

Agenda – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: 6 February 2018

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

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1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

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Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 2.1

P-05-798 Male domestic violence victim support services to be independently run & funded

This petition was submitted by Tom Embling having collected 138 signatures online.

Text of Petition

Male domestic violence victim support services to be independently run & funded separately from Women's Aid Cymru & all associated.

The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is: "Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality."

Domestic Abuse can effect anyone. With more Male victims/survivors seeking help, advise, support & safety than ever before. It is important that Male victims deserve independent support & funding from such gender bias groups as Women's Aid Cymru & all associated.

Male victims/survivors deserve support/help specific to their needs, while still maintaining their dignity, & providing them and their children safety equal & parallel to that which women currently receive.

Additional Information

Current Domestic Abuse statistics across Wales & England, indicate that Domestic Abuse will affect 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men in their lifetime.

Domestic Abuse/Violence is a problem that can effect anyone so surely it should be:

"Putting people & their children first."

There is no greater gap in availability of services & support just based on someone's gender across Wales & UK.

Attitudes need to change because no person (& their children) should continue so publically & shamefully be denied safety & support because of their gender in Wales, in this day & age.

Please support this to help support others.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Bridgend
- South Wales West

Petitions Committee

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | Chwefror 2018

Petitions Committee | February 2018

Funding for male domestic abuse services

Petition number: [P-05-798](#)

Petition title: Male domestic violence victim support services to be independently run & funded

Text of petition: Male domestic violence victim support services to be independently run & funded separately from Women's Aid Cymru & all associated.

The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is: "Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality."

Domestic Abuse can effect anyone. With more Male victims/survivors seeking help, advise, support & safety than ever before. It is important that Male victims deserve independent support & funding from such gender bias groups as Women's Aid Cymru & all associated.

Male victims/survivors deserve support/help specific to their needs, while still maintaining their dignity, & providing them and their children safety equal & parallel to that which women currently receive.

Background

Definition

The UK Home Office's [cross-government definition](#) of **domestic abuse and violence** (as outlined in the petition) is "any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional".

The definitions of **domestic abuse** in the Welsh Government's [National Strategy](#) and [Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)) are similar:

“abuse” (“cam–drin”) means physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse;

“domestic abuse” (“cam–drin domestig”) means abuse where the victim of it is or has been associated with the abuser

To be ‘associated with’ someone means being married or in a civil partnership, living together in a relationship, relatives, or in an intimate personal relationship.

The Welsh Act and Strategy defines **sexual violence** as “sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, or threats of violence of a sexual nature”

All of these definitions apply to women and men.

In the National Strategy, the Welsh Government also recognises **violence against women** as a distinct issue, and “as a violation of human rights and both a cause and consequence of inequality between women and men, and it happens to women because they are women and that women are disproportionately impacted by all forms of violence”.

This recognition is based on international human rights law and practice: the [Council of Europe’s Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence](#) (the Istanbul Convention), and the [UN Convention on the Elimination of Violence against Women](#) (CEDAW) and most recently in the [UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030](#).

Statistics

Statistics do not accurately measure the scale of domestic abuse, as it is widely understood to be hidden and under–reported.

In the Crime Survey for England and Wales 2015 ([appendix table 4.28](#)), it was estimated that **88% of female victims of abuse told someone about their abuse** (whether it was someone knew personally, someone in an official position or a support professional/organisation), but **only 61% of male victims told someone**.¹

According to the [Office for National Statistics](#) (ONS), in England and Wales:

- An estimated **1.9 million adults aged 16 to 59 years experienced domestic abuse** in the year ending March 2017 (1.2 million women, 713,000 men);
- **26% of women and 14% of men had experienced domestic abuse in their lifetime** since the age of 16;
- In Welsh police force areas between 2013–14 and 2015–16 there were **21 domestic homicides**– 16 were women and 5 were men;
- In England and Wales, **the majority of male victims of domestic homicide (66%) were killed by another male**, and a **higher proportion of male victims were killed by a family member than females (47% compared with 23%)**;

¹ Questions on the nature of partner abuse are not asked in every survey year.

According to [Rape Crisis](#), approximately 85,000 women and 12,000 men are raped in England and Wales every year.

Refuge-based support

Welsh Women's Aid's [State of the Sector report 2017](#) noted that in Wales in 2016-17:

- 1,596 women, 1,221 children and young people and 31 men were supported in refuges;
- 796 women and 51 men were turned away from accessing refuge-based support [and] 213 women and 36 men were turned away due to refuges being full; and
- 16% of men and 10% of women and accessing refuge services had a physical or mental disability.

A database of services available to male domestic abuse victims in Wales is available [here](#).

Welsh Government action

Funding

The Welsh Government's direct funding allocations for **domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women services** (to local authorities and the third sector) are:

- 2017-18: £3.9 million
- 2016-17: £3.9 million
- 2015-16: £3.6 million

The Government does not disaggregate funding for these services on the basis of gender as many of the services are available to both women and men. For example, the [Domestic Abuse Safety Unit](#) in Shotton manages a four bedroomed refuge for women and children, and a two bedroomed refuge for men. The [Live Fear Free helpline](#) also provides advice to both women and men.

The Welsh Government also provides direct funding to the [Dyn Project](#) (run by Safer Wales), which **specifically supports male victims and survivors**. The Project funds a **male IDVA** (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) service in Cardiff and **an all Wales helpline for men**. Direct funding for Dyn Project from the Welsh Government is: 2017-18: £65,000, 2016-17: £65,000 and 2015-16: £80,000.

Legislation

The [Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) aims to

- **improve the public sector response** to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence;
- give **public authorities a strategic focus** on the issue, and
- ensure the **consistent provision of preventative, protective and supportive services**.

Concerns have [been repeatedly raised](#) by the Assembly’s ELGC Committee about the pace of implementation of the Act.

Policy

The [National Strategy for violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence 2016–21](#) was published in November 2016. It notes that:

“Whilst it is important that this Strategy acknowledges and communicates the disproportionate experience of women and girls **this does not negate violence and abuse directed towards men and boys or perpetrated by women.**”

There are no specific objectives for male domestic abuse victims or services.

National Assembly for Wales action

The issue of male domestic abuse was [raised in Plenary](#) on 12 December 2017. Mark Isherwood AM said:

In emphasising that women and girls are disproportionately impacted by violence, the Domestic Abuse Safety Unit in Shotton also provides a gender-neutral service, because they say that domestic abuse and sexual violence affect both genders. When I visited them recently, they told me that their male refuge received five referrals for just two spaces on its first day, that it had been full ever since and that they are currently operating waiting lists.

In the same debate, Neil McEvoy AM welcomed a recent legal clarification by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) about the ‘screening’ of male callers to domestic abuse helplines to determine if they are perpetrators of abuse, but not female callers. The EHRC’s position is that screening one sex but not another could constitute discrimination against men.

[Both Parents Matter’s written evidence](#) to the ELGC Committee’s [inquiry](#) into the implementation of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 stated that:

A gender specific approach needs to be introduced that allows existing services with a strong track record and ideological commitment to support for women to concentrate on the group of survivors that they are best equipped to support. This will allow new services that will support male victims to emerge.

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-05-798
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/05136/17

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff Bay
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5 December 2017

Dear David

Thank you for drawing my attention to petition P-05-798 calling for male domestic violence victim support services to be independently run and funded. I have outlined my views below to assist in your formal consideration of this petition.

The Welsh Government is committed to tackling all forms of gender based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence and to supporting all victims of domestic abuse, regardless of their gender or sexuality.

We acknowledge the disproportionate experience of women and girls of many forms of gender based violence, including violence against women and domestic abuse and sexual violence. However, we recognise that anyone can experience and be affected by these issues. The work to implement the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act and the National Strategy has always been inclusive and conscious of the experience of men. This experience has been considered specifically as part of the National Training Framework implementation; in "Ask and Act" rollout and as part of forthcoming Communications work.

The Welsh Government does provide funding to projects in Wales providing support services for male victims including the Live Fear Free Helpline and Project Dyn.

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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.

The Welsh Government fully funds the Live Fear Free website and 24 hour helpline. This helpline is gender responsive and includes targeted information specifically for male victims. The Dyn project provides accessible support to all men who experience domestic abuse in Wales regardless of age; gender; race; religion or sexual orientation.

Yours sincerely



Julie James AC/AM

Arweinydd y Tŷ a'r Prif Chwip

Leader of the House and Chief Whip

Agenda Item 2.2

P-05-799 Change the National Curriculum and teach Welsh history, from a Welsh perspective, in our Primary, Secondary and Sixth form Schools.

This petition was submitted by Elfed Wyn Jones having collected 5,133 signatures online and 661 on paper – a total of 5,794 signatures.

Text of Petition

We are calling on the National Assembly for Wales to change the Curriculum and teach Welsh history, from a Welsh perspective, in our Primary, Secondary and Sixth form Schools.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Dwyfor Meirionnydd
- Mid and West Wales

History in the curriculum

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 6 Chwefror 2018

Petitions Committee | 6 February 2018

Research Briefing:

Petition number: P-05-799

Petition title: Change the National Curriculum and teach Welsh history, from a Welsh perspective, in our Primary, Secondary and Sixth form Schools.

Text of petition: We are calling on the National Assembly for Wales to change the Curriculum and teach Welsh history, from a Welsh perspective, in our Primary, Secondary and Sixth form Schools.

Welsh Government Review of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig and history

In October 2012, an independent task and finish group, chaired by Dr Elin Jones, was established to explore and consider the future development of Cwricwlwm Cymreig, the teaching of Welsh history and the resources available to support that teaching. The [Cwricwlwm Cymreig, history and the story of Wales: Final report](#) (September 2013) made twelve recommendations relating to the Welsh dimension in the development of the next Wales curriculum and in relation to the history curriculum in particular.

The Task and Finish Group found that the current programme of study for history has, from its inception, (at the introduction of the national curriculum in 1989) given appropriate attention to local and Welsh history. However:

the panel's experience suggests that many learners in Wales learn far more about the history of England than that of their own area and country. The task group also believe that not enough attention is paid to the other countries of Britain, and that there is also a tendency to concentrate on a narrow range of topics in the history of Europe and the world.

The group agreed that the programme of study gave explicit priority to the history of Wales in every period studied at Key Stages 2 and 3 (with the exception of the enquiry into recent history at the end of Key Stage 3). However, the evidence available to the panel suggested that, for a variety of reasons, not all schools met the requirements.

Included in the group's recommendations were that:

- In the revision of the national curriculum, the programme of study should be structured so as to provide clear guidance on the relationship between local, Welsh, British, European and world history. The aim should be to provide a sound foundation for learners' historical understanding while expanding their horizons; and
- A proportion of Welsh history should be an integrated and compulsory part of every History GCSE specification offered in Wales.

Professor Donaldson's Review of the National Curriculum

In March 2014, Huw Lewis, Minister for Education and Skills at the time, announced that Professor Graham Donaldson would be undertaking a review of the national curriculum in Wales and that his review would be considering the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group.

In his report on the curriculum, [Successful Futures](#) (February 2015), Professor Donaldson recommended that the new curriculum should be structured around six Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLE). In line with the Cwricwlwm Cymreig recommendations, he affirmed that each AoLE should include, where appropriate, both a Welsh dimension and an international perspective.

The six AoLEs, which the Review recommended and which were subsequently set out in the Welsh Government's [Curriculum for Wales: Curriculum for Life](#) are:

- Expressive Arts
- Health and Well-being
- Humanities
- Languages, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Science and Technology.

History will form part of the Humanities AoLE. The Welsh Government published its Plan for curriculum and assessment design and development in June 2016. According to this timescale, the high-level design of the new curriculum was to be completed by June 2017 with the AoLE design to be completed by December 2017. However, during [scrutiny with the Children, Young People and Education Committee in June 2017](#), the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams, said she would keep the timescale under review.

In a [statement on 26 September 2017](#) the Cabinet Secretary announced that the statutory introduction of the new curriculum would be postponed by a year, from September 2021 to September 2022. The new curriculum will initially only be introduced in primary schools and Year 7 in September 2022, before rolling into year 8 for 2023, year 9 in 2024, and so on as the cohort moves through.

Before its statutory introduction, the new curriculum will be available for schools to feed-back, test and refine from April 2019, before a final version is published for school to access from January 2020.

Assembly Business

In answer to an [Oral Assembly Question, on 10 May 2017](#), the Cabinet Secretary, Kirsty Williams said:

History will be included in the humanities area of learning and experience of the new curriculum, and this will give us a new opportunity to ensure that the history platform will have an enhanced Welsh dimension and an international perspective.

She went on to say:

“let me be absolutely clear: there are many, many opportunities within the current curriculum for children to learn about their communities, the effect on international events and how their communities were affected and changed. I know that often there is concern about the content of Welsh history in the GCSE examination, and, often, people express concerns that the papers are about American history, about European history, about the first and second world wars. You will be aware that the new history GCSE will be ready for teaching in September of this year, and, again, there are enhanced opportunities for students to spend more of their time considering their own history and the impact of important international events on that.”

Media articles

In an article on the [BBC Wales website on 9 September 2015](#), Dr Elin Jones, chair of the Task and Finish Group on the Cwricwlwm Cymreig, history and the story of Wales said that pupils are being ‘deprived’ by not being taught about history from a Welsh perspective. She wanted a much greater emphasis on Welsh history and said there is ‘very little evidence’ of it being taught well in schools. Dr Jones said nothing had changed in the two years since the publication of the Group’s report.

The article reported that Dr Jones said that Professor Donaldson’s report on the curriculum failed to place enough emphasis on Welsh history and ‘appears to limit consideration of the Welsh dimension to language and culture only’.

A Welsh Government spokesman said in the article:

Prof Donaldson was absolutely clear that a Welsh dimension should be included in each area of learning and experience. This is in line with Dr Elin Jones’ Cwricwlwm Cymreig report which recommends that a Welsh dimension should be integrated into every subject, where that is relevant and meaningful.

In response to the suggestion that between 10 to 15 per cent of the history GCSE course had content about Wales, the WJEC exam board said things should improve with new courses in 2016.

Gareth Pierce, the chief executive of the WJEC said that while that had been the case, the reformed specification would move towards a position where there will be three taught units and in two of those three, a Welsh perspective would be fundamental.

The WJEC [specification for GCSE history](#) (from 2017) includes details of the Welsh perspective in history:

In following this specification, learners must consider a Welsh perspective if the opportunity arises naturally from the subject matter and if its inclusion would enrich learners' understanding of the world around them as citizens of Wales as well as the UK, Europe and the world.

Specifically, Units 1 and 3 will require candidates to make reference to the impact of historical change on Wales or on a Welsh perspective. Unit 1 assessments will include compulsory questions that require knowledge and understanding of Welsh History. Unit 3 assessments take a thematic approach to historical development. Candidates will be required to draw upon the Welsh context in their responses to specific Unit 3 questions.

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.

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-799
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05233/17

David J Rowlands AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

02 January 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your recent letter about a petition in relation to the teaching of Welsh History from a Welsh perspective.

Wales has a rich culture and heritage and the Welsh Government believes it is essential that all pupils in Wales have the opportunity to learn about our nation's history. From the Foundation Phase onwards, teachers and schools are encouraged to develop pupils understanding of the cultural identity that is unique to Wales. This helps them to appreciate the different languages and cultural aspects that are integral in Wales today, as well as gain a sense of belonging to Wales and to understand our Welsh heritage, literature and arts.

At Key Stages 2 and 3, Welsh history is a prominent part of the programme of study for history and schools are encouraged to focus on contexts from local and Welsh history, with an emphasis on people's daily lives. Specifically, at Key Stage 2 there are opportunities for schools to study Owain Glyndwr and The Age of Princes. Welsh Government has published resources on the national online learning platform for schools in Wales, Hwb, which provide advice and support to schools on this subject.

Both the new AS/A Level qualification, introduced for teaching from September 2015, and the new GCSE introduced last September, require learners to consider a Welsh perspective. Units 1 and 3 of the new GCSE require candidates to make reference to the impact of historical change on Wales or on a Welsh perspective. Unit 1 assessments will include compulsory questions that require knowledge and understanding of Welsh History. Unit 3 assessments take a thematic approach to historical development. Candidates will be required to draw upon the Welsh context in their responses to specific Unit 3 questions.

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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.

At AS/A Level, learners should be given opportunities, where appropriate, to consider a Welsh perspective if the opportunity arises naturally from the subject matter and if its inclusion would enrich learners' understanding of the world around them as citizens of Wales as well as the UK, Europe and the world. Learners should also be given access to primary source material and historical interpretations which reflect a Welsh perspective where appropriate.

Finally, a new curriculum is being developed in Wales following the publication of Successful Futures. History will form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience. The new curriculum will ensure all aspects of learning have a Welsh dimension, and is being designed with four key purposes at its heart. One of these key purposes is that all children and young people will be ethical, and informed citizens of Wales and the world, ensuring they are knowledgeable about the culture, community, and history of Wales and its place in the wider world.

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-05-799 Change the National Curriculum and teach Welsh history, from a Welsh perspective, in our Primary, Secondary and Sixth form Schools – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 30.01.18

Ambitions and hopes of the petition “Teach Welsh history in our primary, secondary and sixth form schools and from a Welsh perspective”

Members of the Senedd and the Petitions Committee,

Before I note my ambitions on this paper, I urge to tell you, face to face rather in written form, to explain my ambitions for an United Welsh history curriculum. My passion towards this highly important matter cannot be professed or explained by mere words scribbled on this paper, which does not do justice to the hopes that we, the people of Wales want to be taught about our vast, deep, touching history. So please, I ask to come to express this matter through my own words, rather than the plain and quick explanations which I have listed here.

Sincerely – Elfed Wyn Jones

After reading the letter that the Minister for Education sent to the Chairman of the Petitions committee, I came the conclusion that:

- The letter did note the ambitions that we want to pursue with teaching Welsh history but lacked the methods to do that.
- That it suggested that units of Welsh history would be taught rather than a Welsh centric curriculum and it would leave some important branches out.
- A feeling that the letter suggests is to split Welsh history into units rather than teach it in a chronological way, and would still be vague in the information given.

These the ambitions of my petition –

1. Creating a United Welsh History Curriculum

Create an united Welsh history curriculum, so we can teach our children the main aspects and points that have made Wales the way she has formed today. What I mean with the word “United” is Welsh history that every child and young person should hear, no matter what are they live in. That includes historical information such as –

- The age of the Celts and Romans
- History of the Princes, the Saints and early Welsh people
- Glyndwr's Revolt
- Wales during the middle ages
- Wales in the Industrial Revolution (Nonconformist, empire, liberalism)
- Wales during the two World wars
- The development of the modern Wales (Political and social, the fight for the Language, the campaign for the Senedd and similar matters)

----- Lots of more points can be added, but i chose these as an example of Welsh history -----

2. Teaching local history

As well as teaching the main attitudes of Welsh History to ever child and young person in Wales, it is important that there is space in the history Curriculum to teach local Welsh history of the areas which they have been raised.

This could mean learning about old monuments or buildings, and understanding the local traditions and meanings, that would make them cherish their country and their local area.

It is important to note that there are people who have experienced the changing and development of these areas, especially the older generation who have participated in events in the areas and in matters nationally, with age old information that has been passed down through generations. This could be part of a pivotal learning process that we could use local people to participate and teach about their community in the schools. I was pleased to see this on BBC News Wales, but we need to ensure it inside the order of teaching Welsh History. Also, its important to use local resources to teach about Local History such as people, equipment and historical areas, and the national resources such as Castles, Workshops and Learning centres to teach National History.

By going around to collect names for my petition i kept hearing the same sort of line being repeated, which was "I knew more about American history and industry, than the land which I walked on".

3. History from a Welsh Perspective

It is important to make teaching history in our schools Welsh “centric” and concentrate on Welsh history and then develop forward to teach about historic events which happened in other countries and the World, describe what effect did they have on Wales. A lot of people are afraid that teaching Welsh history would “hide” other events that have happened in the world, but the answer I always provide is “if every other country in the world can teach their own history successfully and blend events and happenings around the world in their teachings too, then surely we can do the same thing”.

It is important that Welsh history is taught clearly in our schools because it teaches children to respect several aspects of the country, like respect towards their community, the people who lives in the community and country, the local and national traditions, and of course to respect the Welsh language when they learn about the struggles of the campaigners, which will give them pride and hope to learn and protect the language.

Welsh history needs to be taught from a Welsh perspective, and to be analysed by looking at how different matters and happenings had their effects on Wales and her people. This is lost now because there is lacking when it comes to analysing different viewpoints in Wales, and because of that we lose the Welsh narrative in the discussion. We need to look deeper on this matter by questioning all the past events and their effects on the Country and on the people.

4. Every aspect of Welsh history

It is important to teach every aspect of Welsh History, no matter if it is a negative or positive event in the Welsh timeline, and it’s important to do deep research into all of it. This would also look deeper at the perspective into the role Wales played in the building of empire, and the connection between Wales and different minorities today, which would let us as a nation look at the role the people of Wales and Welsh customs have had on the UK, Europe and the World.

Elfed Wyn Jones

Agenda Item 2.3

P-05-800 Urgent Appeal for a Welsh Veterans Commissioner for the Health & Wellbeing of Wounded, Injured, Sick and Homeless veterans

This petition was submitted by Nicola Hester, having collected 50 signatures online.

Text of Petition

Here in Wales, I was proud that we were first for a Commissioner for both Children & Young People, and Older Persons. Unfortunately Scotland has beaten us to have a Commissioner for Veterans.

We veterans need someone to be our voice and true representation to the Welsh Government. Not what the "chiefs" want you to know.

We need someone who can meet with us, know our views and what we need. To support those unfortunate who end up in prison instead of having mental health treatment for PTSD.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Torfaen
- South Wales East

Title

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 6 Chwefror 2018

Petitions Committee | 6 February 2018

Research Briefing:

Petition number: P-05-800

Petition title: Urgent Appeal for a Welsh Veterans Commissioner for the Health & Wellbeing of Wounded, Injured, Sick and Homeless veterans

Text of petition: Here in Wales, I was proud that we were first for a Commissioner for both Children & Young People, and Older Persons. Unfortunately Scotland has beaten us to have a Commissioner for Veterans.

We veterans need someone to be our voice and true representation to the Welsh Assembly government. Not what the "chiefs" want you to know.

Background

The [Armed Forces Covenant](#) was published by the UK government in May 2011. It is a statement of the moral obligation which exists between the nation, the government and the Armed Forces. There is a statutory duty for the Secretary of State for Defence to prepare an Armed Forces Covenant Report annually, and lay it before parliament.

The first meeting of the UK government's [Armed Forces Covenant and Veterans Board](#) took place on Thursday 26 October 2017. The Board is intended to meet twice a year to "drive forward the existing Armed Forces Covenant commitments across all Government departments responsible for delivery".

The Welsh Government has developed policy on implementing the Covenant in devolved policy areas like health and housing in partnership with statutory and third sector partners.

Welsh Government action

The Programme for Government, [Taking Wales Forward](#) commits the Welsh Government to:

- Provide support and services in line with our Armed Forces Covenant.
- Work with key partners in Wales to promote best practice in identifying the Armed Forces Community, whilst improving sign-posting and take-up of services.
- Ensure our veterans continue to receive healthcare that meets their needs and maintain the valuable national Veterans NHS Wales service, which provides access to evidence-based treatments for veterans with mental health problems.

The Welsh Government issued a written statement on 10 November 2017 on [*Remembering our Armed Forces – honouring past sacrifices and supporting the Armed Forces community Programme*](#). This statement outlines some of the steps being taken by the Welsh Government to support the armed forces community.

In his response to this petition, the Cabinet Secretary notes the work of the [Expert Group on the needs of the Armed Forces Community in Wales](#), which he says has previously debated the added value of having a Armed Forces commissioner and he “would not dismiss the appointment of a Commissioner”. He indicates that he will discuss the proposal with the Welsh Government’s Armed Forces Expert Group and also the Cross Party Group on the Armed Forces and Cadets.

National Assembly for Wales action

The National Assembly for Wales’ Cross Party Group on the Armed Forces and Cadets recently carried out an inquiry into the impact of the Armed Forces Covenant in Wales. Its [report](#) was published in November 2017. It made a number of recommendations, including:

The Welsh Government should consider the appointment of an Armed Forces Commissioner for Wales to improve the accountability of public sector organisations for the delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant. The Commissioner should be required to publish an annual report to be laid in the National Assembly for Wales on adherence to the Covenant. The report should highlight good practice in Wales, draw on international models of support for service personnel, veterans and their families; and make recommendations for the future.

On 22 November 2017, there was a Welsh Conservatives [debate](#) on support for the armed forces.

In responding to the debate, the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services, agreed to attend a future meeting of the All Party Group to discuss the report and its recommendations.

Other information

The Scottish Government has appointed a [Veterans Commissioner](#) to provide:

...impartial advice to the Scottish Government and other public sector organisations in the form of reports and recommendations designed to improve support for the ex-Service community in Scotland and promote veterans as valued and valuable members of our workplaces and communities.

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.

Alun Davies AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a
Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus
Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public
Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-800
Ein cyf/Our ref ARD/05162/17

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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18 January 2018

Thank you for your letter following the submission of a petition from Nicola Hester seeking the appointment of a Welsh Veterans' Commissioner for the health and wellbeing of wounded, injured, sick and homeless Veterans.

I understand the Armed Forces Expert Group has previously debated the added value of appointing a Veterans' Commissioner in Wales, and considered the role of the Scottish Veterans' Commissioner as an example.

During my response to the Conservative debate in Plenary on 22 November, I stated I would not dismiss the appointment of a Commissioner, and I will discuss this matter with members of the Armed Forces Expert Group and the Cross Party Group on the Armed Forces and Cadets in February.

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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 49

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.

I will also consider lessons learnt, and added value from the appointment of the Scottish Veterans' Commissioner, and best practice from across the country and beyond, prior to making a considered response.

*Yours ever
Alun*

Alun Davies AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus
Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services

Agenda Item 3.1

P-04-408 Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service

Petition wording:

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

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

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

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

Petition raised by: Helen Missen

Date petition first considered by Committee: 17 July 2012

Number of signatures: 246

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/VG/4728/17

David John Rowlands AM
Chair
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17 January 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 7 December on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-04-408 - Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service.

I am pleased to inform you Dr Jacinta Tan has agreed to undertake the eating disorder (ED) review on behalf of the Welsh Government. Dr Tan, a research psychiatrist and medical ethicist, and Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the Swansea University Medical School, brings a wealth of relevant ED experience to the role. In relation to timescales the exact start is still to be agreed as part of the procurement process, though I expect it to commence shortly and before the end of January. It will run until the autumn.

This is considered the minimum length of time given the wide range of issues under consideration and the need to ensure the many interested parties are fully engaged in the process. I will be pleased to keep you updated as activity progresses.

Yours sincerely,

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

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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.

P-04-408: Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee, 24.01.18

Dear Mr Rowlands

Thank you so much for sharing this letter. I'm so pleased to see that action is being taken at last, on what is such an important issue.

I have complete trust in Dr Jacinta Tan, as have the good fortune of having worked alongside her over these past few years.

Thank you once again for your continued support for this petition.
I look forward to the results of the report.

Yours in gratitude

Helen Missen

Agenda Item 3.2

P-04-505 Eating Disorder Unit in Wales

Petition wording:

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

Additional Information:

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

Petition raised by: Keira Marlow

Date petition first considered by Committee: 8 October 2013

Number of signatures: 526

Agenda Item 3.3

P-05-754 Lack of support for children with disabilities at crisis (there is a crisis team but do not support children with disabilities)

This petition was submitted by Rebecca Weale having collected 200 signatures.

Text of the Petition

I am trying to highlight the need for the Cwm Taf children's crisis team to recognise there is a vital need for children with disabilities to be supported through crisis and have the right to be treated as any other child would.

I am a mother of four children, my middle son Tom has numerous needs, severe learning difficulties, autism, a mood disorder as well as other additional health issues. Tom hits a crisis point every now and again. Which involves increase in aggression, shouting louder than usual, hurting himself as well as others, as well as many other changes in behaviour. Tom has extremely limited communication skills and is unable to tell us what is wrong or what we can do to help. We have been at crisis point with Tom who is now 15yrs old and on high doses of medications, many times over the years and it's astonishing how things have not progressed with regards to support for children with disabilities while at crisis. Tom is currently at a crisis point and has been for some time. We as a family have had very little if any support to help him through this difficult period. I have been made aware there is a children's crisis team however they do not support children with disabilities! Surely a child at crisis no matter if they have disabilities or not, is still a child at crisis. In fact I may be wrong but in some cases may need more crisis support. I can not believe at this day in age this divide is still acceptable. I am trying to highlight the need for the Cwm Taf children's crisis team to recognise there is a vital need for children with disabilities to be supported through crisis and have the right to be treated as any other child would.

Assembly Constituency and Region.

- Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney
- South Wales East

**P-05-754 Lack of support for children with disabilities at crisis –
Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee, 23.01.18**

I'd like to thank the committee for the time you have given, I am truly grateful. I am also thankful for Vaughan Gethins response regarding the petition. However we as a family of a child in 'great' need are still in the same position almost a year later prior to the petition. I can honestly say we hold back now when Thomas becomes more unwell – 'hits crisis'. We try to manage the best we can, which in return results in our other children being late for school, missing out on days out, parties, my husband missing work, and myself suffering with anxiety and having to take time off work as a registered Nurse, working for the NHS, due to not being able to cope with the lack of support for Thomas. We are so drained with the constant battle and just fight every day to help Thomas get through the day as comfortable as possible. I can't help but think about other children similar to Thomas who do not have the support from direct family, as I have stressed even with the support we give Thomas, it is 'lonely and scary'.

I take on board that Vaughan Gethin has stated in the latest response that there will be improvements and funding within the services, however my worry is what is available now for children like Thomas? Improvements and funding is great, but there needs to be services available now, these children need it now! A few months, years time is not good enough. We are living in these circumstances this minute, today, now. Tomorrow is not going to help a child who is in need today.

Kind regards,

Rebecca Weale

Agenda Item 3.4

P-05-761 Demand Funding from the Welsh Government to Support Autism Spectrum Connections Cymru

This petition was submitted by Aled Thomas, having collected 148 signatures on an alternative e-petitions website.

Petition text:

We call for the Welsh Assembly Government to give funding to support Autism Spectrum Connections Cymru.

This charity is unique in Wales. Autism Spectrum Connections Cymru currently receives no government funding. It depends entirely on funding from sources that aren't necessarily able to permanently support it.

This unique open drop-in centre plays an important role in improving the lives of people living with autism in Wales.

We would like to seek reassurance from the Welsh Assembly Government that this charity will always remain open and fully funded.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff South and Penarth
- South West Wales

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-05-761
Ein cyf/Our ref : VG/05340/17

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

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

9 January 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 7 December about the funding for the Integrated Autism Service (IAS) and whether opportunities were given to third sector organisations to apply.

The £13 million funding made available to support the development and roll-out of the national IAS is being allocated to Regional Partnership Boards through the Integrated Care Fund. This fund supports health boards and their partners in local authorities, housing and the voluntary and independent sectors to work together to develop initiatives in priority areas including; frail and older people, people with a learning disability, children with complex needs due to disability or illness, carers including young carers and people with autism.

To date the service is up and running in Cardiff and the Vale, Gwent and Powys and will be rolled-out across Wales in 2018. I am pleased to advise that all regions will receive funding for the service up to March 2021, the end of this Assembly term.

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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.

This innovative integrated service will be all age and will bring together health, social care, education and other services, including those provided by the third sector. The service will support a team of specialists including psychology, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and support workers from across health and social care. The IAS is designed to enhance and not replace current provision and we expect regions to continue to work in partnership with existing services in their area including third sector providers.

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

P-05-761 Demand Funding from the Welsh Government to Support Autism Spectrum Connections Cymru – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee, 29.01.18

Dear Petitions Committee.

I am very disappointed with the response received from the Welsh government to my petition under the reference number, P-05-761.

I feel that there is no substance to the response and the Welsh Government are clearly refusing to answer any of the questions raised throughout the duration of this petition's consideration.

The Welsh Government don't appear to be accountable to anyone, and why is there a need to be so evasive with the responses?

Funding a helpful resource for me and many others as individuals living with autism should be a priority of the strategy.

The Welsh Government should be ashamed of itself for the lack of transparency in the development of the autism strategy and the apparent bias towards certain organisations.

According to the FOI published on the Welsh Government's website under the reference number, ATISN 10984, the Welsh Government do have the information for how autism services in Wales are funded and you are not telling me this information. Details of this particular FOI can be found from viewing this link, <http://gov.wales/docs/decisions/2017/health/170105atish10984ltr.pdf>.

The Welsh Government has information about all of the following points relating to the autism strategy. These points are quoted below, (taken directly from the FOI letter dated the 4th of January, 2017);

"1. Copies of all email and letters exchanged between Welsh Government Social Services officials and the national co-ordinator for the Autism Development Team in the WLGA and/or any other representative of the WLGA.

2. Copies of all minutes of meetings held between Welsh Government Social Services officials and the national co-ordinator for the Autism Development Team in the WLGA and/or any other representative of the WLGA.

3. Copies of all notes made of telephone conversations and conferences exchanged between Welsh Government Social Services officials and the national co-ordinator for the Autism Development Team in the WLGA/ and/or any other representatives of the WLGA."

The details of these FOIs are particularly concerning. They show how the WLGA are profiting immensely at the expense of public money that could be used for autism resources in Wales.

Nothing in the strategy proves that the Welsh Government are spending some of the funding on the third sector which is a duty placed within the social care and well-being act.

The FOI mentioned above is very interesting. The investigation showed that there has been no procurement during the roll out of the autism strategy. The WLGA are profiting immensely from the autism strategy.

There appears to be no evidence of any of the plans for an integrated autism service and have never been formally tendered for or proposed. This seems especially strange considering ASCC's previous response.

Why have the points that ASCC have raised in their response not been addressed?

Can they provide any evidence that funding has been allocated to the third sector?
What are the procurement processes, how is it ensured that there is equality of opportunity for all?

You haven't even mentioned anything about the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and not to mention the influence of the WLGA on how funding is allocated to the regional boards.

I have absolutely no confidence in the Welsh Government in their development of the autism strategy.

Regards,

Aled Thomas.

Agenda Item 3.5

P-05-771 Reconsider the closure of the Welsh Independent Living Grant and support disabled people to live independently

This petition was submitted by Nathan Lee Davies, having collected 324 signatures online and 307 on paper – a total of 631 signatures.

Petition text:

I am a recipient of the Welsh Independent Living Grant (WILG) and a disability activist who intends on asking Welsh Government to reconsider their decision to close WILG as of April 2019.

The WILG was introduced to help people who previously claimed from the UK government's Independent Living Fund (ILF), which closed in 2015. More than 1,500 people are helped by the scheme across Wales. Recipients all have high degree of care and support needs.

It was due to run until the end of March 2017, but Social Services Minister Rebecca Evans said in November that funding would continue for another year.

The annual £27m fund will then transfer directly to local authorities during 2018-19 so they can meet the support needs of all former ILF recipients by 31 March 2019.

Additional information:

Why we oppose this decision:

The Welsh Government said the decision was taken on stakeholder advice. The majority of representatives on the stakeholder group were third sector or citizens. But they didn't want WILG scrapped and the key point is that our advice was not accepted.

It should also be remembered that closure of WILG is not inevitable as is proved through the formation and success of the Scottish Independent Living Fund; which also works to support the Northern Ireland ILF.

Furthermore, the hugely popular Labour Party Manifesto outlined plans to set up a national care system to exist independently of local authorities.

This is exactly the time that the Labour Party should be united on such issues against the Tories. We must question why Welsh Labour are not playing their part in the changing political landscape?

Indeed, eventually it should be our aim to set up an Independent Living Fund for Wales so that no disabled person should have to suffer the same uncertainty and isolation as WILG recipients are now experiencing. We can only begin to believe that true social justice and equality for all is possible if Welsh Labour revisit their WILG decision.

Welsh Labour will no doubt argue that we should give the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act a chance to succeed. However, this idealistic act needs hefty investment and resources to ensure it is a success – with no sign of any of the necessary improvements to our infrastructure that the success of the Act depends on. This may indeed be the time for a revolutionary change in the way social care is delivered, but such a transformation could take a decade or more and WILG recipients do not deserve to be treated like guinea pigs when their high care and support needs require long-term stability and structure.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Wrexham
- North Wales



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-771
Ein cyf/Our ref HID/05053/17

David J Rowlands AM
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14 November 2017

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter to Rebecca Evans AM following the Committee's recent consideration of her earlier reply to you in relation to Mr Nathan Davies' petition (P-05-771) regarding the Welsh Independent Living Grant (WILG).

Following the public consultation held in 2014 on the principle of four options to provide long term support to former recipients in Wales of the Independent Living Fund, a summary of the responses received and the conclusions reached was published in March 2015. Stakeholders, including recipients, were informed of this at the time and until recently this summary appeared on the Welsh Government's website (only being removed as part of a wider updating of our website). In addition, an Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken on the decision to replace support to recipients via the WILG by support through local authorities' social care provision. I attach, as requested, a copy of the consultation summary published in 2015 together with a copy of the information letter on this which officials sent to local authorities at the time for them to provide to recipients. I also attach for information a copy of the subsequent Equality Impact Assessment undertaken. I would be grateful if you would provide these to Mr Davies as part of your response to him on his petition.

As to the stakeholder advisory group, no formal minutes of its meetings were made. Instead short summary e-mails were periodically sent to members setting out agreed action points arising.

The whole purpose of the transition arrangements which we have put in place is to ensure there is appropriate time for recipients to discuss and agree with their local authority the well-being outcomes they wish to achieve, and for an agreed future care package to be in place to deliver these, before a person's payments under the WILG cease. The stakeholder advisory group was clear that such a period was essential if a successful transfer of support provided through the WILG, to support provided by local authorities through their social care, was to be achieved.

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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.

Alongside this, the transition period also allows for the impact of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 to have had greater effect by the time this change occurs, so that our aims and objectives under this are in place to enable former recipients of the Independent Living Fund to continue to live independently at home.

*My kind regards,
Huw*

Huw Irranca-Davies AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Gofal Cymdeithasol a Phlant
Minister for Children and Social Care



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Welsh Government

Consultation – summary of responses

What happens when the Independent Living Fund closes?

Date of issue: **March 2015**



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Part 1. Introduction

Last year the UK Government announced to Parliament that it was to close the Independent Living Fund (ILF) on 30 June 2015. This decision was taken without any prior discussion or negotiation with the devolved administrations. At this point responsibility for meeting the support needs of the ILF recipients in Wales will pass to the Welsh Government.

The ILF was set up in 1988 as an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body of the Department for Work and Pensions. It provides financial support to disabled people throughout the UK who require a high level of support to live independently. It is currently funded by the UK Government and operated by the ILF.

The ILF makes direct cash payments to disabled people with very significant care needs so they can meet the cost of the care and support they require, or to employ their own personal assistant. Payments can be used for a range of things such as: assistance with eating and drinking; cooking and preparing food and drink; assistance with dressing; cleaning, laundry and other domestic duties. As of 30 January this year there were 1,648 ILF recipients in Wales, who overall received on average just over £335 a week from the ILF to meet their needs.

Given the unilateral decision of the UK Government there was a need to agree and put in place future arrangements in Wales to support current recipients to continue to live independently. Welsh Ministers have indicated previously that to inform our decision on the most appropriate way to provide that support they wish to be appraised of stakeholders' views on how that support should be provided.

Part 2. The Consultation

A public consultation was held between 3 October and 23 December 2014 to seek views on the principle of implementing one of four options to provide future support for recipients of ILF in Wales. The options were developed in liaison with representatives of stakeholders, including ILF recipients and local authorities. The Welsh Government identified four options for supporting the care and support ILF recipients in Wales will receive after 30 June 2015, when the current ILF scheme closes.

These options were as follows:

Option 1 – setting up a successor body to the ILF in Wales. Option 2 - setting up a national independent living scheme in Wales.

Option 3 – transferring responsibility and funding to local authorities in Wales through their normal funding mechanism.

Option 4 – transferring responsibility and funding to local authorities in Wales via a special grant with conditions set by the Welsh Government.

Respondents were asked to consider the principle of putting in place one of the four options for these arrangements and to answer the questions posed on each as to its suitability to continue to deliver support to ILF recipients in Wales. The four options were outlined in detail, together with the advantages and challenges of implementing each. The advantages and challenges listed in the consultation document were not intended to be an exhaustive list.

Five questions were set out in a proforma style response form as an annex to the consultation documents which was published on line on the Welsh Government's web-site in a variety of user friendly formats.

We received 281 responses to the consultation. The full list of respondents /organisations is shown in Part 5 of this Report. It should be noted that some respondents wished to remain anonymous.

This document summarises the responses to the consultation questions and other evidence submitted related to the subject matter of the consultation. The aim of this document is to give an overview of the responses and to highlight common themes and suggestions put forward. The quality of response was varied and some respondents went into great detail, it would be difficult to reflect the full range of issues and suggestions raised. This document can only provide a summary of the responses.

Part 3. Main Consultation

Overview of Consultation Responses

The Consultation asked the following:

Question 1: Would you favour setting up a successor body to support existing ILF recipients beyond 30 June 2015? If so, what would you see as the main advantage of such an approach, how long might it operate and for how long? If not, why would you not support this?

Of those that responded to this option a large number were in favour of creating a Welsh version of the current ILF scheme. Views in support of this included many from ILF recipients who felt this funding allowed them to live as independent a life as possible. For example: –

“I am a current ILF recipient and I am in full support of this option in order that I can continue to receive the vital support I require in order to continue living my life as independently as possible. Being given the choice to employ people to perform essential daily tasks like getting up from bed, washing and dressing greatly means that I can live in my own home and it is extremely worrying and stressful to know that this may not be the case when the ILF closes next year. The ILF has worked for supporting many disabled people for years so there is no reason really why it cannot continue to work in Wales and hopefully to last as long as disabled people need it well in to the future. Without ILF funding I would be unable to remain in my own home”.

These sentiments are echoed by many other ILF recipients who support this option.

Views expressed against supporting this option included those on behalf of the North Wales Regional Local Authority ILF Group who response said:

“Although the NW regional LA ILF Group recognised that this option would provide existing ILF recipients with a degree of security, and give local authorities time in which to reassess peoples longer term needs, they did not feel able to support this option for a number of reasons.

This option would perpetuate an inequitable two tier social care system and fuel inequalities by continuing to fund care and support needs of a small percentage of people outside of the mainstream social care system. This would undermine the intentions of the SS & Wellbeing Wales Act and present additional confusion in relation to the introduction of a transformational eligibility framework.

At a time when local authorities are being challenged to be innovative, champion enablement approaches and support personal and community resilience, this option would tie up funding that could be used creatively and recycled to support the increasing demands being placed on statutory services”.

Question 2: Would you support establishing a National Independent Living Scheme in Wales? If so, what would you see as the main advantages of such an approach? How might it operate and for how long? If not, why would you not support this?

This option received strong support, again mainly from people who access the current ILF scheme. Views expressed to support this option included:

“Yes I support this option because it is the best option for wales and disabled people, would face in line with Welsh Government from 2016. Wales would have its own ILF similar to the present ILF like Scotland has done. Welsh Government owes a contribution to disabled people to live a life of independence and to help source quality of life, This must go with what disabled people require independent living for their lives”. However, against this option were views such as “I do not support this option because; present recipients of ILF would not necessarily receive the same package of care, LA might give less support, There would be less flexibility, set up and administration costs would be high, LA might find it too expensive, too much reliance of Westminster to give sufficient to WAG”.

Question 3: Would you support transferring the responsibility for meeting ILF recipients’ needs to local authorities and to the transfer of the funding into the Revenue Support Grant they receive? If so, what would you see as the main advantages of such an approach? If not, why would you not support this approach?

This option received little support other than from local authorities or their representative bodies. Views in support of Option 3 included a combined response from the Welsh Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Social Services (Wales) whose views included:

“ The devolution of funding into local authority social care budgets clearly has the merit of bringing two funding streams together, and having all the resulting adult social care funding allocated more equitably through the same system”.

“Local authorities are well placed to be able to acquire responsibility for the administration of ILF funding, in line with their broader duties to support people with disabilities. It is our view that the other options set out in the consultation will involve greater levels of bureaucracy and would require greater levels of coordination between organisations. The local authority option will minimise administration costs since local authorities already have much of the infrastructure in place, including staff members who are skilled and experienced in assessment and care management, financial assessment, income maximisation and administration. Local authorities also have experience in awarding direct payments to individuals to help meet their needs for care and independent living”.

From an ILF recipient viewpoint there was significant reluctance to support this option due to individual opinions of local authorities and a fear that current ILF funding levels would not be maintained. This was expressed in a number of responses such as:

“This option involves Local Authorities who cannot be trusted to deliver the ILF to disabled people”.

"I feel this option will not provide an individual service. The money allocated could be spent by the local authority on other care".

Question 4: Would you support transferring the responsibility for meeting ILF recipients' needs to local authorities but providing the funding to them via a special grant? If so, what would you see as the main advantages of such an approach and for how many years do you think such an arrangement should continue? If not, why would you not support this approach?

This option attracted support from both ILF recipients and local authority responders. However, a significant number of responders were against this option being adopted. Views given in support included statements such as:

"Yes I would support this option as long as the money would continue to be spent in the same way as the ILF and I am able to continue to live the life I chose".

"This sounds to be a much safer option if using a local authority to administer the fund. At least recipients are assured of their funding until 2016. and in our personal circumstances it will give us space to organise suitable alternative living arrangements for the person we care for".

Views given against adopting option 4 included:

"This option involves Local Authorities who cannot be trusted to deliver the ILF to disabled people" as well as "Again I could not support anything that involves the local authority take over responsibility they barely manage now and the strict criteria they use does not allow for thinking outside of the box on an individual basis it would be a real disaster if the local authority was given control of this and there are not enough social workers as it is the current system just does not work without adding this responsibility to them".

There were two additional questions asked, one concerning how to monitor changes to the new processes for ILF recipients in Wales and a second asking for anything other comments responders wished to make about the Independent Living Fund.

Question 5: The Welsh Government would welcome views on the best mechanism for monitoring the impact of these changes on ILF recipients. Please provide your suggestions and why you think these are the most appropriate.

Suggestions on how to monitor the impact the proposed arrangements would have on ILF recipient included:

"I feel that the best way of measuring the impact of any proposed change is to review the clients receiving the money every year or every two years which is the present system. This could be done with Social services and an independent organisation"

Another suggestion was:

” Ensure that every user in Wales gets an annual questionnaire to complete as a condition to their entitlement. Also during annual reviews of other support services such as Social Services reviews, Social Workers could complete a review form at the same time in respect of ILF”.

There was a large body of support for engaging the actual recipients of the funding in assessing the impact the changes to ILF will have and for monitoring undertaken by bodies or persons outside of local authority parameters.

Question 6. Do you want to tell us anything else about the Independent Living Fund?

A number of responses included replies to this question but a wide number of personal views on how receiving funding from ILF had impacted on individual lives. An example of this was:

“I am in the receipt of the ILF and if it was not for this scheme, I would not be able to remain living in my own home in the community. The current care plan allows me my independence and control over my own life, even though I am totally dependant on my carers for al the necessities of life. The only alternative would be a nursing home, which at 62 yrs of age is not what i would see as a positive option. I would not accept this option on the long term basis without a fight. Living in my own house allows me control over my own life to help to eat and drink, prepare meals, washing and dressing, keep house clean and tidy, help to use the toilet, shopping, to go to bed as I please, attend the gym, "normal" life s possible for someone who is disabled. I wish that the scheme will remain the same in some form or another, as living independently in the community is my preferred option. I would like my life to remain the same for as long as possible, with he same care plan, as it currently fully meets my requirements. This response has been dictated by me to the care provider to respond on my behalf on email”.

Part 4: Concluding Remarks and Next Steps

The number of responses received for this consultation indicates the interest that exists in Wales concerning the future arrangements for people in receipt of ILF. The views expressed and support given for the four options are quite clear. Support for Options 1 & 2 came largely from ILF recipients, their carers, family or representatives. Options 2 & 4 gained their support, in the main, from local authorities and their representative bodies.

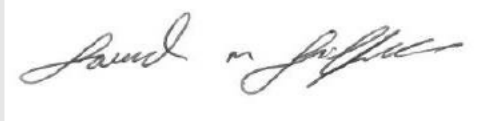
The Minister for Health and Social Services, Professor Mark Drakeford AM, issued a Written Statement on Friday 13 March announcing the new arrangements for ILF in Wales from 1 July. Having carefully considered the responses and views expressed he has decided, at this point, to implement Option Four being a specific grant scheme, administered by local authorities to pay existing ILF recipients their current level of funding. This approach reflects both the need for speed in putting in place arrangements by 30 June of this year and the short term nature of the current funding offer. The grant scheme will run from July 2015 until the end of March 2017. Funding of £20.4m has already been confirmed for the period July 2015 to end of March 2016. This is based on the number of people receiving ILF when the current scheme closes on 30 June. Funding beyond this date is subject to the next Spending Round. If, at that point, funding based on actual number of recipients is confirmed as part of the long term budget of the Welsh Government then the Minister will reconsider the steps needed to develop a Welsh successor body to the current ILF as a longer term solution.

Officials will begin work with key stakeholders including service users, their representative organisations, local authority representatives and the Welsh Government Association to develop the details of the grant scheme. Their objective is to have an appropriate scheme in place for implementing from 1 July.

Part 5: List of Respondents

Age Cymru
ALP Supported Living Services
Arfon Access Group/ WACDS/ Gwynedd Direct Payments Forum
Assembly Member for Cardiff Central
AWFPC
Bridgend County Borough Council
Cardiff & Vale LHB
Cardiff & Vale Parents Federation
Cardiff University
Cardiff University Student
Care Forum Wales
Carers Outreach Service
Carers Wales
Cartefi Cymru
Ceredigion County Council
City & County of Swansea
Conwy
Denbighshire County Council
Dewis Centre for Independent Living
Disability Wales
Diverse Cymru
EMG Solicitors Limited
Flintshire County Council
Flintshire Learning Disability Planning Partnership
Genetic Alliance UK
Lifeways inclusive lifestyles
Member of Vaccine Victim Support Group
Merthyr Caers Network
MH/LD Directorate Hywel Dda University Health Board
Multiple Sclerosis Society
Neath Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
North Wales Regional ILF Group
Parkinsons UK Wales
PCS
Pembrokeshire
Pembrokeshire County Council.
Pembrokeshire Parent and Carer's High Support Needs Group"
Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
SAIL CIC
Sense Cymru
Swales fire and rescue service
Vale of Glamorgan Adult Services
Welsh Therapy Advisory Committee
WLGA and ADS
Wrexham Adult Social Care
Individuals/Service Users/ 'On behalf of' Responses - (234)

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Template – Part 1

Policy title and purpose (brief outline):	Introducing Long-term Support for former Independent Living Fund (ILF) Recipients in Wales. This is to provide future support to those who used to receive payments from ILF before its closure in 2015.
Name of official:	Gareth Griffiths
Department:	Paying for Care, Partnership and Cooperation Division, Social Services and Integration Directorate
Date:	27 October 2016
Signature:	

1. Please provide a brief description of the policy/decision.

The ILF was established in 1998 by the UK Government to provide payments to severely disabled people in the UK to assist with the additional cost of them living independently in the community. Following a recent change in policy direction, the UK Government subsequently closed the ILF on 30 June 2015 and transferred to the Welsh Government responsibility for providing future support to recipients in Wales with funding to enable this.

As an interim solution, the Welsh Independent Living Grant (WILG) was created to provide funding to local authorities to enable them to continue to make payments to former ILF recipients in Wales. Due to the level of funding transferred to the Welsh Government, such payments were at the same level of award as recipients had received from the ILF at the date of its closure. This arrangement was time-limited while a permanent solution to support recipients was agreed and put in place.

A group of stakeholder representatives (including recipients, third sector and local government) were tasked with providing advice to Ministers on the options for future support and the effectiveness of these to deliver this. Their conclusions were submitted to the Minister for Social Services and Public Health along with advice from officials.

Having considered this the Minister has decided to implement a two-year transitional period during which all former ILF recipients would undergo a review of their current use of their payments and what future well-being outcomes they were seeking to achieve. This is with a view to a care and support plan being put in place for the individual which would move their support over the two years from being provided via separate payments to support provided through their local authority's social care provision. That future support could be provided direct by a person's local authority, by a third sector organisation on their behalf, or by direct payments provided to the individual from their local authority to obtain themselves the agreed support they require.

2. We have a legal duty to engage with people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 (please refer to Annex A of the EIA guidance) identified as being relevant to the policy. What steps have you taken to engage with stakeholders, both internally and externally?

A group of stakeholder representatives (including recipients, third sector organisations representing disabled and older people, and local government) were tasked with providing advice to Ministers on the options for future support and the effectiveness of these to deliver this. This group met with officials on a number of occasions to identify the options for future support and to consider the effectiveness of each of these.

In addition, a public consultation on four options was held between October and December 2014, where over 280 responded with their views on these.

Internally we have liaise with policy colleagues involved in welfare reform and independent living, and with finance colleagues, over the options for future support and the funding of these.

3. Your decisions must be based on robust evidence. What evidence base have you used? Please list the source of this evidence e.g. National Survey for Wales. Do you consider the evidence to be strong, satisfactory or weak and are there any gaps in evidence?

Data on former ILF recipients in Wales was provided by ILF including numbers, age, disability category, level of payments, etc. Since then regular monitoring of recipients in each authority has taken place through periodic reports being requested and provided by local authorities.

We consider this evidence satisfactory as it provides detailed information on former ILF recipients in each authority and changes which have occurred since responsibility for their support passed to the Welsh Government. The only gap in evidence is the exact support which all 1,500 recipients use their payments to obtain but this data is impractical to obtain. That said, the lack of this data becomes irrelevant as authorities hold review meetings with recipients and establish their future well-being outcomes and the future support there require to achieve these.

It is important to note any opportunities you have identified that could advance or promote equality.

Impact

Please complete the next section to show how this policy / decision / practice could have an impact (positive or negative) on the protected groups under the Equality Act 2010 (refer to the EIA guidance document for more information).

Lack of evidence is not a reason for *not* progressing to carrying out an EIA. Please highlight any gaps in evidence that you have identified and explain how/if you intend to fill these gaps.

4.1 Do you think this policy / decision / practice will have a positive or negative impact on people because of their age?

Age	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
Younger people <i>(Children and young people, up to 18)</i>			None.	The provision of payments under the ILF was based on disability and not age related. Hence the decision does not have any impact due to age.
People 18-50			None.	As above.
Older people (50+)			None.	As above.

4.2 Because they are disabled?

Impairment	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
Visual impairment	Yes.			Recipients in future will be supported by their local authority based on the well-being outcomes they are seeking to achieve. These will directly support their independent living.
Hearing impairment	Yes.			See above.
Physically disabled	Yes.			See above.
Learning disability	Yes.			See above.
Mental health problem	Yes.			See above.
Other impairments issues	Yes.			See above.

4.3 Because of their gender (man or woman)?

Gender	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence)/ How might it impact?
Male			None.	The provision of payments under the ILF was based on disability and not gender. Hence the decision does not

				have any impact due to gender.
Female			None.	See above.

4.4 Because they are transgender?

Transgender	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
			None.	The provision of payments under the ILF was based on disability and not gender. Hence the decision does not have any impact due to transgender.

4.5 Because of their marriage or civil partnership?

Marriage and Civil Partnership	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence)/ How might it impact?
Marriage			None.	The provision of payments under the ILF was based on disability and not relationship status. Hence the decision does not have any impact marriage or civil partnership.
Civil Partnership			None.	As above.

4.6 Because of their pregnancy or maternity?

Pregnancy and Maternity	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
Pregnancy			None.	The provision of payments under the ILF was based on disability and not parenthood. Hence the decision does not have any impact pregnancy or maternity.
Maternity (the period after birth)			None.	As above.

4.7 Because of their race?

Race	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
Ethnic minority people e.g. Asian, Black,			None.	The provision of payments under the ILF was based on disability and not race. Hence the decision does not have any impact on race.
National Origin (e.g. Welsh, English)			None.	As above.
Asylum Seeker and Refugees			None.	As above.

Gypsies and Travellers			None.	As above.
Migrants			None.	As above.
Others			None.	As above.

4.8 Because of their religion and belief or non-belief?

Religion and belief or non – belief	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence)/ How might it impact?
Different religious groups including Muslims, Jews, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Hindus, Others (please specify)			None.	The provision of payments under the ILF was based on disability and not beliefs. Hence the decision does not have any impact on beliefs or non-beliefs.
Belief e.g. Humanists			None.	As above.
Non-belief			None.	As above.

4.9 Because of their sexual orientation?

Sexual Orientation	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence)/ How might it impact?
Gay men			None.	The provision of payments under the ILF was based on

				disability and not sexual orientation. Hence the decision does not have any impact on sexual preference.
Lesbians			None.	As above.
Bi-sexual			None.	As above.

4.10 Do you think that this policy will have a positive or negative impact on people's human rights? Please refer to point 1.4 of the EIA Annex A - Guidance for further information about Human Rights.

Human Rights	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
Human Rights including Human Rights Act and UN Conventions	Yes.			Recipients in future will be supported by their local authority based on the well-being outcomes they are seeking to achieve. These will directly support their independent living. As such the rights of recipients to live as they wish will be upheld.
<p><i>If you have identified any impacts (other than negligible ones), positive or negative, on any group with protected characteristics, please complete Part 2.</i></p> <p><i>Only if there are no or negligible positive or negative impacts should you go straight to part 2 and sign off the EIA.</i></p>				

Equality Impact Assessment – Part 2

1. Building on the evidence you gathered and considered in Part 1, please consider the following:

1.1 How could, or does, the policy help advance / promote equality of opportunity?

For example, positive measures designed to address disadvantage and reach different communities or protected groups?

The UK Government closed the ILF in 2010 to new applicants. This has meant for the last six years people with a disability who would have qualified have had no opportunity to receive payments to provide additional help to meet the costs of their independent living.

As a result a two-tier system of providing support to disabled people to live independently has arisen; those who solely get care and support from their local authority and those who are able to receive this and receive payments to help meet the cost of living independently. This has created an inequitable situation.

Transferring all future support for disabled people in Wales to mainstream social care provision from their local authority addresses this. It will result in all disabled people having the well-being outcomes they wish to achieve to live independently assessed by their authority in a similar manner with the support they require provided from one source.

1.2 How could / does the policy / decision help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation?

Not Applicable.

1.3 How could/does the policy impact on advancing / promoting good relations and wider community cohesion?

It removes inequality so as to promote support to disabled people on an equal basis.

2. Strengthening the policy

2.1 If the policy is likely to have a negative effect ('adverse impact') on any of the protected groups or good relations, what are the reasons for this?

What practical changes/actions could help reduce or remove any negative impacts identified in Part 1?

Not Applicable.

2.2 If no action is to be taken to remove or mitigate negative / adverse impact, please justify why.

(Please remember that if you have identified unlawful discrimination (immediate or potential) as a result of the policy, the policy must be changed or revised.)

Not applicable.

3. Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing

How will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the policy?


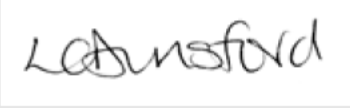
List details of any follow-up work that will be undertaken in relation to the policy (e.g. consultations, specific monitoring etc).

Over the period of the two-year transition period the Welsh Government will monitor how each local authority is progressing with its reviews of recipients and the outcomes that result from these. This will be to ensure that recipients have reviews to time, that their future well-being outcomes are being identified with them and that the support they require is being provided rather than separate payments from social care provision.

The results of all impact assessments where the impact is significant will be published on the Welsh Government's website.

4. Declaration

The policy does have a significant impact upon equality issues

Official completing the EIA	
Name:	
Gareth Griffiths	
Department:	
Paying for Care, Partnership and Cooperation, Social Services and Intergration Directorate, Health and Social Services Group	
Date:	
27 October 2016	
Signature:	
Head of Division (Sign-off)	
Name:	
Lisa Dunsford	
Job title and department:	
Deputy Director, Partnership and Cooperation, Social Services and Integration Directorate	
Date:	
27 October 2016	
Signature:	
Review Date:	April 2018



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

All those in Wales who receive payments from the
Independent Living Fund

18 March 2015

Dear colleague,

Future Arrangements to Support Independent Living Fund (ILF) Recipients in Wales.

This letter is to inform you of the Minister for Health and Social Services' decision on the future arrangements for how the ILF will operate in Wales from 1 July this year.

The Minister for Health and Social Services, Mark Drakeford AM has issued a Written Statement on 13 March which announced his decision having carefully considered the 279 responses, the views expressed and support for each option consulted upon.

The Minister has chosen to implement Option 4 of the consultation. This is a specific grant, administered by local authorities to pay existing ILF recipients their current level of funding. This approach addresses the need to have arrangements in place when the current scheme closes on 30 June this year. The grant scheme will run from 1 July 2015 until the end of March 2017. Funding beyond 31 March 2016 is subject to the next UK Spending Round. However, if future funding based on the actual number of people in receipt of ILF is confirmed, as a part of the long-term budget of the Welsh Government, the Minister has stated he "will reconsider the steps needed to develop a Welsh successor body to the current ILF scheme as a longer term solution".

This announcement should reduce the concerns and anxiety expressed by a number of ILF recipients as well as to clarify the circumstances for their carers. The grant scheme will ensure that current levels of funding are maintained when the new arrangements are implemented. Officials will now begin working with stakeholders representing service users and local authorities to determine the detail of the grant scheme and how payments will be made.

In the meantime the ILF has confirmed that right up until its closure on 30 June you will continue to receive its support.

Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

A further letter will be issued to all ILF recipients in Wales once agreement on how the new arrangements will operate has been achieved.

A summary report of the Consultation Responses will shortly be available on the following web-site:

<http://gov.wales/consultations/healthsocialcare/fund/?status=closed&lang=en>

A Welsh version of this letter is available on request.

If you have any questions concerning the future arrangements please contact me:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Tel No. [REDACTED]

By post at:

Steve Gulliford
Developing Policy for Children and Adults Division
Social Services and Integration Directorate
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF10 3NQ

Yours faithfully,



Steve Gulliford
Developing Policy for Children and
Adults Division, Social Services
and Integration Directorate / Yr Is-
adran Datblygu Polisi ar gyfer
Plant ac Oedolion, Y
Gyfarwyddiaeth Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol ac Integreiddio

P-05-771 Reconsider the closure of the Welsh Independent Living Grant and support disabled people to live independently – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 29.01.18

Eich cyf/Your ref Petition P-05-771

David J Rowlands AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

29th January 2018

Dear Mr Rowlands,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to the letter you received from Huw Irancca- Davies AM regarding the planned closure of the Welsh Independent Living Grant (WILG).

I received a copy of the summary response to the WILG consultation, but in my original response to the Minister involved – Rebecca Evans AM – I challenged her to release the data collected in the consultation **rather than an edited summary**. I feel that the actual responses would provide a clearer picture and avoid any suspicion of doctoring the results to fit the Government's aims.

As time ticks on this situation is getting more and more **frightening**. I believe a disaster is about to unfold and the Welsh Government does not have the humanity or humility to listen to the fears of disabled people and act accordingly when the **overwhelming evidence** indicates a step backwards for the right to Independent Living.

In 2015, in the report on the consultation responses, we were given the impression that a “successor body” **would** be put in place in the long term:

"The Minister will reconsider the steps needed to develop a Welsh successor body to the current ILF as a longer term solution."

One of the things that was made crystal clear throughout the consultation and all of the discussions, before and after, is that it is the experience of disabled people and unpaid Carers that some local authorities simply cannot be trusted to translate the 2014 Social Services and Well-being Act into genuine independent living for those who require high levels of support.

The Equality Impact Assessment on the decision to end WILG and hand responsibility to local authorities to assess and fund support for these disabled people asserted that: *"Recipients in future will be supported by their local authority based on the well-being outcomes they are seeking to achieve. **These will directly support their independent living. As such the rights of recipients to live as they wish will be upheld.**"* and promised that: *"Over the period of the two-year transition period the Welsh Government will monitor how each local authority is progressing with its reviews of recipients and the outcomes that result from these. This will be to ensure that recipients have reviews to time, that their future well-being outcomes are being identified with them and that the support they require is being provided rather than separate payments from social care provision."*

Unfortunately, some local authorities have been seen to reject the core elements of the 2014 Act and assert that disabled people *"must accept whatever local authorities decide for them"* and that *"disabled people cannot be allowed to tell paid carers how to support them because that would be illegal under health and safety law."* Some people who had been granted overnight cover were unable to employ staff because they only had a £30 per night budget – even after the authority had been shown case law on at least minimum wage payment for night working.

We live in an atmosphere of distrust of disabled people due to many years of right wing media representation of disabled people as liars and scroungers and this atmosphere and the attitudes it engenders pervades public life however much that is denied by authorities. Some people in receipt of WILG funding have been told explicitly that once they have been reassessed by the local authority their level of support will be reduced.

Welsh Government's assertion that **everyone's** wellbeing will be protected because of the 2014 Act is naive at best and dishonest at worst. It is no

secret that a Medical Model attitude towards disabled people remains endemic and institutionalised across the public sector and it is clear from the regional needs assessments and particularly Social Care Wales' summary report, that there is no understanding of the distinction between 'being independent' [meaning managing without support] and 'Independent Living' that Welsh Government have formally accepted as meaning disabled people living the lives they choose, in the way they choose and supported how, when, where and by whom they choose. I would like to explain just how worrying the current situation is; with the new proposal not ring-fencing the money, and the removal of the Welsh Government's direct responsibility, the new outcome will almost certainly mean less money/carer hours for me, at a time when I am going to potentially require 24 hour, NON-RESIDENTIAL, care.

If recipients of WILG could see the "transformational change" across social services promised by successive Ministers and nominally guaranteed by the 2014 SSWb Act then I believe fears of unfair and inhuman treatment would to an extent be allayed. Unfortunately, what is experienced is that **local authorities vary enormously as to whether their attitudes towards disabled people** and genuine Independent Living reflect the 2014 Act or, in some cases, 1980s attitudes and policies that would sentence disabled people to isolation in their own homes or imprisonment in 'care' institutions. People who require support to use the toilet during the night are being instructed to use incontinence materials. People who have no independent mobility are being left in their homes without support for several hours at a time – in fear for their lives should any accident happen and intensely frustrated that they cannot function in any capacity until the next staff come on shift.

However, the other element of the Independent Living Fund was that **independent Social Workers** carried out the assessments and reviews so that disabled people felt protected by the independent oversight of a qualified and experienced social worker who could not be intimidated by the local authority.

What is needed urgently is a hold on transferring funding into full local authority control; we think although WILG is a much better option than the current proposal, it is something in itself that could be improved. We also note that current proposals do not take into account the capacity of the recipient to take on the delegated responsibilities. This seems to us to be a double-whammy against recipients.

I would like to place on record my thanks to Huw Irranca-Davies for taking the time to come and see me in my home. Can you please also make him aware of this. However, in retrospect, the one thing he did say that has kept me awake at night since, was “I am not here to change policy”. I, along with 1,500-odd other recipients, cannot contemplate this remaining as his ‘mantra’ going forward. This goes right to the heart of the issue-the Welsh Government must realise why this change is not necessary, absolutely not wanted, and not an option. Sorry to be blunt, but we are talking about massive, negatively life-changing consequences. It really is that serious.

Should you need any further information please do not hesitate to get in touch using my contact details above. I would be very grateful if you could ensure Huw Irranca-Davies personally receives a copy of this letter.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, I/WE TRULY APPRECIATE ALL SUPPORT & CONSIDERATION

Yours sincerely

Nathan Lee Davies

I have provided some links below to show how we are busy campaigning in the media and the community to Save WILG, despite my own personal high care and support needs:

<https://nathanleedavies.wordpress.com/2018/01/26/windfall-for-councils-savewilg/>

<https://nathanleedavies.wordpress.com/2018/01/24/links-and-updates/>

I also include below minutes of a meeting that I had with Huw Irancca-Davies concerning WILG. This meeting did little to address my fears for the future and no one seems to be listening to the voices of disabled people:

<https://nathanleedavies.wordpress.com/2018/01/20/minutes-of-meeting-with-hue-irranca-davies-savewilg/>

Agenda Item 3.6

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

**P-05-753 Strengthening the Legislative and Regulatory Framework
Surrounding Waste Wood Processing Facilities – Correspondence from the
petitioner to the Committee, 25.01.18**

Dear Hannah,

Thank you for your email inviting further comments following the letter from the Interim Chief Executive of Natural Resources Wales.

As I have previously stated, my concern would be in relation to NRW's assertion that where an operator breaches their licence, they work to bring that operator back into compliance. They don't state how they do this and while I appreciate that NRW are unable to make any comment on the specifics of South Wales Wood Recycling (SWWR) due to an ongoing legal case, there is an issue relating to how they brought SWWR back into compliance. This, I contend, could have implications for other cases and so should not be treated in isolation. In their previous correspondence to the committee, they said that the increase in permitted throughput on the site was as a result of the extended site boundary, but it is clear from the attached permit (FP3095ET) that this related to the original boundary and not the extended one. This permit increased their throughput from 75000 tonnes to 120000 tonnes (see original permit from 2010 also attached). This was as a result of them breaching their permit. Obviously the original permit had limits for a reason and it doesn't seem reasonable practice to me to merely extend a permit to bring them back into compliance.

In addition to the permit issues, SWWR obtained a Category 3 score for inadequate fire breaks on 11/6/15 and 15/3/16. Category 3 means minor or minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property, but it is not clear what was done about these issues although they say they came back into compliance after the issues were raised.

They had a category 2 score for exceeding their permitted tonnage on 5/9/16 (significant impact) and while I understand that Bridgend County Borough Council raised issues about the storage of material at the time, they didn't do anything about it. This also brings NRW's 'risk based approach' to managing such sites into question as the fire that subsequently occurred had clear impacts on people that I don't think any of us would assess as minor or minimal.

I would respectfully request that NRW are far clearer with the Committee about how they bring operators back into compliance in order for the Committee to ascertain whether our petition on strengthening the regulatory regime surrounding Waste

Wood Processing Facilities in general has any validity and should be explored in more detail by Welsh Government.

As always, if the Committee would like us to give oral evidence, please don't hesitate to get in touch and I will suggest a suitable witness.

Kind regards

Alex Williams

Cllr. Alex Williams (Penprysg Ward, Bridgend County Borough Council)

Agenda Item 3.7

P-05-785 Suspend Marine Licence 12/45/ML to dump radioactive marine sediments from the Hinkley Point nuclear site into Wales coastal waters off Cardiff

This petition was submitted by Tim Deere-Jones, having collected 7,033 signatures online and 138 on paper – a total of 7,171 signatures.

Petition text:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to direct Natural Resources Wales to suspend the licence it has granted to NNB Genco, which permits up to 300,000 tonnes of radioactively contaminated material, dredged from the seabed at the Hinkley Point Nuclear power station site, to be dumped into Welsh inshore waters.

We further request that the suspension of the licence is used to ensure that a full Environmental Impact Assessment, complete radiological analysis and core sampling are carried out under the auspices of Natural Resources Wales, and that a Public Inquiry, a full hearing of independent evidence and a Public Consultation take place before any dump of the Hinkley sediments is permitted.

Additional information:

Marine Licence 12/45/ML, granted by the Welsh Government, permits the disposal of up to 300,000 tonnes of radioactively contaminated marine sediment, dredged from the seabed at the Hinkley Point nuclear site, into the Cardiff Grounds marine dump site close to the South Wales coast. This will allow work to begin on the 2 new Hinkley C nuclear reactor pipelines.

The sediments to be dredged are adjacent to the waste pipes used for the discharges from Hinkley's 4 existing reactors. Analysis, commissioned by UK Government agencies, shows that the sediment is contaminated by radioactive waste discharged to sea over 50+ years of operations at the Hinkley site. Calculations derived from the official data indicate that the proposed dredge sediments may hold at least 7 billion Bqs of aggregated radioactivity, yet reports state that doses to humans would be very low.

Hinkley's radioactive discharges to sea contain over 50 radio-nuclides, but the analysis has only investigated 3 of them. Thus, the actual aggregated radioactivity content of the sediments will be much higher than indicated by the available analysis. The available evidence also implies that only surface samples (0 to 5cms deep) of the sediment have been analysed, despite the fact that core sample research from elsewhere in the Irish Sea demonstrates that, at depths below 5cms, radioactivity concentrations may be up to 5 times higher.

While sedimentary radioactive material is initially likely to disperse, studies prove that it later re-concentrates in coastal and estuarine mudflats and saltmarshes, and is also available for sea-to-land transfer during onshore winds and coastal flooding. We note the absence of research on the fate of such radioactivity in South Wales inshore waters. In this context we are concerned that the environmental and human health (dose) risks from the proposed disposal have not been adequately researched and that any conclusions based on the current incomplete data, are unreliable.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire
- Mid and West Wales

P-05-785 Suspend Marine Licence 12/45/ML to dump radioactive marine sediments from the Hinkley Point nuclear site into Wales coastal waters off Cardiff – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 29.01.18

Dear Hannah and Colleagues:

thank you for your most recent contact forwarding transcripts etc: I am, as always, most grateful for your assistance and support.

Re the most recent ruling/announcement by the Petitions Committee : ie.....

“The Committee considered the evidence received in previous sessions and agreed to write to Natural Resources Wales to:

- **suggest that NRW should request that further samples are taken at depth, in order to assist with public reassurance in relation to this licence; ensure that the results of all analysis carried out on the sediment are made publically available;**
- **recommend that details of all radionuclides tested for should be made clear in relation to any further testing, in light of previous confusion over the details of the radiological assessment conducted on the material; and**
- **to ask for further details of any sampling or monitoring carried out within the wider Severn Estuary and studies relating to how the sediments would be likely to be dispersed following dumping at the Cardiff Grounds site.”**

In the context of the Committee's announcement, the Stop the Dump Campaign now formally requests the

* notification and copy of any NRW response to the Petition Committee's request:

* That the Petition's Committee request that any proposal from NRW (for a proposed fourth Radiological Survey or other research) be opened to a wider "Scoping" process than previous surveys, offering the opportunity for technical "consultation" input from organisations/groups/stakeholders NOT associated with the nuclear developers and pro nuclear governments and their agencies.

This in the context that the three previous [2009, 2013 and 2017] Radiological surveys have used the same methodology for each survey (and that that methodology has already been identified as inadequate by the Campaign and it's supporters).

* Should the Petition's Committee be willing to support such a wider "Scoping" process, the Campaign will wish to submit a Scoping Briefing/Report identifying a range of weaknesses in the methodologies used to date and offering advice/input on improved methodology to be used in future studies. ***(eg: longer***

"counting" times, greater clarity on the identification of ALL radionuclides present in sediments, identification and clarification of ALL necessary baseline data including current levels of radio nuclides in south Wales coastal/estuarine sediments, current doses of man made radioactivity to south Wales inshore waters users & south Wales coastal zone dwellers.... and other issues discussed during relevant Petitions Committee meetings)

N.B: The Committee's support on this issue will go a long way towards allaying issues about "transparency" which have been discussed in previous Committee sessions

* Noting the range of "Baseline Data" issues which have been raised during previous sessions of the Committee, the Campaign also formally requests that the Senedd Petitions Committee advise the NRW that any future reporting should cover not only the Radiological surveying of the sediments to be dumped but also the range of other baseline data issues referenced above.

* The Campaign also requests the opportunity to respond (in writing and in person) to any future Reports issued, or commissioned by, the NRW in respect of the the issues discussed above.

* The Campaign will be most grateful if you could ensure that the Chair of the Senedd Petitions Committee has sight of this request and is enabled to act upon our requests.

With many thanks again for your assistance

from

Tim Deere-Jones (*Marine Radioactivity Research & Consultancy*) for "Stop the Dump Campaign"

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

30 January 2018

Dear Mr Rowlands

‘Petition P-05-785 Suspend Marine Licence 12/45/ML to dump radioactive marine sediments from the Hinkley Point nuclear site into Wales’ coastal waters off Cardiff’

Thank you for your letter of 12 January 2018, outlining the main points raised at the petitions committee meeting on 09 January. Our response to your points are addressed below.

Sampling of sediment

On the basis of the sampling and evidence that we have previously received we are content that in our view there is no scientific basis to conduct further sampling at depth, relating to the above disposal licence: The 2009 sampling results were sufficient for us to conclude that this material was suitable to dispose at the Cardiff Grounds Site.

However, acknowledging the public interest in the matter, during a meeting with the licence holder on the 25th January, we did ask them to consider further voluntary sampling at depth for further reassurance, and we await their response. For additional public reassurance, we have already requested that Cefas undertake radiation dose analysis on the 2009 samples and will confirm the outcome of that assessment with the committee once it is completed.

Publication of results

In line with duty and policy to be open and transparent with these results they are publicly available and form part of our Public Register. In addition, these documents can be provided on request. If feasible, we will also include links to relevant documentation on our website as downloadable content, where we’ve already set up a specific web page for the Hinkley Licence which can be found here:

<https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/news-and-events/statements/marine-licence-to-dispose-dredged-material-off-the-coast-of-south-wales/?lang=en>

Analysis of radioactivity

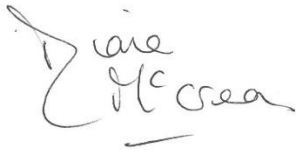
We will continue to work with Cefas to ensure that the presentation of the sampling results clearly identifies the full range of radionuclides that have been tested/screened. We will make this information available on our website.

Sampling sites and dispersal studies

We have contacted the Environment Agency regarding the radioactivity sampling and monitoring activities that are undertaken in the Severn Estuary. We will also liaise with Cefas regarding any disposal studies at the Cardiff grounds site/Severn Estuary.

We shall pass this information over to you as soon as we have it.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane McCrea', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Diane McCrea

**Cadeirydd, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Chair, Natural Resources Wales**

P-05-785 Suspend Marine Licence 12/45/ML to dump radioactive marine sediments from the Hinkley Point nuclear site into Wales coastal waters off Cardiff – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 31.01.18

Dear Kayleigh & colleagues:

thank you for the notification of NRW's letter to the Senedd Petitions Chair: and also for the warning about the proposed meeting (Feb 6th) of the Petitions Committee to discuss matters relating to our Petition.

As you will know, the Postpone the Dump Campaign has finally received copy of the CEFAS radiological analytical "raw digital data" a week or so ago. The Campaign has now copied that data to our technical experts in Europe. We do not expect to receive the report of their review of that data for at least four to six weeks (from today) at best.

Preliminary comments on the available data indicate that there are indicators that the Campaign's concerns are supported by the available evidence. Thus the Campaign, and its many supporters, consider it a matter of major importance that our technical experts have sufficient time to complete their analytical review of the digital radiological data and to write up their report.

The Campaign therefore requests that the Petition's Committee, postpone (or not at least NOT finalise) final discussion of the Petition's case until

1: the Campaign has had the time scale opportunity to have the Review of the long awaited and much sought after digital data completed with due diligence and then Reported in full

2: the Campaign has had the opportunity to make written and personal presentation of the eventual Review Report to the Committee

3: the campaign has had the opportunity to make written and personal presentations to the Committee on other issues if/as/when they arise

The Campaign also notes that the most recent NRW letter to the Committee states that "acknowledging the public interest in the matter, during a meeting with the licence holder on the 25th January, we did ask them to consider further voluntary sampling at depth for further reassurance, and we await their response. For additional public reassurance, we have already requested that Cefas undertake

radiation dose analysis on the 2009 samples and will confirm the outcome of that assessment with the committee once it is completed.

Also we note that, as of yet, EDF have not replied to the NRW invitation to "consider" further radiological analysis, nor have the CEFAS "dose analysis" of 2009 samples been presented. We therefore respectfully suggest that there are considerable amounts of data and information still in the process of being compiled and that the Feb 6th proposed meeting will not allow completion and presentation of that data.

The Campaign therefore requests postponement of discussions of the issues on 6th Feb, to enable completion, presentation and discussion of that data after it has been published

Yours Sincerely

Tim Deere-Jones for the Postpone the Dump campaign.....

Agenda Item 3.8

P-05-786 Save our Countryside – Revise TAN 1

This petition was submitted by Cllr Mike Priestley, having collected 706 signatures online.

Petition text:

Changes in 2015 to Technical Advice Note 1 (TAN1) have resulted in unachievable annual housing targets. This has taken planning decisions away from the local democratic planning process and undermined Adopted Local Development Plans (LDPs) across Wales.

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to reinstate within TAN1 the use of "past building rates methodology" alongside the "residual methodology". This will ensure that Councils are able to undertake intelligent and credible housing land supply needs assessments. Past housing delivery performance reflects economic conditions and local building industry capacity and resilience.

To ensure credible and deliverable land supply, and to balance the need for housing with the need to protect our environment and heritage, it is essential that economic conditions and local building industry capacity are factored into annual calculations of 5 Year Land Supply for Housing.

Changes to TAN1 have forced Local Councils to allow housing developments in excess of what is considered to be local demand. These developments are often large scale and have a detrimental effect on the green belt and the heritage of our County as urban and rural areas over expand. This in turn puts added demands on already stretched services such as GPs, Hospitals, Social Services and Schools.

The withdrawal in 2015 of the past building rates methodology is causing increasing numbers of Local Authorities to declare a 5 Year Land Supply shortfall. This, in turn, is forcing Local Councils, against their will and better judgement, to approve speculative development applications on locally sensitive Greenfield land, land unallocated within their LDPs and, where local approval to these speculative applications is not granted, local democratic decisions are being overturned on appeal, specifically due to the lack of a 5 Year Land Supply for Housing.

Additional information:

In 2014 Conwy Council had a 7+ Year Land Supply when its LDP was examined and approved by the Planning Inspector. Less than 12 months later the changes to TAN 1 reduced Conwy's Land Supply to less than 5 years. This has reduced with successive annual land supply calculations. In 2017, Conwy's land supply now stands at 3.1 years as a direct result of the changes to TAN1, and the Council is receiving speculative development applications for land unallocated within the LDP despite allocated land being available. If the past building rates methodology was still permitted, Conwy would today have an 8.5 year supply.

WG's guidance document TAN1 tells Local Councils how to work out their supply of housing land. All Councils should have enough land to meet the need for 5 years of house building. In the previous TAN1 there were two methods of working out how much land was needed:

1. The residual method based on the total housing need from an adopted Plan
2. The past build rates method, using the house building rates from the last 5 years to project forward for the next 5 years.

The Wellbeing and Future Generations Act requires us to be balance our decisions and actions in terms of impact today and impact in the future. Surely, we should apply this thinking to land planning and land use? Current Welsh Government policy is forcing prime Greenfield land to be concreted over and forever become brownfield land. The imposition and restriction to the use of the "residual methodology" was fiercely contested at the consultation stage and beyond, but Local Councils' voices were ignored. Local Councils need to be able to:

- protect heritage and environment and sensitive Greenfield land use and exercise local discretion, judgement and control of where development is needed and where it is allowed.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Aberconwy
- North Wales

P-05-786 – Save our Countryside – Revise TAN 1 – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 16.01.18

TAN1 Petition letter

15.01.2018

Introduction

In 2017, 20 out of 25 Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in Wales did not have a 5 year land supply. £38m has been spent in producing Local Development Plans (LDPs), but due to a national slowdown in the housing market, housebuilding has failed to keep up with the projected demand. Changes to Technical Advice Note (TAN) 1 has meant that Joint Housing Land Availability Studies (JHLAS) aren't fit for purpose, LDPs are rapidly becoming out of date and LPAs are no longer in control of land use and housing developments.

National guidance in the form of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) states:

“Local planning authorities must ensure that sufficient land is genuinely available or will become available to provide a 5-year supply of land for housing judged against the general objectives and the scale and location provided for in the development plan.” (9.2.3; emphasis in original).

TAN1 sets out the process for undertaking JHLAS. Through consultation with relevant stakeholders, local planning authorities (LPA) must establish which sites are capable of being developed for housing within 5 years, and work out whether this is sufficient to meet their housing requirement. When the land supply falls below 5 years, according to TAN1 the LPA must take steps to increase their land supply. **This provides housebuilders with the opportunity to seek permission on sites that are unallocated or outside settlement boundaries.**

Under current guidance in TAN1, the residual calculation is the only method permitted for LPAs to use to calculate their land supply. The residual method divides the total undeveloped housing remaining in the Local Development Plan (LDP) by the years remaining in the LDP to work out how many houses need to be built each year over the next 5 years (the annual requirement). This is compared to the housing land supply to work out the LPA's 5-year supply. Prior to the publication of the revised TAN1 in 2015, the past completions method could be used as an alternative to the residual method, which used past housing delivery to calculate future housing needs. Where an LPA's

We absolutely support the principle of using the Local Development Plan with its household projections as the starting point for assessing the land supply, however

we raise issue with the inflexible way in which WG guidance requires the housing land supply to be calculated. The problem in this case is the vast difference between the population projections used in the Plan and actual delivery of housing since the financial crisis in 2008. Planning Policy Wales (PPW) now recognises that housing requirements in emerging LDPs should be based on a range of evidence, not just WG's population projections, but this does not help LPAs who have adopted LDPs using older projections.

This is not an issue restricted to one or two authorities – it is a problem across Wales as Table 1 demonstrates.

Changes to Policy and Projections

Changes to TAN1 and the land supply calculation methodology have progressively made it more difficult for LPAs to achieve a 5-year supply and reduced the weight that should be given to population projections when producing LDPs. These changes have led to land supply shortfalls in all but 3 LPAs with an adopted LDP.

The TAN1 Practice Guidance published in September 2012 changed the past completions calculation, which had the effect of increasing the housing requirement when using this method. Subsequently, the revised TAN1 was published in January 2015 which removed past completions altogether as a method for calculating land supply. Additionally, any authorities without a current development plan can no longer produce a JHLAS and are therefore considered to have a land supply shortfall; despite some authorities still having significant allocations and committed sites.

The adopted Conwy LDP used the Welsh Government's 2008-based population and household projections; figures that were revised significantly in February 2014, shortly after the Plan was adopted. At Examination, the Council argued for a lower housing figure due to the effects of the financial crisis, however such concerns were not supported by the Inspector who favoured sticking rigidly to the WG's undeliverable household requirements. Planning Policy Wales has since been updated to reduce the weight given to WG's household projections, but this does not help authorities such as Conwy with high housing requirements based on older high WG projections; requirements that we are effectively locked in to until the Review is complete.

Consequences of low housing delivery on land supply

We agree with the comments from the then Minister for Housing and Regeneration in his letter dated 10 April 2014 that projecting forward past low rates of housebuilding is not to be desired. However, the past building rates method

allowed in the 2006 edition of TAN1 did provide a sense-check of the residual calculation. **The residual annual requirement from Conwy's latest JHLAS is now 681 dwellings. It is clear that in the context of housing delivery averaging 324 dwellings per year over the past two decades since the formation of Conwy CB, a consistent delivery of such a figure is completely unachievable.** This situation is repeated across Wales as detailed in Table 1 below, which demonstrates that in all but a very few instances, the average annual completions or even the single highest annual completions over the past 10 years have not come close to the annual requirements that authorities are expected to deliver according to the residual land supply calculation.

As Table 1 demonstrates, only three LPAs had a 5-year land supply in their 2017 JHLAS, although it is acknowledged that a further three have adopted their LDPs since then. Using the past completions method on the other hand, only three authorities would have less than a 5-year supply. To re-iterate, we are not advocating the use of past completions as the sole method for assessing land supply, due to the lack of ambition that would result from basing housing requirements on the performance of the housebuilding industry over the past decade. We do however consider that a comparison with past build rates demonstrates that the residual calculation is a broken methodology which means that **the current JHLAS process is not fit for purpose.** The previous TAN1 (2006) acknowledged the limitations of the residual method, stating:

*"In some circumstances, that [residual] calculation has indicated land shortages or surpluses, which do not exist in practice. In such cases, a comparison of available land with **past building rates** can provide a measure of the adequacy of land supply that is more relevant to the achievement of the general objectives of the plan."*(7.5.2; emphasis in original).

The 2017 JHLAS determined that Conwy has sufficient land to deliver 2145 dwellings over the next 5 years; more than were built in the past 9 years. Yet according to the residual calculation this is enough for only 3.1 years. As the target of 681 is inevitably missed in the coming years, the residual requirement will continue to rise until the replacement LDP adopted. **In the 2018 JHLAS the annual requirement is likely to rise to approximately 800 dwellings per year.** A land supply calculation based on this figure therefore serves no useful purpose.

The 5-year land supply figure will grow exponentially as the years remaining in the plan decreases. Conwy have commenced our LDP Review, however a recent letter from the Minister will now delay the process for adopting a replacement LDP. Communication from WG indicates that Conwy will be strongly encouraged to

produce a joint LDP with Denbighshire. Such a proposal may result in limited financial savings, but at the cost of an inevitably extended timeframe. The need to co-ordinate two democratic processes in parallel and align strategies and policies across different local planning authorities means that both Conwy and Denbighshire will remain with a land supply shortfall for a longer period.

An Alternative Approach

A different land supply calculation which uses the LDP's annual requirement instead of the residual assessment would prevent the housing requirement from snowballing out of reach. This would provide greater stability in the land supply calculation, whilst continuing to use the LDP as the basis for the housing requirement. For example, in the case of Conwy the total housing requirement of 6520 split over 15 years equates to approximately 435 dwellings per year; a 4.9 year supply based on the 2017 JHLAS. Such a method would allow LPAs to aim for a target that has a more realistic prospect of being achieved, when as in many cases slow housing delivery due to the poor economy and poor housing market has resulted in an ever increasing housing shortfall.

Another means by which the land supply calculation could better reflect the latest evidence would be by allowing flexibility in housing requirements before completion of the formal review process. As detailed above, we know, and have done for a number of years that the household requirements set out in the LDP are too high. Having to wait a further three years to adopt a replacement Plan (or more for a joint LDP) before we can recalibrate our land supply calculation, despite knowing that the present land supply 'shortfall' is based on outdated projections seems perverse.

Availability vs Deliverability

The JHLAS process is based around identifying land that is available for development, however it is important that 'availability' and 'deliverability' are not conflated. Conwy CB have approved some applications on the basis of a land supply shortfall, with others approved on appeal. It is worth noting that the granting of permission on such speculative sites does not guarantee that housing will be delivered, but the threat of development on unallocated sites does cause great uncertainty and genuine concern to local authorities and communities. The lack of progress so far on a number of sites in Conwy demonstrates that it is not the failure of the local authority to provide sites which is causing slow delivery. Of the four sites that have been granted permission outside settlement boundaries in the last five years on the basis of a land supply shortfall, all but one have yet to commence development; one of those yet to start was granted permission on appeal in

February 2013 so is still not contributing to the urgent need for housing that was argued by the appellants and accepted by the Inspector. Such sites, and others with extant planning permission may be 'available' for development, but for reasons outside the control of the LPA may not be delivered in the short term.

The recent Arcadis study took a rather narrow assessment of the impact of viability on delivering housing sites, but missed some of the key issues which affect site delivery. Discussions with housebuilders have demonstrated to us that the increasing regulatory costs; including the recent introduction of sprinklers in all new dwellings (which the WG-commissioned study by BRE concluded is not cost effective) makes England a more attractive environment for housebuilding than Wales. Unrealistically high aspirations for the value of sites are leading to landowners being reluctant to release land for development. In addition, one major national housebuilder informed us that the main reason they have avoided building in north Wales is the difficulty of dealing with Welsh Water – their failure to deliver much-needed improvements to their network have demonstrably led to significant delays in bringing forward housing sites in Conwy. This can lead to such sites falling outside the 5-year supply, despite the sites themselves being available for development.

Where deliverability of sites continues to be an issue, Conwy are considering the use of Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers to bring forward development, with this actively being progressed in one instance. To assist in delivery however, we propose that WG should simplify the process for compulsory purchase of sites where these are allocated in a development plan. This would provide more certainty to local authorities in delivering allocated sites and act to encourage landowners to bring forward sites themselves in a timely manner.

Previous correspondence

The key issue relating to the residual calculation and its unsuitability for assessing land supply in some situations has been raised previously on numerous occasions at a local, regional and national level:

- CCBC's response and North Wales regional response to the TAN1 calculation, October 2014
- Letter from Leader of CCBC to the then Minister for Housing & Regeneration, January 2016
- Report to CCBC Cabinet regarding issues with TAN1 and to show CCBC support for changes to TAN1, September 2016
- Letter from Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to Lesley Griffiths, Sept 2016

- Letter from Leader of CCBC to WLGA, November 2016
- Meeting between WLGA and DCLG about issues with TAN1, January 2017
- Emails sent to Janet Finch–Saunders, Aberconwy Assembly Member in August 2016, September 2016 and October 2017
- CCBC’s LDP Annual Monitoring Reports, October 2016 and October 2017

This demonstrates that the issues are on-going and not restricted to Conwy. It is disappointing that despite the issues raised, to date WG have been dismissive of the many genuine concerns raised by local planning authorities across Wales. Faced with the evidence of widespread land supply ‘shortfalls’ across Wales, and the potential timescale involved for LDP review (particularly if Conwy produce a joint LDP with Denbighshire), it is not acceptable for LPAs and communities to continue to suffer the consequences of a broken system. Another revision of TAN1 is now overdue, to allow JHLAS reports to once again provide realistic, and therefore relevant, land supply calculations.

Conclusion

The residual method of assessing land supply can work in principle, but only where the housing requirements are in line with the genuine capacity and willingness of the housebuilding industry to deliver sites. The continued use of this method where there LDP requirements are seriously out of step with delivery, as it is in Conwy and many other Welsh authorities is undermining LDPs. This is to the detriment of local residents and planning authorities whilst reducing confidence in the supposed plan-led approach to development in Wales. We urge WG to acknowledge that the land supply shortfall across Wales cannot be attributed mainly to the failure of LPAs. TAN1 should be revised to make the land supply calculation fit for purpose, whilst improved CPO powers would enable LPAs to be more proactive in delivering the aspirations of their LDPs.

Alun Davies the new Local Government Minister is committed to giving councils the power they need to be dynamic and in control of their own destiny. The changes to TAN1 remove power from LPAs and empower developers, bringing forward speculative development applications for the wrong type of houses in the wrong place at the wrong time. Council need and want to be in control of land use and housing development within their areas.

Table 1: Housing Land supply position across Wales.

Data from 2017 JHLAS reports and for annual completions 2008–2017 unless detailed otherwise. This shows the status of LDPs in each authority and the year of adoption; 4 LPAs do not have an adopted LDP. The ‘Residual’ land supply is calculated using the only method permitted by TAN1, whereas ‘Past comps’ is based on past housing delivery, which was a method permitted by TAN1 until the 2015 edition. Most LPAs have a 5-yr supply using this method. Residual annual need is the number of houses to be built per year according to the residual calculation; in most cases much higher than the average or maximum annual completions over the past 10 years.

Authority (year LDP adopted)	Land supply (years)		Land supply (dwellings)	Residual annual need	Annual completions past 10 yrs Avg (max)
	Residual	Past comps			
Anglesey ¹ (2017)	–	5.8	1064	–	185 (296)
Blaenau Gwent (2012)	1.27	5.9	650	512	110 (213)
Brecon Beacons NP (2013)	4.8	20.3	1178	246	58 (87)
Bridgend (2013)	4.0	9.8	4237	1071	434 (621)
Caerphilly (2010)	2.1	5.5	2006	935	367 (656)
Cardiff (2016)	3.6	11.7	10,782	3019	919 (2029)
Carmarthenshire (2014)	4.2	13.8	6754	1620	490 (724)
Ceredigion (2013)	2.6	11.2	2156	815	192 (271)
Conwy (2013)	3.1	8.5	2145	681	251 (421)
Denbighshire (2013)	1.79	11.0	2009	1118	182 (266)
Flintshire ² (No LDP)	–	8.1	3275	–	405 (601)
Gwynedd ¹ (2017)	–	7.3	1421	–	194 (276)
Merthyr Tydfil (2011)	1.6	4.3	695	429	160 (243)
Monmouthshire (2014)	4.0	11.0	2754	689	250 (342)
Neath Port Talbot (2016)	5.3	12.1	3607	680	299 (410)
Newport (2015)	6.1	8.1	4578	745	568 (952)

¹ Anglesey and Gwynedd did not have up to date plans until adopting a joint LDP in July 2017 so could not produce a JHLAS. Figures taken from Housing Land Monitoring Statements (October 2017).

² Flintshire does not have an adopted LDP; figures are from the 2016 Housing Monitoring Statement.

Pembrokeshire (2013)	5.1	10.7	4136	805	386 ³ (588)
Pembrokeshire Coast NP (2010)	1.2	6.7	380	229	57 (105)
Powys (No LDP) ⁴	2.2	7.4	1629	751	220 (366)
Rhondda Cynon Taf (2011)	1.3	5.4	2612	1997	487 (716)
Snowdonia NP (2011)	3.6	5.1	239	66	47 (68)
Swansea (No LDP) ⁵	3.2	4.6	3154	998	683 (1146)
Torfaen (2013)	3.6	11.8	2167	593	183 (242)
Vale of Glamorgan (2017) ⁶	-	-	-	-	-
Wrexham (No LDP)	-	4.3	1392	-	326 (606)

³ Average over past 9 years

⁴ Figures for Powys are from 2016 JHLAS and average completions for the 9 years 2008-2016.

⁵ Data from the last Swansea JHLAS in 2016, with average completions for the 10 years to 2016.

⁶ The Vale of Glamorgan JHLAS was adopted in June 2017 and no recent housing data is available.

Agenda Item 3.9

P-05-740 Petition to Protect our High Street.

This petition was submitted by Sally Stephenson, which collected 939 online signatures and 729 paper signatures.

Text of the Petition

- We, the undersigned, believe that the Welsh Government's transitional rate-relief relief scheme is inadequate to meet the needs of businesses affected by the most recent re-valuation of premises and call on the Welsh Government to develop a package of permanent rate-relief measures to alleviate the financial pressure on small businesses..

Assembly constituency and Region.

- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

Written Statement – Delivering a tax cut for small businesses: a permanent small business rates relief scheme for Wales

Last updated 13 December 2017

Mark Drakeford, Cabinet Secretary for Finance

The Welsh Government has previously set out our intention to introduce a permanent small business rates relief scheme from 1 April 2018. This will provide certainty and security for small businesses in Wales, delivering a tax cut to help them drive long term economic growth. Today, I am pleased to announce the details of the permanent scheme.

In 2017–18, we are providing small businesses with more than £110 million of support in paying their rates bills. Our permanent scheme, which will be in place from 1 April 2018, will maintain this investment from the Welsh Government. In line with our tax principles, the new scheme will target the support more effectively towards the businesses that will benefit most, supporting jobs and growth and delivering wider benefits for our local communities.

There has been extensive engagement with stakeholders to inform the design of the permanent scheme and taken account of the views from ratepayers, business representatives, other taxpayers and local authorities. I am grateful to all those who provided their valuable and constructive input into this exercise.

In order to enable us to target relief more effectively, the new scheme will limit the number of properties eligible for small business rates relief to two properties per business in each local authority. This releases approximately £7m which will be reinvested in other areas of relief.

These funds will be used to provide support in the following areas.

- Additional support for the childcare sector, increasing the upper threshold for rates relief for childcare providers from £12,000 to £20,500. This benefits over 100 childcare providers across Wales.
- Provide £5 million support to continue the High Street Rates Relief scheme

into 2018–19.

- Providing an additional £1.3m funding to local authorities, for them to use their discretionary powers to provide targeted relief to support local businesses which would benefit most from additional assistance.
- Targeted support for small hydropower projects.

While the new relief scheme will be introduced on a permanent basis from 2018, I will continue to develop the scheme to ensure it best meets the needs of Wales.

The areas for further exploration will include:

- Targeting support for certain sectors or types of business which support the delivery of the Welsh Government’s policy aims, for example, social care and the priorities identified in the Economic Action Plan.
- Targeting support for the childcare sector, including consideration of the Barclay Review of Business Rates undertaken in Scotland earlier this year. This work will assist with the implementation of the childcare, play and early years workforce plan by supporting childcare providers to operate more sustainably, and align to the aspirations of the Economic Action Plan.
- Potential to time-limit the general period of relief, in order to redirect resources to provide greater help to businesses in the early period of establishment and growth.
- Assessing the feasibility of linking eligibility for relief with the payment of the living wage
- Work to address non-domestic rates fraud and avoidance
- The consideration of possible exceptions from relief where businesses do not align with Welsh Government policy objectives.

My intention is to take a progressive, fair and transparent approach towards

local taxation in Wales which continues to provide vital funding for local services. Delivering a permanent relief scheme for small businesses is a key step in delivering this.

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Agenda Item 6

P-04-682 Routine Screening for Type 1 Diabetes in Children and Young People

This petition was submitted by Anthony Cook, having collected 2,570 signatures. An associated petition collected 3,670 signatures

Text of the Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to introduce routine screening for Type 1 Diabetes in children and young people.

In January of this year we tragically lost our beloved 13-year-old grandson, Peter Baldwin, to Type 1 diabetes that had been undetected until it was too late to save him. Peter was a well-loved and highly respected pupil at Whitchurch High School in Cardiff where he is greatly missed but for his family the hurt is unimaginable.

Our daughter Beth was recently presented with an award from The Pride of Britain for her fundraising efforts and for raising awareness of this terrible illness but with your help, and that of your friends and family we can really make a difference.

Please spare a couple of minutes to sign our petition calling on the Welsh Government to introduce a screening programme and to raise the profile of the need to check for Type 1 Diabetes in anyone presented to a health care professional with unexplained flu-like symptoms or general feeling of being unwell. The test involved is merely a finger prick or urine sample and takes less

time than you have spent reading this paragraph; it also only costs pennies. It is our intention to make this test as routine within GP surgeries and clinics as temperature and blood pressure checks presently are.

Your signature on this petition really could help save lives and prevent further terrible loss within families.

Additional Information:

The ideal standard would be for screening of all youngsters in order to catch this stealthy condition in the early stages. Many parts of the world are seeing the benefit of this screening and are now introducing it, the most recent being North Carolina in the U.S. Below is a link to the North Carolina implementation.

<http://insulinnation.com/living/reegans-rule-passes-north-carolina/>

The devolved Scottish Parliament is ahead of the rest of the U.K. and is already committed to debate the issue and appear very likely to implement screening. We want this for our children in Wales and are calling on the Welsh Government to introduce screening at the earliest opportunity.

PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION AND SHARE IT FAR AND WIDE

(now give yourself a pat on the back, you may have saved a child's life)

A petition campaigning for this change across the UK is currently collecting signatures on Change.org:

<https://www.change.org/p/craig-williams-mp-screen-children-for-type-1-diabetes>

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff North
- South Wales Central

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

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