

Agenda – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Meeting date: 15 November 2021

Meeting time: 14.00

For further information contact:

Gareth Price – Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

Petitions@senedd.wales

1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

(Pages 1 – 28)

2 Evidence Session – P-06-1224 Design a 'Care Leavers Plus' Universal Basic Income pilot that includes a range of people

(Pages 29 – 33)

Jonathan Rhys Williams, Lead Petitioner

3 New Petitions

3.1 P-06-1185 Introduce a minimum 3 year residency requirement for all Senedd Election candidates

(Pages 34 – 38)

3.2 P-06-1186 Prevent anyone who hasn't lived in Wales for at least 6 months from standing in Senedd elections

(Pages 39 – 42)

3.3 P-06-1206 Review Welsh General Practice Access standards in light of pandemic

(Pages 43 – 48)

3.4 P-06-1207 Start referring to Welsh cities and towns by their Welsh names

(Pages 49 – 57)

3.5 P-06-1210 Stop the Welsh Government introducing a blanket 20mph speed limit

(Pages 58 – 63)



- 3.6 P-06-1211 Remove the average speed cameras and 50mph speed limit on the M4 between Newport and Cardiff
(Pages 64 – 73)
- 3.7 P-06-1213 Ban leisure use of Seadoo/jet ski in Cymru. Except in strictly controlled designated areas
(Pages 74 – 79)

4 Updates to previous petitions

Health and Social Services

- 4.1 P-05-912 Supporting Families with Sudden and Unexpected Death in Children and Young Adults
(Pages 80 – 82)
- 4.2 P-05-1078 Increase funding for mental health services and improve waiting times for people needing help in crisis. We need a change!
(Pages 83 – 88)
- 4.3 P-05-1106 Introduce Personal Health Budgets and Personalised Care in Wales
(Pages 89 – 90)
- 4.4 P-06-1161 Routine collection and publication of data of how many babies/children return to their care experienced parents care at the end of a Parent and Child Placement
(Pages 91 – 94)

Culture , Sport and Tourism

- 4.5 P-05-949 SAVE COWBRIDGE OLD GIRLS' SCHOOL FROM DEMOLITION
(Pages 95 – 98)

Environment and Rural Affairs

4.6 P-05-895 Rosa's Legacy: Introduce a scheme to help people access veterinary care for their companion animals
(Pages 99 – 104)

4.7 P-05-1040 Introduce a moratorium on the approval any new large scale waste incinerators in Wales
(Pages 105 – 107)

Local Government

4.8 P-05-1112 Help Welsh Communities Buy Community Assets: Implement Part 5 Chapter 3 of the Localism Act 2011
(Pages 108 – 114)

Education

4.9 P-06-1160 Require local Welsh exam centres to accept home-educated students for public exams
(Pages 115 – 117)

4.10 P-06-1163 Extend the postgraduate STEMM bursary to all MSc students in Wales
(Pages 118 – 121)

4.11 P-06-1178 Free school meals for all pupils in Wales
(Pages 122 – 126)

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from item 6 of the meeting.

6 Discussion of Evidence Session – P-06-1224 Design a 'Care Leavers Plus' Universal Basic Income pilot that includes a range of people

Document is Restricted

Design a 'Care Leavers Plus' Universal Basic Income pilot that includes a range of people

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 15 Tachwedd 2021
Petitions Committee | 15 November 2021

Reference: SR21/1262

Petition Number: P-06-1224

Petition title: Design a 'Care Leavers Plus' Universal Basic Income pilot that includes a range of people.

Text of petition: We're asking the Welsh Government to design a geographically-based Universal Basic Income (UBI) that includes children, the employed, the unemployed and pensioners, as well as care leavers.

This will allow the Welsh Government and the general public to understand how the policy would impact Wales if it were rolled out tomorrow.



1. Background

A petition to design a 'Care Leavers Plus' Universal Basic Income (UBI) pilot that includes a range of people has been submitted to the Petitions Committee.

There are many models of UBI but the general understanding is that it describes an approach where the government provides adults with a standard, regular, unconditional payment, regardless of their other income. It is sometimes referred to as 'basic income' where a specified group of people, as opposed to all adults, receive a payment. Some argue a UBI should provide enough to live on by itself; others support more limited universal payments, made alongside existing social security systems.

The extensive writing on UBI shows support and criticism from a wide range of viewpoints. The UBI Lab Network, Basic Income and the Royal Society for Arts, Manufactures and Commerce call for UBI. Others have expressed more sceptical views, including the Centre for Social Justice, the Institute for Economic Affairs, and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Proponents of UBI argue that a basic income:

- is every citizen's right, providing security from poverty and improving health and well-being;
- can distribute national income more equitably;
- can reward non-wage labour such as caring;
- gives workers freedom to choose other, perhaps more entrepreneurial, options; and
- is simple and easier to understand than complex social security systems.

However, opponents argue that UBI:

- is extremely costly (with the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd indicating a full UBI in Wales could cost between £35-40 billion);
- isn't targeted, so money also goes to those who don't need it;
- represents a significant shift from existing social security systems; and
- can provide a disincentive for people to seek employment.

1.1. Undertaking a pilot

Welsh Government plans for a UBI pilot are at an early stage, but look to be focussed on a small, targeted group of care leavers. The benefits of carrying out a pilot include:

- Building awareness and improving public understanding;
- Generating debate among key stakeholders;
- Building an evidence-base on basic income's social and psychological impacts;
- Generating practical insights, helping to identify unintended consequences and iron out any potential difficulties associated with the implementation and administration of a basic income; and
- Collecting data on the impacts of a basic income that can be used to further inform the design of a national model.

A number of individuals and organisations have proposed alternatives to the existing proposals, with a focus on extending the pilot. [UBI Lab Cymru](#), the [Future Generations Commissioner Sophie Howe](#), [Women's Equality Network \(WEN\) Wales](#), [Chwarae Teg](#) and the [Basic Income Earth Network](#) wrote an [open letter calling on the First Minister](#) to consider a:

'Care Leavers Plus' pilot that includes a demographically representative sample of the entire population, as well as care leavers.

[Jonathan Rhys Williams](#) from UBI Lab Cymru has called for a three-year, geographically spread non-means-tested pilot. The plan would involve around a minimum of **5,000 people**, who would receive a weekly payment of between **£100 to £150**. The pilot would cost **£120 million**.

In '[Fit for the Future Programme for Government](#)', the Future Generations Commissioner has supported a similar approach, which involves a 2-year, non-means-tested pilot which involves a urban and rural setting.

The independent think tank [Autonomy](#) has also called for a **two year pilot** which includes **5000 people**. Costing an estimated **£99 million**, they recommend conducting a pilot with an entire community in a particular location and argue that, running a pilot targeted at a specific social group would fail to capture the universal aspect, and limit the learning and insights.

Platform would like to see the pilot include people with a mental health diagnosis, and the impact on people's wellbeing being included as part of the evaluation of the pilot.

The Institute of Welsh Affairs (IWA) has published two opinion pieces, one arguing that the pilot provides "a potentially transformative measure for a vulnerable group who are being failed by our social security system". Conversely, a second piece believes that the pilot is not wide-ranging or large enough.

Several other countries have explored options for implementing UBI through a pilot study. A Basic Income Experiment was undertaken in Finland between 2017-2018. 2,000 unemployed people aged 25-58 received a monthly payment of €560. The experiment found that employment effects were small, "but recipients were "more satisfied with their lives and experienced less mental strain" and had "a more positive perception of their economic welfare". Pilots have been conducted in several states in California, and in July 2021 California lawmakers approved a state-funded guaranteed income programme which enables states and counties to apply for funding from a \$35 million pool to support pilots which gives priority to **young people who have left the care system and pregnant mothers**. The pilot will last for five years. Under the plans, local officials can decide on the payments, which are thought to range from \$500 to \$1,000. There will be no rules on how people spend the payment.

2. Welsh Government action

Although the Welsh Government plans for a UBI pilot are at an early stage, in October the First Minister provided further details and confirmed the pilot would run for about three years, will involve around **250 care leavers**, be and **'pitched at the real living wage'**,

During plenary in October, the First Minister confirmed the pilot would begin in April 2022 and explained that the ongoing work to develop the pilot has been shaped by advice from the Care Leavers Forum and Care in Wales. He said that the pilot will give 'us valuable information for the future about how the concept of basic income could **apply to other groups more widely across the Welsh population'**.

A key challenge for the Welsh Government will be developing a pilot that is within the devolution settlement. The Minister for Finance and Local Government,

Rebecca Evans MS previously said (in her former role as Minister for Finance and Trefnydd) that a UBI trial:

[...] would not be possible without the active co-operation of the UK Government, and this is because of the interaction of universal basic income with the tax and benefit system.

3. Welsh Parliament action

The interest in UBI has increased in Wales. On 30 September the Senedd debated and passed a motion calling for the Welsh Government to establish a UBI Trial in Wales.

Heading into the election, the campaign group UBI Lab Wales secured pledges supporting a pilot from 105 candidates (25 of whom were elected), alongside policy commitments in the Plaid Cymru, Welsh Liberal Democrat and Wales Green Party manifestos. Four councils – in Swansea, Rhondda Cynon-Taf, Cardiff and Gwynedd – also passed motions calling for pilots to take place in their local area.

To mitigate the impact of the pandemic, Adam Price MS, leader of Plaid Cymru, called for a temporary UBI to be introduced to support 'self-employed people, freelancers and those on zero hours contracts'. Jane Dodds, leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats, has backed the Welsh Government pilot, but has called for the scheme to be widened to include more people.

4. UK Parliament Action

The Welsh Affairs Select Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry in to The Benefits System in Wales, and took evidence on UBI during its session on 3 November. Further evidence sessions are planned for December, and a report is likely to be published early in 2022.

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.

Residency requirement for Senedd election candidates

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 15 Tachwedd 2021
Petitions Committee | 15 November 2021

Reference: SR21/837-12

Petition Number: P-06-1185

Petition title: Introduce a minimum 3 year residency requirement for all Senedd Election candidates

Text of petition:

There have been several high profile cases of Senedd candidates standing or being elected, despite having never lived in Wales.

We propose Elected members of the Senedd should be required to have lived in Wales for a minimum of 3 years prior to candidacy, in order that they understand the communities they seek to represent.

We believe parachuting of candidates from outside of Wales, into the Senedd, undermines the quality and integrity of Welsh politics and must be prevented.



1. Candidates for 2021 Senedd Election

The petitioner references *'several high profile cases of Senedd candidates standing or being elected, despite having never lived in Wales'*.

It was reported that at least 23 candidates standing in the May 2021 Senedd general election were not resident in Wales. Only one elected Member of the Senedd is reported as having 'admitted to living outside Wales' during the Fifth Senedd.

'Parachuting' candidates is an expression used to describe the practice of standing political candidates in constituencies or regions with which they do not necessarily have a connection.

2. No residency requirement for candidates

To stand as a candidate in a Senedd general election, a person must:

- be at least 18 years old,
- be a British citizen, a qualifying Commonwealth citizen, a qualifying foreign citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland or a citizen of the European Union who is resident in the United Kingdom; and
- not be disqualified by virtue of their job, bankruptcy or imprisonment.

There is no requirement in law for a candidate to be a resident and registered elector in Wales.

3. Competence to implement a residency requirement

The Senedd has legislative competence in relation to certain elements of devolved elections under the Government of Wales Act 2006 (as amended by the Wales Act 2017).

Standing requirements for candidates at Senedd elections is not expressly reserved under Schedule 7A to the Government of Wales Act 2006.

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Eich cyf/Your ref P 06 1185
Ein cyf/Our ref FM -/10257/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair
Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

petitions@senedd.wales

3rd November 2021

Dear Jack,

I am writing in response to petitions P-06-1185 and P-06-1186, which both relate to a residency requirement for candidates in Senedd elections.

There is currently no requirement for Senedd candidates to reside in Wales either prior to their candidacy or during their term of office. However, to stand as a candidate, an individual must be one of the following:

- A British citizen
- A qualifying Commonwealth citizen
- A qualifying foreign citizen
- A citizen of the Republic of Ireland
- A citizen of the European Union who is resident in the United Kingdom.

The choice of candidates is a matter for political parties and the methods used for choosing a candidate can vary. In some cases, a candidate is selected for a constituency or region by the party's leadership. In others, the selection is determined by a vote within the membership of the local branch of the party. There are also independent candidates, who are free to decide for themselves where they stand.

The petitions raise some interesting questions about what makes an effective representative and about the relationship between the candidate and their prospective constituents. An elected representative is chosen by voters to speak on their behalf in the Senedd and to do so requires knowledge about the people living in the constituency and the unique

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challenges they face. It also requires the Member to maintain the confidence of their constituents should they wish to be re-elected.

The impact of residential status on the effectiveness of a candidate is not easily quantified. In theory, a person who has lived and was raised in an area is going to have a greater knowledge of the issues faced by their constituents, on the basis of their own lived experience. However, such local knowledge can be learned and it could be argued that the ability of the candidate to engage and develop a relationship with their constituents is of greater importance. While prior local knowledge can be an advantage, the effectiveness of a candidate is dependent on a wide range of skills.

A prohibition on candidacy for those who reside outside Wales would prevent those with genuine connections and interests from standing as a candidate. For example, an individual may have been born and raised in Wales, and only recently moved away, but such a person would be disqualified under the petitions' proposals, despite having a genuine connection. This would also place an obligation on such candidates to undertake a significant and costly change to their living arrangements before knowing for certain that they have been elected.

Such a proposal may be more appropriate to a Member's term of office. Once elected to the Senedd, it makes little sense for a Member to live outside of Wales. Although technology has provided the opportunity for greater communication over distances, allowing more people to work remotely, this may not always be conducive to the work of a Member which requires an active engagement in the community. This involves regular surgeries, attending local events and visiting businesses and places of interest within the area. Constituency casework can involve cases of a highly sensitive and emotional nature, for which virtual working could present an additional unnecessary barrier. This is not to say that Members cannot undertake some of their work remotely, but much of a Members work inevitably requires their presence within their constituency.

The implementation of a residency requirement for candidates or Members of the Senedd would need consultation with a range of stakeholders to consider the full implications of such a change on potential and existing Members. Consideration would have to be given to the effect on the rights of those impacted, the extent to which any provision is necessary to achieve particular aims, including its proportionality, and whether there are any alternative options to achieve the same aims or any ways of mitigating any harms that may be caused. In the same way that the right to vote should be protected, the right to stand for elected office should not be removed from individuals without good reason.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARK DRAKEFORD

Residency requirement for Senedd election candidates

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 15 Tachwedd 2021
Petitions Committee | 15 November 2021

Reference: SR21/837-13

Petition Number: P-06-1186

Petition title: Prevent anyone who hasn't lived in Wales for at least 6 months from standing in Senedd elections

Text of petition:

Certain political parties are parachuting in candidates from all around the UK for the 2021 Senedd elections.

These candidates dilute the value of the Senedd by bringing in candidates that do not know the Welsh people let alone the constituents they are due to represent.



1. Candidates for 2021 Senedd Election

It was reported that at least 23 candidates standing in the May 2021 Senedd general election were not resident in Wales.

'Parachuting' candidates is an expression used to describe the practice of standing political candidates in constituencies or regions with which they do not necessarily have a connection.

2. No residency requirement for candidates

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- be at least 18 years old,
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A prohibition on candidacy for those who reside outside Wales would prevent those with genuine connections and interests from standing as a candidate. For example, an individual may have been born and raised in Wales, and only recently moved away, but such a person would be disqualified under the petitions' proposals, despite having a genuine connection. This would also place an obligation on such candidates to undertake a significant and costly change to their living arrangements before knowing for certain that they have been elected.

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Yours sincerely,

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MARK DRAKEFORD

Review Welsh General Practice Access standards in light of pandemic

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 15 Tachwedd 2021
Petitions Committee | 15 November 2021

Reference: SR21/1044-1

Petition Number: P-06-1206

Petition title: Review Welsh General Practice Access standards in light of pandemic

Text of petition:

GPs in Wales have been set an unachievable target of answering 90% of calls within 2 minutes in order to receive full funding. This is nigh on impossible to achieve under normal circumstances but due to increased demand and staff shortages this is unrealistic during a pandemic.

1. Background

On 20 March 2019, the Minister for Health and Social Services announced the Access to In-Hours General Medical Services (GMS) Services Standards. Underpinned by clear measurables, expected achievements by March 2021 and supported by a delivery milestone under the Primary Care Model for Wales, the Standards set clear requirements on practices in terms of minimum expectations relating to access, including an increased digital offering.



The Access Standards for 2019/20 were published in October 2019, including the requirement that 90% of calls should be answered within 2 minutes of the recorded message ending.

2. Development of the Access Standards

The Access Standards for 2020/21, (published October 2020) were reworded very slightly, requiring that 90% of calls are answered within 2 minutes of the introductory message ending. The guidance on the Standards noted that:

The Standards set out within this guidance have been amended from the 2019/20 guidance, to take account of changes in working practice necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic. All amendments have been agreed between Welsh Government, GPC Wales and NHS Wales.

On 21 May 2021 the British Medical Association (BMA) published an update on the 2020/21 GMS contract for Wales. The BMA noted that the existing access standards would remain in place for the remainder of 2020/21, following their introduction in 2019, but that a new phase of standards would be introduced for 2021 onwards and continually discussed in future negotiations.

In July 2021 the Welsh Government subsequently published updated Supplementary guidance for the GMS contract Wales 2020/21. This supplements the 2019/20 guidance and the October 2020 guidance, to take account of changes in working practice necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. It notes that “All amendments have been agreed through the tripartite approach between Welsh Government, GPC Wales and NHS Wales”, and sets out in relation to access standards that:

The last year has not provided a true platform to show how the current standards have improved access. It was agreed that a further year of the current standards would be maintained to 31 March 2022 to allow the measures to embed and a true measurement taken of how effective the standards have been in improving access for all.

Contractors will be paid annually for the standards completed during a QAIF (Access) year subject to evidencing that they have complied with the relevant access standards for at least one calendar month prior to the end of the financial year for which payment is being claimed. Contractors are expected to achieve standards 1 to 7 by 31 March 2022

and are required to report their achievement progress at the end of each quarter. The below standards remain for 2021/22. (p.4)

These updated Standards include:

Standard 2: People receive a prompt response to their contact with a practice via telephone. **Achievement for this Standard at the end of March 2021 will be carried forwards with achievement for this standard being counted as the same as at March 2020, with practices retaining the ability to evidence achievement if they didn't last year. Full achievement will be required in 2022 to receive the payment for this standard.** (p.5)

3. Welsh Government response to the petition

On 12 October 2021, the Minister for Health and Social Services wrote to the Chair of the Committee in relation to the petition, recognising that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed enormous pressure on the whole health and social care system, and noting that:

A letter was sent to all GPs in Wales on 2 March 2021 which acknowledged that the past year has not provided a true platform on how the current access standards have improved access. We agreed to extend the funding for a further year, standards to 31 March 2022, to allow the measures to embed and a true assessment made of how effective the standards have been in improving access for all.

[...]The Access Standards, including any amendments made, are measured and funded as part of the GMS contract and as such form part of annual negotiations between Welsh Government, GPC Wales and NHS Wales. Tripartite contract negotiations commenced in July and are ongoing and I will be making a statement once they conclude.

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Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1206
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/12451/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

12 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 10 September about the Petition P-06-1206 regarding Reviewing Welsh General Practice Access standards in light of the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed enormous pressure on the whole health and social care system and I am extremely thankful to the profession and all practice staff for their agile and innovative response in being able to continue to provide care to our most vulnerable in society.

A letter was sent to all GPs in Wales on 2 March 2021 which acknowledged that the past year has not provided a true platform on how the current access standards have improved access. We agreed to extend the funding for a further year, standards to 31 March 2022, to allow the measures to embed and a true assessment made of how effective the standards have been in improving access for all.

Currently, 76% of all GP practices in Wales have achieved all of the GMS in-hours access standards, compared to 65% last year. This is a great achievement in continuing to improve primary care access for communities across Wales.

The Access Standards, including any amendments made, are measured and funded as part of the GMS contract and as such form part of annual negotiations between Welsh Government, GPC Wales and NHS Wales. Tripartite contract negotiations commenced in July and are ongoing and I will be making a statement once they conclude.

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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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

Minister for Health and Social Services

Start referring to Welsh cities and towns by their Welsh names

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 15 Tachwedd 2021
Petitions Committee | 15 November 2021

Reference: SR21/1044-8

Petition Number: P-06-1207

Petition title: Start referring to Welsh cities and towns by their Welsh names

Text of petition: The Senedd, and other bodies, should start using Welsh terms if they want to successfully increase the use of the Welsh language, they must set an example to others. Instead of referring to Caerdydd by its English given name, 'Cardiff', use its Welsh name instead. After all, speaking Welsh in Wales is no longer a crime - is it not?

"Do as I say, not as I do" it's time to lead by example.



1. Background

The names of Welsh villages, towns and cities have developed over a period of two millennia. While the **majority of place-names in Wales are Welsh**, the origin of some place-names lie in English, French, Latin, Irish, Norse and Brittonic/British (evolving to become *Cymraeg* as we know it today).

Examples of some recognisable **Welsh only place-names** include Aberystwyth, Bangor, Tonypany, Penarth and Pontypridd. However, there are several examples of cities, towns and villages in Wales that have both a Welsh and English name.

Some of those places with Welsh and English names have very **similar spelling and pronunciation** in both languages. Places like:

- *Caerffili* - Caerphilly;
- *Caerdydd* - Cardiff;
- *Merthyr Tudful* - Merthyr Tydfil;
- *Treorci* - Treorchy.

Dr. Dylan Foster Evans expands on the evolution of Welsh place-names in this brief article - [What's in a name?](#) He notes that Cardiff, for instance, 'derives from the medieval Welsh *Caerdyf* (which also gives us the modern Welsh *Caerdydd*)'. He notes that linguists believe the name was likely 'coined in the British language, back when the Romans occupied Cardiff some 2,000 years ago'.

There are examples of English names such as Flint (*Y Fflint*), Wrexham (*Wrecsam*) and Caldicot (*Cil-y-coed*) that have been adopted by the Welsh rather than the other way around. Similarly, the original name for Birmmores was the Norman-French name - Beaumaris.

Other places in Wales have alternate names unrelated to each other. Examples include:

- Newport - *Casnewydd* (the Welsh meaning New Castle);
- Swansea (derived from the Norse meaning Svein's Island) - *Abertawe* (the Welsh meaning the Mouth of the River Tawe);
- Brecon (derived from Welsh Kingdom of Brycheiniog) - *Aberhonddu* (Welsh taken from River Honddu)
- Anglesey (derived again from Norse - *Ongul*), while the Welsh name *Môn*, was first recorded as Latin *Mona*.

There are examples of anglicised Welsh place-names gradually ceasing to be accepted or used, including Caernarvon (Caernarfon), Conway (Conwy), Portmadoc (Porthmadog) and Llanelly (Llanelli).

There are also places where there are ongoing disagreements over whether the Welsh spelling should be used exclusively or not, such in Varteg (Farteg) which has had some publicity in recent times.

2. The Place-names Standardisation Panel

The Welsh Language Commissioner, an independent body established by the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, is responsible for providing advice on the standard forms of Welsh place-names. A list of standard forms of the Welsh names of villages, towns and cities in Wales is available online for anyone wishing to use it.

The Commissioner established a panel of experts to work on and make recommendations on the standard form of Welsh place-names. The Commissioner's website notes that in forming its recommendations, 'the Place-names Standardisation Panel gives consideration to the **meaning, history and etymology of the place-names**, as well as their **current usage**'. The panel is also guided by the Guidelines for Standardising Place-names in Wales. Section 9 – *Dual forms* notes the following advice for the panel to consider:

If the difference between the Welsh form and the 'English' form consists of **only one or two letters**, the use of a **single form is recommended**, with **preference being given to the Welsh form**. This accords with the recommendations of the Ordnance Survey and the Highway Authorities. However, recognized variations should be acknowledged (Caeriw/Carew, Biwmares/Beaumaris, Y Fflint/Flint, Wrecsam/Wrexham).

3. Welsh Parliament action

The Senedd has considered several petitions in the last few years relating to Welsh place-names and Welsh house names. During the first half of 2020, a petition was submitted which called to revert to the Welsh language spelling of place-names. The specific action the petitioners called for was:

Wales has many place names which have needlessly been Anglicised, and have often been replaced by Anglicised forms for no good reason.

[...] I, and the undersigned, therefore petition the Welsh Assembly to take action and change these Anglicised forms of Welsh names – throughout Wales – and restore their original Welsh spellings.

The Petitions Committee of the 5th Senedd considered the petition in June 2020. The petition gathered 1,096 signatures.

During the second half of 2020, a petition calling for legislation to prevent people from changing Welsh house names was submitted to the Senedd. This petition gathered 18,103 signatures, and was debated in Plenary on 20 January 2020. The previous Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and the Welsh Language stated during the debate:

I have to admit that this is an issue that I am concerned about, but there are practical problems that we need to look at... I'm happy to see whether it's possible for us to do something on a statutory basis as well. But, I have to say, I'm not sure if it's possible, but I'm more than happy to see if we can move further in this area.

In 2018, a petition calling on the Senedd to protect and promote Welsh place-names was submitted. It gathered 431 signatures. The specific action the petitioner called for was:

Increasingly historic Welsh place names and house names are being replaced by English names. This kills the local culture and one of the elements which makes Wales unique... Old Welsh place names/building names should be protected by law; and new developments should have a mandatory Welsh name in order to preserve our unique culture and language.

A year earlier, Dai Lloyd MS won the ballot to propose a Member's bill: Development of the Protection of Welsh Historical Place Names Bill. A Plenary debate was held on 15 March 2017.

The Welsh Government did not support the bill, and it did not receive leave to proceed.

As part of its 2017 inquiry into the Historic Environment, the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee (of the 5th Senedd) considered the List of Historic Place Names of Wales. It stated that the Welsh Government should keep the matter under "active review and should be willing to introduce further protection for historic place names if the current list does not prove effective".

4. Welsh Government action

The previous Welsh Government outlined its activity in this area in response to the petition in 2018 calling on the Senedd to protect and promote Welsh place-names. It noted that, following the passing of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016, the Welsh Government introduced a statutory list of historic place names, and that:

Statutory guidance requires local and National Parks authorities and Natural Resources Wales to take account of the list when their functions involve naming or renaming places. This includes the naming or renaming of streets, properties and other places, either directly or by another party. The intention is that the operation of the list and the statutory guidance together will lead to a reduction in the number of formal changes to historic property names.

However, the Welsh Government noted:

...these measures stop short of providing formal protection for historic place names. Detailed consideration was given to providing statutory protection for historic place names during the development of the 2016 Act.

In response to the petition calling to revert to the Welsh language spelling of place-names, the Minister for the Welsh Language at the time noted that:

The Welsh Language Commissioner is responsible for providing advice to individuals and organisations on the standardised forms of place names in Wales. The Commissioner's List of Standardised Welsh Place-names is a useful online resource, which can be searched or downloaded to find the standardised names of villages, towns and cities in Wales...

However, the Commissioner's role is to suggest forms and spellings for place-names, rather than to enforce them.

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.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1207
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/11086/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

11 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter concerning a petition calling on the Senedd, and other bodies, to start referring to Welsh cities and towns by their Welsh names. Although the petition refers to the Senedd specifically, I take it for granted that it also refers to Welsh Ministers and the Welsh Government.

To answer the first point, in relation to increasing the use of Welsh, the Welsh Government is committed to growing the language. Our *Cymraeg 2050* strategy, which sets out how we want to see the Welsh language developing and expanding, has established itself, and our targets to increase the number of speakers to a million and double daily use of the language, drive policies across the Government. In that sense, the strategy has done much to change the discourse surrounding the language, and to make the narrative a positive one.

Turning to the comment in relation to place names, our most recent Programme for Government contains a commitment that we will: Work to protect Welsh place names.

As you know, this is a complex area, and includes a number of layers which all need to be approached differently. As a rule, we separate place names into 3 different parts:

1. Settlement names
2. Topographical features and historic names
3. House names

These three layers are being taken forward jointly by Cadw, the Welsh Language Division, and the Welsh Language Commissioner, with Cadw responsible for historic place-names policy, and the Commissioner standardising the Welsh names of cities, towns and villages. My predecessor as Minister responsible for the Welsh language appeared before the Committee in January this year, and provided a paper outlining the issues in this area. Our

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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.

work in this respect continues, and we are exploring options for how best to protect Welsh place-names.

However, the petitioner goes into slightly different territory in asking us to use only Welsh names for towns and cities.

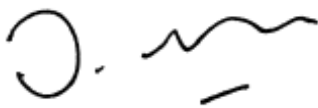
In some examples, where the pronunciation of the Welsh and English names for a town or city is so similar that there's a strong argument for having only one spelling, I think it can make sense to stick with the Welsh spelling. In these cases, I would support the principle promoted by the Welsh Language Commissioner, namely that we should aim for one spelling when there are only a few letters of difference between the Welsh and English versions. In this context, our draft policy on Welsh Language Linguistic Infrastructure (a consultation on the policy ended in July) noted the need to promote and raise the status of place-names which have been standardised, and to raise awareness of the List of Standardised Welsh Place-names which is maintained by the Commissioner.

But things get a little more complicated when a town or city has different names in Welsh and English. Every town, village or city has its own unique history, and that history will have influenced how its name or names have taken root, developed and changed over the course of centuries.

As an example, the petitioner refers specifically to Cardiff, a city whose name shows how complex the issue can be. The modern Welsh name for the city, *Caerdydd*, comes from the mediaeval Welsh form, *Caerdyf*, which in English has developed into the modern spelling of *Cardiff* (with the Welsh 'f' (or v) becoming 'ff' in English). By discarding the modern 'English' name, one could argue that we're also erasing the connection with the city's mediaeval Welsh name.

These are very often local issues, and although I wholeheartedly support the practice of using "Senedd" exclusively in everyday language, in English and Welsh, as well as how the Football Association of Wales use "Cymru" when communicating in both languages, in the case of place-names, I think they need to find a way of reflecting the wider range of perspectives and implications which exist, as the previous paragraph insinuates.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a circular mark followed by a wavy line and a short horizontal stroke.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

**P-06-1207 Start referring to Welsh cities and towns by their Welsh names, Correspondence –
Petitioner to Committee, 08.11.21**

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Jack Sargent MS
Chair – Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1SN

2 November 2021

Dear Jack,

I would firstly like to thank you for taking the petition into consideration. It means a great deal to me that the voices of myself and many others, who join me as Welsh speakers, are being acknowledged. It is crucial that necessary steps are taken to protect what is left of our language after the hardships it has faced. Understandably so, current efforts towards the preservation of the Welsh language are fairly recent and feedback should be welcomed. Having grown up in a predominantly Welsh community, listening to others around me and exploring various ways on how efforts towards the preservation of the language could be improved makes me keen to bring possible new ideas into your Cymraeg 2050.

I agree, the opportunity should be taken to ensure that Welsh cities and towns are also referred to by their Welsh names by Welsh Ministers and the Welsh Government. I cannot say I disagree with any aspect that has been presented in the letter. However, towards the end of the letter I notice that the issue with regarding towns by their Welsh name and discarding the English given name could be considered erasing the connection with Medieval Wales. It is understandable that some town names will have historical connections yet, its documentation will remain we cannot guarantee that our language will do the same in the later future since it has proved to be in immense danger in the past. Not only that, but the Welsh language cannot be compared to a historical era or a period in history. It is common for historical eras to disappear naturally; however, we should be reminded that our language did not disappear naturally. I also notice you agree with the use of the term 'Cymru' and 'Senedd' – should you investigate the term 'Prydain' for Britain, I strongly believe it should become another popularised Welsh term in Wales and further establishes the connection to our country.

Before I go into slightly more detail on the Welsh language, I would like to state reasoning behind the petition, I wrote this petition a while ago after reflecting upon my experience in education. Of course, Welsh is compulsory for Key Stage 4 learners in schools across Wales, due to the government's initial decision to do so in 1999. However, during my time in education I had found that hatred towards Welsh as a subject was not uncommon – it was rather disheartening. The main argument my peers had for this hatred was that it was never used by anyone outside of the education system it was only by paying closer attention to government figures in Wales, I had noticed that the language was rarely ever used. Whilst I wholeheartedly agree that making Welsh a compulsory subject was a step in the right direction, myself – and many others – do not believe that the current fault lies within the legislation but rather the attitude possessed by public figures in Wales as stated, by Welsh Ministers. It is for this reason I made the decision to start the petition.

I also notice you cover education in Wales, and it would be a missed opportunity, especially whilst on topic, not to discuss key points on how Welsh is taught. Many would join me in agreement that the way second language Welsh is taught at GCSE level is not taught very well rather than help young people become enthusiastic about their heritage and home, it makes young people gain an alarming disinterest in the language which can have an overall negative affect in the future – for example, they would not want their children to attend Welsh schools due to their negative experience, many people have already witnessed this consequence in action. I think there are many possible ways to combat this. Firstly, I do not believe that we have a strong sense of identity as a nation. Not many Welsh children are aware of their heritage and just how wonderful it truly is and it is due to this reason they do not have a connection to the language. You cannot have language without history and therefore, I think it is crucial to teach young people of key Welsh figures such as Gwenllian ferch Gruffydd, Betsi Cadwaladr, Owain Glyndwr, Roald Dahl. Not only that, but Welsh mythology will draw children and young people into learning the language – stories such as Rhiannon, Y Tylwyth Teg, and Branwen from the Mabinogion will not fail in establishing a connection between language and identity due to its intriguing nature. Of course, it would mean the most if you consider what I have discussed in this letter, many in this country wish to see a change in our education and have been eager to see this change for generations.

I understand that a some will disagree with what I put forward to you however, it's important that you do not alter the necessities of Wales to suit a small minority.

I would like to take the time to thank you, once again, for taking my petition into consideration, it means a great deal to me. I hope, as do many others, that Wales sees some significant and impactful changes in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Madison Lorraine

P-06-1210 Stop the Welsh Government introducing a blanket 20mph speed limit

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 15 Tachwedd 2020
Petitions Committee | 15 November 2021

Reference: SR21/1044-10

Petition Number: P-06-1210

Petition title: Stop the Welsh Government introducing a blanket 20mph speed limit.

Text of petition: Speed limits should be set by local authorities and should be only 20mph where necessary.

1. Background

The Welsh Government is the highway authority and traffic authority responsible for the Welsh trunk road and motorway network. Local authorities are responsible for local roads.

In 2009 the Welsh Government published its current guidance on setting local speed limits. In line with this guidance the Welsh Government is responsible for



setting speed limits on trunk roads. Local authorities are responsible for setting speed limits on local roads with 20mph limits “encouraged where appropriate”.

The guidance also distinguishes between 20mph limits and zones. 20mph zones are designed to be “self-enforcing” due to traffic calming measures which are introduced along with the change in the speed limit. 20mph limits consist of just a speed limit change but no physical measures to reduce vehicle speeds within the area.

In May 2019 during Plenary, the First Minister stated “the Welsh Government believe that 20mph should be the default speed limit for residential areas”. The First Minister also acknowledged that local authorities would need discretion to maintain a 30mph limit on “key arterial routes”.

Impact of 20mph limits

Evidence on the impact of 20mph limits on issues like casualty rates, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions has often been described as mixed.

In 2018 the Welsh Government published a study on the state of the evidence for 20mph limits on road safety, active travel and air pollution. Also in 2018 the UK Government Department for Transport published research on the effectiveness of these limits. The UK Government Research found that:

...there is insufficient evidence to conclude that there has been a significant change in collisions and casualties following the introduction of 20mph limits in residential areas...

Recent research from road safety charity IAM RoadSmart found support in the UK for reducing the speed limit on all urban roads from 30mph to 20mph has increased in recent years. However its Director of Policy and Research suggests a blanket introduction of a 20mph limit isn't necessarily the best route, stating that:

Each situation needs to be decided on a case-by-case basis, with local considerations and consultation playing an important role.

The distinction between a 20mph limit and zone is also important when considering available evidence. Research from Queen's University found that while there was clear evidence 20mph zones with traffic calming measures reduced the frequency and severity of collisions and casualties, there was a lack of evidence on the effectiveness of 20mph limits enforced only by signage.

In 2019 the Welsh Government set up a task and finish group to consider whether 20mph should become the default speed limit in residential areas Its report, considered a range of evidence and made a number of arguments for the change. It summarised that:

Enabling a much wider take up of 20mph limits is expected to achieve significant road safety benefits, particularly in deprived neighbourhoods. In the longer term, reductions in the perception of road danger is expected to lead to more walking and cycling which will improve public health and replace some short car journeys...More walking and cycling is also likely to lead to greater social cohesion which brings further societal and health benefits. Lower speeds will lead to reductions in traffic noise, while impacts on air quality will be neutral at worst and journey time increases will be slight...

2. Welsh Government action

As outlined, in 2019 the Welsh Government set up a task and finish group to consider whether 20mph should become the default speed limit in residential areas. The Welsh Government accepted the group's recommendations, including that the default speed limit on restricted roads (those in residential areas with a system of street lighting placed no more than 200 yards apart) should be reduced from 30mph to 20mph.

In his letter to the Chair dated 14 October the Deputy Minister for Climate Change outlines that the first phase of introducing a 20mph limit has begun through pilots in 8 communities across Wales. The pilots will be used to gather data before a proposed full rollout in 2023. In September 2021 the Deputy Minister announced continued funding for these pilots.

The Deputy Minister's letter also outlines that the Welsh Government recently consulted on the proposals.

3. Welsh Parliament action

In July 2020 the Senedd debated the introduction of default 20mph speed limits.

In September 2021, Andrew RT Davies MS tabled a written question asking what percentage of the Welsh road network would fall within the planned 20mph speed limit. The Deputy Minister for Climate Change responded:

There are a total of 34,850km of public road in Wales. In terms of the 20mph project, it is anticipated:

- 60% will be out of scope as it has a speed limit of 40mph or above.
- 35% will automatically change from 30mph to 20mph (existing 30mph, not A or B classified).
- 5% will be reviewed through an exception process (existing 30mph, A or B classified), of which a small proportion would be expected to be classed as an exception to remain at 30mph. The majority will become 20mph.
- <1% is already 20mph

It is anticipated, the changes will therefore affect close to 40% of the total length of Wales road network.

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 LW/11433/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee

14 October 2021

Dear Jack

Thank you for your letter of 17 September regarding Petition P-06-1210 Stop the Welsh Government introducing a blanket 20mph speed limit.

We have made progress on reducing deaths and serious injuries on our roads over the 21 years of devolution, but despite our considerable efforts, in 2018 the highest proportion of all casualties (50%) occurred on 30mph roads. This cannot be tolerated and a reduction to 20mph on our residential and other busy pedestrian urban roads has to be the way forward.

Wales is now at the forefront on safe speeds with its plan to introduce 20mph speed limits on all restricted roads in 2023. It puts Wales in a unique position in the world having adopted well-being and active travel legislation that supports the Vision Zero approach to road safety, based on the belief that no death or serious injury is acceptable on roads.

We are currently trialling 20mph speed limits in eight settlements across Wales allowing us to overcome any unforeseen issues before we press forward with the proposed national implementation in April 2023. We have also undertaken a 12 week public consultation on the default 20mph speed limit which came to an end on the 1st October. Officials are now collating the results and further information will be published before the end of this year.

There are a total of 34,850km of public road in Wales. In terms of the 20mph project, it is anticipated that:

- 60% will be out of scope as it has a speed limit of 40mph or above.
- 35% will automatically change from 30mph to 20mph (existing 30mph, not A or B classified).
- 5% will be reviewed through an exception process (existing 30mph, A or B classified), of which a small proportion would be expected to be classed as an exception to remain at 30mph. The majority will become 20mph.
- <1% is already 20mph

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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.

It is anticipated, the changes will therefore affect close to 40% of the total length of Wales road network. We have already undertaken extensive consultation work with all stakeholders including all Local Authorities in Wales, with the most recent meeting with Leaders taking place on 7th October.

I fully appreciate that making 20mph the default speed limit in residential areas is a bold step. However, decreasing speeds reduces accidents and saves lives. Alongside this the quality of life will improve, making room on our streets for safer active travel and will encourage the modal shift we are seeking to achieve as part [Llwybr Newydd, the new Wales Transport Strategy](#).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee', is centered on a light grey grid background.

Lee Waters AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Deputy Minister for Climate Change

P-06-1211 Remove the average speed cameras and 50mph speed limit on the M4 between Newport and Cardiff

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 15 Tachwedd 2021
Petitions Committee | 15 November 2021

Reference: SR21/1044-11

Petition Number: P-06-1211

Petition title: Remove the average speed cameras and 50mph speed limit on the M4 between Newport and Cardiff

Text of petition: The government is pressing ahead with the installation of average speed cameras and a new 50mph speed limit on the M4 between Newport and Cardiff. They claim to reduce accidents, pollution and ease congestion. We the demand the immediate reversal of this policy. The investment should go into green initiatives that benefit not restrict the public. The best way to ease congestion is to increase supply (such as building additional lanes or bypass road), not reduce demand - damaging the economy.



1. Background

The Welsh Government is the highway authority and traffic authority responsible for the Welsh trunk road and motorway network. This includes setting speed limits on the M4 in Wales.

Air pollution and speed limits

In 2018, the Welsh Government was taken to court for breaches of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) limits. The High Court ruled that managing exceedances of NO₂ on the motorway and trunk road network was the direct responsibility of the Welsh Government.

To tackle NO₂ emissions, 50mph speed limits have been introduced at five sites on the trunk road and motorway network including between junctions 25 and 26 of the M4 at Newport.

In September 2021, the Welsh Government issued a press release suggesting that the introduction of 50mph limits at these sites had “already been successful in significantly lowering the levels of nitrogen dioxide in affected areas by up to 47%”.

M4 relief road and Burns Commission

The petitioner calls for the 50mph limit at Newport to be removed, for investment in green initiatives and for additional lanes/ a bypass road to be build instead.

In June 2019 the First Minister announced that plans for an M4 relief road would not proceed. It was also announced that the South East Wales Transport Commission (chaired by Lord Burns and known as the Burns Commission) would be established to make recommendations on alternative solutions to congestion problems experienced on the M4 corridor around Newport.

In its December 2019 progress report the Commission made three initial recommendations, including that the Welsh Ministers:

Remove the variable speed limit from around junction 24 (Coldra) and up to junction 28 (Tredegar Park), and replace it with an average speed control of 50mph over the same extents.

In explaining the rationale for this recommendation, the report said:

We have considered and modelled a range of speed limits from 40mph to 50mph and 60mph. Our analysis demonstrates 50mph to be the optimal speed in terms of journey time reliability and journey speeds, also taking account other important factors such as air quality, emissions and noise.

In November 2020 the Commission published its final recommendations. It described its proposals as a “network of alternatives” with its recommendations centred on public transport.

The Welsh Government accepted all of the recommendations in principle and in January 2021 established a Burns Delivery Unit within Transport for Wales (TfW) to oversee implementation.

Welsh Transport Strategy

In March 2021 the Welsh Government launched its Wales Transport Strategy. It includes a sustainable transport hierarchy which places travel by private motor car at the bottom of the list. It also sets a target to increase journeys made by public transport, walking or cycling from 32% to 45% by 2040.

2. Welsh Government action

In a letter to the Chair dated 25 October, the Deputy Minister for Climate Change states that the 50mph speed limit on this stretch of the M4 will be “enforced by Average Speed Enforcement at a future date”. The Deputy Minister also states that in Autumn 2021 the Welsh Government will consult on an Update Plan on the actions it is taking to address exceedances of nitrogen dioxide limits.

The letter also provides an update on the work being undertaken by the Delivery Unit to progress the Burns Commission recommendations.

3. Welsh Parliament action

The Welsh Government’s decision not to proceed with the M4 relief road has been raised and debated in the Senedd on numerous occasions, including in June 2019 following the First Minister’s announcement.

In June 2021, Natasha Asghar MS tabled a written question asking for a statement on the 50mph limit on the M4 at Newport. The Deputy Minister for Climate

Change responded that the limit is being closely monitored by [Go Safe](#) and that the change is intended to:

- help manage congestion issues along this stretch of the M4;
- improve journey times and provide smoother traffic flows;
- reduce the risk of accidents; and
- improve air quality by reducing emission levels.

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.

Lee Waters AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Deputy Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1211
Ein cyf/Our ref LW/11432/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee

petitions@senedd.wales

25 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 17 September to the Minister for Climate Change regarding Petition P-06-1211 Remove the average speed cameras and 50mph speed limit on the M4 between Newport and Cardiff. Your letter has been passed to me due to my portfolio responsibilities and I apologise for the delay in responding.

Following the First Minister's decision not to proceed with the M4 Relief Road, the South East Wales Transport Commission (SEWTC) was established to consider the problems, opportunities, challenges and objectives for tackling congestion on the M4 in South East Wales and make recommendations to the Welsh Government on long term solutions. It should be noted that the Commission was operationally independent from the Welsh Government.

The Commission considered a wide range of options to tackle congestion on the M4. The Commission's [final recommendations](#) were endorsed by the Welsh Government in January 2021. Details can be found online at [Commission recommendations endorsed by Welsh Government](#).

[Llwybr Newydd - Wales Transport Strategy](#) places people and climate change at the front and centre of our transport system. The Strategy focuses on three priorities, which place emphasis on reducing the need to travel but where people do travel, they do so by sustainable transport means where this is possible.

We need fewer cars on our roads, more people using public transport and more walking or cycling. Where we need new transport infrastructure, we will take a new approach. We will use the Sustainable Transport Planning Hierarchy to give priority to meeting the demand for travel by walking, cycling and public transport ahead of private motor vehicles.

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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 have appointed Simon Gibson CBE as Chair of the Burns Delivery Board, with Dr Lynn Sloman MBE as Vice Chair. Together they are overseeing the progression of the 58 Burns recommendations by the dedicated Unit set up in Transport for Wales. The Delivery Unit are already making good progress. They are employing a new way of working to bring together varied stakeholders to deliver the multi-modal recommendations. For example:

- They have scoped the next batch of technical work needed to enhance the South Wales Main Line ready for the UK Government, and their Union Connectivity Review, to improve this non-devolved infrastructure.
- They are developing options for flagship improvements in cycling and bus infrastructure between Cardiff and Newport, bringing together and supporting the Local Authorities.
- They are working with Dafydd Trystan, the Chair of the Active Travel Board, to look at options for encouraging behaviour change.

We published our [Clean Air Plan for Wales](#) in August 2020. Air pollution impacts on public health, the natural environment and the economy, and exposure to high levels of nitrogen dioxide can irritate the airways of the lungs, increasing symptoms of those suffering from lung diseases. Short-term exposure to nitrogen dioxide is also associated with increased cardiovascular and respiratory morbidity.

The environment is at the heart of our decision making and we are committed to tackling the sources of air pollution and ensuring people's right to clean air in Wales. Improving air quality is one of the most complex challenges we face, needing collaborative action across sectors and communities to achieve clean air. It is important we get this right.

We have brought in 50mph speed limits at 5 locations across Wales to reduce nitrogen dioxide pollution, including the M4 between junctions 25 and 26 and the speed limit at this location will be enforced by Average Speed Enforcement at a future date. We understand that speed limits may be unpopular. However, through our investigations we know they are likely to be the quickest and most effective way to reduce nitrogen dioxide levels and it's essential that drivers comply with the speed limit to reduce nitrogen dioxide levels.

This autumn we will publish, for consultation, our Update Plan on actions we are taking to address exceedances of nitrogen dioxide limit values. This will detail the progress made to date and next steps to ensure we achieve urgent air quality improvements for the benefit of public health.

Yours sincerely,



Lee Waters AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Deputy Minister for Climate Change

P-06-1211 Remove the average speed cameras and 50mph speed limit on the M4 between Newport and Cardiff, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 05.11.21

We, the signed in the petition, do not agree with the FM decision not to proceed with the M4 relief road. This should be reconsidered, especially when the UK Government has said they will deal with the issue of traffic on the M4 in this area by widening the Brynglas tunnels and they will pay for it! Frankly, we don't care if it's a desolved matter or not.

That "not to increase supply" decision has forced the use of average speed cameras on the M4.

The logic is clear - if you refuse to increase supply of available road or route alternative on a frequently congested space, then the only two options remaining to improve the flow of traffic are to:

1. Reduce the use of the road by vehicles; and/or
2. Reduce the speed on the road so the required stopping distance between cars is reduced and thus you can fit more cars on the road at the same time.

Mandating the enforced reduction of traffic on these roads would be political suicide and speaks to an assault on freedoms. Although, I note outrageous plans that will essentially have that affect are being considered by the Welsh Government (essentially charging people to use the M4).

Moreover, the only effectively way to enforce a reduction of speed over a prolonged period is the use of average speed cameras. Thus, we have ended up with average speed cameras.

You did not need to spend vast swaths of our money setting up an independent Commission to work this out; I could have told you in five minutes for free. How much was spent on this Commission out of interest?

Why does this Welsh Government not believe in providing more for the Welsh people and instead focus on policies that restrict, reduce and remove opportunity to thrive?

The money should have been spent on increasing capacity of the roads, making Wales a global leader in electric cars/ charging points and incentivising the purchase of electric vehicles. Does the Welsh Government not realise if you charge to use the M4 that the cost will not bother the rich but the poor, who more often than not cannot work from home, will be disproportionately affected. They will have less money in their pockets to aspire to purchase a green electric car and will be forced to extend the use of old, polluting models?

As for average speed cameras, it seems the driving force (pun intended) behind the roll out is not to reduce emissions as the FM has indicated but rather to reduce road

speeds for those who, now older, prefer and feel more comfortable in a slower environment. The Welsh government likes to talk about equality so how many people under 30 years old were part of the commission set up to look at this?

Regarding the environmental impact of average speed cameras on the environment, I have the following questions:

1. Do you have any data on the levels of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants such as CO₂ on either side (directly next to and up to ten plus miles outside) of average speed camera zones both prior to and after the installation of average speed cameras? Has this been considered previously? If so, please provide full, specific evidence only relevant to the question. It seems to me that people accelerate hard out of average speed zones which may lead to higher levels of pollutant on either side of average speed zones. It also seems as though some people on longer journeys would increase their average speed on parts of their journey that takes place outside average speed zones in order to 'make back time'.
2. What data or research have you conducted into how travelling within an average speed zone affects the behaviour of drivers along the rest of their trip outside of average speed cameras? Has this been considered previously? If so, please provide full, specific evidence only relevant to the question. If this hasn't please justify why this data isn't required to prove average speed cameras are net positive for the environment.
3. What is the actual recorded average speed on average speed zones where the advertised limit is 50mph? Do you have this data and if not, why not? If not, how can you justify your choice of speed limit without this data?
4. Why do we use 50mph limits on average speed zones when numerous academics and NGOs, such as The Energy Saving Trust, suggest 55 - 65mph is the most efficient driving speed and CO₂ emissions are directly related to the amount of fuel burnt? Has this been considered previously? If so, please provide full, specific evidence only relevant to the question.
5. Why do we enforce 50mph limits on sections of downhill motorway where the potential energy of the vehicle location often means it can go faster than 50mph without the use of the accelerator? It would be more efficient to allow the vehicle to coast down the hill, thus removing the idling engine from the high nitrogen oxide area quicker and not wasting the additional fuel burnt to get the vehicle in a position where it has gained potential energy. Has this been considered previously? If so, please provide full, specific evidence only relevant to the question.
6. What is the environmental, financial and congestion implications of enforcing 50mph limits on sections of road where a vehicles potential energy would allow it to travel at a speed faster than 50mph? Have you collected any data on this? Has this been considered previously? If so, please provide full, specific evidence only relevant to the question.
7. What is the increase in time burden for someone travelling along the new

50mph section of the M4 between Newport and Cardiff verses travelling at the previous 70mph limit? If someone were to drive up and down this road every day, over a year how much additional time would they spend driving? What cost would this have on the Welsh economy?

8. How much time does the average Welsh commuter spend stuck in traffic compared to the rest of the UK, Europe and the rest of the World?

9. How many cars per day transited through the area of the M4 in question prior to and after the installation of the average speed cameras? Please justify dates quoted in order to minimise the impact of Covid restrictions.

10. If, as proposed, the average speed cameras improve the flow of cars on the M4 and (with the speed being lower there will be a reduced stopping distance required between cars) thus, more cars can drive on the road simultaneously, will the capacity of the M4 not theoretically be improved at congested times and so the environmental impact will not necessarily be positive? What studies have been done look at possible unexpected outcomes from this policy?

11. Why is banning combustions engine vehicles immediately not a quicker, more effective way to reduce NO2 levels? The letter states average speed cameras are the quickest way to reduce NO2 levels – it seems to just suit the narrative but not be factually true.

I note in the reply the "Three priorities" of the transport strategy were reference but it was not overly clear what these were. I wonder if the Welsh Government has ever heard of "SMART Objectives"? Because "reducing the need to travel" does not seem very smart. I assure you, others and I do not sit in hours of traffic on the M4 as a hobby, we do not do it to get out of the house', we make those trips because they are essential. The reply also states "we need fewer cars on our roads" - can you explain why? Perhaps Lee Waters, as Deputy Minister for Climate Change, would like to inform us if he owns any cars? And if so, will he be stopping by his local We Buy Any Car office in the near future to lead the charge on the reduction of cars? If not, why not? It seems to me we need better transport. Personal transport is by far the most time efficient of the infrastructure is there. The priority should be making that transport electric. The future will clearly be electric, self-driving cars - be that personal or shared. This will be a good future. The Welsh Government should be driving this agenda forward.

The reply talks about giving priority to walking, cycling or public transport ahead of private motor vehicles. Well, last time I checked I was not allowed to walk or cycle on the M4 and my experience of public transport has been slow, expensive and frankly not fit for purpose. Not to mention most of the buses seem to emit similar amounts of emissions from their rear as several burning coalfields combined.

In short, transport infrastructure is critical to a successful, thriving economy. It allows us all to get to work in a timely fashion, to make the most of our free time, gives us more free time, saves us money, allows for the quick response of emergency services and provides us with new opportunities. We should be striving to enhance and build

on existing transport links to maximise all the benefits it can offer, not limiting what we already have. Our focus should be on encouraging the swift transition to renewables and electric vehicles to tackle the threat of poor air quality and climate change. Average speed cameras is robbing Paul to pay Peter, a focus on renewables and electric cars is a win win.

This Welsh Government needs to stop focusing on policies that restrict, reduce and remove opportunity.

I would appreciate full, specific replies to all questions posed, the answers of which should only contain information specifically relevant to the questions asked.

Apologies for any typos etc., some of us work and don't really have time to do this. We're too busy stuck in traffic on the m4 normally in our 'free time' to give views for free, let alone to find enough time in the evening to spell check it

P-06-1213 Ban leisure use of Seadoo/jet ski in Cymru. Except in strictly controlled designated areas.

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 15 Tachwedd 2021
Petitions Committee | 15 November 2021

Reference: SR21/1044-13

Petition Number: P-06-1213

Petition title: Ban leisure use of Seadoo/jet ski in Cymru. Except in strictly controlled designated areas.

Text of petition: Our wildlife and their habitats are already under savage attack from creeping civilisation, resource exploitation, pollution and climate change. To allow the uncontrolled use of these noisy, dangerous, polluting leisure vehicles, to add to that damage is irresponsible! They offer no other service to mankind other than a fleeting spasm of excitement. This is both wasteful and irresponsible.

There are daily recorded and unrecorded occurrences of disturbance, aggression and harm to both other sea users and wildlife. Many instances of physical harm and even death to both animals and humans. The recreational use of these dangerous high powered vehicle is almost completely uncontrolled. They must be banned from all areas excepting possible specific small areas set aside for these selfish people to damage themselves alone. This may prove too difficult. In that case ban them completely from Cymru.



1. Background

There is no national system of regulation – either at a Wales or UK level – governing the ownership and use of jet skis or ‘personal watercraft’ (PWC) in inshore waters. However, the common law right of navigation in tidal waters can currently be restricted through bye-laws introduced by harbour authorities and local authorities.

Local authority powers include the:

- *Public Health Act 1936* powers to ban vessels from bathing waters;
- *Public Health Act 1961* powers to regulate seaside pleasure boats; and
- *Local Government Act 1972* powers to address nuisance.

Harbour authority powers include the power to make directions under the *Marine Navigation Act 2013*.

The Personal Watercraft Partnership notes that many local authorities already use available powers to regulate use of jet skis – for example through a requirement for permits. It has published a guide to managing jet skis for local and harbour authorities, as well as advice and training for recreational users.

Skomer, Wales’ only Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), has specific byelaws to limit the speed of vessels within the MCZ to reduce disturbance to marine wildlife. It also has a voluntary code of conduct which states that “water-skiing, jet-skiing and similar activities are not acceptable within the MCZ”

In terms of safety, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents notes that “most [jet ski] accidents occur through collisions with other PWCs or watercraft, crashing into jetties, piers or rocks and failing to avoid more vulnerable water users”.

Environmental organisations are also concerned about the impact of jet skis. For example, the RSPB published a policy briefing in 2015 stating that “jet skis can cause a high degree of disturbance to birds and can even cause injury or death in extreme circumstances”. The RSPB is not calling for a ban on jet skis:

While we don't want to see a ban on jet skiing, we do want to see it well-managed around sensitive areas for seabirds, including in protected areas.

Media reports in Wales indicate that an increasing number of complaints are being received in Wales, and two deaths were reported locally in the summer of 2020.

The UK Government consulted on proposals for strengthening enforcement of the dangerous use of recreational and personal watercraft between 6 September and 1 November 2021. The consultation document indicated that the proposed Merchant Shipping (Watercraft) Order would apply UK wide, including Wales, since “maritime safety, including watercraft” is not devolved.

The press release accompanying the consultation says the proposals would “bring recreational and personal watercraft, such as jet-skis and speedboats, under the same laws as those who operate ships, meaning tougher sentences for those caught driving dangerously”. It also says:

Although many [local authorities] have introduced speed limits, signage and ID tags to prevent accidents, there remains a number of unmanaged waters around the UK and, since the beginning of 2020, there have been 4 fatalities related to dangerous driving on jet skis, which these laws will help to prevent.

Bringing recreational and personal watercraft in line with laws in place for boats will ensure tougher sentences for reckless driving across all waters.

2. Welsh Government action

The letter from the Minister for Climate Change to the Chair of the Petitions Committee expresses concern about the issue, and draws the Committee’s attention to the local authority powers and UK Government consultation referenced above.

3. Welsh Parliament action

The issue does not appear to have been considered in the Senedd prior to this petition.

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.

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1213
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/11674/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions Committee

petitions@senedd.wales

21 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 23 September regarding petition P-06-1213: Ban leisure use of Seadoo/jet ski in Cymru, except in strictly controlled designated areas.

I share your concerns about peoples' safety in public spaces such as beaches, and that our natural habitats and wildlife are at risk due to the increasing effects of pollution and climate change. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is a criminal offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb marine species such as dolphins and whales. Management measures for Welsh Marine Protection Areas can be considered and applied where there is an evidential risk from threats.

I am aware there has been a recent increase of reports by members of the public of disturbance to marine wildlife caused by recreational vehicles in Wales. Local authorities have the power to regulate speed and nuisance driving through byelaws and the power to fine those breaching the rules, though I recognise that this may not be enough to prevent an irresponsible minority of jet ski users behaving recklessly.

You may be aware that the UK Department for Transport has launched a consultation (<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-enforcement-of-the-dangerous-use-of-recreational-and-personal-watercraft>) on strengthening the enforcement of safety laws for recreational and personal watercraft which should provide a greater deterrent to those who might use jet skis in a dangerous manner.

Yours sincerely,

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.James@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.

P-06-1213 Ban leisure use of Seadoo/jet ski in Cymru. Except in strictly controlled designated areas, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 02.11.21

Dear Jack,

I am grateful for the opportunity to comment on the Ministers note around the petition I set up asking for more control of the operation of JetSkis around Cymru.

It's interesting to note that the Minister is keen to inform you of regulations & laws in place to control these sea vehicles. However, it's clear that enforcement of these rule/laws are problematic in both a practical & legal sense.

The practical issue of law enforcement officers actually being present or on call, to police these individual transgressions would clearly be hugely expensive & impractical.

The legal issue of proving in a court of law 'intentional or recklessly' is another hurdle that confounds this approach.

Unless the minister has an unexplained vision of how the application of these regulations on such a piecemeal and ad hoc basis would work & cost?

To cut to the chase, the Minister, has highlighted the issue in her final remarks.

"I recognise that this may not be enough to prevent an irresponsible minority of jet ski users behaving recklessly".

Evidently it would seem the Minister agrees that the current regulations are not fair or fit for purpose?

We need an easily policed & managed geographical restriction put on the use of these leisure vehicles with exceptions being made for professional and service use controlled via the Coastguard.

For that reason it should be illegal to take these vehicles to sea without a working VHF radio & call sign, and an identifiable registration.

I was under the impression that leisure use of our coast was a devolved issue. I would be dismayed to see a Welsh government again deferring or 'passing the Buck' to Westminster! Cymru is not England! Cymru did not vote for the incumbent Westminster government. We do things differently here.

I thank you, the Minister and the committee for your consideration of this matter. I do hope you will arrive at a conclusion that will protect both the wildlife & humans who use our coast.

Yours sincerely,

Agenda Item 4.1

P-05-912 Supporting Families with Sudden and Unexpected Death in Children and Young Adults

This petition was submitted by Rhian Mannings having collected a total of 5,682 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to provide support for a service here in Wales to ensure families who unexpectedly lose their child or young adult aged 25 years and under get the support they require.

In February 2012 my son George died suddenly in an Emergency Unit in Wales. We walked out into the night with nothing, alone and frightened. Nobody came, nobody reached out to support us and it was left to devastated friends and family to support my husband Paul and I. Five days after we lost our son my surviving two young children and I faced more heartache when Paul took his own life. Once again nobody came.

Families require support immediately after such loss. They need to have a point of contact if they have questions and a friendly ear to listen. You never get over the loss of your child and families need to know there is long term support in place for to help them through the grieving process.

There is no planning or preparation prior to a sudden death and the effect of traumatic loss can have a huge impact on the mental health of parents, siblings and other family members. We believe this support is essential and will prevent families walking out into the night with no hope, no support and most importantly without their child.

Additional Information

Since 2012 I have been determined to ensure families get the same support when they say goodbye to their child as they do when they welcome it into the world at birth. 2 Wish Upon A Star was established to support families and staff through the unexpected loss of a child or young adult aged 25 years and under. This support includes memory boxes, counselling and an immediate support pathway working with health boards and police forces here in Wales. We have had more than 465 referrals since we started

supporting families in 2015. The causes of death include SIDS, accidents, illness and more recently many young suicides. The feedback we get from both families and staff has been extremely positive, but we know many families are not being referred to us and many still need our support.

2 Wish Upon A Star already works with every health board in Wales and are supported by every police force. We have immediate support pathways in place in every Emergency Unit and Critical Care Unit and our pathway is clearly outlined in the Public Health Wales PRUDiC document. We also work with every Coroner, Mortuary, Organ Donation Team and Wales Air Ambulance to make sure no family is missed. However, many families still go without support. Staff have been known to 'forget' to give memory boxes, decided that the family of a 18 year old does not require support as 'he had stubble' and that the offer of support at time of death is 'not appropriate'. It is not for the professional involved to decide if a family require support.

We know by speaking to staff and families that our service is changing lives for everyone involved in the sudden death of a child or young adult and we want the Welsh Government to ensure all families get the offer of support when needed most.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Pontypridd
- South Wales Central

P-05-912 Supporting Sudden and Unexpected Death in Children and Young Adults, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 11.11.21

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the committee for your support and commitment to ensuring that families in Wales who lose their child or young person receive an immediate offer of support.

We are absolutely thrilled that the discussion of the petition resulted in a commitment to ensure that support becomes a mandatory offer.

I'd like to extend my gratitude and thanks to the Chair of the Committee, Jack Sargant for supporting the petition and to the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing Lynne Neagle for declaring the actions for change.

We are delighted at 2wish with the positive outcome and are very much looking forward to working in partnership with cross-party agencies to implement change across Wales to ensure every family receives the mandatory offer of support at the darkest of times.

The last 10 years have been hell and some days continue to be a struggle. However, knowing Paul and Georges lives, and death, continue to help others brings me and my children comfort. Paul should be here today watching Holly and Isaac grow up. Instead, all they have are photographs which are aging every day. The changes this petition will bring will truly change lives. By working with you all and the Bereavement Strategy Group, together we will make a difference. Its wonderful to see Wales leading by example when I am fully aware that organisations are still in discussions with UK Government to see an offer of immediate support!

Thank you and wishing you all the best.

Agenda Item 4.2

P-05-1078 Increase funding for mental health services and improve waiting times for people needing help in crisis. We need a change!

This petition was submitted by Laura Williams having collected a total of 5,159 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Since covid 19 and lockdown people have been stuck inside for months on end, many of these people were suffering before lockdown and during lockdown. I for one suffered myself because of lockdown, and I am concerned about the number of suicides in my area since before lockdown and during. Lockdown has made people's mental health worse and has put mental health services under severe pressure, young children are suffering adults and the elderly are suffering due to lockdown.

Our Welsh Parliament should be taking action on mental health and funding more services people are waiting a long time to be seen or given help. Many local doctors and nurses are not trained in mental health.

The percentage of people reporting mental health problems increased from 23.3% in 2017-2019 to 36.8% in April 2020 (UK Household Longitudinal Study). If this doesn't scream how lockdown is drastically changing the way we live our lives and fights the battles we have to fight on a daily basis, then I'm not sure what will?

Additional Information:

My name is Laura and I suffer with multiple mental health issues; those being ptsd, ocd, depression, anxiety and panic disorder. I created a petition which was also stating the fact that mental health is in dire straits and acquires extra support. The petition was successful and since my last petition I have decided that the best way to make a change was to start with myself. This pushed me to successfully complete my ptsd therapy.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1078
Ein cyf/Our ref LN/10192/21
Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

19 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter dated 4 August relating to 24 hour access to mental health services to inform your ongoing Petition, reference P-05-1078. Apologies for the delay in responding to you. Welsh Government has seen unprecedented levels of correspondence over the last year, which has meant it has taken longer to reply than we would have wished.

I'm pleased to report that we are making good progress towards implementing a 24/7 response for individuals in mental health crisis with all health boards committed to establishing single points of contact via 111 by April 2022. This service change has been supported by the additional £6 million that we committed to improve crisis care.

The aim is for all health boards to have in place a local hub which is accessed using NHS 111 to connect people with mental health practitioners. The mental health practitioners can offer initial support and ensure referral into appropriate provision. The single points of contact are the first step in developing a multi-agency pathway that can respond to the breadth of social and welfare factors that often are the cause of mental distress.

As part of these improvements, we are also piloting a national model of conveyance for individuals with mental health issues. The aim is to ensure a timely response for individuals who need to access support and reduce the need for conveyance by other forms of transportation, including by police vehicles.

I have recently visited some of these services in action. They demonstrate real partnership working between health boards and a range of other organisations, recognising that many people presenting in crisis have a wide range of needs that often do not need clinical services – but with clear pathways to access specialist support if needed.

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

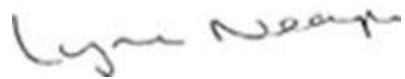
Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Lynne.Neagle@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lynne.Neagle@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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lynne Neagle".

Lynne Neagle AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

P-05-1078 Increase funding for mental health services and improve waiting times for people needing help in crisis. We need a change!, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 02.11.21

Thanks for sending me the response of the Welsh government, I've read the letter and I'm deeply disappointed, ring 111 puts you through to a different wide of options normally resulting in a trip to a&e, A&E is not equipped to deal with mental health and I am many of the ones that have presented in A&E with mental health issues to be told they don't have the resources to deal with mental health patients and that they have to call out mental health staff to the local A&E to deal with mentally ill patients this not only causing the patient to wait around but could cause further distress to them.

Also GP's are still not seeing patients face to face which is also causing distress for mentally ill patients who would rather see a doctor face to face than talk about their problems over the one, myself rang last week to speak to a doctor to be told by a receptionist I will have to wait? Now imagine your feeling down depressed and feeling like there is no hope anymore? Just to be told you would have to wait a week, I also referred myself to my local mental health as I was discharged and was allowed to refer myself within 3 months just to be told no! I done this petition to make a difference and I'm not seeing a different I believe there should be a separate number for mental health crisis not one where you will be put through to someone who deals with injuries etc again I've been there myself and the call handler didn't know how to deal with me just send me up to A&E just to be told they don't have staff to deal with mental health.

Many people rely on the NHS for mental help and are still being let down due to emerging resources into each other to save cost and funding. Maybe the Welsh government need to spend a day in someone's shoes who are constantly let down by mental health services because of either waiting times or a doctor just referring the patient to somewhere else and waiting longer. Mental health services in Wales are still very much struggling everyday, there is not enough staff to take on case loads of mentally ill patients, the staff that are dealing with case loads of mental health patients are struggling to be able to see patients at a certain waiting time. I would love to see a massive improvement instead I'm not seeing an improvement I'm seeing services struggling.

I'm seeing more group work being offered than 1 to 1 not everyone can do group work due to whatever issues they are dealing with I suffer with anxiety and dread doing groups but that's all I'm ever offered I've been on the mind waiting list for nearly 2 years so you can see yourself there is a massive back log and people are still

struggling. Open gp surgeries have own mental health phone line that people can ring and offer more community support.

Agenda Item 4.3

P-05-1106 Introduce Personal Health Budgets and Personalised Care in Wales

This petition was submitted by Rhys Bowler having collected a total of 779 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Rhys has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and lives in daily fear for his life, left alone for hours hoping the ventilator he needs to breathe doesn't break. He must choose between poorly funded social care and an NHS Continuing Healthcare package that takes away his choice over who cares for him.

If Rhys lived in England he would have a personal health budget, allowing him to use NHS Continuing Healthcare while still being able to choose who cares for him. This is not available in Wales

Additional Information:

I'm Rhys, 33 and living with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy in Pontypridd, Wales. I have extremely limited mobility and need a ventilator to breathe.

I've employed my own care assistants for decades and have a lot of experience of training and employing them. I've had bad experiences using agencies and not having a say in who cares for me. I want to choose the care assistants I want. I want to know who is coming in my home to help me with my intimate personal care, and I want them to be people I trust and have trained in how best to provide my care. Don't let my experience go to waste!

I want a Personal Health Budget so I can have both 24 hour care and a choice over who my care assistants are. This has been available in England since 2014, it's time Wales took this seriously and started giving people real choice and control about the care they receive.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Pontypridd
- South Wales Central

Agenda Item 4.4

P-06-1161 Routine collection and publication of data of how many babies/children return to their care experienced parents care at the end of a Parent and Child Placement

This petition was submitted by Nicola Jones, having collected a total of 60 signatures.

Text of Petition:

We believe that many care leavers walk out of their placements because little thought is given to their previous experiences or to their mental wellbeing even though a baby has the right to stay with its parent/s if it is safe to do so.

Additional Information:

Many care leavers have social services intervention, when they give birth. This is often due to their history and/or lack of their own parental guidance. These care leavers will undoubtedly have experienced trauma in their childhoods and often suffer from anxiety into their adult lives. They have often never felt safe in their homes as a child and having their own space has been their only safe haven where they are totally relaxed. Currently, if there is any concern, a parent is taken away from their home, family and friends then placed in a foster home or residential home to be assessed with little thought to the parents triggers and mental wellbeing. We believe that this often causes a roller coaster of emotions and parents then walk away from placements only to forever regret a rash decision made in a moment of anxiety that wouldn't have happened if the situation had been dealt with more empathically. We want to fact find to see if a better solution for parent and child is needed.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 4.5

P-05-949 SAVE COWBRIDGE OLD GIRLS' SCHOOL FROM DEMOLITION

This petition was submitted by Sara Pedersen having collected 2,080 signatures online and 3,442 on paper (not final), a total of 5,522 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to protect the former Intermediate School for Girls' in Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan. This was the first intermediate school to be built specifically for the education of girls in Wales (and England) and is the subject of a planning application for demolition. Failure to protect it will lead to the loss of a nationally important historic asset.

Opened in 1896, Cowbridge was the first girls' intermediate school to be built in Wales (and England) as a result of the Welsh Intermediate Education Act of 1889, a pivotal moment in Welsh History. Amid its contemporaries, Cowbridge was highly unusual in including accommodation for boarders from the outset and largely funded by a local philanthropist.

The original character of the school survives to a very high degree, both internally and externally, including the original hall and staircase. Only 5 comparable (of 95) schools are listed across Wales. A survey of them all confirms that Cowbridge survives to an equivalent degree to some and a better degree than others.

The architect, Robert Williams, was a pioneer of his time and renowned for being a radical, prominent advocate of building conservation, national pioneer of social housing, promoter of the Welsh School of Architecture and proponent for the publication of building literature in the Welsh language. He later went on to work in London and then Egypt for the Davies Bryan family, where many of his buildings still stand and are nationally protected.

In summary, the former Cowbridge Intermediate School for Girls' survives as a prominent and attractive testimony to a pivotal moment in Welsh history and the equal opportunities afforded to underprivileged girls of the time. We urge the Welsh Government, as custodians of our heritage, to protect this building either through listing or the provision of additional social housing funding to allow its conversion.

Additional Information

Reference: Scourfield (2019). FORMER COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, ABERTHIN ROAD, COWBRIDGE – AN HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL APPRAISAL.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

Dawn Bowden AS/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau a Chwaraeon, a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-949
Ein cyf/Our ref DB/10413/21
Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
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CF99 1SN
petitions@senedd.wales

04 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 21 September on behalf of the Petitions Committee asking for my views, and any new information, on the petition to save the former Girl's School, Cowbridge.

I am familiar with the case and have nothing further to add to the evidence that has been provided to the Committee. I confirm that all of the evidence that has been presented for listing the building has been very carefully considered and that there has been no new information presented that would reverse the decision not to list the building.

Yours sincerely,

Dawn Bowden AS/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau a Chwaraeon, a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and Chief Whip

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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.

**P-05-949 SAVE COWBRIDGE OLD GIRLS' SCHOOL FROM DEMOLITION,
Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 02.11.21**

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2nd November 2021

Dear Members of the Petitions Committee,

RE: Petition P-05-949. Save Cowbridge Old Girls' School from Demolition


Thank you for forwarding the response from the new Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport. It is disappointing that, once again, there is a refusal to seek an independent peer review of the listing decision. The decision not to list the school is not just contested by our campaign group but the most senior and well-respected heritage professionals in this field alongside many national heritage groups. Signatories of the petition were from every part of Wales – this is a national concern, not a local one.

We have previously shared information that raises questions regarding the appointment of the internal 'independent' reviewer and the failure to disclose potential conflicts of interest that is standard practice when taking on a public role within Welsh Government. Again, we wish to highlight that an immediate family member of the independent assessor appointed by (and employed by) Cadw works in partnership with the developer seeking demolition and whilst we do not question the assessor's integrity, we question why this was not raised on the '*Political Activity and Conflict of Interest Form*'. The wording of this form and the scenarios detailed directly apply in this situation and at no point has any valid reasoning been provided as to why this conflict was overlooked, or more importantly not declared. This alone requires further scrutiny.

Given the above, failure to seek a truly independent peer review (as would be normal procedure in other nations of the UK) goes against the Seven Principles of Public Life. As laid out in detail in previous comments, there has been a lack of accountability and a failure of openness and objectivity in the decision-making process and more specifically, providing reasoning as to why an independent peer review will not be granted. It is not clear what is to be lost by allowing a review of the decision or why the opinions of those with greater expertise in this field are not given any regard.

Under the previous Petitions Committee an agreed action was that the petition be put forward for debate in the autumn term (minutes of May and July 2020), however, due to Covid this did not occur. We ask that you put the petition forward for debate (at the time of submission it reached the required 5,000 signatures) so that the Members of the Senedd who have supported our campaign can question and scrutinise the Deputy Minister in the Chamber. The petition was signed from constituents in every part of Wales. Failure to hold the Welsh Government to account in this situation undermines the confidence of those across Wales in the Government's ability to act as custodians of our heritage.

Yours sincerely,



Sara Pedersen

Agenda Item 4.6

P-05-895 Rosa's Legacy: Introduce a scheme to help people access veterinary care for their companion animals

This petition was submitted by Linda Joyce Jones having collected a total of 95 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge Welsh Government to regulate commercial bus operators and give powers and funding to Local Authorities to run services that best meet the needs of local people. As well as providing access to employment and education, public transport is a social, health and wellbeing issue which is growing as bus services are being rapidly reduced, affecting the mental and physical health and well being of many residents who will become socially isolated and unable to get to basic services.

Additional Information

Bus operators are cutting many core services which were previously operating with little or no subsidy. Operators are not tendering for new contracts and some are requesting 6 figure sums as a subsidy to continue which is unaffordable for Local Authorities who are facing budget pressures. Local Authorities cannot run services in competition with operators. Passenger journey times for those accessing employment take too long as direct services are being cut if still exist at all and some are overcrowded. The majority of residents attending the many public meetings we have held are older people who are concerned about accessing services, attending health appointments and becoming isolated. Loneliness is a huge issue in our society. It is our aim to enable older people to live in their own homes longer. It is our aim for them to stay mentally and physically fit and active. Public bus transport is now a huge urgent issue that needs addressing quickly.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Arfon
- North Wales



Ein cyf/Our ref LG/10311/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

13th October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 23 September regarding the petition P-05-895 Rosa's Legacy: Introduce a scheme to help people access veterinary care for their companion animals

Animal health and welfare, and the responsible ownership of animals, are priorities for the Welsh Government and the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group, and we are committed to maintaining high standards of welfare for all animals kept in Wales at all stages of their lives. Our Programme for Government contains commitments to improve Animal Welfare in Wales, building on the positive work already being undertaken.

In addition, we will shortly publish our Animal Welfare Plan for Wales 2021-26 which builds on the progress made in Wales on animal welfare over the last 16 years. During this Government's term of office, we will introduce a broad range of policies to maintain the momentum of reform in animal welfare established since devolution of the relevant powers.

We acknowledge the complex issues raised in the Rosa's Legacy petition relating to the affordability of veterinary care. We also acknowledge the outstanding work of veterinary professionals in Wales in maintaining and enhancing the health and well-being of our animals. Working in partnership is key to the success of our Animal Welfare Plan and we are grateful for our strong and long-standing relationships with third sector organisations, many of which continue to offer schemes in support of those struggling to balance the requirements of responsible ownership with the expense of veterinary care.

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CF99 1SN

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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.

In order to ensure maximum visibility and impact of available schemes, I will instruct officials again to raise this issue with key third-sector organisations to assess whether more can be done to support owners of companion animals in Wales affected by these issues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

P-05-895 Rosa's Legacy: Introduce a scheme to help people access veterinary care for their companion animals, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 10.11.21

To the Chair and Members of the Petitions Committee of Senedd Cymru.

Petition P-05-895 Rosa's Legacy: Introduce a scheme to help people access veterinary care for their companion animals.

Thank you for having my petition as an agenda item.

The Ministers response.

Thank you for inviting me to respond to Lesley Griffiths MS most recent correspondence on this subject.

I am pleased to see that Lesley realises this is a complex issue and also acknowledges the sterling work Members of our veterinary profession undertake here in Cymru.

But I don't really feel that the Minister fully understand the issues I have raised in relation to the corporate takeover of every tier of veterinary practices here. Together with the impact this has had on companion animal welfare, us their families or indeed the profession themselves. I have laid before the Committee several documents from organisations who also share my concerns including the BVU (British Veterinary Union- part of Unite) .

I am pleased to see the Minister mention the rescue centres . This issue affects them too - both on accessing veterinary care for their own residents and people signing over or sadly abandoning their animals due to not being able to afford or access veterinary care. Either way putting greater strain on them .

I have always made clear that I don't think the solution to this problem lies with the third sector. Especially not here in Wales where as the Ministers letter makes clear the welfare of companion animals is a priority. So I was very disappointed to read the course of action Lesley had decided on.

The Minister has in the past said the Welsh Government was looking at a scheme to help families of companion animals access veterinary care. Lesley herself acknowledged that people's circumstances can change- Covid-19 has significantly added to this I feel.

Once again I am also disappointed that the Minister fails to acknowledge or take account of the work that the Companion Animal Welfare Group Wales (CAWGW) has already done on this subject (as your Committee's request) . Or taken up the offer of their former Chair Christine Chapman to look at this issue collaborative, thus utilising their vast knowledge and expertise.

Members may be aware that Bethan Sayed a former Senedd Cymru Member and Member of the Senedd Cymru Petitions Committee has recently taken on the position of chairing this group .

Update on corporate takeover.

As Members may be aware this summer the Completion and Markets Association (CMA) of the UK Government announced it had put a stop to the CVS veterinary group buying more veterinary practices and they also launched a consultation on this **1.**

Yet recently another equity shareholder company announced another substantial buyout- this time Vets Partners. Neither CMA or the UK Government have yet commented on this happening **2.**

I really doubt the CMA are seeing the greater picture and I certainly think they have been very slow to act and use their regulatory powers.

Next steps.

May I suggest Members:

1: Contact the Minister Lesley Griffiths MS asking her for an update on the Welsh Government's intention to introduce help for the families of companion animals to access veterinary care should their circumstances change.

2: Contact the Competition Marketing Authority (CMA) to request an update on their investigations into the corporate veterinary takeover. Also asking the CMA if they intend to look at Vet Partners recent buyout.

3: Contact Bethan Sayed in her position as Chair of CAWGW asking if they still have concerns around this issue.

I wish to thank Members for their diligence in this matter and for taking notice of one truly broken hearted Welsh woman. Whose overriding motive is that no one else suffers the horrors she and her beloved family Member did. Coupled with the desire to help our overworked and undervalued veterinary profession in small animal practice who are at crisis point.

If I can assist Members further I will endeavour to do so .

Agenda Item 4.7

P-05-1040 Introduce a moratorium on the approval any new large scale waste incinerators in Wales

This petition was submitted by Amanda Jenner having collected 891 signatures online, and 47 on paper, a total of 938 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Given the effort to become a circular, zero waste economy, Welsh Government should introduce a moratorium on the development of any new waste incinerators, (including energy from waste) & halt the progression of any incinerator planning applications which are at the pre-application/pre-approval stages. Burning waste results in emissions, including Co2 which is not currently restricted under incinerator regs.

Additional Information:

In developing its Circular Waste strategy, it is clear from the consultation responses that respondents to the Welsh Gov consultation felt strongly against incineration:

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2020-09/beyond-recycling-summary-of-responses_1.pdf

As is stated in the above link: "Whilst stakeholders agreed with disincentivising incineration and recognised that an incineration tax may lessen the market for the nonrecycling of waste, it was frequently stated that a tax does not go far enough. In moving towards a circular economy, respondents viewed less waste would be generated and, therefore, the presence of incinerators would be incompatible with the concept."

Given that there are new incinerators in Wales at the pre-application & pre-approval stage, the Welsh Gov should halt the progression of any new incinerator developments, particularly whilst it develops its Circular Waste Strategy which should include consideration of its current incineration capacity.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Montgomeryshire
- Mid and West Wales

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1040
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/11679/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions Committee

petitions@senedd.wales

19 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 7 October regarding "Petition P-05-1040: Introduce a moratorium on the approval any [*sic.*] new large scale waste incinerators in Wales".

The moratorium which was identified as an action in the Welsh Government's '*Beyond Recycling*' strategy and set out in the Ministerial Written Statement of 24 March, and which forms part of national waste policy, does not preclude applications for large scale energy from waste developments from being submitted to the Welsh Ministers and for any decision made in relation to them. There is currently one Developments of National Significance ("DNS") planning application before the Welsh Ministers which seeks the incineration of residual waste to generate electricity.

The planning system has an important role to play in facilitating sustainable waste management. Planning Policy Wales, TAN 21: Waste, relevant Development Plans and waste policy strategy, taken as a whole, comprise the overall waste management plan for Wales which is required under Article 28 revised Waste Framework Directive.

The extent to which a proposal demonstrates a contribution to waste management objectives, policy, targets and assessments contained in national waste policy is a material planning consideration for this DNS planning application and such future applications.

Yours sincerely,

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change

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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.

Agenda Item 4.8

P-05-1112 Help Welsh Communities Buy Community Assets: Implement Part 5 Chapter 3 of the Localism Act 2011

This petition was submitted by Daniel Evans having collected a total of 655 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Welsh communities continue to lose community assets such as pubs and sports grounds at an alarming rate. Unlike England & Scotland, Welsh communities still do not have the statutory right to bid for assets.

We urgently require new legislation relating specifically to Assets of Community Value. We call on the next Welsh Government to immediately introduce the provisions of Part 5 Chapter 3 of the Localism Act 2011 to ensure groups in Wales have the legal right to buy & manage community assets.

Additional Information:

Community assets build social capital, health and wellbeing. Losing community assets leads to weaker, more disconnected & unhappier communities

Part 5, Ch. 3 of The Localism Act 2011 granted the legal right for community groups to bid for & run assets of community value (ACV) under threat/for sale. It also requires local authorities to keep lists of such community assets. In Scotland, community groups have first refusal on these assets (<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn06366/>).

In Wales, however, the Welsh Government decided to not apply the relevant parts of the act that would facilitate this. Our communities are therefore being placed in a hugely disadvantaged position relative to England & Scotland.

In 2015, the minister stated that action would be taken on ACV during the 2016-21 Welsh Government, but nothing happened.

Implementing the relevant provisos of the Localism Act would hugely benefit Welsh communities desperate to save valuable local assets.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Bridgend
- South Wales West

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Justice



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1112
Ein cyf/Our ref JH-/10575/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
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21 October 2021

Dear Jack,

<p>Diolch am eich llythyr dyddiedig 7 Hydref ynghylch yr Ymchwil Trosglwyddo Asedau Cymunedol a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Mawrth.</p> <p>Cyn bo hir, bydd fy swyddogion yn cyfarfod ag eraill o bob rhan o Lywodraeth Cymru i drafod yr adroddiad a'i argymhellion. Bydd y cyfarfod hwn yn ystyried pa gamau y gellir eu cymryd gan fod yr argymhellion yn dibynnu ar gydweithrediad amrywiaeth o rhanddeiliaid.</p> <p>Mae'n debygol mai'r cam nesaf fydd cyfarfod â phartneriaid allanol gan gynnwys CLILC, Un Llais Cymru a chynrychiolwyr y trydydd sector.</p>	<p>Thank you for your letter dated 7 October concerning the Community Asset Transfer Research which was published in March.</p> <p>My officials will shortly be meeting with others from across the Welsh Government to discuss the report and its recommendations. This meeting will consider what action can be taken as the recommendations rely on the co-operation of a range of stakeholders.</p> <p>It is likely that the next step will be to meet with external partners including the WLGA, One Voice Wales and third sector representatives.</p>
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Yours sincerely,

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Justice

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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.

P-06-1112 Help Welsh Communities Buy Community Assets: Implement Part 5 Chapter 3 of the Localism Act 2011, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 09.11.21

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
09/11/2021

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN.

Dear Jack,

Whilst the topic of community asset transfers often seems dry and abstract, ultimately it is crucial for ensuring we build strong and resilient communities in Wales and stop the outflow of young people from our country. For this reason, the importance of community assets (or ‘anchor institutions’) such as sports clubs, chapels, town halls, and so on is cited repeatedly by the Future Generations Commissioner and are also central to the Welsh Government’s commitment to a foundational economy.

Community assets are central to improving life in Wales. Thank you for so much again committing to study and discuss this hugely important issue.

I welcome the response of the minister, dated the 21st of October, which states that the next steps for the issue will be discussed in a meeting which “will consider what action can be taken as the recommendations rely on the co-operation of a range of stakeholders.” I note also the minister’s reference to the latest GSR document on the issue, published in March 2021, which will inform this meeting. I would very much appreciate a list of the stakeholders who will be attending the forthcoming meeting if possible.

Whilst I of course welcome the minister’s response and appreciate that some research and action is being taken on this hugely important issue, I regret to say that it is clear that there are huge problems with the approach that is being taken by the Welsh Government. In particular, the latest research which underpins their approach to community asset transfers- [*‘Community asset transfer: research with the third sector, local authorities and community and town councils’*](#)- serves only to obfuscate the real problems surrounding CATs, moves responsibility away from the Welsh Government, and recommends complex solutions where very simple steps could instead be taken.

I therefore believe the minister’s proposed ‘next steps’ are wholly inadequate in terms of solving the problems we face regarding the loss of community assets.

The research commissioned and completed in March, whilst empirically strong, was completely superfluous: *we already knew* that the community asset transfer process was byzantine and a barrier to asset transfers, with respondents citing excessive bureaucracy; a lack of understanding and expertise on both sides of the process (i.e., community groups and local authorities); pressure on CATs to be profitable which is frequently at odds with the idea of social capital and the actual reasons that we need assets (e.g., public toilets), etc. Moreover, the latest research found that the CAT process was extremely patchy across Wales, with huge variation between local authorities in terms of their advice to community groups; the rationale behind CATs; the provision of specialized CAT officers, and so on. Again, the report's findings echoed previous research completed in 2012, 2015, and 2018 as well as academic research from across the UK.

What the report *did* succeed in doing however was shifting the focus of CATs almost entirely away from the Welsh Government and onto local authorities and the third sector. Whether this was deliberate or not, it is very interesting because previous research into this field repeatedly stated that *the main barrier to change across Wales is precisely the lack of legislation on this issue*.

Indeed, what is particularly bizarre is that in the latest research, respondents openly cited the lack of legislation in Wales as a huge problem, yet the report then neglects to mention this as a recommendation. On page 66 the report includes this excerpt:

Interviewee: Well, I'm not, correct me if I'm wrong but I think that the actual CAT transfer process is up to each individual authority to decide how they do it. I think if legislation could make them do it, that could make things better instead.

Interviewer: Okay, something that could compel authorities?

Interviewee: Correct, I think it's wide open at the moment, that it's down to individual authorities to decide yay or nay on the issues but if there was any legislation empowerment on the issues, that would certainly be an asset because a lot of local authorities only work quicker if there's a legislative requirement to work quicker. [Community Council]

It is unclear why the report did not then carry this important finding into its recommendations, which entirely ignored the issue of legislation. The report's focus on local authorities and the third sector completely ignores the elephant in the room, which is a **lack of legislation in this area**.

It is clear that we are heading in the wrong direction yet again on this issue. I refer the minister and the petitions committee to the [2012 Report of the Welsh Co-operative and Mutuals Commission](#), which made a number of very strong recommendations to the Welsh Government regarding ACV, including: 1) that specific legislation be passed, which would include making it compulsory for local authorities to list community assets; 2) that, like in Scotland, communities should have first refusal on ownership; 3) that when making legislation the Welsh Government strongly considers 'asset locking', i.e., measures which would formally prevent community assets being lost or taken away from the communities; and 4), that new financial bodies and specific, ring fenced funding mechanisms be developed to achieve the above aims.

The commission was also hopeful that reflecting Wales' communitarian traditions, the Welsh Government would pass stronger legislation than England and Scotland (46), and specifically include sports clubs as community assets in the forthcoming legislation.

I would like to remind the minister that in 2015 the then minister Lesley Griffiths [commissioned another consultation on Protecting Community Assets](#). This consultation *again* found very strong support for passing bespoke Welsh legislation. Respondents recommended adopting the localism

act's definition of community assets and adopting the Scottish policy of providing communities with the option of first refusal, as well as the need to raise awareness of the possibility of transferring assets to the community. It also identified the need for greater mentoring and support for community groups to be able to understand the bidding process.

In light of these recommendations, **the then minister accepted that the needs of communities could best be met by implementing the relevant parts of the localism act in Wales:** "In view of the consultation responses favouring local control of asset registers, the legislative framework for establishing a Welsh ACV Scheme could be put in place by commencing Chapter 3 part 5 of the Localism Act 2011 and in subsequent Welsh regulation made under the act. I consider continuing engagement with stakeholders in Wales, in line with Welsh Government's Principles for Working with Communities, will ensure the approach being taken is fully fit for the Welsh context."

She then strongly implied that action would be taken during the 2016-21 Welsh Government: "legislation in relation to this issue, including making a commencement Order to bring into force the relevant provisions of the Localism Act 2011 will take place after the National Assembly for Wales election next year... I believe there is cross-party support for action on this issue."

As previously discussed in my letter dated the 1st of February, despite accepting the need for legislation and stating that it would happen, nothing has been done with regards to legislation. I have attached this letter as well as my previously submitted research into the issue which bring together the key findings and recommendations. They can be summarised as:

- 1) There is a need for legislation to ensure that things like asset lists are made, to ensure implementation, and to avoid patchiness across Wales in terms of the CAT process.
- 2) There is a need for specific ring fenced funding to local authorities dedicated to providing capital funding to assist community purchases, subsequent training and mentoring.

I would hope the committee would agree that is surreal that a decade after legislation was passed in England, 20 years after the Scottish Labour Government passed legislation on CATS, and *nearly a decade since the first recommendations were published in Wales*, we are still 'consulting' on this issue despite there being a wealth of empirical evidence- commissioned by the Welsh Government itself- which has repeatedly recommended what needs to be done.

It is unclear why the Welsh Government is not taking action on this issue that would be universally popular, which would actually allow the aims and objectives of the FGA and the foundational economy policy to be met, and which would ultimately tangibly improve the lives of people in Wales. What is the point in passing and promoting the FGA and emphasising our belief in a foundational economy on the one hand whilst refusing to take basic and simple steps to actually enact these principles on the other? Why are we still consulting on an issue where the solutions have been repeatedly stated over the last decade? The Welsh Government seem to be doing everything except what actually needs to be done, i.e., passing the legislation which they promised they would pass in the last Government, and providing local authorities with money and training.

Unless the proper action is taken on this issue, more assets will be lost, and we will be left with a country of unhappy, disconnected and atomized communities. Indeed, the effects of the collapse of our communities is already evident across Wales: violent crime is on the rise, mental health problems are increasing, young people are moving out of their communities, it is increasingly difficult to arrange care in our communities, and so on.

This issue is not about 'old buildings', but what these spaces and places sustain: our communities. Wales is a community of communities, and Welsh culture itself was not something which simply appeared out of thin air, but which was created and then sustained by physical community institutions and assets that the communities themselves built: miner's welfare halls, chapels, sports clubs, libraries, and so on. We all know that these places strengthen communities and improve people's lives. They create connections between people, build friendships, they make people happy.

How can it be right that these community assets are now being sold off to the highest bidder, and our Government, which claims to uphold Wales' noble communitarian traditions, refuses to pass legislation that would instead allow communities to keep and run these assets? It is deeply unfair that communities in Wales, already some of the most disadvantaged in Europe, are further disadvantaged compared to those in England and Scotland in regards to running their own institutions.

Passing this simple legislation- as was promised by the previous minister- could empower communities and help to reverse this decline. I implore the minister and the committee to finally take firm action on this matter.

Thank you and kind regards,

Dr Daniel Evans

Agenda Item 4.9

P-06-1160 Require local Welsh exam centres to accept home-educated students for public exams

This petition was submitted by Claire Woolley, having collected a total of 393 signatures.

Text of Petition:

Home-educated students need guaranteed access to suitable local examination centres at affordable prices, enabling them to have the same rights and access to qualifications as every other child in Wales.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire
- Mid and West Wales

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: JMEWL1135421

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair, Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay. CF99 1SN.

15 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 7 October regarding petition P-05-1160 (Require local Welsh exam centres to accept home-educated students for public exams) seeking information on the Welsh Government's long-term policy work around home learners.

As you indicate, work in this field was paused due to Covid19, though as we transition out of the pandemic we are now in a position to reprioritise activity. The best interests of the child remain at the heart of our decision making and progressing work in this area remains a key priority for the Welsh Government.

The most recent figures from Data Cymru show that to January 2021, 3,952 children were home educated, up from 2,899 as at January 2020, an increase of 36%. Numbers have been trending upward for several years, though the rise in the last year was a result of the pandemic. Covid19 was cited as the reason for choosing home education by 30% of parents/carers of those who became home educated between January 2020 and January 2021, though overall lifestyle/ideological and philosophical reasons remain the main reason for choosing home education (33%). Parents who have made the decision to remove their children from school due to Covid19 may choose to return them to mainstream education as the pandemic recedes and we encourage schools and local authorities (LAs) to work with families in a supportive way to enable a return to school.

Currently each LA has its own home education policy in place, which will take into account Welsh Government non-statutory guidance on Elective Home Education (EHE) (January 2017) and will observe the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Welsh Government recognises the need for reform in the policy and legislative framework for EHE and previously consulted on proposals. These were placed on hold as a result of the pandemic. I have instructed officials to resume and progress at pace. The first priority is to conclude the analysis of the previous consultation.

These proposals aim to provide new statutory guidance that will strengthen the framework in relation to a LA's duties under Section 436a of the Education Act 1996 and clarify what is considered a 'suitable' and 'efficient' education. This includes an expectation that a suitable education would incorporate provision in numeracy, literacy and language skills, appropriate to the child's age, ability and aptitude and any additional learning needs (ALN) they may

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have. To assist LAs to discharge their duty to identify children not on a school roll or not already known by the LA to be EHE or in EOTAS, it is proposed that there be a database of children of compulsory school age in their LA area. The guidance will strengthen the existing framework for LAs to take action where a child is not receiving a suitable education and clarify that where this appears likely to impair a child's development, the LA should fully exercise their safeguarding powers and duties to protect the child's wellbeing.

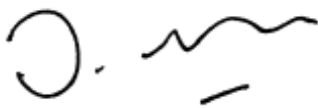
Identification will support planning for the needs of these learners and those who provide their education. In this respect I am keen that there needs to be a wider package of support for EHE children and young people to enhance their learning experience and development opportunities. As a start we will produce a Home Educator's Handbook that contains detailed advice and information to support home educators should they require it. My officials are working with stakeholders to understand what further support home educators would and should expect to enable fulfilling and appropriate learning experiences to occur for these children and young people and I will make further announcements on this in due course.

The above builds on current activity, supporting both the administration costs of LAs in relation to home education and funding education resources and activity for home educated learners. We have made £1.7m of funding available to support this, this year. Wales is the only country in the UK that has a fund of this nature and LAs use the funding to provide a range of practical support to home educators. This includes; access to learning resources and facilities, help with the costs of educational visits and exams fees, ALN support, wellbeing services, pedagogical advice and promoting access to other learning opportunities. Anecdotally LAs inform us that the availability of this support has already prompted some previously unknown home educating families to come forward and engage with their LA to access this help and support.

I believe that our proposals, building on current available support, will help ensure home educated children and young people receive a suitable education, whilst also respecting the wish of parents/carers to home educate their children.

I hope that this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

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Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg

Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Agenda Item 4.10

P-06-1163 Extend the postgraduate STEMM bursary to all MSc students in Wales

This petition was submitted by Rachel Wrathall, having collected a total of 88 signatures.

Text of Petition:

In June 2019 Welsh Government announced a bursary scheme to increase the number of Welsh graduates who remained or returned to Wales to undertake a master's degree in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics or Medicine (also known as 'STEMM' subjects). This funding currently only extends to traditional Universities, excluding students who choose a STEMM Masters through alternative providers. This excludes some students, who need more flexibility in STEMM subject matter or course delivery.

Additional Information:

The Diamond review recommended that efforts are made "to enable students to study in the mode that best supports their circumstances". (The Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance Arrangements in Wales, 2016).

Currently students studying for STEMM Masters at the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) School of the Environment in Machynlleth are excluded from Welsh Government's STEMM bursary funding. The courses provided at CAT have a specific sustainability focus, which aligns with Welsh Government efforts to change the course of Wales onto a more sustainable path (e.g. through principles outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015).

Teaching at CAT is flexible, and unlike traditional universities, enables students to study a taught Masters whilst continuing work/caring responsibilities.

We believe that the exclusion of STEMM students at organisations like CAT from STEMM bursary funding is counter to the STEMM bursary policy aims.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Vale of Glamorgan
- South Wales Central

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Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1163
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/11355/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
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20 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 7th October regarding extending the postgraduate STEM bursary to all MSc students in Wales.

I understand the Committee's disappointment that the legislative framework does not allow for all students to access the STEM bursary. This policy reflects the eligibility criteria as set out in the Education (Student Support) (Postgraduate Master's Degrees) (Wales) Regulations 2019 (the PM Regulations 2019), as amended. There are no plans to amend the policy position on this.

From 1 August 2017, the automatic designation of full-time higher education courses applies only to courses provided by 'recognised educational institutions'. A 'recognised educational institution' is defined as any of the following:

- a Welsh regulated institution, meaning an institution which has a fee and access plan approved by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) under Section 7 of the Higher Education (Wales) Act 2015 while that plan remains in force
- an English regulated institution, that is an institution maintained or assisted by recurrent grants from OfS
- an institution in Scotland or Northern Ireland that is maintained or assisted by recurrent grants out of public funds.

The institutions that do not fall under this category are classed as alternative providers and have to apply for specific designation in order for students to apply for student support. This option is available to all alternative providers as long as they meet the criteria.

I appreciate this may not be the response the Petitions Committee was hoping for. However, the Welsh Government has a duty to safeguard taxpayer's money. We must be able to confirm that all providers and courses can demonstrate that they meet specific criteria

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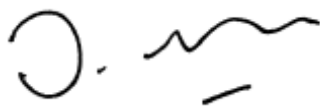
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including financial viability, quality of provision and contributing to the public good. It is also in the interests of students that the Welsh Government assures itself that providers are able to meet these criteria.

Yours sincerely,

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Jeremy Miles AS/MS

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Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Agenda Item 4.11

P-06-1178 Free school meals for all pupils in Wales

This petition was submitted Adam Johannes, having collected a total of 980 signatures.

Text of Petition:

We call upon Welsh Government to immediately

- Amend the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals so that any child in any family receiving Universal Credit or equivalent benefit is eligible.
- Permanently extend free school meal entitlements to families with no recourse to public funds
- Introduce universal infant free school meals across Wales

As the first step towards implementing universal provision of nutritious free school meals for all school-aged children in Wales.

Additional Information:

Every school-age pupil in Wales deserves the right to nutritious free school meals.

According to Child Poverty Action Group over half of children living below the UK poverty line in Wales (over 70,000) are not currently eligible for free school meals. This is not acceptable.

Free schools meals help struggling families, reduce stigma and inequality, and improve children's health and wellbeing.

We believe the benefits of universal free school meals for all school-aged children in Wales will include

- Reducing poverty and inequality
- Helping family budgets and home life
- Boosting learning and education attainment
- Raising concentration levels of pupils throughout the day

- Creating bonds in the dinner hall through shared meal experiences
- Improving health inequalities among children
- Reducing obesity
- Increasing free school meals uptake by reducing stigma associated with means tested benefits.

Senedd Constituency and Region

- Cardiff Central
- South Wales Central

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Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1178
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/11178/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
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19 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 21 September 2021 (regarding petition P-06-1178-21 Free School Meals for all pupils in Wales).

The review of free school meal eligibility criteria will include a number of options. Whilst I have not ruled anything out, funding is not unlimited and making universal provision of free school meals would necessitate difficult choices being made elsewhere. Most importantly I want to ensure that funding is used to benefit families who need it the most.

I want to be explicit that the review is designed to ensure that more children in Wales receive free school meals, and, as such, I will be extending eligibility. However, funding is an important consideration because extending eligibility for free school meals is a long term financial commitment which will impact beyond the term of the current Welsh Government. There is a balance to be achieved between benefitting as many families as possible whilst making the optimum use of public money.

The review is being taken forward via a number of work streams, one of which will consider research and learning from the approaches adopted elsewhere. Officials will look at the examples Mr Johannes cites in his letter to you in order to see if there is good practice that is relevant for Wales.

Another work stream of the review is considering the impact of changing eligibility criteria on those grants and initiatives that are predicated on numbers eligible for free school meals. This must not be allowed to stand in the way of an increase in free school meal eligibility. However, as Mr Johannes points out, it is vital that if we de-couple these grants and initiatives from free school meal eligibility, we must try to ensure that families do not miss out as a result.

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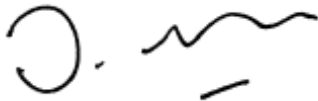
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Mr Johannes suggests joined up thinking and costing and I would like to confirm that I intend to put in place arrangements for monitoring uptake and evaluating the impact of any changes I make. This will include increasing the understanding of the impact of receiving free school meals on the health and educational attainment of eligible children and young people.

I hope that the committee finds this information helpful. However, should members require further details, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

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Minister for Education and Welsh Language

**P-06-1178 Free school meals for all pupils in Wales, Correspondence –
Petitioner to Committee, 09.11.21**

Dear Jack Sargeant MS & Chair and Petition Committee colleague MSs

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Minister's letter 19 October in relation to improving the eligibility for state school students to receive free school meals.

I note the Minister's comments on our previous letter to and welcome the intimation of some positive thinking in relation to improving the eligibility to free school meals, hopefully in line with our petition request and the ultimate goal of free school meals for all students in state schools and FE colleges.

The Minister's letter of 19 October explicitly makes reference to the long term funding implications of universal free school meals as being a major factor to weigh against widening eligibility and the impacts on other spending heads.

I would like to make two key points in this regard.

As clearly spelt out in our previous letter I would like to suggest that tackling family and child poverty in Wales should be the main priority, which with the recent UK Tory government removal of the £20 a week Covid uplift to universal credit has become increasingly pressing for all who depend on this benefit. The Child Poverty Review announced by Welsh Government Minister Julie James in December 2019 rightly recommended extending free school meals to all families on Universal Credit. As the previous Senedd report argued, free school meals is the main policy the Welsh Government has at its disposal, given that welfare is not a devolved responsibility, to offset the impact of this callous cut.

As stated in our first letter and as referred to in the Minister's penultimate paragraph of the 19 October letter, we would like to strongly suggest that the budgeting and funding of universal free school meals should be seen not just as a funding item to be covered from the Education budget but one that should be supported from Health and Social Services; Local Government and Public Services; Rural Affairs; and Economy and Transport, both in terms of health prevention and supporting the local economy. We would strongly urge the Minister to put this case to Cabinet colleagues as being a very practical and beneficial application of the principles of 'joined up governance'.

Once again thank you for the opportunity to put this case to you.