009 core sample study. The regulating agencies (including the NRW) appear to have agreed with this statement.** In order to review the EDF statement and the regulators agreement with it, the Campaign has obtained, and reviewed, a copy of the outcomes of the 2009 Hinkley core samples study.

4:9 The Campaign’s review of the 2009 Core study reveals that only 5 cores were subjected to radiological analysis, that Core samples were taken using a 6 metre depth vibro-core, that the max depth of sediments analysed was 4.8 metres, that cores were cut into 1metre sections and that sub-samples from the top and bottom metres were taken for

radiological analysis, meaning that ten sub-samples were analysed : 2 cores [4 samples] at the proposed intake points, 1 set [2 samples] at the proposed discharge point and 2 sets [4 samples] from the proposed jetty site.

4:10 The results of the vibro-core (top metre) samples provide the following information: a: Positive results for manmade radioactivity in all “top metre” samples, b: Higher average radioactivity of 3 man made radio nuclides in 2009 “top metre” vibro-core samples (27.38 Bq/Kg) than in 2013 surface samples (23.02 Bq/Kg) c: Maximum recorded radio activity (Cs 137: 43.14Bq/Kg) was from vibrocore 2009 “top metre” sample no VCJ20R: max from 2013 surface samples (Cs 137: 32.2 Bq/Kg)

4:11 The Campaign has already presented its calculation of approx **7 Billion + Bqs of** “aggregated man-made radioactivity” contained in the 300,000 tonnes of sediment proposed for disposal at Cardiff Grounds. The Campaign notes that EDF, NRW and CEFAS have not disputed that calculation which was based on the figures given in the CEFAS 2013 surface sample report.

4:12 However, in the context of the recently acquired vibrocore “top metre” data, the Campaign can state that the aggregated radioactivity figure has been re-calculated and now stands at approx **8.2 Billion Bqs , a rise of approx 18%, compared to the 2013 surface samples.**

4:13 Conclusions: **In the context of the comparison between the 2009 Core samples and the 2013 surface samples the Campaign reiterates its claim that surface samples (0 to 5 cms deep) do not provide the most comprehensive or appropriate samples for an application to dredge down to 4metres+ depth, because such an action will be exposing sub-surface and historically deposited radioactivity from 50 years worth of Hinkley sea discharged radioactive wastes, and these wastes will NOT be detected in the 0 to 5cm surface samples, but only in deeper “core” type samples.**

4:14 The Campaign therefore advises, and requests, that surface sample outcomes should be discounted as they are evidently shown to be NOT representative of the totality of the material to be dredged.

5: Total radioactivity in samples?

5:1 The Campaign has consistently argued that the presented results for both CEFAS Radiological analyses (2009 & 2013) are incomplete as only 3 man-made radio-nuclides have been reported, despite the fact that the Hinkley (A &B) liquid radioactive effluent discharges into the Bridgwater Bay sediments are reported to have contained 50+ discrete nuclides discharged for over 50 years.

5:2 The presence of Am 241 (recorded in both the 2009 & 2013 surveys) strongly implies the presence of Plutonium, as these nuclides are, in UK marine environments, inevitably found together where both are specifically investigated. Both Americium and Plutonium are fission products generated by the use of uranium based nuclear fuels inside reactors.

Similarly, the presence of Cobalt 60 (also recorded in the 2009 & 2013 surveys) strongly implies the presence of Iron 59 and Manganese 54 as all three are “activation” products created as a result of neutron bombardment of steel reactor components.

The presence of Caesium 137 in reactor liquid waste streams is usually attributed to the failure of reactor fuel pin cladding, usually as a result of poor manufacture of the cladding or of reactor malfunction and strongly implies the presence of a range of other nuclides released by fuel pin cladding failure.

5:3 From EDF submissions and answers to date, the Campaign remains unclear whether (or not) there is definitive evidence of the presence of other man made radio nuclides apart from the Am, Cs and Co reported by the 2009 & 2013 surveys.

The Campaign has written to both EDF and CEFAS asking for a copy of the digital printout of the gamma spectroscopy results for both surveys in order that our experts may study it for indications of the presence of the other nuclides discharged into the sediments through the 50 year history of the Hinkley site.

5:5 EDF has now responded that they do not have copies of the digital printouts for either survey and that that material was in the hands of CEFAS. The Campaign is surprised to discover that this is the case, especially in the context of the EDF witnesses description of the interpretation of such data, which appeared to imply that EDF had actually interpreted such data themselves, rather than not having seen it all.

5:6 The Campaign has now asked both EDF and CEFAS to arrange for the Campaign to access copies of these printouts **BEFORE** the proposed next petitions Committee meeting on 9th Jan 2018, in order that both the Campaign and the Committee are able to review that data.

5:7 Conclusion

a:

Application of the Precautionary Principal is strongly indicated because there is a major lack of detailed data on the radioactivity content of the Bridgwater Bay/Hinkley sediments and this lack of data strongly militates against any attempt to construct appropriate dose estimates for the coastal and coastal zone populations of the south Wales coast.

6: Baseline radioactivity data: Cardiff Grounds and south Wales coast.

6:1 There is, and has been, no comprehensive survey of environmental radioactivity along the south Wales coast or within the south Wales coastal zone. Some short term radiological work was carried out by individual south Wales County Councils (e.g. Gwent) during the 1980s, but recent attempts to access copies of that work have not been successful to date. Individual non industry/non governmental surveys have also been carried out in Wales, but unfortunately none of them have investigated south Wales coastal parameters.

6:2 Regretably, the national (UK wide and Welsh) monitoring/analytical services and relevant regulatory bodies have not undertaken any such investigations. The only coherent data outcomes for the south Wales coast relate annual sampling/analysis have investigated the concentrations of marine environmental radioactivity from the liquid discharges from the Maynard Centre (medical radiological diagnostics) to sea (near the Orchard Ledges) via the Cardiff sewerage outfalls. These measurements are reported in the Annual RIFE reports: **(Ref: "RIFE 22 Radioactivity in Food and the Environment, 2016": EA. FSA.NRW. NIEA.SEPA. 2017)**

6:3 The RIFE marine samples for the Maynard Centre discharges focus on 2 areas, the sub-tidal area around the Orchard Ledges and an inter-tidal sample site at Lavernock Point. Only 2 of those samples (from close to the sewage outfall, near the Orchard Ledges) consisted of sediment, while 1 only was a seawater sample. None of the samples were analysed for any of the radio nuclides (Cs 137, Co 60 or Am 241) tested for in the Bridgwater Bay sediments proposed for dumping at Cardiff Grounds.

6:4 Therefore the RIFE analysis of the marine environment adjacent to the proposed Cardiff Grounds dump site offers no insight into the current status of Cs137, Co60 or Am241 in the Cardiff marine area. **In the absence of any other data it remains the case that there is still no baseline data for Bridgwater Bay/ Hinkley derived radioactivity in the south Wales coastal marine and terrestrial environment.**

7: Conclusion:

The Campaign contests that, in the absence of any such data for the “receiving area” i.e. the Cardiff Grounds dump site, the immediate downstream environment and the regional estuarine and inshore/coastal sediment deposits (*identified by modeling as the likely deposition end-point of dumped sediments and their associated pollutants*), it will not be possible to:

a: Construct dose assessment for coastal populations because it is plainly NOT possible to calculate the existing, pre dump doses (of Bridgwater Bay/Hinkley derived radioactivity) to south Wales coastal populations from the historical multiple marine and sea to land transfer pathways:

b: acquire any *pre dump data* against which to compare *post-dump data* (i.e. to monitor the magnitude or significance of any changes following the dump)

c: the absence of such data also confirms the Campaigns concern that there is no empirical, or even modeled, evidence to describe the behaviour and end-fate of radioactivity dumped at the Cardiff Grounds site and inform the Welsh Government and the public about where that radioactivity might end up.

7:1 In the context of the above conclusions the Campaign states that, had an Environmental Impact Assessment(EIA) been required for the proposal to dump 300,000 tonnes of radioactively contaminated sediment at the Cardiff grounds site, it is highly probable that the appropriate baseline data would have been acquired. The Campaign continues to recommend that an EIA should be initiated by the Welsh Government

7:2 The Campaign further re-iterates its concerns about the nationwide lack of data on the significance of Welsh coastal marine radioactivity, especially the frequency and magnitude of the various sea-to-land transfer mechanisms (sea spray, aerosol, coastal flooding) and the totality of their impacts in the context of the very small numbers of radio-nuclides which have been studied . This lack of data strongly militates against the construction of empirical doses, and the modeled doses routinely produced by CEFAS et alia.

7:3 In the context of the Welsh Government’s “Well being of Future Generations (WALES) Act: 2015” the Campaign and its many supporters have noted the call for sustainability, preservation of a healthy environment and the promotion of actions which benefit the population of Wales which are contained within that Act.

The Campaign and its supporters believe that the Welsh Government decision to licence the dump of 300,000 tonnes of radioactively contaminated sediments into the south Wales inshore waters, so close to Wales’s major coastal conurbations, does not fulfill the intentions of the “Well being of Future Generations (WALES) Act: 2015”

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Tim Deere-Jones: (*Marine Radioactivity Research & Consultancy*)

for “Stop the Dump of Hinkley sediments at the Cardiff Grounds”

21st Dec 2017.

E: A twenty-nine page Communication on the Precautionary Principle, issued by the European Commission (EC) in February 2000, provides detailed guidelines on when recourse to the PP should be triggered. The Communication defines the PP as a risk management tool which is to be applied only after a scientific evaluation of the available risk data (i.e., Risk Assessment). **The Communication describes two outputs from this risk assessment that are necessary to justify recourse to the PP:**

- 1: identify potentially negative effects resulting from the product or activity, and/or
- 2: the available scientific data must be so insufficient, inconclusive, or imprecise as to make it impossible to "determine with sufficient certainty the risk in question." (**Ref: European Commission, Communication for the Commission on the Precautionary Principle (2000). Mossman & Marchant: Precautionary Principle & Radiation Protection**)

F: The Campaign concluded that, as the result of A to D above, and under the "Guidances" issued regarding the Precautionary Principle, the 2013 data set was inadequate to the task of providing scientific data for the assessment of radiological impacts to the inhabitants and users/stakeholders of the south Wales inshore waters and coastal zone.

In response to this critique EDF and the NRW then brought forward the outcomes of a 2009 vibro-core sampling campaign.

The 2009 vibro-core Survey:

The campaign has reviewed the 2009 survey and concludes as follows:

- A: The vibro core investigation recovered 5 core samples down to depths between 2.16 metres and 4.8 metres. Cores were then sub-divided into 17x 1 metre sections and analysed.
- B: Analysis demonstrated that the 5 vibro-core samples from the surface to 1 metre depth, held the maximum concentrations of the 3 man-made radio-nuclides, Cs 137, Co60 and Am 241.
- C: Analysis demonstrated that the 5 vibro-core samples from the lowest/deepest sections of the cores consistently held minimum concentrations of man-made radioactivity.
- D: Analysis demonstrated that the majority of the lowest sections of the cores held higher concentrations of natural radioactivity (*13 of 20 analyses*)

The 2017 Survey (Cefas Environment Report RL 05/17)

- A: An additional survey, carried out in May 2017, took 12 sediment grab samples from the area of proposed dredging.
- B: Sediment samples "were taken from approximately the top 2 cms of sediment surface"
- C: 3 man-made radio-nuclides were analysed for: positive results for man-made radioactivity were recorded in all samples

The table below sets out the outcomes of the three surveys:

TABLE

Parameters	2009 Core study	2013 Surface samples	2017 surface samples
Depths	<i>surface to 1 metre</i>	<i>0 to 5cms</i>	<i>0 to “approx 2cms”</i>
Sample numbers	5	17	12
Average total Cs, Co and Am	27 Bq/Kg	23.02 Bq/Kg	17.4 Bq/Kg
Aggregated (man-made) rads per 300,000 tonnes	8,100,000,000 Bqs (8.1 Billion Bqs)	6,906,000,000 Bqs (6.9 Billion Bqs)	5,220,000,000 Bqs (5.22 Billion Bqs)
Total collective dose	<i>not given</i>	<i>0.035manSV/year</i>	<i>0.035manSV/year</i>
derived total dose: members of the public	<i>not given</i>	<i>1.6 microSv/year</i>	<i>1:9 microSv/year</i>
Derived total dose: dredger crew	<i>not given</i>	<i>4.8 microSv/year</i>	<i>5.8 microSv/year</i>

(calculations based on “conservative estimates” provided by the Surveys)

All surveys carried out using high purity Ge gamma spectrometry

From the results in the above table, the Campaign concludes that :

- 1:** Across the three surveys, the sample depth values are highly dis-similar (0 to 2 cms, 0 to 5cms,) 0 to 100 cms)
- 2:** Across the three surveys, the sample numbers are highly dis-similar (5, 17, 12)
- 3:** Across the three surveys, the average radioactivity concentrations are highly dis-similar (27 Bq/Kg, 23.02 Bq/Kg, 17.4 Bq/Kg) : *35% variation between maximum and minimum*
- 4:** Across the three surveys, the aggregated radioactivity results (per 300,000 tonnes) are highly dis-similar (8.1 billion Bqs, 6.9 billion Bqs, 5.2 billion Bqs) : *35% variation between maximum and minimum*
- 5:** Across the two surveys for which individual (public) dose estimates are given, the results are dis-similar (1.6 microSv/year ; 1.9 microSv/year) : *15% difference*
- 6:** Across the two surveys for which dredger crew dose estimates are given, the results are dis-similar (4.8 microSv/year, 5.8 microSv/year) : *17% difference*
- 7:** Survey findings conclusively demonstrate that the “top metre” samples (2009 core sample study) hold higher concentrations of man-made radioactivity than both the 0 to 5cms (2013)samples

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