

**National Assembly for Wales**  
Enterprise and Business Committee

Bulletin - Summer Term

April 2013



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.

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## 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



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### Welcome to our committee update

This update of the Committee's recent and future activities is aimed at widening engagement in the Committee's activities and 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

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You can also e-mail the Committee Clerking Team using this link:

[enterprise.committee@wales.gov.uk](mailto:enterprise.committee@wales.gov.uk).

Website:

[www.senedd.assemblywales.org/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=228](http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=228)

Our fax number is: 029 2089 8021

## **Latest news**

### **Inquiry into Apprenticeships**

A Plenary debate was held on 23 January to discuss the Committee's report on its inquiry into apprenticeships. In its [response](#) to the report, the Government accepted most of the recommendations and it has launched many new initiatives following the Committee's inquiry.

### **European Matters**

#### **Horizon 2020**

As part of stage two of the Horizon 2020 Inquiry, Committee members undertook a visit to Cardiff University on 10 January. Committee members and the University's Pro Vice-Chancellors discussed the University's involvement in current rounds of European funding (FP7) and the potential opportunities offered by the Horizon 2020 funding programme.

The Committee also discussed Welsh universities' involvement in UK Research Councils and their funding; collaborative working with other Welsh and English universities, particularly those in South West England; and the potential for partnership working with other European universities. Cardiff University staff told Committee members about their recent restructuring into three internal colleges, which replaced the previous structure of 27 colleges/schools, and the university's investment in a Research and Innovation Campus site at Maindy Road, Cardiff.

Following the formal meeting, several Members visited the school of engineering where they were given practical demonstrations of several projects that have been successful in winning European funding.

As part of the inquiry, two evidence sessions were held in March with witnesses from Scotland, Ireland, England and the European Regions Research and Innovation Network to gather evidence on how those countries

are preparing support structures for accessing Horizon 2020 funding in the future. The Committee will publish its stage two report in the summer.

### **EU Structural Funds – follow-up scrutiny**

At the end of January, the Committee returned to the situation regarding the negotiations on and preparations for the EU Structural Funds Programmes for the period 2014–2020. Professor Danuta Maria Hübner MEP, Chair of the Committee on Regional Development, and Alun Davies AM, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and European Programmes, gave evidence. The session focused on the Multi-annual Financial Framework 2014–2020 and issues of particular interest to Wales in the negotiations.

### **Inquiry into Integrated Public Transport in Wales**

The Committee continued to gather evidence for its inquiry into integrated public transport, which was launched in November last year. As part of the inquiry, members of the Committee have been compiling video diaries of journeys they make by public transport. The videos can be viewed using the link below:

<http://t.co/mYisQHi9>

The inquiry came to an end on 7 February and the Committee's report is due to be published towards the end of May.

### **Ministerial Scrutiny Session on the Cardiff Airport Task Force**

In January, the Committee held a session to scrutinise the First Minister on the Cardiff Airport Task Force. The session fulfilled the commitment made in the Committee's report on international connectivity through Welsh ports and airports, published in July 2012, that it would invite the First Minister to a future meeting so that it could monitor the achievements of the Cardiff Airport Task Force. In the meeting, the Committee also followed up the

recommendations made in its report, and in the Welsh Government's response, which was published in September 2012.

### **Ministerial Scrutiny Session on Economic Sector Policy**

The Committee held a scrutiny session with the Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science on her department's economic sector policy on 20 February. The main themes of the session included the latest budget allocation for the sectors; the short, medium and long-term policy priorities for each one; Welsh Government support; and its approach to marketing and communications with regard to the sectors.

### **Active Travel (Wales) Bill**

In February, the Committee started its Stage 1 scrutiny of the Active Travel (Wales) Bill. A public consultation on the Bill was launched on 22 February and a Ministerial scrutiny session was held on 6 March.

Before the work on the Bill commenced, the Committee held informal briefing sessions on legislative scrutiny. These included an introduction to the legislative process, led by Steve George and Liz Wilkinson, who are both clerks in the Assembly's legislation office; a session on the financial scrutiny of Bills, led by Martin Jennings from the Research Service; and a master class on legislative scrutiny with Daniel Greenberg, a parliamentary and legislation lawyer who is currently based with Berwin Leighton Paisner, Thomson Reuters and the Practical Law Company, which focused on deconstructing legislation, effective scrutiny and legislative scrutiny in practice.

### **Review of Qualifications for 14 to 19-year-olds**

One of the Committee's meetings in February focused on the recent review of qualifications for 14 to 19-year-olds. Two sessions were held: one with Huw Evans, Chair of the Review of Qualifications for 14 to 19-year-olds in Wales, and one with Jeff Cuthbert, Deputy Minister for Skills. One of the main

themes of the sessions was the creation of Qualifications Wales, the new accrediting body to be established in Wales, and the Committee has been corresponding with the Minister on this element of the review.

### **Sub Committee on the Smoke-free Premises etc. (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012**

Five members of the Enterprise and Business Committee have joined with five members of the Health and Social Care Committee to take evidence on the Smoke-free Premises etc. (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012. The Regulations seek to create an exemption from the 2007 smoke-free regulations to allow performers to smoke for reasons of 'artistic integrity' when making a film or television programme, subject to certain conditions. More information can be found on the Sub Committee's [webpage](#) or please contact the clerk of the Sub Committee for more information:

[lara.date@wales.gov.uk](mailto:lara.date@wales.gov.uk)

### **Support for Committees**

The Committee regularly reviews its ways of working and has recently contributed to the internal review of support provided to Assembly Committees. The Committee will be trialling a new app, which aims to reduce paperwork and facilitate the work of Members.

### **Committee activity for the summer term 2013:**

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

- The Committee will be starting an inquiry into youth entrepreneurship during June, which will include rapporteur visits by Members to locations in north and south Wales. The terms of reference for the inquiry are available [here](#);

- Stage 1 evidence sessions on the Active Travel (Wales) Bill will continue to be held during April and May, with a Stage 1 report due to be produced at the end of May. Stage 2 of the Bill will commence in July;
- The Committee will hold a scrutiny session on next generation broadband with the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport and BT on 2 May;
- Also in May, the Committee will hold a scrutiny session on the impact of welfare reforms in Wales with the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty;
- The Committee also intends to hold scrutiny sessions on the town and city regions in north Wales and on freight transport in Wales before the summer recess.

## **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. The Committee will also prioritise the scrutiny of legislation that comes under its remit.

Members and officials discuss the planning of inquiries every term so that the Committee has a rolling, flexible, programme of work.

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;
- Committees may undertake pre-legislative scrutiny inquiries to ensure that forthcoming 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;
- 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 [ffion.emyr@wales.gov.uk](mailto:ffion.emyr@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.**