



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
The National Assembly for Wales**

**Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth Rhif 5
Legislation Committee No. 5**

**Dydd Mercher, 24 Mawrth 2010
Wednesday, 24 March 2010**

Cynnwys
Contents

- 3 Cyflwyniad, Ymddiheuriadau a Dirprwyon
Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions
- 3 Y Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch Strategaethau ar gyfer Gofalwyr (Cymru)—Cyfnod 1:
Sesiwn Dystiolaeth 6
The Proposed Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure—Stage 1: Evidence Session 6
- 4 Dyddiad y Cyfarfod Nesaf
Date of Next Meeting
- 4 Cynnig Trefniadol
Procedural Motion

Cofnodir y trafodion hyn yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynndi yn y pwyllgor. Yn ogystal,
cynhwysir cyfieithiad Saesneg o gyfraniadau yn y Gymraeg.

These proceedings are reported in the language in which they were spoken in the committee.
In addition, an English translation of Welsh speeches is included.

Aelodau'r pwyllgor yn bresennol
Committee members in attendance

Eleanor Burnham	Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru Welsh Liberal Democrats
Mark Isherwood	Ceidwadwyr Cymreig (Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor) Welsh Conservatives (Committee Chair)
Darren Millar	Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives

Swyddogion Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn bresennol
National Assembly for Wales officials in attendance

Bethan Davies	Clerc Clerk
Hayley Jones	Dirprwy Glerc Deputy Clerk

Dechreuodd y cyfarfod am 9.04 a.m.
The meeting began at 9.04 a.m.

Cyflwyniad, Ymddiheuriadau a Dirprwyon
Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

[1] **Mark Isherwood:** Bore da, a chroeso **Mark Isherwood:** Good morning, and welcome.

[2] We have received no formal apologies and are quorate, so we will proceed with the meeting. I start with some housekeeping announcements. Please be advised that in the event of a fire alarm, you should leave the room by the marked fire exits and follow instructions from ushers and staff. Please switch off all mobile phones, pagers and BlackBerrys as they interfere with the broadcasting equipment. The National Assembly for Wales operates through the medium of both the Welsh and English languages; headphones are provided for instantaneous translation on channel 1, and the verbatim proceedings can be accessed on channel 0 should anyone wish to amplify the sound. Please do not touch the buttons on the microphones as this can disable the system, and please ensure that the red light is showing before speaking.

9.05 a.m.

Y Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch Strategaethau ar gyfer Gofalwyr (Cymru)—
Cyfnod 1: Sesiwn Dystiolaeth 6
The Proposed Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure—Stage 1: Evidence Session 6

[3] **Mark Isherwood:** The purpose of today's meeting was to take further oral evidence from the Deputy Minister for Social Services, Gwenda Thomas, in connection with the Proposed Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure. Unfortunately, the Deputy Minister is unavailable to attend today's meeting.

9.05 a.m.

**Dyddiad y Cyfarfod Nesaf
Date of Next Meeting**

[4] **Mark Isherwood:** Members may wish to note that Legislation Committee No. 5 will be meeting on Thursday mornings after the Easter recess. Our next meeting, therefore, will be on Thursday 22 April at 9 a.m. This will be our final evidence session to inform our work, and we will rearrange today's session so that we can take evidence from the Deputy Minister for Social Services.

9.06 a.m.

**Cynnig Trefniadol
Procedural Motion**

[5] **Mark Isherwood:** I move that

the committee resolves to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Standing Order No. 10.37(vi).

[6] **Darren Millar:** Before we move into private session, Chair, would you mind if I said something? It is disappointing that Members have not turned up today without tendering their formal apologies to the committee. It is pretty unimpressive. We know that there is a strike taking place, but that should not bring the Government to a grinding halt. I see no reason why, given that Ministers will be working from other premises during the course of the day, the Deputy Minister has not made herself available for video evidence.

[7] **Mark Isherwood:** Eleanor, do you wish to comment?

[8] **Eleanor Burnham:** Yes. I realise that this is a sensitive matter, but I was not aware that democracy ever sleeps. Radio Cymru reported this morning that certain backbench Labour AMs were meeting with Ministers anyway. Therefore, some arrangements should have been made and, as they have not, as my colleague Darren Millar has just pointed out, the normal courtesy would have been to tender apologies.

[9] **Mark Isherwood:** Both your points are noted on the record. Do you wish to take any further action at this stage?

[10] **Darren Millar:** When we commenced the scrutiny of this item as a legislation committee, we were given a tight timeframe within which to work. We have some dedicated members of staff who have turned up to ensure that this meeting can go ahead today, and it is unimpressive that we will be unable to meet our timetable as a committee because Members have refused to turn up and tender their apologies. The Deputy Minister, who has known about this appointment for many weeks, has not made arrangements to give us evidence on an oral basis.

[11] **Mark Isherwood:** Would you like me to contact the Business Committee to express concern that we have not received apologies from Members?

[12] **Darren Millar:** Yes.

[13] **Eleanor Burnham:** May I also say, Chair, that we all have a tight schedule? It highlights again the issue that Lord Richard raised in the Richard commission report, which is that there is an insufficient number of Members to carry out the duties adequately. It is difficult at the moment for most of us. Some of us have no wiggle room; every time slot is taken up by committees or Plenary. We all make a huge effort, as do the staff, and there are huge burdens on staff if we do not meet our schedule. For instance, the Welsh Liberal Democrats have taken the principled stance not to attend committees held at the same time as Plenary meetings, for obvious reasons. If we are not in Plenary to fulfil our duties, we cannot play an adequate part there. We have to be aware of what is going on and be sensitive. If we cannot take oral evidence, we should have been given written evidence. Would that not have sufficed on a day like today?

[14] **Mark Isherwood:** Thank you. Your points have been noted and are on the record. As there is nothing further to add, and if the committee is in agreement, I will bring the formal session to a close. I see that Members agree.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion agreed.*

*Daeth rhan gyhoeddus y cyfarfod i ben am 9.09 a.m.
The public part of the meeting ended at 9.09 a.m.*