

## Petitions Committee

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Meeting Venue:

**Committee Room 1 – Senedd**

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Meeting date:

**10 March 2015**

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Meeting time:

**09.00**

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Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



For further information please contact:

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## Agenda

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### 1 Introduction, apologies and substitutions

### 2 Updates to previous petitions

#### Economy, Science and Transport

2.1 P-04-416 North-South Rail Services (Pages 1 – 5)

2.2 P-04-459 A direct rail connection from Cardiff Airport to Cardiff central and west Wales (Pages 6 – 9)

2.3 P-04-599 Impact of Domestic Rating on Self Catering (Pages 10 – 16)

#### Health

2.4 P-04-492 Diagnosis of autism in children (Pages 17 – 23)

- 2.5 P-04-494 Robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy must be made available to men in Wales now (Pages 24 – 27)
- 2.6 P-04-501 Day Centres for the elderly in Wales to be made statutory (Pages 28 – 30)
- 2.7 P-04-527 Campaign for a Special Cancer Drug Fund in Wales (Pages 31 – 34)
- 2.8 P-04-532 Improving specialised neuromuscular services in Wales (Pages 35 – 38)
- 2.9 P-04-568 Public Inquiry into ABMU Health Board (Pages 39 – 40)
- 2.10 P-04-571 Treating Pernicious Anaemia (Pages 41 – 51)
- 2.11 P-04-583 Ban all Growing and Selling of all GM seeds / Foods and Animal / Fish Feed in Wales (Pages 52 – 60)
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### **Culture, Sport and Tourism**

- 2.13 P-04-607 Call for the welsh government to purchase Garth Celyn (Pages 64 – 84)

### **Natural Resources**

- 2.14 P-04-500 Call For Regulation of Animal Welfare Establishments in Wales (Pages 85 – 89)

### **Education**

- 2.15 P-04-528 All Primary Schools in Wales taught through the medium of Welsh (Pages 90 – 91)

### **Communities and Tackling Poverty**

- 2.16 P-04-519 Abolition of Park Homes Sales Commission (Pages 92 – 94)

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- 3.2 P-03-236 The Charter for Grandchildren (Page 96)
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- 3.4 P-04-504 A483 Maerdy bridge Road Junction safety (Page 98)
- 3.5 P-04-512 Stop the "Staff reduction proposals" at the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (Page 99)
- 3.6 P-04-520 Regarding the Cancellation of All Elective Orthopaedic Surgery by Hywel Dda Health Board During the Winter 2013/14 (Page 100)

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- 4 P-04-547 Ban Polystyrene(EPS) Fast Food and Drinks Packaging (10.00 – 10.30) (Pages 101 – 104)**
- 5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:**
  - Item 6.
- 6 Review of the Petitions System (Pages 105 – 134)**

# Agenda Item 2.1

## **P-04-416: North-South Rail Services**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to work with Arriva Trains to increase the number of direct express rail services between Holyhead and Cardiff.

**Petition raised by:** Neil Taylor

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 2 October 2012

**Number of signatures:** 19

Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AC / AM  
Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth  
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-416  
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/05708/14

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions Committee

[committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

10 November 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter regarding the North-South Rail Services petition which I received on 29 October.

My officials continue to work with the Department for Transport, Network Rail and Merseytravel on the reinstatement of the Halton Curve and detailed proposals are expected to be available early next year. Subject to agreement of the detail, the UK Government has indicated that the scheme will be delivered in 2016/17 and operational in December 2017.

Under the current arrangement, the Secretary of State for Transport is the responsible franchising authority for the Wales and Borders Franchise. Discussions between the Welsh Government and the Department for Transport to explore the potential for transferring responsibility of the franchise are ongoing. Irrespective of our role in awarding the next franchise, we want to ensure that it delivers improved services and value for money. In terms of service levels, under the timetable for procurement of the franchise, the Department for Transport will determine these between Autumn 2015 and Spring 2017. Thereafter, the procurement process is scheduled to start. It is expected that the franchise will be awarded the following Spring so that the new franchise can start in October 2018.

The current North-South Premier Service is schedule for renewal in May 2015. I am currently considering options regarding the North South Express and will make an announcement in due course.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. M.', located below the main text.

# VALE OF CLWYD TRADES UNION COUNCIL CYNGOR UNDEBAU LLAFUR DYFFRYN CLWYD

19 February 2015

National Assembly Petitions Committee

Dear Chair

## **North/south trains petition**

I organised this petition on behalf of the Vale of Clwyd Trades Union Council following a motion to the Wales TUC Conference in May 2012. My concern for an express north/south Wales rail service is based on the fact that following the establishment of the National Assembly I started attending all Wales meetings in Cardiff. At the time I was a regular traveller to meetings in London. I was working for the FSB and was a member of the NUJ's NEC, Equality and PR Councils.

The Assembly has had a considerable impact on organisations in Wales with many setting up Welsh bodies. The FSB set up its Wales Council and the NUJ went from having an informal Wales Forum to an Executive Council.

In my FSB role I was appointed to a number of all Wales bodies including three chaired by Assembly Ministers. The more power the Assembly has the more all Wales meetings there will be. The number of meetings in Cardiff has increased considerably and travelling to them is now an issue. I, like many, usually travelled by car which often meant losing a number of hours sleep and then driving on rural roads for around four hours.

Following an important meeting we then drove home for another four hours. The A470, our north/south highway, is a rural B road to our English neighbours. Traffic and journey times are increasing with little hope of any improvements. This is an exercise no one would recommend when there is a north/south rail service. Many organisations are campaigning to get people out of their cars and onto public transport, trains in particular.

When comparing the train services from north Wales to London and Cardiff it is obvious that they are in totally different leagues. I was concerned at the journey times and the fact that for meetings in London I could easily travel there and back in a day. This was for meetings starting at 10.00 a.m. or finishing before 5.00 p.m. The train services are based on the Arriva Trains and Virgin Trains timetables for December 2014 to May 2015

For meetings in Cardiff I would have to leave Rhyl at 0531 whilst for London it is 0653. Returning home from London on the 1710 arriving at 1948, from [Cardiff](#) it was the 1721 arriving at 2106. The journey time to London is usually around two hours 40 minutes. The Cardiff journey is around an hour longer each way.


It is not just the journey times that need addressing, there are many other issues including the number of stops the services make. The London service from Holyhead is mainly hourly with 14 trains having 9 stops. The Cardiff service is at least two hourly with 9 trains, not all from Holyhead which have about 31 stops. The service is mainly local ones which may well subsidise the one express service.

As there are weekend meetings and of course Rugby Internationals Saturday's trains also need looking at. I attended NUJ WEC meetings by train until a journey ended at Hereford because of maintenance work. I caught a bus to Newport then a train to Cardiff which arrived as the meeting finished. As the member of staff lived in Manchester and travelled by car she dropped me off at Crewe. The last meeting I attended was from 1200 to 1500. The present service from Rhyl is at 0741 arriving at 1115. The return train leaves Cardiff at 1521 arriving at Rhyl at 1858, both services are now direct.

The carriages and services are again in totally different leagues, the Cardiff service and tracks are more Victorian than modern. The London service has modern carriages with a buffet car and sockets for laptops and mobile phones. According to a colleague "the poor rolling stock must have a devastating effect on our tourist trade. Some of the journeys can be horrific such as the Cardiff to Holyhead evening train on Saturday, its mayhem!"

The need to get the people who travel north/south to use trains is commendable and should be supported. Improving the service is essential and changing it from three stopping services tacked together must be a priority. There must be an express north/south service allowing people to attend meetings and return well within a day.

I would suggest that the Assembly discuss with Public, Private and Voluntary sector organisations to find a convenient period for all Wales meetings of not more than four hours around mid day. Then discuss with Arriva Trains Wales about providing a return service from Holyhead stopping at : Bangor, Llandudno Junction, Colwyn Bay, Rhyl, Prestatyn, Flint, Chester, Wrexham, Shrewsbury and Newport. This is similar to its 0533 service from Holyhead.

Yours sincerely  


Neil Taylor LL.M, PGCM, MCIPR  
Secretary/Ysgrifennydd

## Agenda Item 2.2

### **P-04-459 A direct rail connection from Cardiff Airport to Cardiff central and west Wales**

#### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government develop a direct rail connection from Cardiff Airport itself to Cardiff central and west Wales.

There is a substantial need for a fast direct rail route straight from the actual Cardiff International Airport itself directly into Cardiff Central train station (and westwards to west Wales) so that national and international visitors are properly serviced and catered for at our National Airport. There is already a railway stop at Rhoose which is less than a mile away from the airport. It is a wasted opportunity not to extend this line to Cardiff International Airport itself so that travellers from all over the world, straight from their flight, can jump straight on to a train that takes them to the capital city of Wales and beyond.

**Petition raised by:** Sovereign Wales

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 19 March 2013

**Number of signatures:** 39



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-459  
Ein cyf/Our ref

William Powell AM  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

committeebusiness@wales.gsi.gov.uk

25 February 2015

Dear William

I write in response to a request from the Committee Business Manager, received on 24 February, for an up-date in relation to petition reference P-04-459 "A direct rail connection from Cardiff Airport to Cardiff central and West Wales",

Further to my letter to you of 20 March, 2014, I have now considered the proposals of the Metro Implementation Group. The Cardiff Capital Region Metro Impact Study's up-date last August sets out a vision of an extensive mass-transit network linking Cardiff and its wider city region. While these potential infrastructure investments have been subject to high level evaluation and appraisal, we are now undertaking the further detailed work to design, develop and evaluate a program of delivery.

Electrifying and improving the Valleys Lines is vital to our ambitions for delivering the South Wales Metro. The announcement on 21 November of a funding deal for electrification of the Great Western Main Line between the Welsh Government and the Department of Transport is a major step forward in creating a modern train service that is capable of meeting future demand and supporting economic growth. It is proposed that the Metro will be developed initially around the planned electrification of the Great Western Main Line and Valley Lines network by 2018 and 2020 respectively. Work has been commissioned to define the strategic options for the modification of the Valley lines including options for electrification and light rail. That high-level optioneering will be completed in the Spring and will form the basis of the more detailed strategic business cases that will be developed by the summer.

We are also working on the use of technology based ticketing systems to increase user convenience. The first phase will utilise smart ticketing technology on buses in the Metro area to provide a common payment mechanism through the use of pre-paid smartcards. This will provide a platform for further innovation to meet the needs of passengers.

The subsidiary company of the Welsh Government that I announced on 5 December will, in its first instance, concentrate on providing advice and technical expertise to drive forward the linked projects of the Metro maximising the use of European Structural Funds wherever possible and draw in private sector contributions.

Beyond this, we are developing with the City Region Board a number of different delivery options for the next stages of the Metro. I will be pleased to keep Committee Members updated on the progress we are making as we drive forward our aim to develop a truly multi-modal integrated, rapid transit network which will offer a region wide alternative to the car system for South Wales, and act as a model for future roll out across Wales.

Edwina Hart

**P-04-459 A direct rail connection from Cardiff Airport to Cardiff central and west Wales – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Clerking Team, 26.02.2015**

Dear Kayleigh,

Thank you for this. In reply to this letter by the Minister Edwina Hart I am unfortunately none the wiser what her thoughts are on the petition which calls for 'A direct rail connection from Cardiff Airport to Cardiff central and west Wales'. Ms Hart seems to have not touched on this in her letter. I can't therefore give any thoughts on the points she covers as they are not specifically related to the petition. Is there perhaps any way Ms Hart could give her thoughts specifically on the subject?

Thank you

# Agenda Item 2.3

## **P-04-599 Impact of Domestic Rating on Self Catering Accommodation**

### **Petition wording**

We, the undersigned, call, upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to:

1. Undertake a thorough review and impact assessment of the Non Domestic Rating (Definition of Domestic Property) (Wales) Order 2010, with particular reference to:

a. the potential for adverse impact on new self catering tourism businesses, as they develop their marketing strategies during the first two years of trading;

b. the critical impact of severe weather events on marketing strategies and hence occupancy rates during a particular calendar year.

2. Have regard to the findings of such a review, specifically by instructing the Valuation Office for Non Domestic Rates in Wales to adopt a flexible and business friendly approach, including potential for the retrospective waiving of Council Tax, where there is clear evidence of a genuine case.

3. Review its overall tourism marketing strategy, to ensure that Visit Wales registered self catering businesses are not disadvantaged by disproportionate emphasis upon coastal tourism and serviced accommodation, such as cruising and hotels.

As well as fostering a positive climate for new self catering business, this would also serve to create a level playing field for business with England and the other nations of the United Kingdom – and ensure that the self catering sector, so vital to the Welsh tourism economy, is no longer marginalised.

**Petitioner :** Chris Harris

**First considered by the Committee:** 23 September 2014

**Number of Signatures:** 27

**P-04-599 Impact of Domestic Rating on Self Catering Accommodation –  
Correspondence from Wales Tourism Alliance to the Chair, 09.01.2015**

Dear William,

Non-Domestic Rating (Definition of Domestic Property) (Wales) Order 2010: The IRRV Report and the 70 Day Rule.

We were aware of the report's commissioning, were consulted by IRRV and duly responded, as were WASCO – Wales Association of Self Catering Operators – and I believe other Tourism Membership organisations across Wales. With regard to Mr Harris and his co-signatories, if he was a member of one of the Tourism membership organisations, I think it likely at some point he would have received a communication. In any event, it is not for us to defend the Welsh Government's communique on this issue!

Beyond this though, we are in broad agreement with some of the sentiment expressed. The situation to date as far as our enquiries are concerned is as follows:

The Welsh Assembly Government appointed the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation to investigate the circumstances which led to the original change in legislation. This was following a brief press campaign in Autumn 2013 (which involved some of our members) to which Carl Sargeant AM (CS) and Edwina Hart's (EH) offices responded by commissioning the IRRV report – which was welcomed by us. The Inland Revenue and Ratings Agency were then charged with looking into the consequential impact, together with recommendations as to how the proposals may work fairly and effectively. A report was then submitted in January 2014 to the Ministers by the IRRV with five options for the future implementation of the order. The Welsh Government then launched a further brief consultation on the IRRV findings which ended 19 March 14. The findings were then published on the Welsh Government website. The first two options were to have a 3/5 year rolling assessment as to the number of days, so that you can average out 70 days p/a. The 2nd option (favoured by WTA) was to choose the best year out of 3 years.

Following this final consultation, we then had an assurance in April 14, further to us writing to Carl Sargeant's office, that the Ministers were considering the IRRV options – 'Welsh Ministers are now considering the potential options for amending the 2010 Order along with the pros and cons and associated costs of each option' –

Gavin Elias (Housing Policy Division). CS's office also mentioned that in doing so, account will be taken of the proposed amendments that may be required to the Housing Bill regarding council tax on second homes. We have also again in the meantime (20th June 14) written to CS's office and received a response (Joanna Lawler) which simply directed us back to the WG web pages? Whilst I am not sure what impact the IRRV proposals were on the Housing Bill, now enacted of course, I assume this has been sorted internally.

We also contacted WG again to ask whether there has been any movement on the issue as we had received reports that some councils are using the ruling to charge legitimate businesses for domestic rates. WASCO have also done the same. After chasing via Visit Wales, we also received a further response on the 15th October 2014 from Joanna Valentine of the Local Govt. Finance and Public Service Division of the Welsh Government which stated

'Work is currently on-going regarding the potential amendments to the Non-Domestic Rating (Definition of Domestic Property) (Wales) Order 2010 following the IRRV report and subsequent consultation. We are working closely with Welsh Government lawyers on this matter and have taken advice from specialists such as the Valuation Office Agency and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, to ensure that any measures taken ensure the original intention of the Order are maintained whilst addressing the issues that genuine business have raised. As you can appreciate, any potential amending provisions need to be carefully considered to ensure they have the desired effect, and do not result in any further unintended consequences. Initial advice from lawyers required significant additional work to be undertaken. We hope to be in a position to put further advice to Minister's very shortly but cannot advise when any decision will be taken as this is a matter for Ministers'.

So we still have yet to hear a final decision on the matter. I believe that WASCO received another response from Edwina Hart AM, yesterday again stating they were still looking into the potential impact of the report's recommendations.

Best wishes,

Adrian

Adrian D. Greason-Walker

Wales Tourism Alliance

Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AC / AM  
Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth  
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-599  
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/05282/14

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

10 October 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 30 September regarding Petition P-04-599, received from Chris Harris which seeks a thorough review of the Non Domestic Rating (Definition of Domestic Property) (Wales) Order 2010 and to review the Welsh Government's overall tourism marketing strategy for Wales.

I am aware of the issues that the Non Domestic Rating (Definition of Domestic Property) (Wales) Order 2010 Order has had on genuine businesses. As a result, I commissioned the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV) to carry out an independent review to look at the effects of the Order. The IRRV took into consideration the views of a wide range of the business community and owners of self-catering properties, as well as trade and other relevant organisations.

Following the publication of the report by the IRRV, a six-week consultation was launched and advertised via the Welsh Government's online consultation portal. The consultation sought the views of individuals, owners of self-catering properties and representatives of the self-catering trade. The consultation document and a summary of the responses received can be found here:

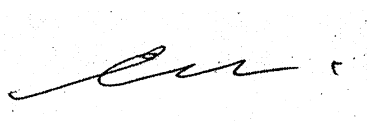
<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/localgovernment/non-domestic-rating-consul/?status=open&lang=en>

Following this initial review, work in respect of self catering properties in Wales is currently being undertaken which will be used to inform what action should be taken in relation to any potential changes in the legislation for this area, including whether any guidance should be issued to the Valuation Office Agency and Local Authorities.

The Welsh Government's marketing strategy, which currently covers all tourism in Wales, was produced following extensive consultation with the tourism industry and with other stakeholders. It recognises the importance of Wales's varied tourism offering and does not marginalise any particular sector. The strategy and marketing campaigns are monitored throughout the year with guidance received from the Tourism Advisory Board.

We meet regularly with representatives of the self-catering sector and discussions are currently ongoing with self-catering agencies regarding further promotion of the sector to the domestic UK family market as part of our January 2015 marketing campaign.

I am confident that the reviews which have been undertaken and the procedures that are currently in place are sufficient and no further action is required.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. I.', is located below the text. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**P-04-599 Impact of Domestic Rating on Self Catering Accommodation –  
Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Clerking Team, 28.02.2015**

Dear Kayleigh

It is difficult to understand what they mean at the end of their letter no further action is to be taken. Every time a letter is written with regards to this issue whether from the Welsh Assembly or The Tourism alliance they seem to be repeating things I know already. The report they are talking about was finished in Sept 2013, it is now Feb 2015 and still nothing has been done. The Welsh Assembly have already admitted that they have made a big mistake over this. The Tourism industry is very important for the economy of Wales and this is not the way to treat hard working honest self catering business's such as ours. The Welsh Assembly and the Tourism Alliance should be on our side not against us. I do not understand what they are playing at. We bring money into this country and assist both the local and national economy. I have also spoken to other people in the industry and organisations and they have agreed on my issues and points regarding both the impact of the Domestic Rating on Self Catering Accommodation and the Marketing policy, which is bound to have implications on this also.

Best Regards

Chris Harris

## **P-04-492 Diagnosis of autism in children**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to:

- ensure timely diagnosis for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder [ASD], regardless of where they live, so that children with autism can be supported and lead fulfilled lives; and
- review implementation of and ensure compliance with the NICE guidelines on recognition, referral and diagnosis of children and young people on the autism spectrum as part of the Welsh Government's refresh of its ASD Strategic Action Plan.

### **Supporting information:**

Diagnosing can be a critical milestone for people with autism. For children, it can help ensure that the right support is put in place from an early age.

Diagnosing autism can be difficult because autism is complex condition that affects each person in a different way. We therefore support the view that a number of different specialists should be part of the process to ensure a correct diagnosis.

However a timely diagnosis is vital in order to minimise anxiety and stress for children with autism and their families. The Deputy Minister for Social Services supports this view and in response to a question from Rebecca Evans AM said: 'I fully recognise the importance of receiving a timely diagnosis.' We also know that early intervention for children with autism is crucial in their educational, emotional and social development and for their longer-term health.

While there are good examples of diagnostic and assessments services in Wales, we are very concerned that not everyone can access a timely diagnosis and that not every area is following the NICE guidelines on

recognition, referral and diagnosis of children and young people on the autism spectrum.

Our experience in Pembrokeshire has been particularly difficult, with some members of the branch waiting up to seven years for a diagnostic assessment. This lengthy wait for diagnosis is having a huge impact on families across Pembrokeshire.

We have tried on several occasions to engage with Hywel Dda Local Health Board. We have also met with local AMs Paul Davies and Angela Burns outlining our concerns. Paul Davies has written to Hywel Dda Health Board urging them to meet with the branch. We are still waiting for the Health Board to act on that request.

One of the branch members has 'waited over six years for my one son to get a diagnosis. Now I'm waiting for the other it's been about two years and it fills me with dread.'

We want to ensure timely diagnosis for all children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder across Wales so that they can be supported appropriately to lead fulfilled lives.

#### About autism

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects the way a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them. It is a spectrum condition, which means that, while all people with autism share three main areas of difficulty, their condition will affect them in different ways. The three main areas of difficulty are:

- Difficulty with social interaction. This includes recognising and understanding other people's feelings and managing their own. Not understanding how to interact with other people can make it hard to form friendships;
- Difficulty with social communication. This includes using and understanding verbal and non-verbal language, such as gestures, facial expressions and tone of voice; and

- Difficulty with social imagination. This includes the ability to understand and predict other people's intentions and behaviour and to imagine situations outside of their own routine. This can be accompanied by a narrow repetitive range of activities.

Some people with autism are able to live relatively independent lives but others may need a lifetime of specialist support. People with autism may also experience some form of sensory sensitivity or under-sensitivity, for example to sounds touch, tastes, smells, light or colours. Asperger syndrome is a form of autism.

Research has shown that 1 in 100 people have autism. By applying the 1 in 100 figure we estimate that over 30,000 people in Wales have autism. Together with their families, they make up over 100,000 people whose lives are touched by autism every single day.

#### About the NAS and Pembrokeshire Branch

The National Autistic Society Cymru [NAS Cymru] is Wales' only member-led charity for people affected by autism. The National Autistic Society was founded in 1962 by a group of parents who were passionate about ensuring a better future for their children. In Wales, since 1994, we have been providing local support, services and actively campaigning so that people with autism get to lead the life they choose.

NAS Cymru believes that the right support at the right time makes an enormous difference to the lives of those affected by autism and we are committed to ensuring that their voices are heard.

Across Wales we have over 900 members and 11 local branches including the one in Pembrokeshire. Launched on the 1st April 2011, the branch is for parents of children with autism to provide a network of support for people connected through autism living in Pembrokeshire and surrounding areas. The branch meets on a regular basis holding formal and informal events, as well as campaigning and fundraising locally.

**Petition raised by:** National Autistic Society Pembrokeshire Branch

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 18 June 2013

**Number of signatures:** 902

Mark Drakeford AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-492  
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/00139/15

William Powell AM  
Assembly Member for Mid & West Wales  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Clerking Team

Petition@Wales.gov.uk

2 February 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter dated 13 January which seeks assurances that I am committed to the approach and commitment made by Gwenda Thomas AM, in her letter of 21 August, concerning the establishment of a Task and Finish Group on children's autism diagnosis.

In November 2014 officials contacted all health boards requesting an update on their diagnostic services. The responses received showed that waiting times for children are still long in some areas, due in part to a significant increase in demand for diagnosis. Health boards also differ in how they collect data, so comparisons are difficult to make. It was though, encouraging to note that plans were in place in most health board areas to reduce diagnostic waiting times for children.

The establishment of the Task and Finish group is a priority for action for 2015-16. Officials are currently drafting the terms of reference and will be seeking nominations for membership of the group and appointing a chair shortly. The role of this group will be to review current practice, to share good practice and to seek a consistent approach to diagnostic pathways which meet NICE guidelines.

Best wishes,

Mark

Mark Drakeford AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu 100% Page 21

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The National Autistic Society Cymru  
Pembrokeshire Branch  
C/O 6&7 Village Way  
Greenmeadow Springs Business Park  
Cardiff  
CF15 7NE  
03 March 2015

William Powell AM  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

Dear William Powell,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the correspondence that you received from the Minister for Health and Social Services, Prof Mark Drakeford, on the 2 February 2015.

We are pleased to note that the establishment of a Task and Finish Group on autism diagnosis is a priority for action for 2015–2016 and that its work will inform the refresh of the Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan. My understanding is that the Group will consider diagnosis of autism for both children and adults and we welcome this development.

Waiting times for a diagnosis remains a key issue for members of the National Autistic Society Cymru's [NAS Cymru] Pembrokeshire branch and despite the measures taken by Hywel Dda Local Health Board to reduce diagnostic times for children, there is still strong local evidence that the waiting times remain lengthy.

Given our first-hand experience in this area and as the authors of the original petition calling for a timely diagnosis for children in Wales we would ask that the Petitions Committee:

- writes to the Task and Finish Group requesting that members of the NAS Cymru Pembrokeshire branch be invited to give evidence to that Group;
- requests that the seven Local Health Boards provide an update to that Group on current diagnostic waiting times for autism in both children and adults; and

*Accept difference. Not indifference.*

- seeks confirmation from the Minister for Health and Social Services that the Task and Finish Group's advice and recommendations be published at the end of the Group's work.

Kind regards

Lisa Phillips  
Branch Officer  
NAS Pembrokeshire branch

## Agenda Item 2.5

### **P-04-494 Robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy must be made available to men in Wales now**

#### **Petition wording:**

Robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy is the 21st Century Gold standard. Wales as a nation must be at the forefront in offering this standard. We, the undersigned, are appalled by the fact that men in Wales with prostate cancer cannot be offered robotic surgery in Wales, yet in England ALL men have this choice with at least 40 locations offering this treatment and with men from Wales having to pay thousands of pounds to access this capability in these English NHS facilities (typically between £13-15,000). Clearly, many men in Wales cannot afford this. We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government together with the National Health Service of Wales to resolve this totally unfair predicament and serious lack of essential resource within our NHS in Wales without delay. It is vital that this technology, this 21st Century Gold Standard is offered to men in Wales. It simply cannot be right that such technology is available elsewhere and that men from Wales have to pay to avail themselves of it in an NHS facility in England.

**Petition raised by:** Professor Kevin Davies MBE

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 16 July 2013

**Number of signatures:** 2090. An associated petition collected 1,000 signatures.

Mark Drakeford AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-949  
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/00046/15

William Powell AM  
Chair - petitions committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

22 January 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Petitions Committee and Professor Kevin Davies MBE, regarding the availability of robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy to treat prostate cancer. I note you have also forwarded the petitioner's letter to Adam Cairns, Chief Executive of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, for a response.

The primary robot based at the University Hospital of Wales is being used to treat patients in south Wales and the west, covering all health boards except Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board; north Wales patients can be referred to Manchester's Christie Hospital.

With regard to inter-health board referrals, financial modelling of several charging options has been prepared with the intention of ensuring equity of access, proper governance and financial sustainability for this service. These draft options have been circulated to all six health boards in south and mid Wales and are due to be considered at the next meeting of the Robotic Surgery Programme Board scheduled for 28 January.

I am pleased to report the secondary robot console for training clinicians is also now in use at University Hospital of Wales. I hope this response is helpful.

Best wishes,

Mark.

Mark Drakeford AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

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Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence: Mark.Drakeford@wales.gsi.gov.uk  
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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Caerdydd a'r Fro  
Cardiff and Vale  
University Health Board

**Ysbyty Athrofaol Cymru**  
**University Hospital of Wales**  
**UHB Headquarters**  
Heath Park  
Cardiff, CF14 4XW

Parc Y Mynydd Bychan  
Caerdydd, CF14 4XW

Eich cyf/Your ref:  
Ein cyf/Our ref: AC-jb-02-4432  
Welsh Health Telephone Network:  
Direct Line/Llinell uniongychol: 02920 745681

**Adam Cairns**  
**Chief Executive**

12 February 2015

William Powell AM  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

Thank you for your recent comments and request for further information regarding the Da Vinci Robotic System.

You asked for further clarification on a number of issues. The second consul for teaching is in place and Mr Redrow from Bristol is mentoring Cardiff and Vale UHB surgeons.

The model developed with Cardiff and Vale UHB is for South Wales as detailed in the clinical pathway documents we are developing for the benefit of patients in Aneurin Bevan, Cwm Taf and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB. Appropriate tariffs are being agreed between Health Boards in relation to this service and treatment of patients.

Yours sincerely

**Adam Cairns**  
**Chief Executive**

**P-04-494 Robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy must be made available to men in Wales now – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Clerking Team, 02.03.2015**

Good afternoon,

Thank you for the email trail below. We have the following comments:

1. We are very pleased with the current progress with regard to the service being developed at UHW.
2. We are still gravely concerned with regard to equity of access to this vital intervention across Wales.
3. In particular we are concerned with access to those served by BC UHB.
4. Will the assembly be reliant on funding from Prostate Cymru on an enduring basis?

Thank you in anticipation.

Kind regards Kevin

Professor K Davies MBE, RRC, TD

## Agenda Item 2.6

### **P-04-501 Day Centres for the elderly in Wales to be made statutory**

#### **Petition wording:**

We call on the Welsh Government to make Day Care Centres for older people a statutory requirement for the whole of Wales.

**Petition raised by:** Pamela Hughes

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 24 September 2013

**Number of signatures:** 1240

**Y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol  
Health and Social Care Committee**

Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru  
National  
Assembly for  
Wales



**William Powell AM**  
**Chair of the Petitions Committee**

25 February 2015

Dear William,

**P-04-501 Day centres for the elderly in Wales to be made statutory**

Thank you for your letter of February 2015, received on 12 February 2015, about the above petition.

In the light of the Health and Social Care Committee's existing policy and legislative scrutiny commitments, it is unlikely that it will have capacity to undertake an inquiry into day centres for the elderly in Wales.

The petitioners may be interested to note that the Health and Social Care Committee undertook Stage 1 and Stage 2 scrutiny of the then Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill in 2013. Section 14 of the [Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act 2014](#), which received Royal Assent in May 2014, places a duty on local authorities and the relevant local health boards to jointly assess the needs of the people living in their areas for care and support, and the services which will be required to meet those needs.

The Health and Social Care Committee received a briefing from Welsh Government officials on 20 November 2014 on the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Officials indicated during that briefing that the Welsh Government's intention is that the Act will be implemented by April 2016. You may wish to draw the petitioners' attention

Bae Caerdydd  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

Ffôn / Tel: 0300 200 6354

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[SeneddHealth@Assembly.Wales](mailto:SeneddHealth@Assembly.Wales)

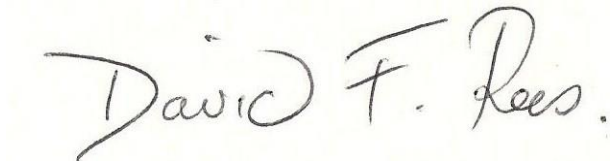
Trydar / Twitter: [@seneddiechyd](https://twitter.com/seneddiechyd) / [@seneddhealth](https://twitter.com/seneddhealth)

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

to the [papers provided by the Welsh Government](#), and the [transcript of the briefing](#).

I hope that this information is of interest to you and the petitioners.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow background. The signature reads "David F. Rees." with a period at the end. The letters are cursive and fluid.

**David Rees AM**

Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

# Agenda Item 2.7

## **P-04-527 Campaign for a Special Cancer Drug Fund in Wales**

### **Petition wording:**

Beth Margetson is one of our town's residents whose life has been overshadowed by a dreadful disease we know as cancer and it will affect nearly 1 in 3 of us at some point during our lives. Many will survive yet others in advanced stages of this disease like Beth are unable to gain access to the latest treatments that have not been approved by NICE although a pathway exists in England & Scotland to obtain treatment via a Cancer drug fund. Here in Wales no such fund exists yet each year over 74 million free prescriptions are issued in Wales at a cost of over £550 million to the NHS in Wales. We therefore request that the Welsh Assembly Government introduce a nominal charge (e.g. £1.00) for prescriptions in order that a special Cancer Drug fund be set up in Wales with the proceeds so that people like Beth and many hundreds of others like her at least have a chance that is being denied to them thus far unlike people in England or Scotland.

**Petition raised by:** Cllr Sean Aspey

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 21 January 2014

**Number of signatures:** 247



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg  
University Health Board

Our Ref: PR/lmf  
Date: 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014

ABMU Health Board  
Headquarters  
One Talbot Gateway, Seaway Parade,  
Port Talbot  
SA12 7BR

01639 683302  
WHTN: 1787 3302

Mr William Powell AM  
Chair – Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

I am writing in response to your recent letter received by me via email on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2014 attaching two earlier letters on the same issue.

Firstly I would like to apologise for not responding to your letter in January, and my delayed response to your letter in September. I will ensure that your letters are responded to in a timely manner in the future. Can you ensure that any letters from the committee requiring response are always sent to my office (as I acknowledge happened in this case) so that I can co-ordinate a response.

Secondly I would make the following comments on behalf of the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board on the specific issues raised in this petition.

As you are aware the wording of the petition is as follows:-

*“Beth Margetson is one of our town’s residents whose life has been overshadowed by a dreadful disease we know as cancer and it will affect nearly 1 in 3 of us at some point during our lives. Many will survive yet others in advance stages of this disease like Beth are unable to gain access to the latest treatments that have not been approved by NICE although a pathway exists in England & Scotland to obtain treatment via a Cancer drug fund. Here in Wales no such fund exists yet each year over 74 million free prescriptions are issued in Wales at a cost of over £550 million to the NHS in Wales. We therefore*

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• Chairman/Cadeirydd: **Andrew Davies**

• Chief Executive/ Prif Weithredydd: **Paul Roberts**

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Bwrdd Iechyd ABM yw enw gweithredu Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Abertawe Bro Morgannwg

ABM University Health Board is the operational name of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Local Health Board

www.abm.wales.nhs.uk

*request that the Welsh Assembly Government introduce a nominal charge (e.g.£1.00) for prescriptions in order that a special Cancer drug fund be set up in Wales with the proceeds so that people like Beth and many hundreds of others like her at least have a chance that is being denied to them thus far unlike people in England or Scotland”.*

We recognise that there is concern by some patients, clinicians and Cancer organisations about the arrangements for approving some cancer drugs in Wales. We understand that following the recent review of the Individual Patient Funding Request process that consideration is being given by the Welsh Government to a number of changes which would speed up the introduction of medicines which are considered likely to be supported by the evidence reviewed by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Consideration is being given to widening the remit of the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) to allow them to provide interim guidance on medicines on a case-by-case basis that are likely to be reviewed by NICE in the next twelve months. We also understand that the potential for the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre being given the remit to develop an “interim commissioning process” to be used in very unusual cases where timescales might now allow for an interim appraisal by AWMSG. Consideration is also being given to how Health Boards might obtain consistent All Wales advice on the use by clinicians of medicines “off label” in certain unusual but evidence based circumstances.

This Health Board welcomes these proposals and believes that if adopted they would address many of the criticisms of the current system and would therefore support such measures (or similar ones) if adopted by Welsh Government.

In regard to the specific issues of a Cancer Drug Fund and proposals to fund it through prescription charges we regard these as being essentially policy matters for Welsh Government to consider. As you are aware there are differing views within the main Welsh political parties on this matter. As a statutory public body we would therefore not wish to comment directly.

I hope that these comments are useful to you and your committee.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely



**PAUL ROBERTS**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVES**

---

• Chairman/Cadeirydd: **Andrew Davies**

• Chief Executive/ Prif Weithredydd: **Paul Roberts**

ABM Headquarters/ Pencadlys ABM, One Talbot Gateway, Seaway Parade, Baglan Energy Park, Port Talbot. SA12 7BR.

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ABM University Health Board is the operational name of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Local Health Board

[www.abm.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.abm.wales.nhs.uk)

# Agenda Item 2.8

## **P-04-532 Improving specialised neuromuscular services in Wales**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that Health Boards implement the investment proposed by the Welsh Neuromuscular Network Vision Document for improving specialised neuromuscular services in Wales.

### **Additional Information:**

The Welsh Neuromuscular Network is recommending the following priority developments: 1. Increase in Family Care Advisors and support. 2. Specialist adult neuromuscular physiotherapists. 3. Appointment of consultant in adult neuromuscular disease. 4. Increase in clinical psychology. 5. An equipment budget to enable minor purchases and lease arrangements.

**Petition raised by:** Muscular Dystrophy Campaign

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 4 February 2014

Mark Drakeford AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-532  
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/00138/15

William Powell AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

16 February 2015

Dear William

Thank you for your letter regarding Petition P-04-532 about specialised neuromuscular services and asking for an update on progress.

I note you are seeking responses from health boards to the Committee's letter.

Regarding the Welsh Neuromuscular Network, I can confirm that Dr Tracey Cooper, the chief executive of Public Health Wales, has been appointed the new chair.

Best wishes,

Mark.

Mark Drakeford AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)  
Pack Page 36

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@wales.gsi.gov.uk  
Printed on 100% recycled paper

## **Muscular Dystrophy UK comment for the Petitions Committee on Welsh Neuromuscular Services**

Muscular Dystrophy UK acknowledges the correspondence from the Minister for Health and Social Services to the Petitions Committee, confirming the appointment of Dr Tracey Cooper, Chief Executive of Public Health Wales, as the Chair of the Welsh Neuromuscular Network.

This position has been vacant for 9 months, and Muscular Dystrophy UK warmly welcomes this appointment. We look forward to working closely with Dr Cooper to build upon the progress made by Dr Andrew Goodall, during his time as Chair of the Network.

Muscular dystrophy and related neuromuscular conditions are a group of rare and very rare conditions, requiring input from a range of specialists, including genetic, respiratory, rehabilitation and cardiac support. As such, it is essential that these complex conditions are recognised as clinically distinct and not generically grouped with neurological conditions or other long term conditions.

Muscular Dystrophy UK repeats its call for Health Boards and the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee to act now to ensure that the Welsh Neuromuscular Network's investment priorities, identified a year and a half ago, are implemented so that all people living with muscle-wasting conditions have comparable access to specialist services to other parts of the UK. The priorities for investment are as follows:

- **increased neuromuscular care advisor support**
- **specialist adult neuromuscular physiotherapy**
- **long-term dedicated neuromuscular consultant time**
- **specialist neuromuscular psychology support**

If the Health Boards in Wales agree to the recommended investment, emergency hospital care could be dramatically reduced.

Muscular Dystrophy UK hopes that the urgent need for neuromuscular service development can be scheduled for a debate in the Assembly at the earliest available opportunity.

# Agenda Item 2.9

## **P-04-568 Public Inquiry into ABMU Health Board**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to hold a full public inquiry in order to investigate the serious concerns raised about standards of care and complaints handling within ABMU Health Board that have caused so much avoidable harm and suffering for patients and bereaved relatives at hospitals administered by the Board and its predecessor bodies and, where necessary, to hold the Chief Executive and the Management Team to account.

**Petition raised by:** ABMU Victim Support Group

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 1 July 2014

**Number of signatures :** 87 electronic signatures and 778 paper signatures.  
Total 865



10 February 2015

Dear William,

**Petition Title – P04-568 Public Inquiry into ABMU Health Board**

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition on a public inquiry into the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board and for bringing it to the attention of the Public Accounts Committee.

As you are aware, the Public Accounts Committee are currently undertaking an inquiry into governance arrangements within the NHS in Wales. We considered your letter at our meeting on 27 January, and agree that we would take the petition into consideration as part of our inquiry.

I would be happy to provide you with a copy of our report once it is available.

Yours sincerely,

**Darren Millar AM**  
Chair

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd / Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Ffôn/Tel: 02920898041

Pwyllgor.CyfrifonCyhoeddus@cymru.gov.uk / PublicAccounts.Committee@wales.gov.uk  
Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

## **P-04-571 Treating Pernicious Anaemia**

### **Petition Wording**

We call on the Welsh Government to change the way Pernicious Anaemia is treated away from the current one-size-fits-all format towards a regimen based on the patient's individual needs and where the patient is offered a choice of how he or she receives their replacement therapy B12 including self-administered injections.

**Additional Information:** The usually prescribed treatment of Pernicious Anaemia is one injection every three months. For a great many patients this is totally inadequate. Some doctors will prescribe more frequent injections but where this isn't the case patients are sourcing B12 injections from various sources including the internet which is unsatisfactory. They then inject themselves without any training and without using antiseptic wipes or lockable sharps bins.

**Petition raised by:** The Pernicious Anaemia Society

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 15 July 2014

**Number of signatures:** 126

Mark Drakeford AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-571  
Ein cyf/Our ref: MD/03175/14

William Powell AM  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA  
committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

*Dear William,*

24 February 2015

In my response to the Pernicious Anaemia Society's petition on 3 September, I said I would write again when advice had been received from the Haematology National Specialist Advisory Group (NSAG) on the treatment of this condition. I am sorry that it has taken longer than I expected to write back to you.

I am advised by the NSAG that a three monthly cycle of B12 injections is the British National Formulary's recommended therapeutic regime to provide more than adequate levels compared to that provided by a normal western diet (non vegetarian). Also, while there is increasing evidence to suggest that in the majority of cases, treatment with oral B12 supplements at adequate doses may provide effective replacement there is no licensed preparation of adequate dose in a single tablet in the UK.

In the absence of a clear definition of deficiency; the limitations of available tests; and the variable and non-specific symptoms that may be part of B12 deficiency, the clinical context in assessing and managing patients is key. It is important, therefore that those patients who feel they would benefit from an increased frequency of dosing need to discuss this with their clinician, usually the GP. During the consultation, the clinician and patient can take into account the specific symptoms; patient expectations of treatment and the available guidelines – all with a view to determining the appropriateness of an enhanced level of treatment.

In emphasising a collaborative approach, these discussions need to be based on a clinical assessment of the individual patient's circumstances and needs and also in line with best available evidence and expert advice. Clinicians would need to help patients understand that this collaborative approach does not signal a green light for requests/demands for inappropriate dosing – or that patients are to be referred automatically to haematology clinics should they be unhappy with the outcome of the discussion.

The Chief Pharmaceutical Officer has advised that:

- the British National Formulary states that larger oral doses of B12 (1 – mg daily) are available but on an unlicensed basis;
- the consensus on treatment of choice is for intra-muscular B12;
- about half of people with pernicious anaemia have anti-intrinsic factor antibody and therefore are unlikely to absorb oral B12; and
- given the consensus position on intra-muscular B12, manufacturers may not view production of larger dose oral B12 a viable commercial decision.

I am supportive of efforts to facilitate a licensed product for use in the UK on the basis that tablet form may be a more acceptable therapy route for some eligible patients and there are benefits in reducing the burden on GP practice administration of intra-muscular injections and consequent additional cost to the NHS. My officials have asked that this be considered by the Department of Health's Medicines, Pharmacy and Industry Group and I am also writing to Jane Ellison, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Health to seek her support for rapid development of a licensed oral preparation.

In respect of the query about self-injection, the NSAG's advice is that intra-muscular injections are invasive and potentially harmful if not administered correctly in a sterile manner at an appropriate site.

In respect of private supplies, individuals must accept responsibility for sourcing and using products that may not have been formally evaluated by the regulatory authorities in the UK or in Europe.

I am pleased to include the NSAG's advice in full at the end of this letter. My officials will asking the NSAG to remind clinicians that treatment plans should be developed with the patient and appropriate to meet his/her individual medical needs.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has not published a clinical guideline on pernicious anaemia. I am therefore going to ask that they give consideration to developing advice for clinicians.

*Best wishes,*

*Mark,*

**Mark Drakeford AC/AM**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

## **Request for specialist advice regarding the diagnosis and management of vitamin B12 (Cobalamin) deficiency**

**October 2014**

### **Background**

The prevalence of B12 deficiency especially amongst the elderly remains uncertain. Most studies quote rates of 1-10% and recognise that the incidence increases with age. However, the prevalence has varied substantially with different studies, largely because of inconsistent diagnostic criteria, with some studies suggesting 20% in those over 60 years of age (1). It can affect all age groups, particularly during times when supply may not be able to match increased demand such as active growth in children, adolescents and pregnancy. B12 is a water soluble vitamin, only found in animal sources such as meat, fish and dairy products. An adequate dietary supply along with normal stomach and small bowel function, is required to maintain a sufficient supply. However, body stores are usually high, of the order of 1-5mg, with daily requirements being 1-2 ug, and a varied daily western diet (non vegetarian) provides 1-5 ug of absorbable vitamin.(2,3,4), which under normal circumstances should be adequate to match supply with daily demands. The importance of a sufficient level of B12 arises because of its fundamental role in the process of DNA replication and general cell metabolism, both required for tissue growth and viability. This explains why clinical deficiency of B12 is usually associated with anaemia, (reduced haemoglobin concentration in the blood), as the production of red blood cells is a continual and extremely active process (3 million cells made every second).

However, nerve function also appears particularly susceptible to sub optimal B12 levels and neurological symptoms may occur in the absence of any obvious impact on bone marrow function or red cell production (anaemia), and in the absence of definable low serum levels of the vitamin.

Pernicious anaemia is a specific auto-immune disorder, and one important cause of clinical B12 deficiency associated with larger than normal red cells, low haemoglobin concentration and additional blood cell deficiencies. Specific anti-self proteins are made which act to block the absorption of B12 from the gut, and so treatment requires an alternative route of entry for B12, usually in the form of intra-muscular injections. B12 replacement with intramuscular injections of hydroxycobalamin 1mg x 6 to replace deficiency, followed by 1mg every 3 months as maintenance (standard treatment in the UK for Pernicious anaemia) should therefore provide more than adequate levels of available B12.

As B12 is a necessary requirement for all cell metabolism and 'cell health' then any relative lack of B12 may well give rise to a range of non-specific and ill defined symptoms in an individual. Deficiency is therefore usually identified and managed in primary care, with only a fraction of patients in whom the diagnosis may be less clear, or where the response to treatment is not ideal, being referred for specialist opinion, usually to haematology because of the association with anaemia, although specialist neurological input may be required in severe cognitive impairment (6)

### **Diagnostic challenges, potential for sub clinical B12 deficiency**

There are however, diagnostic difficulties as there is no clearly defined robust test for assessing functional, or active B12 levels, or actual clinical deficiency in the absence of megaloblastic anaemia, and 'normal' ranges are by their nature somewhat arbitrarily defined around assay method and target population (5). In addition serum B12 levels can be affected by many variables such as diet, pregnancy, hormones (oral contraceptive use), drugs eg metformin. In Wales all laboratories currently perform serum cobalamin assay as the standard initial diagnostic test, as per UK guidelines (5). This quantitates the inactive transcobalamin I and III bound forms and the active transcobalamin II bound form, but lacks both specificity and sensitivity and there is no standardised clearly defined cut-off point which confirms clinical deficiency. Other tests may help as indicators of deficiency, such as a raised plasma total homocysteine, which is a sensitive, but not specific indicator of B12 deficiency. In addition measurement of total homocysteine varies between laboratories, and sample collection and processing require special measures which are critical for valid results. Plasma Methylmalonic Acid is also raised in B12 deficiency and is regarded as having a good level of sensitivity, but again is not specific, is of limited availability for routine testing, and is a high cost test.

## Current Recommendations

Recently revised and published guidelines from the British Committee for Standards in Haematology (BCSH) (5), highlight these diagnostic difficulties and the lack of evidence from randomized controlled trials to inform appropriate diagnostic tests and treatment strategies.

The recommendations are as follows:

1. The significance of test results for B12 levels should be assessed in the clinical context, because there is no 'gold standard' test to define deficiency.
2. Serum cobalamin should remain as the first line test. There are some second line tests which may be of help in cases of significant diagnostic difficulty.
3. Definitive cut off points to define clinical and subclinical deficiency states are not possible.
4. Treatment should not be delayed in the presence of strong clinical features of deficiency, regardless of test results.
5. Treatment of cobalamin deficiency should be in line with recommendations in BNF. Oral therapy may be suitable provided appropriate doses are taken, and compliance is not an issue.

## Reflections on questions raised by patient group

1. The inflexibility of the usual regimen of vitamin B12 injections on a three monthly cycle to respond to individual health needs;

This is the recommended therapeutic regime for B12 replacement on a maintenance basis in the presence of absent or abnormal B12 absorption from the gut, as per the BNF. The delivery of these pharmacological doses of B12 should provide more than adequate active vitamin levels as compared to normal daily dietary availability and as the route of administration bypasses any potential abnormal entry pathway. There is no evidence to demonstrate that such a dosing regime provides inadequate in vivo levels of B12, and the anaemia associated with B12 deficiency resolves completely on this regime. However, in some patients, for whom non specific symptoms persist despite resolution of anaemia, it is possible that some functional deficiency of active B12 may be present although there is no clinical way of confirming this. It is also possible that resolution of symptoms may be related to a placebo effect rather than any biochemical requirement. The important aspect for clinicians to address in such situations is the possibility of alternative diagnosis or pathology, to ensure that a different clinical problem, requiring a different therapy, is not the cause of the symptoms. If alternative diagnoses are excluded, and symptoms persist despite normal haemoglobin and biochemical evidence of adequate B12 replacement, and in the absence of a robust method to absolutely exclude functional B12 deficiency, it would seem reasonable for the treating clinician and patient to develop a collaborative management plan. This might include consideration of shorter dosing intervals, particularly if despite standard replacement regimes, measurable B12 levels remain in the low normal range. There is increasing evidence to suggest that in the majority of cases, treatment with oral B12 supplements, at adequate doses, may provide effective B12 replacement even in Pernicious anaemia (7). The current difficulty in the UK is the lack of an oral preparation of adequate dose as a single tablet, to make this route of administration feasible. It would be appropriate to support initiatives to enable such a licensed product to be available in the UK.

2. The ability of current blood testing to pick up the different types of B12 (active and inactive)

There are no currently available robust tests to address this issue satisfactorily, as highlighted in the recently revised BCSH guidance. As such serum Cobalamin as currently undertaken across Wales, in conjunction with appropriate clinical assessment is the recommended method for diagnosis.

3. The potential risk to patients – and possibly the NHS if things go awry – if they purchase products privately that may not have been formally evaluated by appropriate bodies

Individuals must accept responsibility for sourcing and using any products from any source, as with any herbal or dietary supplement. However, a strong case for ensuring that larger

dose oral B12 tablets are available on formulary in the UK would be a welcome addition to therapeutic options for the management of B12 deficiency.

#### References

- 1 Allen L. 'How common is vitamin B12 deficiency? Am J clin Nutr 2009; 89 (suppl) 5693-6
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  - 6 Devalia V, Hamilton M S, Molloy A M. Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of cobalamin and folate disorders. BJHaem 2014; 166, 496-513
  - 7 Vidal-Alaball J, Butler C C, Cannings-john R, Goringe A, Hind K, McCaddon A McDowell I, Papaioannon A. Oral vitamin B12 versus intramuscular vitamin B12 for vitamin B12 deficiency. 2005. Cochrane Database Systematic Review CD004655.
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#### **NSAG advice – February 2015**

Re - B12 deficiency and replacement therapy, 'the issue of self-injection needs to be addressed'

Consideration of 'self injection' in this context relates to comments from patient groups that individuals may be inclined to source unlicensed and unregulated products for intramuscular self injection in the belief that symptoms they are experiencing are caused by inadequate levels of B12, despite receiving regular replacement therapy on prescription as advised by, and administered through, appropriately trained clinical support from the general practitioner surgery.

Intramuscular injections are invasive and potentially harmful if not administered correctly in a sterile manner at an appropriate site. Such intervention cannot be endorsed or supported, particularly in the absence of evidence of clinical need or benefit from the therapy, as the potential risk of harm from treatment cannot be justified.

As previously indicated, a suitable oral formulation for B12 replacement therapy is recommended.



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BRIDGEND  
CF31 1BZ

Tel. 01656 769717

[www.pernicious-anaemia-society.org](http://www.pernicious-anaemia-society.org)

Dear Kayleigh

Re Petition **P-04-57115.02.22**

Thank you for your email of the 26<sup>th</sup> February.  
I make the following observations and responses.

Just over 10% of members of the Pernicious Anaemia Society use a form of B<sub>12</sub> (methylcobalamin) which is not licensed for use in Europe or North America. This form of B<sub>12</sub> has been shown to repair damage to the Myelin Sheath which is the biggest cause of nerve damage in patients.

48% of patients surveyed by the PA Society were unhappy with their treatment!

There is now a growing consensus that some patients need more frequent injections than others.

*'Finally, many clinicians and patients are aware of considerable individual variability in the response to treatment with vitamin B12. Patients often continue to experience mild neurological symptoms such as poor memory, impaired concentration and fatigue even after adequate B12 replacement. The reason for this is currently unknown, but future research into the interplay between polymorphisms in*

*transcobalamin and its cell membrane receptor might offer some explanation for this curious phenomenon'.<sup>ii</sup>*

There are many hypotheses for this and the PA Society is working with two teams of clinical researchers to discover just why this is so – it could be due to gut flora invading the small intestine (ileum) or it could be due to inherited non-functioning cell receptors. This research is still being undertaken.

The comments about patients self-injecting without receiving any instruction, without using sterile syringes or lockable sharps' bins is of huge concern to the Pa Society which is why we would prefer this practice to be overseen by trained and qualified medical professionals and not be an 'underground' practice that it currently is. The number of patients using 'private' doctors who are more than willing to inject patients according to their needs (a new 'clinic' has just opened in Chester with an introductory price of £28 per injection) or are sourcing injections from more dubious places such as hair and beauty therapists (B<sub>12</sub> injections are increasingly popular among celebrities such as Simon Cowell, Rita Ora et al) or from online 'pharmacies'. The more savvy of self-injectors simply travel to continental Europe where the injections are readily available at pharmacies as 'over the counter' medicine and source single use syringes, pre-injection wipes and lockable sharps bins from needle exchanges in the UK. That's why it would be beneficial for patients who need more frequent injections to receive them from their medical supervisors rather than turning to unregulated and unlicensed sources.

The use of oral supplementation is one that is practiced by some of the members of the PA Society but it is seen as unsatisfactory for most patients for two reasons; firstly most of the oral preparations are formed around cyanide (cyanocobalamin) and secondly because the evidence is flimsy – for example the Cochrane Review conducted a few years ago was based on a very narrow patient group of a particular age group and gender. The PA Society has a policy on the use of Cyanocobalamin tablets that I will gladly let you have a copy of if you wish.

The market for more frequent supplementation has responded by producing some very ingenious treatments including sub-lingual spray (methylcobalamin) which is readily available and which is now used instead of injections by many of our members as they can get a daily 'feed' of methylcobalamin rather than having to experience the wide range of symptoms in the run-up to their injection. Others include sublingual lozenges, nasal sprays, skin patches and even suppositories. None of these products has been evaluated as to their effectiveness in reducing the patients' symptoms which is the only way in which any assessment could be carried out - simply raising serum B<sub>12</sub> levels doesn't always work.

I am not in a position to offer any guidance to your medical professionals or elected representatives. I am not a doctor and do not pretend to know more about the treatment of Pernicious Anaemia than do medical professionals. What I am in a position to say, and what I do know is that the current 'one size fits all' treatment is not suitable for a great many of our members. Often it is the case that it is not the patient who feels that he or she is beginning to experience what can be the debilitating symptoms of B<sub>12</sub> deficiency - often it is work colleagues, family and friends. No placebo trials have been carried out and published in this area and so any reference to patients experiencing a 'placebo effect' are simply conjecture and is not based on any scientific foundation. And it is useful to remember that many of our members manage perfectly well on an injection every three months but that doesn't stop the continual telephone calls, letters and emails from patients who need much more frequent replacement therapy.

I do hope that this will help the committee to see that this whole issue of treating PA needs to be reviewed by a team of professionals.

Thank you for your help in this matter. Should you require any further information please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Martyn Hooper

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<sup>i</sup> Hooper et al; Patient journeys: diagnosis and treatment of pernicious anaemia; British Journal of Nursing, 2014, Vol 23, No 7

<sup>ii</sup> McCaddon A; Vitamin B12 in neurology and ageing; Clinical and genetic aspects; Biochimie 95 (2013) 1066e1076

# Agenda Item 2.11

## **P-04-583 Ban all Growing and Selling of all GM seeds / Foods and Animal / Fish Feed in Wales**

### **Petition Wording:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to establish, as far as that is consistent with EU law, an Act banning all GM food, plants and seeds from being grown and sold in Wales, as well as GMO used in all animal, game and fish feed. Food sovereignty and health is a crucial issue to the future of Wales and the world and is something that will further positively distinguish Welsh food products in the worldwide market. As presented by the great work done by GM Free Cymru and by key scientists such as Irina Ermakova, Professor Vyvyan Howard and Malcolm Hooper, Dr Stanley Ewen, Dr Arpad Pusztai, Manuela Malatesta and colleagues at the Universities of Pavia and Urbino in Italy to name a few, there is now overwhelming evidence available about the inherent dangers of GM foods.

### **Additional Information:**

GM Cymru's Dr Brian John states that "The European Commission appears to be intent upon issuing one contentious GM authorization after another, basing its decisions upon highly selective and biased research by the applicants themselves, and taking guidance from a despised European food safety authority which has lost the confidence of NGO's and consumer groups across Europe". Politicians are blindly promoting the merits of the large biotechnology companies such as Monsanto in spite of massive opposing public and scientific voices. Patenting nature and intervening through genetic engineering is also an act against nature itself and brings in to question morality, ethics, natural and human rights. An increasing number of countries such as Hungary, Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Japan, Switzerland, the Basque country and Peru, to name but a few, are now

expelling the chemical and bio tech giant Monsanto and eliminating all GM crops, seed, plants and foods from their country.

**Petition raised by:** Gruffydd Meredith

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 23 September 2014

**Number of signatures:** 13

Rebecca Evans AC / AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Ffermio a Bwyd  
Deputy Minister for Farming and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-583  
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/00011/15

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

28 January 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 7 January seeking clarification of the varying policy approaches to the two aspects of genetic modification (GM) - crop cultivation and GM feed.

My portfolio responsibility includes the cultivation of GM crops. Therefore, my previous statement was in reference to GM crops only.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is the UK Competent Authority in terms of GM food and feed safety and labelling matters. The FSA in Wales is accountable through the Deputy Minister for Health to the National Assembly for Wales in respect of its activities in Wales, which include GM food and feed.

I have passed a copy of your letter to the Deputy Minister for Health who will respond about GM food and feed.

Yours,  
Rebecca

**Rebecca Evans AC / AM**  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Ffermio a Bwyd  
Deputy Minister for Farming and Food

Vaughan Gething AC / AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd  
Deputy Minister for Health



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04 583  
Ein cyf/Our ref VG/00107/15

William Powell AM  
Assembly Member for Mid & West Wales  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

24<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Dear William

Thank you for your letter to the Deputy Minister for Farming and Food in December about an apparent contradiction between Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency (FSA) policies on genetically modified (GM) crops and GM feed.

The FSA is a UK-wide non-Ministerial Government Department, accountable to the National Assembly for Wales (Westminster Parliament, Northern Ireland Assembly and the Scottish Parliament) through Health Ministers. I am therefore responding to your letter as Deputy Minister for Health and also on behalf of my ministerial colleague Rebecca Evans AM, the Deputy Minister for Farming and Food, whose portfolio includes GM crop issues.

### Food and Feed

The FSA is an independent regulator and in terms of EU law relating to food and animal feed, including GM food and feed, is the central competent authority for the UK. The main objective of the FSA is to protect public health from risks which may arise in connection with the consumption of food and otherwise to protect the interests of consumers in relation to food. The FSA's pledge is to put the consumer first in everything it does.

The safety evaluation of GM foods in the European Union (EU), including the UK, is based on rigorous scrutiny of scientific data and complies with internationally agreed guidelines. All GM foods to be marketed in the EU, as well as animal feed, are subject to a mandatory pre-market safety assessment under the GM food and feed regulation (EC/1829/2003) before they can be permitted to enter the food/feed chain. This safety assessment is carried out on a case-by-case basis and is the responsibility of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). EFSA is tasked with providing independent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks.

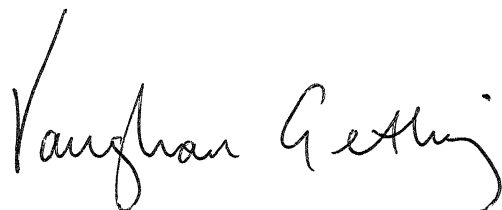
The EU authorisation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) permitted in food and feed is based on assuring the food or feed is safe to be consumed. The FSA has confidence in the work of EFSA in carrying out the centralised risk assessment of GMOs.

As a science and evidence based organisation the FSA considers all the evidence before deciding on policy. To date all the evidence suggests that food and feed derived from GMOs is as safe as that from non-GM sources. Under EU food and feed regulation, labelling is required for all food and feed products derived from GM sources, regardless of the presence of detectable novel genetic material in the final product and regardless of the quantity of intentionally used GM ingredient present. Such labelling rules apply at the point of sale to allow consumers choice over buying foods containing GM ingredients. All food and feed that contain, consist of, or are produced from GMOs have to be labelled as such. The FSA therefore agrees that consumers should be able to make an informed choice about whether to buy GM foods.

### Crops

The Deputy Minister for Farming and Food's response to the Committee in October 2014 was in relation to GM crops only. The Welsh Government has a long-standing policy that is to maintain a restrictive and precautionary approach to GM crop cultivation that is consistent with UK and EU law. The Deputy Minister for Farming and Food recognises that within the scientific community GM crops and their cultivation remain a controversial topic and her policy approach is, therefore, one of caution and recognises the need to protect our investment in clean, sustainable agriculture and our unique environment and landscape.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V'.

**Vaughan Gething AC / AM**  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd  
Deputy Minister for Health

**P-04-583 Ban all growing and selling of GM seeds foods and animal fish feed in Wales – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 04.03.15**

Dear Panel,

It's very encouraging to see that the Welsh Government, in their own words: "has a long standing restrictive and precautionary approach to GM crop cultivation, that it admits that there remains no consensus on a range of issues such as animal and human health, environmental issues or socio economic issues and that a broader and more holistic evaluation of GMO's should be undertaken before they are approved"

It's of course a very positive thing that food and feed products derived from GM sources and/or that contain GMO's have to be clearly labelled as such under EU regulations. I would usually agree that an informed choice for customers is a good thing generally. But in the case of products from GM sources or containing GMO, I believe that the Welsh Government should go a step further and, under their devolved remit of health and the precautionary principle, protect the health of Welsh citizens by banning GM and GMO products altogether from Wales. Otherwise the Welsh Government's stance is contradictory by saying that they are following the precautionary principle when it comes to GM crops but ignoring it when it comes to foods and feeds that have GM/GMO ingredients. This makes no sense at all.

Given this, I fail to see how the Welsh Government can or should agree with the FSA's view that GM feed "represents no more risk to farmed livestock than conventional feed and that food from animals fed on authorised GM crops is considered as safe as food from animals fed on non GM crops". This paragraph openly contradicts the statement made by the Welsh Government in responding to this petition as seen in the first paragraph. Food and feed may also contain GMO's and therefore GM feed also cannot be considered safe for this reason as well.

Given that humans often eat animals that are fed with GM feed and that animal health is also obviously an issue, it seems obvious that it makes no sense to follow the FSA's advice given the statements made by the Welsh Government as seen above. The letter from the the Deputy Minister for Health, Vaughan Gethin and the Welsh Government in general are therefore still giving out confused and contradictory messages.

As demonstrated in my earlier reply there is an abundance of evidence from a wide variety

of sources that GM and GMO's are a danger to short and long term human and environmental health and is also ethically wrong and environmentally dangerous. Either the Welsh Government takes a precautionary approach to GM/GE/GMO or it doesn't is how I would summarise my points.

The precautionary principle is summed up by the EU Commission as:

“The precautionary principle applies where scientific evidence is insufficient, inconclusive or uncertain and preliminary scientific evaluation indicates that there are reasonable grounds for concern that the potentially dangerous effects on the environment, human, animal or plant health may be inconsistent with the high level of protection chosen.”

In other words, even if the evidence is inconclusive and there are even the smallest reasonable grounds for concern, the precautionary principle deems that it cannot go ahead. The EU website link below also states that the burden of proof of the absence of danger may also rest with the producer, manufacturer or importer. No proof of absence of danger has been declared as regards to GM and GMO's, and where this has been claimed, these claims have been taken apart by peer reviewed scientific papers as is shown towards the end of this correspondence.

[http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/food\\_safety/general\\_provisions/l32042\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/food_safety/general_provisions/l32042_en.htm)

Therefore allowing GM and GMO products in Wales would suggest to me to be going against the precautionary principle, leaving the Welsh Government open to potential legal action.

As previously mentioned, from the great work done by GM Free Cymru and by key scientists such as Irina Ermakova, Professor Vyvyan Howard and Malcolm Hooper, Dr Stanley Ewen, Dr Arpad Pusztai, Manuela Malatesta and colleagues at the Universities of Pavia and Urbino in Italy to name a few, there is now overwhelming evidence available about the inherent dangers of GM foods, which includes cancer threats.

GM Free Cymru's Dr Brian John states that: "The European Commission appears to be intent upon issuing one contentious GM authorization after another, basing its decisions upon highly selective and biased research by the applicants themselves, and taking guidance from a despised European Food Safety Authority which has lost the confidence of NGO's and consumer groups across Europe".

Politicians are blindly promoting the merits of the large biotechnology companies such as Monsanto in spite of massive opposing public and scientific voices. Patenting nature and intervening through genetic engineering is also an act against nature itself and brings in to question morality, ethics, natural and human rights. An increasing number of countries such as Hungary, Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Japan, Switzerland, the Basque country and Peru, to name but a few, are now expelling the chemical and bio tech giant Monsanto and eliminating all GM crops, seed, plants and foods from their country.

All of this peer reviewed scientific research can be found on the website of GM Free Cymru which includes evidence of why they believe assessments by the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) fail to meet legal requirements and therefore cannot be trusted by the FSA or Welsh Government. This as well as countless peer reviewed papers on GM and GMO dangers, the lack of trust by NGO's in the European scrutiny process as well as the undue influence of the GM corporations.

Deputy Health Minister Vaughan Gethin's statement in his letter that the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) has the confidence of the FSA (Food Standards Authority) in Britain is sadly not of any comfort at all – quite the opposite. His other statement that: "To date all the evidence suggests that food and feed derived from GMO's is as safe as that from non GM sources" is not only blatantly incorrect and misleading but also very irresponsible, displaying considerable and worrying ignorance of the available evidence. One look at the numerous peer reviewed papers on the GM Free Cymru site for example would let him know otherwise. I would invite Mr Gethin to visit the GM Free Cymru website (link below) and digest it's full list of scientific evidence and peer reviewed papers on the dangers of GM and GMO's, and then retract or update his incorrect statement as seen above and in his previous letter.

For a full list of peer reviewed papers listing all the studied dangers of GM's and GMO's please visit GM Free Cymru at <http://www.gmfrecymru.org.uk/crucial.html>

I would also urge the petition panel to write to Dr Brian John at GM Free Cymru (details supplied) so that he can present detailed scientific evidence about GM and GMO dangers to the panel and to all the appropriate Ministers at the Welsh Government. Dr John has campaigned and lobbied extensively on this issue, here and in the EU.

I am also once again concerned that the devolved area of health is not fully dealt

with in Wales as it should, and that the Welsh Government is relying on bodies not in Wales to 'give them' information and health policy. Health is devolved to Wales. It should be dealt with here. This is what people democratically voted for.

It is the duty of the Welsh Government and Assembly members to look at all the evidence that raises serious questions about the validity of the work of the EFSA, and of the safety of GM and GMO's in general.

I look forward to common sense prevailing and genuine scientific protocol being followed,

Sincerely,

G.Meredith

## **P-04-603 Helping Babies Born at 22 Weeks to Survive.**

### **Petition wording**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to:

- change the guidelines so that babies born after 22 weeks and who show signs of life are given appropriate medical care; and
- In changing these guidelines ensure that they include a guarantee that a Paediatrician will review and weigh every baby born after 22 weeks who shows signs of life immediately after their birth so that parents and clinicians can make informed decisions based on the individual baby's chance of survival.

**Petitioner :** Emma Jones

**First considered by the Committee:** 25 November 2014

**Number of Signatures:** 2,543 electronic signatures and 216 paper signatures collected. Total: 2,759

**P-04-603 Helping Babies Born Under 22 Weeks to Survive –  
Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 25.02.2015**

Petition Committee

Following the meeting on 24/2/15 the committee asked for an update on my meeting with Dr. Heather Payne on the 18/2/15. The meeting went well I expressed my own personal situation to Dr. Payne as well as other mothers who have had the same circumstances, which I am in contact with. I showed Mrs. Payne my evidence I have gathered and why I believe the guideline should be changed, she explained that she did not ask for me to meet her regarding changing the guideline as she is unable to do that herself but that is why there is need for the petition. What she wanted to meet me for was to set changes now, while I am fighting the guideline, she wanted to know what we could set in place for situations like my own for other mothers who will have premature babies and a percentage of them will have a baby born breathing before 23 weeks. I expressed my concerns to her about the poor care being received, that the guideline is not being used correctly and only being seen as a set guideline. I showed Mrs. Payne my solicitor files and the investigation report from the health board at heath hospital, she also received a copy of this for her own reading. It was to my understanding agreed that she would go back to meet her colleagues and express my personal case, for them to make arrangements and support for the future situations like my own. Mrs. Payne agreed to keep me informed on what they come with and what they can do, she will then ask my opinion and for me to meet her again to set something in place. I am waiting on contact from her in the meantime I have met chief executive Mr. Adam Caines at his office in headquarters, along with 4 hospital members such as a lead midwife, a doctor from neonatal, premature unit nurse and head of care and social. After a 90 minute meeting we discussed what to do, what can be changed for the care of premature babies born early and breathing. Again, Mr. Caines expressed he could not change the guideline right there and then but that the petition will focus on what I want to change with gestation but with him I could change something's anyway, to start off I was given an official apology on behalf on the health board for the care myself and riley received. This was appreciated and I am pleased to see they understand what happened was wrong. In owning up to this they want to set procedures in place for woman in my position from now on, they want me to help them with this as they said with me being through this I can help midwives understand and see the feels from a mum who has been through a premature loss. To make the midwives

prepared for this situation and how they'd deal with it, rather than just go by the guideline as its set but with procedures being made so they contact a head medical professional to see the baby and mother, to go through the possible outcomes with the parents. Over all they asked if I was happy to help the health board with procedures to be set in place and to give my opinion and ideas on these new procedure ideas. This was all recorded on tape and I will be sent my own copy next week.

I feel some success have come from these meeting for the time being and for the care of a baby and mother but I am still not receiving any offer of change in guidelines gestation, I need a procedure for babies born breathing to be given the chance of survival, for medical assistance to be given if after reviewed and agreed with parents for the baby to be given a chance, the options have to be given firstly and after checking the babies condition and what the possible outcomes can there be medical assistance to try and save that baby and to prepare the parents for the journey ahead once resuscitation is given. (Resuscitation meaning help to continue breathing)

I would like further information on the next steps for the petition and what we will do for the gestation age to be reduced to 22 weeks or an underlined guideline to be placed for when babies are breathing on 23 weeks and what actions should be taken when this occurs. I am happy to meet with Dr Heather. Payne as well as Mr. Adam Caines to take up their offers for procedures to be put in place, but I still need the guidelines to be changed or information to be added for babies after 22 weeks. I still stand by what I asked from the beginning and that is for each baby to born with signs of life to be given appropriate care and to be seen as an human being needing to be saved.

Emma Jones

# Agenda Item 2.13

## **P-04-607 Call for the welsh government to purchase Garth Celyn**

### **Petition wording**

This historic building and grounds are up for sale.

Such is the importance of this building/grounds to wales and its history we call upon the welsh government to do whats right and secure Garth celyn for the welsh people once and for all.

About the year 1200, Prince Llywelyn ap Iorwerth constructed a royal home on Garth Celyn. To the east of the Llys was the newly endowed Cistercian Monastery of Aberconwy; to the west the cathedral city of Bangor. Between Garth Celyn and the shore the fertile farmland provided food for the royal family, members of the court, and the local community. The sea and the river had fish in abundance and there was wild game to be hunted in the uplands.

The village of Aber Garth Celyn on the west side of the river was a bustling, thriving place. Travellers negotiating the dangerous Lafan Sands were given food and lodging in the valley. Goods brought by sea to the Port of Llanfaes were being distributed to other points on the mainland from here. Animals were herded along this routeway to and from the mountains. Grain was carted to the mill. The community came to attend services in the church. Pilgrims from far and wide walked the trackway and paused for refreshments. Bards came to recite poetry recalling the deeds of the heros, the great defenders.

### **Aditonal Information**

Part of a Letter from Llywelyn, Prince of Wales to John Peckham, archbishop of Canterbury. November 1282

Garth Celyn.

To the most reverend father in Christ, the Lord John, by the Grace of God, Archbishop of Canterbury, primate of all England, from his humble and

devoted son Llywelyn, prince of Wales, lord of Snowdon, greetings and filial affection, with all manner of reverence, submission and honour. For the heavy labours which your fatherly holiness has assumed at this time, out of the love you bear to us and our nation, we render you grateful thanks, all the more since, as you have confided to us, you come against the king's will. You ask us to come to the king's peace. Your holiness should know that we are ready to do so, provided the lord king will truly observe that same peace as is due to us and ours.

We rejoice that this interlude granted to Wales is at your instance and you will find no impediments placed in the way of peace by us, for we would rather support your efforts than those of any other. We hope, God willing, there need be no occasion for you to write anything to the pope concerning our pertinacity nor will you find us spurning your fatherly entreaties and strenuous endeavours, indeed we embrace them with all the warmth of our heart. Nor is it necessary for the king to weigh his hand yet further against us, since we are fully prepared to render him obedience, always saving our rights and laws, a reservation legally permitted to us.

**Petitioner :** Kevin Bates

**First considered by the Committee:** 9 December 2014

**Number of Signatures:** 650

## P-04-607 Call for the Welsh Government to Purchase Garth Celyn – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 16.02.2015

Hello,

I would like to emphasize the importance of Garth Celyn by attaching a few things the committee could maybe look at and also the video bellow which was part of the story of wales program introduced by Huw Edwards.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXREEQtvL2c>

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### GARTH CELYN

As has already been pointed out as Nation, we now have a rare opportunity. An opportunity that should not be missed.

It is true that the property is protected by its Grade II \* Listing and part of the promontory has been Scheduled as being of National Importance by the Ancient Monuments Board. That is not an issue.

The late Dr John Davies in 'The History of Wales' stated that the letters written by Prince Llywelyn ap Gruffudd and his Ministers from 'Garth Kelyn' in November 1282 are among 'the most sublime compositions of the Welsh Nation' and 'equivalent to the Declaration of Arbroath to Scotland.'

The place, as Gwynfor Evans pointed out, is a place of Memory to the people of Wales and further afield who care about such things. And many, many people do.

For many reasons, the promontory Garth Celyn, on the north coast of Gwynedd overlooking the A55 coastal highway and the Menai Strait, is ideally and uniquely situated to be a living, thriving Memorial to the Welsh Prince of Wales and his predecessors. This was, as Dr John Davies said, 'the main home and headquarters of the thirteenth century Princes as they struggled to maintain Welsh independence.' Those of us who have been involved in some way as volunteers in this project to date ask that the property be purchased by the Welsh Assembly Government and placed in the hands of independent Trustees and a Management Committee.

Garth Celyn could become a Memorial Garden– a place for performances and events, or quiet contemplation, with a landmark statue visible to all the thousands of people who pass by. The house and / or cottage could, if that was the decision of the Trustees, be restored and let to visitors for part of the year (using the role model of Landmark Trust) to produce an income; the buildings could then be used for Exhibitions, meetings and lectures for the remaining part of the year. Because of

its position the property is suited for that purpose which would be of the greatest public benefit. The project could be self sustaining. It would bring in Cultural and Tourism benefits that would have a wide and lasting effect for all parts of Wales.

Yours faithfully

Kevin Bates

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## LINEAGE & EVENTS

### The Princes

Letter from Llywelyn, Prince of Wales to John Peckham, Archbishop of Canterbury:??  
(From Latin)?

?

To the most reverend father in Christ, the Lord John, by the Grace of God, Archbishop of Canterbury, primate of all England, from his humble and devoted son Llywelyn, prince of Wales, lord of Snowdon, greetings and filial affection, with all manner of reverence, submission and honour.

For the heavy labours which your fatherly holiness has assumed at this time, out of the love you bear to us and our nation, we render you grateful thanks, all the more since, as you have confided to us, you come against the king's will.?

You ask us to come to the king's peace. Your holiness should know that we are ready to do so, provided the lord king will truly observe that same peace as is due to us and ours.

We rejoice that this interlude granted to Wales is at your instance and you will find no impediments placed in the way of peace by us, for we would rather support your efforts than those of any other.

We hope, God willing, there need be no occasion for you to write anything to the pope concerning our pertinacity nor will you find us spurning your fatherly entreaties and strenuous endeavours, indeed we embrace them with all the warmth of our heart. Nor is it necessary for the king to weigh his hand yet further against us, since we are fully prepared to render him obedience, always saving our rights and laws, a reservation legally permitted to us.

?

The realm of England may well be the special object of the Roman curia's affection, but the aforesaid curia has yet to learn, and must learn, and the lord pope likewise, what evils have been wrought upon us by the English, how the peace formerly made has been violated in all the clauses of the treaty, how churches have been fired and devastated, and ecclesiastical persons, priests, monks and nuns slaughtered, women slain with children at their breast, hospitals and other houses of religion burned, Welsh people murdered in cemeteries, churches, yes at the very altar, with other sacrilegious offences horrible to hear. All which are detailed in these rotuli we

send you in writing for your inspection.

?

Now our best hope is that you fatherly piety may incline kindly towards us, and neither the Roman curia nor the realm of England need be shaken for our sake, provide it is understood in advance that the peace we seek be not only made, but observed. Those who do indeed delight in the shedding of blood are identified manifestly by their deeds, and thus far the English, in their usage of us, have spared none, whether for sex, or age, or weakness, nor passed by any church or sacred place. Such outrages the Welsh have not committed.

?

It does, however, grieve us very deeply to acknowledge that it is true one ransomed prisoner was killed, but we have neither countenanced nor maintained the murderer, for he was wandering the forests as a freebooter.

?

You speak of certain persons beginning the fighting at a holy season. We ourselves knew nothing of this until after the fact, when it was urged in their defence that if they had not struck then, death and rape threatened them, they dared neither dwell in their own houses at peace nor go about except in arms, and it was fear and despair that caused them to act when they did.

?

As to the assertion that we are acting against God, and ought to repent as true Christians, seeking God's grace, if the war continues it shall not be set at our door, provided we can be indemnified as is our due. But while we are disinherited and slaughtered, it behoves us to defend ourselves to the utmost. Where any genuine injuries and damages come into consideration upon either side, we are prepared to make amends for those committed by our men, provided the like amends are made for damages inflicted upon us. In the making and preserving of peace we are similarly ready to assist to the limit of what is due from us. But when royal pacts and treaties made with us are of none effect, as thus far they have not been observed, it is impossible to establish peace, nor when new and unprecedented exactions against us and ours are daily being devised.

In the accompanying rotuli we send to you the catalogue of our wrongs, and of the breaches of that treaty formerly made with us.

We fight because we are forced to fight, for we, and all Wales, are oppressed, subjugated, despoiled, reduced to servitude by the royal officers and bailiffs, in defiance of the form of the peace and of all justice, more maliciously than if we were Saracens or Jews, so that we feel, and have often so protested to the king, that we are left without any remedy.

Always the justiciars and bailiffs grow more savage and cruel, and if these become satiated with their unjust exactions, those in their turn apply themselves to fresh exasperations against the people. To such a pass are we come that they begin to

prefer death to life. It is not fitting in such case to threaten greater armies, or move the Church against us. Let us but have peace, and observe it as due, as we have expressed above.

You should not believe all the words of our enemies, Holy Father, the very people who by their deeds oppress and ill-use us, and in their words defame us by attributing to us whatever they choose. They are ever present with you, and we absent, they the oppressors, we the oppressed. In accordance with divine faith, instead of quoting their words in all things, we should rather examine their deeds. May your holiness long flourish, to the benefit and good order of the Church.

?

?Dated at Garth Celyn

Dated At Garth Celyn, On The Feast Of Saint Martin

The Reply Of The Council Of Wales:

(From Latin)

?

Though it may please the king to say that he will allow no discussions concerning the Middle Country, or Anglesey, or the other lands bestowed upon his magnates, nevertheless the prince's council, if peace is to be made at all, will not countenance any departure from the premise that these cantrefs are a part of the unquestionable holding of the prince, lying within the bounds within which the prince and his predecessors have held since the time of Camber, son of Brutus.

Further, they belong to the principality renewed to the prince by confirmation, at the instance of Ottobuono of blessed memory, legate of the apostolic see in the realm of England, with the consent of the lord king and his magnates, as is manifest in the treaty.

Moreover, it is more equitable that the true heirs should hold the said cantrefs, if need be from the lord king for fee and customary service, rather than they should be given over to strangers and newcomers, even though they may have been powerful supporters of the king's cause.

Further, all the tenants of all the cantrefs of Wales declare with one voice that they dare not come to the king's will, to allow him to dispose of them according to his royal majesty, for these reasons:

First, because the lord king has kept neither treaty nor oath nor charter towards their lord prince and themselves from the beginning.

Second, because the king's men have used the most cruel tyranny against ecclesiastical establishments and persons.

Third, that they cannot be bound by the offered terms, since they are liegemen of the prince, who is prepared to hold the said lands of the king by customary service.

As to the demand that the prince shall submit absolutely to the king's will, we reply that since not one man of the aforesaid cantrefs would dare to submit himself to

that will, neither will the community of Wales permit its prince to do so upon such terms.

As to the king's magnates guaranteeing to procure an earldom for the prince, we say he need not and should not accept any such provision, procured by the very magnates who are striving to have him disinherited, so that they may possess his lands in Wales.

Item: that the prince is no way bound to forgo his heritage and that of his forebears from the time of Brutus, and again confirmed as his by the papal legate, as is suggested, and accept lands in England where language, manners, laws and customs are foreign to him, and where, moreover, malicious mischiefs may be perpetrated against him, out of hatred, by English neighbours, from whom that land has been expropriated in perpetuity.

Item: Since the king is proposing to deprive the prince of his original inheritance, it seems unbelievable that he will allow him to hold land in England, where he is seen to have no legal right. And similarly, if the prince is not to be allowed to hold the sterile and uncultivated land rightfully his by inheritance from old times, here in Wales, it is incredible to us that in England he will be allowed possession of lands cultivated, fertile and abundant.

Item: That the prince should place the king in possession of Snowdonia, absolutely, perpetually and peaceably. Since Snowdonia is part of the principality of Wales, which he and his ancestors have held since the time of Brutus, as we have said, his council will not permit him to renounce the said lands and accept land less rightfully his in England.

Item: The people of Snowdonia for their part state that even if the prince desired to give the king seisin of them, they themselves would not do homage to any stranger, of whose language, customs and laws they are utterly ignorant. For by doing so they could be brought into perpetual captivity and barbarously treated, as other cantrefs around them have been by the royal bailiffs and officers, more savagely than ever was wreaked upon Saracen enemies, as we have said above, reverend father, in the rotuli we sent to you.'

November 1282? – The Secret Terms:?

(From Latin)

These to be put to the prince in secret.

First: This is the form of the royal grace drawn up by the king's noblemen, if the Lord Llywelyn should submit himself to the king's will.

?

The king will provide for him honourably, bestowing upon him an estate to the value of £1000 sterling, with the rank of an earl, in some part of England. This is on the understanding that the said Llywelyn surrenders to the lord king, absolutely, perpetually and peaceably, his possession of Snowdonia.

?

The king himself will provide for the prince's daughter, in accordance with his obligations to his own blood-kin. To this end, the noblemen are confident that they will be able to persuade the king's mind to compassion.

?

Item Two: If Llywelyn should take a second wife, and by her have male heirs, the noblemen undertake to procure of the lord king that such heirs shall succeed in perpetuity to inherit the earldom of £1000 value.

Item Three: Concerning the people presently subject of the prince in Snowdonia or elsewhere, provision shall be made for them as God sanctions, and as is consistent with the safety, honour and wellbeing of such people. To which course the king's mind is already strongly inclined since he desires to provide for all his people with conciliatory mercy.

?

Lambeth Palace Archives

?

November 1282

?The Terms Delivered To Prince Dafydd ap Gruffydd, Brother Of The Prince of Wales:??

(From Latin)

??

These to be delivered to Dafydd?

First: If, to God's honour and his own, he will take upon him the burden of the Cross, and journey to aid the crusade in the Holy Land, he shall be provided with an establishment suitable to his rank, on condition that he shall never return unless recalled by the king's mercy.

We shall ask and we are sure effectively, that the lord king shall provide for Dafydd's children.

Item Two: To all the Welsh, of our own initiative, we add these warnings, that dangers will threaten them ever more gravely as time passes, as we have already admonished them by word of mouth, and written to them most urgently, for it grows infinitely burdensome to continue in arms for a longer time, only in the end to be totally extirpated, for the perils menacing you will every day be aggravated.

Item Three: After a longer time it grows ever more difficult to live in a state of war, in anguish of heart and body, forever among malignant perils, and at last to die in mortal sin and anger.

Item Four: Which grieves us sorely, if you do not come to peace to the best you may, we dread the necessity of urging ecclesiastical feeling against you to the last extreme, by reason of your excesses, for which there is no way you can be excused. But in which you shall find mercy, if you come to peace.

Concerning the above let me have written answer.

Garth Celyn – 11 November 1282

?The Response Of The Prince of Wales:

(From Latin)

?

To the most reverend father in Christ, the Lord John, by the grace of God Archbishop of Canterbury and Primate of all England, his obedient son in Christ, Llywelyn, Prince of Wales and Lord of Snowdon, sendeth greeting.

Holy father, as you have counselled, we are ready to come to the king's grace, if it is offered in a form safe and honourable for us. But the form contained in the articles which were sent to us, is in no particular either safe or honourable, in the judgement of our council and ourselves, indeed, so far from it that all who hear it are astonished, since it tends rather to the destruction and ruin of our people and our person than to our honour and safety.

There is no way in which our council could be brought to permit us to agree to it, even should we so wish, for never would our nobles and subjects consent in the inevitable destruction and dissipation that would surely derive from it.

?

Wherefore we beg your fatherly holiness, as you are bound to pursue that renewed peace, honourable and secure, for which you have exerted such heroic labours already, to devise some expedient bearing a just relation to those articles we have submitted to you in writing.

?

It would surely be more honourable, and more consonant with reason, if we should hold from the king those lands in which we have right, rather than to disinherit us, and hand over our lands and our people to strangers.

??? Tywysog Cymru ac Arglwydd Eryri

Prince of Wales and Lord of Eryri?

?

OWAIN GWYNEDD (died 1170)

|

Iorwerth Drwyndwn (died 1172)

|

LLYWELYN AB IORWERTH (died 1240)

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1205 Prince Llywelyn married Joan (Siwan), daughter of King John of England.

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1211 King John brought an army across the river Conwy, and in August occupied the Welsh royal home; his troops went on to burn Bangor. Princess Joan negotiated between the two men, and King John withdrew.

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1230 William Braose, a Norman Marcher Lord was found in Prince Llywelyn's bedchamber together with Lady Joan; De Braose was tried, found guilty, then castrated and hanged in the marshland immediately below Garth Celyn. (This incident formed the basis for the drama 'Siwan' by Saunders Lewis, 'Llywelyn Fawr' by Thomas Parry, and novels including 'The Green Branch' by Edith Pargeter.)

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1237 Princess Joan died at Garth Celyn, and was buried on the opposite shore of the Menai at Llanfaes.

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1246 Princess Dafydd ap Llywelyn died at Garth Celyn after a six year reign. (Dafydd's marriage to Isabella, daughter of William de Braose, was childless. Gwynedd was divided between his nephews.)

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1255 Prince Llywelyn ap Gruffudd became sole ruler of Gwynedd.

?

?1282 King Edward Longshanks invaded north Wales with a massive army, and surrounded Snowdonia

–June Eleanor de Montfort, Lady of Wales, wife of Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, died at Garth Celyn, giving birth to a baby, Gwenllïan ferch Llywelyn.

–November John Peckham, Archbishop of Canterbury, travelled to Garth Celyn to negotiate between the Prince of Wales and the King of England. Prince Llywelyn was offered a bribe – £1000 a year and an estate in England if he would surrender the Welsh Nation into the hands of the King. Prince Llywelyn's letters rejecting the bribe outright, and giving his reasons for doing so, were dated from 'Garth Kelyn'.

?

On 11th December, Prince Llywelyn was lured into a trap and murdered.

?

1283 Llywelyn's brother, Dafydd ap Gruffudd, continued the struggle to maintain Welsh independence and autonomy, but on 22 June 1283, Prince Dafydd ap Gruffudd, heir to the Principality, and his close family were captured, their hiding place at the foot of Bera in the uplands above Aber Garth Celyn, betrayed.

(E101 /3/30) Dafydd, seriously wounded 'graviter vulneratus' in the struggle was taken that same night to Edward at Rhuddlan. (Cotton Vesp. B xi, f. 30) Prince

Dafydd was hanged, drawn and quartered; the royal children locked away and never released. Princess Gwenllian was taken 'in her cradle' to a Gilbertine Priory at Sempringham, Lincolnshire, where she was held prisoner for 54 years until her death.

On 18 January 1283, Dolwyddelan Castle was occupied by the army of invasion (PRO. E101/359/9) and immediately munitioned to provide a base in the Lledr valley. At Edward's command raiding parties were sent out into the mountains of Snowdonia. Wales was plundered, and Edward's trophies taken across the border into England.

The matrices of the personal seals of Prince Llywelyn, his wife Eleanor de Montfort, daughter of Earl Simon, and his brother Prince Dafydd were seized and placed in the royal Wardrobe. Edward ordered that these also were to be melted down and the silver used to craft a chalice, which he intended to present to the new Cistercian foundation of Vale Royal abbey in Cheshire.

?King Edward annexed Wales to the Crown of England. Wales become England's first colony. (Edward gave the title Prince of Wales to his son, who later became Edward II.)

The Welsh royal home on Garth Celyn was occupied and became a Crown of England property: Edward and his entourage stayed there in 1283 and again in 1284. From that time on, although the Court Chapel was maintained for decades, no member of the English royal family again set foot on it, and it gradually fell into ruin.

After the Anglo Norman Conquest the name Garth Celyn continued in local use but was not used by the English administration. Instead the settlement Aber Garth Celyn adjacent to the royal home became officially known by the administrators simply as Aber, 'Estuary' with its identity removed; later more descriptively as Aber Gwyn Gregyn, 'Estuary of the White Shells'.

1295 Edward Longshanks ordered the building of Beaumaris Castle on the Anglesey shore of the Menai Strait, opposite Garth Celyn on the mainland. The royal home, surrounded and overshadowed by the symbols of conquest, the castles of Conwy, Caernarfon and Beaumaris, was sidelined and ignored by the history books.

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The Letters Written At Garth Celyn, Aber Garth Celyn,  
October/November 1282?

(Lambeth Palace Archives: The Register of Archbishop John Peckham)

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1282 Edward Longshanks, king of England, moved a massive army into the neighbouring Principality of Wales, determined on conquest.

In October, with winter approaching and Edward faced with the difficulty of

over-wintering his army, Archbishop John Peckham intervened; letters passed between Peckham and the Prince of Wales, then Peckham traveled to Garth Celyn where he remained from 3rd to 6th November having discussions with the Prince and his Chief Ministers.

On 6th November, Luc de Tany, leader of the detachment that had occupied Anglesey, broke the truce that was in place, and led his troops over a bridge of boats that had been constructed at Moel y Don near Bangor. Forced back by the Welsh scouts onto the bridge which then collapsed under the weight, De Tany and his men, dragged down by the weight of their armor, drowned.

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English Conquest Of Edward I

11 December 1282, Prince Llywelyn ap Gruffudd was killed.

1283 Edward's army encircled Snowdonia.

21 / 21 June 1283 Prince Dafydd ap Gruffudd, his son Owain ap Dafydd, wife Elizabeth de Ferrers and seven daughters, were captured at Bera, in the uplands above Aber Garth Celyn. Dafydd, seriously wounded (graviter vulneratus) in the struggle, was taken to Edward at Rhuddlan that night. Llywelyn ap Dafydd was captured within days.

28 June 1283, Edward proclaimed that he had the 'last of the treacherous lineage' in his grasp.

(Haganby Chronicle: Annales Dunstable: Cotton Mss. Vesp B x1, f.30: Chronicles Edward I and Edward II; Calendar Welsh Rolls: Reg Swinfield: Public Record Office E101/3/30)

?

-----Gwenllian ferch Llywelyn

? On the Feast Day of St. Gervasius and Prothasius 1282 (Friday 19th June), Eleanor de Montfort, Lady of Wales, died at Garth Celyn in childbirth.

?The baby was named Gwenllian ferch Llywelyn. Lady Eleanor was buried on the opposite shore of the Menai, facing Garth Celyn, in the Franciscan Friary at Llanfaes.

?1283 Princess Gwenllian was taken 'by the King's command' to the Gilbertine Priory at Sempringham in Lincolnshire 'in hir credil.' She was held prisoner there until her death fifty-four years later. (Robert Manning)

1287 Llywelyn ap Dafydd died at Bristol Castle; he was buried in the Dominican Friary.

(Chronicle of Bury St Edmunds: Brut y Tywysogion)

Sempringham Priory, Lincolnshire, England

1131 Gilbert of Sempringham set up a religious order and established a cloister for 'seven maidens' on the north side of the parish church.

In 1139 a new priory was built south of the church, on 360 acres given to the community by Gilbert of Ghent.

The new priory was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. At first the life for the nuns was austere, but after the death of Gilbert, the rule was relaxed.

In 1290 Pope Nicholas IV allowed the priory to have a learned doctor of theology and among the canons was Robert Manning of Bourne, who mentions Gwenllian in his writings.

The Dissolution of the Priory took place on 18th September 1538 and the buildings dismantled.

Today, all that remains of the great Priory, the mother house of an order of monasteries which ranged from Bedfordshire to Scotland is a parish church set in its churchyard, alone in the middle of the fields, half a mile west of the B1177 road, south of Billingboroug

**P-04-607 Call for the Welsh Government to Purchase Garth Celyn –  
Additional information submitted by third party**

William Powell and Members of the Welsh Assembly Government Petitions  
Committee

PETITIONS COMMITTEE MEETING.

'Welsh Assembly Government to Purchase Garth Celyn'.

As someone who has been interested and personally involved in the Garth Celyn project, I should like to respond to the letter from Ken Skates as I feel that the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism has been somewhat misled by his advisers in this matter.

Apart from the occasional fleetingly brief courtesy visits, to my knowledge, no-one from CADW, the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT), Snowdonia National Park has been to Garth Celyn since 1994. At this time there was a very public fallout between two archaeologists in GAT and Professor David Austin; an event that led to egos being badly bruised and sadly had ongoing repercussions for the site. I ask you to please bear that fact in mind.

The name of the promontory is Garth Celyn. A name that goes back centuries. It has not a 'modern name' ; it has not been changed.

This is the 'medieval Garth Celyn' to which Ken Skates refers. This is the only arth Celyn'.

In November 1282, Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, the Prince of Wales, dated the last letters that he wrote before he was killed on 11th December, from his home 'GARTH KELYN'. Those letters are preserved in a Register in Lambeth Palace Archives.

In 1993/4 Professor Austin, Head of Archaeology at Lampeter, examined the standing structures on Garth Celyn, together with the documentary evidence and concluded that the the site was ancient and that the turret and sections of the walls could be dated to c.1200 and earlier. The elaborately carved sandstone found on the site was 12th century and certainly came from a 'High Status ' structure. Other scholars agreed / agree with his conclusions.

To avoid any doubt on the matter of the location and the antiquity of the name Garth Kelyn / Celyn, in 1998 Professor J. E. Caerwyn Williams, of the Board of Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, Aberystwyth, together with Dr Gweneth Lilly, published 'Tystiolaeth Garth Celyn' (The Garth Celyn Evidence) in the academic journal.

Professor Caerwyn Williams was convinced 'beyond any reasonable doubt' that the promontory of Garth Celyn was the site of the Welsh royal home (not simply 'one of the llysoedd's). He supported the earlier findings of Professor T. Jones Pierce, Professor Ogwen Williams, Dr Colin Gresham and Professor David Austin.

<http://welshjournals.llgc.org.uk/.../l.../llgc-id:1161938/get650>

The Paper 'Tystiolaeth Garth Celyn' together with other documentary evidence was submitted to CADW by Professor Caerwyn Williams in 1999. He wrote to Dr Gweneth Lilly some months later to say that he had not had a response.

Gwynfor Evans sent a further copy of the Paper to CADW and added his comment that Garth Celyn was and is a site of the 'greatest National Importance and should be acknowledged and respected as such'. He added that Garth Celyn 'held the Soul of the Nation.'

In 2005, BBC sent in a team of independent experts. Medieval scholar Dr Nick Barrett went to the National Archives in London and Aberystwyth, and the archives in Caernarfon and Bangor and found additional prime source documentary evidence that reinforced the earlier findings. The evidence linked the house, known as Pen y Bryn since the 18th century, and the promontory of Garth Celyn with the medieval Welsh royal home.

Building expert Dr Jonathan Foyle examined the structures and the carved sandstone, dating them again to 12th and 13th century.

Dr Foyle described the size of the thirteenth century complex, and said that it was in not only the main royal home of the Princes of Gwynedd, including the first Prince of Wales, but also the centre of government of its day.

A brief summary of the expert findings were broadcast by BBC in 2006 in a half hour programme 'History Mysteries'. The programme brought additional articles in

the National Press and tremendous public interest. Unfortunately, one of the individuals still nursing a bruised ego, made negative comments.

For your information and to clarify a point, about this time an individual calling himself 'Civis Romanus', among other aliases, began pouring scorn on Garth Celyn in the social media and Wikipedia. Dr Elizabeth Peterson, a scholar based at the University of Helsinki, visited Garth Celyn on several occasions. Dr Peterson followed the attempts by 'Civis Romanus' to deliberately and maliciously undermine and belittle the credibility of Garth Celyn using Wikipedia. Dr Peterson published a Paper on the subject in 2013.

In 2013 the historian Paul Martin Remfry, having carried out extensive documentary research, published his current research findings 'A brief Report on Pen y Bryn and Aber, Gwynedd' (112 pages). A summary of that Report was also uploaded to Academia in 2014. A copy of the Report was forwarded to CADW.

To my knowledge none of the findings of Austin, Caerwyn Williams, Evans, Davies Barrett, Foyle or Remfry have been challenged by any historian.

To my knowledge there is no documentary evidence that links the structure uncovered in the valley near the mill with the 13th century royal home and its associated buildings. That is a debate that should without doubt go under strict public scrutiny.

Historian and broadcaster Huw Edwards in the BBC production 'The Story of Wales' described Garth Celyn as "in all probability one of the most significant sites in the history of Wales". Many would agree with that.

Ken Skates makes light of the fact that Kathryn Pritchard Gibson, the present owner, has willingly and freely allowed public access to the property since 1988. This cannot in any way be compared to the 'Open Doors' or other Initiative. The list of visitors over the years is endless. Schools from all parts of Wales come regularly, students studying 'Siwan' for A level, members of Yr Urdd, history societies, drama groups, poets, artists and musicians. The list goes on and on. There has been tremendous interest from overseas from readers of the historical novels of Edith Pargeter, Barbara Erskine and Sharon Kay Penman and students studying British history in American universities. One article in the Telegraph by Byron Rogers, reprinted in Cambria, brought in over 8300 letters alone.

As a Nation we have a rare opportunity. An opportunity that should not be missed. It is true that the house is protected by its Grade II \* Listing and part of the promontory is Scheduled as being of National Importance by the Ancient Monuments Board. But the place as Gwynfor Evans said is a place of Memory to the people of Wales and further afield who care about such things. It is ideally and uniquely situated to be a living, thriving Memorial to the Welsh Prince of Wales and his predecessors. Those of us who have been involved in some way as volunteers in this project to date ask that it be purchased by the Welsh Assembly Government and placed in the hands of independent Trustees and a Management Committee.

The promontory Garth Celyn could become a visible Memorial Garden overlooking the A55 Gateway coastal highway and the Menai Strait– a place for performances and events, or quiet contemplation. The house and / or cottage could, if that was the decision of the Trustees, be restored and let to visitors for part of the year (using the role model of Landmark Trust) to produce an income; the buildings could then be used for Exhibitions, meetings and lectures for the remaining part of the year. Because of its position the property is suited for that purpose which would be of the greatest public benefit. It could be self sustaining. It would bring in Cultural and Tourism benefits that would have a wide and lasting effect for all parts of Wales.

We ask that the Committee acts on this matter without delay.

Yours sincerely

Howard R.J. Kimberley

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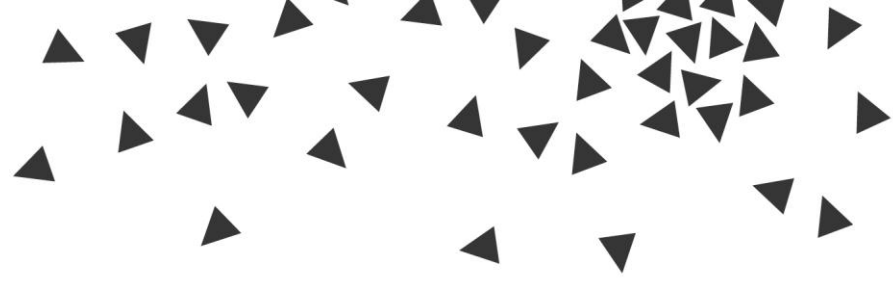
PETITIONS COMMITTEE MEETING. TUESDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2015

PETITION. 'WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE GARTH CELYN, AND PUT IT INTO THE HANDS OF AN INDEPENDENT TRUST'

Please will you let the Committee have details of this BBC clip' THE STORY OF WALES' Huw Edwards for the meeting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXREEQtvL2c>

Howard. R.J. Kimberley



## **P-04-607 Call for the Welsh Government to Purchase Garth Celyn – Additional information submitted by third party**

William Powell, Assembly Member,  
Chair of the Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

Dear Sir

I write to you regarding the future of Garth Celyn, the historic home of the Princes of Wales in Abergwyngregyn.

For a number of years, we have been taking groups of young people on a tour of north Wales in the name of Urdd Gobaith Cymru to learn about our history and heritage as part of their A-level course in Welsh as a second language. As part of the course, they study Saunders Lewis's play, SIWAN.

Kathryn Gibson, who owns Garth Celyn and is also a renowned historian, has dedicated years of her life to detailed and comprehensive research into the history of the site. She has proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that this was the headquarters of the Princes of Wales. Other historians in Wales, as well as a number of other individuals and bodies, have endorsed this research and have noted the importance of this historic building to our history.

Kathryn has been opening the doors of her home and welcoming visitors of all ages from all corners of Wales and beyond since 1988, and her commitment to sharing Garth Celyn's important story has been unique and valuable. The story of the Princes of Wales is exceptionally important, and every school in Wales should be passing on knowledge of this significant part of our history to future generations.

It was, therefore, very sad to hear that the future of the Home of our Princes is in jeopardy, but it was also encouraging to hear about Kathryn's campaign to ensure a future for the house. I believe that bodies such as CADW, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical



## **P-04-500 Call For Regulation of Animal Welfare Establishments in Wales**

### **Petition wording:**

We the undersigned, call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to regulate Animal Welfare Establishments and legislate for compulsory requirements be met by all animal rescue establishments in line with the report produced by the AWW Animal Welfare Establishments Working Group October 2012. The Welsh Government need to put in place legislation for Wales under the Animal Welfare Act(2006), to protect animals from neglect and abuse.

### **Additional Info:**

More and more animals are suffering abuse, neglect and are being bred from in unregulated establishment who advertise as a Rescue Center, and we call upon the Welsh Assembly to legislate under the Animal Act 2006 to try and stop this from continuing.

**Petition raised by:** Lisa Winnett

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 24 September 2013

**Number of signatures:** 265

Rebecca Evans AC / AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Amaeth a Physgodfeydd  
Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-500  
Ein cyf/Our ref: **SF/RE/0179/15**

William Powell AM Assembly member for Mid and  
West Wales  
Chair Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff CF99 1NA

28 January 2015

Dear William,

I am writing further to my letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> September on “**P-04-50 0 Call For Regulation of Animal Welfare Establishments in Wales**” where I said that I was going to consider this further.

I have since written to the Chair of the Animal Welfare Network Wales, who produced this report and I attach a copy for information.

I hope this goes some way in helping to resolve concerns on the seriousness and value that we place on this report.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca

**Rebecca Evans AC / AM**  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Ffermio a Bwyd  
Deputy Minister for Farming and Food

Rebecca Evans AC / AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Amaeth a Physgodfeydd  
Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref:  
Ein cyf/Our ref: **SF/RE/0179/15**

Claire Lawson  
Chair  
Animal Welfare Network Wales (AWNW)

28 January 2015

[CLAWSON@rspca.org.uk](mailto:CLAWSON@rspca.org.uk)

*Dear Claire,*

I am writing in response to your report on "**The Case for the Regulation of Animal Welfare Establishments**". I am grateful for the effort that has been made by the AWWN in producing this report. I am conscious though that this response is some time after the report was first produced and I apologise for that but I am sure you will appreciate that priorities in relation to animal welfare in Wales have taken a huge step forward with the creation of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Group.

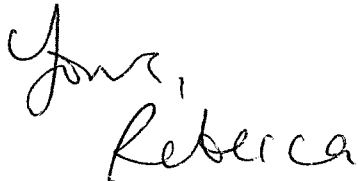
Your report provides considerable information on the issue of sanctuaries. I recognise that this topic, as you have mentioned in the report, has been in consideration since before the development of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and was raised specifically in consultation to that Act. This policy area is now fully devolved to Wales. Whilst I would have hoped that since 2007, when the Animal Welfare Act 2006 was commenced, progress in this area could have been made in ensuring the welfare of animals had improved, your report suggests that this has not necessarily been the case.

My officials, having looked at this report carefully, have noted that you acknowledge that the majority of organisations involved in keeping animals do so in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006, but that when things go wrong the picture is very different and very distressing. It is also evident that it can be difficult to know who is doing what, where and when.

I have asked Dr Christianne Glossop, the Chief Veterinary Officer, to bring together urgently a meeting to discuss a way forward from this report. This will include you and appropriate representatives from the AWWN, a representative from the Animal Health and Welfare Framework group and officials. There are several issues that might usefully be discussed following on from the report and possible next steps.

I am also copying this letter to the Chair of the Petitions Committee of the National Assembly for Wales and the Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee given their interest in this matter

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jones, Rebecca". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Rebecca Evans AC / AM**  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Ffermio a Bwyd  
Deputy Minister for Farming and Food

**P-04-500 Call For Regulation of Animal Welfare Establishments in Wales –  
Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Clerking Team, 26.02.2015**

Hi Kayleigh,

I welcome the suggestions in the letter that the Deputy Minister for Farming and Food, Rebecca Evans AM has written to Claire Lawson, as these problems that I have previously brought to the committee attention are still on going, and more and more animals are still suffering at the hands of unscrupulous people claiming to be 'Rescues'.

We urgently need to obtain the correct legislation to stop this from happening, and can you please advise the committee on the contents of my response today.

Yours Sincerely

Lisa Winnett

County Borough Councillor

# Agenda Item 2.15

## **P-04-528 All Primary Schools in Wales taught through the medium of Welsh**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to make all primary schools in Wales taught through the medium of Welsh. If we and the Welsh Assembly are truly committed to restoring the Welsh language and creating a bilingual Wales then action is required. I agree this is something that cannot be done overnight, there are issues such as teacher numbers and the transition between changing the schools from English to Welsh medium. The Welsh Assembly have emphasised the importance of having communities of Welsh speakers. This will only occur if the majority of children leaving school over many generations can speak fluently in Welsh.

We call for the Welsh Government to draft a preliminary plan of action and timetable of how such a change could in theory occur.

**Petition raised by:** Phillip Worth

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 21 January 2014

**Number of signatures:** 528

Huw Lewis AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau  
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-528  
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/05258/14

William Powell AM  
Chair – Petitions committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

22 October 2014

Dear William

Thank you for your further letter enclosing one from Mr Phillip Worth about his petition in favour of making all primary schools in Wales teach through the medium of Welsh, together with copies of correspondence from UCAC and the NUT.

As all the parties, including Mr Worth, appear to acknowledge, there are practical challenges involved in achieving the aim of the petition. As I indicated in my earlier response, our Welsh-medium Education Strategy goes some way towards addressing that aim, particularly in terms of improving the planning and delivery of Welsh-medium provision. Mr Worth is understandably concerned that Welsh-medium education is not easily accessible where he lives – and the statutory Welsh in Education Strategic Plans arrangements which we have introduced will help address this point over time – but at the same time he appears prepared to countenance a situation in which parents who would prefer an English-medium education have equal difficulty in accessing the provision of their choice or, indeed, be denied it entirely.

In the circumstances, I have nothing to add to my earlier reply other than to repeat my view that it is inappropriate to agree to this petition.

Yours sincerely

Huw Lewis AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau  
Minister for Education and Skills

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence.Huw.Lewis@wales.gsi.gov.uk  
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# Agenda Item 2.16

## **P-04-519 Abolition of Park Homes Sales Commission**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly For Wales to urge the Welsh Government to remove from Legislation the right of Park Owners to demand commission on the private sale of park homes now that they are no longer involved in the selling process.

**Petition raised by:** Caerwnon Park Residents Association

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 10 December 2013

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchgu Tlodi  
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-519  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00091/15

William Powell AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

28 January 2015

Dear Bill

Thank you for your undated letter on behalf of the Petitions Committee, regarding the petition from Caerwnon Park Residents Association.

I have already committed to an independent review of the economics of the park homes industry and propose to start this review in the Spring. The review will look at the commission rate, as well as assess the impact any change in the commission rate may have on the viability of park homes. As such, I do not think a meeting between my officials and the petitioners would be beneficial at this time.

Regards

**Lesley Griffiths AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchgu Tlodi  
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty

**P-04-519 Abolition of Park Homes Sales Commission – Correspondence  
from the Petitioner to the Clerking Team, 28.02.2015**

Dear Kayleigh,

Mr. Mountford has asked me to send you his letter (as chairman of our Residents Association) to Mr. Powell it is as follows:

Dear Mr. Powell,

Thank you for the copy of the letter to you from Lesley Griffiths A.M. Dated 28/01/15 which relates to the commission charge petition which we submitted on our members behalf and affecting all mobile home owners living in Wales. Apart from reiterating our grievances against the charges we believe the correspondence you now have in your possession fully justifies the abolition of this charge.

Yours sincerely

R.G. Mountford  
Chairman, Caerwnon Park Residents Association.

# Agenda Item 3.1

## **P-03-144 Guide Dogs for the Blind Petition**

### **Petition Wording**

We, the undersigned representatives, petition the National Assembly for Wales to lay specific responsibility on local authorities to be aware of their duties under the Disability Discrimination Act and Disability Equality Duty, and comply with them by not creating town centres, high streets and residential streets with shared surfaces that discriminate against blind and partially sighted and other disabled people, effectively excluding them from the street environment.

**Petition raised by:** Guide Dogs for the Blind

**Petition first considered by Committee:** June 2008

**Number of signatures:** 10

# Agenda Item 3.2

## **P-03-236 The Charter for Grandchildren**

### **Petition wording**

We call upon the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to adopt The Charter for Grandchildren and to make the Charter mandatory for professional workers who are employed in the welfare of children.

**Petition raised by:** Grandparents Apart Wales

**Number of signatures:** 19

**First considered by Committee:** October 2009

# Agenda Item 3.3

## **P-04-363 Town Centre Improvement Scheme for Fishguard**

### **Petition wording:**

We, the undersigned, request that the National Assembly supports the call on the Welsh Government to work with Pembrokeshire County Council to ensure that investment is made in a Town Centre Improvement Scheme for Fishguard, including pedestrian and traffic management measures. Such an Improvement Scheme must improve the viability and sustainability of the Town and make it fully accessible for all residents and visitors, including those with mobility and other disability needs.

**Petition raised by:** Councillor Bob Kilmister

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 7 February 2012

**Number of signatures:** 1,042

# Agenda Item 3.4

## **P-04-504 A483 Maerdy bridge Road Junction safety**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to improve the safety of the Maerdy Bridge Road junction on the A483 by adding a central reservation and by the installation of street lighting.

**Petition raised by:** Llandrinio & Arddleen Community Council

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 8 October 2013

**Number of signatures:** 740

# Agenda Item 3.5

## **P-04-512 Stop the "Staff reduction proposals" at the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board**

### **Petition wording:**

We the undersigned wish to register our dismay and disapproval at the announcement of the Section 188 redundancy notice issued at the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and the resulting staff reduction proposals.

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to:

- oppose and stop these draconian cuts;
- ensure that patient safety and quality of service is improved, not cut further; and
- support and campaign for proper funding of the NHS.

**Petition raised by:** Howard Barr

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 11 November 2013

**Number of signatures:** 112

## Agenda Item 3.6

### **P-04-520 Regarding the Cancellation of All Elective Orthopaedic Surgery by Hywel Dda Health Board During the Winter 2013/2014**

#### **Petition wording:**

We the undersigned believe the cancellation of all orthopaedic surgery except trauma, during the Winter months 2013/14 undermines the human rights of patients and discriminates against disability. We demand that this decision be urgently revisited. All decisions regarding the priority of patient needs should be made by clinicians rather than the administration making decisions based on financial restrictions.

There are seriously urgent cases, other than trauma, already on the waiting list who without surgery are in danger of losing mobility and consequently their livelihood.

In a political climate where patients should be listened to, in this case they have not even been informed let alone been consulted, the Hywel Dda decision would appear to be directly in conflict with this principle.

Neither can we understand why orthopaedic patients should be targeted. This seems an over simplistic approach to addressing financial problems. Not only are patients affected by such decisions but specialist staff and trainees are not allowed to do the job they are paid for and wish to do.

We call upon the Welsh Government to reverse this decision.

**Petition raised by:** Kate O'Dell

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 10 December 2013

**Number of signatures:** 490

# Agenda Item 4

## **P-04-547 Ban Polystyrene(EPS) Fast Food and Drinks Packaging**

### **Petition wording:**

The time has come to halt the sight of millions of polystyrene food and drinks cartons littering the beaches and countryside of Wales.

Polystyrene(EPS) is a major component of urban litter and marine debris. It is detrimental to wildlife that ingests it and costs millions for Welsh Councils to remove from our streets. Polystyrene takes hundreds of years to degrade.

Over 100 US (including New York),Canadian, and also European cities have banned polystyrene food packaging as a result of the negative impacts of the Environment. We hope that wales will have the vision to join that list.

Therefore, with so many alternatives to polystyrene(EPS) packaging now available which has significantly less impact on the environment and human health and also to save Welsh taxpayers millions of pounds in street cleansing costs we, the undersigned, request that the Welsh Government introduces a ban on all polystyrene fast food and drink packaging.

**Petition raised by:** Friends of Barry Beaches

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 29 April 2014

**Number of signatures:** 295

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