

National Assembly for Wales
Enterprise and Business Committee

Bulletin - Autumn Term

September 2012



The National Assembly for Wales is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales and holds the Welsh Government to account.

An electronic copy of this report can be found on the National Assembly's website:
www.assemblywales.org

Copies of this report can also be obtained in accessible formats including Braille, large print; audio or hard copy from:

Enterprise and Business Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Tel: 029 2089 8153

Fax: 029 2089 8021

Email: Enterprise.Committee@wales.gov.uk

© National Assembly for Wales Commission Copyright 2012

The text of this document may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium providing that it is reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading or derogatory context. The material must be acknowledged as copyright of the National Assembly for Wales Commission and the title of the document specified.

National Assembly for Wales
Enterprise and Business Committee

Bulletin - Autumn Term

September 2012



Enterprise and Business Committee

The Committee was established on 22 June 2011 with a remit to examine legislation and hold the Welsh Government to account by scrutinising its expenditure, administration and policy, encompassing economic development; transport and infrastructure; employment; higher education and skills; and research and development, including technology and science.

Current Committee membership



Nick Ramsay (Chair)
Welsh Conservatives
Monmouth



Byron Davies
Welsh Conservatives
South Wales West



Keith Davies
Welsh Labour
Llanelli



Dafydd Elis-Thomas
Plaid Cymru
Dwyfor Meirionnydd



Julie James
Welsh Labour
Swansea West



Alun Ffred Jones
Plaid Cymru
Arfon



Eluned Parrott
Welsh Liberal Democrats
South Wales Central



David Rees
Welsh Labour
Aberavon



Ken Skates
Welsh Labour
Clwyd South



Joyce Watson
Welsh Labour
Mid and West Wales



Enterprise and Business Committee

The Enterprise and Business Committee was established on 22 June 2011 with a remit to examine legislation and hold the Welsh Government to account by scrutinising its expenditure, administration and policy, encompassing economic development; transport and infrastructure; employment; higher education and skills; and research and development, including technology and science.

Welcome to our committee update

This update of the Committee's recent and future activities is aimed at individuals and organisations who may wish to learn about the work of the Committee. It is hoped that it will promote access and widen engagement in the Committee's activities by helping you to provide information and expertise to officials and Members. It has been produced by the Clerking team which supports the Committee's work.

Contact details

Siân Phipps	Clerk	0292089 8582	sian.phipps@wales.gov.uk
Kayleigh Driscoll	Deputy Clerk	0292089 8146	kayleigh.driscoll@wales.gov.uk
Chloë Davies	Committee Support	0292089 8153	chloe.davies@wales.gov.uk

You can also e-mail the Committee Clerking Team using this link:
enterprise.committee@wales.gov.uk.

Our fax number is: 029 2089 8021

Website:

<http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=228>

Latest news

Inquiry into International Connectivity through Welsh Ports and Airports

The Committee published its report on 4 July. A link to the report is provided below:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-business-fourth-assembly-laid-docs.htm?act=dis&id=236017&ds=7/2012>

The Welsh Government is due to respond to the report by the middle of September and a Plenary debate will be held on 3 October. The Committee has agreed to scrutinise progress with the Cardiff Airport Task Force in the New Year.

Inquiry into Apprenticeships in Wales

The Committee took evidence from key stakeholders throughout the summer term and held two scrutiny sessions with the Deputy Minister for Skills to inform the inquiry. The first session was on 2 May on young people not in education, employment or training. The second session was on 30 May.

As part of the inquiry the Assembly's Outreach Team took evidence from young people, employers and training providers about their views on apprenticeship schemes. The interviews can be viewed on our YouTube and Vimeo pages:

<http://youtu.be/sCuXCzCrFU4>

<https://vimeo.com/43816814>

The report will be published in the autumn term.

Horizon 2020

The Committee completed the first stage of its inquiry into Horizon 2020 (the European Commission's proposals for developing research and innovation) and published its stage one report on 26 July. A link to the report is provided below:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-business-fourth-assembly-laid-docs.htm?act=dis&id=237015&ds=7/2012>

As part of the inquiry the Committee took evidence from key stakeholders throughout the summer term and went on a visit to Glyndŵr University, the

Advanced Composite Training and Development Centre in Broughton and OpTIC in St Asaph as part of the inquiry.

Stage 2 of the inquiry will commence in late October.

Procurement Task and Finish Group

The Group's report was published in May and the Welsh Government issued a response in July. There was a Plenary debate on the report on 19 July. The Committee will continue to monitor progress as the procurement proposals are negotiated in Europe.

Link to report:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-business-fourth-assembly-laid-docs.htm?act=dis&id=233685&ds=5/2012>

Link to Welsh Government response:

<http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/documents/s9214/%20%20Welsh%20Government%20response%20to%20Influencing%20the%20Modernisation%20of%20EU%20Procurement%20Policy%20report%20-%20Ju.pdf>

Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science Scrutiny Session

The Committee held a scrutiny session with the Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science on 4 July on matters concerning social enterprises, and for the Minister to provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations accepted by the Welsh Government from the Committee's report on the Role of Social Enterprises in the Welsh Economy. The Committee agreed to scrutinise Welsh Government activity in this area in 12 months' time.

Visit to Network Rail

The Committee visited Network Rail's Wales Route Operating Centre on 12 July, and held a question and answer session with Mark Langman, Route Managing Director.

Inquiry into Integrated Public Transport in Wales

The Committee has published terms of reference for an inquiry into Integrated Public Transport in Wales. The terms of reference and deadline for evidence are available here:

<http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=4436>

Scrutiny of legislation

The Committee had a private technical briefing from Welsh Government officials on the Active Travel (Wales) Bill on 4 July. Members requested further information which will be provided at the beginning of the autumn term.

Forthcoming bills

The Welsh Government has published the following White Papers on proposals for new laws that come within the remit of the Committee:

- Consultation on Active Travel (Wales) Bill: published in May 2012. These proposals are aimed at enabling more people to walk and cycle and generally travel by more active methods. The White Paper is available at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/transport/activetravelbill/?lang=en&status=closed>

- Further and Higher Education (Wales) Bill: published in July 2012. This White Paper includes proposals about higher education reform. It is available at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/education/feandhebill/?lang=en&status=open>

- Once formally introduced by the Welsh Government, these Bills are expected to be scrutinised by the Committee.

Committee activity for the autumn term 2012:

Please note that information regarding dates and topics of inquiry is subject to change, depending on emerging priorities.

- The Committee will hold an engagement event with external stakeholders to inform scrutiny of the Welsh Government's draft budget on 27 September.
- The Committee will hold a Ministerial update session on 27 September on EU issues.
- The Committee plans to hold Ministerial Scrutiny sessions on Business Rates, Broadband, City Regions and Enterprise Zones.
- The Committee will commence stage 2 of the Horizon 2020 inquiry in October.
- The Committee plans to visit Brussels on 7-8 November to meet European Commission officials, European Parliament Rapporteurs and Welsh MEPs to follow up its reports on European Structural Funds 2014-20; Procurement and Horizon 2020.
- The Committee will begin evidence sessions for the Integrated Public Transport inquiry on 21 November. The evidence sessions are likely to continue into the New Year.

How we plan inquiries

Ultimately all inquiries begin with the ideas, aspirations, expertise and knowledge of Assembly Members, who in turn are informed by their constituents and professional contacts. In addition to this, and new for the Fourth Assembly, the Committee will be responsible for scrutinising any legislation that comes under its remit.

Usually Members and officials discuss the planning of inquiries every term so that the Committee has a rolling, flexible, programme of work. The networking event held in November 2011 proved a useful source of ideas for influencing the Committee's future work programme.

Other ways inquiries may arise are:

- Frequently, the Committee will decide that it wishes to revisit certain inquiries, after a suitable time has elapsed, to determine whether the Welsh Government is implementing the Committee's recommendations. In these cases, it will carry out a relatively short follow-up inquiry.
- The Petitions Committee may propose that scrutiny committees undertake inquiries and/or investigate issues raised in petitions.
- Since Committees can propose legislation, they may undertake pre-legislative scrutiny inquiries to ensure that the legislation as drafted is robust and meets the needs of all stakeholders.
- Where UK legislation has significant implications for Wales, the Committee may undertake scrutiny of UK draft Bills or UK Bills.
- Following an inquiry in a particular area, the Committee may consider issues that arise that it would wish to scrutinise in further detail.
- The Committee may decide that a particular issue requires a more informal and flexible approach than scrutinising evidence in formal hearings. It may therefore establish a task and finish group of, say, four members, to undertake work behind the scenes, as it were, and then report back to the full Committee.
- Sometimes stakeholders suggest to the Committee directly that it should be considering other issues.

And finally...

Feedback please!

We wish to receive **as much feedback as possible** regarding how useful this document is to you, whether its contents are relevant and appropriate, and whether you wish us to include anything that we have not covered this time around. Please e-mail: kayleigh.driscoll@wales.gov.uk with your feedback.

Also please feel free to forward this document or our contact details to anyone you think would wish to know about the work and operations of the Enterprise and Business Committee.