

Health and Social Care Committee

Meeting Venue: Committee Room 1 - Senedd

Meeting date: Wednesday, 5 December 2012

Meeting time: 09:30 - 11:20

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Cynulliad
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National
Assembly for
Wales



Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

Mark Drakeford (Chair)
Mick Antoniw
Rebecca Evans
Vaughan Gething
William Graham
Elin Jones
Darren Millar
Lynne Neagle
Lindsay Whittle
Kirsty Williams

Witnesses:

Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Health and Social Services
Dr Chris Jones, Welsh Government
David Sissling, Welsh Government

Committee Staff:

Sarah Beasley (Clerk)
Llinos Dafydd (Clerk)
Steve George (Clerk)
Catherine Hunt (Deputy Clerk)
Olga Lewis (Deputy Clerk)
Sarah Sargent (Deputy Clerk)
Joanest Jackson (Legal Advisor)
Victoria Paris (Researcher)

1. Introductions, apologies and substitutions

1.1 There were no apologies or substitutions.

2. Scrutiny of the Minister for Health and Social Services

2.1 The Minister and officials responded to questions from members of the Committee.

2.2 The Minister agreed to provide further information in writing on the capital project slippages, a breakdown by health board of how the additional £82m for the NHS would be allocated, how the Welsh Government would be feeding in to the review of the balance of competences between the UK and the EU, and on the provision of mental health services for staff working in the armed forces and emergency services.

3. Papers to note

European update

3.1 The Committee noted the paper.

Letter from the Minister for Health and Social Services & Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services : Actions arising from 17 October meeting on Budget Scrutiny

3.2 The Committee noted the letter.

4. Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Bill: Consideration of appointing an Expert Adviser to assist on the scrutiny of the Bill

4.1 The Committee discussed the option of appointing an expert adviser to assist them with the stage 1 scrutiny of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Bill.

4.2 The Committee agreed in principle that assistance from the relevant policy field would be helpful and the option was worth exploring. The Committee agreed that it may be beneficial to consider seeking advice from a number of advisers, each of whom could assist with consideration of particular issues, rather than the appointment of a single expert adviser.

4.3 The Committee asked the clerking team to undertake some further work and to provide Members with the names of possible candidates at the next meeting.

5. Human Transplantation (Wales) Bill - Stage 1: Approach to Scrutiny

5.1 The Committee agreed its terms of reference and approach to scrutiny of the Human Transplantation (Wales) Bill and agreed to launch a public consultation shortly.

6. Recovery of Medical Costs for Asbestos Diseases (Wales) Bill : Stage 1 - Approach to scrutiny

6.1 The Committee Chair referred to a letter he had received from the Presiding Officer indicating that, in her opinion, the Bill was within the legislative competence of the Assembly. However, she also pointed out that her decision had been finely balanced in relation to some parts of the Bill. The Chair outlined the parts of the Bill concerned and that the letter would be circulated to Members in due course.

6.2 The Committee agreed that the issues raised by the Presiding Officer would need **to be taken into account during the Stage 1 scrutiny process. The Committee's legal advisers** were asked to provide further briefing on the issues raised by the Presiding Officer so that areas for questioning could be developed to help the Committee explore the issues with relevant witnesses.

6.3 The Committee then discussed its approach to Stage 1 scrutiny of the Recovery of Medical Costs for Asbestos Diseases (Wales) Bill.

6.4 The Committee was content with the general approach suggested in the Committee paper but was agreed that an additional question, regarding the National **Assembly's legislative competence, should be added to the** consultation letter.

6.5 It was also agreed that representatives of cancer charities, Health Boards, the construction industry and organisations manufacturing asbestos should be considered as additional oral witnesses.

7. Recovery of Medical Costs for Asbestos Diseases (Wales) Bill : Stage 1 - Evidence session 1 - POSTPONED

TRANSCRIPT

View the [meeting transcript](#).