

Agenda – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: 21 May 2019

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

Graeme Francis – Committee Clerk

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- 1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest
(Pages 1 – 39)
- 2 New petitions
 - 2.1 P-05-876 Protection of Red & Amber listed species in Wales
(Pages 40 – 48)
 - 2.2 P-05-877 Children's used uniform scheme
(Pages 49 – 56)
 - 2.3 P-05-878 Shut the Door on Wasted Energy
(Pages 57 – 68)
 - 2.4 P-05-879 Add Mental Health Education to the mandatory teaching curriculum for all schools in Wales
(Pages 69 – 85)
- 3 Updates to previous petitions
 - Education
 - 3.1 P-04-481 Close the Gap for deaf pupils in Wales
(Pages 86 – 93)
 - 3.2 P-05-832 To Amend the School Admissions Code Relating to Summer-Born Children
(Pages 94 – 112)



Economy and Transport

3.3 P-04-667 Roundabout for the A477/ A4075 Junction

(Pages 113 – 114)

The following two items will be considered together

3.4 P-05-838 Support the M4 Relief Road Black Route

(Pages 115 – 117)

3.5 P-05-850 Protect the Gwent Levels and stop the proposed M4 motorway

(Pages 118 – 127)

3.6 P-05-851 Remove time restrictions on the layby to the east of Crickhowell

(Pages 128 – 129)

3.7 P-05-853 No to any Closure of Junction 41

(Pages 130 – 132)

Housing and Local Government

3.8 P-05-786 Save our Countryside – Revise TAN 1

(Pages 133 – 137)

Health and Social Services

3.9 P-05-751 Recognition of Parental Alienation

(Pages 138 – 143)

3.10 P-05-812 We call for the Welsh Government to encourage trusts to implement the NICE guidelines for Borderline Personality Disorder or justify why they do not do so

(Pages 144 – 147)

3.11 P-05-817 Specialist prosthetics for child amputees

(Pages 148 – 152)

3.12 P-05-849 All men in Wales should have access through the NHS to the best possible diagnostic tests for prostate cancer

(Pages 153 – 156)

3.13 P-05-866 Sepsis Public Awareness Campaign – Wales

(Pages 157 – 178)

Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

3.14 P-05-743 End the Exotic Pet Trade in Wales

(Pages 179 – 184)

3.15 P-05-822 Ban plastic straws (when drinking milk) in our schools

(Pages 185 – 187)

3.16 P-05-868 Water Safety/Drowning Prevention and the effects of Cold Water Shock to be taught in all Schools in Wales

(Pages 188 – 193)

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:

Item 5

5 Eligibility for signing petitions

(Pages 194 – 199)

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 2.1

P-05-876 Protection of Red & Amber listed species in Wales

This petition was submitted by Chris Evans having collected a total of 173 signatures.

Text of Petition

It has recently come to light that Natural Resources Wales have been issuing licences to allow the killing of species that appear on the RSPB's Red and Amber lists in Wales for sometimes rather spurious reasons such as "protecting cattle feed" and "air safety".

Other methods are available to disperse birds that do not involve killing. All Red listed species are under severe threat of extinction in Wales and thus the level of protection needs to improve to prevent further loss to our natural biodiversity.

The management of Natural Resources Wales have an anthropocentric viewpoint of the natural environment and thus are simply not fit for purpose when it comes to environmental and biodiversity protection.

We, the undersigned, contend that Natural Resources Wales is failing to protect the natural environment and biodiversity in Wales.

We demand that the ability of Natural Resources Wales (or any other body) to issue licences to kill any Red or Amber listed species should be removed with immediate effect and a less anthropocentric viewpoint be taken by management in all issues relating to the environment and biodiversity.

Additional Information

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Gower
- South Wales West

P-05-876: Protection of Red & Amber listed species in Wales

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 21 Mai 2019

Petitions Committee | 21 May 2019

Research Briefing:

Petition number: [P-05-876](#)

Petition title: Protection of Red & Amber listed species in Wales

Text of petition: It has recently come to light that Natural Resources Wales have been issuing licences to allow the killing of species that appear on the RSPB's Red and Amber lists in Wales for sometimes rather spurious reasons such as "protecting cattle feed" and "air safety".

Other methods are available to disperse birds that do not involve killing. All Red listed species are under severe threat of extinction in Wales and thus the level of protection needs to improve to prevent further loss to our natural biodiversity.

The management of Natural Resources Wales have an anthropocentric viewpoint of the natural environment and thus are simply not fit for purpose when it comes to environmental and biodiversity protection.

We, the undersigned, contend that Natural Resources Wales is failing to protect the natural environment and biodiversity in Wales.

We demand that the ability of Natural Resources Wales (or any other body) to issue licences to kill any Red or Amber listed species should be removed with immediate effect and a less anthropocentric viewpoint be taken by management in all issues relating to the environment and biodiversity.

Principal Petitioner: Chris Evans

Background

Birds of Conservation Concern

The [Birds of Conservation Concern 4 \(BoCC4\)](#) is the fourth review of the conservation status of birds in the UK. It includes lists which categorise the 244 UK bird species as 'Red', 'Amber'

and 'Green' status depending on their conservation importance. The [associated report](#) includes the species lists. Red species are those of highest conservation priority (67 species), Amber species are of moderate concern (96 species) and Green species are of least concern (81 species).

BoCC is a collaboration between the UK's Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) and several other organisations. Data used for the birds' categorisation come from monitoring schemes such as the [Breeding Bird Survey](#) and the [Wetland Bird Survey](#).

Red in the context of BoCC is not to be confused with the [International Union for Conservation of Nature's \(IUCN\) Red List](#), though IUCN status is one of the criteria used in the BoCC assessment.

The changes in the numbers and proportions of species on the Red, Amber or Green lists [are said to](#) provide an indication of the status of UK birds and the efficacy of conservation measures taken. The BoCC4 lists are [used by conservation organisations such as the RSPB](#) to prioritise action.

Natural Resources Wales bird licensing

All wild birds, their nests and their eggs are protected under the Section 1 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) ('the 1981 Act'). It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird. Under section 16 of the 1981 Act, appropriate authorities may grant general or specific licences to permit acts which would otherwise contravene the provisions of the 1981 Act concerning the protection of wild birds, if done for certain specified purposes.

The specified purposes for which licences may be issued under section 16 include:

- the preservation of public health and air safety;
- preventing the spread of disease; and
- preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or fisheries.

The licences have certain conditions and failure to comply with the conditions can lead to an offence being committed. For example it is a standard condition of licences issued under the 1981 Act that:

This licence can only be relied on in such circumstances where the licensee is satisfied that the appropriate non-lethal methods of control such as scaring are either ineffective or impracticable.

[Natural Resources Wales \(NRW\) issues general and specific bird licenses](#) in Wales. [NRW's website states:](#)

...we carefully balance the needs of conservation with other public interests such as protecting human health, public safety, minimising damage to crops and livestock and protecting fisheries.

For example, we might issue a licence where birds have entered a food processing plant, creating a public health issue. Airports also apply for licences to shoot birds to reduce the risk of air strikes.

There are several '[General Licences](#)' for birds which are issued for a particular purpose and are valid for a year. There are no restrictions on how many birds can be killed. Some are limited to certain species only.

[NRW states that](#) it only issues a licence 'as a last resort' and that it is 'confident that all activities carried out under these licences do not affect the conservation status of any of our native species'.

A list of the licences issued, as well as records of birds killed, can be found on [NRW's website](#). This includes species found on the BoCC Red list (such as herring gulls) and Amber list (such as lesser black backed gulls).

Natural England revoke general licences

Natural England (NE) is the equivalent licensing body in England. [Wild Justice](#) (a newly established not-for-profit company set up to take court action to protect wildlife) recently won a legal challenge against NE on the basis that the **general licensing** approach was not legal. It argued that NE was not 'taking enough care to judge individual cases, or indeed any case at all.' It objected to the 'unlimited slaughter of certain wild birds all year round'. Wild Justice stated (emphasis added):

After nearly four decades of unlawful, casual killing of millions, tens of millions of birds, sanctioned by a succession of government statutory conservation agencies over the years, the current system has been shown to be unlawful...

We haven't changed the law, we have merely shown that the current system of licensing of killing of certain species of birds, developed and administered by a statutory wildlife agency, is unlawful now and presumably has been for decades.

Our successful legal challenge may well have implications for what happens in **Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and we will be bringing this to the attention of the other statutory agencies.**

On 25 April 2019 [NE revoked](#) three general bird kill licences. The licences permit the killing of 16 species of birds, including crows, parakeets, Canada geese, some gulls and wood pigeons.

Wild Justice agree that some birds need controlling; its objection was that the general licences enabled people to kill birds 'arbitrarily'.

The revocations have been met with significant criticism from landowning, farming and shooting communities, who say they need the licences to protect crops and animals from some bird species. For example, [the Country Land and Business Association \(CLA\)](#) said it was 'hugely disappointing' that NE is reviewing the licences for 'no practical benefit'. [A letter](#) signed by

eight countryside groups was sent to UK Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Michael Gove, on 29 April 2019 calling for a ‘full investigation’ into NE’s decision.

NE has been working on alternative measures to allow lawful control of these bird species to continue in defined situations. On 26 April 2019 NE published the first of the new general licences for controlling birds. [The interim chief executive Marian Spain](#), said the new licences will be ‘in place in the coming days that cover the vast majority of circumstances covered by the current licences. This will ensure landowners can continue to take necessary action, whilst also taking into account the needs of wildlife’.

Michael Gove, has [ordered officials](#) to ‘urgently investigate’ options for controlling wild birds. [A statement from NE](#) says it ‘will consult with stakeholders in advance of the wider review of general licensing that will take place later this year’.

Welsh Government action

Under section 7 of the *Environment (Wales) Act 2016* (‘the Environment Act’), the Welsh Government must publish lists of [priority habitats and species](#) that it considers are ‘of principal importance for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in relation to Wales’. Public authorities are then expected to take steps to maintain and enhance these species and habitats. These lists are currently transposed from the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Act* (NERC Act) (section 42) as an interim measure, but are being revised by the Welsh Government in consultation with NRW. The [current NERC Act priority species list for Wales](#) includes bird species found on the Red and Amber BoCC4 lists.

In addition, more broadly, under the Environment Act, Welsh public authorities (as defined in [Sections 6\(9\) and 6\(10\)](#)), including Welsh Ministers, are expected to ‘promote the resilience of ecosystems’ and ‘maintain and enhance biodiversity’. This is known as the ‘biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty’. Public authorities are required to publish a plan setting out their proposed actions to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience and report on progress. [Welsh Government guidance](#) recommends that the biodiversity and resilience plans should be published within a year of the Environment Act receiving Royal Assent (though this is non-statutory), to allow time before reporting on progress before the end of 2019.

The Welsh Government’s letter to the Committee on this petition highlights the Welsh Government’s [Nature Recovery Plan for Wales](#) which is currently being refreshed. The Plan sets out how Wales will deliver the commitments of the [UN Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and the [EU Biodiversity Strategy](#) to halt the decline in biodiversity by 2020 and then reverse that decline. The Welsh Government’s letter also highlights NRW’s strategic steer for biodiversity in [Vital Nature – making the connections between biodiversity and the people and places of Wales](#). Vital Nature establishes a high-level framework for actions for biodiversity in line with the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales. Both address how the Welsh Government and NRW aim to deliver the biodiversity and ecosystem resilience duty.

National Assembly for Wales action

The Petitions Committee is currently considering a petition (P-05-852) to [introduce a licence to manage land for game bird shooting in an attempt to end raptor persecution](#). The then Minister for Environment, Hannah Blythyn, wrote to the Committee on [23 November](#) stating that in 2017 the Welsh Government funded 'A Review of the Prevention and Investigation of Wildlife Crime in Wales' undertaken by the National Wildlife Crime Unit. The report was shared with the Committee. The Welsh Government highlighted the success of both the secondment of police officers to NRW and the setting up of dedicated rural crime teams within the Welsh forces. Hannah Blythyn said in her letter to the Committee that she will continue to support NRW in their commitment to work collaboratively with Welsh Police Forces to encourage compliance with, and enforce, wildlife and environmental legislation in Wales.

The Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths, [provided further information](#) highlighting that the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes is being updated. She also highlighted officials' work with the Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group.

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee has recently carried out a piece of work on [biodiversity](#) which looks at how the Welsh Government's proposed Public Goods Scheme, set out in the [Brexit and Our Land Green Paper](#), could be applied to restore biodiversity. RSPB highlighted the long term downward trend in bird species. The Committee is due to write to Lesley Griffiths.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-876
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05740/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

April 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 8 April regarding petition P-05-876 about the protection of Red and Amber listed species in Wales.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW's) powers to issue licences to kill, injure or take wild birds are granted under section 16 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (the Act). Licences can only be issued for specific purposes listed in the Act and only when all other avenues of scaring or deterring have failed.

NRW has recently made a statement regarding bird licencing on their website providing further information about the licences recently awarded. This can be seen at <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/news-and-events/statements/issuing-bird-licences/?lang=en>

Under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 NRW must pursue the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR), applying the principles of SMNR in the exercise of its functions.

The objective and principles of SMNR are at sections 3 and 4 of the Environment (Wales) Act and whilst they support our well-being they must also take account of the intrinsic value of our natural resources, including animals and plants. The objective is to maintain and enhance the resilience of our ecosystems, and biodiversity is integral to the functioning of these ecosystems, so it is essential that we reverse the decline of our species and habitats.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales, currently being refreshed, sets out our actions for biodiversity, and NRW has published its strategic steer for biodiversity in Vital Nature – Making the connections between biodiversity and the People and Places of Wales’, which can be found on their website.: <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/strategies-and-plans/vital-nature-making-the-connections-between-biodiversity-and-the-people-and-places-of-wales/?lang=en>

My officials will be happy to provide further detailed information as required when you formally consider the petition.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

Agenda Item 2.2

P-05-877 Children's used uniform scheme

This petition was submitted by Rachael Mackay (Topaz class, Monnow Primary School) having collected a total of 54 signatures.

Text of Petition

We the children of Monnow Primary School in Newport would like to see a used school uniform scheme up and running in every city in Wales. The scheme should provide uniforms, shoes and trainers for all ages. This would make sure that all children have access to affordable uniforms. Families that receive free school meals should take priority.

Additional Information

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Newport West
- South Wales East

Briefing for the Petitions Committee

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 21 Mai 2019

Petitions Committee | 21 May 2019

Research Briefing: Children's used uniform scheme

Petition number: [P-05-877](#)

Petition title: **Children's used uniform scheme**

Text of petition:

We the children of Monnow Primary School in Newport would like to see a used school uniform scheme up and running in every city in Wales. The scheme should provide uniforms, shoes and trainers for all ages. This would make sure that all children have access to affordable uniforms. Families that receive free school meals should take priority.

1. Legal and policy position

The Minister for Education's letter highlights that there is currently no legislation in Wales regarding the wearing of school uniform. This comes under the 'conduct of a maintained school', which is the **responsibility of the school's governing body**. The governing body is required to conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement, which the Minister says may include having a school uniform policy.

The Minister says that the Welsh Government 'strongly encourages schools to have a school uniform policy in place as it has many benefits'. She also says that the Welsh Government expects governing bodies to consider the wide availability of uniform clothing and cost implications for families.

The Welsh Government issues **non-statutory guidance** to schools and governing bodies on school uniform and appearance policies. The existing version was published in 2011, although the Welsh Government has recently consulted on new guidance to take effect from September 2019. Unlike the current guidance this will be statutory.

2. Welsh Government action

When launching a [consultation on new draft statutory guidance](#) in November 2018, the Minister for Education, Kirsty Williams, said she wanted to establish a more consistent approach to the

affordability. This was one of the reasons the new guidance will be statutory unlike the current version. The [Minister said](#):

The consultation focuses on affordability, and also addresses a number of issues that should be considered when developing school uniform and appearance policies, such as gender-neutral uniform items and flexibility during extreme weather conditions.

As the Minister's letter outlines, the new draft guidance includes the following **examples of good practice**:

- Promote and encourage good quality **second-hand school uniform stalls** at parents' evenings or other events.
- **Loan second-hand uniform** items to pupils and setting up a resource room where pupils can access these discretely to avoid stigmatisation

The Welsh Government has also established a new scheme of financial support, '**PDG Access**'¹, which will help eligible households with various school costs, including school uniform. PDG Access was established after the Welsh Government ended the previous School Uniform Grant in the 2018-19 budget setting round (see section 4, 'Assembly action').

The previous School Uniform Grant had an annual budget of £700,000 and provided £105 to each household of a pupil eligible for free school meals (eFSM) on their transition to secondary school (Year 7), to help meet school uniform costs. The Welsh Government [decided in its 2018-19 budget](#) to end this grant and make the money available for the reprioritisation of various local government grants for general funding for local authorities to support school budgets.

The Minister for Education subsequently [announced in June 2018](#) that there would be a **new broader PDG Access fund** which would **replace the School Uniform Grant** and provide more flexibility in what households could use the money for. Introduced in September 2018 at a cost of £1.7 million, it is worth more for each household (£125 as opposed to £105) and supports a greater number of pupils. The Welsh Government has focused the grant on the entry point to primary education (Reception) as well as the transition point to secondary school (Year 7).

The [Welsh Government has recently announced](#) the further extension of PDG Access to include pupils starting Years 3 and 10 (the other two key stage transition points) and Looked After Children in all year groups. To finance this, the Welsh Government has allocated £3.4 million on top of the current £1.7 million to bring the **cost of PDG Access to over £5 million**.

The level of support is again increasing, to **£200 per eligible child**, and the eligible uses of the money are being extended further to not only uniform and other school-based costs but non-classroom settings such as youth clubs. Local authorities will administer the scheme.

¹ The scheme is called PDG Access as it is targeted at the same group of pupils – eFSM pupils – as the Pupil Development Grant (PDG), which since 2012 has provided additional money to schools to support the education of eFSM pupils, Looked After Children and adopted children.

The Minister's letter to this Committee, responding to the petition, also gives details of this announcement, as did [her statement in Plenary on 30 April 2019](#).

3. Assembly action

As referred to above, the Welsh Government's action regarding PDG Access followed criticism it received from stakeholders and the Children, Young People and Education Committee of its decision in the 2018–19 budget to **end the School Uniform Grant**.

In April 2018, the [CYPE Committee wrote](#) to the Minister for Education, expressing concern that this could 'lead to a loss of important financial support to families on low incomes in purchasing school uniforms' and asking several questions about the process that the Welsh Government had followed when deciding to end the former School Uniform Grant.

The [Minister's response \(May 2018\)](#) set out her intention to introduce an improved scheme to replace the former School Uniform Grant. Kirsty Williams' statement of 7 June 2018 and subsequent announcements (discussed in section 2 above) followed thereafter.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-877
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05862/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Assembly Member for Aberconwy
Chair - Petitions committee
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16 April 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 8 April asking for my view in relation to a petition the Petitions Committee has received from Rachael Mackay of Monnow Primary School in Newport that would like to see a used school uniform scheme up and running in every city in Wales.

There is no education legislation in Wales specifically covering the wearing of school uniform. Section 21 of the Education Act 2002 places the conduct of a maintained school under the direction of the school's governing body. The governing body is required to conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement and this may include having a school uniform policy in place which can promote school discipline and ensure that pupils are dressed appropriately for learning activity.

The Welsh Government strongly encourages schools to have a school uniform policy in place as it has many benefits. When introducing a new uniform policy or considering changes in school uniform requirements, the Welsh Government expects governing bodies to consider equality issues, the wide availability of uniform garments and cost implications to families and to consult widely with parents, pupils and other groups on a new or revised school uniform policy.

The Welsh Government currently provides non-statutory guidance to schools and governing bodies on school uniform and appearance policies. In November 2018 I published a consultation seeking views from stakeholders on Welsh Government's draft statutory guidance for governing bodies on school uniform and appearance policies.

In addition to updating the guidance I decided to make it statutory to better support governing bodies in making their decisions on school uniform policies in respect of access, affordability and flexibility.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The examples of good practice in relation to financial assistance with school uniforms given in the draft guidance include,

- Promote and encourage good quality second-hand school uniform stalls at parents' evenings or other events.
- Loan second-hand uniform items to pupils and setting up a resource room where pupils can access these discretely to avoid stigmatisation.
- Bulk purchase of items to sell to parents at a discounted price, possibly coupled with an easy payment scheme.
- Denbighshire County Council and Citizens Advice Denbighshire run a school uniform recycle scheme that allows parents to access affordable, high-quality uniforms in their community. Donated uniforms are collected from schools before the end of the summer term so that they can be recycled and made available to other families for free or for a donation at a recycle shop (donations help cover the cost of washing the uniforms).

The consultation received over 900 responses, these are now being carefully considered by Welsh Government officials to finalise the guidance accordingly. It will replace the current non-statutory guidance and will come into effect from September 2019.

I'm fully aware the cost of the school day is a really important issue for many families in Wales, my officials continue to investigate the matter to see if more can be done to help keep costs down. It is essential all our learners are able to access the same opportunities. It is unacceptable some of our young people miss out on opportunities because of their personal circumstances and background. I want young people to show up at school ready to learn and reach their best outcomes. I also want to explore all avenues to help ensure that happens – whether that's thinking about how their well-being can be prioritised or by helping remove worries associated with some of the costs of the school day.

Late last year, I asked Children in Wales to produce a suite of guides for schools covering key aspects in addressing the cost of the school day, including understanding the causes and impact of living in poverty, food and hunger, and school uniforms. Children in Wales will work in partnership to develop the guides, including with the End Child Poverty Network Cymru. The guides will focus on opportunities to change culture in schools around poverty and disadvantage and provide strategies for addressing particular challenges and barriers around the cost of the school day.

Alongside this work we have already announced the significant increase in funding through our Pupil Development Grant – Access. Funding exceeds £5m for next financial year. Not only are we looking for opportunities to change cultures and practices in schools, but we are also providing direct funding to families. This funding is not limited to supporting the cost of school uniform; it will support greater aspiration, cultural enrichment, well-being and resilience. Whether it is help buying school uniform or getting the right clothing or equipment for young people to take part in their favourite sport or activity inside or outside of school, then PDG – Access will support those opportunities. We are also supporting more learners.

The additional investment means that eligible families of Year 7 pupils will receive £200, instead of the current £125; relieving some of the increased costs associated with starting secondary school. The funding will also allow the inclusion of eligible learners in Year 3 and Year 10, and provide funding for looked after children (LAC) in every compulsory school year. This means the funding will extend to a much wider cohort of learners, ensuring more parents are able to access the support they need when they need it.

I have also asked local authorities to administer a fund to develop more sustainable long term options. We are extending this beyond the classroom to include groups such as youth clubs, to bid for kit stores.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kirsty Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

P-05-877 Children's used uniform scheme, Correspondence – Petitioner to Chair, 13.05.19

Dear Sir/Madam

As a class we had a look at the letter from Kirsty Williams about school uniforms and we thought it had lots of good things in it. We are still worried that lots of these ideas are not statutory so local authorities might not follow them through.

We really want a recycled uniform scheme in each local authority to be statutory. We think it is such a good idea. It's great to be able to apply for financial help for uniform if you are going into Year 3,7 or 10 but there are lots of families with children in other year groups that struggle with the cost of trainers for PE, jumpers with the school badge on or school dresses and trousers. Children are not going to want to borrow from a stock of extra kits that the school has brought - it will be embarrassing for them. If they were able to get what they needed from the council uniform bank, nobody would ever know that they couldn't afford to buy brand new.

Recycling school uniforms is so much better for the environment, we think this is important because we only have 16 years to make to act on climate change before it is too late.

We also think it is important to offer incentives to shops that promote offers on their school uniforms, like buy one get one free. Some people can afford uniforms, but if they have more than one child it can become expensive - especially if you have shoes properly fitted. Helping children get shoes that fit properly is important, and it will save money later on because less people will have medical problems with their feet when they are adults.

Thank you for reading our thoughts on this. More than anything, we think it is important that all local authorities should be made to recycle uniforms for the poorest people in our communities.

Many thanks,

The children of Topaz Class (Year 5 & 6)

Agenda Item 2.3

P-05-878 Shut the Door on Wasted Energy

This petition was submitted by Jonathan Burton having collected a total of 91 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to encourage all supermarkets and retailers to have doors on all their fridges and freezers, and so reduce our national carbon footprint, electricity consumption and pave a way for a greener Wales.

Irish retailer, Supervalu estimates that a typical 2.5 metre mineral fridge with doors will typically save 10,000kWh per year compared to fridges without doors [1].

This is the equivalent of 7 tonnes of carbon dioxide greenhouse gas and would be enough to power at least two homes of electricity for one year! The power saved from one fridge with doors is enough to power two homes! [2]

The Environment (Wales) Act of March 2016 [3] (Part 2: Climate change) gave Welsh Ministers the "powers to put in place statutory emission reduction targets, including at least an 80% reduction in emissions by 2050 and carbon budgeting to support their delivery. This is vital within the context of our existing UK and EU obligations and sets a clear pathway for decarbonisation. It also provides certainty and clarity for business and investment."

This is a great opportunity for the Welsh Government to work towards this goal and contribute to the 80% reduction to emissions by 2050. This act could have huge consequences nationally and globally! Let Wales be a leading nation on the international stage with a "healthy and resilient environment" [3] by shutting the door to wasted energy for this and the next generation!

Additional Information

The Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) in a chilling report [4] states that if retailers put doors on fridges, they would cut their energy use by a massive 33% and 1% of the UK energy bill would be cut if the top 5 supermarkets put doors on fridges.

A coalition of European NGOs have pointed to a report requested by the European Commission, which states that up to 58TWh of power by 2030 would be saved throughout Europe if supermarkets and retailers put doors on their fridges and freezers – this is the equivalent of 25 medium size coal power plants. They further commented, "the step to install doors on supermarket fridges and freezers is a no-brainer. Retailers will benefit from lower energy bills, a more climate conscious image, and ultimately, happier consumers. It's a win-win for everyone, especially for the environment. Because of climate change, we simply can't afford to be so careless with energy any longer." [5]

[1] Customer Care Team, SuperValu. Personal Communication. Thursday 7th Sep 2017. Irish retailer SuperValu quotes these figures directly from their fridge manufacturer.

[2] Office of Gas and Electricity Markets. Typical Domestic Consumption Values. Available from: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/gas/retail-market/monitoring-data-and-statistics/typical-domestic-consumption-values> [Accessed Friday 11th January 2019]

[3] Welsh Government. Environment (Wales) Act 2016. Available from: <http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/natural-resources-management/environment-act/?skip=1&lang=en> [Accessed Friday 11th January 2019]

[4] Environmental Investigation Agency, Chilling Facts VI: Closing the door on HFCs. 2014; p14. Available from: <https://eia-international.org/report/the-chilling-facts-vi-closing-the-door-on-hfcs/> [Accessed: Friday 11th January 2019].

[5] Coolproducts, Why don't supermarket fridges have doors? Available from: <https://www.coolproducts.eu/news/why-dont-supermarket-fridges-have-doors> [Accessed Saturday 12th January 2019]

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff North
- South Wales Central

Petition: Shut the door on wasted energy.

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 21 Mai 2019

Petitions Committee | 21 May 2019

Research Briefing:

Petition Number: P-05-878

Petition title: Shut the door on wasted energy.

Text of petition:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to encourage all supermarkets and retailers to have doors on all their fridges and freezers, and so reduce our national carbon footprint, electricity consumption and pave a way for a greener Wales.

Irish retailer, Supervalu estimates that a typical 2.5 metre mineral fridge with doors will typically save 10,000kWh per year compared to fridges without doors.

This is the equivalent of 7 tonnes of carbon dioxide greenhouse gas and would be enough to power at least two homes of electricity for one year! The power saved from one fridge with doors is enough to power two homes!

The Environment (Wales) Act of March 2016 (Part 2: Climate change) gave Welsh Ministers the "powers to put in place statutory emission reduction targets, including at least an 80% reduction in emissions by 2050 and carbon budgeting to support their delivery. This is vital within the context of our existing UK and EU obligations and sets a clear pathway for decarbonisation. It also provides certainty and clarity for business and investment."

This is a great opportunity for the Welsh Government to work towards this goal and contribute to the 80% reduction to emissions by 2050. This act could have huge consequences nationally and globally! Let Wales be a leading nation on the international stage with a "healthy and resilient environment" by shutting the door to wasted energy for this and the next generation!

Background

The [European Ecodesign Directive](#) provides consistent EU-wide rules for improving the environmental performance of products, such as household appliances. The Directive sets out minimum mandatory requirements for the energy efficiency of these products and aims to harmonise the requirements for such products across the European internal market.

In order to develop appropriate requirements, the European Commission mandates preparatory studies for various product groups. In 2007 a study regarding commercial refrigerators and freezers was undertaken, with the [final report](#) (PDF,7.45MB) being published in December 2007.

The report made a number of recommendations and found that installing doors on commercial fridges and freezers across Europe would amount to an energy saving of approximately 30 TWh of electricity per year by 2020. This would amount to around the same as the total annual residential electricity consumption of Poland.

As [summarised in this article](#), the report findings were challenged by manufacturers and no action was taken at the time. In 2014, an updated analysis was undertaken and confirmed the potential annual electricity savings to be the equivalent of offsetting the production of around 25 medium sized coal power plants. However, again no action has been taken by the European Commission since.

French Voluntary Code of Conduct

A [2008 French study](#) (PDF,2.85MB) modelled the potential financial savings that could be made by retailers of different sizes through fitting supermarket fridges with doors. Following this study, a voluntary code of conduct was signed in 2012 by a number of large French retailers in partnership with the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing. However, [this 2014 article suggests](#) that there was also support from the French Government in the form of financial incentives.

UK Supermarket Action

As [reported in the media](#), a number of UK supermarkets have previously trialled the use of fridge doors across their stores with the Co-operative stating in 2012 that it was saving an estimated £50m a year in energy bills. However, as reported in the article, other supermarkets were reluctant to do so, suggesting that fridge doors are unpopular with customers and could impact on sales.

In 2013, the then UK Minister of State for Climate Change, Greg Barker MP, [announced that a retail refrigeration taskforce would be established](#) to focus on energy reduction in the sector. The work was due to conclude in Autumn 2014, however there is no update available on the [UK Government website](#) on the outcome of this work.

More recently, technology has become available that is attached to the front of fridge cabinet shelves and acts to create an air curtain to stop cold air escaping out into supermarket aisles. [As reported in the media in 2017](#), Sainsburys has used this technology which has reduced the company's energy costs. However, as reported in the article, the Carbon Trust suggests that "this is just a stop-gap. The best way to reduce energy consumption is to put sliding or pull-out doors on all their fridges – this could cut electricity usage by 30%–40%."

Welsh Government and National Assembly action

In his letter to the Chair of the Petitions Committee, dated 26 April 2019, the Minister for Economy and Transport has highlighted a number of initiatives that aim to encourage the retail sector to reduce its emissions.

This includes the [UK Government's Climate Change Levy and Climate Change Agreements](#). The Minister highlights that:

The Levy is a tax on energy delivered to businesses in the UK, while the Agreements are opt-in schemes where participants receive a discount from the Levy in return for meeting pre-agreed energy efficiency improvement targets.

The Minister also states that the "Welsh Government supports the [Courtauld Commitment 2025](#)". This is a voluntary initiative across the food and drink supply chain to "identify priorities, develop solutions and implement changes to cut the carbon, water and waste associated with food & drink by at least one-fifth in 10 years".

As highlighted by the petitioner, the Welsh Government is also subject to statutory targets to reduce emissions.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#) (the Environment Act) placed new duties on the Welsh Government to reduce emissions:

- The Welsh Government must ensure that **net emissions for 2050 are at least 80% lower than the baseline (1990 or 1995)**;
- By the end of 2018, the Welsh Government must have **set interim emissions targets for 2020, 2030 and 2040**;
- For each five year budgetary period the Welsh Government **must set a maximum total amount for net Welsh emissions (a carbon budget)**, with the first two budgets to be set by the end of 2018;
- The Welsh Government may by Regulations establish or designate a body or person to be an advisory body. If no Regulations are in force, the advisory body is the UK Committee on Climate Change (UK CCC); and
- The Welsh Government must take into account international agreements to limit increases in global average temperatures.

The Climate Change (Wales) Regulations 2018

The Welsh Government has made five sets of Regulations to give effect to the commitments arising from the Environment Act. They are:

- [*The Climate Change \(Interim Emissions Targets\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2018*](#) (PDF,80KB);
- [*The Climate Change \(Carbon Budgets\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2018*](#) (PDF,76KB);
- [*The Climate Change \(International Aviation and International Shipping\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2018*](#) (PDF,125KB);
- [*The Climate Change \(Credit Limit\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2018*](#) (PDF,80KB); and
- [*The Carbon Accounting \(Wales\) Regulations 2018*](#) (PDF,144KB).

Accompanying the Regulations is an [Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment \(RIA\)](#) (PDF,1.33MB).

Carbon Budgets

The *Climate Change (Carbon Budgets) (Wales) Regulations 2018* set out the first two carbon budgets. They are:

- For the 2016 to 2020 budgetary period, the carbon budget is limited to an average of **23% lower** than the baseline; and
- For the 2021 to 2025 budgetary period, the carbon budget is limited to an average of **33% lower** than the baseline.

Interim Targets

The purpose of the Climate Change (Interim Emissions Targets) (Wales) Regulations 2018 is described in the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum as setting out decadal targets “that represent a pathway to the 2050 target established in the Act”, i.e. at least 80% lower than the baseline.

Section 30(1) of the Environment Act provides that, for each interim target year (2020, 2030, 2040), the Welsh Ministers must by Regulations set a maximum amount for the net Welsh emissions account, expressed as a percentage below the baseline.

The Regulations set out the interim emissions targets as follows –

- The maximum amount for the net Welsh emissions account for 2020 is **27% lower** than the baseline;
- The maximum amount for the net Welsh emissions account for 2030 is **45% lower** than the baseline; and
- The maximum amount for the net Welsh emissions account for 2040 is **67% lower** than the baseline.

The interim targets reflect advice given to the Welsh Government by the UK CCC.

Low Carbon Delivery Plan

The Welsh Government published its first low carbon delivery plan in March 2019. [Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales](#) sets out how Wales aims to meet its first carbon budget (2016–2020) and consequently the 2020 interim target through 76 existing policies from across the Welsh Government, UK Government and the EU – and 24 new proposals.

The low carbon delivery plan includes Policy 61 – Food and Drink Action Plan – Towards Sustainable Growth and highlights that:

[The] Welsh Government’s [Food and Drink Action Plan ‘Towards Sustainable Growth \(2014–2020\)’](#) was launched in 2014 to deliver an overall headline target to grow the value of the food and drinks sector in Wales by 30% to £7 billion by 2020. The Plan includes 48 actions grouped around 5 main themes to support the sector, including promoting low carbon productivity and a more efficient use of resources.

... A successor Plan to ‘Towards Sustainable Growth’, which will in effect be an enabling plan for Food as a Foundation Sector under the Economic Action Plan, will be launched at the end of the year [2019].

The existing Food and Drink Action Plan references an ambition for Wales to become a “low carbon food production company”. It also highlights the significant carbon footprint created from the food chain including in the “processing, storage, packaging, distribution, retail [and] transport” of products. However there are no specific references made to how food is stored in fridges in supermarkets.

There is no record of this issue being debated in the National Assembly.



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-878
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/06112/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Assembly Member for Aberconwy
Janet.FinchSaunders@assembly.wales

26 April 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 8 April on behalf of the Petitions Committee urging the Welsh Government to encourage all supermarkets and retailers to have doors on all their fridges and freezers, and so reduce our national carbon footprint, electricity consumption and pave a way for a greener Wales. I am replying due to my portfolio responsibilities.

We have made decarbonisation a priority area in 'Prosperity for All' because we acknowledge its great potential contribution to long-term prosperity and well-being. However, Government action alone is not enough to meet the challenges of climate change. We need individuals, communities and businesses to change the way they live and operate.

In March the First Minister launched our first Government-wide statutory decarbonisation plan. Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales sets out one hundred policies and proposals, across all sectors of our economy, to meet our current carbon budget and set a longer term decarbonisation trajectory for Wales.

There is existing legislation to encourage the food retail sector to measure, report and take action on its energy and climate impacts. The UK Government's Climate Change Levy and Climate Change Agreements are important levers for incentivising energy efficiency in businesses, including supermarkets and retailers, and achieving Wales's emissions reduction targets. The Levy is a tax on energy delivered to businesses in the UK, while the Agreements are opt-in schemes where participants receive a discount from the Levy in return for meeting pre-agreed energy efficiency improvement targets.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Larger businesses are also subject to mandatory reporting requirements under the Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting scheme, introduced as a replacement for the reporting element of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme as of April 2019. The scheme places a requirement for annual public disclosure of UK energy use and carbon emissions on over 11,000 organisations. The reporting covers electricity, gas and transport fuel use and the associated greenhouse gas emissions, and is intended to stimulate Board level scrutiny and oversight of efficiency measures as well as transparency through public reporting.

Additionally, the Welsh Government supports the Courtauld Commitment 2025, a voluntary, pre-competitive initiative across the food and drink supply chain. At its heart is a ten-year commitment to identify priorities, develop solutions and implement changes to cut the carbon, water and waste associated with food & drink by at least one-fifth in 10 years. I am supportive of this method of identifying and focussing effort where it has the greatest impact. Where in-store refrigeration is identified as a priority area, retailers are including upgrades within their store refurbishment plans. WRAP will report on achievements against the specific 2025 targets later in 2019 comparing 2018 data with the baseline year of 2015.

Officials are actively engaged with the Welsh Retail Consortium and have raised this issue with them. The Welsh Retail Consortium are working with their members to address the issue of energy efficiency in shops and supermarkets, and are active members of the Courtauld Commitment 2025 and would be happy to provide a response to highlight action undertaken to date.

Yours sincerely,



Ken Skates AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for Economy and Transport

13/05/19

Dear Senedd Petitions,

cc: Ken Skates AC/AM, Minister for Economy and Transport

I am writing in response to a letter I have received from the Minister for Economy and Transport, regarding the petition calling for the Welsh Government to encourage all supermarkets and retailers to have doors on all their fridges and freezers, and so reduce our national carbon footprint, electricity consumption and pave a way for a greener Wales. I have been informed this will be debated on Tuesday 21st May 2019, and I have been given the opportunity to respond to the correspondence I have received, which I would like to do.

It is encouraging to hear that decarbonisation is a priority area in the 'Prosperity for All' plan within Wales, and I am glad to hear that "there is existing legislation to encourage the food retail sector to measure, report and take action on its energy and climate impacts". The Minister for Economy and Transport also mentioned that larger businesses are subject to mandatory reporting covering electricity, gas and transport fuel use and the associated greenhouse gas emissions. However, I would like to challenge the Welsh Government as to how they are keeping retailers (particularly food retailers) accountable to the amount of energy consumed and wasted?

The Minister for Economy and Transport kindly explained that the UK Government has set up a Climate Change Levy and Climate Change Agreements. The agreements however "are opt-in schemes" which would mean businesses do not have to participate and comply. I would like to again challenge the Welsh Government as to how they are keeping businesses accountable to their effect on Climate Change, if a lot of the legislation is voluntary or simply a reporting of numbers?

The minister again comments that the "Welsh Government supports the Courtauld Commitment 2025, a voluntary, pre-competitive initiative across the food and drink supply chain." However, again this is a voluntary scheme with little accountability. I challenge the Welsh Government again as to how they will keep businesses accountable to their effect on Climate Change?

Quite recently, you will be aware that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said that within 12 years a rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius could have catastrophic and irreversible effects on our planet, which means we can no longer be casual or slow in our response to fighting climate change, rather we must be proactive, urgent and press on to tackle climate change head on. Time is running out. What will the Welsh Government do in regards to placing doors on fridges and freezers inside all supermarkets and retails across Wales and so help slow down and eventually prevent catastrophic effects of climate change?

Placing doors on fridges and freezers is a simple way of saving a lot of energy, since as previously stated in the petition, just one "typical 2.5 metre mineral fridge with doors will typically save 10,000kWh per year compared to fridges without doors... This is the equivalent of 7 tonnes of carbon dioxide greenhouse gas and would be enough to power at least two homes of electricity for one year!" This is an opportunity for the Welsh Government to take action against climate change.

To conclude:

- I petition the Welsh Government to think carefully how they are **urgently** addressing the issues of climate change.

- I petition the Welsh Government to think through how they will keep food retailers **accountable** to their energy usage rather than simply reporting figures.
- I urge the Welsh Government to consider encouraging all supermarkets and retailers to have doors on all their fridges and freezers and petition the UK Government for legislation so that we can **reduce** our national carbon footprint, electricity consumption and pave a way for a **greener** Wales.

I agree that “we need individuals, communities and businesses to change the way they live and operate”, but I also believe the Welsh Government has a role and responsibility to set an example for others, take this opportunity to take a stand against climate change and take action that will pave a way for a greener Wales and a greener world.

Thank you for taking the time to debate this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Burton

Agenda Item 2.4

P-05-879 Add Mental Health Education to the mandatory teaching curriculum for all schools in Wales

This petition was submitted by Annie Harris having collected a total of 1,947 signatures.

Text of Petition

When working for Mental – The Podcast to Destigmatise Mental Health, I am continually concerned by the lack of education in schools around mental health. With 1 in 4 of us experiencing mental illness every year according to the charity Mind, this seems to be a real and significant gap in our education system.

KEY STATISTICS:

Over half of all mental ill health starts before the age of 14, and 75% of this has developed by the age of 18;

A 2015 survey found that 13% of adults (16 & older) living in Wales were reported to have received treatment for a mental health problem, an increase from 12% reported in 2014;

The overall cost of mental health problems in Wales is an estimated £7.2 billion a year.

The statistics are shocking, yet whilst there is a whole subject in the Welsh curriculum about our physical health in the form of PE, our young people are left without knowledge of even the most common mental illnesses.

Not only does this leave them unprepared & vulnerable when it comes to looking out for their own mental health, but also sets the standard that Mental Health is not discussed. This plants a seed of stigma that many carry for their whole lives.

We are keen to hear back from those in power on a more extensive plan to better the lives of Wales's young people.

CAMPAIGNING FOR:

Mental Health education becoming mandatory teaching for all schools in Wales without the addition of any exams/homework on this subject.

Every child in Wales having the ability to access a qualified counsellor through their school.

Every school in Wales offering Mental Health training for its staff.

Please join our petition to help bring us one step closer to making these requests a reality for Welsh children, thus safeguarding the health of generations to come.

Thank you for reading, Annie Harris

Learn more about this petition & the team behind it at mentalpodcast.co.uk/petition

Additional Information

1. Source: Murphy M and Fonagy P (2012). Mental health problems in children and young people. In: Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer 2012. London: Department of Health.

2. and 3. Source: Mental Health Foundation. Mental Health in Wales, Fundamental Facts 2016
(<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/FF16%20Wales.pdf>)

Please see <https://www.change.org/p/get-mental-health-education-on-the-school-curriculum-mentalpetition-join-me-and-over-100-000-others> for the national interest in this petition. We handed in the petition to 10 Downing Street on 3rd October 2018.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Monmouth
- South Wales East

Mental Health Education in the curriculum

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 21 Mai 2019

Petitions Committee | 21 May 2019

Research Briefing:

Petition number: P-05-879

Petition title: Add Mental Health Education to the mandatory teaching curriculum for all schools in Wales

Text of petition: When working for Mental – The Podcast to Destigmatise Mental Health, I am continually concerned by the lack of education in schools around mental health. With 1 in 4 of us experiencing mental illness every year according to the charity Mind, this seems to be a real and significant gap in our education system.

KEY STATISTICS:

- Over half of all mental ill health starts before the age of 14, and 75% of this has developed by the age of 18;
- A 2015 survey found that 13% of adults (16 & older) living in Wales were reported to have received treatment for a mental health problem, an increase from 12% reported in 2014;
- The overall cost of mental health problems in Wales is an estimated £7.2 billion a year.
- The statistics are shocking, yet whilst there is a whole subject in the Welsh curriculum about our physical health in the form of PE, our young people are left without knowledge of even the most common mental illnesses.
- Not only does this leave them unprepared & vulnerable when it comes to looking out for their own mental health, but also sets the standard that Mental Health is not discussed. This plants a seed of stigma that many carry for their whole lives.
- We are keen to hear back from those in power on a more extensive plan to better the lives of Wales's young people.

CAMPAIGNING FOR:

- Mental Health education becoming mandatory teaching for all schools in Wales without the addition of any exams/homework on this subject.

- Every child in Wales having the ability to access a qualified counsellor through their school.
- Every school in Wales offering Mental Health training for its staff.

1. Current curriculum

Mental and emotional health and well-being is included in the current curriculum through Personal and social education (PSE). Delivery of PSE is a statutory requirement of the basic curriculum although content is at the discretion of schools. The non-statutory [Personal and social education framework for 7 to 19-year-olds in Wales](#) (2008) provides a recommended approach and learning outcomes. Health and emotional well-being is one of five themes of the PSE framework. The framework states that:

- At Key Stage 3, learners should be given opportunities to display a responsible attitude towards keeping the mind and body safe and healthy, and to understand the range of emotions they experience and how to develop strategies for coping with negative feelings and the benefits of accessing different sources of information, support and advice.
- At Key Stage 4, learners should be given the opportunities to accept personal responsibility for keeping the mind and body safe and healthy. They should understand the factors that affect mental health and the ways in which emotional well-being can be fostered. They should understand the statutory and voluntary organisations which support health and emotional well-being and how to access professional health advice and personal support with confidence.
- Post-16 learners should be given opportunities to accept responsibility for all aspects of personal and social development and well-being. They should understand how to critically evaluate personal lifestyle choices in the context of physical health and emotional well-being, considering the short and long term consequences of such decisions and the life experiences which enhance or damage self-esteem and explore how best to cope with the demands of such situations.

2. New Curriculum for Wales (to be introduced from September 2022)

The Welsh Government [published the draft new curriculum on 30 April 2019](#). The statutory introduction of the new curriculum will be in September 2022. The new curriculum will initially only be introduced in primary schools and Year 7 in September 2022, before rolling into year 8 for 2023, year 9 in 2024, and so on as the cohort moves through.

Learning in the new curriculum will be organised in six 'Areas of Learning and Experience' (AoLEs) rather than narrow subject boundaries. Within these, statements of 'what matters' set out the most important knowledge, skills and experiences to be gained. The six AoLEs are:

- Expressive Arts
- **Health and Well-being**

- Humanities
- Languages, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Science and Technology.

Learning about mental health will fall mainly within the Health and Well-being AoLE.

The new curriculum will be organised into **Progression Steps** at ages 5, 8, 11, 14 and 16 (rather than key stages) and take the form of **Achievement Outcomes** relating broadly to expectations at those ages. The progression steps are set out in terms of what a learner can do, or has done.

3. Health and Well-being AoLE

The draft Health and Well-being AoLE concerns the physical, psychological, emotional and social aspects of lives. It aims to recognise good health and well-being as a key enabler of successful learning. The AoLE aims to support learners to develop and maintain their physical health and well-being and their mental health and emotional well-being, as well as developing positive relationships in a range of contexts. It is available in an [online format](#) or [a stand-alone PDF format](#) [PDF 1.32MB].

‘What matters statements’ in this AoLE seek to describe the fundamental factors which underpin health and well-being. They aim to give professionals the flexibility to identify those topics and issues which are relevant to the needs of their learners, school and community.

There are five elements within the Health and Well-being what matters statements:

- Developing physical health and well-being has lifelong benefits.
- **How we process and respond to our experiences affects our mental health and emotional well-being.**
- Our decision-making impacts on the quality of our lives and the lives of others.
- How we engage with different social influences shapes who we are and our health and well-being.
- Healthy relationships are fundamental to our sense of belonging and well-being.

Information on the progression steps and experiences, knowledge and skills that learners contained in the ‘how we process and respond to our experiences affects our mental health and emotional well-being’ element is attached at Annexe A.

4. Assembly activity

The [Children Young People and Education Committee](#) (CYPE) published the report of its inquiry into children and young people’s emotional and mental health, [Mind over Matter \[PDF 3.4KB\]](#), in April 2018. The key recommendation was:

that the Welsh Government makes the emotional and mental well-being and resilience of our children and young people a stated national priority.

The report was wide-ranging but there was a strong focus on preventative and early intervention services, focusing in particular on schools and how they can work more effectively together with health services to build emotional resilience in children and young people.

The Committee were not satisfied that the [Welsh Government's initial response](#) [PDF 1.2KB] met the Committee's report recommendations. During the [plenary debate on 4 July 2018](#), the Chair of the Committee Lynne Neagle AM said:

I and the committee are deeply disappointed with the Welsh Government's response to our recommendations. [...] the Government's response does not meet our expectation of, and demand for, a step change in approach. As a committee, we reject this response; it is not good enough.

The Ministers for Health and Social Services and Education subsequently announced their intention to form a 'Ministerial Task and Finish Group' and a 'Stakeholder Reference group', in response to the Committee's and Assembly Members' concerns.

On [14th January 2019 the Health and Social Services Minister announced £7.1 million](#), to support the Government in its work following recommendations made by the Committee. The funding is intended to protect, improve and support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people by further developing services. The Minister said:

The £7.1m investment is in addition to £1.4m being invested by the Welsh Government in a programme of mental health in-reach support for schools to strengthen the support from CAMHS [children and adolescent mental health services] in schools in four pilot areas across Wales.

In May 2019, [the Ministers for Health and Social Services and Education provided an update on the recommendations to the CYPE Committee](#). In relation to teacher training, the Ministers said:

We will build on the work done in integrating mental health and emotional wellbeing into Initial Teacher Training (ITT), and commission bespoke training packages for teachers and other school staff on mental health and wellbeing. These will be available for teachers and other school staff as part of their continuing professional development. We recognise that teachers and wider school staff must underpin a whole school approach to mental health and emotional wellbeing and that they must be supported to enable them in turn to support children and young people.

Previous Petitions

The Committee considered two petitions, [Introduce Compulsory Mental Health Education in Secondary Schools](#) and [To Make Mental Health a Part of the National Curriculum](#) in 2016. At that time, the Minister for Education said that as part of the design of the new curriculum, the Health and well-being AoLE would draw on mental, physical and emotional well-being. As such, the Committee closed both petitions.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

Annexe A: Progression steps and experiences, knowledge and skills that learners contained in the ‘how we process and respond to our experiences affects our mental health and emotional well-being’

Progression step 1 (age 5)

- Being aware of perceptions and thoughts;
- Being aware of and communicating feelings;
- Being aware that thoughts and feelings change;

Progression step 2 (age 8)

- Focusing attention on my *perceptions* and thoughts;
- Communicating feelings;
- Understanding how and why my thoughts, feelings and actions change in response to different experiences.

Progression step 3 (age 11)

- Recognising the benefits of being able to focus attention on perceptions and thoughts and know self-awareness is being developed.
- Having developed strategies to self-regulate emotions in a healthy way and can manage this with increasing independence and success.
- Being able to reflect on the way that past events and experiences have impacted upon thoughts, feelings and actions.
- Having developed the ability to anticipate how future events may make me and others feel.

Progression step 4 (age 14)

- Independently focus attention on perceptions, thoughts and feelings in order to further develop self-awareness.
- Identify different strategies to self-regulate my emotions in response to a range of experiences.
- Reflect and learn from the past in order to anticipate and prepare for future experiences.
- Understand the value of being able to empathise with others and how this leads to actions which are compassionate and kind.

Progression step 5 (age 16)

- Use self-awareness to appreciate the complexity of my emotions and apply strategies to self-regulate them in a healthy way and to connect with others.

- Reflect, respond and learn from past and current experiences in order to anticipate and prepare for future events.
- Transfer these skills in order to care about the feelings and thoughts of others.
- Empathise with others which helps me to be compassionate and kind towards myself and others.

Each What Matters statement includes details of the Experiences, knowledge and skills that learners should gain. For the how we process and respond to our experiences affects our mental health and emotional well-being' element these include, at all progression steps:

Learners need to experience:

- opportunities to turn an empathic feeling into an act of kindness and compassion for themselves and others
- opportunities which promote reflection both individually and in a group, within a supportive and protective environment
- safe and supportive discussions about experiences which affect mental health and emotional well-being.

Learners need to know:

- that our mental health and emotional state is susceptible to change
- how self-image impacts on mental health and well-being
- about a range of strategies which promote awareness of mental health and well-being
- how the brain is interconnected with the rest of the body, which includes the stress response system and physiological changes that occur
- that they can access a range of support to manage their mental health and emotional well-being
- that other people's mental health and emotional well-being may be different from their own
- about medical conditions that may affect our mental health and emotional well-being
- that the environment can impact upon our mental health and emotional well-being.

Learners need to be able to:

- recognise and articulate what they are perceiving, thinking and feeling in order to develop their self-awareness and to understand their emotions
- reflect upon, and anticipate how, experiences may affect them
- develop strategies to self-regulate without guidance from others

- communicate how they are feeling and ask for help when needed.



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-879
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05863/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair - Petitions committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

18 April 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 8 April seeking my views on Petition P-05-879 from Annie Harris entitled - Add mental health to the mandatory teaching curriculum for all schools in Wales.

I will respond separately to each of the specific points raised in the Petition:

- **Mental Health education becoming mandatory teaching for all schools in Wales without the addition of any exams/homework on this subject**

One of the four purposes of the new curriculum for Wales is to support children and young people to become healthy confident individuals, who are building their mental and emotional well-being by developing confidence, resilience and empathy. The four purposes will be at the heart of the new curriculum and are a starting point for all decisions on the development of the new curriculum and assessment arrangements.

The Health and Well-being Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE) will draw on subjects and themes from mental, physical and emotional wellbeing and will also consider how the school environment supports children and young peoples' social, emotional, physical health and well-being. As part of developing the Area, pioneers have considered evidence and expertise on how reflective practice can support mental and emotional well-being.

Each AoLE is organised into "What matters" statements. These articulate the fundamental principles or concepts which underpin the Area. The Health and Well-being AoLE includes a statement on mental health and emotional well-being, giving it parity with physical health and well-being. This includes the key experiences, knowledge and skills to support learners' mental and emotional health. It is currently proposed that Head Teachers will have a duty to deliver a curriculum that contains the six AoLEs, including Health and Well-being.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Curriculum for Wales 2022 will be made available for feedback on 30 April 2019. From April through to July, we will engage extensively with the teaching profession and wider stakeholders.

Whilst the importance of the new curriculum in this agenda cannot be understated, it does not stand alone. Developing a whole school approach needs to be an end-to-end process involving the whole school environment and starting with each school understanding its own landscape.

- **Every child in Wales having the opportunity to access a qualified counsellor through their school**

Local authorities in Wales are required in law to make reasonable provision of counselling services to all 11 to 18 year olds in their area, and to all pupils in year 6.

The Welsh Government provides £4.5 million annually for continued support of counselling provision. In the 2017-18, over 11,365 young people attended counselling services. An increasing number of local authorities are also making counselling services available online, often in more rural areas where distance and transport could act as a barrier.

- **Every school in Wales offering mental health training for their staff**

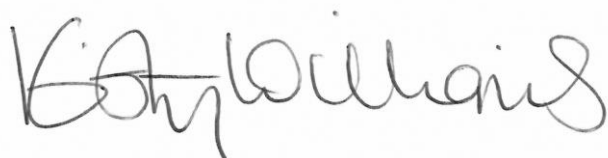
To ensure greater support for mental health in schools the Welsh Government announced in September 2017, £1.4million jointly from the health and education budgets to pilot Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in-reach into schools across six local authority areas (three health boards), spanning two academic years until summer 2020. Pending the outcome of evaluation we will consider the merits, or otherwise, of rolling out the programme more widely across Wales, in either its existing or an amended form.

The CAMHS in-reach pilot has a specific focus on early identification and intervention by up-skilling teachers and other school staff to deal with low level mental health issues, before they require referral to specialist services.

Specialist child and adolescent mental health practitioners have been recruited to act as link workers with the pilot schools to give teachers the opportunity to discuss with CAMHS professionals what strategies the school can use to support that child or young person. Or it may mean that the CAMHS professional recognises that a referral to specialist services is needed. This ensures those most in need are able to access the appropriate levels of care and support.

I hope this clarifies the points raised.

Yours sincerely



Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

Tuesday, 14 May 2019

Further notes to consider with petition P-05-879

Following the written response from Janet Finch-Saunders AM to this petition on the 18th of April 2019 here are my thoughts on the the points raised. I will also respond on each of core changes this petition seeks as she has.

- **Mental Health education becoming mandatory teaching for all schools in Wales without the addition of any exams/homework on this subject**

I'm delighted in learning more about the proposed new curriculum that such consideration is being given to the mental health and wellbeing of students. I look forward to taking part in the public consultation regarding this to contribute on the specifics of these changes. In doing so and in raising this petition I hope to ensure these changes are extensive enough to have the transformative positive impact outlined in this petition.

When considering this petition it is also worth noting the level of public support the UK wide petition for this cause has gained. It was created by another of our team at 'Mental - The Podcast to Destigmatise Mental Health' and at the time of writing this petition titled 'Add Mental Health Education to the mandatory teaching curriculum for all schools in the UK' has passed 197,000 signatures. That petition can be viewed at bit.ly/MentalPetition and represents the largest petition ever relating to Mental Health Education across the UK.

- **Every child in Wales having the opportunity to access a qualified counsellor through their school**

On this point I'm grateful for the provisions already available however this point in the petition is around accessibility via schools. This could be in the form of a referral system for external counselling services that schools could use or increased provision of counsellors working in schools who students can have appointments with on site.

- **Every school in Wales offering mental health training for their staff**

I'm already a big supporter of the pilot and other progress mentioned around increased CAMHS presence in schools so do hope this is ultimately rolled out across Wales. However this point in the petition is actually around teachers receiving additional training to deliver mental health education as part of curriculum reforms.

Tuesday, 14 May 2019

Concerns about receiving sufficient training have been raised by teachers via both petitions I am part of so I am keen these concerns are raised and that teachers receive adequate signposting information to provide to those students that need extra support and their families.

Please find below details of politicians, charities, organisations and other notable individuals across the UK who are also supporting this cause.

Many thanks for your time considering this petition.

Best regards, Annie Harris

Politicians supporting this cause

- **Former Plaid Cymru Leader and Rhondda AM Leanne Wood** who told us *“I support plans to for mental health education/awareness to be taught in schools in Wales where education is devolved. I have spoken to teachers who tell me that demand for mental health support for pupils is growing and that services are not coping with that demand.”*
- **Hywel Williams MP** of Plaid Cymru, a former mental health social worker, who told us *‘It is so important that we understand how to protect and promote the wellbeing of all children and young people and that is why I’m pleased to support Mental Podcast with their campaign to break the stigma around mental health.’*
- **Liz Saville Roberts MP** of Dwyfor Meirionnydd with Plaid Cymru who told us *“every single person will be affected by mental health problems, either directly or through someone they love. I am proud to support Mental Podcast with this campaign, because I believe it is vital that education is the key to breaking the stigma around mental health, so no one has to suffer alone.”*
- **Stephen Kinnock MP** of Aberavon with Labour who told us *“This important initiative raises awareness and builds trust, and I fully support their proposal that Mental Health Education should be a mandatory part of the school curriculum, right across the UK.”*
- **Caroline Lucas MP** Co-Leader of The Green Party who told us *“I am proud to support the campaign by Mental Podcast to get mental health education on the curriculum. The understanding we develop as young people about our own mental health, and that of others, has lifelong repercussions, not only in the personal relationships we form, but on our careers and prospects, and the ability to reach our potential.”*
- **Nicola Sturgeon MSP**, First Minister of Scotland and leader of the SNP who told us *“Learning in Health and wellbeing should give children and young people the*

Tuesday, 14 May 2019

knowledge and understanding, skills, capabilities and attributes which they need for mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing and we are currently undertaking a national review of Personal and Social Education which will report at the end of this year.”

- **Rachael Maskell MP** of York Central with Labour (Co-op) who told us *“One of the greatest challenges facing young people today concerns their mental health.”* and *“Placing mental health education on the school curriculum is an excellent initiative to support the wellbeing of children and young adults.”*
- **Lee Rowley MP** of North East Derbyshire with The Conservative Party.
- **Shabana Mahmood MP** of Birmingham Ladywood with Labour who told us *“I am proud to support the campaign by Mental Podcast to add mental health education to the school curriculum. If we are serious about getting parity of esteem between physical and mental health, then we must make sure we equip all of our young people with the knowledge and skills they need for their mental and emotional well being.”*
- **Preet Gill MP** of Birmingham Edgbaston with Labour who recorded a video message for us including *“whenever I visit schools in my constituency young people are constantly raising concerns about young people’s emotional health and well-being and that’s why I support this petition...there’s no reason why it can’t be part of PSHE.”*
- **Norman Lamb MP** of North Norfolk with The Liberal Democrats who told us *“I wholeheartedly support the Mental Podcast campaign to make mental health education a mandatory part of the school curriculum. Schools have a vital role to play in supporting children to better understand, and take steps to look after, their mental health so that every child has a chance to flourish in life”.*
- **Richard Benyon MP** of Newbury with The Conservative Party.
- **Lee Dargue** prospective MP in Birmingham Ladywood of The Liberal Democrats.

Charities supporting this cause

- **Young Minds** who campaign for greater mental health in young people.
- **See Me Scotland** the anti stigma and discrimination charity.

Campaigners/Influencers supporting this cause

- **Jonny Benjamin MBE** Mental health campaigner, writer, filmmaker & speaker.

Tuesday, 14 May 2019

- **Sarah Cardwell** Mental health blogger, campaigner and mum of two
- **Natasha Devon MBE** Mental health campaigner, speaker and writer
- **Hope Virgo** Writer and advocate mainly around eating disorders
- **The Counsellors Cafe** Online publication aimed at an audience of counsellors
- **Rev Mark Edwards MBE** Mental health writer and Reverend
- **Mind over Matter** Live music events to encourage discussion of mental health
- **Fiona Thomas** Non-fiction writer with Trigger Press and Metro
- **Eleanor Segall** Mental health and lifestyle writer at Metro
- **Ben Hart** Suicide prevention campaigner

Agenda Item 3.1

P-04-481 Close the Gap for deaf pupils in Wales

This petition was submitted by Kate Cabbage on behalf of the National Deaf Children's Society and was first considered by the Committee in May 2013.

Text of Petition

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to develop a national strategy to Close the Gap in educational attainment between deaf pupils and their peers.

The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) Cymru presents this petition today as it is both Deaf Awareness Week and two years since 55 AMs pledged to take action to Close the Gap for deaf pupils.

Still, Welsh Government statistics demonstrate significant attainment gaps between deaf pupils and their peers. In 2012, deaf pupils were 26% less likely to achieve 5 GCSEs at A*-C, and 41% less likely to achieve A*-C passes in core subjects English/Welsh, Maths and Science.

Our video petition asks the experts (deaf pupils themselves) what matters most. They told us:

- We need appropriate support in school and college
- We need all classrooms to have good acoustics
- Some of us use sign language. Help us encourage our hearing peers and teachers to learn sign.
- We need more teachers and pupils to be deaf aware.

Too many deaf pupils are facing barriers in these areas. A national strategy is needed to address the barriers and Close the Gap!

Additional Information

Our video petition and an accompanying report can be downloaded at www.ndcs.org.uk/ClosetheGapWales

The video petition was produced with the help of eight deaf young people outlines the four things that they feel are most important to deaf pupils at school and college.

The accompanying report outlines the barriers that many deaf pupils in Wales are facing in these areas. It also makes suggestions on how a strategy could help to overcome these barriers.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

P-04-481 Close the Gap for deaf pupils in Wales, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 14.05.19

Update from the National Deaf Children's Society Cymru

May 2019

Background



The National Deaf Children's Society Cymru first submitted this petition in May 2013, calling for urgent and clear action to address the attainment gap between deaf learners and their hearing peers. Deafness is not a learning disability, and with the appropriate support deaf pupils should be achieving on a par with their hearing peers.

We acknowledge that, over the six years since submitting the petition, there has been movement in the areas raised and we are grateful to the Petitions Committee for its continued support of this important cause.

However, there remains an unacceptable attainment gap between deaf children and their hearing peers. This briefing seeks to update the Committee on developments around the key issues raised within the petition and to highlight areas where further action is urgently needed to close the attainment gap. For ease of reference, this briefing is divided into the four key headings outlined within our original petition submission.

Latest Attainment Data

In 2018, the attainment gap remained significant with deaf pupils in Wales 16% less likely to achieve 5 GCSEs (including English/Welsh and Maths) than their hearing peers.

Worryingly, we have also seen the attainment gap widen at Foundation Phase. Last year, this attainment gap doubled and deaf pupils in the Foundation Phase were 20% less likely to achieve the Core Subject Indicator than hearing pupils.

In light of this, the National Deaf Children's Society Cymru would welcome continued support from the Petitions Committee. We wish to call on the Welsh Government to take firm action to *Close the Gap!*

1. We need appropriate support in school and college

Deafness is not a learning disability. However, being deaf does mean that learners require appropriate support and adaptations to ensure they can access the curriculum. The National Deaf Children's Society Cymru raised a number of concerns, including the need to address the shortage in numbers of Teachers of the Deaf.

Progress: The Welsh Government has allocated £239k of funding to assist local authorities in training Teachers of the Deaf.

The Welsh Government commissioned a Rapid Evidence Assessment into support available for deaf learners.

The new Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act places duties on local authorities to forward plan specialist provision.

However: While the National Deaf Children's Society Cymru welcomes the £239k invested in helping local authorities to train Teachers of the Deaf, this helps to address the present shortage, but does not address the longer term issue.

The National Deaf Children's Society Cymru welcomes many aspects of the new Additional Learning Needs reforms, but work is still needed to ensure that the reformed system and accompanying Code of Practice meet the needs of deaf learners and their families. In our response to the consultation on the draft Code we called for a number of improvements, such as the need for a strengthened responsibility for Sensory Impaired teachers to be involved in the assessment of a learner with a sensory impairment. Among other points, we were also concerned that the draft Code of Practice reduced responsibilities around specialist careers advice for ALN learners – an area of support that our Youth Advisory Board tells us needs to be increased, not reduced. Our full response to the Draft Code of Practice is available [here](#).

We were pleased that the Welsh Government commissioned a deaf specific REA. However, having seen a draft of this document, we have raised reservations that the literature review on which it was based was narrow. As a result, we are concerned that the guidance does not mention a number of valuable support interventions for deaf children. This could result in a reluctance for professionals to use such interventions.

We remain concerned that more action is needed to ensure that families of early years deaf children are provided with key technology, such as radio aids to assist their child's learning development.

The National Deaf Children's Society Cymru was pleased to have been invited to comment on draft Literacy, Language and Communication element of the new curriculum. We raised a number of points to consider to help ensure that it is accessible for deaf learners. We hope that these will be taken on board.

Recommendations: That the Welsh Government monitors the numbers and availability of Teachers of the Deaf and ensures that local authorities appropriately meet their new forward planning of responsibilities under the new Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act.

That the Welsh Government addresses issues raised by the National Deaf Children's Society Cymru in response to the consultation on the Draft Code of Practice, including the need to strengthen the section on responsibilities around specialist careers advice and the need to specify that sensory impaired teachers **must** be involved in the assessment of a learner with sensory impairment.

That the Welsh Government takes on board our comments on the draft REA for Hearing Impairment.

That the Welsh Government proactively calls on local authorities to do more to meet the needs of deaf learners and their families in the early years. The National Deaf Children's Society Cymru believes that the time prior to implementation of the ALN reforms in 2020 is crucial in preparing services for delivery. We believe local authorities need to be doing more to prepare to provide appropriate support and technology to deaf learners in the early years. We would urge the Welsh Government to issue a directive to local authorities to this end.

That the Welsh Government ensures the new curriculum is accessible for deaf learners. Given the emphasis on teachers adapting the curriculum locally, we strongly recommend that ALN accessibility guidance (including deafness) is also produced to assist teachers in this regard.

2. We need all classrooms to have good acoustics

Many deaf children and young people use the sound they can access to help understand what is being communicated. This can be a difficult skill to develop, requiring a lot of concentration. In rooms where there are poor acoustics, it can be even more difficult for deaf children to access sound; so good acoustics in learning environments are imperative.

Progress: The National Deaf Children's Society Cymru has been pleased to work with the Welsh Government to ensure that schools funded through its 21st Century Schools Programme, and through its new funding programme for nursery buildings, are contractually obliged to meet baseline acoustic standards. This has been very positive.

However: The National Deaf Children's Society Cymru is aware that not all learning environments are due to be rebuilt or refurbished, and that other works may be completed outside of these funding programmes. Therefore, we have suggested the below recommendations.

Recommendations: That the Welsh Government takes steps to proactively promote guidance to schools about the benefits of improved acoustics for all learners (there are benefits for hearing children too) and the steps schools can take to improve acoustics within existing settings.

That the Welsh Government uses its power over building regulations to strengthen acoustic standards and monitoring of compliance with them more generally. This will ensure that building works outside of these particular funding programmes also benefit from acoustically inclusive learning environments.

3. Some of us use sign language. Help us encourage our hearing peers and teachers to learn sign

Many deaf children use sign to communicate. British Sign Language (BSL) is a language in its own right and was formally recognised by the Welsh Government in 2004. However, families still struggle to access opportunities to learn sign language, in order to learn to communicate with their child. This issue was also raised by the Children's Commissioner in her 2016-2017 annual report, *A Year of Change* ([see page 19](#)) and by *Deffo!* in its own petition to the committee (P-04-628).

Our Youth Advisory Board has also identified an appetite for a BSL GCSE in Wales, conducting a survey of both hearing and deaf young people, in which 82% said they would like a BSL GCSE.

We are aware of issues in the availability of Communication Support Workers with an appropriate level of BSL qualification to support deaf learners in school. This has knock on effects for the linguistic development of these pupils.

Progress: The National Deaf Children's Society Cymru is pleased that the Minister has committed to ensure the new curriculum is open to schools teaching a BSL GCSE. We are also pleased that Qualifications Wales has demonstrated willingness to adopt a BSL GCSE developed in England for Wales. As such, we are watching developments around a BSL GCSE in England with close interest.

We are delighted that the Welsh Government has committed to commission a review of opportunities to learn BSL in Wales and are due to meet with the lead official shortly to discuss this.

We are aware that in a few local authorities, the Welsh Government has provided a small amount of funding to assist with staff BSL training. Although this is to be welcomed, the number of staff benefitting from this small fund is limited to a few individuals. We would urge the Welsh Government to consider further action with broader scope.

However: We are disappointed that Welsh Government reviews of the specialist workforce have not included Communication Support Workers and their level of BSL.

The implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Wales Act in September 2020 and the availability of IDP support plans for 0-5 year olds presents an opportunity to help ensure families of young deaf children are supported to learn to communicate with their child. However, the National Deaf Children's Society Cymru is concerned that local authorities are not adequately preparing to facilitate this type of support following the introduction of the Act.

While the Welsh Government has stated that local authorities hold responsibility for ensuring BSL is available to children requiring it, we believe that the Welsh Government has a duty to encourage local authorities to meet this responsibility and hold them accountable to it.

In response to this aspect of our petition, the Welsh Government has also stated that local authorities can use funding through the Families First programme to help support families of deaf children. However, the National Deaf Children's Society Cymru is mindful that this programme is not universally available. It is important that all families of deaf children are provided with the support they need to communicate with their child.

Recommendations: That the Welsh Government commits to take action to address gaps in provision identified by its review into opportunities to learn BSL.

That the Welsh Government takes action to ensure local authorities provide families wishing to learn to sign with their deaf child have the opportunity and support to do so.

That the Welsh Government takes on board recommendations made by the National Deaf Children's Society Cymru to ensure the new curriculum is accessible to BSL users.

That the Welsh Government review the qualifications of the existing Communication Support Worker workforce for deaf learners and consider how sign language qualifications among Communication Support Workers could be encouraged and improved.

4. We need more teachers and pupils to be deaf aware

Deaf children and young people often tell us that they need mainstream teachers to be more deaf aware. If teachers do not observe basic deaf awareness, their lessons become inaccessible and isolating for deaf learners. Given that the vast majority of deaf children attend mainstream education settings and that many children will experience temporary hearing loss through glue ear, we believe mainstream education professionals should have a basic level of deaf awareness training. This will be even more important given the key role frontline education staff will play in the new ALN system.

Deaf children and young people also tell us that they need their peers at school to be deaf aware. Without this, deaf learners can feel socially isolated and be more vulnerable to experience difficulties with emotional well-being.

Progress: While we are aware that professional learning offers for teachers and ALNCOs are being developed, we have yet to receive reassurances that this will specifically cover basic deaf awareness.

Recommendation: We strongly recommend that the Welsh Government ensures professional learning offers for teachers and ALNCOs specifically include a basic level of deaf awareness.

That the Welsh Government proactively encourage schools to teach pupils disability and deaf awareness. We strongly urge that this be covered within the curriculum reform.

That the Welsh Government supports and helps to promote free deaf awareness resources and lesson plans for schools developed by the National Deaf Children's Society.

Continued monitoring of situation

In light of the vulnerability of deaf learners; the continued significant attainment gap between deaf learners and their hearing peers; and the number of educational reforms currently underway – it is vitally important that the Welsh Government and other key partners monitor the attainment gap in the future.

Progress: The National Deaf Children's Society Cymru has worked with Estyn to develop deaf-specific inspection guidance and key questions for consideration where there is one or more deaf learner on roll. We hope that this will help to monitor the situation on a local basis.

However: The National Deaf Children's Society Cymru considers that a national overview of the attainment gap is required. **We are very concerned that proposals to move towards a random sampling method of collating attainment data jeopardises the future of attainment data by disability type.** Moving to a random sampling system would mean that there would not be enough statistically viable data to publish attainment data by disability type. This has implications for monitoring the attainment gap for a range of ALN learners, not just deaf pupils.

The National Deaf Children's Society has been raising this issue with the Welsh Government. While we have been informed that no decisions have yet been reached on random sampling, we are concerned that we still do not have reassurances on this important issue.

The National Deaf Children's Society is aware that Estyn is currently reviewing the inspection process with a view to moving towards a more self-assessment focussed model. We are keen to ensure that the new inspection model will have a clear and distinct focus on ALN learners and the new IDP process to help ensure that deaf learners are appropriately supported.

Recommendations: That the Welsh Government ensures future methods of collecting attainment data do not affect the availability of attainment data by disability type.

That the new Estyn inspection structure has a specific focus on quality assuring support for ALN learners and the new IDP process.

Summary

The National Deaf Children's Society Cymru is pleased that some progress has been made since our petition was first submitted and we have been grateful to the Committee for its support in this regard.

However, while some positive steps have been taken, much more action is required. The attainment gap between deaf learners and their peers remains significant, with particular concern that the gap has widened substantially within the Foundation Phase.

In light of this, we have made a number of recommendations throughout this briefing for next steps that the Welsh Government could take. We would welcome the Committee's support on these points.

Contact

If you have any further queries or would like to discuss any of these points in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Debbie Thomas – Head of Policy and Influencing, Wales

Debbie.Thomas@ndcs.org.uk, 029 20373474.

Agenda Item 3.2

P-05-832 To Amend the School Admissions Code Relating to Summer-Born Children

This petition was submitted by Flexible Admissions Wales Group and was first considered in September 2019, having collected 241 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to consider amending the School Admissions Code where it relates to admission outside the normal age group, in respect of summer-born children(1 April – 31 August).

Owing to the timing of school entry points, summer-born children are put at a significant disadvantage compared to their peers. They may suffer adverse emotional and educational impacts as they start their formal education at a much younger age. As such, parents may choose to defer their summer-born child's entry into school until they reach compulsory school age, as is their legal right. However, most find that their child is put straight into Year 1, missing the crucial Reception year, which research shows to be the most important year in education.

Most parents prefer their child to enter the Reception year at compulsory school age rather than Year 1. Under the School Admissions Code, this is theoretically possible. In principle, the Code gives parents the ability to request that their summer-born be educated outside their normal age group. In practice, the wording of the Code has proven to be extremely problematic: case studies have shown that the provision is inconsistently applied by Local Education Authorities and requests have rarely been granted.

The following amendments should be considered by the Welsh Government:

- (1)As the first option, requests to defer children with birthdays in summer months should be automatically approved (as is the case in Scotland);
- (2)Alternatively, the wording of the existing provision should be amended to strengthen the rights of parents to choose when their child enters Reception class, also emphasising that Local Education Authorities must fully consider requests and issuing Governmental guidance to this end;

(3) In either case, provision should be made for children educated outside their age group to remain with their adopted cohort throughout their school life.

Additional Information

A recent study conducted by the Department for Education aimed to show that delaying entry to primary school has little impact on attainment. This study should be consulted by the Welsh Government with caution. This study was very limited, measuring ONLY academic attainment and excluding all children with special or additional needs. Academic attainment is very unlikely to be the main reason that parents choose to decelerate their child's entry into primary education.

School readiness is not about a child's academic ability, but about emotional and social maturity. It is these skills that will help a child to make friends, to deal with their emotions, to follow instructions and concentrate and to foster good mental health. The attainment of these skills cannot be measured with a phonics test.

The Foundation Phase curriculum in Wales will not meet the needs of every child in Wales; it cannot. This must not be given as a reason for refusing such requests. A more flexible admissions policy is needed to take children's individual needs and their best interests into consideration. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) emphasises that the education of the child shall be directed to the development of the child's personality, talents and physical abilities to their fullest abilities (Article 29(1)(a)). By putting summer-born children at a disadvantage, this School Admissions Code does not achieve that.

Other devolved countries within the UK are already ahead of Wales in this respect. Nick Gibb, Minister of State for School Standards, has made a commitment to amend the School Admissions Code for England to reflect this parental choice. In Scotland, children of equivalent age are automatically granted a deferral if their parents request it and will not miss any school years in doing so.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

Document is Restricted

P-05-832 To Amend the School Admissions Code Relating to Summer-Born Children. Correspondence from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, 15.04.2019

Dear Colleague

Thank you for your letter regarding Petition P-05-832 To Amend the School Admissions Code Relating to Summer-Born Children. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in my response.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council publishes it's School Admission Policy annual and although there is no specific provision in relation to summer –born children the Local Authority is mindful of the provision set out in the School Admission Code 005/2013 in relation to admission of children outside the normal age group.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, in relation to summer –born children have not received any applications requesting deferral of admission.

If a request was submitted the Local Authority would consider each case individually and make its decision in consultation with the parent/carer and the school.

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.



Helen Lewis

SWYDDOG DERBYNIADAU / ADMISSIONS OFFICER
Addysg, Hamdden A Dysgu Gydol / Education, Leisure & Lifelong Learning

P-05-832 To Amend the School Admissions Code Relating to Summer-Born Children, Correspondence – Caerphilly County Borough Council to Chair, 16.04.19

Response from Caerphilly CBC

In particular, we would be grateful to receive the following information:

- details of your authority's policy in relation to requests for a deferral of school admission;
No Policy at present
- any specific policy you operate in relation to requests for deferrals for summer-born children (those born between 1 April and 31 August); *We do not have a specific policy with regards to this. However, through the ADEW Admissions Group WG has been requested to provide guidance in order that this can be consistently applied across all Welsh Authorities.*

For each of the past 3 years:

- the number of requests for deferral of school admission received; 0
- the number of requests that were granted or rejected; 0
- the number of requests for deferral of school admission for the reason that a child was 'summer-born' (as defined above) or not ready to start fulltime school due to the date of their birth; 0
- the number of these requests that were granted or rejected; and 0
- for any requests granted, whether those children were subsequently admitted within or outside of their normal age group. 0

However I have recently been contacted by parents who may wish to apply for a deferral for a Summer Born child for the next Admissions round. I have asked WG for advice in relation to this and have been advised that they are currently reviewing the School Admissions Legislation.

P-05-832 To Amend the School Admissions Code Relating to Summer-Born Children, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 14.05.19

Dear Committee Members,

thank you for continuing to pursue this case. As a group, we are growing and for many parents, whose children are struggling in various developmental ways and are therefore simply not ready for the rigours of full time school, this issue continues to cause problems and distress to many of our parents.

It is interesting to see that many local authorities report zero application for deceleration. In relation to Caerphilly Council, we know of two parents in our group who have been informed that under no circumstances would deceleration and a resultant Reception place be allowed, this was during informal discussion. Based on feedback within our group, we believe the low number of requests reported by local authorities is because:

*Many parents are simply unaware that Compulsory School Age (CSA) is actually 5 and do not realise their right to apply for Reception at CSA

*Many parents in our group report that headteachers are often unaware that deceleration is a right for parents and are forcefully told it would not be allowed - parents simply 'give up'

*Similar to the above, in initial, informal enquiries, local authorities are quite explicit that a request for deceleration and a subsequent Reception place at CSA would not be allowed.

*Socio-economic reasons in Wales, where parents might wish to decelerate, but financial constraints make this consideration an impossibility.

This process requires energy and determination. Many parents start the enquiry process and simply find all doors closed and 'give up'. We currently have several parents currently going through this process; they are being given a blanket 'no' response, with no full and detailed reasoning, on an individual basis, thus, failing to apply Wales Admissions Code correctly.

Such is the importance of this issue, Wales is currently one of the only regions within the UK not to have an explicit summer-born policy - we therefore urge you to continue to work towards some resolution within our country.

We thank you for your time.

Best wishes,

Flexible Admissions Wales Group

P-05-832 To Amend the School Admissions Code Relating to Summer-Born Children, Correspondence – Pembrokeshire County Council to Chair, 15.05.19

Dear Mr. Rowlands,

Apologies for the delay in responding to this request which has just been received by me. Please see below for the responses to your questions as detailed on the original request:-

“In particular, we would be grateful to receive the following information:

- details of your authority’s policy in relation to requests for a deferral of school admission; **See Policy attached**
- any specific policy you operate in relation to requests for deferrals for summer-born children (those born between 1 April and 31 August); **See Policy attached**

For each of the past 3 years:

- the number of requests for deferral of school admission received; **2016 (1 received); 2017 (3 received); 2018 (18 received)**
- the number of requests that were granted or rejected; **2016 (1 granted); 2017 (3 granted); 2018 (18 granted)**
- the number of requests for deferral of school admission for the reason that a child was ‘summer-born’ (as defined above) or not ready to start full time school due to the date of their birth **None**
- the number of these requests that were granted or rejected; **N/A**
- for any requests granted, whether those children were subsequently admitted within or outside of their normal age group. **N/A”**

Pembrokeshire County Council
Cyngor Sir Penfro

Inclusion Service
Gwasanaeth Cynhwysiant



Guidance for Parents and Schools in the education of young people out of their chronological age

Nichola Jones
Head of Inclusion and Disabilities

Purpose

When supporting children and young people in Pembrokeshire, school staff/ALNCOs, governing bodies and admissions services may be faced with considering whether to support a young person by educating them in a year group different from that of their chronological age. Underlying factors for considering such a decision vary but could be because of:

- a particular additional learning need
- a summer or premature birth date
- a child returning to education following a significant period of absence
- a child recently arrived in the UK
- a parent/carer suggestion.

Most Local Authorities have related policies or guidance relating to this subject. Research into common practices within other Authorities has highlighted that:

- Children's and young people's **voices are typically under-represented** in decision making
- There is a **lack of clarity** as to why young people are being placed out of year group
- There is a **lack of consistent practice** nationally (thus, if a family moves between local authorities there is no guarantee that existing arrangements will be accommodated which results in further transitions for the young person in question)
- There is a **limited empirical evidence base** in relation to positive outcomes
- Parents, schools and professionals are unclear of the **long term implications** of funding and continuation of support, e.g. a young person is eligible to leave school when they reach the age of 16 years, irrespective of what year group they attend
- There are **inconsistencies in reviewing the decision** throughout a young person's school career.

(Babcock LDP, 2013)

The intention of this policy is to address the critique above, thereby enabling young people, their families and professionals to contemplate the decision to educate out of chronological age group and plan appropriately. This document supports and guides those residing or working within Pembrokeshire and culminates in a guide to good practice which should be adhered to if making such a request to the Local Authority:

- **Context** – existing thoughts
- **Aide Memoire** – what needs to be considered
- **Guide to Good Practice** – the process to follow

Context

In all our endeavours, Pembrokeshire Local Authority seeks to promote a person centred approach when working with young people and supports the accomplishment of recommendations made in the Donaldson report, Successful Futures: Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales (2015), namely that all young people educated in Pembrokeshire will be:

- “ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- Enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- Ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- Healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.” (Donaldson, 2015, Pg106)

There is no statutory duty to agree to any request to educate a young person in a year group different from that of their chronological age, nor is there a statutory barrier to prevent such agreement. Pembrokeshire Local Authority and its educational settings will strive to consider all appropriate requests to educate a young person out of their chronological age group. Local Authorities vary in their approach to this issue but in every case it is the responsibility of all participating parties to gather evidence and consider the best interests of the young person in question.

When contemplating the decision to educate outside a chronological age group there is an expectation that this will be one of a range of support strategies considered, investigated and reported upon to Pembrokeshire Local Authority. Whilst many of the factors taken into consideration will be bespoke it will also be pertinent to consistently consider the long term implications for the individual and bodies of research on the subject, thereby permitting a holistic discussion to be held with family members and the young person themselves, age and stage of development permitting. Key considerations include:

- Research tells us that young people who have been educated in younger age groups **continue to experience academic difficulties** and even when any initial gains are noted, these are found to diminish as the young person moves up through the school and is presented with new learning opportunities (Jimerson, Carlson, Rotert, Egeland & Sroufe, 1997)
- **No general academic improvement is noted** for developmentally immature young people when placed out of year group (Hattie, 2009)
- Young people “held back” show **poorer emotional health and poorer social adjustment** than low achieving peers not held back (Jimerson, Carlson, Rotert, Egeland & Sroufe, 1997)
- Young people educated out of their year group report experiencing more bullying than their peers (Clatworthy, 2005)

- Young people who exhibit intellectual/developmental strengths may not be globally ahead of age expectations and may find components of an older curriculum difficult and challenging to manage. It is sometimes the case that social, emotional and/or physical development presents a mismatch with areas of maturity which places the individual in a situation where they are potentially unable to meet the demands made of them in these areas. These factors can impact, understandably, upon levels of self-esteem, particularly during adolescence. Given such factors it is reasonable to consider whether needs can be equally supported by an enriched curriculum with reasonable adjustments made whilst remaining within the appropriate year group
- Conversely, young people exhibiting areas of intellectual/developmental delay might not receive appropriate challenge and stimulation by being placed within a year group below their chronological age. Areas of relative strength may be at risk of not receiving appropriate attention whilst general expectations from staff and others may also be influenced. Impact upon the self esteem of the young person also needs careful consideration.
- In those circumstances where a decision has been made to educate a young person within an older age group then one must consider the long term implications. It will be difficult to reverse such a decision if the situation changes as this will entail the repeat of a curriculum year
- Maintaining the placement must be regularly monitored by the school setting and re-considered at the point of every transition to a new national curriculum key stage dictating that there is no guarantee that this arrangement will continue throughout the young person's education. This can introduce several periods of significant transition for the young person, all of which are capable of significantly impacting upon their educational progress and self esteem
- Where a young person is educated ahead of their chronological age group it must be recognised that they will reach significant points in their education ahead of time e.g. SATs, GCSEs, school leaving age, transfer to college etcetera. This may also have implications for the funding that educational settings receive as funding is often determined by age and will not automatically follow the individual
- Local Authorities vary in their policies and approach to this strategy. It must be recognised that some Local Authorities choose not to contemplate educating a young person in any setting other than their chronological age group. Therefore, if a young person moves home or educational setting one must not assume that any existing arrangements will be honoured.

Aide Memoire

If you are contemplating a request to educate a young person out of their chronological age group think about.....

- The individual additional learning needs of the young person in question – why are you considering educating this person out of their age group and what value will this add?
- Contextual factors such as age, stage of development, school resources and future transitions – consider what may be gained and missed if the individual ‘leaves’ their appropriate age group. How would you review, monitor and plan for these to minimise any negative impact?
- Are there any other ways in which areas of need can be supported? E.g. attending a booster group or social skills group with other children of differing ages at scheduled points within their week.
- What does the young person in question think? – this will dictate significant changes for them so, whenever appropriate, the young person should be consulted and asked for their opinion and their views MUST be represented.
- Have you undertaken a critical review of the academic research evidence for educating children out of year group – does this lend support to your particular situation? Update yourself on what national research reports on this course of action and decide whether educating out of year group really will provide you with the support you feel the young person needs. The field of research changes constantly so there might be recent publications which prove particularly informative for your individual case.
- What decision making and review processes are you putting into place if the decision is made to educate out of year group and authorised by the Local Authority? Such a decision does need to be reviewed regularly and throughout the young person’s educational career to safeguard the young person in question.
- Explore whether there are support agencies who can appropriately support your investigations. The roles of Educational Psychologists and Advisory Support Teachers should focus on the decision-making and review processes. If the young person in question has specific additional learning needs then can any agency offer you additional support to enhance the decision making process? Any such requests should be raised by the school ALNCO at the TAPPAS 1 meetings (Team Around the Pupil, Parent and Setting) held throughout all Pembrokeshire Schools. Similarly your Challenge Advisor will be able to support any considerations regarding the adaptation of existing school resources and systems.
- Have you included all relevant individuals in your investigations and decision making processes and have you represented everyone’s views? Whether the young person in question is already on roll at a setting or about to enrol there is

an expectation that the views of the parent/carer, young person (where appropriate), setting staff and appropriate support agency will be sought and represented.

Guide to Good Practice: the process

The decision to educate a young person out of year group should be carefully discussed with a range of people as previously mentioned. These discussions should lead to clarity about the **purpose** of placing a young person out of year group and, if a request is made to the Local Authority, appropriate evidence of previous support and discussions needs to be provided. There is an expectation that any request submitted will be detailed, thorough and in adherence to this guidance document.

Authorisation to educate a young person out of their chronological year group should be sought from the Local Authority and is not an action that can be sanctioned by a member of school staff or colleague from a support agency.

Where possible, the young person's views should be gained and represented in the submitted documentation. Young people typically want to be involved in decisions about their education, including whether they will be educated out of their chronological year group. We adhere to the relevant articles outlined within the United Nations Convention on The Rights of The Child (UNCRC, 1989) which promotes the involvement and participation of young people in decision making processes.

Good practice dictates that the people involved in the decision making/investigative process should include: parent/carer; young person; Head Teacher/member of senior management group; ALNCo; class teacher and other relevant professionals (this will be dependent upon the young person's areas of additional learning need or whether some issues remain systemic e.g. the involvement of the school's Challenge Advisor). Investigations and decision making processes need to occur over time in order to thoroughly consider the needs of the individual and to gather evidence relating to a range of support options.

With due respect for the various documentation formats in existence across settings we have not introduced a specific pro-forma for completion and submission. The Local Authority will accept written requests from settings providing they provide evidence that adheres to the good practice outlined within this document.

The decision to educate a young person out of their chronological year group will generally be implemented as that person approaches the natural end/start of an academic year, thereby encompassing a transition period within a time of naturally occurring change for all. With this in mind, settings need to consider such requests with sufficient time to hold discussions, investigate a range of strategies and involve relevant professionals before making a request to the authority. Parents/carers and young people also require sufficient time to contemplate such a strategy as its consequences are

deemed to be significant. It is therefore recommended that such discussions and gathering of evidence takes place over the course of an academic term (minimum).

Requests submitted to the Local Authority need to outline the range of support options considered and the underlying reasons why this option is believed to be the most appropriate and why other options have been discounted.

The support and advice received from relevant agencies/professional colleagues; including those views that disagree with the request should they exist, also need to be presented.

Arrangements for regular and long-term review of the decision also need to be outlined. All review arrangements need to incorporate how the young person's views will be sought at points of review, irrespective of age. Research suggests that the decision to educate a young person outside their year group is not consistently or frequently reviewed (Babcock LDP, 2013). Therefore, there is a need to ensure consistency and good practice across our county. Decisions should be formally reviewed on a regular basis and take into account factors such as:

- Social and emotional wellbeing and development
- Rate of academic progress
- Progress in relation to the original objectives as to why the young person is placed out of year
- Young people, parents / carers, teachers and other professionals (as appropriate) should be involved in this review process.

This review process could take part during the statutory annual review, for those who have a statement of special educational need, or at the point in the academic term where the setting reviews Individual Education Plan (IEP) targets. It is useful to note that such a review can also be a specific piece of work commissioned from an Advisory Teacher or E.P. within Pembrokeshire (prioritised and commissioned by the school ALNCO at the TAPPAS 1 meeting).

Should the decision to authorise a request to educate a young person out of their chronological year group be given by the Local Authority, there is a duty of care placed upon the setting to provide documentation of an annual review of progress. This should specifically highlight whether or not the continuation of this strategy has been agreed and on what evidence.

Where such a request is made for a young person already in receipt of a statement of special educational need then such a request should be made via the annual review meeting with continued adherence to the need for thorough investigation and consideration of other support strategies, as outlined above. If this option is raised for initial discussion at the point of Annual Review then there is an expectation that a period of investigation will be entered into by the setting, should the option be unanimously

considered, and a further review meeting arranged. It is not considered ethical to authorise any request that has simply been discussed at one point in time.

Documentation from subsequent annual review meetings will be accepted as evidence of a yearly review by the Local Authority and should be reported to the SEN Management Team based at County Hall, as is the standard procedure.

Where such a request is made by a parent/carer or professional on behalf of a young person who has not yet enrolled at a school in Pembrokeshire then the relevant setting must work in partnership with the parent/carer and young person (age permitting) to comply with the good practice guidance set out in this document. Any request that is made directly to the Local Authority that has not included the relevant setting will be guided back to the appropriate setting and compliance with this Guide to Good Practice reinforced.

Pembrokeshire Local Authority does not feel it is appropriate for young people to be placed out of year group in order to address resourcing issues. Responsibility for addressing individual additional learning needs remains with the setting and should be administered through an appropriately differentiated and enriched curriculum with reasonable adjustments made. Where this proves challenging then settings are expected to seek support from the range of agencies on offer across Pembrokeshire (e.g. Inclusion Support Services, Challenge Advisors, Special School Outreach Support Services) prior to considering whether to educate a young person out of their chronological age group and for their advice to be sought over time.

With the exception of those young people supported by a statement of special educational need, all documentation submitted by a setting, in compliance with this Guide, should be forwarded to The Admissions Officer for Pembrokeshire, based at County Hall, Haverfordwest. The Admissions Officer will not be responsible for the authorisation of such requests but will collate documentation and present each case to officers within the Inclusion Service and Education Directorate for their consideration. Feedback will then be provided directly to the setting who will be responsible for supporting the parent/carer regarding any decisions made and required action.

Agenda Item 3.3

P-04-667 A Roundabout for the A477/A4075 Junction

This petition was submitted by Pembroke Town Council and was first considered by the Committee in January 2016, having collected 597 signatures (115 online and 482 on paper).

Text of the Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to replace the Fingerpost Junction on the A477/A4075 with a roundabout – The current road configuration has not resolved the problems on this dangerous stretch of road.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire
- Mid and West Wales

Ken Skates AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref KS/05911/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair - Petitions committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

18 April 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 20 March regarding petition P-04-667 Roundabout for the A477/A4075 Junction.

My officials are still in the process of completing the 36 month Road Safety Audit (RSA) due to a delay in obtaining collision data. I have passed Pembrokeshire County Council's comments to them so that they can be considered as part of this work. Following this, options will be developed based on the recommendations of the RSA and further investigations as required, and considered for taking forward this financial year.

Once completed a copy of the RSA will be forwarded to the committee for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Skates AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for Economy and Transport

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Back Page 114
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Agenda Item 3.4

P-05-838 Support the M4 Relief Road Black Route

This petition was submitted by South Wales Chamber of Commerce, having collected 1,482 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the Welsh Government to continue with its plans to build the M4 Relief Road along the proposed Black Route, and following the announcement that the Welsh Government will table a debate on the M4 plans later this year, we call on the National Assembly to support the project. The need for a new motorway around Newport is overwhelming with the congestion around the Brynglas Tunnels negatively impacting on businesses and people from across South Wales. The first proposal for a relief road was published in 1991, almost 30 years ago. Although the failure to take action over three decades isn't solely to blame, we believe it hasn't helped the economic well-being of the current generation and has contributed towards:

- The employment rate in Wales being an average of over 3% lower than the UK employment rate since the mid-1990s.
- The Welsh GVA per head being consistently lower than 75% of the UK average since the late-1990s with most recent figures showing that Cardiff's GVA per head is the lowest of the four UK capital cities.

Additional Information

The Welsh Government's analysis from March 2016 finds that a new M4 around Newport will improve connectivity within South Wales and with the rest of the UK which will:

- Reduce journey times bringing particular benefits to logistics firms and 'just in time operations' who currently face regular disruption and associated costs.
- Save South Wales businesses an estimated £34m a year in transport costs.
- Increase access to employment for residents and expand the size of the accessible workforce for businesses.

- Increase the GVA of South Wales by £39m per annum through increased productivity.
- Create access to new employment sites around Newport with capacity for 15,000 jobs and improve access to sites adjacent to the existing M4 which are held back due to regular congestion.
- Improve the perception of Wales for visitors and as a location for investment.

Please change the status quo of the last 30 years and support the government's Black Route proposals for the M4 Relief Road so that we can improve the economic well-being of future generations across South Wales.

Evidence

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-43059755>

<https://statswales.gov.wales/v/C8Ns>

<https://statswales.gov.wales/v/C8Nt>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossvalueaddedgva/bulletins/regionalgrossvalueaddedbalanceduk/1998to2016#wales-was-the-fastest-growing-country-in-the-uk-in-2016>

<https://beta.gov.wales/m4-corridor-around-newport-revised-wider-economic-impact-assessment-report>

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Newport West
- South Wales East

P-05-838 Support the M4 Relief Road Black Route, Correspondence - Petitioner to Committee, 15.05.19



To: National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee

Thank you for letting us know that the Committee will be considering our petition on 21 May, calling for the M4 Relief Road around Newport to be built, and for making us aware of the Written Statement by the First Minister on the timetable for a decision on the matter.

We are pleased that the Welsh Government have finally declared when they will be announcing their decision. Not knowing what is going to happen has added to the uncertainty that many businesses are feeling at the moment. Without a clear way forward businesses don't know whether their preparations to supply the project are worthwhile, whether they need to upskill the potential workforce for the project, and whether there is an end in sight to the daily congestion, accidents and traffic jams along that stretch of road.

We would therefore ask for the Committee's support, as a committee and as individual Assembly Members, to keep pressure on the Welsh Government to stick to the timetable that has been set out.

If it is a positive decision the business community in South Wales would value your support in getting the Welsh Government to set out a clear schedule for delivering the project.

A negative decision would however damage the confidence of those doing business in South Wales. The problems around the Brynglas Tunnels are there, have been there for decades and will not disappear of their own accord. Welsh businesses need a solution to the problem. If the Welsh Government is not going to build the M4 Relief Road it needs set out what it is going to do to solve the congestion on the M4 around Newport. What it is actually going to deliver and not an aspirational idea of something it may be able to do at some point in the future, possibly if the wind is blowing in the right direction.

Thank you for your time in considering the petition. Business people from across South Wales are relying on a solution to the substandard transport network around Newport for the success of their businesses, and the people who work for those businesses are relying on them for an income to provide for their families.

Elgan Morgan
Policy & Public Affairs Manager
South Wales Chamber of Commerce

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Company No. 01687863
Pack Page 117

Agenda Item 3.5

P-05-850 Protect the Gwent Levels and stop the proposed M4 motorway

This petition was submitted by the CALM. The petition has collected 12,270 signatures on an alternative e-petition website.

Text of Petition

Please drop plans to construct the M4 motorway across the beautiful Gwent Levels and invest in public transport instead.

Why is this important?

The current plans to extend the M4 motorway will put otters, rare bees and wildflowers at risk. It would cut across the 'Amazon Rainforest' of Wales, the Gwent Levels, which is a haven for wildlife. Traffic around Newport needs to be improved but it would be better for Wales and the environment if the Welsh government invests in public transport instead. If we want to protect the environment for future generations we need to come up with alternatives to big polluting motorways. The Assembly's own environmental regulator and advisory body, Natural Resources Wales, is against these plans.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Newport East
- South Wales East



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

**WRITTEN STATEMENT
BY
THE WELSH GOVERNMENT**

TITLE **M4 Decision Timetable**

DATE **30 April 2019**

BY **Mark Drakeford AM, First Minister of Wales**

Members will be aware that I have been considering carefully the Inspector's Report and advice from officials on the M4 Project.

I anticipate that I will be in a position to announce my decision on whether or not to make the legal orders necessary for the Project to proceed during the first week of June.

Once the decision is finalised, a letter setting out the full reasons for the decision will be published. A link to electronic versions of the Inspector's Report in both Welsh and English will also be provided alongside the letter.

**P-05-850, Protect the Gwent Levels and stop the proposed M4 motorway,
Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 14.05.19**

Thank you for inviting us to comment on the petition to Protect the Gwent Levels and Stop the Proposed Motorway.

CALM submitted papers to the Committee in Oct/Nov 2018 in support of the CALM petition against the M4 bypass. This highlighted new material published after the conclusion of the Public Inquiry which strongly challenges the need for this project on transport, environmental and cost grounds. We now enclose a copy of a letter we sent to the First Minister on 29 March 2019, in advance of his announcement on the M4, since postponed to the first week of June. The most recent edition of CALM's newsletter, published at the end of April, is also appended.

CALM believes the M4 bypass across the Gwent levels is the wrong choice for Wales. We are requesting the Welsh Government and the Senedd to reject it. In a nutshell, our main arguments are that the Black Route will:

1. Cost too much - likely to be over £2 billion
2. Fail to solve long term congestion, or wider transport/economic issues in South Wales
3. Cause irrevocable damage to wildlife & landscape in the unique Gwent Levels
4. Contradict Government policies to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change
5. Breach Wales' own legislation, The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
6. Ignore the alternatives which are available to improve transport and access for all
7. Ignore advice by 2 expert Government bodies, NRW & Future Generations Commissioner

Along with increasing numbers of people in Wales, CALM cannot believe that a Wales Government and Senedd that have led the world in legislation to protect our future generations and their environment would seriously consider continuing to build motorways. A decision to build the £2 billion + M4 Black Route would directly increase carbon emissions and destroy unique wildlife at a time when thousands of ordinary citizens have been demonstrating on the streets to demand that we save our planet from climate change and species extinctions. The declarations of a Climate Emergency by both the Wales and UK Governments earlier this month logically rules out the Black Route. Claims that the Black Route will be carbon neutral are spurious. This claim is little more than "greenwash" based on long term projections discredited by several experts at the Public Inquiry. In reality, constructing and operating a new M4 at a time when we need to reduce emissions drastically under a Climate Emergency, will actually put an *additional* 500,000 tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere.

We hope the Committee will share our view that the public mood is rapidly catching up with the scientific reality that the entire Web of Life is under immediate threat. Millions of viewers have seen David Attenborough's BBC programme on 18 April revealing the unvarnished truth about climate change. This week we have seen yet another UN global report (IPBES) about the damage already done to many species and habitats and the threat of mass extinctions : we must not sanction a project whose destructive impact on the wildlife of the Gwent levels was described at the Public Inquiry by the Government's own environmental agency, Natural Resources Wales, as "too great" and "unprecedented" as well as a breach of the Wildlife & Countryside Act.

The response in South Wales should not be more road building but a full Metro, transformed bus networks and active travel incentives to meet the transport, health and wellbeing needs of 21st century Wales. This will demonstrate that the Climate Emergency declaration is being translated into the right policy decisions for the future of Wales.

Finally whilst we appreciate that the Petition of 12,270 names submitted to Senedd last October is formally closed to new signatures, an identical version still open to the public on our website has continued to attract new support and the total number of signatures now stands at 20,810.

Diolch yn fawr, Many thanks,

CATHERINE LINSTRUM & ROB HEPWORTH - Joint Chairs of CALM

P-05-850 Protect the Gwent Levels and stop the proposed M4 motorway, Correspondence –Petitioner to Committee - CALM letter to First Minister, 14.05.19



CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE LEVELS MOTORWAY 29 March 2019

<https://savethelevels.org.uk/> • savethegwentlevels@gmail.com

The First Minister of Wales
Mark Drakeford AM

Dear First Minister

M4 Around Newport

We write to urge you not to support the M4 Black Route. As the umbrella body opposing the M4 Black Route, our members had been reassured by the objective and forward-looking approach you took towards this difficult issue before and during your election campaign, within the constraints of Cabinet responsibility. We hope that your vision for a Wales fit for future generations will continue to persuade you that the Black Route is not the way forward.

The financial costs of the proposal are eye watering, and look set to be well above £2 billion. Your predecessor was unintentionally accurate when he said in November 2015 that the cost would be “nowhere near” £1 billion. They will add to our indebtedness in return for what many experts have shown will be nugatory benefits for congestion relief and economic growth in Wales. Road building rarely solves congestion – it generates more traffic and shifts the problem to adjacent parts of the network. Authoritative 2017 research evaluating 80 recent new road schemes in the UK showed that they generate more traffic, leading to permanent and significant environmental and landscape damage, while showing little evidence of benefit to local economies. Bristol and SW England would also get proportionately more of what benefits there are from the Black Route than most parts of Wales: the area north of Bristol would get 2% growth in access to jobs whereas the Heads of the Valleys would get next to nothing. The consistent opposition to the Black Route by the Wales Federation of Small Businesses also reveals the weakness of the economic arguments. In 2014 they presciently called it a “billion pound mistake”.

The construction of the Black Route would generate huge additional carbon emissions over the next 2 decades which is completely incompatible with the crisis we now face both in Wales and the entire world in curbing climate change. Wales has wonderful pioneering legislation in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act which is rightly interpreted by Sophie Howe and many others to mean that the Black Route cannot be a 21st century option for improving our transport. Claims that the Black Route might be carbon neutral in 50 years time are an unacceptable response. The climate change crisis is immediate, as our younger citizens have rightly been pointing out in their “climate strikes” and demonstrations. A new generation of voters are aware of the legacy they face and are being mobilised to demand change - real change. We were very pleased to see that you recognised their call for immediate action last week. Stopping the new M4 and showing that the Future Generations Act has real teeth would be a groundbreaking decision that would set a new agenda for Wales, and hopefully inspire other countries to follow suit.

As well as flying in the face of all our responsibilities to reduce climate change, the Black Route would irreparably damage the Gwent Levels, one of the most precious and unique places in Wales.

14 miles of 6-lane motorway would plough through a Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest and four Sites of Special Scientific Interest, including the only site in Wales where the Common Crane has nested in the last 400 years. The motorway would have adverse impacts on many other species, including bats, otters, plants and the rare shrill carder bee. Natural Resources Wales has said that this conflicts with the Government's statutory duties. Farming would be adversely affected. Tourist income would be lost. New urban development would be certain to locate near the new motorway as we have seen everywhere else. The Levels would never survive as an oasis for farming, wildlife and public recreation, and a green lung for Newport.

CALM strongly believes in positive measures to improve transport in the corridor. Sound alternatives to the Black Route are available. In September 2018 the Future Generations Commissioner proposed a package of public and active transport measures costing £578m (a quarter of the likely cost of the Black Route). These are based on a full Metro public transport system and new infrastructure for cyclists and walkers which will be cheaper, greener, healthier and fairer to the whole population and our entire environment in South Wales. About a quarter of Welsh households do not own a car. A supporting study by the New Economics Foundation concluded that an M4 bypass would significantly increase inequality in Wales. Those with incomes in the top 20% would gain 3 times the benefits from an M4 bypass road than the poorest 20%. Sophie Howe's recommendations need to be swiftly developed by Transport for Wales. We need an environmentally-sound solution based on greatly improved public transport and active travel plus, maybe, some more limited road improvements. Options along these lines were not developed and examined in detail at the public inquiry.

In the spirit of seeking positive alternatives, CALM would like to co-sponsor a seminar, preferably to be held in the Greater Newport area, to address the specific challenges to transport policy in a region of Wales which has become overly dependent on cars with adverse impacts on levels of carbon emissions, air pollution, public health (including obesity and future life expectancy) and access to mobility for all sections of the population. We have contacted one of our local AMs, who was keen to help and we hope you might also be able to respond positively to this suggestion.

In conclusion, not one whit of the strong case against the Black Route has been weakened by any recent events (including the end of the Severn tolls). We have strong public support. In the first three months of 2019 our Petition to you and the Welsh Assembly against the M4 has been increasing by more than 1000 names a month. It has now reached 19,000 signatories, and is one of the best supported petitions ever submitted to the Assembly. [M4 Petition](#)

We have limited ourselves to mentioning the main elements in this letter but enclose a more detailed brief.

Kind Regards

Catherine Linstrum and Robert Hepworth,
Joint Chairs CALM





The **Campaign Against the Levels Motorway** is an umbrella organisation of local people and organisations formed to protect the Gwent Levels from the proposed M4 Relief Road.



Campaign Against the Levels Motorway

savethegwentlevels@gmail.com

www.savethelevels.org.uk

c/o Gwent Wildlife Trust, Seddon House, NP25 4DY

APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER

Decision on new M4 imminent!

The First Minister, Mark Drakeford, has said he'll make an announcement to the Senedd in the next two weeks.

What can you do now?

We all need to be contacting the First Minister, and other members of his Cabinet, to call for #NoNewM4. Make it clear that the alternatives – affordable, integrated public transport and better active travel – will work so much better for us all. Click on this link to find out how to contact them: <https://gov.wales/writing-ministers>

For all of us who live in Wales it is crucial you contact your AMs – don't just contact your Constituency AM, but remember you are represented just as much by each of your four regional list AMs. The www.writetothem.com website enables you to find their details and compose your own email. However, to make it easy, Friends of the Earth Cymru have an excellent e-action which lets you contact all your AMs to raise all the key issues at stake. To use this e-action, click [here](#).

Did you know that a new M4 would run through four ancient woodlands? It's not just precious wildlife-rich SSSI wetlands which are threatened. Woodland Trust Cymru have also created an e-action so everyone in Wales can contact all their AMs to raise this further crucial issue as well. To do this, click [here](#).

If you are on twitter, why not tweet to the First Minister at [@fmwales](https://twitter.com/fmwales)? Wherever you are, The Wildlife Trusts have organised an e-action so you can write to the First Minister about the threat to the Gwent Levels – as important to wildlife in Wales as the Amazon rainforest is to the world. Nearly 7,000 people have done so already – join them by clicking [here](#).

CALM's last six months

Recent months have seen major progress for our campaign. Last autumn saw the signatories more than double on our 38 Degrees petition against the new M4 and we formally submitted it to the Assembly with more than 12,000 names on it. Since then the numbers have grown further to over 20,000 – a record for a petition in Wales. You can still sign [here](#). And please ask your family and friends to do so!

After a busy autumn in which we briefed MPs and AMs for several debates on the proposals, there was dramatic news in December. First, Mark Drakeford was elected as First Minister after an election campaign in which his scepticism about the bypass was very clear. Then the outgoing First Minister, Carwyn Jones, announced on 7th December that he had passed on the decision about the bypass for Mark to take in the New Year. Since then there has been further delay, including a month's 'purdah' resulting from the Newport by-election.

CALM rally in Cardiff Bay

We held a successful and very well-attended rally on the Senedd steps on 4th December. There were stirring speeches against the bypass from politicians including Plaid Cymru leader Adam Price, Labour AM Lee Waters, the Green Party's Amelia Womack, and representatives of CALM, Friends of the Earth Cymru, Gwent Wildlife Trust, RSPB Cymru and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales.



Newport West by-election

The by-election for the seat of Newport West MP at Westminster saw CALM issue a briefing for all candidates which included our "Super 7" reasons to reject the Black Route:

- 1. It will cost too much.**
- 2. It won't solve congestion or other transport & economic issues in South Wales.**
- 3. It will cause irrevocable damage to the wildlife & landscape in a unique protected area, the Gwent Levels.**
- 4. It contradicts Welsh and UK Government policies to reduce carbon emissions and fight climate change.**
- 5. It breaches The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.**
- 6. It ignores the alternatives to improve transport and access for all.**
- 7. It is opposed by two statutory bodies, Natural Resources Wales and the Future Generations Commissioner.**

For further details of our Newport West by-election briefing [see here](#).

Several Newport West by-election candidates made their opposition to the bypass crystal

clear. It was interesting that each candidate who opposed the Black Route saw their party's percentage of the vote increase in comparison to their 2017 vote share in the constituency, whilst supporters saw their vote shrink!

CALM writes to Mark Drakeford

Our joint chairs, Catherine Linstrum and Rob Hepworth, wrote to First Minister Mark Drakeford last month to sum up the case against the M4 bypass. The letter can be seen [here](#) and attracted media coverage, especially in the [South Wales Argus](#).

The joint letter stated *"We hope that your vision for a Wales fit for future generations will continue to persuade you that the Black Route is not the way forward."* As well as irreparably damaging the Gwent Levels, *"the Black Route would generate huge additional carbon emissions over the next two decades which is completely incompatible with the crisis we now face both in Wales and the entire world in curbing climate change."* The CALM Chairs added that *"the climate change crisis is immediate, as our younger citizens have rightly been pointing out in their climate strikes and demonstrations."* The letter called for *"a full Metro public transport system and new infrastructure for cyclists and walkers which will be cheaper, greener, healthier and fairer to the whole population and our entire environment in South Wales"* in line with the repeated advice of Sophie Howe, the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales.

The joint letter enclosed an updated, detailed and evidence-based statement, available [here](#). We believe that this objective case against a new M4 makes it abundantly clear that:

- **The final decision needs to be made after proper examination of all the evidence (including recent reports from the Future Generations Commissioner) and in accordance with legislation.**
- **This is the largest single infrastructure investment in Wales since devolution. A truly sustainable solution must be chosen.**
- **Politically, the M4 decision is a devolved issue on which the Welsh Assembly has the final word. The decision does not belong to Westminster politicians.**
- **The M4 is a 'bypass to a bypass'. When people need a second bypass operation for their heart, they would be wise to examine their lifestyle. Exactly the same applies to transport policy in Wales. CALM believes we need healthier, fairer and climate-friendly transport options in Wales.**

Legal action if required

Over the last six months, work with lawyers has continued behind the scenes to be ready for a formal legal challenge (Judicial Review) if the Welsh Government decides to construct the bypass despite all the contrary advice they have received from statutory bodies as well as campaigners. Given the Wellbeing of Future Generations and Environment Acts for Wales, as well as pre-devolution legislation still in force, CALM has no doubt that a powerful legal action can be mounted. However, we would much prefer a rational policy decision by Mark Drakeford and the Cabinet to stop the bypass once and for all, investing in the sustainable integrated transport & active travel alternatives, **now!** Gwent Wildlife Trust have been leading the legal preparations, but all the key CALM bodies and experts are involved in a joint effort to support the legal team, with the case being ready to go at a moment's notice.

Media attention

In November 2018, CALM's two Robs (Waller and Hepworth) featured in a two page *Guardian / Observer* article titled *Rich soup of life in Gwent wetlands at risk from Motorway*. You can read this article [here](#)



Campaigners Rob Waller and Rob Hepworth at Magor Marsh. Photograph: Gareth Phillips for the Guardian

The two Robs then did a *BBC Farming Today* radio interview in January. December saw CALM co-chair Catherine Linstrum doing a special *BBC Wales* live programme on the first toll-free day on the Severn Crossings, whilst in February Catherine was back on *BBC Radio* with *Good Morning Wales* – listen at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0002m12>.

Next CALM meeting

The next organising meeting of the campaign is on Wednesday 8th May, 6.30pm, Newport Civic Centre. If you're on the meeting mailing list, you'll have already had a notice of the meeting – the agenda will follow soon. If not, email us so we can send you the agenda. Let's have a good attendance please!

Twitter poll

When the Welsh media has asked the public “Do you want a new M4?” – without highlighting the implications of this road-building project – most have chosen the road. In response, we ran a twitter poll just before Easter which put the true choice on the table.

We asked: “Do you want a £2bn bypass: unlikely to help congestion & our economy; certain to increase CO₂ emissions & wreck the Gwent Levels? Or integrated, affordable public transport, active travel and traffic management in line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations legislation?”

Faced with this informed choice, 92% of the 2,774 twitter voters chose affordable travel for all rather than a traffic-generating new M4.

Making Newport a cycling city

Newport East AM, John Griffiths, is holding the first meeting of Newport Cycling Group at Horton’s Coffee House, Newport at 10am on Saturday 25th May. The group will be pushing for improved cycle routes across the city and seeking full implementation of the Active Travel Act. If you are interested in coming along, please email john.griffiths@assembly.wales

How can you get more involved?

Please contact us on social media or email savethewentlevels@gmail.com to offer your help. If you’ve not had this newsletter emailed directly to you, then you are not on our mailing list. We’d love to add you – get in touch!

Social media

Facebook and twitter are great places for you to say why you are against a new M4. Click on <https://tinyurl.com/NoNewM4fb> to find us on facebook. We are @CalmCampaign on twitter.

Do you look at the news online?

Stories about the M4 always get a lot of attention. If you look at Welsh news websites, why not use the online comment sections to give your views on M4 stories? So many drivers don’t understand that more roads generate more congestion, whilst if they are stuck in a traffic jam, their vehicles are part of the problem. See what they are posting in response. Encourage them to start calling for affordable, frequent public transport for everyone.

New roads create induced traffic. This means that every traffic bottleneck in South Wales – be that the Brynglas Tunnels, the A48 into Cardiff or that busy junction in your town – is a sign that we need more public transport **not more roads**. Many people don’t or can’t drive, so it is only public transport that can meet everyone’s travel needs. A new M4 will make congestion worse.

Some of the wildlife at threat:



Kingfisher © Tony Wood



Musk Beetle © www.pse-mendelejew.de



Water Vole © Peter Timmings



Otter © Ken Billington

© CALM, April 2019. With thanks to everyone who is doing so much to ensure a better future for the Gwent Levels, local people & wildlife, Wales & the world.

Agenda Item 3.6

P-05-851 Remove time restrictions on the layby to the east of Crickhowell

This petition was submitted by Crickhowell Town Council, having collected 209 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the Welsh Government to remove the time restriction on the layby to the east of Crickhowell. At present it has a time limit of one hour. It is the only such layby with this restriction on the A40 in Wales.

There is rarely a car there as to go into town for a cup of tea would exceed the time limit.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Brecon and Radnorshire
- Mid and West Wales

Ken Skates AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref KS/05069/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

17 January 2019

Dear David,

Thank you for your further letter of 20 December regarding Petition P-05-851 on removing time restrictions on the layby to the east of Crickhowell.

As I confirmed in my previous letter, there had been a history of misusing this particular layby by traders and it was also being used for long term parking. As you are aware, trunk road laybys are not to be used as car parks.

The Local Authority is best placed to resolve the issues regarding parking facilities in the town as they are responsible for determining the location and nature of on-street parking.

*Yours ever,
Ken*

Ken Skates AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for Economy and Transport

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Agenda Item 3.7

P-05-853 No to any Closure of Junction 41

This petition was submitted by Carol Clement – Williams, having collected 473 signatures.

Text of Petition

Calls on the Welsh Government to reject any proposal to close junction 41 of the M4.

A report by WSP to Welsh Government published in September 2018 which considers measures on the Welsh Government motorway and trunk road network for Nitrogen Dioxide reduction includes a proposal to close Junction 41 westbound on slip as a measure to reduce roadside emissions on the M4 between junction 41 and junction 42. This will only increase emissions of Nitrogen Dioxide on local roads and have a greater impact upon local people particularly children.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Aberavon
- South Wales West

Ken Skates AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref KS/06184/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair - Petitions committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

3 May 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 1 February on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding petition P-05-853 No to any Closure of Junction 41. I apologise for the delay in you receiving a response, which is due to an administrative error.

Consideration of the potential impact of increased vehicle emissions along local roads has been considered for partial and full closure of Junction 41 (if required). Data was also reviewed during the previous trial closures. In both instances whilst the air quality would be marginally worse due to the increased traffic on the alternative route during the closures, no limit levels would be exceeded and overall the effectiveness of the measure outweighs any dis-benefits on air quality grounds.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Skates AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for Economy and Transport

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

P-05-853 No to any Closure of Junction 41, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 15.05.19

I find the response disappointing as the surrounding roads go through Port Talbot Town, many housing estates with thousands of people living and working in them, many schools and sports pitches. I would personally would prefer any pollution to be on an elevated stretch of motorway where the air will rise and where drivers pass through in minutes causing little harm than in our wonderful town where our residents live 24/7 365!

This petition also follows a previous one where other reasons were given by myself and hundreds of others along with a 20 thousand signature petition that was handed in to the Petitions Committee by myself and 2 coach loads of NPT residents. The issues being congestion of our roads, the demise of our town due to loss of earnings from retail and businesses, shop closures, difficulty getting out of Baglan onto a congested dual carriageway & school students safety.

I would hope that the Petitions Committee remembers the previous petition from approximately 4 years ago and are shown the responses to that along with the Petition signed by literally thousands of residents as well as this one.

Regards

Carol

Cllr C Clement-Williams

Cabinet Member for Finance NPTCBC

Agenda Item 3.8

P-05-786 Save our Countryside – Revise TAN 1

This petition was submitted by Cllr Mike Priestley and was first considered by the Committee in November 2017, having collected 706 signatures.

Text of petition

Changes in 2015 to Technical Advice Note 1 (TAN1) have resulted in unachievable annual housing targets. This has taken planning decisions away from the local democratic planning process and undermined Adopted Local Development Plans (LDPs) across Wales.

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to reinstate within TAN1 the use of "past building rates methodology" alongside the "residual methodology". This will ensure that Councils are able to undertake intelligent and credible housing land supply needs assessments. Past housing delivery performance reflects economic conditions and local building industry capacity and resilience.

To ensure credible and deliverable land supply, and to balance the need for housing with the need to protect our environment and heritage, it is essential that economic conditions and local building industry capacity are factored into annual calculations of 5 Year Land Supply for Housing.

Changes to TAN1 have forced Local Councils to allow housing developments in excess of what is considered to be local demand. These developments are often large scale and have a detrimental effect on the green belt and the heritage of our County as urban and rural areas over expand. This in turn puts added demands on already stretched services such as GPs, Hospitals, Social Services and Schools.

The withdrawal in 2015 of the past building rates methodology is causing increasing numbers of Local Authorities to declare a 5 Year Land Supply shortfall. This, in turn, is forcing Local Councils, against their will and better judgement, to approve speculative development applications on locally sensitive Greenfield land, land unallocated within their LDPs and, where local approval to these speculative applications is not granted, local democratic decisions are being overturned on appeal, specifically due to the lack of a 5 Year Land Supply for Housing.

Additional information

In 2014 Conwy Council had a 7+ Year Land Supply when its LDP was examined and approved by the Planning Inspector. Less than 12 months later the changes to TAN 1 reduced Conwy's Land Supply to less than 5 years. This has reduced with successive annual land supply calculations. In 2017, Conwy's land supply now stands at 3.1 years as a direct result of the changes to TAN1, and the Council is receiving speculative development applications for land unallocated within the LDP despite allocated land being available. If the past building rates methodology was still permitted, Conwy would today have an 8.5 year supply.

WG's guidance document TAN1 tells Local Councils how to work out their supply of housing land. All Councils should have enough land to meet the need for 5 years of house building. In the previous TAN1 there were two methods of working out how much land was needed:

1. The residual method based on the total housing need from an adopted Plan
2. The past build rates method, using the house building rates from the last 5 years to project forward for the next 5 years.

The Wellbeing and Future Generations Act requires us to be balance our decisions and actions in terms of impact today and impact in the future. Surely, we should apply this thinking to land planning and land use? Current Welsh Government policy is forcing prime Greenfield land to be concreted over and forever become brownfield land. The imposition and restriction to the use of the "residual methodology" was fiercely contested at the consultation stage and beyond, but Local Councils' voices were ignored. Local Councils need to be able to:

- protect heritage and environment and sensitive Greenfield land use and exercise local discretion, judgement and control of where development is needed and where it is allowed.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Aberconwy
- North Wales

Julie James AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-05-786
Ein cyf/Our ref: JJ/05722/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

29 April 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 3 April regarding the petition calling for the revision of Technical Advice Note 1, *Joint Housing Land Availability Studies* (TAN 1). You have requested an update on the current review of the delivery of housing through the planning system and the dis-application of paragraph 6.2 of TAN 1.

Regarding the review of the delivery of housing through the planning system, the first stage, the 'Call for Evidence', closed on 10 October last year. 78 substantive responses were received and have been analysed. A report providing an overview of these representations and the Welsh Government's response is due to be published early this summer. Consideration is currently being given to the next stage of the review, including an indicative timescale for its completion. The next stage is likely to involve reviewing aspects of national planning policy for housing and related guidance in the 'Development Plans Manual'.

Regarding the dis-application of paragraph 6.2 of TAN 1, I can confirm that this will remain in place for the duration of the review of the delivery of housing through the planning system and will be considered as part of the review.

Yours sincerely,

Julie James AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Back Page 136
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

P-05-786 Save our Countryside, Revise TAN 1, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 15.05.19

Thank you for the opportunity to respond, after a recent appeal much time was spent by the legal profession regarding the disqualification of Para 6.2 Tan 1, in particular the meaning and definition of great weight.

Regarding the 5 year land supply, I believe past build rates should also be given serious consideration.

Based on figures for completions in Conwy as of April 2018.

The annual requirement (using the residual method) was 699

Annual completions over the last 10 years was 241

Based on past build rates over the past 10 years, Conwy would have an 8.9 year supply.

Using just the residual method I believe opens us up for speculative applications not within the LDP as it will be impossible to meet the residual method of 699 completions per year.

Kind regards

Mike Priestley

Agenda Item 3.9

P-05-751 Recognition of Parental Alienation

This petition was submitted by Families Need Fathers Both Parents Matter Cymru and was first considered by the Committee in May 2017, having collected 2,058 signatures – 752 on paper and 1,306 online.

Text of the Petition

We call upon the Welsh Assembly to persuade the Welsh Government to protect children and young people in Wales by formally recognising 'Parental Alienation' as a form of emotional abuse of children. We further call upon the Welsh Government to take specific actions to reduce the impact of Parental Alienation on children and their families.

Additional Information

We propose the following action by Welsh Government

- Recognise 'Parental Alienation' as emotional abuse of children with a definition incorporating the one given by the Ministry of Justice (paragraph 1) here <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/164983>)
- Commission and fund mandatory training for professionals including but not Social Work and Cafcass Cymru staff, in recognising Parental Alienation including pathways to protect children from harm.
- Establish and fund a national campaign to inform children and families about Parental Alienation and the harm that it causes.
- Place a duty on Welsh Ministers to act to protect children from abuse and harm where Parental Alienation has been identified.

Parental Alienation has been defined by the Ministry of Justice as:

‘In cases where parents are separated, parental alienation refers to a situation in which one parent (usually the parent with whom the child lives) behaves in a way which creates anxiety in the child, so that it appears the child is opposed to living or spending time with the other parent.’

This definition is taken from the first paragraph of the Government’s response to Mr. Darren Towill’s petition. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/164983>

CAFCASS in England have already recognised Parental Alienation as an abuse of children. CAFCASS CEO Anthony Douglas stated in an article in the Telegraph online

dated 12th Feb 2017 about Parental Alienation that "It's undoubtedly a form of neglect or child abuse in terms of the impact it can have".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/02/12/divorced-parents-pit-children-against-former-partners-guilty/>

Assembly Constituency and Region.

- West Cardiff
- South Wales Central



Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

18 April 2019

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders AM

Petition P-05-751 Recognition of Parental Alienation

Thank you for the letter dated 10 December 2018 from the then Chair of the Petitions Committee.

Cafcass Cymru practitioners have been engaging with a range of learning opportunities about the issue of alienation, alongside the development of our practice guidance. These opportunities have included webinars, podcasts, team workshops and a sector-wide event co-facilitated with Cardiff University.

The practice guidance is now in the final stages of completion, and will be launched at a national event for Cafcass Cymru practitioners in June 2019. At this event, a range of eminent key note speakers will present on the topic of alienation, very much focussing on the impact of such behaviour on children and informing evidenced-based best practice. There will be ongoing learning opportunities beyond the launch of the guidance.

We will be more than happy to forward to you a copy of the practice guidance when it is published.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Brown
Chief Executive, Cafcass Cymru



BOTH PARENTS MATTER

FNF BOTH PARENTS MATTER CYMRU

61 COWBRIDGE RD EAST

CARDIFF

CF11 9AE

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

14th May 2019

Petition P-05-751 Recognition of Parental Alienation

Dear Janet

May I take this opportunity of thanking your Committee for the commitment and persistence you have shown in holding Welsh Government / Cafcass Cymru to account in respect of Parental Alienation. I am in no doubt that without the Committee's involvement we would not have reached the current position.

It is important to reflect on the distance travelled since we first raised this matter with your Committee. We launched our petition against a backdrop of the concept having been dismissed as a serious child protection matter on two occasions by Welsh Government – firstly after consideration at the Family Justice Network in 2014 (following a presentation from our charity) and secondly in correspondence from Albert Heaney, Director of Social Services and Wellbeing following a further meeting of the Family Justice Network in March 2017. In that latter response Mr.Heaney acknowledged that:

'The Network recognises some parents can behave in a way that alienates the other parent from their child's life and acknowledges the significant impact this type of behaviour can have on the emotional well being of the child.'

Later in Mr.Heaney's response of 13th April he stated that:

'CAFCASS Cymru practitioners, as professionally qualified social workers, are trained to understand and recognise the potential for implacable hostility by a party in divorce or separation cases and its potential impact on the child.'

This last paragraph strikes at the heart of the issue that your Committee has highlighted. Nigel Brown's latest submission indicates that, at last, this training will soon be available to Cafcass Cymru FCAs (though not Children's Services social workers) in a way that will help them to assess and make recommendations to Courts in Wales on this important child protection issue.

Our charity has welcomed the opportunity to be involved in the development of training for Cafcass Cymru on domestic violence and abuse – specifically in relation to male victims. Regrettably we have not so far even seen any of the proposed training materials mentioned in the most recent response from Cafcass Cymru and our attendance at the 'sector wide event co-facilitated with Cardiff University' was cancelled by the University.

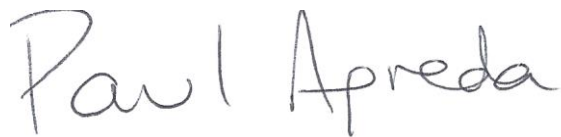
We are most fortunate in Wales to have one of the leading experts in the field of Parental Alienation researching and engaging in front line practice. Dr Sue Whitcombe has already given oral evidence to the Committee in January 2018 in which she emphasized the central importance of recognising and understanding the concept as a child protection issue and not as any form of 'syndrome'. Training materials produced by Cafcass in England (see here <https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/grown-ups/parents-and-carers/divorce-and-separation/parental-alienation/>) include direct contribution and referencing to the work of Dr. Whitcombe. We can only assume that her expertise has significantly informed the development of the Cafcass Cymru guidance – for it would be a terrible omission if a Wales based expert were not to be at the centre of guidance produced for practitioners here.

We urge the Committee to look at the Cafcass (England) guidance, training materials and operating framework referenced above. Assembly Members will note that in the English materials there is clear use of the term Parental Alienation – a consistent contrast with the Welsh Government's use of terms such as 'Alienating Behaviours', 'implacable hostility' or 'Alienation'. A clear statement from Welsh Government using the term 'Parental Alienation' would go a long way towards reassuring parents and family members who remain sceptical about Cafcass Cymru's real commitment to tackle this child protection issue.

Finally on a very positive note we want to acknowledge the attendance of the CEO and Deputy CEO of Cafcass Cymru together with a number of frontline FCAs at our interactive drama about Parental Alienation that was staged in the main foyer of the Senedd on Thursday 25th April this year to mark International Parental Alienation Awareness Day. We were delighted to hear from Nigel Brown that he found the performance powerfully represented the complexity of emotions and circumstances that can drive adult behaviours and the impact these behaviours can have upon their children. We have subsequently, at his request, put him in contact with the drama production company who produced and performed the piece. We hope that this may result in the company assisting in developing and delivering training on this and other issues for Cafcass Cymru staff.

We urge the Committee to request a copy of all of the training materials and associated information around Parental Alienation from Cafcass Cymru and to consider the appropriateness of these against similar materials from England and the wider international experience.

Regards

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

PAUL APREDA

National Manager

Agenda Item 3.10

P-05-812 We call for the Welsh Government to encourage trusts to implement the NICE guidelines for Borderline Personality Disorder or justify why they do not do so

This petition was submitted by Keir Harding and was first considered by the Committee in May 2018, having collected 812 signatures.

Text of Petition

No Longer A Diagnosis of Exclusion, a document that highlighted the mistreatment of those diagnosed with personality disorder was published in 2003.

The NICE guidelines for Borderline Personality Disorder were published in 2009. 9 years on less than half of Welsh trusts provide services that comply with the guidelines. This compares to 84% of trusts in England.

People with this diagnosis have frequently come from backgrounds of maltreatment, neglect and abuse.

1 in 10 people with this diagnosis will die by suicide.

The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide found that of the 1 in 10 people who ended their lives over the period of their study, none were receiving NICE recommended care.

Experts in the field warn that trusts without specialist services will be over reliant on out of area private treatment. This view was supported by representatives of trusts without specialist services at the Personality Disorder Cymru conference in Cardiff in 2016.

We must do more to support the survivors of abuse who have been let down enough already.

We must do more to protect the Welsh tax payer by providing effective community services rather than expensive out of area placements.

We call for the Welsh Government to direct trusts to implement the NICE guidelines for Borderline Personality Disorder or justify why they do not do so.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Wrexham

- North Wales

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref VG/05932/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

11 April 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 20 March on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-05-812 to encourage trusts to implement (NICE) guidelines for Borderline Personality Disorder and asking for an update on psychological therapy services and funding since June last year.

We are continuing to implement our commitment to improve access to psychological therapies and provided an additional £5.5million a year of recurrent funding from 2018-19 to support this. The National Psychological Therapies Management Committee has produced an implementation plan to assist Health Boards to assess their current position and to make improvements locally.

£4million of the £5.5million funding has been directly allocated to Health Boards to enable them to implement their action plans. We are currently developing our Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan for 2019-2022 which we will consult on in the Spring. Continuing to improve access to psychological therapies will be a priority area in the plan and will be supported with further investment planned as part of the 2019-20 budgets.

Thank you again for writing to me on this matter. I hope you have found my reply helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

P-05-812 Implement the NICE guidelines for Borderline Personality Disorder, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 14.05.19

I'd like to thank the chair for writing to the first minister about provision for psychological therapy in Wales. Can I ask the committee to recognise that in the past when trusts have had to prioritise how money is spent, they have traditionally opted not to invest in client groups that are less popular, opting to either exclude them from services or send them miles from home at an extortionate cost to the Welsh tax payer. While I welcome extra investment into psychological therapies in Wales can I urge the committee to ensure that ignoring the NICE guidelines for people diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder is not an option for trusts.

Many Thanks,

Keir

Agenda Item 3.11

P-05-817 Specialist prosthetics for child amputees

This petition was submitted by Rebecca Roberts having collected 116 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that funding is in place to enable each child amputee in Wales to have access to a specialist sports prosthetic.

We welcome the news that Westminster have made a further £1.5 million available to develop specialist prosthetics for young amputees in England. We ask that the same level of support be made available to children and young people living in Wales, so that any child or young person who would benefit from having a specialist sports prosthetic is able to have one made by the NHS.

Additional information

Petitioner's story

My daughter was born with a rare condition called Fibular Hemimelia, meaning a total absence of fibular bones. She has the rarer version of it, which affects both legs. A few days after her first birthday she underwent a double amputation at Alder Hey hospital. A few months later she attended the Limb Centre at Wrexham Maelor to fit her first pair of prosthetic legs.

We have never had anything other than excellent and skilled service from the staff at the Centre; but her prosthetic legs are by necessity, heavy and rigid. She can walk, but slowly. She can climb, but with difficulty. She has never known what it is to run as fast as she can, to be able to ride a bike, or to keep up with her cousins as they race around the park. She has overcome so many challenges in her short life, but she faces many more.

As a parent my wish is that she can be the best version of herself; that she can play without struggling to keep pace with her peers and that she can participate fully in all aspects of life.

Soon she will be old enough for specialist prosthetics. If they were available

to her on the NHS it would make a world of difference to her as she goes about her daily life.

I know other child amputees in Wales are facing similar struggles, and I believe that our children are as deserving of the specialist support as English children. Westminster has just released an additional £1.5 million funding to help English amputees. The number of child amputees in Wales is much smaller than in England, but their needs are the same. We're not asking for millions, just for equality.

My daughter will spend her entire life wearing prosthetic legs. Specialist support could make a huge difference to her as she grows up. Please don't deny her and other Welsh amputees the support offered to English children.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Vale of Clwyd
- North Wales

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref VG/05047/18

David Rowlands AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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23 January 2019

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 19 December regarding Petition P-05-817 seeking specialist prosthetics for child amputees and sharing correspondence from the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC). I note you are also writing to WHSSC to seek further information about its review of the prosthetic and amputee rehabilitation services specification.

A wide range of prosthetic equipment is provided by the NHS in Wales, but specialist sports prosthetics for children are not currently funded. If a person's clinical team believes there are exceptional reasons for providing other equipment an Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) can be made.

The Welsh Government recognises that giving young people access to specialist sports prosthetics would enable them to participate in sport and other activities. We realise there is more work to do to make this a reality in Wales and will be discussing this further with WHSSC.

In response to your question regarding the use of 3D printing, this is not currently used by NHS Wales services for the production of prostheses. There is currently insufficient evidence about the use of 3D printing. It is something we may consider in the future as research in this area develops in terms of both clinical and cost effectiveness.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

P-05-817 Specialist prosthetics for child amputees, Correspondence – Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee to Committee, 15.05.19

Our commissioning position on sports blades for paediatrics remains unchanged and they are not currently commissioned by Welsh Health Specialised Services (WHSSC).

However, we have recently been asked by the Chief Therapies Advisor in Welsh Government to prepare a business case to identify the funds required for to provide paediatric sports blades within Wales. I have met with the three services who have identified the staffing requirements, component costs and predicted patient numbers. Some modelling work and a procurement exercise is required to understand the cost of the blades over a patient's lifetime as we would not envisage that a patient's access to blades would cease once they become adults, particularly if they have been utilising them throughout their childhood. We would also write a service specification or policy which sets out the standards for commissioning the service.

I have relayed this information back to the chief Therapies Advisor who has asked us to proceed with this work so that a full business case can be considered.

I hope you agree that this is a positive update although further work is required until any service is in place.

P-05-817 Specialist prosthetics for child amputees, Correspondence - Petitioner to Chair, 13.05.19

Thank you for forwarding Mr Gething's letter (VG/0504718, 23/01/19) and the update from the WHSSC, both of which I read with great interest.

I was glad to see the Minister's recognition of the benefits that specialist sports prosthetics can bring to young amputees. I am hopeful that the Chief Therapies Advisor's request that the WHSSC develop a business plan will eventually lead to the provision of specialist prosthetics for children.

I was especially glad to note that considerations are being made for once the child reaches adulthood, as it recognises that an active, sporty child is unlikely to cease participation in sports once he/she reaches maturity. As parents we recognise that age, infirmity, illness and weight gain will have a greater negative impact on our daughter than they would on a non-amputee, and understand that it is vitally important for us to instil healthy, active habits at a young age.

Over the past few months we have been fortunate to be under the care of the excellent staff at the Limb Centre in Wrexham, to have received the support of Disability Sports Wales officers, and to have met other amputees, including the inspirational Shaun Stocker – and they have been unanimous in their advice that sports and exercise are essential. The long-term benefits to her health, mobility, confidence and self-esteem have been extolled many times, and now we are trying our best to help her find a hobby which is both accessible and enjoyable. Sports prosthetics would greatly aid her in this regard.

To end, I would like to reiterate a please made in my initial petition. Specialist prosthetics are often known as 'sports prosthetics' and maybe that is their primary use for adults. But having spoken to several parents whose children have been fortunate to get a blade or a non-standard leg, I gather that they are just as essential for play! Specialist prosthetics are not just worn on the race track – they are worn in the playground, the school yard, the garden and the home. Advanced and specialist prosthetics can often remove many of the physical limitations posed by amputation. Their impact in establishing active habits can be life-long, and the benefit of physical activity to a person's mental health and self esteem is well-documented. Children have one childhood, and it should be as care free, stimulating and exciting a time as possible. For my daughter's sake, and for other child amputees in Wales, I sincerely hope that specialist prosthetics are made available to children on the NHS.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Roberts

PS - As to 3D printing – I know it has had a hugely positive impact on the lives of people who have lost upper limbs, but have never met any lower limb amputees who have used it, nor has it ever been mentioned as a possible option by our Limb Team. That being said, if 'guinea pigs' were required to pilot the use of 3D printed legs, I'm sure we'd be happy to volunteer!

Agenda Item 3.12

P-05-849 All men in Wales should have access through the NHS to the best possible diagnostic tests for prostate cancer

This petition was submitted by Stuart Davies, having collected 5,916 signatures online and 429 on paper, a total of 6,345 signatures.

Text of Petition

We, the undersigned call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to act now and make high-quality, multi-parametric MRI (mpMRI) before biopsy scans available to all eligible men across Wales who have a suspicion of prostate cancer.

Why is this petition needed?

Prostate cancer can be difficult to diagnose. For years, men have had biopsies that are invasive and painful. Sometimes they can lead to serious infections – we only want men to have a biopsy if it is needed.

If a biopsy is carried out before an mpMRI this involves using a series of needles that randomly sample tissue from the prostate, to see whether there are any cancerous cells. The problem with these techniques is there are gaps between the needles, so sometimes significant cancers can be missed if that section of tissue isn't sampled. A biopsy can lead to false positives, where clinically insignificant cancer is diagnosed, this can lead to unnecessary overtreatment.

mpMRI scans can be used with other tests to improve the number of aggressive prostate cancers being caught earlier. If the mpMRI is carried out to a sufficient standard it's also been proven to safely reduce the number of men who may have biopsies unnecessarily, by ruling them out of having prostate cancer at an earlier stage.

What is mpMRI?

mpMRI means multi-parametric MRI. This combines up to three different types of scan for a clearer picture of what's going on in the prostate. Also, an injection of a dye means that scan images can be enhanced making it clearer to see if cancer is present or not. This is different to a standard MRI scan which creates an image of an internal organ, these are rarely clear enough to confidently diagnose early prostate cancer.

What is happening in Wales?

There are 7 Health Boards in Wales, mpMRI before biopsy is being provided in 3 Health Boards. Only one board is doing it to a standard high enough to safely rule men out of biopsy. This means men in 4 Health Boards do not have access to mpMRI as a diagnostic test, unless they pay more than £900 to have it done privately.

Find more information about mpMRI and biopsies here:

<https://prostatecanceruk.org/prostate-information/prostate-tests/introduction-to-prostate-tests>

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Clwyd South
- North Wales

Status

This petition is currently under consideration by the [Petitions Committee](#).

Further information

- [Learn more about the Assembly's petitions process](#)
- [Sign an e-petition](#)
- [How the petitions system works](#)

P-05-849: All men in Wales should have access through the NHS to the best possible diagnostic tests for prostate cancer, Correspondence - Petitioner to Committee, 17.04.19

I am seriously perturbed by what is going on, this is an email off one of the guys that has been corresponding with me. The undated letter, allegedly from the CEO of the Betsi contains information that to be charitable is disingenuous in relation to what the NICE committee is doing.

He has given permission for me to share. He is copied in.

The bottom line, we asked the Chair MP and the director of Nursing GH to fund these scans in the interim period. The least they can do considering the guidelines proposed by NICE!

Its going to happen! Can the committee pressurise the Cab Sec to fund/direct that these interim patients get their free scan and also can they get cast iron assurances that the implementation of the guidelines is being done in a timely manner? Last October the Cab Sec issued a press release that £12 million was being given to provide scanners and infrastructure in Glan Clwyd, Aberystwyth and Swansea, can the committee get them to confirm this is true and if those moneys are over and above the settlement or just a sneaky politicians double dipping ploy?

The Cab Sec needs reminding that it is his administration that placed the Betsi in special measures, the buck stops with him!

Stu Davies



Provision of MP-MRI scans for prostate cancer in North Wales

The term MP-MRI can be segmented into three distinct parts. The MP-MRI which is referenced within the 2014 NICE guidance, requires the first two elements to be routinely offered on the NHS. This is where the use of some scans that fall within the definition of an MP-MRI (but not a full diagnostic MP-MRI) are used for the further investigation of patients whose initial transrectal prostate biopsy is negative but where other test results (elevated or rising PSA blood test or Digital Rectal Examination findings) mean that the clinical suspicion of prostate cancer persists. The 2014 NICE guidance referenced MP-MRI is distinctly different from that of the current MP-MRIs that are offered by private providers; the private MP-MRIs offer the full three parts of the diagnostic MP-MRI.

The 2 part MP-MRI is available to all patients concerned as per NICE guidance (post biopsy indication) within the Health Board however, as part of allowing patient choice within a treatment pathway, discussions surrounding the full 3 part MP-MRI which is offered privately may also be discussed with the patient. This is to ensure that patients are fully informed of all options available to them at each stage of their pathway (this is a key part of the informed consent process). Discussions between the patient and clinician should occur in line with Prudent principles, where the outcome of which may be that the patient elects to undertake an investigation which has some published evidence, but as yet has not been through a more rigorous cost / benefit assessment and as such is not routinely available within the NHS.

Although current clinical evidence suggests that the use of the full diagnostic MP-MRI may be beneficial to patients in the pathway of prognosis and staging of cancer, this has not yet been supported by NICE.

As part of the work to establish the evidence for MP-MRI, between April 2014 and October 2015 Wrexham Maelor Hospital took part in the PROMIS Trial. This was a Medical Research Council multi-centre trial, investigating whether MP-MRI improves the ability to detect or to rule-out clinically significant prostate cancer in a group of men that had been advised to have prostate biopsy. Wrexham was the only hospital in Wales to take part in this study, and during the time that the trial was running patients who met the strict criteria for the research project did undergo a full MP-MRI, paid for through research funding.

During this time, two other health boards in South Wales piloted schemes to gather further evidence on the use of partial and full MP-MRI. The evidence from these, and other, studies is being assessed by NICE and we expect that they will be updating their guidance later this year.

Once the expected update is received, if the use of full diagnostic MP MRI's (before initial biopsy) are endorsed in appropriate patients, the Health Board will be developing the necessary business cases to evaluate the significant impact on staffing, radiological equipment, and development of staff members in order to provide the recommended MP-MRI for the patients of North Wales. In preparation the Health Board is currently drafting a preliminary business case examining the impact of the introduction of MP-MRI.

Agenda Item 3.13

P-05-866 Sepsis Public Awareness Campaign – Wales

This petition was submitted by Siobhan Corria on behalf of Michelle Christopher, having collected 238 signatures on paper.

Text of Petition

44,000 people in the UK lose their lives to sepsis every year. Every 3.5 seconds, someone in the world dies from sepsis.

We are calling on the Welsh Government to undertake a Sepsis Public Awareness Campaign to reduce unnecessary deaths and improve outcomes for survivors and all affected.

In memory of Chloe Christopher and everyone who has been affected by Sepsis in Wales

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff North
- South Wales Central



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/06109/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Assembly Member for Aberconwy
Chair - Petitions Committee
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18 April 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 3 April regarding Petition P-05-866 about the Sepsis Public Awareness Campaign in Wales.

Wales is seen as leading the way in the UK in making sepsis recognition and treatment a top priority within the NHS. A huge amount of work has been done since 2012 when Wales was the first country in the world to implement the National Early Warning Score system - known as NEWS – to ensure early escalation of deteriorating patients. In May 2016, NHS Wales gained recognition for its contribution to sepsis awareness by winning the Global Sepsis Award in the “Governments and Healthcare Authorities” category.

Building on this recognised success, in March this year **#NEWSInYourCommunity** was launched. NEWS is already being widely used in the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) and in many community and primary care settings. The RRAILS team within 1000 Lives Improvement is supporting district nursing and community nursing teams, care homes staff and GPs across Wales to assess their patients (using NEWS) for signs of sickness and acute deterioration, including Sepsis. At the launch event, involving over 100 community leads, NEWS is being communicated as a single language for assessing sickness across primary, secondary and community care, empowering and giving confidence to junior staff to raise concerns and escalate treatment at an early stage.

We have supported World Sepsis Day since its inauguration in 2013 and in 2017 I attended the all-Wales event being sponsored by the 1000 Lives Improvement team where work on sepsis was discussed. We also have a positive relationship with the UK Sepsis Trust (UKST), which is delivering the Just Ask: Could it be sepsis? campaign with Public Health England.

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

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

National awareness campaigns are complex and evidence of effectiveness is difficult to demonstrate. I recognise the importance of raising public awareness of the dangers of sepsis but it is also important to strike the right balance with messages about the appropriate use of antibiotics and the risk of creating public anxiety.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

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



Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru

Rhif 2 Capital Quarter, Stryd
Tyndall, Caerdydd CF10 4BZ

Public Health Wales

Number 2 Capital Quarter, Tyndall
Street, Cardiff CF10 4BZ

Our Ref: TC.CS.020519.JFS.Sepsis

2 May 2019

Janet Finch-Saunders – AM/AC
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

Dear Janet,

P-05-866 Sepsis Public Awareness Campaign – Wales

Thank you for your letter of 3 April 2019 seeking details of Public Health Wales ongoing work in relation to Sepsis, including the development of a sepsis registry in Wales and the potential for increasing awareness of sepsis amongst health professionals and the public.

Please find attached a briefing that provides the information you have requested. If you have any further queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracey Cooper'.

Dr Tracey Cooper
Chief Executive, Public Health Wales

Purpose of the briefing

This briefing provides a response to the questions raised in the letter to Tracey Cooper from the Chair of the Petitions Committee. Specifically to provide information on:

- details of your ongoing work in relation to sepsis, including the development of a sepsis registry in Wales; and
- the potential for increasing awareness of sepsis amongst health professionals and the public.

Background

Sepsis mortality and harm - Sepsis is estimated by the UK Sepsis Trust to cause the deaths of around 44,000 people in the UK annually. This equates to approximately 2,200 people in Wales each year, which represents approximately 13% of all hospital deaths. Not all death is avoidable but there is still likely to be a sizeable proportion that is. Sepsis also carries a terrible cost, not only in terms of mortality but also in the after effects that survivors may have to carry with them for the rest of their lives.

The main vehicle for the continued improvement of recognition and treatment of sepsis in Wales is through participation of all Health Boards and Trusts in the 1000 Lives Improvement service Acute Deterioration Programme led Rapid Response to Acute Illness Learning Set (RRAILS).

RRAILS was launched in 2011 with the aim of reducing avoidable harm and death from causes of acute deterioration (sepsis and acute kidney injury) in the Welsh population. The programme supports acute hospitals, primary and community care settings across every health board area in Wales; offering healthcare staff standardised quality improvement tools and resources to help identify and treat their patients. The current focus is mainly on:

- Improving patient outcomes and reducing variation in practice across secondary care by conducting peer reviews to identify and share areas of good practice and areas for improvement.
- Standardising the care of acutely deteriorating patients across the whole pathway of care by introducing the National Early Warning Score (NEWS) into community settings.
- Supporting development of a systematic method of review, communication of deterioration and rapid treatment in paediatric settings.
- Supporting developmental work with post-hospital Sepsis support groups.
- Developing and maintaining a Sepsis Registry

The approach has proved successful as detailed in the recent publication ICU Management & Practice (2017: Vol 17, Issue 4: p246-249)

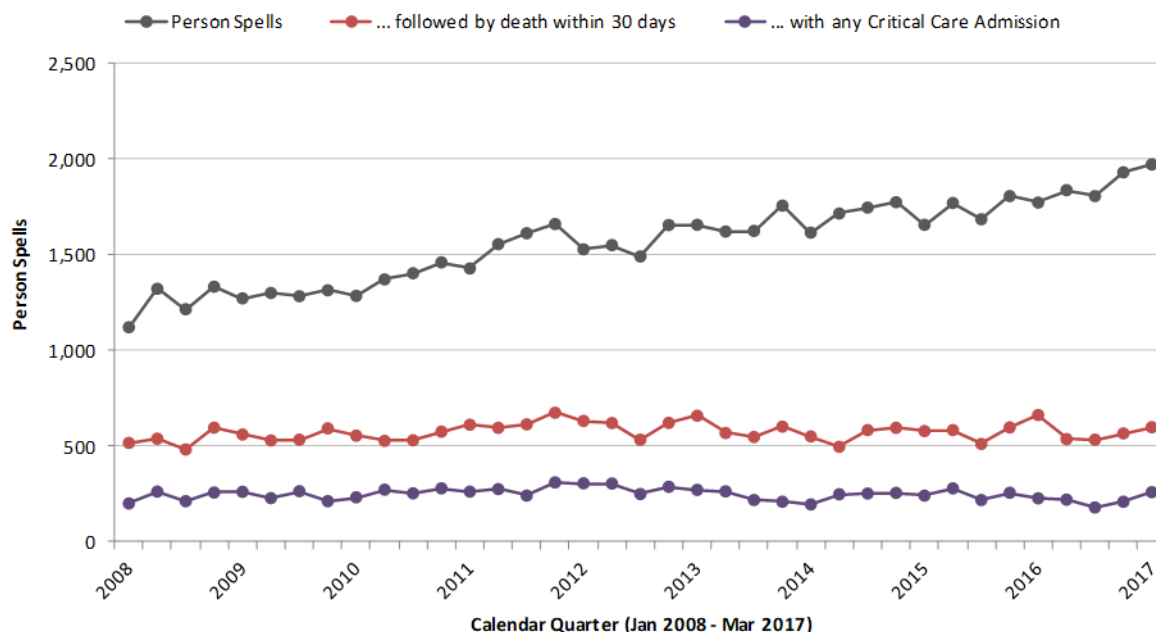
Achievements to date

- **NEWS** – The National Early Warning Score (NEWS) has been introduced in all acute clinical areas, in the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) and in many community and primary care settings. NHS Wales was the first large healthcare economy in the UK and Ireland to implement NEWS as standard in 2013. This has had the effect of

changing the national culture around acute deterioration and has hugely raised the awareness of sepsis amongst health care professionals.

- **Sepsis screening and treatment** – A standardised approach to sepsis screening and treatment with the sepsis 6 care bundle has been integrated with the implementation of NEWS and so the escalation process for sepsis in Welsh hospitals has been embedded in the everyday clinical protocols and procedures for many years.
- **Improved National Outcomes** - In October 2015, the then Deputy Health Minister announced a significant reduction in mortality associated with two sepsis codes that had appeared to coincide with the changes made in healthcare systems occurring because of the 1000 Lives Rapid Response for Acute Illness Learning Set (RRAILS) programme. Whilst causation is impossible to attribute it does seem probable that these outcome improvements are associated with this initiative (see chart below)

Person spells with any mention of A40-A41 by Calendar Quarter



- **Sepsis metrics reporting to WG** - NHS Wales, facilitated by the RRAILS programme, has developed and spread a sepsis screening and escalation tool and has worked to improve systems for delivery of the Sepsis 6 care bundle within a 1-hour window. All Health Boards now report metrics on sepsis screening and treatment to WG on a monthly basis and this data is evaluated as measurement for improvement as part of the RRAILS Steering Group meetings.
- **Significant improvements in recognition and treatment of sepsis at the hospital ‘front door’** – Following a 1000 Lives Improvement study tour to Dartmouth Hitchcock medical facility in the US, a joint RRAILS/ ABUHB team developed and established the practice of DRIPS (Data, review, improve, plot the dots, share)

meetings in two emergency departments and one hospital in 2015. This method has since been spread as part of the Acute Deterioration programme and peer review process to the receiving units in eight hospitals. In every one of these hospitals the number of cases of sepsis identified in emergency departments and medical assessment units has significantly increased and the compliance with delivering sepsis treatment within one hour has increased to between 70-100% on a regular basis. This is a remarkable achievement which may well be an international first in non-electronic health care systems.

- **Standardised tools** - Work with the Health Foundation and Helen Hamlyn Institute on development of simple tools to make it easy and attractive for clinicians to comply with best practice. These include such developments as the Wee Wheel, NEWS Card and Kidney Safe Bracelet. Demand for these has been high in Wales but also in England and worldwide. For example, over 20,000 NEWS cards, which explicitly suggest that sepsis be considered for patients with a high NEWS, are in use across Wales. Typically worn on the HCP's name badge and evidence from the peer reviews indicates that they are a practical and well used clinical tool.
- **Sepsis Box/trolley** – Following the sepsis box study coordinated by the RRAILS group with CTUHB, the concept of giving clinicians 'permission to act' by using a dedicated box or trolley has been adopted by most Welsh hospitals.
- **RRAILS Online** – RRAILS online is a modular e-learning tool developed and funded by the RRAILS group that sits upon the electronic staff record (ESR) and 'Learning@Wales' platforms and serves to ensure that all NHS Wales staff can access a standard level of training
- **NEWS Wales App** - The NEWS Wales App, which enables users to calculate NEWS and suggests the likelihood of sepsis, has been re-developed by the RRAILS group and re-released because of popular demand, particularly from paramedics who find it an invaluable tool. It is intended that the app will play a central role in the roll out of NEWS and sepsis screening to community settings this year.
- **Sepsis Guidance** – NHS Wales's ability to standardise best practice at scale has been demonstrated by the publication by Richard Jones, Clinical Lead and Chris Hancock, Programme Lead for the 1000 Lives Acute Deterioration programme, of the guidance letter on the 'recognition and management of the adult with sepsis', as well as guidance on maternal sepsis, identification of sepsis by the Welsh Ambulance Service and with Dr Clare Dieppe, a position statement on acute deterioration in Children.
- **National and international recognition** - The RRAILS group has also published guidance on the NHS Wales response to the publication of the RCP paper on NEWS 2, the standard self-assessment for the RRAILS peer review and is in the process of publishing the all Wales guidelines for Acute Kidney Injury. Chris Hancock frequently promotes the work of NHS Wales and ensures that the improvements in sepsis care are recognised via membership of the UK National Outreach Forum (NOF) Executive Board and the International Society of Rapid Response Systems (ISRRS) third consensus statement working group.

Ongoing work and new programmes

Peer reviews

- This process was requested by Welsh Government as a response to the publication of the PSMO report on 'out of hours' services and is expected to be complete before the December 2019. All Acute hospitals have been visited so far and reports delivered to five out of the seven local Health boards.
- To give examples of the impact of the Peer review reports, this has resulted in:
 - Implementation of a BCUHB sepsis collaborative programme with the intention of using 'DRIPS' meetings to improve the recognition and treatment of sepsis in emergency departments.
 - ABMU – development of an acute deterioration dashboard and submission of data on sepsis metrics to WG in line with other organisations. Implementation of DRIPS meetings in the MAU at Singleton hospital resulting in a significant increase in the number of patients with sepsis identified and consistent compliance with delivery of the sepsis 6 bundle of 80-100%.

ABUHB, Velindre NHS Trust and Cardiff & Vale UHB have more recently completed their Peer reviews, therefore it is too early to see new initiatives within their respective areas.

Community NEWS and Sepsis Screening

- On March 21st 1000 Lives launched a programme to spread NEWS and sepsis screening in community following the successful work of piloting amongst GPs, Community Nurses and the Wales Ambulance Service. Some of the tools used in secondary care have been adapted for use in community settings and care homes. All health boards and trusts have been involved in the development of the programme that aims to implement NEWS in all 160 Welsh district nursing teams by September 2020. It is expected that, in addition to providing and extending the use of NEWS as a common language of risk in Welsh Healthcare, this initiative will result in a similar positive effect upon patient outcomes for sepsis as that experienced in Welsh hospitals with the introduction of NEWS in secondary care.
- There has been considerable analysis performed with the aid of the NEWS group into the suitability of NEWS for community usage. This analysis indicates that NEWS works well at identifying sick people but more importantly as a standardised communication tool.
- The programme is supported by the creation of a common NEWS dataset, spreadsheet, equipment standards, a smartphone app and online training resources.
- A first draft of an All Wales, out of acute hospital observation chart, which is compliant with the Royal College of Physicians recommendations and principles of NEWS 2 has been launched. Following testing during the roll out of NEWS, it is anticipated that this chart will become standard in all non-acute hospital settings in early 2019, meaning that increasing numbers of people will be identified as sick and given appropriate treatment without need for admission to hospital.

Paediatric Acute Deterioration Programme

- Clare Dieppe, a specialist ED Paediatric Consultant in ABMUHB has been appointed as Chair of the RRAILS Paediatric sub group and to lead on the paediatric acute deterioration programme in NHS Wales. 1000 Lives Improvement have published a statement outlining the expected scope and direction of paediatric acute deterioration work. With the ongoing work around the Paediatric Early Warning Score Utilization & Mortality Avoidance (PUMA) study yet to conclude, clinicians within the specialty are reluctant to develop a 'score'. They are more comfortable with an approach that improves and standardises the review and communication process.
- In 2019 the Acute Deterioration programme is supporting the roll out of the Paediatric Observation Priority Score (POPS) within WAST and all NHS Wales Emergency Departments.

Sepsis registry

To understand long-term outcomes for patients with sepsis and identify those who may need support following sepsis, a sepsis registry has been established in collaboration with the Cardiff and Vale UHB, UK Sepsis Trust, 1000 Lives Improvement Service, the Healthcare Associated Infection, Antimicrobial Resistance & Prescribing Programme (HARP) and the Critical Care Network. This is the first sepsis registry in the UK and will launch later this year.

The registry will be hosted by Public Health Wales as a part of its critical care surveillance programme. This is complemented by the establishment of an agreed standard dataset for use by the teams as part of the expansion of Critical Care Outreach. This is ready for activation once the governance issues covering the information held in PHW are resolved.

The plan is to collect data on all acutely unwell patients, particularly those exhibiting an acute deterioration. While not all such patients will have sepsis, a significant proportion of them will. To date, no common dataset exists (e.g. from outreach teams, acute deterioration teams, etc.) on which to begin the development of an all-encompassing Acute Deterioration Registry. We have therefore taken the pragmatic step of beginning a project with a dataset that is common to all acute hospitals with a Critical Care Unit (CCU) in Wales. Currently, all CCUs submit data to the Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre (ICNARC) using a case management system (WardWatcher) and provide HARP with surveillance data. The Sepsis Registry will utilise Ward Watcher for the required data extraction, identifying patients admitted to critical care units with sepsis and the care received (e.g. organ support delivered, lengths of stay). This will give a clear picture of what sepsis care looks like for each critical care unit, hospital and Health Board and provide outcome data for the project.

The new data extraction required from Ward Watcher should be complete by June. The data will be analysed prospectively and retrospectively. There is also a future plan to look in more detail at a sample of the patients identified to map their journey to critical care. A recent letter, sent out to health board Caldicott Guardians for a new sharing agreement for collecting the data, is attached.

Post Sepsis Syndrome Group

The activation of the registry will enable the identification of individuals to be offered support by the Post Sepsis Syndrome Group

Measurement - Suspicion of Sepsis

The Acute Deterioration team of 1000 Lives have continued to look at routine national data in order to understand the impact we are having on mortality from sepsis and to help identify where to focus our efforts. Unfortunately, methods that we have used in the past have become unusable due to UK-wide changes in diagnostic coding and we are having to investigate new approaches to analysing this data. 'Suspicion of Sepsis' (SoS; Inada-Kim et al. 2016) is one such approach, looking at emergency admissions with an infection-related diagnosis. NHS England launched an 'SoS dashboard' in September based on this approach.

We have worked to replicate this new approach using Wales's data, and have been in contact with Inada-Kim to ensure consistency and enable collaboration. Having sought advice from the Public Health Wales Observatory, we are also looking at the demographics and comorbidities of these admissions to check that any positive findings aren't the result of a changing patient-mix.

When we have assured ourselves that we thoroughly understand the SoS data, we hope to share our findings more widely and use it to support local improvement work and to accurately represent what impact this improvement is having.

Public Awareness Campaign

Tracey Cooper addressed this question in her evidence given to the Health and Social Care Committee last July (transcript attached).

This is a difficult issue. It is questionable whether the public awareness campaigns that have been run in England and Scotland have produced any evidence for improvement. Also it is extremely difficult to maintain the delicate balance between 'spreading the message' to the public and possibly overloading GPs and Emergency Departments with inappropriate admissions of 'worried well'. Instead we have focussed on raising professional awareness as part of the campaign that we have been effectively running as part of RRAILS for 10 years.

The awareness campaign for professionals has focussed on ensuring:

- Training on the recognition, escalation and response to sepsis has been integrated since 2013 into Life Support courses that are delivered as part of mandatory training by the resuscitation training departments within each HB.
- The exact numbers of staff trained at any one time will be known by each HB
- There is a focus on doctors, nurses and support workers repeating this training on an annual or bi-annual basis.

To support this training 1000 Lives have developed a suite of e-learning modules that can be accessed through the ESR and Learning@Wales. Each module takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and there would certainly be scope to make some of the modules mandatory for some professional groups. It would also be relatively easy to use this platform for the hosting of more modules on, for example, sepsis in primary care settings.

It is important to remember that Sepsis, although a major cause of harm, is not the only cause and so the training that we have developed has been focused upon identifying the

deteriorating patient quickly and escalating to a professional to make an appropriate diagnosis swiftly. It is this focus which we believe has resulted in the favourable sepsis outcomes that we have seen in Wales

Closing statement

There has been excellent work done and commitment displayed by all HBs on implementing the peer review process, the sepsis registry, the pre hospital work stream and the post sepsis support group.

In addition there is some excellent progress on integrating education and training on sepsis and other causes of acute deterioration in the pre and post registration medical and nursing curricula.

All of this has served to ensure that Wales maintains its place as an international front-runner in the prevention of harm, death and misery due to sepsis but we wish to further improve on this.

The continuation and gathering pace of this work, particularly in the non-acute hospital setting, will be invaluable in addressing the A Healthier Wales priorities of acute illness, the frail elderly and end of life care as well as in ensuring the detection and prevention of acute deterioration closer to where people live.

Okay. I'm anxious to get two major issues in before we have to finish, and those are on public health campaigns. The first one is going to be sepsis, led by Angela, and then hepatitis C, led by Julie. So, Angela.127



Angela Burns AM 10:27:19

Video

Thank you very much indeed. I wanted to understand how you measure the success of a public health campaign and how you believe we are doing on the sepsis public health campaign.128

Dr Tracey Cooper 10:27:36

Video

If I take the second point first, I'm sure you may be familiar with the fact that we've been doing a huge amount of work around sepsis over the last number of years, particularly through the lens of how we prevent people deteriorating rapidly, and sepsis is part of that. So, we've been doing, if you like, a professional campaign for the last number of years, and I'll come back to the public in a second. Our 1000 Lives Improvement service interacts with the NHS, and we've been putting people through substantial training and it's now part of their mandatory training modules around early deterioration and sepsis specifically.129



Angela Burns AM 10:28:14

Video

Can you just define that for us, though? When you say that you've put 'substantial numbers of people', are we talking hospital staff or are we talking about general practice?130

Dr Tracey Cooper 10:28:25

Video

It's mainly hospital staff. General practice is a really important one, because we know that a considerable number of people who will progress to sepsis are coming in at quite a late stage

from the primary and community area. So, our focus has been, over the last couple of years, more around the secondary care hospital areas, but, in the last 12 months, we've increased our approach around primary and community care, providing more guidance and providing support around sepsis screening.¹³¹

Also, through our 1000 Lives team, shortly we'll be embarking on a programme for care homes, as well, because we know, particularly around urinary tract infections, skin infections and infected pressure ulcers—. So, how do we train people up more generally around quality improvement and sepsis being part of that? So, that's a really important area.¹³²

We've also been doing a lot around the alert. A lot of sepsis can be avoided, as you know, and some sepsis can't be avoided. So, what does an alert in a hospital environment look like? What we call the early warning score in any part of an environment in a hospital is what the signs and symptoms are of someone, at the early stages, starting to manifest sepsis and what they do about it. Because, sometimes, people watch and watch and watch, and we compensate and then we deteriorate very quickly. So, we know that, through that work, we've had a significant reduction in people requiring intensive care and people deteriorating. We're doing another round of outcome measurements around how many lives have been saved as a result of this programme, obviously, because that's going to be absolutely key.¹³³

With the improvements around reducing sepsis, though, we were actually recognised in Wales as one of the global professional campaigns of systematising an approach to sepsis through early warning in a way that other countries haven't. But obviously that needs to translate into reducing it. At the moment we have around about 2,200 deaths per year in Wales, and 13 per cent of those are in hospitals. So, again, going back to how we've systematised this, we've been doing a lot of education and training for people. I accept your point around primary and community care, which is a really important phase for us—the surveillance, detection and alert. So, now health boards are required to alert Welsh Government if there's a person that goes into sepsis, and then demonstrate how they've learned from that, which I think is really key—¹³⁴

10:30



Angela Burns AM 10:30:58

Video

Can I just ask you—? Because I'm conscious that the Chair will breathe down my neck in a minute. Can I just ask you a couple of questions on that bit of it, before we get to the public health element of it? Do you monitor how many people contract sepsis and survive, but survive poorly—i.e. they have multiple issues, they may have lost a number of limbs, they may have had mental health issues as a result, they may have had brain incapacity as a result? Because you're right; in pure terms, there is a small—and I emphasise the words 'very small'—reduction in the number of sepsis deaths. But what I cannot find out—and I'm the chair of the cross-party group on sepsis, and believe me, I've burrowed through data, but I cannot find out—is how many people are surviving, but you wouldn't necessarily say they had a great quality of life afterwards. Are you able to provide that kind of figure work? Do you measure that anywhere? Because of course that is whether or not we're being successful.135

Dr Tracey Cooper 10:32:01

[Video](#)

Absolutely. The short answer is that I'm not aware that we are—. We look at it, as you say, at that point of time, for that episode, that the patient didn't deteriorate, didn't die from sepsis. The extent to which we then do the follow ups—because it may not be just that they're in the hospital stage of subsequent complications; it could be further down the line. I'm not aware that we do, but I'm very happy to go and research it and get back to you.136



Angela Burns AM 10:32:30

[Video](#)

I'd be really interested in that. Also, when it comes to the analysis of the data, it would be very helpful to find out where people are being referred from, because we have a clear—. I think the RRAILS programme is actually very good, and I think it has made substantial changes to the way sepsis is managed within a hospital environment. However, again, what we're unable to really track well is how many people are admitted to hospital having not been handled appropriately in either a care home setting or in a GP setting. I've done quite a bit of research with GPs who—. It's very difficult. You don't know if this person's got flu, or it's going to go into sepsis, or they've got a urinary tract infection and it's going to develop. But again we could have a commonality, particularly in care homes, about who gets looked at in a care home or not looked at in a care home, particularly if it's not a medically based care home, and is left then too long and is

suddenly taken in as sepsis. So, I'd like to have a feel for that, and then I'd like to have just a brief word on whether or not you think a public health campaign to explain to people what they need to look at, the signs of sepsis, or just being sepsis aware, or asking, 'Could it be sepsis?'—whether or not you think that would be of benefit.137

Dr Tracey Cooper 10:33:51

[Video](#)

We know that 80 per cent of people who attend hospital and become septic originate from primary and community care. So, we have historically been targeted at the hospital, probably because it's actually easier to try and control people. As I was saying earlier, we recognise that, actually, primary and community care is key. My background is as an emergency medical physician, and I was a regulator in a different country, so the quality of care in care homes was fundamental to us, and I would suggest it's about building an understanding quite quickly around deterioration that could be from sepsis. It may be as a result of something else, but actually, it's the fact that sometimes people aren't detected as clinically deteriorating.138

The other challenge is about primary care, and the thresholds for calling a GP into a care home setting. So, part of the conversation we're having even around immunisation and vaccinations and flu, potentially, is whether there are opportunities to train other people up—registered nurses in care homes and others—around those early signs of deterioration. So, we are developing a quality improvement programme—not solely sepsis, but sepsis is part of that—around care homes, for that very reason, because we know it's like a rotating door. I'm very happy to give you more detail or meet with you if that would be helpful to give you some more information on that. 139

In relation to the public health campaign or public campaign around sepsis, it's a really interesting one. We have similar discussions around many campaigns, actually. You may be aware that in 2016 England launched a public sepsis campaign. Scotland did some work as well. What we don't know—we haven't been privy to it; it may be working through—is the evidence that, actually, that made a difference to reducing the incidences of sepsis and the outcome of care as a result of sepsis. We've had discussions on and off, I'd say for about a year or so, with Welsh Government officials about this very issue. We get asked quite a lot about doing public campaigns, understandably, on areas. What I would say is that there are campaigns around a lot areas that people invest a lot of public money in and, actually, that may not be the way of really getting to the people who can make a decision to control something, to prevent something. 140

10:35



Angela Burns AM 10:36:22

[Video](#)

I do totally understand that and, of course, I think one of the dangers with politicians is that we all have a little hobby horse. I'm prepared to admit that mine is sepsis, so I completely get that—you can't rush off and do campaigns around everything. However, sepsis does kill more people per year than the top three cancers. Now, you could ask almost anybody anywhere in Great Britain what cancer is, and they will tell you. You can go almost anywhere in Great Britain and say to people, 'Do you know what sepsis is?' and a huge number will not know what on earth you're talking about. Now, you cannot drive down a road in England—if you pass an ambulance it will have the sepsis warning signs. Every ambulance. I've travelled around and I've taken photos of the things to prove to Wales that there are small things that we could do. To be frank, it's—what do you call it—an orphan event; it's not one of the big ones. We all get cancer and we all understand what it means, but it's killing people. But worse than killing people—and I mean worse than killing people—is that it leaves people devastated afterwards. Very few people walk away from sepsis clean and clear. There are multiple amputations. There is always a side effect. I've yet to meet a sepsis survivor who's had it and has been A-okay afterwards. So, again, on the public health and the benefits in the long term, the pick-up that the state has to do is phenomenal, so I don't quite understand why we wouldn't want to start elevating this up the process, because of those very sort of lifestyle changes that will happen. 141

Dr Tracey Cooper 10:38:15

[Video](#)

Yes. I would say it's a priority for us. It's been a continued, very focused piece of work for 1000 Lives, and we've increased progress on that. I'd be delighted to meet and have a conversation about this, because it used to be one of my bugbears in a former world. Yes, it's about what are the messages to which audience. I think one of the challenges is that people may go to their GPs, and at that point it may not be picked up. So, it is about making sure that, actually, we don't just focus on one at the cost of another. It's what the best—we were talking a bit about behaviour change earlier—what's the best message for the public through what medium, what's the best message and guidance, support and direction to professionals through what medium. But I'd love to meet up and have a more detailed discussion about it. 142



Angela Burns AM 10:39:06

Video

Right. You're on. Just one last very small question—and again, other Members here may be more aware of this than I am. I'm chair of the group, but it was only at the last group that I heard of the early warning score. Now, that's supposed to be a public health initiative. So, essentially, we all have a card—I don't know if everybody else is aware of this—and basically it says what is your normal baseline: what is your normal temperature, what is your normal blood pressure, what's your normal— 143



Dai Lloyd AM 10:39:42

Video

Pulse rate.144



Angela Burns AM 10:39:43

Video

—pulse rate; you know, all of the things, so that if your score—. And it's on a card, so that if you then are unwell there's a baseline that a medical professional will be able to judge you from. I think that's a brilliant idea, and if everyone in Wales had one then you've got something to start measuring people on. But I'd never heard of it. How far out is that? Why isn't that kind of thing being more promoted in public health? Because that would be a good baseline for a gazillion illnesses.145

10:40

Dr Tracey Cooper 10:40:14

Video

Certainly, the national early warning score, we've embedded it in—again, it's more hospital based—for the last number of years. It is absolutely fundamental to start to understand if someone is going to clinically deteriorate in exactly the way that you've just said, particularly if it's a pregnant woman whose physiology is different. We've investigated a sepsis case of someone who sadly died in another country because the clinicians, the people looking after her, didn't understand that her body responds differently in the third trimester than it does when you're wandering around the streets. So, we have a national early warning score that is mainly—and the approach has been—in hospital. It's also about what an obstetric early warning score is and what a paediatric early warning score is. Actually, there's some good stuff that's happened, which again I'm happy to discuss with you. The challenge of having it out and about with you is that your body changes. So, my baseline today could be—. When I'm running, which I really need to do later today, my baseline would be different. The important thing is, while you have observations, if you go to your GP periodically or if you're in a hospital—the only way they can do that is baselining what's normal for you at that point in time and what are the red flags.146



Dai Lloyd AM 10:41:34

Video

Okay. I think we've done sepsis. Can we do hepatitis C now, Julie?147



Julie Morgan AM 10:41:37

Response to petitions committee – Sepsis Public Awareness Campaign Wales

14th May 2019

Having read the letters and responses that resulted from the first meeting of the petitions committee we feel no real reason to add a great deal more than what follows to our previous response. We feel the original points remain relevant, valid and, to a degree, unanswered. With that in mind, we would refer the committee back to reconsider them considering the answers offered.

However, in relation to this response of the Minister for Health and Social Services to the letter of Janet Finch- Saunders AM, we are very appreciative to have the opportunity to add the following:

The cabinet minister's response continues to focus on the great work that government has undertaken within healthcare via the 1000 lives programme and the intention to roll out NEWS. Nobody associated with this petition doubts this, in fact, we both recognise and applaud it. However, the petitioners are not asking for improvements and education within healthcare, they are asking for better education for the public and better support for sepsis survivors. As per the petition the call on the Welsh Assembly Government is:

“...to undertake a Sepsis Public Awareness Campaign to reduce unnecessary deaths and improve outcomes for survivors and all affected.

In memory of Chloe Christopher and everyone who has been affected by Sepsis in Wales”

We know that Public Health Wales is looking Post Sepsis Syndrome (PSS) along with the UK Sepsis Trust in Wales and, of course, we welcome this and will watch this space keenly.

However, for us as petitioners, this does not address the call for a public awareness campaign.

It seems the reasons against, though we recognise as being challenging, can be basically summarised as two-fold.

1. It is complex and important to strike the right balance with messages about the appropriate use of antibiotics and the risk of creating public anxiety.

Stating that a campaign is complex and requires the right balance is surely true of all healthcare campaigns at the outset? We see this more as a challenge to overcome and an opportunity to responsibly address the issues than a reason not to have a campaign at all.

Rolling out NEWS to primary care and care homes etc is extremely commendable but it is quite esoteric and the benefit of the common language of NEWS will only help members of the public once they have accessed healthcare. The issue is when members of the public do not access healthcare or do so extremely late when their NEWS score may well be telling them they are severely unwell, possibly critically. These are the situations we are trying to avoid, these are the situations which the rolling out of NEWS and improved education within healthcare do not address. There is a focus on the 'worried well' being an issue with a campaign but what about the 'unworried unwell'? These people do not know to access healthcare and wait to get better. These are the community tragedies. Surely the 'worried well' are a consideration of any previous campaign and, one would hope, there is the knowledge, expertise and benefit of experience from previous healthcare campaigns within WAG and PHW to be able to develop a strategy to counter and mitigate this.

2. There is no evidence to suggest campaigns lead to improvement to justify the public money required to fund the campaign.

The petitioners accept that measurement of the success of campaigns must be quite difficult but again we would suggest this is a challenge to overcome rather than a reason not to do. Again, we would hope that there was enough experience to take an approach which considers this and could be addressed in collaboration with expert stake holders.

Also, while Wales takes this stance against a sepsis campaign Scotland seems to disagree. Ironically, on the same day the Minister for Health and Social Services was writing to tell us that campaigns may not be the way forward, Scotland were

doing the exact opposite and launching a sepsis campaign fully supported by the Chief Medical Officer and Scottish Govt.

Chief Medical Officer Catherine Calderwood said:

“While deaths caused by sepsis have fallen by 21% since 2012, thanks in part to the work of the Scottish Patient Safety Programme, it is still vital that people are aware of this potentially fatal condition. The key in treating sepsis is catching it quickly so that is why it’s important to know the signs. If someone has two or more of the symptoms and they are getting rapidly worse, it is important to seek urgent medical advice.

“Following our first campaign from 2018, we know that more than three out of four people are aware of the dangers of sepsis, but we want to further increase public awareness to spot the signs and this campaign will help us do this. It will also help to focus on continuous improvement across Scotland ensuring there is safe and consistent care for all sepsis patients.”

Further detail can be found here:

<https://www.gov.scot/news/raising-awareness-of-sepsis/>

The video can be viewed here:

<https://www.facebook.com/200786289976224/posts/2239199719468194?s=557625890&v=e&sfns=cl>

This is clearly not a campaign that would have cost a lot of money and while it’s not perfect it does deliver a very simple message in very simple language. As mentioned earlier the public do not know about NEWS have no relationship with it and will not be using it as reference point to access healthcare. The process we need is for the sick / deteriorating patient to present to healthcare where the health professional then uses NEWS as a reference point for diagnosis and treatment or escalation if required. If the patient wasn’t severely unwell at this stage IE well enough to go home and self-monitor or be monitored by parent or guardian then

maybe this is the stage to introduce the basics of NEWS to the patient/public. This would be the 'safety net' as we know that some patients who ultimately end up in septic shock were not triggering on NEWS when they first accessed healthcare, for example, at the GP surgery. It's often the deterioration that is missed because people are not aware enough to act. They wait.

Could we not also look at other countries and learn from their successes and failures? Rather than viewing this as something we think might fail, should we not see this as an opportunity and have the confidence to back our celebrated and rewarded sepsis experts to get this right and deliver the kind of campaign that Wales, NHS Wales and Welsh Government can be proud of?

N.B. Just as a footnote to the last discussion, Leanne Wood AM who was very supportive did note that she was surprised by the small number of signatures supporting the petition. The reason for this was we had initially started an ipetition which we later discovered was no longer a format we could submit to Welsh Assembly Government. For this reason only, the paper signatures were submitted. We had over 800 signatures online before we had to close it.

<https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/sepsis-public-awareness-campaign-wales>

P-05-743 End the Exotic Pet Trade in Wales

This petition was submitted by David Sedley and was first considered in March 2017 having collected 222 signatures.

Text of the Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to take action against the trade in exotic animals captured and bred for the pet trade in Wales, and to forbid the licensing of all businesses involved in this destructive, cruel and unethical trade, with clear exemptions for rescue centres and licensed rescue centres. We further urge the Welsh Government to follow the example of the Scottish Government which committed to a review of the trade and importation of exotic animals for the pet trade in Scotland in February 2015, led by The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment. For Wales to be taken seriously in the global conservation community, we maintain that we cannot be seen to be allowing this trade – which elicits the concerns of the British Veterinary Association (BVA), The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) and the RSPCA – to continue in our own country.

Additional Information

Animals such as monkeys, meerkats, reptiles and turtles are wild animals who belong in their natural habitat, not in cages and glass tanks in somebody's home. Over 1000 species of mammals, birds, invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and fish are bred and captured for the exotic pet trade, and it is our argument that the complex social, physical and behavioural needs of these animals cannot be met other than in their natural habitats. Furthermore, there is strong evidence linking the trade in exotic animals with habitat destruction and the extinction of species in the wild. In tandem with the suffering of such animals in transit – including many documented deaths – young animals can grow into dangerous adults which can become unmanageable in domestic environments not conducive to satisfying their welfare needs for increased space and food.

Assembly Constituency and Region.

- Swansea West
- South Wales West

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P -05-743
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05492/19

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

R

March 2019

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 4 March regarding exotic pets.

The Welsh Government has made a number of changes and commitments to licensing of activities involving animals in Wales.

We have introduced the Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2014 which has strict criteria for the licensing of dog breeders in Wales. This has been followed by our recent consultation on third party sales of puppies and kittens which launched on 19 February.

I announced my intention to introduce a licensing scheme for Mobile Animal Exhibits (MAE's) in December 2017; the scheme will provide for checks to be made to ensure high welfare standards are maintained, and animals exhibited in a way that encourages respectful and responsible attitudes towards all species. Given the transient nature of MAEs, to avoid creating cross-border difficulties, the Welsh Government's preferred approach is to align this licensing scheme with the requirements of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018. A full public consultation on the proposed scheme will be carried out later this year.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Pack Page 181

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Animals kept in captivity are subject to the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the duty of care set out in section 9 of the Act. It is the owner's responsibility to exercise this duty of care and penalties can be imposed by the Courts for not fulfilling their obligations. In order to keep the majority of primates, a licence, issued by Local Authorities, is required under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976.

As previously mentioned I have committed to updating the existing animal welfare codes of practice and identifying new species-specific codes to introduce in Wales including primates as pets. Officials are working with the Animal Welfare Network Wales to discuss priorities for revising or creating new animal welfare codes, such as exotic pets .

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

P-05-743 - End the Exotic Pet Trade in Wales, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 10.05.19

Dear Petitions Committee

Many thanks for the opportunity to add further to my previous correspondence re my petition to abolish the sale and trade of exotic pets in Wales. Furthermore, I am grateful for the reply to my letter on this subject dated March 4 from the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, Ms Lesley Griffiths AC/AM. I am gratified by the Minister's commitment to animal welfare in Wales, in particular for her work in the area of third party breeding of pups and kittens, as well as her very welcome introduction of a licensing scheme for Mobile Animal Exhibits and her continued good will and intervention concerning the welfare of captive animals as categorised by the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

It is in regards to the wording of this act that I would like to pose a questions. Is it in her opinion right that the duty of care for such animals should be "the owners responsibility to exercise"?

It is my contention that this does not afford enough legal protection for animals at risk as enforcement of the duty of care regulations set out in the act is haphazard and leads to many cases of reported (let alone unreported) abuse. Please see below excerpts taken from a recent article published on the BBC news website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-48050788>

Surely, given the lack of adequate knowledge about the scale of care and detail required to keep a non-native, wild species in a wholly unsuitable domestic environment - plus the lack of any requirement for a would be owner of an exotic pet to prove their suitability to be so - the only sensible, ethical and right action is to ban completely the sale and trade of such animals in Wales?

In April of this year the BBC reported that the RSPCA rescued more than 4,000 exotic animals from across England and Wales in 2018.

This included 500 snakes, 300 turtles, 145 bearded dragons, five raccoon dogs, four marmosets and a wallaby - a clear indication that some owners were not properly researching how to keep such species, resulting in animals either escaping or being abandoned or neglected. In one incident, a dead marmoset monkey was found in a street in Edmonton, London in December 2018, while in January of the same year **a royal python was found dead in Cwmbran, with bruising around its mouth** - Inspectors suspected the snake had been beaten before it was abandoned.

According to one exotic pet owner interviewed by the BBC "people don't research enough and some breeders and shops aren't very responsible in how they produce the animals or sell them".

In another case in February 2018, two stray raccoon dogs were found within a mile of each other in the same Cumbrian village of Burneside. **The RSPCA said it strongly believed raccoon dogs should not be kept as pets as it was not possible to meet their needs in a domestic environment.** This is true of all exotic animals.

Gary Clarke, head of exotics at Sparsholt College in Hampshire, where they have taken in five abandoned raccoon dogs, said: "People see videos of the cubs online and think, 'oh, I want one', but they don't make good pets unless you're a specialist".

Stephanie Jayson, the RSPCA's senior scientific officer in exotics and a qualified exotics vet, said: "Although their numbers are small compared to more common pets, we have real concerns about the welfare of exotic animals kept as pets. **Exotic pets are completely reliant on their owners to meet their needs including requiring the correct levels of heat, light and humidity, plus an appropriate diet.**"

Ms Jayson added: "Many of the animals we're called to help are found stray outside, where they can very quickly suffer in the cold. Sometimes animals are neglected when the novelty wears off and the commitment hits home. **This is why we would encourage anyone thinking of getting an exotic pet to find out as much as possible about the animal's needs and whether they're the right pet for them.**"

Given the above, I would ask the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs why we are leaving so much to the chance that a would be owner of an exotic pet will be responsible for it once bought? **Surely, either the ability to acquire an exotic pet has to be dependent on strict licensing conditional on proof of care or such exotic animals should not be for sale in Wales at all.**

Regards

David Sedley

Agenda Item 3.15

P-05-822 Ban plastic straws (when drinking milk) in our schools

This petition was submitted by Ysgol y Wern having collected 1,034 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to [urge the Welsh Government to] consider banning the use of plastic straws which are used to drink milk in our schools. As a large school we receive around 285 milk bottles (in the Foundation Phase) daily including the same number of straws. Bearing in mind the global campaign to reduce plastic waste, we feel that plastic straws have a detrimental effect on our environment, especially as that they are used once and then thrown away. If this practice continues, it could lead to the possibility of there being more plastic than fish in our seas by 2050. The fact is that all these straws contribute significantly to the pollution of our seas and endangers wildlife.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff North
- South Wales Central



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-822
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/05144/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Assembly Member for Aberconwy
Chair - Petitions committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff
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23 April 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter. I am happy to update you on progress of the pilot project being undertaken in Pembrokeshire, and to set out some of the key findings and the Welsh Government's views with regard to potential for wider implementation of the scheme.

The pilot took place from September to December last year. It covered a sample of seven schools within the area, which switched from plastic third pint bottles to glass bottles and self-service pergals for milk provision.

An analysis of the materials used throughout the supply chain was undertaken by third party experts on behalf of WRAP Cymru and Value Wales. This work focused on the emissions impact of each model of milk provision and covered - but did not focus solely on - plastic straws. That analysis is now complete and a draft report was shared with officials on 2 April. The contents are not yet in the public domain but officials will make the report available as soon as the report is finalised.

In terms of the findings, the pergals had the lowest overall impact, followed by plastic bottles and then glass bottles for the reasons I outline below. I am pleased to confirm that due to the robust recycling arrangements by the schools and Pembrokeshire County Council, it is unlikely that either the plastic bottles or the straws used will end up in the marine environment. Straws were collected along with bottles for waste treatment, and where bottles were recycled, as far as the authors are aware, straws were incinerated. The emissions associated with this process were included in the analysis.

Further to this, due to the proximity of local suppliers to schools, the emissions impact associated with plastic bottles is lower than that of glass bottles, which require a bottling plant outside Wales to fill the bottles. The authors are not aware of any glass bottling plants within

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Wales at this time, so any schools wishing to replicate this approach should be aware of the likelihood that a wholesale switch to glass bottles could have a detrimental effect on both the environment and Wales based suppliers.

Use of pergals provided the lowest overall associated emissions, and although this solution does present some issues in terms of recyclability and the circular economy, this is likely to be an area that officials will recommend for further exploration for those authorities wishing to reduce their environmental impact in school milk provision.

Pembrokeshire County Council is now considering how best to take these lessons into account for future school milk provision, and my officials will continue to work with them.

It is therefore clear that while there is no quick solution to the issue of how best to optimise waste from school milk provision, as long as schools observe local recycling arrangements they can be confident that plastics from their milk provision are unlikely to end up in our rivers and seas.

Public bodies in Wales are, however, encouraged to avoid using single use plastic products where possible, in order to reduce waste and help us reach our 2050 one planet resource use goal.

My officials are committed to exploring the potential for alternative solutions to plastics in order to reduce the amount of materials and associated waste products, and will continue to work with local authorities and industry to find better ways to reduce our impact on the environment.

I would like to thank the Committee and the pupils and staff of Ysgol y Wern for bringing this matter to my attention and helping raise awareness of this important subject. I will ensure that procurement continues to play its role in safeguarding our environment.

Yours sincerely,

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

Rebecca Evans AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd

Agenda Item 3.16

P-05-868 – Water Safety/Drowning Prevention and the effects of Cold Water Shock to be taught in all Schools in Wales

This petition was submitted by Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership having collected 394 signatures online and 502 on paper – a total of 896 signatures.

Text of Petition

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to include – Water Safety/Drowning Prevention and the effects of cold-water shock to be taught on the national curriculum in Wales.

In 2016 we saw the launch of the first ever water safety strategy in the UK, which aims to reduce water related fatalities by 50% by 2026. Collaboration, awareness, education and prevention are the main focuses. Wales needs to respond in support.

The families of Cameron Comey, Luke Somerfield, Kieran Bennett-Leefe, Robert Mansfield and Jem Pendragon all support this petition in memory of their sons lost to water.

Additional Information

Several hundred adults and children drown accidentally every year in the UK & Ireland, and Wales – having a considerable number of rivers, lakes and a wild coastline is not immune. Education and prevention are key to safeguarding our communities from needless drowning.

This petition also has its aims focused on healthy, educated interactions with our many open waterways in Wales, by promoting events nationally and locally where young people and the public can access organized events where they engage with social, active and safe events with clubs/organisations concerned with water based activities.

We also recognise that local authority cuts to swimming accessibility for all pupils (through central government pressures) and a new Welsh Baccalaureate on water safety is too wide a gap to ensure a consistent

education message for all. Wales has three broad strategies (our Healthy future, Building a brighter future and Well-being of Future Generations) and have links to injury prevention and, therefore, to reducing drowning.

This petition is supported by many partners including; five families of young men lost to drowning in West Wales, Ferryside Inshore Lifeboat, Jonathan Edwards MP, South Wales Fire & Rescue Service, Rebecca Ramsey (campaigner for England water safety education), All Wales Water Safety Group, Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Simon Hart MP, Carmarthen Town Council, The Coracle & Netsmans Association, Gwendraeth Valley Paddlers Canoe Club, Ammanford Police Station, Carmarthen Boat Club, Brecon Mountain Rescue Team, Llansteffan Coastguard, Angela Burns AM, Carmarthen Bay Ferries, Llandysul Paddlers Canoe Centre, to name a few.

Assembly Constituency and Region

- Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
- Mid and West Wales

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-868
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05832/19

Janet Finch-Saunders, AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

30 April 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 18 April regarding a petition on water safety/drowning prevention and the effects of cold water shock to be taught in all schools in Wales, and the development of a Water Safety Plan for Wales.

The then Minister for Environment met with the Drowning Prevention Co-ordinator and Deputy Director of Education from the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) on 28 November 2018 to discuss these issues and the development of a Water Safety Strategy for Wales. It was agreed at the meeting Welsh Government officials would maintain contact with the RLSS on the development of a Strategy and support this important initiative where appropriate. I understand work is progressing and the draft Strategy is scheduled for consultation at the end of the year.

Also of relevance to the petition, on 30 April, Kirsty Williams AM, Minister for Education, launched the new curriculum and assessment arrangements for feedback - accessible via this link: <https://hwb.gov.wales/>. There will be an extensive period of engagement between 30 April and 19 July, and during this next phase of co-construction the Welsh Government is inviting feedback from a wide range of stakeholders. Over the summer term, the views of teachers, children and young people and a range of wider stakeholders are being sought to help improve what's been developed.

The new curriculum in Wales, taking forward the recommendations of Successful Futures - an independent and fundamental review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements - is being designed with four purposes at its heart. These will be central to all decisions made in respect of the new curriculum, and one of the four purposes is to support children and young people to become healthy confident individuals, who know how to find the information and support to keep safe and well.

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Pack Page 190

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Alongside this work, important practical steps are already being taken. For example, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) as part of their water safety campaign produced 'One Last Breath' - material which is a pan-Wales campaign, with a particular focus on hotspot areas in Wales. This includes a hard hitting video about the risk of drowning at inland waters, including the risk of cold water shock and how to stay safe around water. DCWW also visit schools every spring/ summer with bespoke sessions, use radio and social media to reach their target audience, and have shared their approach with other water companies. On this latter point, through the Water UK Occupational Health and Safety Group, DCWW have helped establish and agree a water industry water safety position statement.

However, as you note in your letter, the issues span a number of Ministerial portfolios and therefore policy areas. They also involve various external stakeholders, not just the water companies. This is evident, for example, from the 2017 Sustainable Management of Natural Resources consultation proposals, which included changing the law on access to the outdoors (including to waterways). The consultation stressed the importance of responsible recreation, the provision of appropriate information and providing clarity for users on appropriate behaviour.

Whilst this is a complex and important issue requiring many relevant organisations to come together, I would hope actions already underway will go some way to addressing the issues captured in the recommendations made by the petitioning body. I will ask my officials to share the recommendations with the RLSS so they can be considered during the development of the draft strategy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink. The word "Regards" is written in a cursive style on the top line, and the name "Lesley" is written below it, also in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the left of the typed name and title.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



P-05-868 Water Safety/Drowning Prevention and the effects of Cold Water Shock to be taught in all Schools in Wales, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee

Date: 12/5/2019

Ein cyf/Our ref: P-05-868.

Eich cyf/Your ref: LG/05832/19

carmswatergmail.com

Hello/Shwmae,

Please find our Chair's response to the attached letter from Lesley Griffiths AC/AM.

- Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership (CWSP) is pleased to hear, as members of the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSSUK) for the last four years, that discussions have taken place. As a proud Welsh charity, we champion any progress to improve water safety and a drowning prevention strategy in Wales. The Water Safety Scotland model should provide all the information on how to achieve a Water Safety Wales strategy you need in partnership with RoSPA/RLSSUK.
- Whilst education, as Lesley rightly points out in her summary, is key to prevent historically unacceptable water related fatalities across the UK, education has to be visible to all and in our charities experiences engaging with secondary schools in West Wales, this is not always the case and headmasters approach us to spread the wider messages to the whole school - which leads us to believe some education initiatives are narrow in their delivery and subsequent exposure is therefore lacking.
- CWSP sits within a communications network of multiple drowning prevention specialists, rescue services, professionals and individuals across the United Kingdom and over the last four years, I have found that DCWW is not in its entirety the best source of drowning prevention information due to their operational blanket ban on housing any lifesaving equipment at any of their open water sites. Some England based water utility companies recognize that members of the public do still get in to difficulty (whether signage is present or not) and require lifesaving equipment/interventions to reduce loss of life, and therefore have begun siting lockable lifebuoy cabinets at their sites in partnership with charities, particularly in the north of England.



CWSP is the only Welsh based water safety charity who is committed to delivering visible, bi-lingual, forward thinking, community interventions in its charity areas of operation (Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and the City & County of Swansea) mostly working Welsh families affected by fatal drownings in Wales and delivering many RLSSUK campaigns to the benefit of all and with the obvious lack of a Water Safety Strategy for Wales this work in our opinion is crucial and would welcome further support from any government departments or AC/AM's to promote our work.

We would like to place on record our sincere thanks for Welsh Government (Transport & Infrastructure) support on completing our initiative to provide a new Emergency Services Slipway at Carmarthen's Pwll y Rifle, locally known as 'the 22', where we delivered two of the first vandal proof Lifebuoy Cabinets to be sited in Wales.

Kind regards,

Adam Whitehouse

Chair

Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership

Agenda Item 5

By virtue of paragraph(s) ix of Standing Order 17.42

Document is Restricted