

Agenda – Petitions Committee – Fifth Senedd

Meeting Venue:

Senedd

Meeting date: 7 January 2020

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

Graeme Francis – Committee Clerk

Ross Davies – Deputy Clerk

0300 200 6565

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Private pre-meeting

(09.15–09.30)

- 1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**
(Pages 1 – 29)
- 2 New petitions**
 - 2.1 P-05-921 Earlier notification of council budgets by the Welsh Government
#SaveOurServices
(Pages 30 – 43)
 - 2.2 P-05-925 Don't leave Wales behind – teach menstrual wellbeing in schools
(Pages 44 – 54)
 - 2.3 P-05-926 To Provide a Chronic Fatigue Department in Wales
(Pages 55 – 64)
 - 2.4 P-05-927 Changing Places toilet facilities
(Pages 65 – 75)
 - 2.5 P-05-928 Remove the words which promote the recovery of oil and gas
resource from the Welsh National Marine Plan
(Pages 76 – 86)
- 3 Updates to previous petitions**
 - 3.1 P-05-839 Adopt WHO Guidelines and Introduce a Clean Air Act for Wales
(Pages 87 – 91)



- 3.2 P-05-842 Give young people a voice when commissioning local services in Wales
(Pages 92 – 98)

The following two items will be considered together:

- 3.3 P-05-856 Ban the sale of puppies by pet shops and all commercial 3rd party dealers in Wales
(Pages 99 – 100)
- 3.4 P-05-915 Call for better enforcement of puppy farms in Wales
(Pages 101 – 102)
- 3.5 P-05-869 Declare a Climate Emergency and fit all policies with zero-carbon targets
(Pages 103 – 107)
- 3.6 P-05-877 Children's used uniform scheme
(Pages 108 – 110)

4 Paper to note

- 4.1 P-05-797 Ensure access to the cystic fibrosis medicine, Orkambi, as a matter of urgency
(Pages 111 – 113)

5 Evidence session

9.45 – 10.30

- Kirsty Williams AM, Minister for Education
- Claire Bennett, Deputy Director Curriculum, Welsh Government
- Megan Colley, Head of Supporting Achievement & Safeguarding, Welsh Government

- 5.1 Evidence Session: P-05-862 Tackling school bullying
(Pages 114 – 128)
- 5.2 Evidence Session: P-05-757 Remove the Obligation on Schools to Hold Acts of Religious Worship
(Page 129)

5.3 Evidence Session: P-05-765 Keeping Current Guidelines for Religious Assemblies

(Page 130)

6 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:

Items 8, 9, 10 and 11.

7 Discussion of previous evidence session

8 Consideration of Draft Report

8.1 Consideration of Draft Report: P-04-433 CCTV in Slaughterhouses

(Pages 131 – 145)

8.2 Welsh Government Correspondence – P-05-916 Adequate funding to protect the welfare of farm animals in Welsh slaughterhouses

(Pages 146 – 147)

9 Consideration of Welsh Government response to report on P-05-736 To Make Mental Health Services More Accessible

(Pages 148 – 154)

10 Paper to note: Letter from the Committee on Assembly Electoral Reform

(Pages 155 – 156)

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 2.1

P-05-921 Earlier notification of council budgets by the Welsh Government #SaveOurServices

This petition was submitted by UNISON Neath Port Talbot having collected a total of 191 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on Welsh Government to give budgets to councils no later than mid-January 2020 in order that firstly, local authorities comply with all legislative requirements in relation to budget setting process for council tax, and secondly so that they can give appropriate legislative budgets to schools in order for them to be in compliance with their own guidelines set by Welsh Government.

UNISON Neath Port Talbot Branch believes that every council in Wales is under extreme budgetary pressure, with some service provisions lost and others on the verge of collapse, and with a spending review also underway, public services now have no understanding of any of the implications of this review.

Welsh Government have proposed that the Draft Budget will be issued on the 19th November 2019, with a its Final Budget being given in February, but to date still no notice of when the actual Local Government Budget will be. This will have resounding, legislative implications for ALL local authorities when they will have to approve budgets based on draft settlement figures to ensure compliance to statutory requirements around setting Council Tax Bills.

The prosed timetable gives councils very real difficulties insomuch as all scrutiny meetings, subsequent Cabinets and Council meetings will now need to be changed. An outcome of this may be that council tax rates may have been inflated only to discover at a later date that settlement figures would have allowed more flexibility.

Councils are the major employer in their areas and any reduction in funding will also have a detrimental impact on employment and the ability for these vital services to be sustainable whilst remaining in-house.

Additional Information

We fully support Welsh Government's vision that everybody in Wales should live in well-connected, vibrant, viable and sustainable communities with a

strong local economy and a good quality of life, but in order for this vision to succeed, we must safeguard public services which will in turn ensure the safety and well-being of our residents across Wales with better outcomes for all.

Current spending plans end in March 2020, however all current indications inform us that the timetable for settlement figures will not give us any approved funds until March 2020. This is outrageous: no employer can sustain a multi-million pound venture without a budget.

The number of councils now in a position of setting an illegal budget is frightening and is being exacerbated by ill-timed grant offers, some of which have not been received until the end of the budgeting year.

European Funding grants and Welsh Government specific grants contribute immensely to services delivered. Additionally, we need to consider timelines when awarding grants which appear to be given after the financial year has started. This is not supportive of workforce planning or the delivery of services.

Significant reform is required to ensure the long term financial sustainability of local services and to end the systemic inequalities between the funding of public provisions. Local authorities need increased autonomy and control for generating revenue with mechanisms in place for local authorities. Public Audit Watchdogs have been highlighting the significant damage to essential services and without major investment in these same services, local authorities will be unable to provide services to the most vulnerable in society, such as the young or very elderly, at a time when there is increased demand on service provision.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Aberavon
- South Wales West

P-05-921 Earlier notification of council budgets by the Welsh Government #SaveOurServices

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 7 Ionawr 2020
Petitions Committee | 7 January 2020

Reference: RS19/11038-4

Introduction

Petition number: [P-05-921](#)

Petition title: Earlier notification of council budgets by the Welsh Government #SaveOurServices

Text of petition: We call on Welsh Government to give budgets to councils no later than mid-January 2020 in order that firstly, local authorities comply with all legislative requirements in relation to budget setting process for council tax, and secondly so that they can give appropriate legislative budgets to schools in order for them to be in compliance with their own guidelines set by Welsh Government.

UNISON Neath Port Talbot Branch believes that every council in Wales is under extreme budgetary pressure, with some service provisions lost and others on the verge of collapse, and with a spending review also underway, public services now have no understanding of any of the implications of this review.

Welsh Government have proposed that the Draft Budget will be issued on the 19th November 2019, with a its Final Budget being given in February, but to date still no notice of when the actual Local Government Budget will be. This will have resounding, legislative implications for ALL local



authorities when they will have to approve budgets based on draft settlement figures to ensure compliance to statutory requirements around setting Council Tax Bills.

The proposed timetable gives councils very real difficulties inasmuch as all scrutiny meetings, subsequent Cabinets and Council meetings will now need to be changed. An outcome of this may be that council tax rates may have been inflated only to discover at a later date that settlement figures would have allowed more flexibility.

Councils are the major employer in their areas and any reduction in funding will also have a detrimental impact on employment and the ability for these vital services to be sustainable whilst remaining in-house.

We fully support Welsh Government's vision that everybody in Wales should live in well-connected, vibrant, viable and sustainable communities with a strong local economy and a good quality of life, but in order for this vision to succeed, we must safeguard public services which will in turn ensure the safety and well-being of our residents across Wales with better outcomes for all.

Current spending plans end in March 2020, however all current indications inform us that the timetable for settlement figures will not give us any approved funds until March 2020. This is outrageous: no employer can sustain a multi-million pound venture without a budget.

The number of councils now in a position of setting an illegal budget is frightening and is being exacerbated by ill-timed grant offers, some of which have not been received until the end of the budgeting year.

European Funding grants and Welsh Government specific grants contribute immensely to services delivered. Additionally, we need to consider timelines when awarding grants which appear to be given after the financial year has started. This is not supportive of workforce planning or the delivery of services.

Significant reform is required to ensure the long term financial sustainability of local services and to end the systemic inequalities between the funding of public provisions. Local authorities need increased autonomy and control for generating revenue with mechanisms in place for local authorities. Public Audit Watchdogs have been highlighting the significant damage to essential services and without major investment in these same services, local authorities will be unable to provide services to the most vulnerable in society, such as the young or very elderly, at a time when there is increased demand on service provision.

1. Background

The Welsh Government publishes its budget annually, generally in the autumn of each financial year. This process includes publication of an outline draft budget, a detailed draft budget and a Final budget. The Welsh Government also publishes a Local Government Settlement following publication of its draft budget, which sets the amount of Revenue Support Grant (RSG) to be provided to each local authority, a Police Settlement, regarding the amount of RSG for Police and information on grants, as well as other documents and information.

The Draft Budget process is set out in Assembly [Standing Order 20](#). Standing Orders require that an outline budget proposal is laid before the Assembly, this must set out financing plans and the amounts of resources and cash which the government proposes to use for the following financial year as well as provisional amounts for the subsequent two years or for such other periods as the Minister considers appropriate.

The Welsh Government is required to notify the Business Committee of its proposed timetable for consideration of the budget at least two weeks before the summer recess each year. The Welsh Government must then publish this timetable, which must normally allow the responsible committee (the Finance Committee) eight weeks to report on the outline budget proposals and other committees at least five weeks to consider the detailed proposals.

At the request of the Minister with responsibility for government business, the Business Committee may make subsequent changes to the timetable.

The budget process is also set out in a [protocol](#) between the Welsh Government and the Assembly.

The [Local Government Act 1992](#) requires that billing authorities complete and approve their budgets and set council tax before 11 March each year.

2. Welsh Government timetable

On 8 November 2019, the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd issued a [written statement](#) setting out the Welsh Government's plans to publish its budget, on an 'exceptional basis', on the 16 December (during recess), to be followed by a

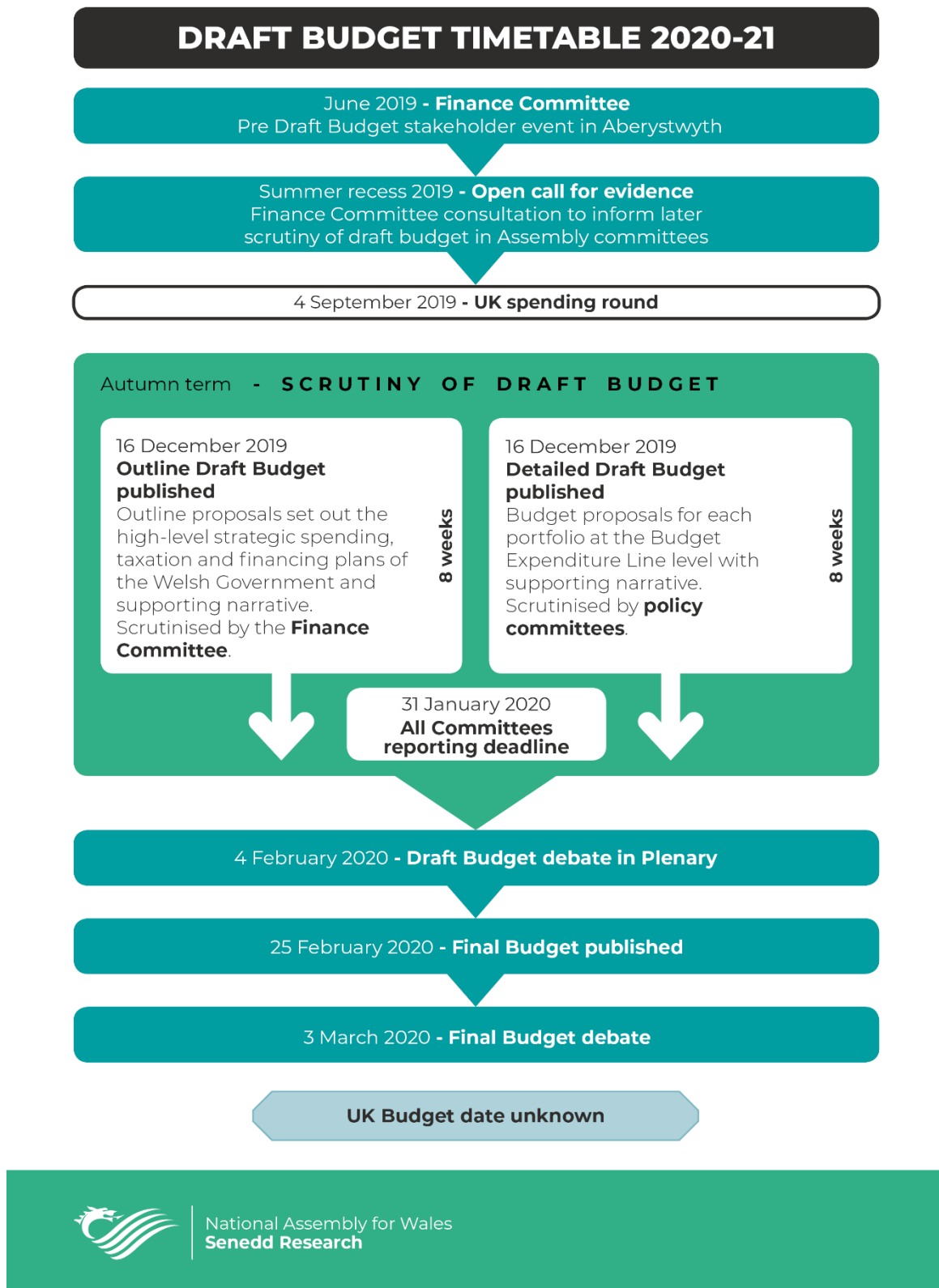
statement in plenary on 7 January 2020. The Minister outlined that the change in timetable related to the UK General Election, held on 12 December. The Minister stated that, since its earlier announcements on the timing of the budget:

...the UK general election has been called and we are now in the pre-election period. I have discussed the implications of this for the timing of the Welsh Government's budget with the Business and Finance Committees and subject to the agreement of the Business Committee we will defer publication of the Welsh Government's budget until after the UK general election.

The Minister's statement also outlined that the **Provisional Local Government Settlement for 2020-21** was due to be published at the same time as the Draft Budget. The **Final Local Government Settlement** will be published on 25 February 2020, alongside the Final Budget.

The Minister set out in that statement the timetable for the budget, outlined in Figure 1 below (for comparison a copy of the previous years' budget timetable is also included in the Annex of this paper):

Figure 1: Draft Budget Timetable 2020-21



Source: National Assembly for Wales Research Service and Welsh Government statement (8 November 2019)

The draft budget timetable as set out in Figure 1 follows previous announcements from the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government had previously written to the Finance Committee on 5 July 2019 to advise that the outline and detailed draft budgets would be published together on 10 December (Final budget on 3 March 2020). The Welsh Government stated:

...we are faced with an unprecedented level of uncertainty regarding the UK Government's intentions for a Comprehensive Spending Review. We do not know yet when it will take place or the period it will cover. There have also been comments in recent days by the contenders for the leadership of the Conservative Party and, ultimately, Prime Minister regarding the possibility of the new UK Government publishing its Budget in September. For those reasons, it is challenging to provide certainty at this stage on the dates we will publish the draft and final 2020-21 Budgets.

In this letter the Welsh Government also noted that if the UK Government published its budget earlier than anticipated, it would also look to bring forward publication of its budget.

On 4 September, following the UK Government's Spending Round 2019, the Minister outlined in a written statement that the Welsh Government would attempt to bring forward publication of its draft budget and on 13 September the Minister wrote to the Finance Committee to confirm it was looking to bring publication of the budget forward to 19 November.

3. National Assembly for Wales action

The Assembly's Business Committee considered the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2020-21 at its meeting on 12 November 2019.

To inform its scrutiny, the Finance Committee held a consultation on the Welsh Government's Draft Budget Proposals 2020-21 over the period 16 July to 25 September 2019. The Finance Committee also conducted a stakeholder event in Aberystwyth on 27 June 2019, which considered priorities for the 2020-21 budget and held a debate on the Welsh Government's spending priorities in Plenary on 25 September 2019.

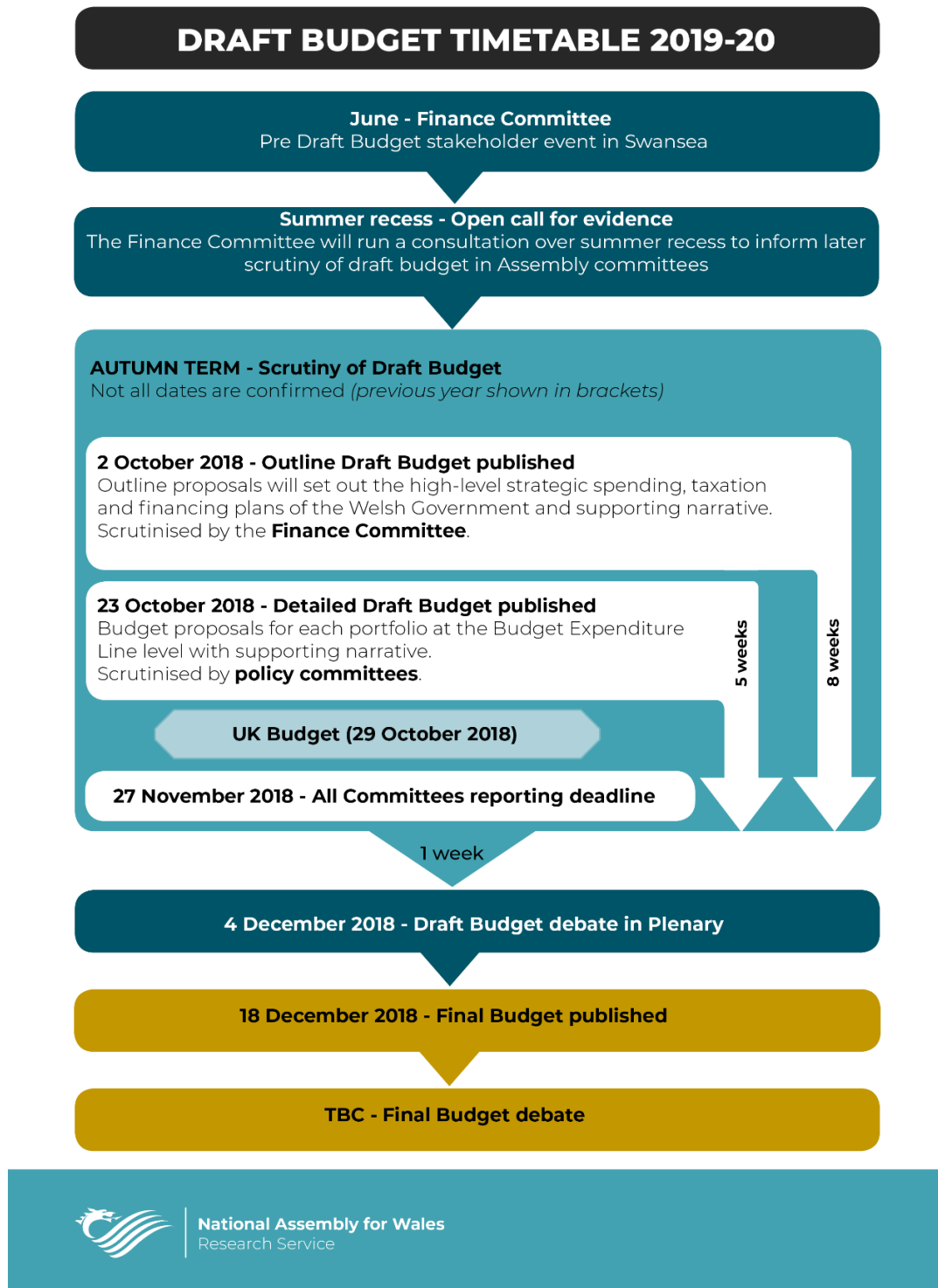
The Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee also held a session 'Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020-21: Local Government Budget', on 23

October 2019, which received evidence from the Wales Government Centre and Wales Centre for Public Policy.

Various committees have also written to relevant members of the Welsh Government, setting out their expectations of the budgetary information they will be provided.

4. Annex

Figure 2: Draft Budget Timetable 2019-20



Source: National Assembly for Wales Research Service and Welsh Government (*note: the Final Budget 2019-20 was debated on 15 January 2019*)

Julie James AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/06736/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM,
Chair,
Petitions Committee.

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

3 December 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 17 October to Rebecca Evans AM, Minister for Finance & Trefnydd and me regarding a petition received from UNISON Neath Port Talbot, calling for earlier notification of council budgets. I am replying on behalf of both of us, given my responsibility for local government.

I understand the need for certainty on providing local authorities with details of their funding as early as possible. It is always the Welsh Government's intention to publish the Local Government Settlement as soon as is possible within the constraints of the UK and Welsh Government's Budget timetables. Our timetable of course must also ensure appropriate time for scrutiny through the Assembly.

The Minister for Finance & Trefnydd updated Members in September on the implications of the UK Government's Spending Round 2019 for Wales and of her plans to bring forward the publication of the Welsh Government Draft Budget for 2020-21 to 19 November. My intention was to announce the provisional local government settlement on 26 November, a week after the planned Welsh Government Draft Budget. I advised local authority elected representatives of the proposed timetable during the meeting of the Finance Sub Group of the Partnership Council for Wales meeting on 25 September. These plans have of course now been overtaken by the announcement by the UK Government to hold a general election, and consequently we are now in the pre-election period.

It is, always our ambition to publish our plans before Christmas to support delivery partners and stakeholders with their forward financial planning and on an exceptional basis we will now publish the Welsh Government's draft Budget 2020-21 on 16 December in recess. The Minister for Finance & Trefnydd will then make a statement on 7 January, the earliest possible date, in plenary on the draft Budget. Given the implications of our budget process for local government, we will publish the provisional local government settlement for 2020-21 on the same day as the draft Budget in order to enable local authorities to engage with their communities and undertake their own democratic scrutiny before setting their budgets and council tax rates before 11 March.

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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.

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As a consequence, following scrutiny of our plans by the National Assembly Committees, the debate on the draft Budget will be on 4 February. We will then publish the final Budget 2020-21 and the final local government settlement for 2020-21 on 25 February, with the debates in plenary on 3 March and 4 March respectively.

I can assure you we are working across the Government to ensure that the wider picture on local government funding from Welsh Government is as clear as possible as early as possible.

When I met with the Finance Sub Group and the Partnership Council earlier this month, we had open and honest conversations around local government budget pressures and priorities. Leaders made it quite clear that, after a number of years of real terms reductions in funding settlements, they have cut back services as much as possible and have some very real and very difficult decisions to make about which services they may have to stop delivering in the future. I am also aware that the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd addressed UNISON Cymru's policy weekend on 18 October to set out the Welsh Government's approach to the Budget process.

The Welsh Government recognises the pressures local authorities are facing and will continue to do all that we can to shield them from the worst effects of austerity and provide them with the best possible settlement that circumstances allow. It would be remiss of me however not to reiterate what the Government has made clear in the Senedd many times. Behind the headlines, this one year Spending Round does not "turn the page on austerity" as the Chancellor claimed. The reality is that the Welsh Government's budget in 2020-21 will still be 2% lower, or £300m less in real terms, than in 2010-11 and we will face tough choices over coming weeks. The additional funding does not even return our spending power to the levels of a decade ago.

It is against that backdrop that our current budget decisions are being made.

Yours sincerely



Julie James AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government



11th December, 2019

Janet Finch Saunders AM Petitions Committee Chair

Julie James AM Minister for Housing & Local Government

REF: JJ/06736/19

Dear Janet & Julie,

Firstly, may we express our thanks for taking into consideration our demands laid down in our e-petition submitted to you.

UNISON Neath Port Talbot Branch believes that in order for local authorities to comply with all legislative requirements of the budget setting process for council tax, Welsh Government must inform local authorities of their settlements as early as is practicable. This then makes possible that they can give the required, legislative budgets to schools in a timely manner, in order for them to be in compliance with policy as set by Welsh Government. This enables local government to have the ability to plan the workforce and in the process giving stability to both service delivery and the communities they serve.

We believe that every council in Wales is under extreme budgetary pressure, with some services on the brink of collapse whilst local authorities review or cut budgets to ensure that they comply with additional pressures of service delivery and audit requirements to produce a balanced budget, so UNISON are encouraged by Julie's statement to UNISON on the 25th October and the measures contained within it.

The longer the delay in informing local authorities, the more this will hinder the investment that authorities can provide in supporting Welsh Government's vision that everybody in Wales should live in well-connected, vibrant, viable and sustainable communities with a strong local economy and a good quality of life. In order for this

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vision to succeed, significant reform and investment is required to ensure the long term financial sustainability of the currently fragile public services across Wales.

We request that you ensure local authorities have appropriate budgets in order to safeguarding public services across Wales, which will in turn ensure the safety and well-being of our residents across Neath Port Talbot and across Wales, whilst fully acknowledging that Welsh Government have endeavoured to protect all residents of Wales with a backdrop of austerity led by a Westminster agenda.

May we also take this opportunity to encourage this more considered approach to local government finance and look forward to a more healthy settlement figure in the forthcoming budget.

Kind regards,



Jane Gebbie
Branch Secretary



Mark Fisher
Branch Chair

UNISON Office, c/o Civic Centre, Port Talbot, SA13 1PJ

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Agenda Item 2.2

P-05-925 Don't leave Wales behind – teach menstrual wellbeing in schools

This petition was submitted by Jade Morgan having collected a total of 846 signatures.

Text of Petition

My name's Jade, and for 15 years I was told the severe pain I was experiencing as part of my menstrual cycle was completely normal. I suffered from excruciating pain, fatigue, and bowel and bladder related problems – all whilst trying to get through school, navigate puberty, and pass my exams.

I wish I had known that what I was experiencing wasn't normal – but symptoms of a common condition called endometriosis which affects 1 in 10 women from puberty to menopause. Endometriosis is just one of many menstrual conditions affecting young people – others include PCOS, PMDD, and adenomyosis. I don't want anyone suffering with a menstrual health condition to do so alone like I did.

By working with Endometriosis UK, I hope we can do exactly that by persuading the Welsh Assembly to teach menstrual wellbeing in schools. Not only would this help break down the taboos around menstrual health and encourage people to talk openly about their periods, but also by teaching what is and isn't normal to experience.

Had I been taught at school what is and isn't normal when it comes to menstrual related pain, I could have sought help and saved myself years of confusion and heartbreak.

For many, school is a happy time to look back on. And whilst I definitely had some good times, it's the falling asleep at the back of the class and having to quit school gymnastics that I remember most. Teachers would treat me like I did not want to be there and never even asked why. In reality I was just too tired and in too much pain to function.

From 2020, children in England will learn about menstrual wellbeing as part of the school curriculum. A subject I can only wish was on the curriculum

when I was at school. As teachers may not have ignored me, but empowered me to get the help I needed.

Whilst it's a huge step forward that those in England will now learn about menstrual wellbeing, let's not leave those in Wales behind. The Welsh Government are now reviewing the curriculum and we have the opportunity to make sure children in Wales get the education they need.

Please sign my petition to get menstrual wellbeing in the Welsh curriculum.

Together, we can stamp out the stigma and give children with menstrual conditions the support they deserve. Period.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Monmouth
- South Wales East

Teach menstrual well-being in schools

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 7 Ionawr 2020
Petitions Committee | 7 January 2020

Reference: RS19/11116

Petition Number: P-05-925

Petition title: Don't leave Wales behind - teach menstrual wellbeing in schools

Text of petition: My name's Jade, and for 15 years I was told the severe pain I was experiencing as part of my menstrual cycle was completely normal. I suffered from excruciating pain, fatigue, and bowel and bladder related problems – all whilst trying to get through school, navigate puberty, and pass my exams.

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From 2020, children in England will learn about menstrual wellbeing as part of the school curriculum. A subject I can only wish was on the curriculum when I was at school. As teachers may not have ignored me, but empowered me to get the help I needed. Whilst it's a huge step forward that those in England will now learn about menstrual wellbeing, let's not leave those in Wales behind.

The Welsh Government are now reviewing the curriculum and we have the opportunity to make sure children in Wales get the education they need.

1. Menstrual education in England

In England, the [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education \(England\) Regulations 2019](#), make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education. They also make Health Education compulsory in all schools except independent schools. The Department for Education in England published its statutory guidance, [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education \(RSE\) and Health Education](#) in June 2019. In England, a new curriculum will be mandatory from September 2020, but schools are encouraged to adopt the new curriculum early from September 2019. In relation to menstruation, the guidance states:

Puberty including menstruation should be covered in Health Education and should, as far as possible, be addressed before onset.

It also states:

The onset of menstruation can be confusing or even alarming for girls if they are not prepared. Pupils should be taught key facts about the menstrual cycle including what is an average period, range of menstrual products and the implications for emotional and physical health.

2. Welsh Government action

2.1. Health and Well-being in the curriculum

In her letter to the Committee, the Minister for Education, Kirsty Williams outlines how menstrual education will be included within the Health and Well-being Area of Learning and Experience, specifically within the Developing Physical Health and Well-being What Matters statement in the new Curriculum for Wales 2022. While the [draft statutory guidance](#) does not include menstrual education, the Minister states that following feedback, the relevant What Matters Statement is being amended to ensure that women's health conditions can be identified. However, the Minister also notes that schools will be able to develop their own school curriculum supported by statutory guidance.

2.2. Relationships and sexuality education

Currently, a parent of a pupil at a school has the right to withdraw their child from sex education (either wholly or partly), unless it forms part of the National Curriculum programme of study. Only a parent can request that a child be withdrawn. Therefore, a pupil of any age, including those in the sixth form, cannot withdraw themselves at any point and must rely on the parent to do that for them.

Between 18 February 2019 and 1 April 2019, the Welsh Government consulted on [Draft guidance on relationships and sexuality education](#). The draft guidance suggests that schools use the [UNESCO technical guidance for sexuality education](#) to support the planning of their Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) curriculum. The technical guidance maps out progression for 5-18 year olds across eight thematic areas including the human body and development; and sexual and reproductive health. The UNESCO guidance includes examples of age appropriate teaching about menstruation.

The Welsh Government's consultation, [Our National Mission: A Transformational Curriculum - Proposals for a new legislative framework](#) (28 January 2019) set out the Welsh Government's proposals for sex education in the new curriculum. This included that the teaching of RSE within the context of the new curriculum for Wales be mandatory in all maintained schools and funded nursery settings for pupils of compulsory school age but optional for those pupils in the sixth form.

In a [Written Statement on 3 October 2019](#), the Minister for Education said that she was:

mindful to ensure all children and young people are required to study RE [religious education] and RSE in the new curriculum, rather than continue the

anomaly that parents can take the decision to prevent children from attending these specific and core lessons.

Between 3 October 2019 and 28 November 2019, the Welsh Government consulted on the impact of the proposal to change parents' ability to withdraw their children from these subjects.

2.3. Period poverty

On 15 April 2019, the First Minister announced a Period Dignity Grant for Schools of £2.3 million. The purpose of the grant is to provide girls in Welsh primary and secondary schools with a range of sanitary products. This followed a Welsh Government announcement on 23 March 2018 that local authorities would receive £440,000 for two years (up to 2020) to tackle period poverty in their communities where levels of deprivation are highest. In addition there would be £700,000 of capital funding to improve facilities and equipment in schools.

3. National Assembly for Wales action

On 2 May 2019, a Member's Debate in Plenary on period poverty and stigma called for, amongst other things, the Welsh Government to consider calls to improve education on the subject. In responding to the debate, the Leader of the House and Chief Whip Julie James said:

Looking forward, these issues are going to be covered under the new curriculum, which will consider how the school environment supports the social, emotional, spiritual and physical health and well-being of pupils, and will be instrumental in supporting one of the main aims of the new curriculum and assisting our children to become healthy, confident individuals.

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
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-925
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/07435/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
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6 November 2019

Dear Janet,

P-05-925 Don't leave Wales behind - teach menstrual well-being in schools

Thank you for your letter dated 30 October in relation to the above Petition on menstrual well-being which has been received by the Committee.

Health and Well-being will be one of six Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLE) which will be central to the structure of the new curriculum. This AoLE will support young people to develop the skills and knowledge they need to maintain good physical and mental health social and emotional well-being. This is an innovative part of the new curriculum and aims to ensure learning and support around issues such as physical and mental health and social and emotional well-being are provided to all young people in Wales. The Health and Well-being AoLE has been designed to support the development of the fundamentals of health and well-being in learners, while allowing professionals to shape specific content as appropriate to their learners.

Following the conclusion of the recent feedback phase and engagement with a number of key stakeholders we are working to refine the new curriculum. As part of this, we are looking to ensure that learning within this AoLE supports learners to recognise symptoms or issues with their physical health and seek information and support to respond to these.

The learning within the What Matters statement 'Developing Physical Health and Well-being has lifelong benefits' has been amended specifically to ensure that women's health conditions in can be identified.

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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.

Within this there is learning which includes references to conditions and situations which affect health and well-being and this includes reference to physical changes (to include puberty) and a range of health conditions. The progression ensures learners will understand how conditions, situations and physical changes interact to affect health and well-being and ensures learners know how to respond to and manage these conditions and when and where to look for help and advice. This revised learning will allow for menstrual well-being to be considered by schools when designing their curriculum.

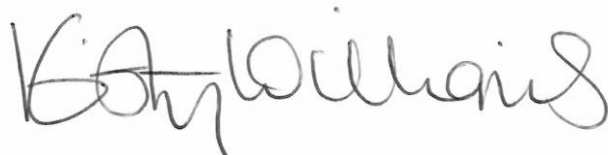
In addition we will be refining the guidance so that it supports learners to recognise changes in their physical health and to seek help and support, which will cover a range of conditions.

The Curriculum for Wales encompasses a high level national framework to enable school-level curriculum design, with a focus on individual schools' context and locality ensuring flexibility. We will also be creating a clear legislative framework to underpin the new curriculum. It will offer much greater flexibility about what to teach and how it is taught with clear national expectations for scope and progression.

The current curriculum was becoming overcrowded and the volume of specified content was becoming difficult for our teaching profession to deliver. For this reason, the new curriculum will not consist of a detailed list of topics for professionals to teach. We are moving away from a prescriptive list of what children should know at key stages in their education, because teachers tell us this is not the best approach. This does not mean that children will lose out on developing important life skills or knowledge. Instead, Curriculum for Wales 2022 will provide a framework of statutory guidance to support and guide professionals.

The Welsh Government will set a high level national framework, but schools will develop their own school level curriculum supported by statutory guidance to ensure that learners get a broad and balanced education. Practitioners will be given more flexibility to choose the specific content and resource which meets the needs of their learners in their specific context. However, the clear direction of the What Matters statements in both Health and Wellbeing and the Science and Technology Areas of Learning and Experience will ensure that there are opportunities for all learners to glean valuable information in respect of puberty and the range of conditions that can be associated therewith.

Yours sincerely

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

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

To: Petitions Committee
From: Endometriosis UK
Subject: Menstrual Wellbeing Petition

10 December 2019

Introduction

Menstrual wellbeing affects significant numbers of children and young adults, with common conditions affecting large numbers, for example endometriosis - 10% of women, fibroids - 20%, adenomyosis - 10%; Polycystic Ovary Syndrome -10%. Yet diagnosis can take many years, for example the average length of time to diagnosis for endometriosis is 7.5 years.

Diagnosis can be delayed due to lack of awareness of what is 'normal' for menstrual wellbeing and those suffering not seeking help, and the taboo of talking about menstrual issues. There is clearly a key educational role needed to enable better awareness and understanding of menstrual wellbeing and overcome the taboo, so those suffering are able to seek help.

Our thoughts on the attached document

Endometriosis UK welcomes the inclusion of symptom awareness around menstrual health and guidance on when and where to look for medical help within the new curriculum. However, we believe the existing language and content does not go far enough to ensure children will be given adequate information about their menstrual wellbeing. We strongly believe menstrual wellbeing should be specifically mentioned, and included as compulsory, as it is in the new PSHE curriculum in England.

Within the What Matters statement 'Developing Physical Health and Wellbeing has lifelong benefits' we would like this to be specifically amended to include the following line alongside the reference to puberty:

- Pupils should understand the key facts about menstrual wellbeing, including the key facts about the menstrual cycle.

This simple yet vital addition would ensure inclusion of age appropriate menstrual wellbeing education included into all schools.

What we would like to see amended

Within the What Matters statement 'Developing Physical Health and Wellbeing has lifelong benefits' we would like this to be specifically amended to include the following line alongside the reference to puberty:

- Pupils should understand the key facts about menstrual wellbeing, including the key facts about the menstrual cycle.

We are concerned that the absence of specific mention of the phrase menstrual wellbeing will leave pupils unequipped to deal with the potential challenges associated with puberty; and continue to delay seeking help. We are concerned that menstrual wellbeing will only be a consideration for schools when designing the curriculum and will not be a compulsory part of the curriculum. Although the new curriculum has new promising additions such as symptom awareness of menstrual health conditions, the content as it stands does not provide enough information on what constitutes a normal menstrual cycle. Shifting the terminology from puberty to also incorporate "menstrual wellbeing" will also ensure that the whole menstrual cycle is understood rather than just puberty itself. This would also fall in line with England and will ensure no child in Wales is left behind.

The exclusion of menstrual wellbeing in the existing draft curriculum is also amplifying societal fears in talking openly about menstruation and female health issues. Without the opportunity to talk openly in the

classroom about menstrual wellbeing, children will continue to feel embarrassed and unable to talk about what is a normal bodily function. A survey conducted by Plan International ¹ found that:

- Nearly half (48 per cent) of girls aged 14 to 21 in the UK are embarrassed by their periods
- One in seven (14 per cent) girls admitted that they did not know what was happening when they started their period and more than a quarter (26 per cent) reporting that they did not know what to do when they started their period
- Only one in five (22%) girls feel comfortable discussing their period with their teacher

We are also concerned by the phrase “This revised learning will allow for menstrual wellbeing to be considered by schools when designing the curriculum”. Menstrual wellbeing should not be a consideration but compulsory for all children regardless of gender as it is fundamental to every aspect of school and future life. Without this being compulsory, teachers will be able to design a curriculum that fails to equip children with the knowledge, confidence, and support to seek help when it might be necessary and fails to remove the unnecessary taboo associated with menstruation. This may also lead to inconsistency across Wales – meaning that whilst some may receive adequate information and support, others will be left behind. Making menstrual wellbeing compulsory for all would ensure no child in Wales was left behind.

The need for menstrual wellbeing to be compulsory in all schools and why the current plans fail to address the issues that we have raised

Endometriosis, one many potential menstrual health conditions children could suffer from, affects 10% of women from puberty to menopause and costs the UK economy £8.2 billion in loss of work, healthcare costs and treatment. The average diagnosis for endometriosis takes 7.5 years, meaning some children could suffer with potentially debilitating symptoms for the majority of school life. ²

Menstrual wellbeing needs to be a compulsory element of any new curriculum – as education around menstrual wellbeing is absolutely key to shifting social attitudes associated with puberty and ensuring all children are able to reach their full potential and lead happy and healthy lives; and are able to identify and articulate when what they are experiencing is not normal so they are able to seek help.

Endometriosis UK is encouraged to see the inclusion of symptom awareness around menstrual health and guidance on when and where to look for medical help within the new curriculum.

However, we do not feel the existing language and content goes far enough to ensure children will be given adequate advice and information about menstrual health. The absence of the phrase menstrual wellbeing within the National Framework will mean children will continue to feel alienated and misinformed about what is happening to their body and unequipped to deal with a menstrual health condition such as endometriosis. The compulsory inclusion of menstrual wellbeing would be a very simple amendment to the existing content within the framework and would help overcome lengthy delays in seeking help and receiving treatment for a menstrual condition, thus reducing the impact on a sufferer’s education.

The impact delayed diagnosis and missed education can have on a person’s life cannot be overstated. In October 2019³, the BBC conducted a research project and surveyed over 13,500 people with endometriosis. The results showed the shocking impact endometriosis can have on all aspects of a person’s life including their education, career, and mental health.

Of those who took part:

- Nearly all said it had badly affected their career and mental health
- Most said it had impacted on their education

¹ Plan International (2017) <https://plan-uk.org/media-centre/plan-international-uks-research-on-period-poverty-and-stigma>

² Endometriosis facts and figures: <https://www.endometriosis-uk.org/endometriosis-facts-and-figures>

³ BBC Research on endometriosis (2019): <https://www.endometriosis-uk.org/news/bbc-research-announced-today-wake-call-provide-better-care-15-million-endometriosis-37606#.XfDTm2T76U>

- Around half said they had experienced suicidal thoughts.

This shows the need for the Welsh Government to take menstrual health conditions seriously – and ensure everyone from a young age understands the symptoms of menstrual health conditions such as endometriosis. Without such education, children may delay seeking help, meaning they are missing out on education without a medical diagnosis or name for their condition. This not only has a negative impact on a child's education, but also means teachers are left unable to provide the additional support a child may need to help them through their school life.

Case study

For 15 years from the age of 12 Jade Morgan was told the severe pain she was experiencing as part of her menstrual cycle was completely normal. Whilst at school, Jade struggled to pass her exams due to excruciating pain, fatigue, and bowel and bladder related problems associated with her endometriosis. Jade launched a petition in June 2019 to call on the Welsh Government to introduce compulsory menstrual wellbeing education so that other children don't suffer in silence without knowing when to seek help. Jade says that had she been taught menstrual wellbeing including what is and isn't normal when it comes to menstrual related pain, she could have sought help sooner. Jade's story isn't unique – and a recent social media poll conducted by Endometriosis UK of endometriosis sufferers found that:

- 93% would have sought help sooner if they had been taught about menstrual wellbeing at school (2300 respondents).
- 78% felt that their period caused them to feel isolated at school (940 respondents)
- 98% felt that they were not provided with all the information they needed to know about menstrual health at school (1300 respondents)
- 87% had to miss school because of their menstrual cycle (1100 respondents).

Resource support from Endometriosis UK

We recognise that teachers will need to be given the necessary resources and the confidence to teach about menstrual wellbeing, and we would welcome the opportunity to work with the Education Department to help produce simple, easy to use and free resources for schools to include in lessons.

Contact us:

For further information, please contact us on communications@endometriosis-uk.org

Agenda Item 2.3

P-05-926 To Provide a Chronic Fatigue Department in Wales

This petition was submitted by Marjorie Ann Lasebikan having collected a total of 155 signatures.

Text of Petition

There is no Chronic Fatigue Department in the whole of Wales! Chronic Fatigue is being overlooked or thought of as depression. I would like to see a Department set up with a view to individuals being assessed properly. General Practitioners say 'there is no cure' or 'you haven't been assessed'. Without a Chronic Fatigue department there can be no research into finding a cure or no means of being assessed.

I have suffered with this for 23years. The onset was after a week of high fever which showed as 104 on the 5th day. Little is known about Chronic Fatigue. I wrote up a Petition recently and collected 65 signatures with a view to setting up a department in Wales; it showed 20 had family members or friends suffering with it. It is so debilitating and such a waste of life. With an inability to think, concentrate or do anything physical without the need to go to bed afterwards. It can take days to overcome any effort however small.

I saw a woman being interviewed on television. She was at a Chronic Fatigue Clinic saying she had received a Myer's Infusion, which consists of Vitamins and Minerals, and felt so well she felt like her old self. It is not available on the NHS. I want to give it a try to see if this is the answer but need to find a private clinic to administer the Myer's Infusion. Last year I had a '5 day window' when I had clarity of thinking and energy. I do not know if this was because of taking a Vitamin B Complex capsule daily for a while. I saw a General Medicine doctor at Llandough Hospital recently [he sees many individuals with Chronic Fatigue] I told him of this infusion and he is interested in hearing the outcome of the procedure. I will report back to him. In the meantime, will you give your support to this Petition? It is essential to have some hope and the only way to achieve this is to have the right help in the first place. Not live a life unfulfilled. Thank you.

Additional Information

Concentration is poor; the ability to absorb information fully is difficult. To plan or organise things is impossible. To get excited is exhausting. Physical work cannot be undertaken without going to bed afterwards. To do anything strenuous can take a couple of days to recover and walking any distance is a problem. To sit in front of a computer for 30 minutes can result in energy draining away. Shopping is a big problem unless there is a buggy to use to take one around the store. It often ends up by shopping on line which is extremely tiring. I have always been an active person with many interests. There are days where I sit unable to do anything. Life is nothing but frustration.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff South and Penarth
- South Wales Central

Chronic Fatigue Department in Wales

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 7 Ionawr 2020
Petitions Committee | 7 January 2020

Reference: RS19/11116-2

Petition Number P-05-926

Petition title: To provide a chronic fatigue department in Wales

Text of petition: There is no Chronic Fatigue Department in the whole of Wales! Chronic Fatigue is being overlooked or thought of as depression. I would like to see a Department set up with a view to individuals being assessed properly. General Practitioners say 'there is no cure' or 'you haven't been assessed'. Without a Chronic Fatigue department there can be no research into finding a cure or no means of being assessed.

I have suffered with this for 23years. The onset was after a week of high fever which showed as 104 on the 5th day. Little is known about Chronic Fatigue. I wrote up a Petition recently and collected 65 signatures with a view to setting up a department in Wales; it showed 20 had family members or friends suffering with it. It is so debilitating and such a waste of life. With an inability to think, concentrate or do anything physical without the need to go to bed afterwards. It can take days to overcome any effort however small.

I saw a woman being interviewed on television. She was at a Chronic Fatigue Clinic saying she had received a Myer's Infusion, which consists of Vitamins and Minerals, and felt so well she felt like her old self. It is not available on the NHS. I want to give it a try to see if this is the answer but need to find a private clinic to administer the Myer's Infusion. Last year I had a '5 day window' when I had clarity of thinking and energy. I do not know if this was because of taking a Vitamin B Complex capsule daily for a while. I saw a General Medicine doctor at



Llandough Hospital recently [he sees many individuals with Chronic Fatigue] I told him of this infusion and he is interested in hearing the outcome of the procedure. I will report back to him. In the meantime, will you give your support to this Petition? It is essential to have some hope and the only way to achieve this is to have the right help in the first place. Not live a life unfulfilled. Thank you.

1. Background

Chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) is a long-term illness with a wide range of symptoms. CFS is also known as myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME).

The main symptoms of CFS/ME are feeling extremely tired and generally unwell. People with CFS/ME may also have other symptoms which are listed on the NHS Direct Wales [website](#). CFS/ME can affect anyone, including children. It is more common in women and tends to develop between the mid-20s and mid-40s age range.

About 13,000 people in Wales are thought to suffer from CFS/ME, and 70 per cent of those are women.

As there is no specific test for CFS/ME, it is diagnosed based on the presenting symptoms and by ruling out other possible conditions. As the symptoms of CFS/ME are similar to those of many common illnesses that usually get better on their own, a diagnosis of CFS/ME may be considered if a person does not get better as quickly as expected. A doctor would be expected to consult a specialist if they are unsure about the diagnosis, or if the patient has severe symptoms.

Treatment for CFS/ME aims to relieve the symptoms and will depend on how CFS/ME is affecting the individual. Treatments include: cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT); a structured exercise programme called graded exercise therapy (GET), and medication to control pain, nausea and sleeping problems.

Most people with CFS get better over time, although some people do not make a full recovery. It's also likely there will be periods when a person's symptoms get better or worse. Children and young people with CFS/ME are more likely to recover fully.

There is [guidance](#) from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) for diagnosing and managing CFS/ME. This guidance is currently being rewritten and the new version is expected to be available in October 2020.

News articles

A BBC [news article](#) in May 2019 makes reference to a 'humanitarian crisis' for ME sufferers in Wales and that promises of better support from the Welsh Government have failed to materialise. In the article, the chairwoman of the Welsh Association of ME Support said few GPs had enough knowledge of the condition and those left housebound felt "invisible and ignored".

In an ITV [news article](#) in June 2019, Dr Charles Shepherd, who is a co-opted member of the committee set up by NICE to review the guidelines, is referred to as saying that provision for ME patients in Wales is particularly poor. Dr Shepherd states:

"The situation in England is not perfect, but at least we do have a network of hospital-based referral services. In Wales, where there just aren't hospital-based services for people to go to, [the situation] is even worse there. I think the response from the Welsh Government has not been satisfactory. There has been a taskforce set up, it has been doing this work for many years, but it really hasn't made the progress it should have done. People in Wales, as far as I can see, are no nearer getting these services."

2. Welsh Government action

In August 2014, a Ministerial task and finish group published its [report](#) and recommendations on improving NHS Wales services for patients with ME/CFS and fibromyalgia. Prior to this (2008), the Welsh Government published its [service development and commissioning directives](#) for chronic non-malignant pain (this covered conditions such as fibromyalgia and ME/CFS).

In correspondence to the Committee dated 3 December 2019, the Minister for Health and Social Services states that the Welsh Government recognises the impact that CFS/ME has on the lives of individuals and has established a national steering group to consider what further support can be provided and to share good practice. The group consists of representatives from health boards, service user representatives, third sector organisations, volunteer support groups and Welsh Government.

Health boards are responsible for providing services for those living with CFS/ME and the Minister notes that Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board has a dedicated CFS/ME service. In the majority of other health boards, it is said that CFS/ME services are aligned with pain services, for example, Powys Teaching Health Board runs a pain and fatigue management service. Health boards also have the option to utilise specialist centres for CFS/ME depending on their location. Clinicians in South Wales can for example refer to the Bath Centre for Fatigue Services.

The Minister confirms that clinicians are expected to follow the NICE guidance when caring for people and this does not necessarily require a specialist dedicated service. This treatment should be provided by the healthcare professionals with appropriate skills, wherever they are based.

In May 2019 the Welsh Government published [guidance](#) for staff and patients relating to living with persistent pain, which is a common symptom of CFS/ME. Guidance for arthritis and related conditions is also being developed and a consultation will be undertaken in the near future. The Minister notes that the CFS/ME steering group will reflect on both of these guidance documents and consider their relevance for patients within their remit.

In relation to research on CFS/ME the Minister believes it is possible that the existence of a specialist clinic in any disease area could potentially add to the visibility of the condition, and increase capability and experience that would help with the development of collaborative research. However, there are a number of Welsh Government research funding schemes to which researchers with an interest in ME would be eligible to apply.

With regards to Myers infusion, the Minister highlights that the Welsh Government expects the NHS to follow evidence based guidelines. The Welsh Government is not aware of any well-designed trials of high dose intravenous nutrient therapy, nor is there strong evidence to support its effectiveness in the management of chronic pain or associated conditions.

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.



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/08331/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

3 December 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 30 October regarding Petition P-05-926 to provide a Chronic Fatigue Department in Wales.

The Welsh Government recognises the impact that chronic fatigue, often referred to as ME/CFS (myalgic encephalopathy / chronic fatigue syndrome), has on the lives of individuals and has established a national steering group to consider what further support can be provided and to share good practice. The group consists of representatives from health boards, service user representatives, third sector organisations, volunteer support groups and Welsh Government.

Health boards are responsible for providing services for those living with ME/CFS. Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board has a dedicated ME/CFS service. In the majority of other health boards, ME/CFS services are aligned with pain services. As an example, Powys Teaching Health Board runs a pain and fatigue management service. Health boards also have the option to utilise specialist centres for ME/CFS depending on their location. Clinicians in South Wales can for example refer to the Bath Centre for Fatigue Services. Clinicians are expected to follow the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance when caring for people and this does not necessarily require a specialist dedicated service. This treatment should be provided by the healthcare professionals with appropriate skills, wherever they are based.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

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

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 is currently working with NHS staff and service users on a number of areas of guidance relating to long term conditions. In May 2019 we published guidance for staff and patients relating to living with persistent pain, a common symptom of ME/CFS. The guidance can be accessed at the following link:

<https://gov.wales/people-experiencing-persistent-pain-guidance>. Guidance for arthritis and related conditions is also being developed and a consultation will be undertaken in the near future.

The ME/CFS steering group will reflect on both of these guidance documents and consider their relevance for patients within their remit.

In relation to the suggestion in the petition that “without a Chronic Fatigue department there can be no research”, this is not technically correct. It is possible that the existence of a specialist clinic in any disease area could potentially add to the visibility of the condition, and increase capability and experience that would help with the development of collaborative research. However, there are a number of Welsh Government research funding schemes to which researchers with an interest in ME would be eligible to apply.

With regards to Myers infusion, we expect the NHS to follow evidence based guidelines. We are not aware of any well-designed trials of high dose intravenous nutrient therapy, nor is there strong evidence to support its effectiveness in the management of chronic pain or associated conditions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

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

P-05-926 To Provide a Chronic Fatigue Department in Wales, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 08.12.19

When responding, you might want to consider the following:

What are your thoughts on the attached document?

Does it adequately address the issues that you raised?

Do you have further questions in response?

Is there anything additional that you would like the Committee to know at this stage, either in response to this document or as an update to the Committee?

My response

When was the Steering Group established? Is this a recently organised group? If so, why has it taken so long to set up? I have been suffering for 23 years!

Steering group consists of: Health Boards, Service User representatives, third sector organisations, volunteer support groups and Welsh Government.

Who are the service users? Where do they come from when there is no specific place to get help?

Health boards are responsible for providing services for those living with ME/CFS. Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board has a dedicated ME/CFS service along with the majority of other health boards and Powys Teaching Health Board runs a pain and fatigue management service. All these with the option to utilise specialist centres for ME/CFS depending on their location. Clinicians in South Wales can for example refer to the Bath Centre for Fatigue Services with Clinicians being expected to follow the NIHCE guidance.

I have not been referred anywhere, until last January/February when I was sent to see a doctor in General Medicine at Llandough Hospital [23 years down the line]. There was no help here as he sees many individuals with Chronic Fatigue but was unable to offer any assistance. Again no recommendation to be seen at a 'Specialist' clinic. I feel as if I've been passed on there just to get me out of the way! Why have we not got a place in Cardiff or nearby where we can talk through the problem?

I was told there was not a place in the whole of Wales where one could be seen regarding Chronic Fatigue so I searched on line last year and came across a clinic in Bristol. Nothing else showed up. I wrote to Elinor Hammond in February last year asking if I could be referred to them by our Health Board. I was not on the list for payment to be made for this. Forms had to be submitted and were sent to my practice along with a Policy. No forms were completed as the Policy, I am told, is about an inch or so thick with no time to read them! So, again, no help has been forthcoming.

I note your response to my statement "without a Chronic Fatigue department there can be no research - that it is not technically correct". You say 'it is possible that the existence of a specialist clinic could potentially add to the visibility of the condition'

Is it not important to know the extent of the condition?

Regarding the Myers infusion.

I eventually found a doctor in Cardiff who administered this infusion but found it had no effect on my body. The reports from individuals on the web sites were very promising. I have tried numerous alternative therapy treatments over the years to put an end to the fatigue. All to no avail. More research would be welcome.

I know I am not alone with this terrible disease. It would be wonderful to find an answer so that lives could be satisfied and fulfilled.

I will keep trying to find answers by using any alternative methods that sound as if they'll help.

Yours sincerely

Marjorie Lasebikan

Agenda Item 2.4

P-05-927 Changing Places toilet facilities

This petition was submitted by Llanelli Changing Places Campaign Group having collected a total of 1,273 signatures.

Text of Petition

This petition urges the Welsh Government to make Immediate Changes to Building and Planning Regulations to ensure that Changing Places toilet facilities, with Adult Changing Bench, Hoist and enough space for 2 Carers, are provided in all Large Public Buildings as they are Built, Redeveloped or Refurbished.

Additional Information

Case example

"My daughter is 9 and has global development delay and is a wheelchair user. Her disability means she is unable to maintain a sitting balance and she is non-verbal,so,she cannot tell me when she needs the loo. This means she wears nappies. When she needs changing whilst we are away from home, we often struggle to find facilities in which to do so. She is getting too large for a baby changing unit and our only other option is the toilet floor,which is unsanitary, unhygienic and in my mind is inhumane as well as undignified. This is a completely unacceptable and unreasonable situation for anybody to be exposed to. I am also aware that each time I lift her, I am putting myself at risk of an acute back injury and this will become more of a risk as she gets older and bigger. How people manage to change adults this way beggars belief"

There are thousands of disabled people across Wales who need the facilities a Changing Places toilet offers. British Standards 8300/2018 says that Changing Places toilets should be provided in Larger Buildings and Complexes such as

A/ Major Transport Termini or Interchanges e.g Large Railway Stations and Airports

B/ Motorway Services

C/ Sport and Leisure facilities, including Large Hotels

D/ Cultural Centres, such as Museums, Concert Halls and Art Galleries and Faith Centres

E/ Stadia and Large Auditoria

F/ Large Commercial Retail Premises and Shopping Centres

G/ Key Buildings within Town Centres, e.g.,Town halls, Civic Centres and Main Public Libraries

H/ Educational establishments

I/ Health Facilities, such as Hospitals, Health Centres and Community Practices

J/ Other Visitor Attractions, such as Theme Parks, Monitored Beaches and Parks

The Welsh Government can and must do better than the current situation and make Changing Places toilets Compulsory for Large Public Buildings as listed in BS8300/2018

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Llanelli
- Mid and West Wales

Title: P-05-927 Changing Places toilet facilities

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 7 Ionawr 2020
Petitions Committee | 7 January 2020

Petition Number: P-05-927

Petition title: Changing Places toilet facilities

Text of petition: This petition urges the Welsh Government to make Immediate Changes to Building and Planning Regulations to ensure that Changing Places toilet facilities, with Adult Changing Bench, Hoist and enough space for 2 Carers, are provided in all Large Public Buildings as they are Built, Redeveloped or Refurbished.

Case example:

"My daughter is 9 and has global development delay and is a wheelchair user. Her disability means she is unable to maintain a sitting balance and she is non-verbal, so, she cannot tell me when she needs the loo. This means she wears nappies. When she needs changing whilst we are away from home, we often struggle to find facilities in which to do so. She is getting too large for a baby changing unit and our only other option is the toilet floor, which is unsanitary, unhygienic and in my mind is inhumane as well as undignified. This is a completely unacceptable and unreasonable situation for anybody to be exposed to. I am also aware that each time I lift her, I am putting myself at risk of an acute back injury and this will become more of a risk as she gets older and bigger. How people manage to change adults this way beggars belief"

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- C. Sport and Leisure facilities, including Large Hotels
- D. Cultural Centres, such as Museums, Concert Halls and Art Galleries and Faith Centres



- E. Stadia and Large Auditoria
- F. Large Commercial Retail Premises and Shopping Centres
- G. Key Buildings within Town Centres, e.g., Town halls, Civic Centres and Main Public Libraries
- H. Educational establishments
- I. Health Facilities, such as Hospitals, Health Centres and Community Practices
- J. Other Visitor Attractions, such as Theme Parks, Monitored Beaches and Parks

The Welsh Government can and must do better than the current situation and make Changing Places toilets Compulsory for Large Public Buildings as listed in BS8300/2018

1. Background

1.1. Changing Places toilet facilities

The Changing Places Consortium states that standard accessible toilets do not meet the needs of all people with a disability:

People with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well [as] people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis often need extra equipment and space to allow them to use the toilets safely and comfortably. These needs are met by Changing Places toilets.

The Changing Places Consortium says that Changing Places toilets provide:

- **The right equipment**
 - a height adjustable adult-sized changing bench; and
 - a tracking hoist system, or mobile hoist if this is not possible.
- **Enough space**
 - adequate space in the changing area for the disabled person and up to two carers;
 - a centrally placed toilet with room either side; and
 - a screen or curtain to allow some privacy.
- **A safe and clean environment**

- wide tear off paper roll to cover the bench;
- a large waste bin for disposable pads; and
- a non-slip floor.

[Research by the University of Dundee \(PDF, 176KB\)](#) suggests that there are over a quarter of a million people in the UK that do not have access to public toilet facilities that meet their needs and would benefit from Changing Places toilets. The Research Service has been unable to find comparable Wales-specific figures.

1.2. Local authority toilet strategies

The *Public Health (Wales) Act 2017* requires local authorities to prepare a local strategy to plan how they will meet their community's needs for public toilet facilities.

The strategy must include an assessment of the community's need for toilets, including changing facilities for babies and **Changing Places facilities for disabled people**, and must set out how the local authority proposes to meet this need. The duty to prepare a local toilets strategy does not in itself require local authorities directly to provide and maintain public toilets, rather they should consider a "full range of options" for making facilities available to the public.

The Welsh Government published [guidance to help local authorities produce their local toilet strategies](#) in May 2019.

The guidance refers to the British Standards document [BS6465-4:2010 'Sanitary installations. Code of practice for the provision of public toilets'](#) which, among other things, provides guidance on facilities for disabled people. This includes recommending that Changing Places toilet facilities should be provided in "areas with heavy use".

1.3. Planning policy

The Welsh Government's planning policy is set out in [Planning Policy Wales \(PPW\)](#). PPW is a high-level document supported by Technical Advice Notes (TANs) that provide more detailed guidance on specific planning issues.

[TAN 12: Design](#) includes 'inclusive design' as one of its overarching issues. It states that:

5.3.7 Those seeking permission to build new and public commercial buildings are encouraged to include in their plans accessible 'Changing Places' toilet facilities in addition to standard accessible toilets. Changing Places toilets are facilities specifically designed to accommodate adults whose needs are not met by standard disabled toilets. They incorporate adult-length

padded and height-adjustable changing tables, hoists, peninsular WCs and shower facilities. [Research Service emphasis]

Changing Places toilet facilities are therefore encouraged rather than mandated in certain new developments.

1.4. Building Regulations

Part M of the Building Regulations relates to 'Access to and use of buildings'. Section 5 focuses on 'Sanitary accommodation in buildings other than dwellings' and states that:

5.1 In principle, suitable sanitary accommodation should be available to everybody, including **sanitary accommodation designed for wheelchair users, ambulant disabled people**, people of either sex with babies and small children or people encumbered by luggage. [Research Service emphasis]

Section 5 also states that:

5.5 Toilet accommodation needs to be suitable, not only for disabled people, but for all people who use the building. For disabled people, suitable toilet accommodation may take the form of a specially designed cubicle in separate-sex toilet washrooms, or a self-contained unisex toilet. For wheelchair users in particular, a self-contained unisex toilet is always the preferred option since, if necessary, a partner or carer of a different sex can enter to give assistance. Wheelchair-accessible unisex toilets should always be provided in addition to any wheelchair-accessible accommodation in separate-sex toilet washrooms. Wheelchair-accessible unisex toilets should not be used for baby changing.

5.6 The provision of an enlarged cubicle in a separate-sex toilet washroom can be of benefit to ambulant disabled people, as well as parents with children and people (e.g. those with luggage) who need an enlarged space. **In large building developments, separate facilities for baby changing and an enlarged unisex toilet incorporating an adult changing table are desirable.** [Research Service emphasis]

Therefore, while Part M encourages provision of an adult changing table in a larger unisex toilet in certain buildings, this is not mandated. Part M does not explicitly mention Changing Places toilet facilities.

2. Welsh Government action

The Minister for Housing and Local Government, Julie James AM, who is responsible for planning and Building Regulations, wrote to the Chair of the Petitions Committee in

relation to this petition on 15 November 2019. In her letter, the Minister states that her officials are considering how provision of Changing Places toilet facilities can be strengthened in large public buildings. The options include:

- improving the guidance in Part M of the Building Regulations;
- enhancing provision through the planning process, where there is evidence of local need in the local authority's toilet strategy; and
- providing Changing Places toilet facilities in certain projects that receive Welsh Government funding.

No timeframe is provided for completing this work.

The letter stresses that Building Regulations only apply in certain circumstances where work is being carried out, so any change to Building Regulations may need to be complimented by other actions aimed at increasing provision of Changing Places toilet facilities.

3. UK Government action

The previous UK Government recently [consulted on making Changing Places toilets mandatory](#) in large public buildings in England by changing Part M of the Building Regulations. The consultation ran from May to July 2019 and the government did not publish a response to the feedback it received. At the time of writing this briefing, it remains to be seen whether the incoming UK Government, following the General Election, will take this work forward.

4. National Assembly for Wales action

The issue of Changing Places toilet facilities was raised in Plenary during 2019, including by Mark Isherwood AM on [16 July](#) and by Russell George AM on [23 October](#). In his question, Russell George AM referred to specific funding available to English NHS trusts for installing Changing Places toilet facilities and asked what the Welsh Government is doing to improve the provision of in Wales.

The Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, Julie Morgan AM, replied:

... It is obviously very important that we do have Changing Places widely available for people who do need them I believe there are 45 across Wales,
...

... Building Regulations are already encouraging in certain buildings the provision of enlarged, unisex toilets, incorporating an adult changing table, and my colleague Julie James, the Minister for Housing and Regeneration, has

instructed officials to consider options to increase the provision of Changing Places toilets where the Building Regulations apply. So, it is possible to use the building regulations to ensure that Changing Places toilets are available.

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.



Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/06840/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
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15 November 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 30 October 2019 addressed to Jane Hutt Deputy Minister and Chief Whip regarding changing places toilets. I am responding as Building Regulations and planning policy fall within my portfolio.

Planning Policy Wales is supported by guidance which states that those seeking permission to build new and public commercial buildings are encouraged to include in their plans accessible 'Changing Places' toilet facilities in addition to standard accessible toilets.

Building Regulations already encourage, in certain buildings, the provision of an enlarged unisex toilet incorporating an adult changing table. My officials are however currently considering how this provision might be strengthened to increase provision of Changing Places Toilets (CPTs) in large public buildings.

The options being considered include:

- Improved guidance to Part M (Access to and use of buildings) of the Building Regulations;
- Enhanced provision of CPTs, secured through the planning process, where there is evidence of local need in the Local Authority's Toilet Strategy;

In addition we are considering the provision of CPTs in certain projects which receive funding from the Welsh Government.

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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.

Building Regulations only apply in certain circumstances where work is being carried out, any proposed change to Building Regulations may need to be complimented by other actions aimed at promoting provision of CPTs.

Once I have received their advice I will be in a position to consider what proposed changes to Building Regulation guidance could be made. Any changes will be subject to a public consultation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol

Minister for Housing and Local Government

P-05-927 Changing Places toilet facilities, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 10.12.19

Thank you for your email in conjunction with our petition. The document you sent goes some way to address the issues, but unfortunately not far enough. What we have uncovered is the fact Changing Places are unequally distributed from county to county. For example, Swansea has 7 Changing Places throughout the city, but here in Llanelli we don't have any in town centre, we've recently had one in Pembrey County Park, but that's not convenient if you're planning a theatre trip in Llanelli town centre. For such a large county Carmarthenshire only has 4 Changing Places facilities, 1 in Carmarthen that isn't even fully equipped, so not officially registered on Changing Places website. Tesco in Ammanford has a Changing Places facility, but yet Tesco in Trostre park Llanelli hasn't got one, with such a high footfall we as a group are dumbfounded as to why there isn't one in that area. We have spoken to so many people who can't participate in everyday activities as are too scared to leave home in case they need the toilet. In this day & age this shouldn't be happening. We have spoken to WWT Llanelli Wetlands Centre & they would like to provide a Changing Places facility but are unaware as to whom they turn to for funding. We are aware that there is funding but are confused ourselves as to how the criteria works. We believe this should be made available to businesses & companies that want to be more inclusive to their visitors. Some areas of Wales have higher proportion of Changing Places than others, we believe this is disproportionately unjust. What makes Swansea, for example, more deserving than Llanelli? Where a Town centre doesn't currently have a Changing Places facility, we believe a Mobiloo or a Mobile Changing Places facility needs to be hired in the interim until one is provided. Being encouraged to include Changing Places facility in plans for new builds we believe doesn't go far enough, especially when it's a Public Building. We believe they should be a legal requirement. We know in Carmarthenshire toilet strategy there showed a need for Changing Places facilities. But again, it is very ambiguous as to who is meant to fund them, and how to obtain the funding. We hope our petition will bring this important issue back to the forefront of discussions so that in 2020 we can make Wales a more Inclusive society for all.

Diolch

Llanelli Changing Places Campaign Group

Agenda Item 2.5

P-05-928 Remove the words which promote the recovery of oil and gas resource from the Welsh National Marine Plan

This petition was submitted by Susanna Kenyon having collected 80 signatures online and 173 on paper, a total of 253 signatures.

Text of Petition

Now your Government has declared a climate emergency, we ask that these words should be removed from the draft Marine Plan: "optimising the economic development and recovery of UK oil & gas resource in order to provide Welsh and wider UK businesses and consumers with a secure and resilient supply of fossil fuels".

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Ceredigion
- Mid and West Wales

Petition P-05-928: Remove the words which promote the recovery of oil and gas resource from the Welsh National Marine Plan

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 7 Ionawr 2020
Petitions Committee | 7 January 2020

Reference: RS19/11116-4

Petition Number: P-05-928

Petition title: Remove the words which promote the recovery of oil and gas resource from the Welsh National Marine Plan

Text of petition: Now your Government has declared a climate emergency, we ask that these words should be removed from the draft Marine Plan: "optimising the economic development and recovery of UK oil & gas resource in order to provide Welsh and wider UK businesses and consumers with a secure and resilient supply of fossil fuels".

1. Introduction

On 7 December 2017 the Welsh Government launched a [consultation](#) on the draft Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP). There were 86 responses to the consultation. A [summary of the consultation responses](#) was published in July 2018. The adopted [WNMP](#) was published on the 12 November 2019, alongside several documents including a [summary of changes document](#).



A key function of a marine plan is to state the policies for, and in connection with, the sustainable development of the marine plan area. The Welsh marine planning area comprises an inshore and the offshore region, consisting of approximately 32,000 km² of sea and 2,120 km of coastline.

The WNMP contains several key components: a vision; 13 plan objectives; 25 general policies; and 17 sector policies. The focus of this petition is the wording of the oil and gas sector objective in the *draft WNMP*:

Optimising the economic development and recovery of UK oil and gas resource in order to provide Welsh and wider UK businesses and consumers with a secure and resilient supply of fossil fuels.

The Welsh Government has said that sector objectives in the WNMP are intended to articulate the desired future state for that sector and provide context for sector policies. This sector objective was included in the draft WNMP alongside policies for the oil and gas sector.

The oil and gas sector objective highlighted in this petition has been changed. The revised objective and accompanying policies are discussed in this briefing.

2. Legislative background

The *Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009* establishes a system for marine planning in UK seas. The Act states that the Welsh Ministers are the marine plan authority for the Welsh inshore and offshore regions. However, the management of activities in Welsh waters is split between devolved functions and functions retained by the UK Government. The WNMP has therefore been adopted with the agreement of the UK Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The *UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS)* was adopted in March 2011. It provides the framework for preparing marine plans in the UK and provides the high level policy context for marine planning. The MPS is intended to facilitate the development of marine plans in line with the UK's vision for "clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas".

A marine plan is required to be ecosystem based in accordance with the *EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008* and the *EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive 2014*, as well as the MPS. The *Marine Strategy Regulations 2010* define an ecosystem-based approach as an approach which:

- ensures that the collective pressure of human activities within the marine strategy area is kept within levels compatible with the achievement of good environmental status; and
- does not compromise the capacity of marine ecosystems to respond to human-induced changes.

3. Climate emergency

This petition highlights the Welsh Government's declaration of a climate emergency. This climate emergency was **declared** in April 2019 by the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs. There is no official definition of a climate emergency, but many areas declaring this are aiming to be carbon-neutral by 2030.

4. Welsh Government action

4. 1. Changes to the oil and gas sector objective and policies

The sector objective cited in this petition has been amended. A re-worded sector objective and new sub-policy on oil and gas have been included in the adopted WNMP.

4.1.a. The new sector objective

In the adopted WNMP, the new oil and gas sector objective is:

Maximising the sustainable recovery of UK oil and gas in order to provide commercial and domestic consumers with a secure, affordable and resilient supply of energy whilst meeting UK decarbonisation goals.

The **summary of changes** document published alongside the adopted WNMP describes this change as follows:

The Sector Objective has been re-focused on maximising sustainable recovery of oil and gas, with the underpinning narrative setting out the continuing reliance on oil and gas in maintaining the UK's energy security while highlighting the importance of mitigating environmental effects. The underpinning narrative has also been expanded to set out the Welsh Government's policy aim to avoid continued extraction of fossil fuel in areas under Welsh Government jurisdiction.

4.1.b. The new sub-policy

The adopted WNMP also includes a new sub-policy on oil and gas (O&G_01b):

Welsh Government policy is to avoid the continued extraction of fossil fuels in intertidal areas and estuaries and coastal inlet waters that fall within the Welsh onshore licence area. Applications for new petroleum licenses in these areas should not be supported, unless required for mine safety or scientific purposes. Proposals for the development and extraction of oil and gas in these areas with land based elements must provide robust and credible evidence to demonstrate how they conform to the Planning Policy Wales Energy Hierarchy for Planning, including how they make a necessary contribution towards decarbonising the energy system.

The Habitats Regulations Assessment for the WNMP states that policy O&G_01b:

...does not support the extraction of fossil fuels in intertidal areas and estuaries and coastal inlet waters that fall within the Welsh onshore licence area. Furthermore, the policy does not provide support for the extraction of oil and gas outside these areas with land-based elements, and any proposal must be compatible with Welsh Government's decarbonisation approach.

Nonetheless, policy O&G_01a, which applies to offshore and inshore waters subject to UK Government national policy, supports the development of oil and gas activities. This policy says:

Proposals that maximise the economic recovery of oil and gas sustainably will be supported where they comply with the objectives of this plan, and fully meet the environmental safeguards contained within the statutory processes of awarding production licences and subsequent activity-specific approvals. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.

4.1.c. The effect of these changes

Changes to the draft WNMP were screened and, where deemed appropriate, assessed as part of an ongoing Sustainability Appraisal (SA). This included assessments of compatibility against the SA criteria on climate change, which is "to limit the causes and effects of climate change and promote adaptation". The outcome of these assessments was presented in a Sustainability Appraisal Addendum published alongside the adopted WNMP.

The new oil and gas sector objective was classed as potentially significant during the SA screening process and therefore reassessed. The assessment found that the changes made to objective impacted upon the SA climate change criteria. Previously, the objective in the draft WNMP had been assessed as “potentially incompatible” with the climate change criteria. In contrast, the assessment of the new objective identified **both** compatibilities and incompatibilities with the SA climate change criteria.

The changes to the O&G_01: oil and gas policy were also deemed to be potentially significant. The assessment found that the inclusion of the O&G_01b sub-policy altered the appraisal of the policy to include **minor** positive effects on climate change (and other) criteria. However, as a whole, the O&G_01 policy was assessed as having a mixed negative and minor positive effect on climate change (with some uncertainty).

4. 2. The Welsh Government’s statement

The oil and gas sector policies were a key feature of the oral statement made by the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, announcing the publication of the adopted WNMP on 12 November 2019:

The plan also includes references to UK Government policy where matters are reserved to UK Government. Inevitably, there are areas in which there is a contrast between Welsh Government and UK Government policy. One such area is in relation to the extraction of oil and gas. Welsh Government policy is designed to avoid further extraction and consumption of fossil fuels within all areas for which we have responsibility. We completely oppose any extraction of fossil fuels in the seas surrounding Wales. In the plan, we have gone further than this to say that where offshore fossil fuel extraction has land-based elements—that is, any elements that would fall into the responsibility of Welsh Government—we will apply our policy to avoid continued extraction of fossil fuels, using all powers available to us.

In our plan, we've also included details of the UK Government policy, insofar as it applies to the seas surrounding Wales. Their policy is to maximise fossil fuel extraction in the offshore areas surrounding Wales. The contrast between the policy of Welsh Government and UK Government could not be more stark. For the avoidance of any doubt, I would like to place on record the view of Welsh Government that any policy to encourage the continued extraction of fossil fuels is a policy we would emphatically reject.

4. 3. Welsh Government’s letter to this Committee

On 19 November 2019, the Welsh Government wrote to the Chair of this Committee regarding this petition. This letter echoes the oral statement made by the Minister on 12 November 2019.

2. National Assembly for Wales action

The National Assembly for Wales debated the draft WNMP on 9 January 2018.

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee held a stakeholder workshop to discuss the draft WNMP on 14 March 2018. The Committee made 13 recommendations on the draft WNMP in April 2018, which the Welsh Government responded to in June 2018.

Following the oral statement on 12 November 2019, announcing the publication of the adopted WNMP, Assembly Members expressed views on the statement as it related to fossil fuels. For example, Andrew R T Davies said:

I do note, obviously, the extensive referral to fossil fuels. I think it occupies five/six paragraphs in the whole statement, it does. That's a Government position, and I would most probably disagree with it to a point, but I understand why the Government are making that view known.

In addition, Llyr Gruffydd said:

I'm pleased to see the reference to the extraction of fossil fuels from our seas. I've raised this with you previously, of course. Plaid Cymru opposes that, and I'm pleased to see a statement making your view on that issue clear.

Huw Irranca-Davies asked several questions regarding the mechanisms available to the Welsh Government to limit fossil fuel extraction, particularly in the offshore area:

And, in respect of fossil fuels—and I welcome the clarity given here very much in this statement here—can I ask what are those powers that Welsh Government has at its disposal to reject fossil fuel extraction in these precious waters, but not least in the offshore waters? Powers over, for example, onshore and near-shore facilities used to support and service extraction—we could use those— powers to influence the Westminster Government in line with the overarching Marine and Coastal Access Act, which has duties upon the four Governments and administrations of the UK to talk together and plan together

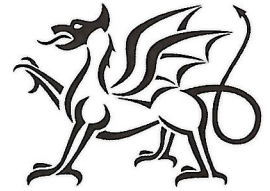
properly. What is the Irish Government's position on fossil fuels, and can we work with them? What does the marine Act enable Welsh Government to do in having a say in these offshore waters? And, at this present moment in time, what's the EU's position in terms of the extraction of fossil fuels there?

The Minister responded:

Regarding the fossil fuels and the oil and gas, I did want to be very clear about the differences between the two Governments. However, oil and gas consenting is a reserved matter for the UK Government across most of our Welsh seas, as the Member knows, but we are responsible for nature conservation, we're responsible for environmental protection, and that's why we've put in place a wide range of measures to ensure that those safeguards are in place. I met with the Minister for climate change mitigation in Ireland when I was at the marine energy conference. This was an issue that we discussed generally, but I think we do need to ensure that, all the countries that I spoke to about those cross-border arrangements, we know very clearly where we have the powers and what we are able to do with those powers. As I say, the licensing of offshore petroleum exploitation is a reserved function, but I think the UK Government are in no doubt as to our position.

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.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-928
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/07371/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee

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19 November 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter on 6 November, regarding the Welsh National Marine Plan petition.

We published the first Welsh National Marine Plan on 12 November, setting out the Welsh Government's policy for the next 20 years for the sustainable development of our seas. The Marine Plan includes provisions relating to both devolved and retained functions.

The Welsh National Marine Plan identifies the deployment of marine renewable technology as a strategic priority. Renewable energy remains part of our vision for a more sustainable future for Wales. To deliver and secure affordable low carbon energy, we need a mix of different technologies and sizes, from community scale to major projects and we will work with our stakeholders to find ways of ensuring the transition to low carbon energy happens in Wales.

Since last year's public consultation on the draft Welsh National Marine Plan, my officials reviewed the plan to reflect our policy to avoid the continued extraction of fossil fuels onshore and in internal waters, where licensing is devolved to Welsh Government. Welsh Government is committed to moving to a low carbon energy system, with the long-term aim of removing fossil fuels from the energy mix whilst minimising adverse economic impact and providing clarity for investors, encouraging investment in lower carbon alternatives.

The licensing of offshore petroleum exploration and extraction is a retained function, with licensing and environmental regulation administered by the UK Oil and Gas Authority and the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning respectively.

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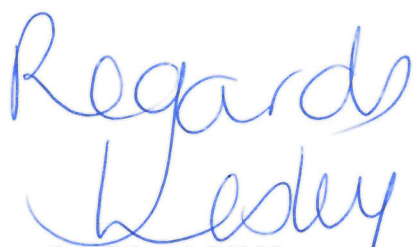
Pack Page 84

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

In my Oral Statement to the Senedd I made it clear there are contrasting areas between Welsh Government and UK Government policy – one of which being the extraction of oil and gas. Welsh Government policy is designed to avoid further extraction and consumption of fossil fuels within all areas for which we have responsibility. We completely oppose any extraction of fossil fuels in the seas surrounding Wales.

The Welsh National Marine Plan, therefore, also includes a clause specifying any proposals to extract oil and gas within the offshore area which require infrastructure on land are required to be compatible with our decarbonisation approach, with the intention of using Welsh Government policy functions, as far as possible, to discourage offshore extraction.

I'm aware of the petition and have received correspondence from Susanna Kenyon on this.



Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

P-05-928 Remove the words which promote the recovery of oil and gas resource from the Welsh National Marine Plan, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 11.12.19

We were very encouraged by the Welsh Government's very clear statement of opposition to the extraction of fossil fuels.

We look forward to having offshore powers in Wales and would like WG to put pressure on the UK government to devolve the licensing of oil and gas offshore to the WG. We must continue to challenge the fact that in the UK the oil and gas Authority still has the mandate -and is incentivized - to push for maximum economic exploitation of carbon reserves.

On page 2 of her letter, Lesley Griffiths refers to Wales' "decarbonization approach". This must be speeded up and is too ambiguous.

We wonder how WG is scaling that pathway - if "business as usual" and economic growth continues, so will energy consumption and therefore carbon emissions if that 67% reduction (set out in your Climate Change Regulations of 2018) is based on total emissions in 2040 rather than, say, carbon emissions in 2018. We understand that the world economy may triple by 2050, so that renewables will not keep pace with demand; yet renewables must replace fossil energy or as we know, we will not leave a habitable planet to our children.

Once again, we are so grateful to you and your team for making this process easy for us.

Agenda Item 3.1

P-05-839 Adopt WHO guidelines for air pollution into Welsh law and introduce a new Clean Air Act for Wales

This petition was submitted by the British Heart Foundation Cymru, having collected 688 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to adopt WHO guidelines for air pollution into Welsh law, and to introduce a new Clean Air Act for Wales.

Current legal air quality limits for Wales do not protect health. The EU limits which are observed by UK and Welsh Governments are the same as the World Health Organisation's recommended upper guideline limits for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), but are less stringent than the WHO's threshold for other health-harmful pollutants such as fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}).

British Heart Foundation Cymru is calling on the Welsh Government to adopt WHO guidelines into Welsh law, introducing a new Clean Air Act for Wales which will tackle the major sources of air pollution and ensure that everyone from government and local government, to business and the general public are working together to tackle this urgent health crisis.

Additional Information

BHF funded research first proved that short and long-term exposure to poor air quality can aggravate and cause serious cardiovascular problems. Our research established a clear link between cardiovascular disease and exposure to PM_{2.5} and ultrafine particles; and that inhalation of fine particles can increase the risk of a heart attack or stroke in vulnerable groups within 24 hours.

Public Health Wales estimated that, in 2017, air pollution contributed to 2,000 early deaths in Wales. Whilst the Welsh Government has been ordered to tackle illegal levels of nitrogen dioxide, there is still no plan to tackle particulate matter and very little detail on how the Government will improve monitoring of pollutants across Wales.

A new Clean Air Act for Wales will:

- Ensure that WHO guidelines on air pollution are observed by Welsh law;
- Introduce charging Clean Air Zones in areas which are in breach or close to the limits for nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter and ring-fence the funds for further improvements to air quality;
- Ensure that infrastructure and technology is in place to facilitate increased uptake of Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles and public transport;
- Invest in improved monitoring of pollution across Wales, and ensure that information on the risks to health is available to vulnerable groups;
- Increase public awareness of the impact of domestic woodburning and the steps which can be taken to minimise this.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff Central
- South Wales Central



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-839
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/07474/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee

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November 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 19 November, regarding Petition P-04-839 which asks for adoption of World Health Organisation (WHO) Guidelines and introduction of a Clean Air Act for Wales.

Welsh Government will consult on the Clean Air Plan for Wales this December, with a view to publishing the final Plan in spring 2020. The aim of the Clean Air Plan for Wales is to improve air quality to reduce the burden of poor air on human health, biodiversity, the natural environment and the economy in Wales.

The publication of the Plan was delayed to ensure we had robust evidence to understand the air pollution challenge and remedial actions required to improve air quality in Wales. We have also had to place a focus on managing immediate challenges such as addressing exceedances of nitrogen dioxide in Wales and ensuring preparedness for Brexit.

The Plan will support delivery of the Prosperity for All commitment to reduce emissions and deliver vital improvements in air quality to support healthier communities and better environments. It is also our first step to delivering a Clean Air Act for Wales.

You will be aware, the First Minister identified the development a new Clean Air Act in his leadership Manifesto to ensure our children can go to school, be active and play outside safely without fear of respiratory problems, such as asthma, because of pollution levels in some of our towns and cities.

The Clean Air Plan will provide further detail around our approach to delivering the Clean Air Act. A project is in development to ensure we have an Act which enhances existing legislation and brings forward new legislation to deliver air quality improvements in Wales.

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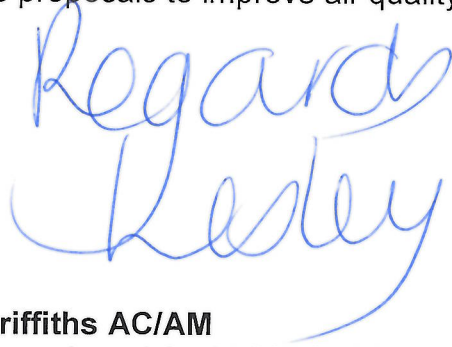
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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 aim of the Act will be to deliver the First Ministers' Manifesto commitment and reduce the burden of poor air quality on human health, our economy, biodiversity and the natural environment. The Act may also support wider actions to address the climate emergency and support environmental growth.

We intend to consult on and publish a White Paper before the end of this Assembly Term on legislative proposals to improve air quality in Wales.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Regards Lesley". The word "Regards" is written on the top line and "Lesley" is written on the bottom line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



British Heart Foundation Cymru Petition

Response to Minister's Letter to the Petitions Committee 26 November 2019

10 December 2019

Dear Committee,

We are pleased that the Minister has set out the details for the Clean Air Plan which we note has been published today.

We will certainly take the time to respond to the consultation and hope that the final plan will enable the necessary, bold action which is required to improve public health from the unnecessary burden of air pollution.

However, we are disappointed at the timescales given for the introduction of a Clean Air Act. Whilst we understand the importance of consulting and ensuring effective and robust legislation is produced in a timetable which allows for scrutiny, the production of a White Paper before the 2021 Welsh elections is a blow to the many people who experience poor health due to air pollution.

Any number of things, including a change of Government could lead to the White Paper not continuing its progression into a Bill in the Sixth Assembly, and we feel that an Act is imperative to ensure the priority of resources to tackling such an important health crisis.

We would echo the calls of the Chair of the Cross Party Group on A Clean Air Act today in Plenary, who called for an extra sitting day for the rest of the Assembly Term to deliver this pivotal legislation.

We hope that the Committee also feels that the importance of delivering a Clean Air Act in Wales prior to Summer 2021 is a matter of great importance.

As ever, we are happy to answer any further questions the committee may have on this issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Emma Henwood'.

Emma Henwood

Policy and Public Affairs Manager
BHF Cymru

Agenda Item 3.2

P-05-842 Give young people a voice when commissioning local services in Wales

This petition was submitted by the Changing Minds Campaign Group, having collected 1,387 signatures online and 2,865 on paper, a total of 4,252 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to acknowledge that the current level of young persons' participation in the commissioning of services does not allow for the inclusion of marginalised groups. We request a review of the policies and guidance in place and a recommendation that new guidelines are mandatory for services commissioned to work with young people.

Every young person in Wales needs to be able to share their voice and experience in a way that is meaningful to them, to shape the services that are available to support them. We are asking for your support to promote changes to achieve this goal. As young people we must be able to share our thoughts and views on the projects that we need in our area.

Currently, only youth councils/ forums are consulted- which is not representative of those who struggle to attend such forums such as those 1 in 5 young adults who have a diagnosable mental health disorder. There needs to be a platform for those young people who may not be able to participate in the current schemes due to their mental health to share their opinions on services and projects that are directly affecting them. We are a group of young people that have been involved in the Changing Minds Project coordinated by Newport Mind, which is due to lose funding in November of this year. Because of this we have been learning about the commissioning process, which has led to this petition being created and to our wider #changeit campaign. Direct inclusion of young people with mental health issues in the commissioning process will allow for greater tailoring of service provisions and improve confidence in the services amongst the targeted demographic.

“Involvement in this project enabled me to really understand the concerns of young people and the issues they face. Without these concerns being raised

and included from the inception of any policy which affects them, any initiative affecting young people will be flawed".

Additional Information

The Children's Rights Approach in Wales by the Children's Commissioner for Wales outlines a framework for embedding children's rights within services working with young people. These are guidelines and thus non-binding. Based on the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Article 12 outlines the right of children to be involved within policies creation and implementation; particularly those which affect their demographic. The Children's Commissioner for Wales Annual Report for the 2016/2017 year (the Report) specifically highlights the Commissioner's wish to see greater integration of young people within the commissioning process. The current guidelines for youth participation in Wales are, amongst other sources, contained within the Children and Young People's Participation in Wales Good Practice Guide 2016. The seven 'Core Standards' contained within the Guide are excellent starting steps. We feel that the non-mandatory nature of these standards and approaches, although partly met within some authorities in Wales, are insufficient for ensuring accountability for all services working with young people. We seek to ensure that young people from marginalised groups have a voice in the decision making processes as well as ensuring that service provision for young people all over Wales are of a similarly excellent standard. Our petition is in line with Recommendation 10 of the Mind over Matter report that highlights the current levels of provision of mental health services for young people, and compliments the work by the Together for Children and Young People Programme. Without change to the current guidelines, young people across Wales will continue to be marginalised. Specifically, those with mental health issues or additional needs who may not be able to take part in the current – and limited – youth participation initiatives will continue to find it difficult to voice their opinions.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Newport West
- South Wales East



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/07968/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

22 November 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 30 September regarding the Petition P-05-842 – Give young people a voice when commissioning local services in Wales.

Enhancing Equality and Human Rights in Wales

In response to calls from many stakeholders for Welsh Government to take action to safeguard equality and human rights, particularly in the context of Brexit, several strands of work are being taken forward:

- Commencing the socio-economic duty in Part One of the Equality Act 2010, to require certain Welsh public bodies to consider the impact of their strategic decisions on the poorest people and groups.
- Reviewing the Welsh Specific Duties (currently set out under the 2011 Regulations) under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), to ensure they are up to date, proportionate and effective.
- Working closely with the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) in Wales to review PSED monitoring and reporting arrangements, so that equality data and reports from Welsh public bodies are easy to find and understand.
- Commissioning research on wider options to strengthen and advance equality and human rights in Wales, which, among other things, will consider the possible incorporation of UN conventions into Welsh law and whether there may be a need for fresh legislation, such as a Human Rights Bill for Wales. This research is expected to report by the end of 2020.
- All of these strands of work are being overseen by a Strengthening and Advancing Equality and Human Rights Ministerial steering group chaired by the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales

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

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 Steering Group consists of key stakeholders and is chaired by the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip. The Deputy Minister and Chief Whip has been asked to agree that two members of the Youth Parliament be invited to sit on the working group to ensure that young people have a voice in this ground breaking piece of Human Rights legislation.

In addition to this, action is being undertaken to promote equality in relation to the Protected Characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010, for example, the Gender Equality Review, the Action on Disability: The Right to Independent Living' Framework, and the overarching Welsh Government Strategic Equality Action Plan 2020-2024 (taking account of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's "Is Wales Fairer? 2018") which is currently out to consultation.

Focussing on Gender equality for a moment, we already have world-leading equalities legislation in place with progress made. The Welsh Government is committed to work to improve the lives of women and girls and achieve equality of opportunity for all.

All of these strands of work are being overseen by a Ministerial Steering Group, chaired by the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip, which brings together a range of key stakeholders to monitor and advise on progress. This Group is due to meet next on 14 November.

I have noted your request that I express the Committee's support for the petitioners call for a statutory requirement to include children and young people in the commissioning of children and young people's services.

However, I must refer you to the provisions that are already in place to promote and facilitate the participation of children in decisions made by local authorities which might affect them under section 12 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. This Measure provides that a local authority must make such arrangements as it considers suitable to promote and facilitate participation by children in decisions of the authority which might affect them.

There is also statutory guidance issued under s.17(3) with regards to 'Children and young people's participation' Shared Purpose: Shared Future Shared Purpose 3 : Collective Roles (Public Service Boards)- Annex B (S17.(3) of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 requires a local authority exercising its function under S.12 to have regard to any guidance given from time to time by the Welsh Ministers) which imposes expectations upon local authorities relating to the participation and involvement of young people as part of the local authorities 'policies, services and wider citizen engagement'.

The Petitions Committee might wish to note that the Welsh Government funded event being held on 20 November to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in partnership with the Children's Rights Advisory Group¹ and in which has been developed in close partnership with young people, will have participation as its main theme. Six public sector organisations will receive the new kite mark demonstrating their commitment to participation. We hope these best practice examples will help to demonstrate the many benefits of participation and also how best to achieve it within the current legislative landscape.

¹ The Welsh Government works collaboratively with a number of organisations who are instrumental in providing expertise and advice on the implementation of the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011, and how children's human rights may be given better effect in Wales. The standing members of CRAG are Children and Families Division (Welsh Government), Children in Wales, Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Wales Observatory on Human Rights of Children and UNICEF.

I hope this is helpful.

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' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

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



Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair – Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Dear Ms. Saunders,

We are writing in response to Mr Gething's letter to the Petitions Committee dated 22 November 2019.

Firstly, we'd like to thank Mr Gething for his response, and we would like to thank the Petitions Committee for their continued work on this petition.

In regard to the 2010 measure and the 2010 statutory guidance mentioned by Mr Gething we feel that they have been ineffective in ensuring children and young people's voices are included in the commissioning and delivery of services. This is the reason we have submitted our petition. We strongly believe that because the guidance is not mandatory there is a difference between the experiences of young people in different local authorities, especially marginalised groups.

All children and young people have a right to have their voices heard and to have access to information on things that might affect them. Right now there is an inequality amongst young people's experiences.

We appreciate Mr Gething's correspondence however we feel that once again he has failed to meet the points we cover in our petition. We believe that the work he is describing does not meet the standards of change we expect to see happen as a result of our petition. We expect to see a statutory duty for young people to be consulted when commissioning new services for young people, rather than the current guidelines that Mr Gething refers to in his response.

Once again if we can provide any further assistance please do not hesitate to ask.

Kind regards,

The #Changeit Campaign Group

Agenda Item 3.3

P-05-856 Ban the sale of puppies by pet shops and all commercial 3rd party dealers in Wales (Lucy's Law)

This petition was submitted by C.A.R.I.A.D., having collected 11,195 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to implement a ban on the sale of puppies by pet shops and all commercial third-party dealers.

A ban on third-party sale of puppies for profit has been named 'Lucy's Law' and its implementation in England was recently announced. Lucy's Law has huge public, media and cross-party support and we call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to deliver Lucy's Law for Wales as a matter of urgency.

Removing puppies for sale from their mum often creates sick, traumatised, dysfunctional dogs. Puppies should be seen with their mum in the place they were born. Transporting them to a different place for sale harms their welfare. Regulating commercial third-party puppy selling is ineffective in preventing harm and a ban is therefore necessary for the welfare of puppies.

Breeding dogs kept in puppy farms are hidden from public view and often suffer from years of physical and psychological trauma. Regulating commercial third-party puppy selling is ineffective in preventing harm to breeding dogs and a third-party ban on puppy selling is therefore necessary for the welfare of breeding dogs.

A ban on the third-party sale of puppies will have a positive impact on breeding dogs, ensuring their visibility and enabling the public to act on best practice advice to view the puppy with the mum where the puppy was born.

In addition, illegal, unlicensed puppy farmers and puppy smugglers currently use licensed third-parties to sell their puppies, making it possible for them to operate under the radar and without the health and welfare of breeding dogs and puppies able to be monitored by local authorities. Regulating commercial third-party puppy selling is ineffective in preventing illegal puppy farming and puppy smuggling and a third-party ban on puppy selling

is therefore necessary for the protection of dogs, puppies and the public as well as in the prevention of criminal activity.

There are no welfare advantages in selling puppies through commercial dealers. This practice only ensures breeding dogs are kept hidden from the public. As well as welfare concerns for animals, third-party sales create additional risks for public health and safety.

Puppy sales direct from reputable breeder or reputable rescue centre protects all parties through greater transparency and accountability. A ban on dealing in puppies for profit can only raise health and welfare standards for breeding dogs and puppies as well as providing greatly needed public protection.

The implementation of Lucy's Law in Wales is also vital if we are to address the damage that has been done to the reputation of Wales, which continues to be acknowledged as the puppy farming hub of the United Kingdom.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Bridgend
- South Wales West

Agenda Item 3.4

P-05-915 Call for better enforcement of puppy farms in Wales

This petition was submitted by Laura Clays having collected a total of 112 signatures.

Text of Petition

Following on from the disturbing footage of puppy farms in Wales we need to see greater enforcement of the licensing of puppy farms carried out by local councils in Wales.

Recommendations:

Closing puppy farms that do not meet the required criteria

Prosecuting puppy farms that put animal welfare in danger

Greater transparency on regulated visits – there should be public records like those published by the Food Standards Agency on the hygiene ratings of restaurants. The public should be able to review the inspection records.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Alyn and Deeside
- North Wales

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-856
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/07473/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

26 November 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 19 November regarding the Petition P-05-856 to ban the sale of puppies by pet shops and all commercial 3rd party dealers in Wales.

Following the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Groups offer of help to review the dog breeding regulations, the Task and Finish Group are in the process of engaging with a range of stakeholders to draw on their expertise, and a final report will be submitted for my consideration at the end of December.

The Chief Veterinary Officer met with Local Authorities to discuss the existing Regulations and any barriers to enforcement. The meeting took place on the 12 November and the Welsh Local Government Association was represented also. I have been advised the meeting was very productive and my officials are considering the next steps.

Additionally, we are developing a campaign aimed at prospective puppy purchasers highlighting the importance of sourcing responsibly which will be launched early in the New Year.

Regards

Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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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 102

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

Agenda Item 3.5

P-05-869 Declare a Climate Emergency and fit all policies with zero-carbon targets

This petition was submitted by Matthew Misiak having collected 4,985 signatures online and 1,190 on paper – a total of 6,148 signatures.

Text of Petition

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

1. Declare a Climate Emergency.
2. Ensure all current and future policies are consistent with averting further climate change and ecological collapse.
3. Enact legally-binding policy measures to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2025 and to reduce consumption levels.
4. Implement a Citizen's Assembly of Wales to oversee the changes.

We call upon the Welsh Government to declare a Climate Emergency immediately, and commit to executing the remaining actions by June 2019.

WAG targets for a zero-carbon public sector must be used as a catalyst to engineer rapid decarbonisation in the private sector through procurement, taxation and subsidy. Across the UK, twenty city, town and county councils have already declared a Climate Emergency, including Powys and Machynlleth. Citizens must be involved to ensure the necessary change is made across society, as demonstrated in a Sortition model of participatory democracy. Initiatives to partner with include: The Climate Mobilization; Beyond Zero Emissions; Rapid Transition Alliance; Green New Deal Group; One Million Climate Jobs; The Breakthrough Institute; and Zero Carbon Britain.

Additional Information

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned that we have 12 years to make the necessary changes to limit a rise in global temperatures by 1.5°C. Failure to act will see a significant and accelerating increase in sea levels and flooding, extreme and abrupt changes to weather patterns, crop failures, and extinctions of plant, insect and animal species. This will inevitably lead to global economic disruption and humanitarian crisis. It will also detrimentally impact the well-being of the people of Wales

and billions of others. Last year, Sir David Attenborough said:

"Right now, we are facing a man-made disaster of global scale. Our greatest threat in thousands of years. Climate change. If we don't take action, the collapse of our civilisations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon. The world's people have spoken. Their message is clear. Time is running out."

The One Planet Development policy and Wellbeing of Future Generations Act show that Wales can lead the way in progressive policy. But they do not motivate government to act in accordance with the urgency of the situation. The scientific consensus shows the unprecedented scale of collective action needed to avert the worst outcomes in the near future. We must demand no less.

People worldwide are being inspired by the Extinction Rebellion movement to urge governments at all levels to meet the challenge posed by accelerating climate change and ecological collapse. Future generations will judge us on our courage to make the urgent change we know is needed. Please act now.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Aberconwy
- North Wales

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-869
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/07147/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

23 October 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 14 October, regarding Petition P-05-869 Declare a Climate Emergency and fit all policies with zero-carbon targets.

Recognising the seriousness of climate change and in response to declaring a Climate Emergency the Ministerial Task and Finish Group has now been put on a permanent footing. We are establishing the Decarbonisation Cabinet Sub-Committee following the completion of the first phase of the Decarbonisation Programme. During this second phase of the Programme the Sub-Committee's role is to coordinate action, raise ambition and make key decisions from a cross-Government perspective on the actions needed to meet our statutory decarbonisation commitments in Part 2 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. Its membership is expanding from the former Group recognising the cross-government responsibility (see Annex A). The Terms of Reference, which will include membership and schedule, will need to be confirmed at the next meeting. I will be happy to share them with you following the meeting.

There are many different ways we can engage with people across Wales. When the First Minister met representatives from Extinction Rebellion (XR) in August he was clear Citizens' Assemblies are most effective when established on a cross-party, parliamentary basis. Independence from government helps ensure the findings have legitimacy. We continue to engage regularly with XR, including inviting them to run workshops at our recent climate change conference, which were well attended and received.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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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.

We look forward with interest to the Assembly Commission's response to the Citizens' Assembly report from Gregynog earlier this year. We can see how Citizens' Assemblies could help support the involvement, collaboration and long-term thinking which is at the heart of our well-being legislation and so, if a climate change Citizens' Assembly were established, we would be willing to explore options for supporting its work.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

Annex A: Proposed membership of the Decarbonisation Cabinet Sub-Committee

- Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs (Chair)
- Minister for Economy and Transport
- Minister for Finance and Trefnydd
- Minister for Housing and Local Government
- Minister for Health
- Minister for Education
- Counsel General and Brexit Minister
- Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport
- Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government
- Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism
- Deputy Minister and Chief Whip

Agenda Item 3.6

P-05-877 Children's used uniform scheme

This petition was submitted by Rachael Mackay (Topaz class, Monnow Primary School) having collected a total of 54 signatures.

Text of Petition

We the children of Monnow Primary School in Newport would like to see a used school uniform scheme up and running in every city in Wales. The scheme should provide uniforms, shoes and trainers for all ages. This would make sure that all children have access to affordable uniforms. Families that receive free school meals should take priority.

Additional Information

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Newport West
- South Wales East

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-877
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/07570/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

27 November 2019

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders AM,

Thank you for your letter of 20 November on behalf of the Petitions Committee to ask what support and encouragement the Welsh Government provides, or is able to provide, to schools and other bodies facilitating or considering the operation of used uniform schemes, such as that operating in Denbighshire.

The Welsh Government has consulted on new statutory guidance which came into force in September 2019. The new guidance has been published and can be accessed at the following link <https://gov.wales/school-uniform-and-appearance-policy-guidance-governing-bodies>.

The guidance provides clear and useful support for governing bodies in making their decisions on school uniform policies in respect of access, affordability and flexibility and; will help to ensure consistency in the approach to school uniform and appearance policies. The guidance also sets out the current position in Wales regarding financial assistance for parents towards the cost of purchasing school uniforms.

I am fully aware the cost of the school day is a really important issue for many families in Wales. We want young people to show up at school ready to learn and reach their best outcomes. Last year I asked Children in Wales to produce a suite of guides for schools covering key aspects in addressing the cost of the school day, including understanding the causes and impact of living in poverty, food and hunger, and school uniforms. There is a chapter on school uniform which includes practical examples that schools can take in regard to school uniform recycling schemes. The guides are available here <https://hwb.gov.wales/repository/resource/780da5bf-2216-476e-bba0-208fa18330e8> and will be rolled out to schools when the project expands in 2020.

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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.

We are working in partnership with Children in Wales, the Children's Commissioner and the Child Poverty Action Group to achieve a strategic approach for this work going forward.

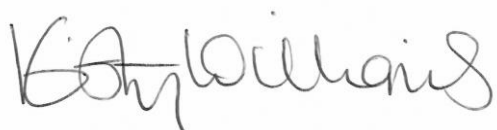
For 2019-20 we have more than doubled the funding for PDG-Access to over £5 million. Families whose children are **eligible for free school meals** can apply for this grant for the academic school year commencing September 2019, if they are:

- entering reception class or year 3 in primary school
- entering year 7 or year 10 in secondary school
- aged 4, 7, 11 or 14 in special schools, special needs resource bases or pupil referral units

Funding is also available for looked-after children in every school year. For Year 7 learners the grant is £200, recognising the increased costs associated with starting secondary school. The grant can provide help buying school uniform, equipment, sports kit and kit for activities outside of school. Local authorities are also administering a fund to develop more sustainable long term options. We have extended this beyond the classroom to include groups such as youth clubs, to bid for kit stores. The funding is distributed by local authorities directly to families as eligibility is checked via a national checking system, managed by LAs.

In 2018/19 the grant provided overall funding of £48,703 in Denbighshire. We expect this figure to increase this year given the expansion of the grant and the communications campaign which took place over the summer.

Yours sincerely,

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

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

Agenda Item 4.1

P-05-797 Ensure access to the cystic fibrosis medicine, Orkambi, as a matter of urgency

This petition was submitted by Rhian Barrance and was considered by the Committee for the first time in January 2018, having collected 5,717 signatures online.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to call for a resolution to ongoing negotiations between NHS Wales, the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group, the Welsh Health and Specialised Services Committee and Vertex Pharmaceuticals regarding access to the cystic fibrosis medicine, Orkambi, as a matter of the utmost urgency.

Additional Information

418 people in Wales have cystic fibrosis (CF). CF is a life-shortening, inherited disorder. The median age at death for a person with CF in 2016 was just 31 years of age. CF is caused by mutations in the CFTR gene which result in the build-up of thick, sticky mucus in the lungs and other organs. Gradually, this build up causes chronic lung infections and progressive lung damage. The treatment burden for a person with CF is high and daily life can be a struggle.

Orkambi is a precision medicine that 40% of people in the UK with CF could benefit from. While conventional CF treatments target the symptoms, precision medicines tackle the underlying genetic mutations that cause the condition. Though Orkambi is not a cure, it has been found to slow decline in lung function – the most common cause of death for people with CF – by 42%.

In July 2016, the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) recognised Orkambi as an ‘important treatment.’ They were, however, unable to recommend the drug for use within the NHS on grounds of cost effectiveness and a lack of long-term data.

In June 2017, the Cystic Fibrosis Trust organised a day of national protest at the Senedd, Stormont, Holyrood, Downing Street and online to demand an

end to the deadlock. Since the protests, the Welsh Health and Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) have presented the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) with the portfolio approach developed by the drug's manufacturer, Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to call for a resolution to these ongoing negotiations between NHS Wales, the AWMSG, WHSSC and Vertex Pharmaceuticals as a matter of the utmost urgency. It is essential that a fair and sustainable method of reimbursement is found for Orkambi and for the exciting pipeline of future treatments.

People in Wales have been waiting too long for this transformative drug. They deserve better.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

Cystic

Fibrosis a fight we must win

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

6 December 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter following the closure of the petition for access to cystic fibrosis medicines in Wales.

It was our pleasure to be able to support the cross-party effort to ensure this issue was properly scrutinised by the National Assembly for Wales and we thank you for your enduring support through to a satisfactory outcome. People with cystic fibrosis and their families endured an agonising wait, but the persistent representations of the Committee provided important reassurance that their plight was not forgotten.

In 2020, we expect the European licensing of a fourth cystic fibrosis treatment from Vertex Pharmaceuticals. A triple-combination drug therapy (branded Trikafta™ in the USA). The data for the drug shows stunning impact on lung function, and critically that the drugs can help a far wider group of people with CF than Orkambi, Symkevi and Kalydeco. We estimate that this could increase the number of people in Wales eligible to receive these medicines to 90% of those with the condition.

It is of paramount importance that we do not have a repeat of the protracted negotiations once the medicine has received its license from the European Medicines Agency. We will keep you updated on progress and I am hopeful that the work that has been done has laid the foundations for swifter access to future therapies and we will continue to fight for people with cystic fibrosis to have access to the expanding set of advanced medicines that are being developed, as soon as possible.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely



David Ramsden
Chief Executive

Agenda Item 5.1

P-05-862 Tackling school bullying

This petition was submitted by BlowforBradley Campaign having collected 1,463 signatures.

Text of Petition

We believe that bullying in schools is often ignored and the issue is not confronted in too many cases. Schools are required to have an anti bullying policy but too often this is merely a paperwork statement which is not acted upon.

We want the Welsh Assembly to produce a standard bullying framework which is enforceable by law. The after effects of school bullying often affects victims throughout their lives therefore changes are required as the current system is a failure. Schools often fail to record bullying incidents as such for fear of damaging their reputation and victims who speak out often find themselves punished themselves, harming their self esteem even more.

We insist that bullying is recorded and acted upon as such with better recording, cctv, reporting, compulsory parental interaction.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Llanelli
- Mid and West Wales

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

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Agenda Item 5.2

P-05-757 Remove the Obligation on Schools to Hold Acts of Religious Worship

This petition was submitted by Rhiannon Shipton & Lily McAllister-Sutton and was first considered in June 2017, having collected 1,333 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to pass a law that removes the obligation on Schools to hold acts of religious worship.

Assembly Constituency and Region.

- Cardiff South and Penarth
- South Wales Central

Agenda Item 5.3

P-05-765 Keeping Current Guidelines for Religious Assemblies

This petition was submitted by Iraj Irfan and was first considered by the Committee in June 2017, having collected a total of 2,231 signatures – 2,209 signatures online and 22 paper signatures in an alternative petition.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to keep religious assemblies in state schools in Wales as ‘opt-out’ and ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’, while considering ways to ensure that they continue to be relevant to people of different faiths and no faith.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

Agenda Item 8.1

P-04-433 CCTV in Slaughterhouses

This petition was submitted by Animal Aid and was first considered in November 2012 having collected 1,066 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to introduce mandatory CCTV in slaughterhouses to help vets with better regulation and monitoring, to provide footage for training and retraining, to deter some of the animal welfare abuses filmed by Animal Aid, and to provide evidence for prosecutions should they be necessary.

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Agenda Item 8.2

P-05-916 Adequate funding to protect the welfare of farm animals in Welsh slaughterhouses

This petition was submitted by David Grimsell having collected 110 signatures online and 1,039 on paper, a total of 1,149 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the Welsh Government to provide adequate funding to protect the welfare of farm animals at the time of their slaughter in Wales.

The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (Wales) Regulations 2014 are meant to provide protection to animals at the time of their slaughter. To do so, they must be properly applied and enforced by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), and there must be sufficient funding for it to be able to carry out its duties under the Regulations.

At the moment the Welsh Government provides the FSA with only £20,000 per annum to protect animal welfare at slaughter across at least 23 Welsh slaughterhouses jointly slaughtering tens of millions of animals each year. This is a pitiful amount and entirely inadequate to cover all that is required including effective monitoring of welfare practice, investigation, enforcement, legal advice, and the staffing to do so. The amounts provided are far below what the FSA has itself indicated (in Board papers) that it needs to carry out its duties regarding welfare of animals at slaughter.

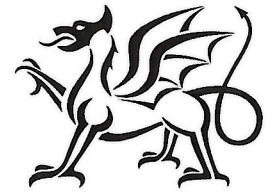
There is much evidence from undercover investigations in slaughterhouses elsewhere in the UK that welfare regulations are frequently breached and that many animals suffer abuse. There is no reason to suppose that these risks do not also arise in Welsh slaughterhouses.

The public has a right to expect that welfare regulations are thoroughly and consistently applied. The Welsh Government must urgently review its funding of the FSA for this purpose, and significantly increase funding to protect animal welfare at slaughter without delay.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Ceredigion
- Mid and West Wales

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-916
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/07503/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

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December 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 22 November, regarding my previous response of 22 October in respect of Petition P-05-916 adequate funding to protect the welfare of farm animals in Welsh slaughterhouses.

I can confirm that the funding provided by Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO) to the Food Standards Agency for welfare controls is as follows:

- 16/17 - £7,402.96
- 17/18 - £14,678.97
- 18/19 - £20,187.00

As we are not yet at the end of the financial year, the budget which has been allocated for the period of 2019/20 is £31,906.33, of which £18,612 has already been committed.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

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

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

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

Agenda Item 9

P-05-736 To Make Mental Health Services More Accessible.

This petition was submitted by Laura Williams, which collected 73 signatures.

Text of the Petition

To make mental health services more accessible the Government should ensure that no-one who approaches a mental health service should be turned away without help. Anyone who goes to their GP or any other health care professional who is experiencing a mental health problem should be automatically referred to the crisis team who should act immediately. The onus should not be on the individual to contact the Crisis Team on their own. There should also always be a one to one therapy option, rather than group therapy.

Many people will know I haven't had an easy time with life or with mental illness; I suffer with depression, anxiety, PTSD and OCD. Recently, I've hit rock bottom and have screamed for help but have been let down by mental health services who I thought would help, instead they have let me down majorly.

I want my experience to help others around Wales and to get the help they need.

Assembly constituency and Region.

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

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

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Committee Chairs
National Assembly for Wales

16 December 2019

Dear Chair,

Committee on Assembly Electoral Reform

As you will be aware, the **Committee on Assembly Electoral Reform** was established by the National Assembly for Wales in September 2019 with a remit to examine the recommendations of the **Expert Panel on Assembly Electoral Reform**. I am writing to invite your views on the potential implications for Assembly committees of any change in the size of the Assembly.

In particular, we would welcome the views of your Committee on:

- Whether the current size of the Assembly has given rise to any implications or limitations for your Committee's work or the way in which you approach policy, legislative and financial scrutiny of the issues within your remit.
- How any recent or anticipated changes to the Assembly's powers or responsibilities, or the broader constitutional context, might affect your Committee's remit or how you undertake your role.
- Any implications an increase in the size of the Assembly might have for the work of Assembly committees, including the support services they receive.

We would also welcome information about how your Committee assesses the impact of its scrutiny work, and examples of effective scrutiny or missed opportunities. It would be helpful to receive your response **by Monday 27 January 2020**.



Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
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National Assembly for Wales
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☎ 0300 200 6565

I will be making an oral statement in Plenary on Wednesday 8 January 2020 to provide an update on the Committee's work. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the work of the Committee, or would find it helpful to meet to discuss these issues, please contact the Committee clerk, Helen Finlayson, at seneddreform@assembly.wales or on 0300 200 6341.

Yours sincerely,



Dawn Bowden AM
Chair, Committee on Assembly Electoral Reform

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

