

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

## Bulletin - Spring Term

January 2014



Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales

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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



**Mick Antoniw**  
Welsh Labour  
Pontypridd



**Byron Davies**  
Welsh Conservatives  
South Wales West



**Keith Davies**  
Welsh Labour  
Llanelli



**Rhun ap Iorwerth**  
Plaid Cymru  
Ynys Môn



**Julie James**  
Welsh Labour  
Swansea West



**Alun Ffred Jones**  
Plaid Cymru  
Arfon



**Eluned Parrott**  
Welsh Liberal Democrats  
South Wales Central



**Joyce Watson**  
Welsh Labour  
Mid and West Wales



## Enterprise and Business Committee

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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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<b>Mike Lewis</b>	Committee Support	<b>0292089 8018</b>	<a href="mailto:michael.lewis@wales.gov.uk">michael.lewis@wales.gov.uk</a>

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

Our fax number is: 029 2089 8021

Website:

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

## **Work undertaken last term**

### **Youth Entrepreneurship**

The Committee launched its [report on youth entrepreneurship](#) on 14 November 2013 at Welsh ICE: Innovation Centre for Enterprise in Caerphilly, with an audience of young entrepreneurs. The Welsh Government's response is due mid-January and a Plenary debate has been provisionally scheduled for 22 January 2014. Click the links to view images and interviews from the launch.

[Images](#)

[Interviews](#)

### **The future of the Wales and Borders Franchise**

The Committee undertook an inquiry into the future of the Wales and Borders Franchise during the autumn term. Following a consultation exercise and an informal stakeholder event the Committee took oral evidence from key stakeholders and held a scrutiny session with the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport on 23 October 2013.

The Committee launched its [report](#) on 11 December 2013 at Hereford Train Station. The Committee's recommendations to the Welsh Government take the form of a Charter for the next Wales and Borders Franchise. The Committee is awaiting the Government response, and a Plenary debate has been scheduled for the afternoon of 19 February. Click the links to view images.

[Stakeholder event](#)

[Launch](#)

### **Budget Scrutiny**

On 17 October the Committee held Ministerial scrutiny sessions on the Welsh Government's draft budget proposals 2014-15.

The Minister for Economy, Science and Transport was scrutinised during the morning session and the Minister for Education and Skills and the Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology were both scrutinised during the afternoon session.

The Committee has published two letters to Ministers regarding its scrutiny of the Welsh Government draft budget proposals 2014-15. Both letters and

their respective Government responses can be accessed by clicking on the links below:

[Letter to the Minister for Education and Skills](#) – 23 October 2013

[Response from the Minister](#) – 11 November 2013

[Letter to the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport](#) – 23 October 2013

[Response from the Minister](#) – 7 November 2013

### **City Regions**

The Committee held a one-off scrutiny session on City Regions with the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport on 25 September. The Committee will continue to monitor the Welsh Government's progress in this topic area.

### **Structure of the Rail Industry**

Following additional evidence submitted by Railfuture to the Wales and Borders Rail Franchise inquiry, namely the report prepared by Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change (CRESC), 'The Conceit of Enterprise: train operators and trade narrative', the committee decided to have a discussion on the broader issues surrounding the structure of rail transport. This session was held on 21 November 2013.

### **Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T) and Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Regulations**

The Committee held an evidence session on the new TEN-T and CEF Regulations with officials from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) on 21 November 2013. The purpose of the session was to gain further understanding of the opportunities arising from the Regulations and to also seek clarification on why Wales's infrastructure no longer features in a TEN-T core network corridor. The Committee followed this up with a scrutiny session with the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport on 5 December and will also scrutinise Robert Goodwill MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport on 16 January.

### **Metro for Wales's Capital City Region**

The Committee held a one-off scrutiny session on the concept of a Metro for Wales's Capital City Region on 5 December. Among those in attendance for the session was the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport and Mark

Barry, the main author of the Ministerial commissioned impact study on the Metro project.

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

Stage 3 consideration and disposal of amendments took place in Plenary on 1 October 2013 and the Bill was agreed by the Assembly on 1 October 2013. Royal Assent was given on 4 November 2013. Click [here](#) for information on the Bill

### **Severn Tunnel Pumping Station visit**

On 7 November the Committee visited the Severn Tunnel Pumping Station to discuss recent tunnel closures with Network Rail and for a tour of the facility. The Committee used the social networking site Twitter for the first time on this visit.

### **Committee activity for the spring term 2014:**

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

- The Committee will hold a one-day inquiry on the impact and legacy of the World Music Expo festival (**WOMEX**) on 16 January 2014.
- Following the evidence session on the new **TEN-T** and **CEF Regulations** with the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) on 21 November 2013 and Ministerial scrutiny on 5 December the Committee decided to invite the Department for Transport to provide evidence. This session is scheduled for the afternoon of 16 January.
- The Committee will be commencing an inquiry into the [Welsh Government's approach to the promotion of trade and inward investment](#). The Committee is currently running a consultation exercise and will begin taking evidence from key stakeholders on 22 January. Scrutiny sessions with the First Minister and the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport are scheduled for March.
- The Committee will be commencing an inquiry into [EU funding opportunities 2014-2020](#). The Committee is currently running a consultation exercise and is due to take evidence from key stakeholders and to scrutinise the Minister for Finance on 20 March.

The Committee is due to visit Brussels in February to gain background information from European Commission officials and to raise Members' understanding on how the various funding programmes operate.

- The Committee will hold a scrutiny session with the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport on her **budget outturn for 2012-13** and on the six monthly update that the Minister offered to provide the Committee on progress against her Programme for Government commitments. This session is scheduled for 19 February.
- The Committee will hold a follow-up scrutiny session on **Cardiff Airport** with the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport on 20 March, which makes the first anniversary of the Welsh Government purchasing the airport.
- The Committee will hold a one-day inquiry on the **role of social enterprises in the Welsh economy** on 3 April. This is intended to follow on from the Third Assembly's Enterprise and Learning Committee's 2010 report and the scrutiny session that the Enterprise and Business Committee held with the Minister on 4 July 2012. The Committee will scrutinise the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport and Professor Andrew Davies, Chair of the Welsh Commission on Co-operatives and Mutuals.
- The Committee will hold a scrutiny session on **Enterprise Zones** with the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport on 3 April.

## 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 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 [michael.lewis@wales.gov.uk](mailto:michael.lewis@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.**