

Concise Minutes – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee room 5

Meeting date: Monday, 30 June 2025

Meeting time: 14.00 – 14.40

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/15142>

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Carolyn Thomas MS (Chair) Rhys ab Owen MS Vaughan Gething MS Joel James MS
Witnesses:	
Committee Staff:	Gareth Price (Clerk) Lara Date (Second Clerk) Kayleigh Imperato (Deputy Clerk)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

There were no apologies.

The following declarations of interest were made under Standing Order 17.24A – Vaughan Gething declared relevant interests in relation to Petition P-06-1373 – Item 3.3 – as he had made Ministerial decisions in support of that project – and in relation to Petition P-06-1488 – Item 3.4 – as he had made a series of decisions as Health Minister during the COVID pandemic. He did not think he should take any part in the discussions or decision making on those two items.



2 New Petitions

2.1 P-06-1503 Site ground mounted solar panels next to roads and railways, in industrial areas and over car parks

The Committee thanked the petitioner for highlighting an issue that had Member support. It seems that the Welsh Government is progressing proposals in several of the areas outlined in the petition and the matter will continue to be a subject of Senedd scrutiny. It was therefore agreed Members would continue to keep a watching brief on the issue, but would close the petition.

2.2 P-06-1511 Rebuild Cardiff's Lost Observatory at St Fagans Museum "Together we shape the story of Wales"

Following discussion it was agreed to close the petition, but to also write to Cardiff Astronomical Society and the Glamorgan Archives to ask about the location of the original plans for the observatory, and to make those responses publicly available.

2.3 P-06-1512 Call on the Welsh Government to recognise and address the dental crisis facing patients in Wales

It was agreed to close the petition, given the high profile this issue already enjoys in the Senedd. In doing so, Members agreed to highlight the petition with the Health and Social Care Committee, given that Committee's previous work on this issue.

2.4 P-06-1528 Prevent Powys patients who are treated in English hospitals from facing increased waiting times

The Committee agreed to refer the petition to the Health and Social Care Committee which was responsible for scrutinising NHS performance and funding, and in doing so to include the related correspondence received from Senedd Member Russell George MS. The Committee also agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social

Care to ask – regarding his announcement that £120 million will be provided to help cut waiting times – how many of the appointments mentioned to reduce the overall size of the waiting list will be patients of Powys Teaching Health Board, and how this funding will benefit Powys patients who are on the waiting list. The Committee also agreed to write to Powys Teaching Health Board to ask what assessment they had made of the impact of the decision to apply NHS England targets. It was agreed that the petition would be closed and responses to correspondence forwarded to the Health and Social Care Committee.

3 Updates to previous petitions

3.1 P-06-1317 Recognise Teaching Assistants as an important asset to schools by raising wage

The Committee noted the ongoing work to develop a workforce plan, and agreed to highlight the petition to the Children, Young People and Education Committee for awareness, to thank the petitioner and to close the petition.

3.2 P-06-1357 Draw up a new Microplastics Action Plan for Wales

The Committee agreed to highlight the petitioners' concerns and recommendations with the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs and seek a further response. The petition would be kept open pending a reply. The Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee would be copied in to the correspondence for awareness.

3.3 P-06-1373 Stop Welsh Government Wasting £4million on Skyline private development Kilvey Hill, Swansea

The Committee agreed that it had addressed the issues that fell within the scope of admissibility of the petition and would now close the petition. In doing so it was

agreed to write to the five local Senedd Members to highlight the latest correspondence, for those Members to pursue going forward.

3.4 P-06-1488 Establish a 'Care Society' to Tackle the Long COVID Crisis in Wales

In discussing the petition it was noted that the matters were referred to regularly in the Senedd, but that the Petitions Committee could not take them any further. It was agreed to forward the responses received to the Health and Social Care Committee, as the specialist committee, and to thank the petitioners and close the petition.

3.5 P-06-1491 We demand a fair deal for residents affected by the Arbed and CESP scheme

Following discussion the Committee agreed that, as it was unlikely any other Committee would be able to look at the issue further, to keep a watching brief before considering the petition again, and progress against the current plans, early in the new year.

4 Papers to note

4.1 P-06-1335 Welsh Government should take steps to ensure vulnerable adults without bank cards can pay with cash

Members noted the paper.

4.2 P-06-1525 Preserve the unique character of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal for the future generations of Wales

Members noted the paper.

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the remainder of today's business:

A motion was proposed to go into private for the remainder of that meeting. The motion was agreed.