

Agenda – Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Lleoliad: I gael rhagor o wybodaeth cysylltwch a:
Ystafell Bwyllgora 3 – y Senedd Gareth Price – Clerc y Pwyllgor
Hybrid 0300 200 6565
Dyddiad: Dydd Llun, 25 Medi 2023 Deisebau@senedd.cymru
Amser: 14.00

- 1 **Cyflwyniad, ymddiheuriadau, dirprwyon a datgan buddiannau**
(Tudalennau 1 – 17)
- 2 **Sesiwn dystiolaeth – P-06-1307 Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru ymrwmo i fabwysiadu gwaith cynnal a chadw ystadau tai newydd gan awdurdodau lleol**

Mark Harris – Home Builders Federation
- 3 **Deisebau newydd**
 - 3.1 P-06-1341 Canllawiau hygyrch ar gyfer rhieni ac ysgolion er mwyn helpu'r broses o ddatblygu cynlluniau i gefnogi plant ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol
(Tudalennau 18 – 29)
 - 3.2 P-06-1353 Datganoli cyfrifoldebau a chyllidebau ar gyfer cefnffyrdd yng ngogledd Cymru i ogledd Cymru
(Tudalennau 30 – 36)
 - 3.3 P-06-1357 Llundio Cynllun Gweithredu Microblastigau newydd i Gymru?
(Tudalennau 37 – 49)
 - 3.4 P-06-1358 Adolygu'r cyllid annigonol ar gyfer ysgolion yng Nghymru
(Tudalennau 50 – 89)
- 4 **Y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am ddeisebau blaenorol**



- 4.1 P-06-1209 Dylid creu rhestr o bob gofalwr di-dâl yng Nghymru
(Tudalennau 90 – 93)
- 4.2 P-06-1262 Llywodraeth Cymru i gynnal ymchwiliad cyhoeddus i
benderfyniadau a wnaed ganddi cyn ac yn ystod y pandemig
(Tudalennau 94 – 96)
- 4.3 P-06-1288 Byddai agor Gorsaf Gerdded ym Magwyr a Gwndy, sy'n rhan o
Raglen Gyflenwi yr Arglwydd Burns, yn llwyddiant cyflym
(Tudalennau 97 – 98)
- 4.4 P-06-1348 Comisiynu gwasanaethau GIG addas yng Nghymru ar gyfer pobl
ag EDS neu anhwylderau sbectrwm hypersymudedd
(Tudalennau 99 – 104)
- 5 Papur i'w nodi – P-06-1344 Moderate quality agricultural land
(grade 3b) should be used for food security not solar farms
(Tudalennau 105 – 113)**
- 6 Cynnig o dan Reol Sefydlog 17.42(ix) i benderfynu gwahardd y
cyhoedd o weddill y cyfarfod**
- 7 Trafod y dystiolaeth – P-06-1307 Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru
ymrwymo i fabwysiadu gwaith cynnal a chadw ystadau tai newydd
gan awdurdodau lleol**

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon

P-06-1341: Canllawiau hygyrch ar gyfer rhieni ac ysgolion er mwyn helpu'r broses o ddatblygu cynlluniau i gefnogi plant ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 25 Medi 2023
Petitions Committee | 25 September 2023

Cyfeirnod: SR23/5997-3

Rhif y Ddeiseb: [P-06-1341](#)

Teitl y ddeiseb: Canllawiau hygyrch ar gyfer rhieni ac ysgolion er mwyn helpu'r broses o ddatblygu cynlluniau i gefnogi plant ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol.

Geiriad y ddeiseb: Mae tua 1,400 o blant a phobl ifanc â diabetes math 1 yng Nghymru. O ran y plant hynny sy'n byw ag anabledau o'r fath, mae angen cymorth arnynt yn yr ysgol i reoli eu cyflwr a sicrhau eu bod yn cyrraedd eu llawn botensial. Fel mam, rwyf yn un o lawer o rieni nad yw eu plant, sydd â diabetes math 1, yn cael y cymorth sydd ei angen arnynt yn sgil diffyg dealltwriaeth o'r cyllid ar gyfer darparu'r gofal sydd ei angen yn yr ysgol. Rydw i ac eraill wedi profi diffyg cymorth o ran gofal, ac rwy'n ceisio newid y sefyllfa hon.

Rhagor o fanylion: Rwy'n rhwystredig ynghylch y diffyg mynediad at gefnogaeth bwrpasol; heb y gefnogaeth hon, gall diabetes math 1 arwain at gymhlethdodau sy'n peryglu bywydau. Mae Deddf Cydraddoldeb 2010 yn diffinio plant â diabetes yn gyfreithiol fel pobl sy'n byw ag anabled. Rhaid i sefydliadau addysg fel ysgolion sicrhau nad yw disgyblion sy'n byw gyda diabetes yn dioddef anfantais.

Ni waeth pa mor hyderus yw'r plentyn dan sylw, nid yw plant yn gallu cael eu hyfforddi ar y defnydd o bwmp inswlin tan eu bod yn 11 oed. Felly, gan fod



plant yn cael diagnosis o'r adeg y cânt eu geni, mae'r cymorth a ddarperir rhwng yr ysgol feithrin a'r ysgol gynradd yn fwy hanfodol fyth o ran rheoli diabetes.

Mae Deddf Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol a'r Tribiwnlys Addysg (Cymru) 2018 yn gam i'w groesawu. Fodd bynnag, dim ond nawr y mae'r Ddeddf honno'n cael ei rhoi ar waith. Mae'r ddeddfwriaeth newydd wedi cyflwyno mesur statudol, sef Cynlluniau Datblygu Unigol, at ddibenion cefnogi myfyrwyr drwy ddatblygu fframwaith cefnogol er mwyn sicrhau bod eu hanghenion academaidd, corfforol a chymorth yn cael eu diwallu.

Rwy'n gofyn i'n Llywodraeth adolygu'r canllawiau presennol ar gyfer y ddeddfwriaeth ADY newydd er mwyn cynyddu cyfranogiad ysgolion/Awdurdodau Lleol drwy greu canllawiau a chymorth ar ffurf hygyrch sy'n lleihau unrhyw rwystrau o ran mynediad.

1. Crynodeb

- Mae'r ddeiseb hon yn trafod dau fater, sy'n wahanol i'w gilydd ond yn gysylltiedig i ryw raddau.
- Mae diabetes yn angen gofal iechyd sydd angen ei reoli fel nad yw'n effeithio'n negyddol ar ddysgu plentyn yn yr ysgol. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cyhoeddi canllawiau i ysgolion, awdurdodau lleol a gweithwyr iechyd proffesiynol, sef [Cefnogi dysgwyr ag anghenion gofal iechyd](#). Mae gan rai dysgwyr ag anghenion gofal iechyd Gynllun Gofal Iechyd Unigol.
- Os yw plentyn yn bodloni'r [diffiniad o Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol \(ADY\)](#), mae ganddo'r hawl i Gynllun Datblygu Unigol (CDU). Gall angen gofal iechyd, fel diabetes, arwain at ADY, ond nid dyma fydd yn digwydd o reidrwydd, a dim ond os caiff y diffiniad ei fodloni. Mae hyn yn golygu bod y plentyn neu'r person ifanc yn cael llawer mwy o anhawster wrth ddysgu na'r mwyafrif o ddysgwyr o'r un oedran, neu fod ganddo anabledd sy'n ei atal neu'n ei rwystro rhag cael mynediad at yr addysg neu'r hyfforddiant a gynigir yn gyffredinol; a bod hyn yn galw am Ddarpariaeth Dysgu Ychwanegol (DDdA).
- Felly nid oes cysylltiad awtomatig rhwng diabetes ac ADY. Dylai ysgolion ddefnyddio'r canllawiau cefnogi dysgwyr ag anghenion gofal iechyd i'w helpu i reoli'r effaith y gall diabetes plentyn ei chael ar eu haddysg. Os oes gan y

plentyn ADY hefyd, mae dyletswyddau ar ysgolion ac awdurdodau lleol o dan Ddeddf Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol a'r Tribiwnlys Addysg (Cymru) 2018 a'r Cod Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol.

2. Cefnogi dysgwyr ag anghenion gofal iechyd

Yn 2017, cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cymru ganllawiau ynghylch cefnogi dysgwyr ag anghenion gofal iechyd. Mae hyn yn cynnwys canllawiau statudol (y mae'n rhaid i ysgolion ac awdurdodau lleol eu hystyried), a chyingor anstatudol. Mae'n cymryd lle canllawiau anstatudol blaenorol o 2010, ac fe'u cyhoeddwyd yn ystod gwaith craffu'r Senedd ar Fil Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol a'r Tribiwnlys Addysg (Cymru) (gweler adran 2.3 o'r papur briffio hwn).

Mae'r canllawiau yn nodi'r pwyntiau allweddol a ganlyn:

- Dylai dysgwyr ag anghenion gofal iechyd gael eu cefnogi'n briodol fel eu bod yn cael mynediad llawn at addysg, gan gynnwys teithiau ac addysg gorfforol.
- Rhaid i gyrff llywodraethu sicrhau bod trefniadau ar waith i gefnogi dysgwyr ag anghenion gofal iechyd.
- Dylai gyrff llywodraethu sicrhau bod staff y lleoliad addysg yn ymgynghori â'r gweithwyr proffesiynol perthnasol, dysgwyr a rhieni i sicrhau bod anghenion y dysgwr ag anghenion gofal iechyd yn cael eu deall yn iawn a'u cefnogi'n effeithiol.

Mae'r canllawiau hefyd yn nodi:

Mae materion gofal iechyd yn effeithio ar bob dysgwr yn unigol a gall cefnogaeth gan y lleoliad addysg gael effaith ar ansawdd eu bywyd a chyfleoedd yn y dyfodol. Felly, dylai gyrff llywodraethu a phenaethiaid sicrhau bod trefniadau yn canolbwyntio ar ddiwallu anghenion penodol y dysgwr ac ystyried sut y mae hyn yn effeithio ar eu haddysg, cyrhaeddiad a lles. Dylai trefniadau roi hyder i ddysgwyr a rhieni bod y ddarpariaeth yn addas ac yn effeithiol.

2.1. Cynlluniau Gofal Iechyd Unigol

Mae rhai dysgwyr ag anghenion gofal iechyd angen Cynllun Gofal Iechyd Unigol (CIU). Mae'r rhain yn nodi pa gymorth sydd ei angen ar y dysgwr a'r trefniadau ar gyfer hyn.

Mae'r canllawiau'n nodi: "Mae CIU yn hanfodol lle mae anghenion gofal iechyd yn gymhleth, yn anwadal, hirdymor neu lle mae risg uchel y bydd angen ymyriad brys". Mae hefyd yn cynnwys linc i [dempled CIU a gynhyrchwyd gan Diabetes UK](#).

Dywed y canllawiau: "Mae'n hanfodol bod dysgwyr a rhieni yn cymryd rhan weithredol yn y gwaith o gynllunio cymorth a rheoli anghenion gofal iechyd". Mae hefyd yn dweud y dylai rhieni a dysgwyr wneud y canlynol:

cymryd rhan mewn creu, datblygu ac adolygu CIU (os oes un). Gall y rhiant a'r dysgwr fod yn y sefyllfa orau i ddarparu gwybodaeth am sut mae eu hanghenion gofal iechyd yn effeithio arnynt. Dylid eu cynnwys yn llawn mewn trafodaethau ynghylch sut caiff anghenion gofal iechyd y dysgwr eu diwallu yn y lleoliad addysg, a dylent gyfrannu at y gwaith o ddatblygu, a chydymffurfio â'u CIU.

2.2. Canllawiau gwybodaeth

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi llunio [cyfres o ddeunyddiau gwybodaeth](#) ynglŷn â chymorth i ddysgwyr ag anghenion gofal iechyd, gan gynnwys canllaw ar gyfer [staff addysgu, rhieni a phobl ifanc](#).

Yn ddiweddar, cyhoeddodd Ymchwil y Senedd [erthygl ynglŷn â diabetes](#) sy'n darparu gwybodaeth fwy cyffredinol.

2.3. Perthnasedd i Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol

Mae'r berthynas rhwng anghenion gofal iechyd, neu anghenion meddygol fel y cyfeirir atynt hefyd, yn destun [gwaith craffu gan Bwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg y Bumed Senedd ar y Bil ADY](#) yn 2017.

Nododd y Pwyllgor nad yw'r system ADY yn gymwys i ddisgyblion ag anghenion gofal iechyd dim ond oherwydd yr angen gofal iechyd hwnnw, a dim ond os oes ganddynt ADY. Fodd bynnag, diwygiodd y Pwyllgor y diffiniad o ADY yn adran 2 o'r Bil (y Ddeddf wedi hynny) i adlewyrchu'r ffaith y [gall](#) ADY ddeillio o angen

meddygol, ond y byddai angen iddo fodloni'r meini prawf yn y diffiniad hwnnw o ADY o hyd.

I weld trafodaeth bellach am hyn, gweler crynodeb Ymchwil y Senedd o [Ddeddf Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol a'r Tribiwnlys Addysg \(Cymru\) 2018](#), [adroddiad y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg ar y Bil](#) a manylion [gwaith craffu'r Senedd ar y Bil](#).

3. Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol

Mae disgyblion sydd ag anawsterau neu anabledau dysgu sydd angen Darpariaeth Dysgu Ychwanegol yn cael eu hadnabod fel rhai sydd ag Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol (ADY) neu Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig (AAA). Dan ddiwygiadau a wnaed gan [Ddeddf Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol a'r Tribiwnlys Addysg \(Cymru\) 2018](#), mae'r system ADY newydd yn cymryd lle'r system AAA bresennol/blaenorol.

Mae'r system ADY newydd yn cael ei chyflwyno'n raddol dros gyfnod o bedair blynedd (mis Medi 2021 i fis Awst 2025). Mae'r holl ddysgwyr sydd newydd gael eu nodi ag ADY yn dod o dan y system newydd, tra bod y rhai sydd eisoes yn cael eu cefnogi ag AAA yn cael eu [trosglwyddo mewn gwahanol flynyddoedd](#), yn dibynnu ar eu grŵp blwyddyn a lefel yr ymyrraeth (a oes ganddynt ddatganiad AAA ai peidio). O'r herwydd, mae'r system AAA bresennol/blaenorol a'r system ADY newydd yn gweithredu ochr yn ochr tan fis Awst 2025.

3.1. Diffinio ADY

Mae dysgwyr y bernir bod ganddynt ADY yn gymwys i gael Cynllun Datblygu Unigol (CDU) statudol. Mae [diffiniad](#) Deddf 2018 o ADY yn faterol yr un peth ag ar gyfer AAA, sef:

- mae dysgwr yn cael anhawster sylweddol fwy i ddysgu na mwyafrif y dysgwyr eraill sydd o'r un oedran (ac ni ellir ei gynorthwyo drwy ddulliau dysgu gwahaniaethol yn unig); neu
- mae gan y dysgwr anabled (at ddibenion Deddf Cydraddoldeb 2010) sy'n ei atal neu'n ei lesteirio rhag defnyddio cyfleusterau addysg neu hyfforddiant a ddarperir yn gyffredinol ar gyfer eraill sydd o'r un oedran; ac

ysgolion

- mae'r anhawster dysgu neu'r anabledd yn galw am Ddarpariaeth Ddysgu Ychwanegol.

Mae'r ddeddfwriaeth yn nodi y gall anhawster neu anabledd dysgu ddeillio o gyflwr meddygol neu fel arall. Fodd bynnag, fel y nodir yn y papur briffio hwn ac yn llythyr y Gweinidog, nid yw cyflwr meddygol yn awtomatig yn golygu bod gan y plentyn ADY, ac ni fydd y system ADY yn gymwys oni bai bod angen DDdY ar y plentyn.

3.2. Canllawiau gwybodaeth

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi llunio cyfres o ddeunyddiau gwybodaeth ar y system ADY, gan gynnwys canllawiau i rieni a dysgwyr ôl-16.

Gwneir pob ymdrech i sicrhau bod y wybodaeth yn y papur briffio hwn yn gywir adeg ei gyhoeddi. Dylai darllenwyr fod yn ymwybodol nad yw'r papurau briffio hyn yn cael eu diweddarau o reidrwydd na'u diwygio fel arall i adlewyrchu newidiadau dilynol.



Eich cyf/Your ref: P-06-1341
Ein cyf/Our ref: JMEWL/00881/23

Jack Sargeant AS
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1SN
Government.Committee.Business@llyw.cymru

9 Mehefin 2023

Annwyl Jack,

Diolch am eich llythyr dyddiedig 18 Mai ynghylch materion a godwyd mewn deiseb a ddaeth i law'r Pwyllgor Deisebau gan Zoe Beasley.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ymrwymo'n llwyr i greu system addysg gynhwysol a helpu i sicrhau bod pob disgybl, gan gynnwys y rhai ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol (ADY) a/neu anghenion gofal iechyd, yn gallu cyflawni eu potensial.

Fel rhan o'n diwygiadau i'r system addysg yng Nghymru, mae'r system anghenion addysgol arbennig (AAA) bresennol yn cael ei disodli'n raddol gan y system ADY, sydd wedi'i seilio ar Ddeddf ADY a'r Tribiwnlys Addysg (Cymru) a'r [Cod ADY](#) cysylltiedig. Dechreuwyd gweithredu'r system ADY newydd yn raddol ym mis Medi 2021, a bydd y broses yn parhau tan fis Awst 2025. Mae dysgwyr ag AAA yn symud i'r system ADY newydd fesul grwpiau.

Mae'r Ddeddf ADY a'r Cod ADY yn creu un fframwaith deddfwriaethol sy'n helpu i sicrhau bod barn, dymuniadau a theimladau pob unigolyn yn cael eu nodi'n gynnar ac yn cael lle canolog yn y broses o nodi a diwallu eu hanghenion. Dylai hyn helpu i wneud y system newydd yn decach a chreu llai o wrthdaro. Mae'r system newydd hefyd yn sicrhau y cynllunnir yn briodol ar gyfer cymorth ychwanegol i ddiwallu ADY dysgwyr 0-25 oed sydd ei angen, gan ei ddiogelu mewn un Cynllun Datblygu Unigol (CDU) statudol. Rydym hefyd wedi cryfhau hawliau plant drwy greu llwybrau clir i'w dilyn os oes anghydfod. Mae Cod ADY Cymru yn cynnwys pennod ar baratoi a chynnal CDU.

Fel rhan o'n gwaith i weithredu'r system ADY rydym wedi datblygu a chyflwyno pecyn helaeth o hyfforddiant, sy'n datblygu sgiliau craidd ac yn cynnig datblygiad proffesiynol parhaus i bob ymarferydd. Mae hyn yn cynnwys cynnig dysgu proffesiynol penodol ar gyfer Cydlynwyr ADY sy'n darparu rôl arwain strategol ac sy'n gweithredu fel y pwynt cyswllt cychwynnol i athrawon sy'n chwilio am gyngor ac arweiniad ym maes ADY. Rydym hefyd wedi llunio canllawiau i rieni a phobl ifanc, sy'n cynnwys [canllawiau ar hawliau](#) o dan y system newydd.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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

Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales

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

Tudalen y pecyn 24
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

O dan y Ddeddf ADY, mae gan blentyn ADY os oes ganddo anhawster neu anabledd dysgu sy'n galw am ddarpariaeth ddysgu ychwanegol (DDdY) (a ddiffinnir fel darpariaeth sy'n addysgu neu'n hyfforddi). Mae'r Ddeddf ADY yn nodi y gallai anhawster neu anabledd dysgu sy'n cyfateb i ADY (oherwydd ei fod yn galw am DDdY) godi o ganlyniad i gyflwr meddygol, ond nid yw hyn yn golygu bod cyflyrau meddygol yn cyfateb i ADY. Mae darpariaethau'r Ddeddf ADY ond yn berthnasol i blentyn sydd ag angen gofal iechyd, megis diabetes, pan fo angen gofal iechyd y plentyn hwnnw yn arwain at ADY fel y'i diffinnir gan y Ddeddf ADY, neu lle mae ganddo ADY nad yw'n gysylltiedig â'i anghenion gofal iechyd. Felly, mae darpariaethau'r Ddeddf ADY ond yn berthnasol i blentyn ag anghenion gofal iechyd os yw'r anghenion hynny yn arwain at anhawster neu anabledd dysgu, neu os oes ganddo anhawster neu anabledd dysgu fel arall, sy'n galw am DDdY.

Yn 2017, cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cymru [Cefnogi Dysgwyr ag Anghenion Gofal Iechyd](#), i helpu cyrff llywodraethu, lleoliadau addysg, gweithwyr proffesiynol ym maes addysg ac iechyd a sefydliadau eraill i gefnogi dysgwyr ag anghenion gofal iechyd a sicrhau yr amherir cyn lleied â phosibl ar eu haddysg. Rhaid i awdurdodau lleol a chyrrff llywodraethu ysgolion roi sylw i'r canllawiau statudol hyn wrth gyflawni eu dyletswyddau o dan Ddeddf Addysg 2002, wrth hyrwyddo lles plant sy'n ddysgwyr yn y lleoliad addysg, gan gynnwys diwallu eu hanghenion gofal iechyd.

Mae dogfen Cefnogi Dysgwyr ag Anghenion Gofal Iechyd yn cynnwys canllawiau statudol a chynghor anstatudol. Mae'n cynnwys gofyniad i awdurdodau lleol a lleoliadau addysg yng Nghymru greu a chynnal polisi anghenion gofal iechyd i geisio sicrhau bod disgyblion ag unrhyw gyflwr meddygol, gan gynnwys diabetes, yn cael eu cefnogi'n briodol. Mae'n cynnwys cynghor ar hyfforddi a chodi ymwybyddiaeth o gyflyrau cyffredin, ac mae'n pwysleisio'r angen i weithwyr proffesiynol ym maes addysg ac iechyd gydweithio, gan roi'r lle canolog i'r dysgwr wrth wneud penderfyniadau.

Bydd angen Cynllun Gofal Iechyd Unigol ar rai dysgwyr sydd ag anghenion gofal iechyd. Mae hyn yn hanfodol lle mae'r anghenion gofal iechyd yn gymhleth, yn amrywio, yn hirdymor neu lle mae risg uchel y bydd angen ymyrraeth frys. Mae canllawiau Cefnogi Dysgwyr ag Anghenion Gofal Iechyd yn nodi'r broses ar gyfer penderfynu p'un a oes angen Cynllun Gofal Iechyd Unigol, ac yn egluro'r rolau a'r cyfrifoldebau wrth eu creu a'u rheoli.

Mae cymorth ar gael i leoliadau addysg gan wasanaeth cynghor iechyd a all gynnwys:

- cynghor ar ddatblygu Cynlluniau Gofal Iechyd Unigol;
- cymorth i nodi'r hyfforddiant sydd ei angen er mwyn i'r lleoliad addysg weithredu Cynlluniau Gofal Iechyd Unigol yn llwyddiannus;
- cefnogaeth i staff i weithredu Cynllun Gofal Iechyd Unigol dysgwr drwy gyngor a chyswllt â gweithwyr proffesiynol gofal iechyd, gofal cymdeithasol ac yn y trydydd sector.

Gellir darparu cynghor a chymorth iechyd hefyd gan weithwyr iechyd proffesiynol arbenigol fel meddygon teulu, pediatregwyr, therapyddion lleferydd ac iaith, therapyddion galwedigaethol, ffisiotherapyddion, dietegwyr a nyrsys diabetes arbenigol. Gall cyrrff gwirfoddol y trydydd sector hefyd ddarparu cynghor a chymorth ymarferol. Gall ymgysylltu'n rhagweithiol â gwasanaethau arbenigol fod o gymorth ymarferol wrth ysgrifennu a gweithredu Cynlluniau Gofal Iechyd Unigol, a gallant hefyd ddarparu adnoddau hyfforddi a chodi ymwybyddiaeth, gan gynnwys dolenni fideo.

Mae canllawiau Cefnogi Dysgwyr ag Anghenion Gofal Iechyd yn nodi y dylid adolygu Cynlluniau Gofal Iechyd Unigol o leiaf bob blwyddyn, neu'n amlach os bydd tystiolaeth newydd bod anghenion y dysgwr wedi newid. Pan fo gan ddysgwr sydd ag anghenion gofal iechyd ADY hefyd, dylai'r Cynllun Gofal Iechyd Unigol gael ei gysylltu neu ei atodi i CDU y dysgwr. Mae'r Cod ADY yn esbonio, lle mae gan ddysgwr sydd ag ADY fwy nag un cynllun

y mae angen ei adolygu, y gellid ymgymryd â'r gwaith paratoi neu adolygu ar yr un pryd i hwyluso dull mwy cyfannol o gynllunio gofal a chymorth i'r plentyn neu'r person ifanc.

Mae gan Rwydwaith Diabetes Plant a Phobl Ifanc Cymru sawl prosiect ar y gweill fel rhan o'i waith ym maes addysg, gan gynnwys Canllaw i Ysgolion Cymru Gyfan i helpu ysgolion i wella hyder staff, eu dealltwriaeth a'u gallu i ddelio'n ddiogel â Diabetes Math 1 mewn plant a phobl ifanc. Mae'r Rhwydwaith wedi datblygu deunyddiau hyfforddi staff sy'n cwmpasu'r testunau canlynol: cyflwyniad i Ddiabetes Math 1 yn yr ysgol; profi lefelau glwcos yn y gwaed yn yr ysgol; ymarfer cyfrif carbohydradau i staff ysgol; cyflwyniad i dechnoleg Diabetes i staff ysgol; ac ymarfer ac arholiadau.

O ran cyllid, mae awdurdodau lleol yn gyfrifol am sicrhau darpariaeth addysg addas ar gyfer pob dysgwyr yn eu hardal, gan gynnwys dysgwyr ag anghenion gofal iechyd, a dylent weithio gyda'u hysgolion i sicrhau bod eu trefniadau cyllido ysgolion yn effeithiol i gefnogi a chodi lefelau cyflawniad pob plentyn. Mae Byrddau Iechyd Lleol yn gyfrifol am gynllunio a darparu gwasanaethau'r GIG yn eu hardaloedd, sy'n cynnwys y gwasanaeth cyngor iechyd sydd ar gael i leoliadau addysg.

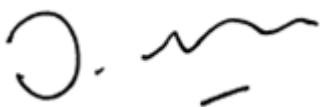
Os nad yw rhieni/gofalwyr dysgwyr sydd ag anghenion gofal iechyd a/neu ADY yn fodlon â'r camau a gymerir gan yr ysgol ar ôl ceisio datrys materion yn anffurfiol gyda nhw, gallant ystyried gwneud cwyn ffurfiol i'r ysgol. Os nad ydynt yn fodlon â'r canlyniad ar lefel yr ysgol, gallant gysylltu â'r awdurdod lleol i weld a allan nhw helpu. Os ydynt yn parhau i fod yn anfodlon yn dilyn y trafodaethau hyn, gallant gwneud cwyn i'r awdurdod lleol. Gellir gwneud cwynion am wasanaethau'r GIG drwy ['Gweithio i Wella'](#).

Efallai y bydd gan ddysgwyr sydd ag ADY hefyd hawl i apelio i Dribiwnlys Addysg Cymru sy'n gwrando ac yn penderfynu ar apeliadau rhieni yn erbyn penderfyniadau awdurdodau lleol ynghylch ADY dysgwyr, lle na all rhieni ddod i gytundeb â'r awdurdod lleol. Gall plant sydd â diabetes, neu eu rhieni, apelio i'r Tribiwnlys Addysg yn erbyn penderfyniad ynghylch a oes ganddynt ADY ai peidio, neu mewn perthynas â'r DDdY a ddarperir ar eu cyfer. Fodd bynnag, nid oes ganddynt hawl i apelio i'r Tribiwnlys dim ond oherwydd bod ganddynt ddiabetes neu oherwydd nad ydynt yn cael Cynllun Gofal Iechyd Unigol. Mae'r Tribiwnlys Addysg hefyd yn delio â honiadau o wahaniaethu ar sail anabledd yn yr ysgol. Mae rhagor o wybodaeth am y Tribiwnlys Addysg ar gael ar ei [wefan](#).

Chwaraeodd rhanddeiliaid ran hanfodol yn y gwaith o ddatblygu canllawiau Cefnogi Dysgwyr ag Anghenion Gofal Iechyd. Yn dilyn ymgysylltu pellach â grwpiau rhanddeiliaid perthnasol yn 2018, cyhoeddwyd tri chanllaw cyflym ar anghenion gofal iechyd i athrawon a staff cymorth, rhieni a phobl ifanc. Mae'r [canllawiau](#) hyn ar gael ar ein gwefan.

Fel rhan o'n gwaith i ddiweddarau ystod eang o ganllawiau ar ôl gweithredu'r Ddeddf ADY, byddwn yn sicrhau bod canllawiau Cefnogi Dysgwyr ag Anghenion Gofal Iechyd yn defnyddio'n briodol y derminoleg a ddefnyddir gan y Ddeddf ADY. Byddwn hefyd yn parhau i'w hadolygu yng ngoleuni unrhyw wybodaeth newydd a allai ddod i'r amlwg a allai effeithio ar y maes polisi hwn.

Yn gywir



Jeremy Miles AS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg

Tudalen y pecyn 26

Zoe Beasley
Cardiff

31st of August 2023

Chair of the Petitions Committee

Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

CC Diabetes UK Cymru,
Wales@diabetes.org.uk

Dear Mr Jack Sergeant.

I am writing to you regarding the ALN Act and the negative impact the current implementation is having on [REDACTED] and other families with children living with long-term health conditions like diabetes.

My son [REDACTED] was diagnosed at one and a half years of age; he was in DKA (diabetic coma). His Doctor was found to have been negligent in his duties and understanding of type 1 diabetes; during a medical examination before he went into DKA, his exact words were, "Kids don't get diabetes," and he refused to do a dip test.

This isn't the only challenge/difficult time my son has faced since being diagnosed with this lifelong condition, we have been struggling to gain adequate care since his school placement at the age of five to a school in Newport. I was told on the first induction day that it would be fine to accept him; after his first day, I was told not to bring my son back for the second induction day. I asked the school why this was, and their response was that he has type 1 diabetes and wouldn't be able to participate in cooking and other activities. As you can imagine, I was very upset by this, but that did not change their outcome.

During Covid, we started looking into other schools, and I settled on a Primary school in Cardiff. We sold our house in Newport and started making preparations for the move. The house in Cardiff had to be near the school as he couldn't walk long distances. With the new school placement, we thought things were looking up for [REDACTED] as they arranged training for the staff and had a care plan in place. Unfortunately, the plan wasn't being followed, and my son's blood glucose levels were left to drop to dangerous levels (1.9), when I enquired I was told he hadn't been given his hypo treatment. Unfortunately, this was a consistent pattern, where there were continuous errors in his care to the point where I considered homeschooling; however, although in [REDACTED]'s medical best interest, this would impact his education and lifelong learning as he would miss interacting with friends, classmates and teachers.

We shouldn't have to consider this because of his lifelong condition.

Frustrated, I started a petition highlighting the lack of support for my son and other children like him and the challenges they were going through. It wasn't until I sought out help from outside sources (Diabetes UK) that I was given support. Like many families, we have no way of knowing how to get the help and support needed to tackle/help the situation we face. With the ALN Act's slow

implementation, schools still fail to give basic care. In my son's school, the current ALNCO who is in charge of the care of the children with medical/additional needs, has had long periods of absenteeism with no remedy to support the children's needs. One of the ongoing issues is the need to train a teacher to help manage [REDACTED]'s Type 1 diabetes (pump training), which his diabetes team still hasn't been contacted to arrange. This is after twice verbally informing the school that they have tried contacting the ALNCO and need to arrange it before term begins.

My son isn't the only one. Another child who is losing their eyesight is also facing difficulties, which should have been supported three weeks ago and is still (at the time of writing this letter) waiting for support. The child and their family are also facing similar problems that we are facing with [REDACTED], with parents kept in the dark waiting for the school to get its act together.

This is also not an isolated incident in [REDACTED]'s school. Several other parents from different schools across Wales have been in touch, sharing similar problems we have faced. We are all finding it difficult to support our children and gain the funding the ALN Act has in place to support them in school. It is frustrating, especially when we have been fighting for basic care for years. It is unfair for our children, as they face concerns and troubles managing their long-term health condition whilst also learning in an environment that is challenging to any child.

My son is losing the TA (teaching assistant), who has been his main caregiver for the last two years. The school's assessment found that [REDACTED] requires additional support; unfortunately, the school has informed me that they cannot grant 1:1 care due to funding constraints. His care for next year has not been planned out. Working with his diabetic team, I have been chasing for an update on his care to no avail. When writing this letter, we had no update days before [REDACTED] is due back on the 6th of September. Current staff shortages mean that the school cannot adequately provide and assess support for children like [REDACTED]. This is not fair and needs to change.

Type 1 diabetes is a serious condition; my son's, H1ba1c levels are inconsistent, which are influenced by everything from exercise to the weather, which impacts him on a daily basis, missing out on a lot of activities such as playtimes, school plays/practices and more importantly time in the classroom.

He has a low immune system and picks up illnesses easily, which has a knock-on effect with his ketones as his body finds it harder to fight things off; this is the same for all kids like [REDACTED] with additional health issues. What frustrates me more is that these concerns are stated in his school report, that his health condition is affecting his ability to learn, something I thought that the ALN Act provisioned for. Sadly, I am informed that there is nothing I can do about my son's diagnosis but what can be changed is the support system in place for kids like [REDACTED], who clearly need extra support in school.

I and other parents like me need to be informed of how we can access the care and provision that the ALN Act is meant to provide for and, failing a provision by the Act, continued support under the Equality Act 2010. Which [REDACTED]'s school and other institutions like it are failing to meet.

Thank you for taking the time to review my petition; I hope we can develop positive changes that can help my son and other children living with long-term health conditions like diabetes.

Kind regards,

On behalf of Toby, his mum,

Zoe Beasley.

P-06-1353 Datganoli cyfrifoldebau a chyllidebau ar gyfer cefnffyrdd yng ngogledd Cymru i ogledd Cymru

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 25 Medi 2023
Petitions Committee | 25 September 2023

Cyfeirnod: SR23/6132-5

Rhif y ddeiseb: P-06-1353

Teitl y ddeiseb: P-06-1353 Datganoli cyfrifoldebau a chyllidebau ar gyfer cefnffyrdd yng ngogledd Cymru i ogledd Cymru.

Geiriad y ddeiseb: Ar hyn o bryd mae'r holl ffyrdd, ac eithrio cefnffyrdd mawr, yn dod o dan gyfrifoldeb y chwe awdurdod lleol yng ngogledd Cymru. Bydd cynnwys y rhwydweithiau cefnffyrdd o fewn cyfrifoldeb y chwe awdurdod lleol yng ngogledd Cymru yn arwain at benderfyniadau llawer mwy perthnasol a phragmatig, gan fod gan awdurdodau lleol ddealltwriaeth lawer gwell o anghenion busnesau, cymunedau, a'r economi leol.

Mae gan ogledd Cymru rai o'r parciau diwydiannol mwyaf (fel Wrecsam a Glannau Dyfrdwy) yn y DU. Mae llawer o gwmnïau rhyngwladol adnabyddus wedi ymgartrefu yng ngogledd Cymru. Mae nifer y swyddi gweithgynhyrchu yn yr ardal ymhlith y mwyaf yn y DU. Mae Caergybi, dau faes awyr rhyngwladol (Lerpwl a Manceinion) yn ei gwneud yn hawdd hyrwyddo gogledd Cymru fel lle gwych ar gyfer buddsoddi. Yn anffodus, mae ei rwydwaith ffyrdd yn hen ac felly yn atal y rhanbarth rhag cyflawni ei botensial ar gyfer twf economaidd. Mae'n rhaid i'r ffyrdd hyn, gan gynnwys y cefnffyrdd, gael eu cynllunio a'u dylunio ar y cyd â'r cymunedau a busnesau lleol er mwyn sicrhau bod unrhyw fuddsoddiad yn dwyn y buddion economaidd gorau posibl. Bydd hyn yn mynd i'r afael ag anghenion lleol megis mynediad hawdd at gyflogaeth. Dim ond penderfyniad lleol fydd yn mynd i'r afael ag



anghenion trafndiaeth ffyrdd gogledd Cymru. Mae angen gwranddo ar lais busnesau a chymunedau lleol.

1. Y cefndir

Llywodraeth Cymru yw'r awdurdod priffyrdd ar gyfer rhwydwaith cefnffyrdd a thraffyrdd Cymru, sef, gyda'i gilydd, y Rhwydwaith Ffyrdd Strategol. Yr awdurdodau lleol yw'r awdurdodau priffyrdd ar gyfer y rhwydweithiau ffyrdd lleol yn eu hardaloedd.

Dau asiant cefnffyrdd sy'n rheoli'r Rhwydwaith Ffyrdd Strategol yng Nghymru - Asiant Cefnffyrdd De Cymru (SWTRA) ac Asiant Cefnffyrdd Gogledd a Chanolbarth Cymru (NMWTRA). Gyda'i gilydd, mae'r rhain yn gyfrifol am reoli'r rhwydwaith ac asedau, cynnal a chadw cyfalaf, a chynnal a chadw arferol. Mae prosiectau mawr ar y Rhwydwaith yn cael eu rheoli'n ganolog gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Mae gan Drafndiaeth Cymru rôl i'w chwarae hefyd o ran integreiddio'r gwaith o gynllunio a datblygu'r Rhwydwaith Ffyrdd Strategol yn ei rhaglenni trafndiaeth gynaliadwy cyffredinol.

Gwnaeth Senedd Cymru basio Deddf Llywodraeth Leol ac Etholiadau (Cymru) 2021 ym mis Tachwedd 2021. Sefydlodd y Ddeddf Gyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig fel cyrff corfforedig rhanbarthol i gyflawni rhai swyddogaethau awdurdodau lleol ar sail ranbarthol. Mae hyn yn cynnwys paratoi Cynlluniau Trafndiaeth Rhanbarthol, gyda swyddogaethau pellach yn debygol o gael eu trosglwyddo i'r Cyd-bwyllgorau yn y dyfodol. Mae gan Ymchwil y Senedd erthygl o 2022 ar Gyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig sy'n cynnwys cefndir pellach.

Yr adolygiad ffyrdd

Cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cymru adroddiad terfynol ei Phanel Adolygu Ffyrdd ym mis Chwefror 2023, ynghyd â'i hymateb a Chynllun Cyflawni Trafndiaeth Cenedlaethol newydd.

Mae polisi newydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn cyfyngu buddsoddiad mewn priffyrdd i bedwar diben: cymorth ar gyfer newid dulliau teithio; lleihau anafiadau; addasu i newid hinsawdd; a mynediad cynaliadwy at safleoedd datblygu. Mae hefyd yn

pennu pedwar amod ar gyfer buddsoddi, er enghraifft y dylai allyriadau carbon o adeiladu fod cyn lleied ag y bo modd.

O'r 16 o gynlluniau yng ngogledd Cymru a adolygwyd, cafodd 15 eu stopio neu eu hanfon yn ôl ar gyfer eu hadolygu. Mae rhai o'r cynlluniau yn y Cynllun Cyflawni Cenedlaethol newydd ar gyfer Trafnidiaeth yn wahanol i argymhellion y panel. Er enghraifft, newidiwyd yr argymhelliad na ddylai'r drydedd bont dros afon Menai fynd yn ei blaen i atgyfeiriad i Gomisiwn Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Cymru i ddatblygu opsiynau ar gyfer gwydnwch ar y Fenai. Hefyd, er i raglen Gwella Coridor Sir y Fflint gael ei chanslo, mae'r Cynllun yn ymrwmo i ddatblygu opsiynau i wella ansawdd aer ar yr A494 yn Aston Hill.

Mae Ymchwil y Senedd wedi cyhoeddi erthygl sy'n darparu rhagor o fanylion am yr adolygiad ac ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru.

Ar ôl i'r adolygiad gael ei gyhoeddi, gwnaeth Ken Skates AS – a fu gynt yn Weinidog â chyfrifoldeb dros dtrafnidiaeth yn y Bumed Senedd – alw am i gyfrifoldebau trafndiaeth gael eu datganoli i Cyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig.

Ar 13 Mehefin, awgrymodd adroddiad yn y cyfryngau fod dau brosiect economaidd – prosiect Porth y Gorllewin yn Wrecsam a Neuadd Warren ym Mrychdyn – mewn perygl yn dilyn yr adolygiad ffyrdd.

Ym mis Gorffennaf, dywedodd Dirprwy Gyfarwyddwr Strategaeth a Pholisi Trafnidiaeth Llywodraeth Cymru wrth y Pwyllgor Craffu ar Waith y Prif Weinidog fod Neuadd Warren yn cael ei chynnwys mewn adolygiad o gynlluniau datblygu economaidd a thrafnidiaeth a sefydlwyd yn dilyn cyhoeddi'r adroddiad adolygu ffyrdd. Dywedodd hefyd fod trafodaethau ar y gweill gyda Chyngor Wrecsam ar brosiect Porth Wrecsam.

2. Ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru

Mae'r llythyr gan Lee Waters, y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd, at y Cadeirydd yn ymateb i'r ddeiseb hon yn dweud nad oes unrhyw gynlluniau i adolygu rheolaeth Rhwydwaith Ffyrdd Strategol Cymru. Mae'n egluro pam, yn ei farn ef, na fyddai'n ddymunol datganoli cyfrifoldeb, gan amlygu bod gan y Rhwydwaith rôl wahanol i ffyrdd lleol a fyddai'n golygu y byddai datganoli yn arwain at "farn ddigyswllt ar y ffordd y mae'r system genedlaethol o lwybrau yn gweithredu ledled Cymru" yn ogystal ag aneffeithlonrwydd a chynnydd mewn costau. Dywedodd:

Mae manteision gyda'r model hwn o'r SRN yn cael ei reoli gan Lywodraeth Cymru pan ddaw i flaenoriaethu prosiectau sy'n helpu i gefnogi'r amgylchedd, yr economi ac i'r rhai sy'n byw ac yn gweithio yng Nghymru.

Mae hefyd yn egluro'r cysylltiadau rhwng y Cynllun Cyflawni Cenedlaethol ar gyfer Trafnidiaeth a'r Cynlluniau Trafnidiaeth Rhanbarthol sy'n cael eu datblygu ar hyn o bryd gan y Cyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig, a'r cydgysylltu rhyngddynt. Mae'n cyfeirio at y ffaith i adroddiad terfynol Comisiwn Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Cymru gael ei ddisgwyl yn ddiweddarach eleni.

Gwneir pob ymdrech i sicrhau bod y wybodaeth yn y papur briffio hwn yn gywir adeg ei gyhoeddi. Dylai darllenwyr fod yn ymwybodol nad yw'r papurau briffio hyn yn cael eu diweddarau o reidrwydd na'u diwygio fel arall i adlewyrchu newidiadau dilynol.



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1353
Ein cyf/Our ref LW/01412/23

Jack Sargeant MS
Cadeirydd – Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

31 Awst 2023

Annwyl Jack,

Diolch am eich llythyr dyddiedig 11 Gorffennaf yn amgáu P-06-1353 – Datganoli cyfrifoldebau a chyllidebau ar gyfer cefnffyrdd yng Ngogledd Cymru i Awdurdodau Lleol Gogledd Cymru gan Askar Sheibani.

Ers datganoli ym 1999, Gweinidogion Cymru sydd wedi bod yn gyfrifol am y rhwydwaith ffyrdd strategol (SRN) yng Nghymru ac yn ôl y gyfraith, dyma'r awdurdod priffyrdd. Nid yw natur strategol yr ased hwn yn lleol a rhaid iddo adlewyrchu gofynion Cymru gyfan a sicrhau bod polisi Llywodraeth Cymru, megis [Strategaeth drafnidiaeth Cymru](#) (WTS) yn cael ei defnyddio i bob agwedd o'i reoli.

Roedd y ffyrdd hyn yn ffurfio'r hyn a alwodd Deddf Cefnffyrdd 1946 yn "system genedlaethol o lwybrau ar gyfer traffig trwodd". Felly, mae'r gefnffordd yn cymryd rôl wahanol o fewn ardaloedd awdurdodau lleol o'i gymharu â'r rhwydwaith ffyrdd lleol h.y. mae'r gefnffordd ar y cyfan yn darparu ar gyfer llawer iawn o draffig trwodd gyda'r ffyrdd lleol yn dosbarthu'r traffig lleol i fusnesau, cymunedau lleol a chefnogi'r economi leol. Pan fydd cefnffordd wedi'i gwella gan draffordd, ffordd osgoi neu lwybr tebyg, gellir ei hisraddio. Caiff y rhain eu hisraddio fel arfer i'r awdurdod lleol eu rheoli gyda llawer llai o draffig ar y llwybr hwnnw o ganlyniad i'r gwelliant a wnaed ac yn aml daw yn fwy o ffordd ddosbarthu.

Ni fyddai newid cyfrifoldeb cefnffyrdd i'r awdurdod lleol yn dasg hawdd, yn enwedig gyda'r ddeddfwriaeth a'r pwerau amrywiol sydd ar waith i Lywodraeth Cymru. Ar ben hynny, byddai'n arwain at farn ddigyswllt ar y ffordd y mae'r system genedlaethol o lwybrau yn gweithredu ledled Cymru. Nodwyd hyn pan gafodd y rhwydwaith cefnffyrdd ei reoli'n wreiddiol gan awdurdodau lleol ar ran Llywodraeth Cymru flynyddoedd maith yn ôl. Arweiniodd hyn at aneffeithlonrwydd a chynnydd mewn costau gyda'r nifer uchel o adnoddau oedd eu hangen i weithredu a chynnal y cefnffyrdd bob blwyddyn. Nid yw'r adnodd hwn bellach yn bodoli o fewn awdurdodau lleol i reoli'r gwahanol asedau'n effeithiol. Dyna pam dros y blynyddoedd, rydym wedi adolygu'r gwaith o reoli'r SRN drwy ein hasiantau ac wedi lleihau'r rhain i ddau asiant sy'n gweithio i Lywodraeth Cymru heddiw, Asiantaeth Cefnffyrdd Gogledd a Chanolbarth Cymru ac Asiant Cefnffyrdd De Cymru.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Lee.Waters@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lee.Waters@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.

Tudalen y pecyn 34
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.

Mae'r trefniant rheoli hwn yr un fath â rhannau eraill o'r DU lle mae gweinyddiaethau datganoledig yn rheoli'r Cefnffyrdd yn yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon. Yr eithriad yw y Priffyrdd Cenedlaethol sy'n rheoli'r rhwydwaith cefnffyrdd yn Lloegr.

Mae manteision gyda'r model hwn o'r SRN yn cael ei reoli gan Lywodraeth Cymru pan ddaw i flaenoriaethu prosiectau sy'n helpu i gefnogi'r amgylchedd, yr economi ac i'r rhai sy'n byw ac yn gweithio yng Nghymru.

Hefyd, creodd Deddf Llywodraeth Leol ac Etholiadau (Cymru) 2021 fframwaith ar gyfer dull cyson o gydweithredu rhanbarthol rhwng llywodraeth leol, sef Cyd-bwyllgorau Corfforaethol (CJCs). Mae'r Ddeddf yn darparu ar gyfer sefydlu Cyd-bwyllgorau Corfforaethol drwy Reoliadau. Mae'r Cynlluniau Trafnidiaeth Rhanbarthol newydd (RTPs) yn cael eu datblygu ar hyn o bryd gan y gwahanol Gynlluniau Trafnidiaeth Rhanbarthol yn dilyn cyhoeddi ein [Cynlluniau trafndiaeth rhanbarthol: canllawiau ar gyfer Cyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig | LLYW.CYMRU](#). Bydd y Cynlluniau Cludiant.

Rhanbarthol a'r Cynlluniau Cyflawni Trafnidiaeth Rhanbarthol (RTDPs) cysylltiedig yn nodi'r polisiâu, y rhaglenni a'r prosiectau i gyflawni'r WTS yn y rhanbarth dros gyfnod o bum mlynedd rhwng 2025 a 2030.

Yn unol â'r canllawiau hyn, rhaid iddynt gyd-fynd â'r [Cynllun cyflawni cenedlaethol ar gyfer trafndiaeth](#) sy'n nodi polisiâu, rhaglenni a phrosiectau Llywodraeth Cymru i gyflawni gweledigaeth, uchelgeisiau a blaenoriaethau WTS ledled Cymru dros gyfnod o bum mlynedd. Mae hyn yn cynnwys prosiectau SRN. O ystyried y cylchoedd cyhoeddi sy'n gorgyffwrdd, disgwylir y bydd RTPs yn llywio fersiynau dilynol o'r NTDP. Disgwylir i'r NTDP presennol gael ei ddiwygio yn 2027 a bydd yn cynnwys cyfranogiad ac ymgynghoriad gan yr holl randdeiliaid.

Ar ben hynny, mae cynllunio a dylunio cynlluniau bob amser yn cynnwys ymgynghori â'r cymunedau a'r busnesau lleol. Mae Deddf Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i ni wneud hyn, a Chanllawiau Arfarnu Trafnidiaeth Cymru (WelTAG) yw ein mecanwaith.

Mae blaenoriaethu cyllid hefyd yn broses deg a chyfartal wedi'i lledaenu cyn belled ag y bo modd ac yn gyfartal ledled Cymru. Mae sicrhau bod SRN Cymru yn cael ei ddiweddarau i gyflawni amcanion statudol a pholisi yn ganolbwynt i'r WTS, ac mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn parhau i hyrwyddo cynlluniau yn y NTDP sy'n cyd-fynd â deddfwriaeth a pholisi.

O ran datblygu'r Cynlluniau Trafnidiaeth Rhanbarthol a'r Cydbwyllgorau Corfforedig nid oes cynlluniau ar hyn o bryd i adolygu rheolaeth y rhwydwaith cefnffyrdd/ffyrdd strategol ar gyfer Cymru.

Rydym wedi gofyn i Gomisiwn Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Cymru gynghori ac argymhell atebion ar gyfer system drafndiaeth well yng ngogledd Cymru. Fe gyhoeddwyd eu hadroddiad interim ym mis Mehefin [Comisiwn Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Cymru: Adroddiad Interim Mehefin 2023 | LLYW.CYMRU](#). Edrychaf ymlaen at dderbyn adroddiad terfynol ac argymhellion y Comisiwn yn ddiweddarach eleni ac yn dilyn hyn, byddaf yn nodi ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru.

Yn gywir,



Lee Waters AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd

P-06-1353 Devolve responsibilities and budgets for trunk roads in North Wales to North Wales - Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 20 September 2023

North Wales' economy is fundamentally different from South Wales. We have a historic relationship with Liverpool and the neighbouring regions. North Wales has excellent connections to the international market through two international airports (Liverpool and Manchester) and access to a good motorway network connecting it to the rest of the UK market. Sadly the trunk road networks in North Wales have not been developed to cater for economic growth. There are no motorways in North Wales. This is the very reason that the vast majority of our highly successful industries have decided to set up their operations in North East Wales right at the English border, so they can have access to more up-to-date and suitable road networks. I believe the population of North Wales, its six local authorities and the business community have a much better understanding of the type of Trunk Roads which would deliver a more efficient transport network relevant to North Wales' economy and social needs.

A devolved power to North Wales, with an appropriate budget to maintain and develop its own road network, will reduce costs, and help to support the creation of a prosperous economy and employment. We are very fortunate in North Wales in having Anglesey as a freeport. The freeport has the potential to transform North Wales's trade and tourism. Unfortunately, the present road network will stifle this opportunity too. The present policy of making the decisions for North Wales road development centrally without consulting the stakeholders and the citizens has not worked so far. It's high time to change course and devolve this responsibility to North Wales.

1. Has the Deputy Minister discussed devolving responsibilities and budgets for North Wales Trunk Roads with regional leaders?
2. Has the Deputy Minister told the North Wales Transport Commission that he will reject such a recommendation, should the Commission make it?
3. Is spending on the Strategic Road Network available by region, in the interests of transparency?
4. In principle, does the Welsh Government support the notion that people in North Wales should determine investments in all roads in North Wales?
5. Has the Welsh Government ruled out devolving responsibilities for trunk road investment to the Corporate Joint Committee?
6. Would the Welsh Government agree to at least consult with the people of North Wales over the devolution of responsibilities for trunk roads?

Kind regards,

Llunio Cynllun Gweithredu Microblastigau newydd i Gymru

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 25 Medi 2023
Petitions Committee | 25 September 2023

Cyfeirnod: SR23/6779-1

Rhif y ddeiseb: P-06-1357

Teitl y ddeiseb: Llunio cynllun gweithredu microblastigau newydd i Gymru

Geiriad y ddeiseb: Mae gronynnau microblastig wedi'u canfod o gopaon y mynyddoedd uchaf i ddyfnderoedd eithaf y cefnforoedd, ac amcangyfrifir bod microffibrau plastig o'r dillad rydym yn eu gwisgo yn cyfrif am tua 35 y cant o'r holl lygredd plastig yn ein moroedd a'n cefnforoedd. Canfuwyd bod microblastigau yn wenwynig i fywyd morol ac mae tystiolaeth gynyddol yn awgrymu eu bod yn niweidiol i fywyd ar dir, gan gynnwys ni ein hunain.

Rydym yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i lunio Cynllun Gweithredu Microblastigau newydd i warchod bywyd yn ein moroedd ac ar ein tir.

Mae microblastigau yn deneuach na blew dynol ond maent yn achosi problemau mawr i fywyd yn ein cefnforoedd ac ar y tir. Maent yn dod o sawl ffynhonnell, gan gynnwys poteli plastig, teiars cerbydau a hyd yn oed o baent ar adeiladau a marciau ar y ffyrdd.

Maent hefyd yn yr aer ac yn ein cadwyn fwyd. Mae darnau hyd yn oed wedi'u canfod yn y gwaed mewn 8 o bob 10 o bobl, ac nid ydym yn gwybod eto beth fydd effaith hyn ar iechyd.

Mae gan Lywodraeth Cymru hanes cryf o weithredu ar blastigau ond mae lle i



wneud mwy i ymdrin â microblastigau.

Gofynnwn i Lywodraeth Cymru weithio gyda sefydliadau ac arbenigwyr perthnasol i lunio Cynllun Gweithredu Microblastigau i gynnwys camau fel ymdrin â'r microffibrau plastig sy'n cael eu rhyddhau a llygredd microblastigau ar dir ac mewn cyrsiau dŵr o amgylch Cymru, yn ogystal ag addysgu am y materion hyn mewn ysgolion.

Mae llygredd microblastigau yn broblem fawr yng Nghymru - rhaid inni fynd i'r afael ag ef.

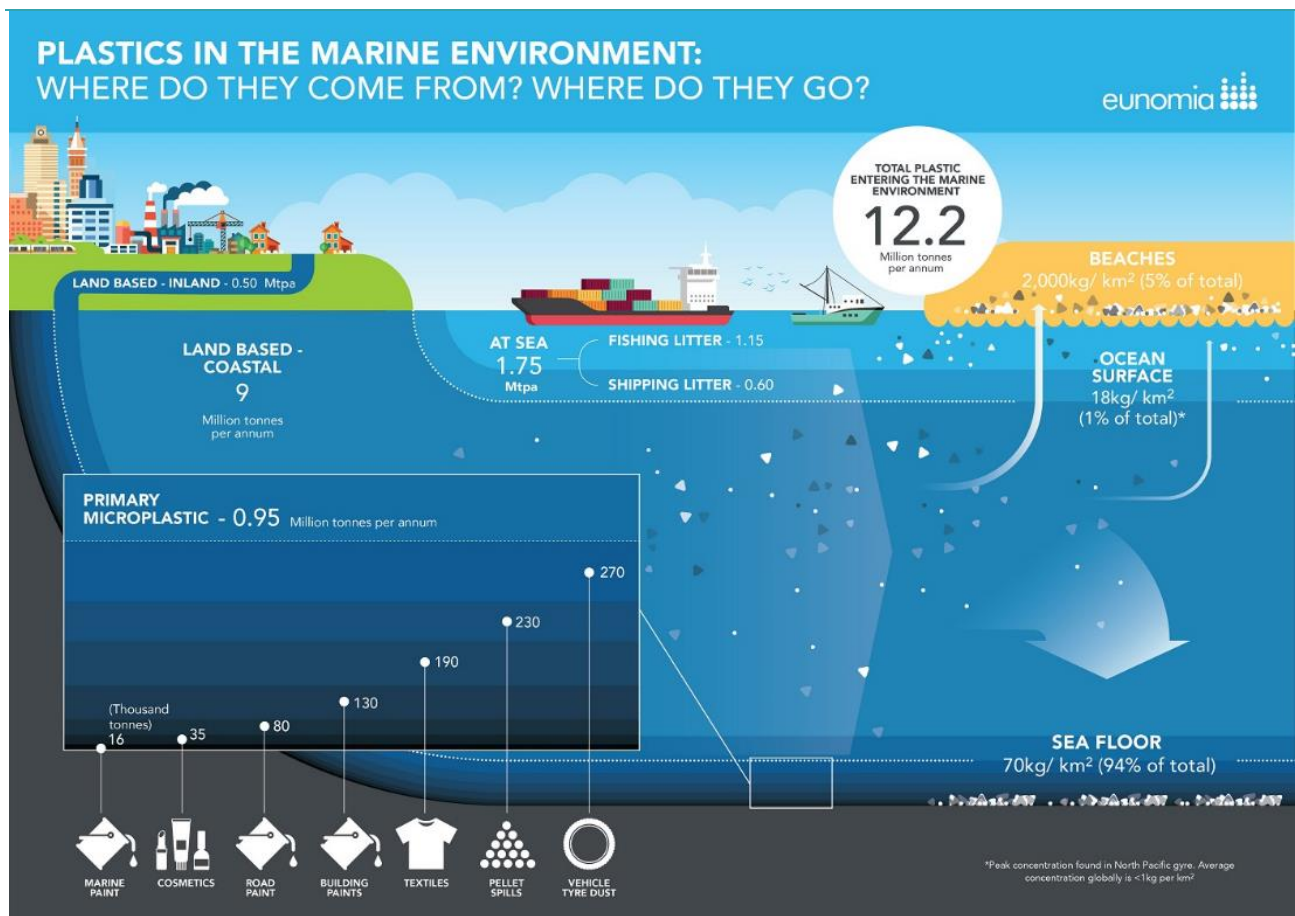
1. Y cefndir

Gronynnau plastig sydd ond ychydig filimetrau o ran maint yw microblastigau, sydd llai na 5mm mewn unrhyw ddimensiwn. Mae modd eu categorio'n ddau brif fath: sylfaenol ac eilaidd

1.1.a. Microblastigau Sylfaenol

Microblastigau yw'r rhain sydd wedi'u cynhyrchu i fod yn ficroblastigau e.e. **microbelenni**, yn ogystal â microffeibrau sy'n dod oddi ar ddillad a thecstilau eraill, megis rhwydi pysgota.

Dengys adroddiad o 2016 gan yr ymgynghorwyr amgylcheddol Eunomia, '**Plastics in the marine environment**', yn dangos mai traul teiars a gollyngiadau pelenni yw'r ffynhonnell fwyaf cyffredin o ficroplastigau sylfaenol. Mae pelenni plastig, a elwir fel arall yn belenni cyn-gynhyrchu neu'n 'nurdles', yn ficroblastigau a ddefnyddir wrth gynhyrchu cynhyrchion plastig.

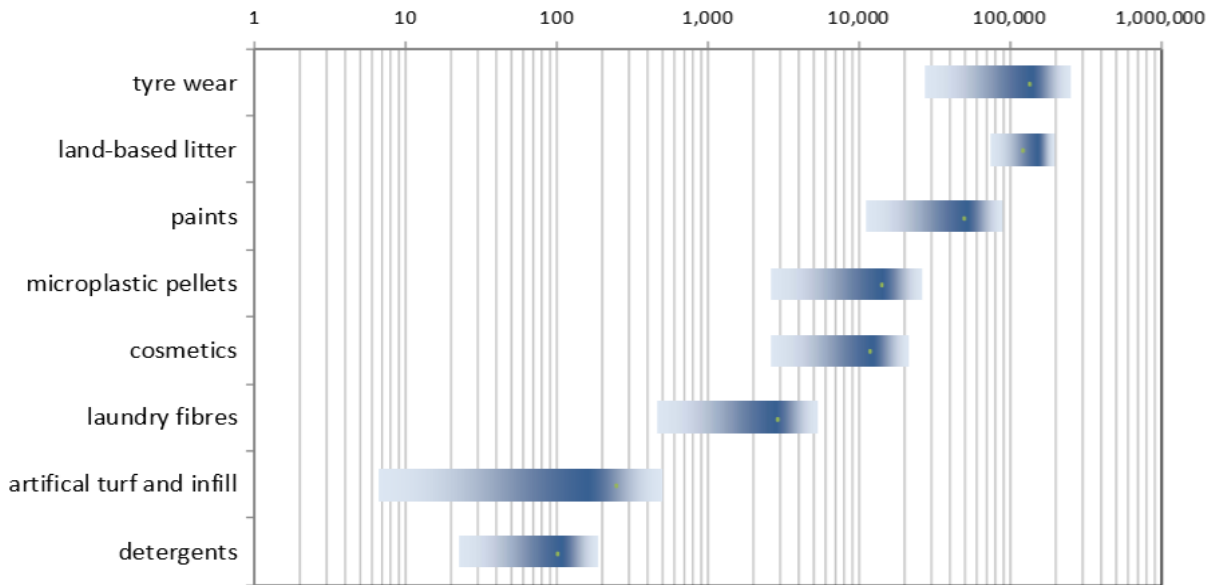


Ffigur 1. Plastigau yn yr amgylchedd morol. [Ffynhonnell: [Eunomia](#)]

1.1.b. Microblastigau Eilaidd

Caiff microplastigau eilaidd eu creu wrth i ddarnau mwy o blastig gael eu torri'n llai gan ffactorau allanol megis pelydriad UV, gwynt, tonnau, anifeiliaid ac ati. Gan y deallir bod **80% o lygredd plastig** yn mynd i'r amgylchedd morol o ffynonellau tir, mae macroblastigau (eitemau plastig mwy) yn ffynhonnell allweddol o lygredd microblastig.

Mae adroddiad o 2017 gan OSPAR, [Assessment documents of land-based inputs of microplastics in the marine environment](#), yn dangos bod sbwriel o'r tir yn achosi rhai o'r allyriadau uchaf o ficroblastigau mewn gwledydd OSPAR, yn ail i dreulio teiars yn unig.



Ffigur 2. Amcangyfrif o allyriadau o ficroplastigau mewn dalgylchoedd OSPAR (tunnell/blwyddyn). [ffynhonnell: [Ospar](#)]

Noder: Mae'r bariâu'n cynrychioli ymylon ansicrwydd yr allyriadau a'r dotiau gwyn yn cynrychioli'r canolbwynt.

1.2. Effaith microblastigau

Mae gwaith ymchwil wedi dangos y gall amlyncu microblastigau gael effaith negyddol ar fywyd morol. Yn ogystal, gall microblastigau amsugno a chrynodi llygryddion o'r amgylchedd cyfagos (biogronni), a'i gwneud yn haws i lygryddion cemegol fynd i mewn i'r gadwyn fwyd.

Maen hysbys bod organebau'n llyncu microblastigau drwy'r gadwyn fwyd, ac maent wedi eu canfod mewn pysgod sy'n cael eu gwerthu i bobl ei fwyta, yn ogystal â dŵr yfed mewn potel. Mae hefyd yn hysbys bod microblastigau'n cael eu hanadlu neu eu llyncu, ac wedi cael eu canfod mewn gwaed dynol. Fodd bynnag, mae effeithiau andwyol posibl plastigau ar bobl yn anodd eu mesur, ac nid yw'n hysbys i ba raddau y maent yn achosi 'niwed'.

2. Camau gan Lywodraeth Cymru

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cyflwyno nifer o fesurau i atal llygredd plastig, gan gynnwys:

- cyflwyno tâl ar fapiau siopa untro;
- gwahardd meicrobelenni mewn cynhyrchion gofal personol rinsio i ffwrdd; a
- gwahardd cynhyrchion plastig untro sy'n aml yn cael eu taflu fel sbwriel (i ddod i rym ym mis Hydref 2023).

Mae Deddf Diogelu'r Amgylchedd (Cynhyrchion Plastig Untro) (Cymru) 2023 caniatáu i Weinidogion Cymru ychwanegu eitemau at y rhestr o gynhyrchion plastig untro sydd wedi'u gwahardd yn gyffredin. Yn ei hymateb i'r ddeiseb hon, cadarnhaodd Julie James AS, y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd, fod Llywodraeth Cymru:

... eisoes yn blaenoriaethu casglu tystiolaeth ar gyfer cynhyrchion problematig eraill sy'n cyfrannu at lygredd microblastig fel weips.

Pan gânt eu fflysiu, yn ogystal ag achosi rhwystrau, mae weips hefyd yn rhyddhau microffeibrau plastig i'r amgylchedd. Dywedodd y Gweinidog wrth y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith (Medi 2022) mai'r broblem fawr gyda weips gwlyb yw'r labelu, gan nad yw'n faes sydd wedi'i ddatganoli i Gymru. Fodd bynnag, mae Cynllun Dŵr diweddar Llywodraeth y DU yn cynnwys ymrwymiad i ymgynghori ar wahardd y defnydd o blastig mewn weips. Yn ei hymateb i'r ddeiseb hon, dywedodd y Gweinidog:

Rydym wrthi'n gweithio gyda Llywodraeth y DU a'r Llywodraethau datganoledig ar gamau rheoleiddio posibl yn y maes hwn.

Tynnodd y Gweinidog sylw hefyd at waith Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyflwyno Cyfrifoldeb Estynedig Cynhyrchwyr a Chynllun Dychwelyd Ernes.

Cynhaliwyd ymgyngoriad ar y cyd ar gynigion ar gyfer cynllun Cyfrifoldeb Estynedig Cynhyrchwyr ar gyfer y DU gyfan (gan bedair gwlad y DU), gyda ffocws ar broses a fyddai'n codi'r gost o ymdrin â pheconwaith gwastraff oddi ar ysgwyddau cartrefi, trethdalwyr lleol a chynghorau a'i rhoi ar gynhyrchwyr pecynwaith. Mae hyn yn unol ag egwyddor 'y llygrwr sy'n talu', sef mai'r rhai sy'n gwneud cynhyrchion sy'n achosi llygredd sy'n talu'r costau llawn pan fydd y

cynhyrchion hynny'n troi'n wastraff. Cynigir y **bydd** y Cyfrifoldeb Estynedig Cynhyrchwyr:

... yn cynnig cymhelliant ariannol i gynhyrchwyr leihau faint o becynwaith y maent yn ei roi ar y farchnad ac i wella'r graddau y gellir ailgylchu pecynwaith.

Y disgwyl oedd y byddai Cyfrifoldeb Cynhyrchwyr Estynedig yn cael ei **weithredu fesul cam o 2024 ymlaen** (2023 yn wreiddiol), ond mae hyn **wedi'i ohirio ymhellach, yn ddiweddar, tan fis Hydref 2025**.

O dan Gynllun Dychwelyd Ernes, codir swm o arian ar ddefnyddwyr fel blaendal ymlaen llaw pan fyddant yn prynu, er enghraifft, diod mewn cwpan untro. Mae modd cael yr arian nôl pan gaiff y cynhwysydd gwag ei ddychwelyd, gan gynyddu nifer y cynwysyddion sy'n cael eu hailgylchu.

Cynhaliwyd ymgynghoriad ar y cyd ar gynigion am Gynllun Dychwelyd Ernes (gan Lywodraeth Cymru, gan Lywodraeth y DU ar gyfer Lloegr, a chan Adran Amaethyddiaeth, yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig yng Ngogledd Iwerddon) am yr eildro yn 2021. Gwnaeth y llywodraethau **ymateb ar y cyd ym mis Ionawr 2023**, a chynigiwyd dyddiad cychwyn o 1 Hydref 2025; fodd bynnag mae hwn yn "ddyddiad targed ymestynnol".

Yn yr ymateb i'r ddeiseb hon, dywedodd y Gweinidog:

Rydym hefyd wedi gweithio ar draws llywodraethau i ddatblygu Safon Brydeinig i atal colli pelenni plastig i'r amgylchedd yn ystod cyfnodau cludo a chynhyrchu plastig. Rydym wedi cydweithio ar ddatblygu dangosydd microblastigau ar gyfer ein moroedd.

3. Camau gan Senedd Cymru

Cynhaliodd pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig y Bumed Senedd ymchwiliad ynghylch **lleihau gwastraff plastig**, lle edrychodd ar ffynonellau llygredd microblastigau a'u heffaith.

Ym mis Ionawr 2021, gofynnodd Huw Irranca-Davies AS i Lesley Griffiths AS, Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig ar y pryd, am **ddatganiad ar gynlluniau Llywodraeth Cymru i fynd i'r afael â llygredd microblastigau yng Nghymru**. Dywedodd y Gweinidog ar y pryd fod Llywodraeth Cymru yn gweithio gyda nifer o sefydliadau, gan gynnwys Canolfan Ecoleg a Hydroleg y DU (UKCEH)

ac Ymchwil Diwydiant Dŵr y DU (UKWIR), ar ddod i ddeall llygredd microblastigau yn well.

Gwneir pob ymdrech i sicrhau bod y wybodaeth yn y papur briffio hwn yn gywir adeg ei gyhoeddi. Dylai darllenwyr fod yn ymwybodol nad yw'r papurau briffio hyn yn cael eu diweddarau o reidrwydd na'u diwygio fel arall i adlewyrchu newidiadau dilynol.



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1357
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/02347/23

Jack Sargeant AS
Cadeirydd – Y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1SN

12 Medi 2023

Annwyl Jack,

Diolch am eich llythyr dyddiedig 15 Awst ynglŷn â deiseb gan Gyfeillion y Ddaear yn galw ar Gynllun Gweithredu Microblastigau i Gymru.

Rwy'n rhannu pryderon Cyfeillion y Ddaear Cymru ynghylch microblastigau. Credaf ei bod yn hanfodol bod defnydd cymdeithasol o blastigau, yn enwedig plastig untro, yn cael ei leihau i ddiogelu'r amgylchedd, bioamrywiaeth a iechyd pobl.

Mae microblastigau yn tarddu o amrywiaeth o wahanol ffynonellau, gan gynnwys gweithgareddau diwydiannol a domestig. O ganlyniad, mae gennym nifer o strategaethau sy'n bodoli eisoes sy'n ymrwymedig i fabwysiadu dull penodol sy'n seiliedig ar dystiolaeth o fynd i'r afael â microblastigau. Fodd bynnag, rwy'n cydnabod bod hwn yn faes cymhleth sy'n datblygu o fewn gwyddoniaeth lle rydym yn parhau i wneud ymchwil a, lle bo hynny'n briodol, yn cymryd camau lliniaru.

Mae gan Lywodraeth Cymru hanes hir o weithredu i leihau llif plastig i'r amgylchedd. Rwy'n falch o'r ddeddfwriaeth yr ydym wedi'i chyflwyno i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem. Mae hyn yn cynnwys codi tâl am fapiau siopa untro, gwahardd microbelenni mewn cynhyrchion gofal personol sy'n golchi i ffwrdd ac yn fwyaf diweddar, y gwaharddiadau ar gynhyrchion plastig sbwriel untro a ddaw i rym yn fuan o dan Ddeddf Diogelu'r Amgylchedd (Cynhyrchion Plastig Untro) (Cymru) 2023.

Mae'r Ddeddf yn rhoi pwerau i Weinidogion Cymru gyflwyno gwaharddiadau pellach os oes angen. Gallaf gadarnhau ein bod eisoes yn blaenoriaethu casglu tystiolaeth ar gyfer cynhyrchion problematig eraill sy'n cyfrannu at lygredd microblastig fel weips. Pan gaiff weips eu fflysio, gallant flocio draeniau, cyfrannu at lifogydd ac ychwanegu ffibrau microblastig i'n cyflenwad dŵr. Trwy atal cyflenwadau plastig diangen yn y ffynhonnell, byddwn yn arafu gollyngiadau microblastigau i'n hamgylchedd. Ar hyn o bryd rydym yn gweithio gyda Llywodraeth y DU a'r Llywodraethau Datganoledig ar gamau rheoleiddio posibl yn y maes hwn.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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

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

Tudalen y pecyn 44
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.

Rydym hefyd yn gweithio i gyflwyno cynllun Cyfrifoldeb Cynhyrchydd Estynedig ar gyfer pecynnu, a fydd yn cyflwyno graddfa symudol o ffioedd i gynhyrchwyr sy'n rhoi deunydd pacio ar y farchnad. Bydd hyn yn helpu i leihau faint o ddeunydd pacio sydd a'i wneud yn haws ei ailgylchu. Rydym hefyd yn gweithio ar Gynllun Dychwelyd Ernes ar gyfer cynwysyddion diodydd. Mae'r ddwy fenter hefyd yn anelu at leihau sbwriel pecynnu, gan gynnwys pecynnu wedi'i wneud o blastig.

Mae gennym system casglu gwastraff cartref helaeth lle mae cymaint â phosibl yn cael ei ailgylchu ac rydym yn ymestyn gofynion tebyg i fusnesau yn ystod 2024.

Rydym hefyd wedi gweithio ar draws llywodraethau i ddatblygu Safon Brydeinig i atal colli pelenni plastig i'r amgylchedd yn ystod cyfnodau cludo a chynhyrchu plastig. Rydym wedi cydweithio ar ddatblygu dangosydd microblastigau ar gyfer ein moroedd.

Rwy'n credu bod yr ystod o gamau rydym yn eu cymryd, a'n strategaethau presennol yn dangos bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ymrwymo i gymryd ymagwedd benodol sy'n seiliedig ar dystiolaeth at y broblem blastig a microblastig.

Yn gywir,



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

P-06-1357 Draw up a new Microplastics Action Plan for Wales, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 19.09.23

Dear Jack Sargeant MS and the Senedd Petitions Committee,

Many thanks for considering our petition 'Draw up a new Microplastics Action Plan for Wales'.

We would like to add the following information for your consideration.

We (Sustainable Clothing and Textiles Cymru) are a coalition (members include Sustainable Fashion Wales, Friends of the Earth Cymru, Repair Café Wales, the Eco-schools programme Keep Wales Tidy and Welsh sustainable fashion label Onesta, amongst others), brought together to look into all the various aspects of sustainable fashion in Wales and to highlight the issues and recommend solutions. We have produced a [document highlighting all these various recommendations](#) and presented it to Welsh Government at the start of this year.

One of the issues that we highlight in our recommendations report is the one on plastic microfibres being released from synthetic clothes when they are washed. This is an issue that has been raised before by the National Federation of Women's Institutes in their excellent '[End Plastic Soup](#)' report.

Obviously these plastic microfibres are then part of a wider issue of microplastic pollution and one we believe should be addressed in more detail here in Wales.

Our recommendation, specifically, is that Welsh Government facilitate the bringing together of an expert group in Wales who can then help draw up a new **Microplastics Action Plan for Wales**. We already have many experts on the issues in Wales, from prominent academics to organisations like Dŵr Cymru and NRW, National Federation Women's Institutes Wales, NGO's and other individuals.

We believe this approach, to facilitate the bringing together of an expert group would ensure all the different sources of microplastic pollution are discussed and investigated and that all relevant solutions are included in a new Action Plan.

We hope that the Senedd Petitions Committee will support this recommendation.

Further information

Microplastics are particles of plastic below 5mm in size (thinner than a human hair) and come from a variety of different sources.

Worldwide, around 70 million barrels of oil a year are used to make polyester fibres in our clothes. Washing some clothes, meanwhile, releases about 500,000 tons of microfibres into our oceans each year (the equivalent of roughly 50 billion plastic bottles!).

Astonishingly, plastic microfibres washed off from synthetic clothes are estimated to make up about 35% of the entire plastic pollution in our seas and oceans. The majority of these microfibres are released the first few times a piece of clothing is washed.

Washing machines and wastewater treatment plants aren't designed to trap the minute plastic fibres that our clothes shed during washing. Many of these fibres sneak into our waterways and ultimately the oceans. And lots are caught up in sludge at the treatment plants – which is then sprayed over our soils as fertiliser.

Microplastics are now ubiquitous in the environment and evidence already exists of their presence in the food chain and the adverse effects on animals. Microplastic fragments have also now been found in the blood in 8 out of 10 people with as yet unknown health effects.

Open Letter

In July 2023 we organised an [Open Letter](#) to Welsh Government signed by over 50 organisations including Dŵr Cymru, WWF Cymru, NFWI Wales, Cynnal Cymru, CPRW, Eryri National Park, National Trust and Wildlife Trusts Wales.

Our ask was simply that Welsh Government now convene an expert group to come together to look at the issues of microplastics in Wales, all their various sources, and to then recommend a suite of solutions.

Welsh Government response to the Senedd Petitions Committee

We note Welsh Government's response both to your communication with Minister for Climate Change Julie James MS and also in similar correspondence we have received from her following the publication of the Open Letter. We agree that Welsh Government are doing some very good things on waste and plastics issues that will help reduce the amount of microplastics entering our environment but there are also a great many other things that need to be done that Welsh Government isn't doing which an expert group is best placed to advise on.

Bringing together an expert group

We feel this way of going about things is the correct one in this instance as we realise that the Senedd's legislative calendar is already very full and that there is also a certain lack of capacity within the relevant governmental departments.

Precedent

Welsh Government have brought together groups such as this before, one recent example being to look at phosphorous pollution in Welsh rivers (<https://www.gov.wales/first-minister-hosts-summit-solutions-river-pollution>).

Another interesting and relevant group is the Wales Clean Seas Partnership whose remit has been to help draw up a Marine Litter Action Plan for Wales.

(<https://businesswales.gov.wales/marineandfisheries/information-and-statistics/wales-clean-seas-partnership>)

As the sources of microplastics are wide ranging and are both terrestrial and marine, we feel a new expert group is desperately needed to deal with both the sources and solutions to the problems.

There are many academics, experts and organisations in Wales who are already working on the issue of microplastics and they are willing to support any new expert group so we feel our request to Welsh Government is both proportional and also timely and relevant.

Issues not covered by the Minister's response that we feel are important to consider:

Microplastic pollution of farmland

To highlight why we feel we need a new Microplastics Action Plan here in Wales, [Cardiff University scientists](#) have found quite staggering amounts of microplastics present in sewage sludge that is then spread on farmers' fields.

They conclude that 'Farmlands across Europe are potentially the biggest global reservoir of microplastics due to the high concentrations found in fertilisers derived from sewage sludge'.
shown.

They estimate that *'between 31,000 and 42,000 tonnes of microplastics (or 86 – 710 trillion microplastic particles) are applied to European soils annually, mirroring the concentration of microplastics found in ocean surface waters.'*

'In a study published in the journal [Environmental Pollution](#), the team estimate that microplastics removed from raw sewage at wastewater treatment plants go on to make up roughly 1% of the weight of sewage sludge, which is commonly used as a fertiliser on farms across Europe.'

The UK was shown to potentially have the highest amount of microplastic contamination in its soils, with 500 – 1000 microplastic particles per square meter of agricultural land applied per year, followed by Spain, Portugal and Germany.'

Lack of testing for microplastics in Wales

Bearing in mind the above study, as a coalition we have over the last few months submitted Freedom of Information requests to find out if any testing is currently being done for microplastics in watercourses in Wales. The responses we received showed that no testing was currently being done. This is not in any way a criticism of the organisations involved, merely an example of the changes we are seeking. We surely need to know the scale of the problem so we can help devise a comprehensive Action Plan to deal with it all.

We know that Dŵr Cymru for instance are very concerned about wet wipes continually being flushed into the sewer system. As well as the issues of blockages and 'fat bergs', these wipes, if plastic based, will shed microplastic particles. Therefore, future action on wet wipes might be an area for an expert group to make recommendations.

Washing machines

We know that synthetic clothes shed an incredible amount of plastic microfibres when washed, especially during the first few washes. This issue in itself highlights the many cross overs between issues and is one of the main reasons we as a coalition are now looking at the issue of microplastics in general and not just clothing plastic microfibres.

Indeed, France have just enacted legislation that by 2025 every new washing machine must have a filter to catch plastic microfibres that come away from clothing during washing.

<https://www.oceancleanwash.org/2020/02/france-is-leading-the-fight-against-plastic-microfibers/>

Whilst action such as this would not be in the legislative competence of the Welsh Senedd, actions such as this are desperately needed and one action that might be recommended by an expert group would be that the Welsh Government work with the other UK administrations to enact similar legislation in the UK.

Education sector

It isn't just the obvious examples of solutions either that will need to be considered.

For instance, we also lobbied Welsh Government to introduce school uniform swap shops in all schools in Wales. Happily, they agreed to roll that out but even in education, there remains a lot more that could be done from more education around the issues of sustainable fashion to ensuring students can adequately mend their own clothes which would help cut down on the throwaway culture we find ourselves in. The less clothes we throw away, the less we need to buy, which in turn helps reduce both microplastics pollution if these clothes are synthetic but also then reduces climate

emissions and a whole host of other environmental problems such as other sources of pollution and land and water use.

Community enterprises

Allied to the above example, we feel that there is the possibility of rolling out the very successful [‘Play it Again Sport’](#) scheme in RCT to other parts of Wales. Play it Again Sport rescues sports kits and equipment from landfill and then sells them back to the community at heavily reduced prices. This helps to knock down the financial barriers stopping people participating in sport and improves physical health and mental wellbeing.

Again, this is a different sort of solution but one that also reduces microplastic release from clothes but also then has a wide variety of other social and community benefits but that isn’t covered by current Welsh Government plans and strategies.

Community actions such as this fall in the remit of Welsh Government and their inclusion in a wide ranging and overarching Action Plan would really position us in Wales as being forward thinking and willing to join up different aspects and sectors.

Business support and alternative materials

Again, these areas may not at first glance seem to be linked to microplastic pollution but increased business support for small sustainable fashion businesses in Wales could help Wales achieve an ambition of becoming a sustainable fashion hub with all the benefits that would have for our economy and for jobs in local communities.

The use of alternative materials such as wool and possibly even hemp are also potentially part of the solution here in Wales, especially immediately with wool. The wool industry in Wales is really struggling but wool is obviously a sustainable material and a joined-up approach between wool producers and sustainable fashion producers in Wales could help be part of the wider solution.

Similarly, an initiative with farming unions and businesses in Wales to investigate the benefits of hemp farming to the rural economy could also reap many long-term benefits given the nature of hemp as a bit of a wonder crop with it’s vast carbon sequestration potential as well as the ability to grow in virtually any soil, even heavily degraded soil, without the need for fertilisers and pesticides. A huge variety of products can be made from hemp including textiles and even bio plastics.

Other sources of plastic

Whilst we very much welcome the good work done by Welsh Government in moving to a circular economy, on banning certain single use plastics and pushing ahead with the Deposit Return Scheme, there are however still many other sources of plastic pollution that need to be addressed. Some of these larger plastic items themselves break down into smaller and smaller pieces of plastic over the course of time ending up as microplastics. Examples in the marine environment include marine coatings, plastic fishing nets and larger plastic items such as bottles and bags. Other surprising source are car tyres and paints on buildings and roads.

Conclusion

We feel an expert group of academics and organisations in Wales, working with Welsh Government would be able to help identify all the various sources of microplastic pollution and help propose solutions via a new **Microplastic Action Plan for Wales**. We hope you agree.

P-06-1358: Adolygu'r cyllid annigonol ar gyfer ysgolion yng Nghymru

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 25 Medi 2023
Petitions Committee | 25 September 2023

Cyfeirnod: SR23/6779-2

Rhif y ddeiseb: P-06-1358

Teitl y ddeiseb: Adolygu'r cyllid annigonol ar gyfer ysgolion yng Nghymru

Testun y ddeiseb: Mae gan lawer o ysgolion ddiffyg yn y cyllidebau a osodwyd ganddynt ar gyfer blwyddyn ariannol 2023-24. Yn fwy na hynny, mae'n bosibl y bydd y rhan fwyaf o ysgolion yn cyhoeddi diffyg yn eu cyllidebau ar gyfer 2024-25. Mae'r effeithiau ar blant yn ysgolion Cymru yn ddifrifol – addysgu a dysgu gwaeth, adeiladau gwaeth, pryderon ynghylch diogelwch a gorflinder staff.

Rhagor o fanylion: Paratowyd y ddeiseb hon gan Gadeiryddion Cymdeithasau Llywodraethwyr ledled Cymru.

Mae effeithiau cyllid isel ar blant yn ysgolion Cymru fel a ganlyn:

- Gostyngiad yn ansawdd y dysgu ac addysgu
- Cymarebau oedolion/dysgwyr uwch
- Iechyd a diogelwch – llai o oruchwyliaeth oedolion, er enghraifft amser cinio ac egwylion
- Llai o staff cymorth, sy'n golygu bod plant ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol mewn perygl o beidio â chael yr help sydd ei angen arnynt.
- Llai o oedolion mewn ystafelloedd dosbarth, sy'n rhoi pawb mewn perygl
- Llai o athrawon – naill ai oherwydd staff yn gadael a neb yn cymryd eu lle neu oherwydd dileu swyddi.



- Llai o waith cynnal a chadw ar adeiladau sy'n arwain at bryderon diogelwch
- Mwy o straen ar benaethiaid ac uwch-staff, sy'n arwain at fwy o absenoldeb oherwydd salwch a gorflinder

Ac ar yr un pryd mae ysgolion yn brwydro i roi diwygiadau addysgol ar waith. Rydym yn annog Llywodraeth Cymru i adolygu ar fyrder lefel y cyllid ar gyfer addysg ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol hon a'r flwyddyn ariannol nesaf. Mae ein plant yn haeddu'r addysg orau ac ni ddylent ddiodef oherwydd toriadau ariannol.

1. Crynodeb

- Mae ysgolion yn cael eu cyllidebau gan awdurdodau lleol sy'n defnyddio'r arian a gânt gan Lywodraeth Cymru drwy'r setliad llywodraeth leol i ddarparu'r amrywiaeth o wasanaethau y maent yn gyfrifol amdanynt.
- Arian gan yr awdurdod lleol yw'r rhan helaeth o'r cyllid a gaiff ysgolion, er bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn darparu rhywfaint o gyllid uniongyrchol i ysgolion (drwy Consortia Addysg Rhanbarthol) o'i chyllideb addysg ar gyfer gwella ysgolion a chyllid wedi'i dargedu at addysg disgyblion difreintiedig.
- Cyfeirir at yr arian y mae awdurdodau lleol wedi bwriadu ei wario ar ysgolion fel gwariant sydd wedi'i gyllidebu. Mae hyn wedi cynyddu 8% yn 2023-24 o'i gymharu â 2022-23. Mae wedi cynyddu 26% ers 2019-20. Mae hyn yn gynnydd 5.3% mewn termau real ers 2019-20 ac yn ostyngiad 1.1% mewn termau real ers 2010-11.
- Mae cronfeydd wrth gefn yng nghyllidebau ysgolion, sef yr arian y mae'r ysgolion eu hunain yn ei ddal ac a gofnodir fel y mae ar un adeg benodol yn y flwyddyn, wedi bod yn hanesyddol uchel dros y ddwy flynedd diwethaf, er bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn dweud bod hyn yn gamarweiniol ac na fydd y sefyllfa hon yn parhau.
- Mae Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru wedi rhybuddio bod ysgolion yn wynebu pwysau chwyddiant a bod pob awdurdod lleol wedi cofnodi gorwariant a bylchau yn eu cyllidebau.

- Yn ôl Llywodraeth Cymru, y sefyllfa ariannol bresennol gyffredinol yw'r anoddaf ers datganoli ac mae Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg yn dweud nad oes "atebion hawdd" i'r pwysau cyllidebol y mae ysgolion yn eu hwynebu.

2. Sut mae ysgolion yng Nghymru yn cael eu hariannu?

2.1. Cyllid heb ei neilltuo ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol

Daw'r rhan fwyaf o gyllid ysgolion gan awdurdodau lleol, a daw'r rhan fwyaf o'u cyllid hwy o'r setliad llywodraeth leol blynyddol a bennir gan Lywodraeth Cymru.

Cyllid heb ei neilltuo yw'r setliad llywodraeth leol, felly bydd pob awdurdod lleol yn penderfynu sut i ddyrannu'r adnoddau sydd ar gael iddynt i'r gwasanaethau amrywiol y maent yn eu darparu, gan gynnwys addysg a nhw sy'n penderfynu faint i'w roi i ysgolion o fewn y dyraniad hwnnw.

Mae **tri phrif gam** i'r broses o bennu cyllidebau ysgolion.

- Yn gyntaf, bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn rhoi **Grant Cynnal Refeniw** i bob awdurdod lleol. Ynghyd â'i ddyraniad ardrethi annomestig ailddosbarthedig, mae hyn yn rhan o Gyllid Allanol Cyfun yr awdurdodau lleol. Bydd pob awdurdod lleol yn defnyddio'r cyllid hwn, ynghyd â'r arian y mae'n ei godi drwy'r dreth gyngor, i ariannu'r amrywiaeth o wasanaethau y bydd yn eu darparu, gan gynnwys addysg. Caiff **Grant Cynnal Refeniw pob awdurdod lleol ei bennu drwy ddefnyddio fformwla** sy'n seiliedig ar Asesiadau Gwariant Safonol, sef cyfrifiad tybiannol o'r cyllid sydd ei angen ar bob awdurdod lleol i gynnal lefel safonol o wasanaeth. Caiff yr Asesiadau hyn eu rhannu'n Asesiadau Seiliedig ar Ddangosyddion sy'n modelu'r swm tybiannol sydd ei angen ar bob

sector gwasanaeth. 'Gwasanaethau ysgolion' yw un o'r sectorau a ddefnyddir i bennu'r Aseidiadau Seiliedig ar Ddangosyddion.¹

- Yn ail, unwaith y byddant wedi penderfynu faint o'u cyllideb gyffredinol y maent am ei ddyrannu i addysg, mae awdurdodau lleol yn pennu **cyllideb addysg sydd â thair haen**:
 - Caiff Cyllideb Addysg yr Awdurdod Lleol ei gwario ar swyddogaethau canolog sy'n ymwneud ag addysg, gan gynnwys ond heb fod yn gyfyngedig i wariant ar ysgolion.
 - Mae'r Cyllideb Ysgolion yn cynnwys gwariant sydd wedi'i anelu'n uniongyrchol at gefnogi ysgolion ond ystyrir ei bod yn fwy effeithiol gweinyddu'r gwariant hwn yn ganolog.
 - Y Cyllideb Ysgolion Unigol yw gweddill y cyllid addysg a ddirprwyir i ysgolion.
- Yn drydydd, mae'r awdurdod lleol yn **pennu'r gyllideb unigol ar gyfer pob ysgol** y mae'n ei chynnal, gan ddosrannu'r Cyllideb hon yn ôl ei fformwla ei hun a bennir yn lleol, o fewn y paramedrau a bennwyd gan Reoliadau Cyllido Ysgolion (Cymru) 2010.

¹ Dywed Llywodraeth Cymru nad yw Aseidiadau Gwariant Safonol nac Aseidiadau Seiliedig ar Ddangosyddion yn dargedau gwariant ac na ddylid eu trin felly. Maent yn cynrychioli amcangyfrif tybiannol o'r hyn sydd ei angen ar awdurdod lleol i ddarparu lefel safonol o wasanaeth (er eu bod yn dibynnu ar y swm cyffredinol o gyllid a ddarperir gan Lywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer y setliad llywodraeth leol). Maent hefyd yn cynnwys y swm y tybir y gall yr awdurdod lleol ei godi drwy'r dreth gyngor.

2.2. Targeddu cyllid sydd wedi'i neilltuo ar gyfer gwella ysgolion a chefnogi addysg disgyblion difreintiedig.

Yn ogystal â'r gyllideb a gaiff pob ysgol gan yr awdurdod lleol, mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn defnyddio nifer o ffrydiau cyllido o'i chyllideb addysg i hybu'r gwaith o weithredu **polisiau a blaenoriaethau penodol** neu i **dargeddu cyllid ychwanegol**. Caiff y rhain eu rhoi ar ffurf grantiau penodol a ddsberthir drwy'r consortia gwella ysgolion rhanbarthol, fel Grant Gwella Ysgolion y Consortia Rhanbarthol a'r **Grant Datblygu Disgyblion (PDG)**.

Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r PDG, sy'n ychwanegu at incwm ysgolion ar sail nifer y disgyblion sy'n gymwys i gael prydau ysgol am ddim (eFSM), yn cael ei drosglwyddo yn ei gyfanrwydd i ysgolion. Mae cyfran lai o'r PDG yn cael ei rhoi i'r consortia rhanbarthol i'w dosbarthu i wella addysg Plant sy'n Derbyng Gofal a phlant sydd wedi'u mabwysiadu.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn dyrannu'r Grant Gwella Ysgolion Consortia Rhanbarthol i'r pedwar consortia rhanbarthol, sy'n trosglwyddo rhywfaint o'r arian hwn i ysgolion ac yn ei wario ar fentrau gwella amrywiol. Mae dadansoddiad o'r Grant hwn i'w weld ym **mhapur Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg** at y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg ar gyllideb 2023-24 (gweler Atodiad D).

3. Y sefyllfa ariannu bresennol

3.1. Setliad Llywodraeth Leol 2023-24

Fel yr eglurwyd yn adran 2 uchod, prif ffynhonnell cyllid ysgolion yw Llywodraeth Cymru a hynny drwy'r Cyllid Allanol Cyfun, sy'n gyllid heb ei neilltuo, a gaiff ei ddyrannu i awdurdodau lleol fel rhan o'r setliad llywodraeth leol.

Roedd **Setliad Llywodraeth Leol Derfynol 2023-24** yn gynydd o 7.9% yn **gyffredinol** (cynydd o 6.5% o leiaf i bob awdurdod lleol), o'i gymharu â 2022-23. **Awdurdodau lleol sy'n penderfynu ar ba wasanaethau y caiff y cynnydd hwn ei wario.**

Gan danlinellu eto mai'r awdurdodau lleol sy'n gyfrifol am ddyrannu cyllid craidd i ysgolion, cyfeiriodd Llywodraeth Cymru at yr arian y mae wedi ei gynnwys yn y Grant Cynnal Refeniw, sydd heb ei neilltuo, o fewn y Setliad Llywodraeth Leol, i awdurdodau lleol ei roi i ysgolion.

Dywedodd y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ar ym mis Rhagfyr 2022:

Mae £227 miliwn ychwanegol yn cael ei ddarparu i lywodraeth leol drwy'r setliad i helpu awdurdodau lleol ddiogelu'r amrywiaeth bwysig ac eang o wasanaethau y maen nhw'n eu darparu, **gan gynnwys ariannu ysgolion yn uniongyrchol**. O ganlyniad i'r penderfyniadau gwariant a wnaed mewn cysylltiad ag addysg yn Lloegr, cafodd Cymru **gyllid canlyniadol o £117 miliwn y flwyddyn yn natganiad yr hydref [Tachwedd 2022]**. Trwy'r dewisiadau yr ydym ni wedi'u gwneud, mae hwn yn cael ei ddarparu'n llawn i lywodraeth leol. [ein pwyslais ni]

Fodd bynnag, roedd yn rhaid i awdurdodau lleol dalu cost y 5% cychwynnol yn y codiad cyflog i athrawon ar gyfer blwyddyn academaidd 2022/23 o'u hadnoddau eu hunain. Dywedodd Llywodraeth Cymru fod hyn yn cael ei adlewyrchu yn y cynnydd o 7.9% y rhoddodd i awdurdodau lleol ar gyfer 2023-24 a'r cynnydd cynharach o 9.4% ar gyfer 2022-23.

Pan oedd y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg yn craffu ar y gyllideb, dywedodd y Gweinidog y byddai'r codiad cyflog i athrawon yn costio **£44 miliwn** i awdurdodau lleol rhwng Medi 2022 a Mawrth 2023 a **£75m** ar gyfer blwyddyn ariannol lawn 2023-24. Gofynnodd y Pwyllgor faint o'r cyllid ychwanegol a roddwyd i awdurdodau lleol i'w wario ar ysgolion fyddai'n weddill ar ôl iddynt weithredu'r codiad cyflog i athrawon. **Caiff hyn ei drafod ymhellach yn adroddiad y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg ar Gyllideb Ddrafft 2023-24** (paragraffau 51-54 a pharagraffau 104-105) ac yn ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru (argymhelliad 5).

[Cytunwyd ar godiad cyflog ychwanegol o 3% ar gyfer 2022/23 ym mis Chwefror 2023. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi darparu cyllid grant i awdurdodau lleol ar gyfer y 3% ychwanegol hwn.]

3.2. Arian o'r gyllideb addysg

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn darparu **£121 miliwn o PDG** i ysgolion yn 2023-24 i ategu'r cyllidebau craidd a gânt gan awdurdodau lleol, yn seiliedig ar nifer y disgyblion eFSM sydd ar eu cofrestr (dyrennir £1,150 ar gyfer pob disgybl cymwys).

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru hefyd yn darparu **£163 miliwn o gyllid gwella ysgolion** drwy'r consortia rhanbarthol.

3.3. Gwariant a gyllidebwyd gan awdurdodau lleol ar gyfer ysgolion

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn cyhoeddi data yn flynyddol am gyfanswm y gwariant y mae awdurdodau lleol yn ei gyllidebu ar gyfer ysgolion. Mae hyn yn cynnwys cyllidebau craidd ysgolion, a ddarperir gan awdurdodau lleol, ac sy'n cael ei gyllido drwy'r Grant Cynnal Refeniw, a'r arian grant o gyllideb Addysg Llywodraeth Cymru. Mae Tabl 1 isod yn dangos y data ar gyfer y blynyddoedd diwethaf.

Tabl 1. Gwariant gros a gyllidebwyd ar gyfer ysgolion

	Gwariant gros gyllidebwyd ar gyfer ysgolion £ Biliwn	£ gwariant gros gyllidebwyd ar gyfer ysgolion fesul disgybl	Y ganran wedi ei ddirprwyo i ysgolion
2023-24	3.343	7327	81.9
2022-23	3.096	6773	82.9
2021-22	2.913	6387	83.4
2020-21	2.822	6203	83.7
2019-20	2.657	5857	83.9
2018-19	2.566	5675	84.2
2017-18	2.543	5628	84.2
2016-17	2.519	5570	84.3
2015-16	2.496	5526	83.8
2014-15	2.528	5607	82.9
2013-14	2.519	5594	82.3
2012-13	2.495	5520	81.0
2011-12	2.470	5451	76.2
2010-11	2.458	5409	75.0

Ffynhonnell: Llywodraeth Cymru, Bwletinau Ystadegol: Gwariant a gyllidebwyd gan awdurdodau lleol ar gyfer ysgolion. (rhifynnau sawl blwyddyn)

- Mae cyfanswm y cyllid ar gyfer ysgolion yn 2023-24 8.0% yn uwch nag yr oedd yn 2022-23 (5.3% yn uwch mewn termau real). Mae'r cyllid fesul disgybl 8.2% yn uwch (5.5 % yn uwch mewn termau real).

- Mae cyllid wedi codi 25.8% mewn termau arian parod ers 2019-20 a 9.1% mewn termau real. Mae cynnydd o 25.1% fesul disgybl mewn termau arian parod ac 8.5% mewn termau real.
- Wrth edrych yn ôl dros gyfnod hirach, mae cyllid wedi cynyddu 1.1% mewn termau real (0.7 fesul disgybl) ers 2010-11. Cyn eleni (2023-24), roedd y cyllid wedi gostwng mewn termau real ers 2010-11.

[Cafodd y newidiadau termau real eu cyfrifo drwy ddefnyddio [datchwyddydd cynnyrch domestig gros](#) a gyhoeddwyd gan Drysorlys EF ym mis Mehefin 2023.]

3.4. Cronfeydd wrth gefn ysgolion

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru hefyd yn cyhoeddi [data blynyddol ar gronfeydd wrth gefn ysgolion](#). Caiff ei gofnodi fel ar ddiwedd mis Mawrth bob blwyddyn. Mae Tabl 2 isod yn dangos y data ar gyfer y blynyddoedd diwethaf:

Tabl 2: Cronfeydd wrth gefn ysgolion

	Cyfanswm	Y Disgybl
Mawrth 2022	£301m	£659
Mawrth 2021	£181m	£393
Mawrth 2020	£32m	£70
Mawrth 2019	£46m	£102
Mawrth 2018	£50m	£111
Mawrth 2017	£46m	£102
Mawrth 2016	£64m	£142
Mawrth 2015	£64m	£141
Mawrth 2014	£60m	£132

Ffynhonnell: Llywodraeth Cymru, [Datganiad Ystadegol Cyntaf: Cronfeydd wrth gefn ysgolion](#) (rhifynnau sawl blwyddyn)

Mae'r cronfeydd wrth gefn dros y ddwy flynedd diwethaf (fel ar 31 Mawrth) wedi bod yn hanesyddol uchel. Yr esboniad a roddodd Llywodraeth Cymru oedd bod ysgolion, oherwydd y pandemig, wedi cael adnoddau ychwanegol yn gymharol hwyr yn y flwyddyn ariannol ac, oherwydd hynny, rodd y darlun yn gamarweiniol. Dywedodd mai sefyllfa dros dro yw lefel uchel y cronfeydd wrth gefn a gofnodwyd yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf a hynny oherwydd bod ysgolion wedi cau a bod llai o weithgarwch yn ystod y pandemig.

Trafodir hyn ymhellach yn [adroddiad y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg ar Gyllideb Ddrafft 2023-24](#) (paragraffau 65-67) a pharagraffau 112-114) ac yn [ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru](#)

4. Y rhagolygon ariannol sy'n wynebu'r sector cyhoeddus

Mae [Llywodraeth Cymru wedi disgrifio'r cylch](#) pennu cyllideb 2022-23 fel “**un o'r anoddaf**” ers datganoli, gan gyfeirio at y cyfraddau chwyddiant uchaf ers 40 mlynedd, a chynnydd “aruthrol” mewn prisiau ynni, a hynny ar adeg pan mae safonau byw yn gostwng. Dywed y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol nad yw setliad cyllido Cymru o San Steffan “**yn ddigon i ymdrin â'r holl bwysau eithriadol hyn, heb sôn am ein blaenoriaethau yn 2023-24**”. Hyd yn oed ar ôl cael £1.2 biliwn ychwanegol dros ddwy flynedd [o ganlyniad i Ddatganiad yr hydref Llywodraeth y DU](#), dywedodd y Gweinidog fod setliad Cymru yn dal yn werth hyd at £3 biliwn yn llai mewn termau real a hyd at £1 biliwn yn llai yn 2023-24.

Yn ei ymateb i [ymgyngoriad y Pwyllgor Cyllid](#) cyn Cyllideb Ddrafft 2022-23, rhybuddiodd Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru (CLILC) fod ysgolion yn wynebu **pwysau chwyddiant o £177 miliwn a £114 miliwn yn 2023-24 a 2024-25 yn y drefn honno**. Dywedodd CLILC hefyd fod pob awdurdod yng Nghymru wedi cofnodi gorwariant yn 2022-23 ac y byddant yn wynebu bylchau yn eu cyllideb yn y blynyddoedd i ddod. Ar wahân i fisoedd cyntaf y pandemig, meddai, nid yw'r pwysau wedi cynyddu i'r fath raddau nac mor gyflym erioed o'r blaen.

Yn ei lythyr yn ymwneud â'r ddeiseb hon, tanlinellodd Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg y cyd-destun hwn: Dywed ei fod yn “cydnabod bod yr argyfwng costau byw yn rhoi ysgolion ac awdurdodau lleol o dan bwysau sylweddol” ond “nad oes atebion hawdd i sut i ddatrys y problemau a wynebir”.

Cyhoeddodd [y Prif Weinidog ddatganiad ar 9 Awst 2023](#) yn dilyn cyfarfod o Gabinet Llywodraeth Cymru i drafod pwysau ariannol. Dywedodd mai'r sefyllfa bresennol yw'r “sefyllfa ariannol anoddaf yr ydym wedi'i hwynebu ers datganoli” a:

... roedd ein sefyllfa ariannol, wedi Cyllideb y Gwanwyn y DU ym mis Mawrth, hyd at £900m yn is mewn termau real na phan bennwyd y gyllideb honno gan Lywodraeth y DU ar adeg yr adolygiad o wariant diwethaf yn 2021(...)

Bydd y Cabinet yn gweithio dros yr haf i liniaru'r pwysau cyllidebol hyn yn seiliedig ar ein hegwyddorion, gan gynnwys diogelu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus rheng flaen, cyn belled â phosibl, a thargeddu cymorth tuag at y rheini sydd â'r angen mwyaf.

5. Gwaith craffu blaenorol yn y Senedd

Trafododd Pwyllgor Deisebau'r Bumed Senedd ddeiseb debyg yn 2019, i "Ddiogelu cyllid ysgolion neu gyfaddef bod y gwasanaeth a ddarperir yn gwanhau" [P-05-872](#). Tynnwyd sylw at y ddeiseb hon.

Roedd Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg y Bumed Senedd yn cynnal [ymchwiliad polisi i gyllid ysgolion](#) ar y pryd. Roedd hwn yn ystyried a oedd y swm cyffredinol o gyllid a oedd ar gael i ysgolion yn ddigonol a'r modd roedd y cyllid hwnnw'n cael ei ddosbarthu. Mewn ymateb, comisiynodd Llywodraeth Cymru [adolygiad gan yr economegydd addysg, Luke Sibieta](#).

Mae'r Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg presennol yn parhau i graffu ar lefel y cyllid sydd ar gael i ysgolion, gan gynnwys fel rhan o'i waith o graffu ar y gyllideb flynyddol. Y tro diwethaf iddo wneud hynny oedd ym mis [Ionawr 2023](#).

Gwneir pob ymdrech i sicrhau bod y wybodaeth yn y papur briffio hwn yn gywir adeg ei gyhoeddi. Dylai darllenwyr fod yn ymwybodol nad yw'r papurau briffio hyn yn cael eu diweddarau o reidrwydd na'u diwygio fel arall i adlewyrchu newidiadau dilynol.



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1348
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/01431/23

Jack Sargeant AS
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1SN

4 Medi 2023

Annwyl Jack,

Diolch am eich llythyr, dyddiedig 15 Awst ynghylch Deiseb P-06-1348 Adolygu'r cyllid annigonol ar gyfer ysgolion yng Nghymru.

Rydym yn cydnabod bod lefelau chwyddiant uchel a chostau ynni yn creu pwysau ariannol ar ein gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, gan gynnwys ysgolion, ac rydym yn parhau i fod wedi ymrwymo i wneud ein gorau glas i'w cefnogi. Cadarnhaodd Datganiad yr Hydref fod y DU yn dechrau ar gyfnod o ddirwasgiad hir, i bob golwg, a fydd yn arwain at gostau gwirioneddol a sylweddol i bobl ar draws y DU.

Yn sgil y cynnydd cyflym mewn chwyddiant, mae cyllideb Llywodraeth Cymru yn werth llai nawr na phan luniwyd ein cynlluniau gwariant. Nid yw ein setliad cyllid gan Lywodraeth y DU, gan gynnwys y cyllid ychwanegol yn Natganiad yr Hydref, yn ddigon i wneud iawn am y pwysau y mae Cymru yn ei wynebu o ran chwyddiant, heb sôn am yr arian sydd ei angen ar gyfer y blaenoriaethau sydd gennym ar gyfer 2023-24.

Mater i awdurdodau lleol yw penderfynu ar swm y cyllid i'w neilltuo ar gyfer cyllidebau ysgolion. Nid yw Llywodraeth Cymru yn cyllido ysgolion yn uniongyrchol. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn darparu cyllid i awdurdodau lleol ar gyfer darpariaeth cyn-16 mewn ysgolion yng Nghymru, yn bennaf drwy setliad llywodraeth leol ar ffurf y Grant Cynnal Refeniw. Nid yw'r Grant Cynnal Refeniw wedi'i glustnodi; mae'r cyllid a ddyrennir i bob awdurdod ar gael i'r awdurdod ei wario fel y gwêl yn dda ar ystod o wasanaethau y mae'n gyfrifol amdanynt, gan gynnwys ysgolion. Mae hyn yn unol â pholisi Llywodraeth Cymru mai awdurdodau lleol sydd yn y sefyllfa orau i farnu beth yw'r anghenion a'r amgylchiadau lleol, ac i gyllido ysgolion yn unol â hynny.

Dim ond â chydysniad yr awdurdod y caiff corff llywodraethu ysgol bennu cyllideb a fydd yn ei gosod mewn diffyg. Os yw ysgol mewn diffyg mawr, dylai awdurdodau lleol weithio'n agos gyda hi i sicrhau ei bod yn ei chael ei hun yn ôl mewn sefyllfa lle mae ganddi swm bychan

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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

Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@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.

Tudalen y pecyn 60

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.

wrth gefn cyn gynted â phosibl. Dylai fod gan ysgolion sydd mewn diffyg ariannol gynllun adfer cadarn, a dylai'r awdurdod fod wedi cytuno ar hwn, gan ei fonitro.

Er bod ein cyllideb eleni hyd at £900m yn is mewn termau real nag a ddisgwyliwyd i ddechrau, gwnaethom yn siŵr bod awdurdodau lleol, sy'n ariannu ysgolion, yn cael cynnydd o 7.9% yn eu cyllidebau, o gymharu â'r flwyddyn flaenorol, er mwyn adlewyrchu'r flaenoriaeth y mae'r Llywodraeth yn ei rhoi i wasanaethau llywodraeth leol. Mae'r setliad llywodraeth leol blynyddol yn darparu cyfran sylweddol o gyllid cyffredinol awdurdodau lleol. Ar gyfer 2023-24, mae'r setliad yn dosbarthu dros £5.5bn rhwng y 22 awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru. Nid yw'r cyllid hwn wedi'i neilltuo fel y gall awdurdodau wneud penderfyniadau sy'n adlewyrchu amgylchiadau a blaenoriaethau lleol.

Yn 2023-24, rhagwelir y bydd awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru yn gwario cyfanswm o £9.206bn. Cyfrifir mai £3.343bn fydd gwariant ysgolion yn 2023-24, cynnydd o 8.0% ers y flwyddyn flaenorol. Cyfrifir mai £7,327 fydd gwariant ysgolion fesul disgybl, sy'n gynnydd o 8.2% neu £554 ers y flwyddyn flaenorol. Gellir rhannu'r gyllideb fesul disgybl yn £5,998 fesul disgybl a ddirprwyir i ysgolion, a £1,328 fesul disgybl a gedwir ar gyfer gwasanaethau ysgolion a ariennir yn ganolog.

Er bod cyllid ysgolion yng Nghymru yn cael ei ddarparu'n bennaf drwy setliad llywodraeth leol, mae cyllideb addysg Llywodraeth Cymru hefyd yn cefnogi gwariant ar ysgolion, athrawon a rhaglenni addysg ehangach. Ar gyfer 2023-24 mae hyn yn cynnwys, er enghraifft, £37.5m i gefnogi ysgolion drwy Raglen Recriwtio, Adfer a Chodi Safonau; a thros £120m i ysgolion drwy'r Grant Datblygu Disgyblion.

Dylai awdurdodau lleol, wrth gyflawni eu dyletswydd i sicrhau bod darpariaeth addysg addas ar gael yn eu hardal, weithio gyda'u hysgolion a gynhelir i werthuso effeithiolrwydd eu trefniadau i gyllido ysgolion, wrth gefnogi a chodi lefel cyrhaeddiad dysgwyr, gan gynnwys y rhai ag ADY. Mae gan ysgolion y cyfle i ddylanwadu ar benderfyniadau eu hawdurdod lleol ynghylch cyllidebau ysgolion drwy ddeialog gyda'r awdurdod, gan gynnwys drwy eu fforwm cyllidebol, sy'n ofynnol yn ôl y gyfraith.

Mae pob ysgol unigol yn gyfrifol am benderfynu ar y gweithdrefnau a fabwysiedir i ddiwallu anghenion eu holl blant, am arsylwi ar eu cynnydd a'i asesu ac, yn y rhan fwyaf o achosion, am benderfynu ar natur unrhyw gymorth ychwanegol a sefydlir.

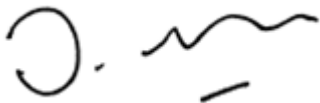
Rydym wedi buddsoddi dros £62 miliwn o gyllid grant refeniw mewn ADY rhwng 2020 a 2023, a chynnyddwyd y grant gweithredu ar gyfer ADY £5.4m, i £12m, ledled Cymru ar gyfer 2023-24. Diben y grant ychwanegol hwn yw cynyddu'r adnoddau i ysgolion i weithredu'r system ADY ac arwain strategaethau ar lefel ysgol gyfan i sicrhau bod addysg gynhwysol yn ymwreiddio.

Mewn perthynas â chynnal a chadw ysgolion, rydym hefyd yn parhau i fuddsoddi c£300m y flwyddyn yn ystâd ein hysgolion drwy ein Rhaglen Cymunedau Dysgu Cynaliadwy, gan ganolbwyntio'n bennaf ar fynd ati'n strategol i adeiladu lleoliadau newydd a/neu adnewyddu ar raddfa fawr. Mae hyn yn cyfrannu tuag at leihau gwaith cynnal a chadw asedau a datgarboneiddio'r ystâd addysg yng Nghymru, yn ogystal â lleihau costau refeniw. Fodd bynnag, rydym yn dal i gydnabod yr ystâd addysg ehangach, ac rydym wedi cyllido gwaith cyfalaf cynnal a chadw â £43m yn 2019-20, £50m yn 2020-21 a £50m arall yn 2021-22. Yn ystod 2022-23 darparwyd dyraniad o £60m (£50m i ysgolion a £10m i golegau) i awdurdodau lleol a sefydliadau addysg bellach er mwyn cefnogi gwaith effeithlonrwydd ynni mewn perthynas â chyfalaf cynnal a chadw ar draws ysgolion a cholegau yng Nghymru.

Rwy'n cydnabod y pwysau y mae penaethiaid ac uwch staff addysg o dano, ac rwyf wedi bod yn glir iawn bod mynd i'r afael â llwyth gwaith staff ysgolion yn flaenoriaeth, gan gydnabod y cysylltiad annatod rhwng llwyth gwaith a lles. Rwyf wedi ymrwymo i leihau biwrocratiaeth ddiangen i arweinwyr ysgolion, gan gydnabod effaith gadarnhaol hyn ar staff addysgu yn ehangach. Dechreuwyd cynnal cyfarfodydd negodi ynghylch llwyth gwaith ddiwedd Ebrill gyda chyflogwyr, undebau athrawon, Estyn a phartneriaid haen ganol eraill, ac ym mis Gorffennaf gwnes innau [ddatganiad](#) am y cynnydd a wnaed. Er gwaethaf y cynnydd sylweddol, mae llawer eto i'w wneud, ac mae gwaith yn parhau i leihau'r llwyth gwaith a lleihau'r baich ar staff addysg, er mwyn sicrhau gwelliannau amlwg i staff addysg ar lefel ysgolion. Ochr yn ochr â ffocws Llywodraeth Cymru ar leihau llwyth gwaith a biwrocratiaeth, rydym hefyd wedi darparu cyllid pellach i gefnogi gwasanaethau lles i staff ysgolion yng Nghymru. Mae rhaglen Llesiant yng Nghymru yn ei thrydedd blwyddyn erbyn hyn, ac mae'n cefnogi'r proffesiwn addysgu drwy ystod o wasanaethau sydd wedi'u teilwra, a ddarperir gan yr elusen addysg Education Support.

Rwy'n cydnabod bod yr argyfwng costau byw yn rhoi ysgolion ac awdurdodau lleol o dan bwysau sylweddol, ac nad oes atebion hawdd i sut i ddatrys y problemau a wynebir. Gwyddom ei bod yn hollbwysig cyfathrebu yn ystod y cyfnod arbennig o anodd hwn, ac rydym yn trafod yn agos gyda llywodraeth leol ynghylch y gyllideb a materion eraill.

Yn gywir,

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

Jeremy Miles AS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg

**P-06-1358 Review the inadequate funding for Schools in Wales,
Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 18.09.23**

**Brief for Senedd Petitions Committee
25th September 2023**

**Petition: Review the
inadequate funding for
Schools in Wales**

**Drawn up by Chairs of School Governor Associations
from eight Local Authorities throughout Wales.**

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. A major crisis in Welsh Education Funding.....	3
3. The impact on children and staff at Welsh Schools.....	4
4. Response to Minister’s letter to Petitions Committee Chair.....	4
5. Conclusion.....	5
Appendix 1 – Western Mail – Wales Online - Article reporting on Vale Learning and Culture Committee 15/6/23	6
Appendix 2 - Detailed consequences for schools in the Vale of Glamorgan May 2023	9
Barry Primary Cluster – snapshot from mid-May 2023	9
Penarth Primary Cluster md-May 2023	14
Rural Vale Primary Cluster Mid-May 2023.....	19
A large Primary School	22
A small rural Primary School	24
A Secondary School.....	26

1. Introduction

This petition was prepared by Chairs of Governor Associations throughout Wales under the auspices of Wales School Governors – Llywodraethwyr Ysgolion Cymru – Registered charity 1179341.

It is the result of several meetings from representatives of eight Local Authorities - Conwy, Wrexham, Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Vale of Glamorgan.

Welsh Government's funding for schools in Wales has not kept up with the cost-of-living increases and increases in staff salaries. Many schools have set deficit budgets for 2023/2024 financial year. Those which have managed to set balanced budgets, have used their reserves and have had to make significant savings. More, perhaps most, schools will be posting deficit budgets for 2023/24.

This has a hugely negative effect on children and young people in Wales.

2. A major crisis in Welsh Education Funding

We can speak in general terms about the inadequate funding for schools, but we have gathered information on its effect at the chalkface for one Local Authority in some detail because it is a microcosm of what is happening elsewhere. As an unfunded group, we have no resources to carry out an in-depth study covering the whole of Wales.

In the past, the Vale of Glamorgan has been the lowest per pupil spend on Education for many years, despite spending more than the Standard Spending Assessment suggests. However, in the latest statistics for spending per pupil, the Vale has risen to fifth from bottom behind Newport, Swansea, Bridgend and Monmouthshire, so it represents a good comparator. See www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2023-07/local-authority-budgeted-expenditure-schools-april-2023-march-2024-524.pdf

Appendix 1 is a newspaper report on the Vale of Glamorgan Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee held on 15th June. The meeting and presentations can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOilwribJAE&list=PLzt4i14pgqIEhf6Nqf58QWzDmFZIS6XJO&index=1>. The news report is at <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/education/headteacher-speaks-bleak-future-money-27140929>

Three Governors and a Primary Headteacher eloquently explained how pupils and staff in their schools have been negatively affected.

At the Vale of Glamorgan Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee held on 14th September 2023, an officer of the Council, presenting the current state of the Vale Education Revenue Budget stated that 21 schools in the Vale have set deficit budgets for 2023/24. Of these 18 have been unable to set three-year recovery plans. **The officer confirmed that there is no mismanagement involved and that the Authority does not intend to take over their budgets, although this is their right under the Schools Regulations.**

Essentially 18 out of 51 schools in the Vale are unable to discharge their responsibility to provide Education to Welsh Government standards for the amount of funds they have been allocated. There are schools all over Wales in a similar position.

3. The impact on children and staff at Welsh Schools

The impacts on children in Welsh Schools are:

- Reduction in the quality of learning & teaching
- Increased adult/learner ratios
- Health & safety - less adult supervision, for example at lunchtime and breaks
- Fewer support staff, meaning that children with Additional Learning Needs are at risk of not receiving the help they need.
- Larger classes – poorer teacher to learner ratios
- Fewer adults in classrooms putting everyone at risk.
- Fewer teachers – either through non-replacement or redundancies.
- Less maintenance on buildings leading to safety concerns
- Increased stress on Headteachers and Senior staff, leading to increased sickness absence and burn-out.

And at the same time schools are struggling to implement educational reforms

- The implementation of the Additional Learning Needs Act and the Education Tribunal Act 2018 and the increase in numbers of learners with additional needs
- Curriculum for Wales
- New assessment arrangements
- Community Focused Schools
- Well-being of Future Generations Act
- Welsh Language Strategy
- The Equality Act 2010 including accessibility strategy

We urge the Welsh Government to urgently review the level of funding for Education for this and next financial years. Our children deserve the best education and must not suffer through funding cuts.

Attached to this document as Appendix 2 is a snapshot taken in May of the cuts in staffing (teaching and non-teaching) , curriculum, building maintenance etc.

4. Response to Minister's letter to Petitions Committee Chair

- A) The Minister states that funding for schools is the responsibility of Local Authorities, which is somewhat disingenuous. The way funding works is that:
- The Funding Formula for overall Local Authority settlement each year is built up from a large number of detailed calculations, some of which are aggregated to form the Education SSA (Standard Spending Assessment.)
 - Because the Local Authority Settlement is unhypothecated, each authority is in theory at liberty to spend as much or as little as it likes on Education as opposed to Social Services, roads etc. For our example, the Vale of Glamorgan for many years has allocated more than the Education SSA.
 - Welsh Government compensates for the acknowledged inadequacies of the funding formula by having a large number of grants which are allocated outside the formula, for example, the Pupil Development Grant (formerly the Pupil Deprivation Grant) based on

the number of children eligible for free school meals, Grants for teacher professional learning, etc.

- However, Local Authorities and schools are also bound by the School Funding (Wales) Regulations Act 2010, and other regulation which put duties upon them to deliver a well-rounded curriculum, a safe environment for learning, and many other items such as provision for those with Additional Learning needs (ALN). All this is regularly inspected by Estyn. This is the means by which Welsh Government effectively controls Education spending by schools.

As shown above, a significant number of schools in Wales can no longer meet these requirements within the funding they receive.

- B) The Minister draws attention to the need for school governing bodies to have a recovery plan in place should they set a deficit budget. As shown above, a significant number of schools cannot do this.
- C) The Minister refers to continuing progress “to reduce workload and the burden on education staff”. This is laudable, but the effect of insufficient funding is to reduce the number of staff – teaching non-teaching – with consequent **increase** in workload.

5. Conclusion

A representative group of Governor Associations throughout Wales call for a Senedd debate to bring the current parlous state of school funding in Wales to public consciousness.

Welsh Government deals in large numbers and percentages of apparent increases, as outlined in the Minister’s letter.

The reality for schools in many parts of Wales is that have been allocated insufficient money to meet their statutory and moral obligation to educate the learners in their care safely and adequately.

Wales’s education system is going through a period of major change for the better, with welcome Welsh Government initiatives like the innovative new Curriculum and the provision for learners with Alternative Learning Needs, but all this needs proper funding.

Many schools in Wales are effectively bankrupt.

The children and young people of Wales in Wales deserve better. They get only one chance at their education. It needs to be properly funded.

Appendix 1 – Western Mail – Wales Online - Article reporting on [Vale Learning and Culture Committee 15/6/23](#)

Head of Romilly Primary School, Barry, in finance warning

17th June

By Ted Peskett - Local Democracy Reporter

A BARRY headteacher has said the financial pressure on their school was so great that they didn't have the capacity to give some of their most vulnerable children the support they needed.

Headteacher of Romilly Primary School, Katy Williams, was speaking at a Vale of Glamorgan Council scrutiny committee meeting on Thursday, June 15, which focused on the financial pressures schools in the county were facing.

A report presented to the committee showed that Vale of Glamorgan Council was the most poorly funded local authority for education in Wales.

As with other local authorities across the country, it is facing increased financial pressures and an increasing number of schools in the county are being faced with deficit budgets.

Ms Williams said Romilly Primary School, which is one of the largest in Wales but also one of the most poorly funded, has had to cut down on staff and now can't run any emotional literacy support for children.

The headteacher also opened up on the impact that deficits at schools across Barry were having on members of staff, adding that it had been making some headteachers unwell.

Ms Williams said: "We have been struggling with a deficit for quite a while and we do have a large deficit.

"The future looks quite bleak for us, but we have done so much already, like making significant efforts to reduce and contain this deficit."

Ms Williams said the school was about £300,000 adrift each year and was also struggling to afford extra caretakers. The school site, which consists of six buildings, currently has one caretaker.

"We have got to keep the children safe," she said. "The building needs to be safe and we need to deliver a curriculum, but it is just having a huge impact, as you can imagine, on the pupils and on the staff wellbeing in itself."

A number of combined factors, including the cost-of-living crisis, an increase in the number of learners with additional needs and new assessment arrangements are coinciding to put more demands on schools in the Vale of Glamorgan.

With the council facing a budget deficit of about £9 million, schools in the county are expected to be left in a precarious situation.

Most schools will post a deficit budget for 2023/24, according to the Vale School Governors Association (VSGA).

With this being the first year that some schools have had to deal with the prospect of deficit budgets, Ms Williams said she was aware of some headteachers who were waking up in the middle of the night and whose mental and physical health was being affected.

Ms Williams said she would have to get rid of five teachers if she wanted to balance the books at the school – something which is not an option.

She added: “That would mean five classes of children that do not have a teacher in front of them. I don’t, believe it or not, have spare teachers that are floating around doing nothing.

“The alternative is it is 10 LSAs (learning support assistants) and I just can’t do that.”

A Vale of Glamorgan Council report on education funds states that the council has the lowest rate of funding per pupil out of the 22 local authorities across Wales, at £6,045.

This is £728 per pupil less than the Wales average of £6,773 per pupil.

The VSGA argues that a fresh look is needed on the Welsh Government’s formula which is used to determine how much each local authority should receive in funding.

Chair of the VSGA, Dr Martin Price said the formula’s use of 1991 census data was “fundamentally absurd”.

Dr Price added: “There have been three censuses since then and Wales is very different from 1991 and it is also different from when the formula was last reviewed, which was around the year 2000.”

A Welsh Government spokesperson said: “The amount of funding set aside for school budgets is for local authorities to determine, the Welsh Government does not fund schools directly.

“This is in line with the Welsh Government’s policy that local authorities are best placed to judge local needs and circumstances and to fund schools accordingly.

“Despite our budget this year being up to £900m lower in real terms than expected initially, we ensured local authorities, who fund schools, received an increase of 7.9 per cent to their budgets compared to the previous year so that they can continue to prioritise school funding.”

The deadline for the agreement of individual school budgets for 2023/24 is June 30.

Vale of Glamorgan Council said another report on education funding would be published in September when the full picture on school budgets for 2023/24 would be clearer.

Appendix 2 - Detailed consequences for schools in the Vale of Glamorgan May 2023
Barry Primary Cluster – snapshot from mid-May 2023

School	Carry forward (tbc) 22/23 £	Final projected figure 23/24 £	Where have cuts been made to achieve this?	Impact of cuts for this financial year	Projected final figure 24/25 £
1	33,000	-226,850	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not replacing member of SLT on maternity leave (reduction of ALN support) Reduction in teaching and support staff Reduction in teaching resources including enrichment and school visits. Reduction in repairs and maintenance budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reduced ALN offer – impact on standards and potential increased exclusions and reduced attendance. Classrooms not as well resourced, quality of learning and teaching compromised. Reduced curriculum enhancement, including residential visits. School building will deteriorate 	-408,126
2	60,000	-21,572	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in teaching resources including enrichment and school visits. Reduced staffing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classrooms not as well resourced, quality of learning and teaching compromised. Reduced curriculum enhancement 	-164,249
3	10,000	-143,553	<p>Not replacing SLT member for summer term</p> <p>Unable to extend short term contracts for LSAs supporting ALN pupils</p> <p>Reduction in repairs and maintenance budget</p> <p>Reduction in teaching resources including enrichment and school visits</p> <p>Removal of general LSA support in PS3 classes</p>	<p>Reduction of ALN support</p> <p>Impact on standards and possible impact on behaviour/ exclusions and ability to offer therapeutic support</p> <p>Enhanced curriculum offer will be reduced</p> <p>School building will deteriorate</p> <p>Lack of additional LSA support in PS3 classes</p> <p>Increased spend on ALN support/Match funding or school funding means less available</p>	313,869

				support for wellbeing/ catch up interventions	
4	-52,000	-368,072	<p>Reducing the number of LSA's who support 1-1 pupils from 9 to 5</p> <p>Intervention LSA's to reduce</p> <p>Reduction in Repairs and Maintenance budget</p> <p>Reduction in Teaching resources including school visits</p> <p>Removal of Class LSA's for PS3</p>	<p>Reduction of ALN support Impact on standards and behaviour, increasing the exclusions</p> <p>School building will deteriorate</p> <p>Lack of LSA support in PS3 will impact on standards and behaviour</p> <p>Enhanced curriculum offer reduced</p>	-857,798
5	£13k balance	-£60k	<p>Reduced building costs to minimum</p> <p>Reducing LSAs – interventions</p> <p>Reducing teaching materials cost centre</p> <p>Reducing Wellbeing support</p>	<p>Reduced interventions for pupils</p> <p>Plans for improving educational setting halted</p> <p>Poorer learning environment</p> <p>Reduced resources to support day – to day lessons</p> <p>Reduce staff to support extra-curricular activities</p> <p>Reduced school visits – less money to support (inc challenges to staff appropriately)</p> <p>Impact on staff wellbeing</p> <p>Potential increase of staff sickness</p>	- £115K

				Increase parental complaints	
6	0	-25,000	<p>Not able to employ additional LSA'S to work with individuals</p> <p>Reduced ELSA offer</p> <p>Reduced Teacher resources</p> <p>Reduced maintenance-cancellation of improvements needed to school building</p> <p>Reduced planned admin hours</p>	<p>Very Likely redundancies for 24/25 +25/26</p>	-220,00
7	-0	-154,202	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in teaching resources including enrichment and school visits. • Reduced staffing • Reduction in repairs and maintenance budget • Removal of general and intervention LSA support in all classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduced ALN offer – impact on standards and potential increased exclusions and reduced attendance. • School building will continue to deteriorate and may lead to further Health and Safety issues • Lack of LSA support will impact on standards and behaviour 	-368,989
8	£100k	-£195k	<p>Reduction in LSA interventions and those with specific 1:1 support</p> <p>Use of class LSA to cover 1:1 where essential</p> <p>Reduced maintenance of planned projects – decoration, damp, play equipment</p>	<p>Reduction of ELSA offer</p> <p>Impact to environment including buildings and play equipment</p> <p>Likely reduction in staff (LSA)</p> <p>Reduction in staff release for professional development</p>	-509505

			<p>Reduction in teaching and Learning resources</p> <p>Reduction in planned visits and trips</p> <p>Reduction in cover at lunch time – not replacing MDS</p>	<p>Reduction in staff wellbeing due to poorer work-life balance</p> <p>Reduction in community resources</p> <p>Reduction in school trips and residential visits because of inability to subsidise</p>	
9	£100	-£107,053	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 x full time LSA's retiring this year but not being replaced - Family link LSA going back into class • Planned projects to improve outdoor facilities shelved • Cutback to bare bones on many cost centers 	<p>Possible redundancies in the future</p> <p>Further cutbacks on support staff which will mean less wellbeing interventions for our most vulnerable children</p> <p>Cutbacks on staff professional development opportunities</p>	-£271,843
10	£50k	-£81,021	<p>Reduction in LSAs 1:1 support</p> <p>Reduction in interventions</p> <p>Planned projects to improve the environment cancelled</p> <p>Reduction in teaching and learning resources</p> <p>Reduction in financial support to families for experiences inc. Day visits and residentials</p> <p>Reduction in budget for</p>	<p>Reduction of ALN support and interventions</p> <p>Impact on standards and behaviour, increasing the need for PSPs</p> <p>Learning environments will not be developed further / will deteriorate,</p> <p>Provision for the curriculum will be limited</p> <p>Professional learning opportunities will be reduced, which will impact</p>	-555,997

			<p>professional learning</p> <p>Reduction in teaching staff for the next academic year</p>	<p>standards and staff morale</p> <p>Class sizes will increase, meeting the needs of individuals will become increasingly difficult.</p>	
11	£100K	-250,000	<p>No appointment of new staff therefore a reduction in support staff x3</p> <p>Reduction in teaching materials,</p>	<p>Less learning support for pupils</p> <p>Provision for the curriculum limited</p> <p>Learning interventions limited or even stopped</p>	-190,000
12	-44,000	-50,000	<p>Reducing the number of LSA's who support 1-1 pupils</p> <p>Intervention LSA's to reduce</p> <p>Reduction in Teaching resources including school visits</p> <p>Removal of Class LSA's for PS3</p> <p>Planned projects to improve outdoor facilities shelved</p>	<p>Reduction of ALN support</p> <p>Impact on standards and behaviour, increasing the exclusions</p> <p>Reduction in staff release for professional development</p> <p>Reduction in staff wellbeing due to poorer work-life balance</p> <p>Reduction in community resources</p> <p>Reduction in school trips and residential visits because of inability to subsidise</p> <p>Learning interventions limited or even stopped</p>	-65129

Penarth Primary Cluster md-May 2023

School	Carry forward 22/23 £	Final projected figure 23/24 £	Where have cuts been made to achieve this?	Impact of cuts for this financial year	Projected final figure 24/25 £
1	47,000	-127,925	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in teaching and support staff • Reduction in teaching resources including enrichment and school visits. • No allocation in repairs and maintenance budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New curriculum cannot be fully met without correct funding. • Classrooms not as well resourced, quality of learning and teaching compromised. • Reduced curriculum enhancement, including residential visits. • School building will deteriorate 	-261,142
2	20,000	-206,850	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not replacing member of SLT on maternity leave (reduction of ALN support) • Reduction in teaching and support staff • Reduction in teaching resources including enrichment and school visits. • Reduction in repairs and maintenance budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduced ALN offer – impact on standards and potential increased exclusions and reduced attendance. • Classrooms not as well resourced, quality of learning and teaching compromised. • Reduced curriculum enhancement, including residential visits. • School building will deteriorate 	-408,126
3	650,000	-400,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No sickness cover, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils sent home, 	-3,210,326

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no teaching materials, • no ICT budget, • no trips, • won't replace worn out minibus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons less stimulating • No ICT kit replaced • Far fewer enrichment activities 	
4	55,000	-£68,000 Started at - £293,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No replacement of Midday Supervisor • Internally replaced Breakfast Club supervisor • Reduction in teaching resources including enrichment and school visits. • Reduction in repairs and maintenance budget • Reduction in hours of Temporary LSA staff working 1:1 pupils • Reduction of whole class music tuition • Proposed income of ANF hours currently being provided through school budget, • Taking on CSC Lead Practitioner roles, school fundraising, hall lettings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No meet and greet for vulnerable pupils • ALN pupils with risk assessments would only be able to attend school for the funded hours • Pupils working below expected level will not make progress • Reduced Educational Visits due to lack of staff/cover • Staff morale and wellbeing due to workload, stress of demands of distressed pupils, facing redundancy. • Classrooms not as well resourced, quality of learning and teaching compromised. • Reduced curriculum enhancement, including residential visits. • School building will deteriorate 	-170,000
5	estimated £59,000	-58,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in teaching resources including 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in learning support staff that would 	-186,307

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> enrichment activities Reduction in teacher supply costs to provide non-contact time for school improvement priorities Reduction in ICT hardware Suspension on maintenance projects due to significant cost centre reductions to offset deficit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> focus on ELSA / Nurture and wellbeing Support staff to cover staff absences due to increases in sickness scheme costs and costs of cover during excess period Staff redeployed to cover ALN support due to reductions in LSA staff numbers both on budget & agency costs Suspension of all internal decoration projects 	
6	90,000	-44,004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of interventions, grants being used to sustain current staffing Reduction in support staff Reduction in repairs and maintenance budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classrooms not as well resourced, quality of learning and teaching compromised. Deterioration of school building Reduced professional learning opportunities 	-181,033
7	260,000	-37,550	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restructure of leadership Teachers leaving being replaced with NQTs Training budget removed Minimal budget for repairs and maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership capacity diminished-greater workload and responsibilities on other leaders-strategic implementation and school improvement priorities will not move forward-workload pressure for staff 	-411,272

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential imbalance of experienced and newer members of staff – increased responsibilities for AOLE leadership on others- NQT mentoring and support by leaders already in reduced leadership capacity from leadership changes • Professional learning reduced to staff meetings only- teaching and learning will not move forward- potentially will regress • Building not maintained, not in good condition already so will deteriorate further • Recruitment and retention over time will be affected by the above- increased workload, working in environments that are not maintained adequately 	
8	Estimated 99,000	-26,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in support staff. • Reducing teaching supply budget • Reducing support staff supply budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased pressure on SLT to cover classes or increased pressure on support staff to cover for 	-230,000

			<p>Reducing teaching materials budget</p> <p>Reducing furniture budget</p> <p>Reducing repairs and maintenance budget by £21,000</p>	<p>absent colleagues. Well-being of staff is a concern.</p>	
9	180,00	-138,689	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unallocated funds available were due to the amalgamation savings of the Nursery and Primary School. This substantial amount has been used to offset the predicted deficit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is preventing us from developing the outside learning area including a Welsh Pod, Extra learning experiences and activities that will enhance the new curriculum for Wales. 	-288,924

Rural Vale Primary Cluster Mid-May 2023

School	Carry forward 22/23 £	Final projected figure 23/24 £	Where have cuts been made to achieve this?	Impact of cuts for this financial year	Projected final figure 24/25 £	Projected final figure 25/26
1	-117,000	-236,330	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not replacing teacher, who is retiring. • SLT (ALNCo dropping ALN duties reduction in TLR – ALN taken on by current HT. • Reduction of support staff employed to match ANF funding. • Reduction in teaching resources – including extra curricular and enrichment opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classrooms not resourced as they should be – essentials not being purchased – parents and school community being asked to provide. • Reduced ALN provision/offer – impact on behaviour (mainly) and standards due to pressures of increased exclusions and parental concerns. • Concerns about staff wellbeing – stress of support staff and dealing with behaviour and complex needs. • Reduced school experiences such as residential visits and school trips etc. 	-373,013	-528,261
2	11,635	10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LSA who was on long term supply has now lost her job. The LSA also covers lunchtime duties and this lack of capacity puts additional strain on staff. SLT and teachers have agreed to carry out lunchtime duties on a good will basis. • In order to balance this budget, we have to generate our own revenue up to £60,000 which comes from Governors/HT running a private Childcare and carrying out additional fundraising. • To reduce staff any further would be a health and safety risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School fundraising and the additional revenue from our childcare has to go directly into staffing the school at appropriate levels. • Resources/extra-curricular events will need to reduce as a result of lack of funding. Parents will be asked to provide classroom essentials. • Additional provision to support Mental Health & Wellbeing such as ELSA will have to be reduced on the timetable due to lack of capacity. • Reduce Management time for DH and ALNco which will have a negative impact on ALN provision. • Negative impact on staff well being as their workload/additional duties increase. 	212	-44,312
3	13,000	-65,093	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced interventions due to skeleton staff • Unable to renew temporary contract staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less staff to carry out increased need for intervention • Increasing number of ALN children 	-86,234	-73,077

3	13,000	- 65,093	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced interventions due to skeleton staff • Unable to renew temporary contract staff • Reduction in teaching resources, school visits and any further enrichment • Reduction in repairs and maintenance budget. Brand new build with new technology at increased service costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less staff to carry out increased need for intervention • Increasing number of ALN children • Reduced curriculum enhancement through visits and learning • Decreasing ability to fund CPD for staff 	-86,234	-73,077
4	59000	42,560	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -Use of reserves held in the Vale for resourcing an extension • -Not replaced 2 members of staff who have left this year • -Significant reduction in all ledger codes especially supply budget and resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -Extension will be now be less equipped when completed • -Huge impact on pupils intervention groups, especially ELSA • -Impact on staff training and teaching if staff member is off ill. Classrooms less well resourced which will impact curriculum delivery 	-37,235	-136,908
5	Approx £70k	-£16k	The school carry forward was a lot higher due to the grants from last financial year that could offset salaries. However, we have only just been given this figure (it was -£90k). The remaining deficit will be covered from teaching material and reduced adult support for ALN/Behaviour	Not meeting the needs of pupil IDPs for those with ALN. Using staff to run a nurture group to support behavior but these staff will need to be backfilled in the class they have been taken from.	£123,513	£263,471
6	£96287	- £56055	Reserves from building and maintenance, had to stop all planned building work. Significantly reduce teaching and learning resources spend. Reduce amount of agency supply to cover SLT time, professional learning.	School building will deteriorate. Impact on teaching and learning standards. Increased workload, CPD of staff/ SLT	-103600	-154848

7	44,000	- 33,300	<p>One (0.5FTE) teacher left at Easter and hasn't been replaced. HT teaching one day a week to cover the summer term</p> <p>One LSA leaving in July (not replaced) All costs centres have been reduced to non-realistic levels</p> <p>Mixed year group classes have been established where possible (but this has led to pupils leaving the school = falling roll and less budget)</p>	<p>Reduced ALN offer particularly at Y3-6 – impact on standards and achievement</p> <p>Very little emotional support for pupils</p> <p>Classrooms will not be well resourced</p> <p>Non- essential school trips and activities will be stopped. Only those that can be partly funded and that are within a certain cost will go ahead</p> <p>Vastly reduced curriculum enhancement</p> <p>Limited sporting fixtures (due to transport costs and release of staff)</p> <p>Release of staff is incredibly limited, no flexibility of cover as LSAs are at minimum</p>	- 135,000	- 277,000
---	--------	-------------	--	---	--------------	--------------

8	£89,000	-£110,349 (-£443,566 prior to cut backs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x teacher leaver and not replaced • 2 x teachers end of temp contract and not extended. • 1 x teacher on secondment with the CSC and not replaced in school structure. • Reduction in Agency staff allocation for both teaching and LSA. • Reduction by £5000 to Education & Training. • Reduction by £12,500 to Repairs and Maintenance. • Reduction by £2,500 to Fire & Burglar Alarms. • Reduction in Teaching Materials by £8,000 	<p>Reduced ALN / SEMH offer - impact upon standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of teaching, learning and well-being of children and staff may be compromised. Reduced curriculum enhancement. • Unable to cover absent staff effectively, quality of learning compromised • Reduced opportunities and professional learning for staff. • A risk of school buildings and compliance to deteriorate. • Any repairs or improvements will need to be reassessed. • Classrooms not as well resourced and quality of teaching and learning compromised. 	-£329,966	
---	---------	---	--	--	-----------	--

A large Primary School

Below is a list of the main impacts identified by the SLT as a result of reductions in School funding. We have approximately 750 pupils in our school.

The School has already made significant efforts to reduce and contain its current deficit by cutting staff and reducing supply cover. This has had a significant impact on workload and provision that can be delivered in the School. We have outlined the main impacts below:

- Since September 2022 we have not been able to run consistent ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support) and since January 2023 we have not been able to run any ELSA interventions. This is because we have redeployed two members of staff who ran these sessions to other roles to save money and try and reduce the deficit. One of these learning support assistants (LSAs) is now a foundation phase (FP) class LSA and the other is used as a higher level teaching assistant (HLTA) to cover classes to reduce supply costs. The Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP) has recently been to a number of Child Protection, Care and Support and CLA (Child who is Looked After) meetings whereby we have had to say that we no longer have the capacity or money to offer these vulnerable children ELSA support.
- In Key Stage Two we have reduced the number of class LSAs to just 2. These LSAs are running support for 540 pupils which is unsustainable. We have a number of children who need support but who we cannot support due to not having a sufficient number of LSAs for KS2.
- We have reduced the number of LSAs in the ALN team to 2 for specialist literacy and speech and language intervention.
- Our Reception Classes have only had 1 LSA per class of 30 since 2020. When Foundation Phase was introduced in Wales, the recommended number of LSAs for Reception was 2 per class of 30.
- When MDS (Midday Supervisors) have resigned/retired, we have not replaced them. There are approximately 540 pupils at one time during lunchtime, meaning our current ratio is 1:54. This ratio is even worse if a MDS is off sick. The senior leadership team (SLT) are used to cover the shortfall but this means they are not available for their other roles during this time or have to work additional hours to make up for work time lost when they are providing lunchtime cover.
- Like all schools we are experiencing a significant increase of pupils with complex needs. Although the School accesses ANF funding, some allocation is not enough to keep certain children, their peers and staff safe. Therefore, to be a fully inclusive school and also to reduce the risk of exclusions, the School has to fund the additional hours from our budget on health and safety grounds. If further budget cuts need to be made exclusions are at risk of rising and we may not be able to meet individual needs.
- The School has been recognised for excellent practice regarding early speech and language provision/interventions. With further pressures to cut spending, this provision will have to stop. The impact of this will be increased behaviour and learning difficulties.
- The School currently has 1 caretaker. The School site is large and the grounds comprise of 6 buildings, a large field and car park. The recommendation for a school of 750 pupils is 1.75 caretakers. This is something we cannot afford and is impacting on the workload of the current caretaker who has recently resigned.
- School office administration - The office staff need additional support. A shortage means we are constantly playing catch up rather than progressing and the workload for those in the office is significant.

- Teaching materials - we have limited stock and staff have to be very creative about activities planned for the children. All stock is low and some staff are buying their own resources for their lessons. One example of a change made several years ago to save money was to ask staff not to print or photocopy in colour where possible as black and white printing and copying is cheaper, but this affects the quality of learning materials for the children.
- SLT are under staffed and although this has been addressed with a temporary placement, the pressure on the existing SLT has been intense. All members of the SLT are working long hours to enable the School to function and move forward. It is not sustainable for their workload and wellbeing but also there is likely to be something missed or dropped because of the many demands on them.
- Provision - many areas particularly outdoors needs to be revamped. Currently it is a struggle to meet the requirements of the Foundation Phase with the provision on offer.
- School trips – The School can only ask for voluntary contributions towards the cost and the School has to cover the gap. More parents are no longer contributing and the School cannot afford the bill so no/very few trips that have a cost attached to them are taking place, meaning many lost opportunities for the children.

If we have to make further cuts, there will be a further significant impact to health and safety, learning and teaching and pupil and staff wellbeing.

A small rural Primary School

In this document, we aim to outline the impact of the consistently low funding allocation to the Vale of Glamorgan Local Authority by the Welsh Government. Whilst Llangan Primary School's 2022/23 budget shows that the school is one of only a handful of the 40 Vale schools to be achieving a surplus, we have had to make significant sacrifices in order to attain that surplus, which are detailed in the following.

At the time of the last Estyn inspection, in April 2019 (where the school was taken under Estyn Review), Llangan Primary was given four recommendations for improvement which the school has worked hard to complete (with sufficient progress being judged to draw the school out of Estyn Review in February, 2021). Whilst many of the required changes have taken place, the school has had to rely on the goodwill and volunteered time of the (previous and current) headteachers, teachers, support staff, parents and governors. The required levels of CPD, training and external input into the development of the school's provision have been extremely limited as cover was unaffordable. The school sacrificed two teaching assistants and a trainee teacher, at the end of 2021/2022, as it prepared for the financial constraints ahead. This, in turn, impacted on ALN interventions, KS2 class sizes and a lost opportunity to keep and develop a well-regarded trainee teacher. Consequently, Llangan Primary has been operating with a skeleton staffing structure, with the remaining teaching assistants assigned to support statemented children or carry-out interventions, and therefore there has been minimal general class support. The dire financial situation also informed and encouraged our decision to agree a two-year secondment for our deputy headteacher to another school, with implications for lost senior teacher expertise and strategic support for the newly appointed headteacher.

The development of learning resources, to support all pupil progress and challenge for the more able pupils, has been on hold over recent years due to financial constraints. For example, we would eagerly develop early reading through established and successful phonics schemes, such as Read Write Inc Phonics, and the mastery approach to maths through fluency-building and numeracy schemes, such as Number Sense and White Rose Maths, if the financial constraints would allow. Consequently, the staff and pupils of Llangan Primary are not benefiting from resources and schemes that schools in other local authorities receive automatically. This lack of investment in resources (and associated training) impacts on all pupils' academic attainment and progress. It also impacts on the highly stretched time of teachers, as they desperately prepare learning material to fill the gaps left by the unaffordable consistent, engaging and professionally-produced successful schemes.

At times within 2022/23, the school has been on the edge of providing a safe learning and working environment, as staff have been reallocated and stretched to thinly cover absence, often at very short notice. This not only impacts on staff security and wellbeing, but also on the clarity of their roles and responsibilities. Teaching assistants have, on average, sacrificed around 25 per cent of their intervention time this year, as they have been required to cover classes and duties. These interventions are invaluable in supporting the achievement and progress of ALN pupils, as well as the mental health of pupils who require support in developing their emotional literacy.

Our headteacher and senior leaders have covered classes, to avoid unaffordable supply cover costs. This has impacted on the school's strategic development, its ability to engage with external expertise, and in the implementation of a broad and balanced curriculum. Furthermore, senior staff have been unable to develop pupil and parent voice groups as required to ensure effective feedback

and the ability to inform future decision-making. Pupil voice groups do now include 'Digital Champions' and 'Health and Fit Committee' due to the dedication of the school's staff.

I hope that this outline of the 'chalkface' impacts of consistently low funding in the teaching and learning provision of Llangan Primary provokes action on the part of the Welsh Government, as these impacts are being felt across schools in the poorly-funded Vale of Glamorgan local authority. See Chart below showing how the Vale of Glamorgan local authority is underfunded compared to elsewhere in Wales (Source: Statistical Bulletin, Welsh Government).

A Secondary School

Actions already taken to pre-empt budget concerns:

- Senior staff member replaced in the wellbeing team, from Sep 22, a Full time teacher with a large TLR replaced by a non-teaching member of staff.
- Data manager – job not replaced, workload offset onto other staff with some pay increases. However, this has already caused some workload issues.
- Only additional cost of Data Manager leaving was to increase one of the site team from part time to full time to cover WG taking over some of Data Manager job roles.
- Assistant Headteacher in the structure, this person has not been in post for over 5 years, already stretching the leadership team beyond capacity.
- Music subject lead TLR reduced when teacher appointed in Sep 2021.
- English HOD TLR reduced when new Head of English was appointed in 2021.
- DT subject lead TLR removed
- No Associates to the SLT have been appointed this year due to cost and time needed to complete the role.
- TLR's for jobs in the last 3 years have been employed at the bottom or middle of the TLR range as opposed to the top of the range as was the case previously.
- Lead practitioner roles for English and Maths have not been replaced in the last 3 years.
- 3 U3 teachers have been moved on in the last 5 years. Art/ MFL and English.
- Canteen has been transferred out of school ownership since October 2022 due to the costs this had begun to impose on the school.
- Raided Whitmore/ Pencoedtre/ HMRC offices to get second hand furniture rather than buy new.
- As of August 2022, we had a staff to pupil ratio of 1/16.6. Based on current cuts, we will have a ratio of 1/17.9 from September 2023.

Actions being taken from April 2023:

- Full time Science teacher not having contract renewed for September 2023. This means less sets for Science in KS4 and no capacity for science interventions.
- 0.5 Maths teacher. She left at Christmas, we have to maintain her timetable for the academic year but will not be replaced in September. This will mean less sets for Maths in KS4 and no interventions.
- 0.5 general teacher left at Christmas. Part time teacher added one day to cover music lessons. Other days not covered from September. This has led to one subject form each option column being reduced for Year 10 in September 2023.
- 0.6 general teacher, PE, Skills and Welsh. This role is being removed from September. This means that RE and Welsh will have less sets in KS4 and no interventions.
- English have had to reduce the amount of sets in KS4 due to change of role for SMC and JO having to have more free time due to the ALN act, meaning interventions will also be removed.
- 2 TA's are retiring this summer. At this moment, although it will be at the detriment of the ALN needs of some of our pupils, they will not be replaced.
- 3 TA's are on temporary contracts; it is likely we will only keep 2 of them.
- 1 of the TA team has reduced hours from FT to 0.8 from March 23.
- TA hours total 170 this year, reducing to 125 in September.

- SLT TLR's – Assistant Head to leave August 31st. New role to be advertised on slightly lower scale with LB on a senior AHT scale. This will save £6k in year 1, £4k in yr 2, £2.5k in yr 3, cost neutral yr 4 and £2500 loss in year 5. Over the period it saves approx. £10k.
- Voluntary Redundancy – one member of staff has come forward.

Eitem 4.1

P-06-1209 Dylid creu rhestr o bob gofalwr di-dâl yng Nghymru

Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb hon gan Mike O'Brien, ar ôl casglu cyfanswm o 77 lofnodion.

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi dweud ers cryn amser bellach ei bod hi'n dasg anodd nodi gofalwyr di-dâl, felly mae'r ddeiseb hon yn galw am greu cofrestr genedlaethol o ofalwyr i'w gwneud yn haws nodi pwy yw'r gofalwyr di-dâl.

Etholaeth a Rhanbarth y Cynulliad

- Bro Morgannwg
- Canol De Cymru

Julie Morgan AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JMSS/00504/23

Jack Sargeant AS
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1SN
Government.Committee.Business@llyw.cymru

7 Medi 2023

Annwyl Jack,

Diolch am eich cais i gael diweddariad i'm gohebiaeth flaenorol, dyddiedig 10 Ionawr 2023, ynghylch ystyriaethau cyflwyno cofrestr genedlaethol ar gyfer gofalwyr di-dâl.

Amlinellodd fy llythyr blaenorol waith a wnaed gan swyddogion i archwilio ymarferoldeb cyflwyno cofrestr gofalwyr. Eglurodd hefyd na fyddai'n bosibl i Lywodraeth Cymru gael mynediad at ddata a gedwir ar ofalwyr unigol gan awdurdodau lleol neu fyrddau iechyd heb gael cydsyniad pob unigolyn i ddefnyddio ei ddata at ddibenion eraill. Byddai gwneud hynny'n dasg gymhleth a llafurus. O ganlyniad, byddai'n ofynnol i ofalwyr di-dâl gofrestru ar gofrestr Llywodraeth Cymru hefyd. Byddai awdurdodau lleol, byrddau iechyd a sefydliadau cenedlaethol ar gyfer gofalwyr yn parhau i ddal eu rhestrau ar wahân. Efallai na fydd rhai pobl yn gweld gwerth cofrestru ar gyfer mwy nag un rhestr ac ni ellid defnyddio cofrestr a gynhrychir fel hyn i gasglu data cyfredol a chywir ar ofalwyr di-dâl yng Nghymru.

Er y gellid defnyddio'r rhestr i ledaenu gwybodaeth oddi wrth Lywodraeth Cymru i'r rhai sydd wedi cofrestru, ni allem warantu y byddai'n cyrraedd mwy o ofalwyr na'r rhai sydd eisoes wedi cofrestru â chronfeydd data eraill. Trafodwyd y mater yng ngrŵp Cyngori'r Gweinidog ar Ofalwyr Di-dâl ar 16 Mawrth.

Ers hynny, mae swyddogion wedi llunio rhestr o'r cydgysylltwyr ar gyfer yr holl restrau gwahanol o ofalwyr a gedwir. Drwy'r drefn hon, gallwn gyrraedd pob gofalwr di-dâl sydd wedi cofrestru â'r rhestrau hyn.

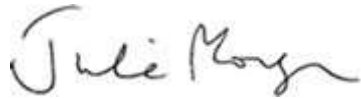
Rydym hefyd wedi derbyn gwybodaeth am gost y flwyddyn gyntaf ar gyfer sefydlu a chynnal rhestr genedlaethol gan Cymunedau Iechyd Digidol Cymru. Byddai rhwng £100,000 a £237,000, gan ddibynnu ar y nifer sy'n dewis cofrestru a lefel y diogelwch a roddir i ddefnyddwyr. Byddai hefyd angen ymgyrch gyhoeddusrwydd/ymwybyddiaeth fawr i gynyddu nifer y gofalwyr di-dâl sy'n cofrestru â'r gronfa ddata, a hynny ar gost ychwanegol.

Rydych yn ymwybodol o'r pwysau ariannol sylweddol rydym yn eu hwynebu yng nghyllideb 2023-24, ac wrth barhau â'r paratodau ar gyfer cyrraedd cyllideb 2024-25. Ni nodwyd cyllid ar

gyfer y prosiect hwn eto. O ystyried bod llai o ddefnyddioldeb i'r gofrestr fel y'i rhagwelwyd yn wreiddiol, a'r lefelau uchel o gyllid y byddai'i angen i'w sefydlu a'i rhedeg, efallai ei bod yn anodd ystyried hon yn gost y gellir ei chyfiawnhau ar hyn o bryd. Mae swyddogion wedi ymgysylltu â Gofalwyr Cymru ac Ymddiriedolaeth Gofalwyr Cymru i'w gwneud yn ymwybodol o'r sefyllfa hon. Roeddent yn cydnabod na fyddai cofrestr, fel y'i disgrifiwyd, yn dod â'r gwerth ychwanegol a ddisgwyliwyd a mynegwyd barn bod anghenion brys eraill gofalwyr di-dâl yn fwy o flaenoriaeth i'w sefydliadau.

Nid oes penderfyniad pendant wedi'i wneud eto gan fy mod am ddod â'r pwnc gerbron y Grŵp Cyngori Gweinidogol drachefn ar 25 Medi.

Yn gywir,



Julie Morgan AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

Deputy Minister for Social Services

**P-06-1209 Create a national list of all unpaid carers in Wales, Correspondence –
Petitioner to Committee, 19.09.23**

Whilst I understand and appreciate that Welsh Government officials have undertaken to identify lists of unpaid carers that are held by local authorities, health boards and third sector organisations I still feel there is a need for a centralised list that is held by the Welsh Government alone. The past few years have shown that Welsh Government are unable to easily identify unpaid carers as was the experience during the initial roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccines. The lists that do exist are unable to be shared with Welsh Government due to GDPR regulations and not all organisations who do hold those lists are as willing to disseminate information from Welsh Government as others are.

One must wonder how much money was spent on identifying those lists and the key coordinators as well as how that money could have been better spent in the pursuit of funding the initial setup costs of a National Register of Unpaid Carers.

Both myself and a colleague have recently met with both the Deputy Minister and her advisor, Andy Pithouse, to discuss the creation of a national register and during those meetings we offered an alternative solution through collaboration working with Carers Card UK. The Welsh Government could purchase the carers cards in bulk and the admin team at Carers Card UK would help to facilitate and create a portal that could be used by Welsh Government to monitor uptake and information gained from such a scheme. Such a scheme rolled out across Wales would also give unpaid carers access to a UK wide discount scheme, much like the scheme offered to holders of the Blue Light Card. Welsh Government would also have to opportunity to add Wales specific discounts at both a national and local level.

I appreciate the financial pressures placed on the Welsh Government at the current time, but one of the commitments in the National Strategy for Unpaid Carers in Wales is to better identify unpaid carers across the country. Without the creation and promotion of a national register or some other such scheme I fail to see how the Welsh Government can hope to achieve a positive outcome to this commitment.

As an unpaid carer representative and through my connections made on social media and attending various meeting both online and in person, I have spoken with many other unpaid carers both locally and across Wales. All those I have connected with and spoken to can see the value in having a National Register of Unpaid Carers in Wales.

I am disappointed that Carers Wales and Carers Trust Wales appear to not be backing the creation of a National Register citing that other challenges faced by unpaid carers are more pressing. I feel that the creation of said register would aid help those organisations in their endeavours to support and assist unpaid carers and would also add value to any future funding bids they would wish to make in their pursuit to improve the lives of unpaid carers in Wales.

Eitem 4.2

P-06-1262 Llywodraeth Cymru i gynnal ymchwiliad cyhoeddus i benderfyniadau a wnaed ganddi cyn ac yn ystod y pandemig

Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb hon gan Anna-Louise Marsh-Rees, ar ôl casglu cyfanswm o 2,116 lofnodion.

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Cafodd llawer o anwyliaid eu heintio â COVID-19 mewn ysbytai a chartrefi gofal yng Nghymru. Roedd cyfarpar diogelu personol yn brin, ni phrofwyd staff oni bai iddynt ddangos symptomau COVID, roedd y camau a gymerwyd i awyru ystafelloedd yn ddiffygiol, a rhoddwyd cleifion COVID ar wardiau nad oeddent wedi'u bwriadu ar eu cyfer. Anfonwyd llawer o gleifion adref heb iddynt gael eu hailbrofi; aethant ymlaen i ledaenu'r haint yn y gymuned cyn iddynt farw. Roedd hysbysiadau 'na cheisier dadebru' yn gysylltiedig â nifer o gleifion heb ymgynghoriad. Roedd cyfathrebu'n wael os oedd yn digwydd o gwbl. Yn bendant, ni ddysgwyd y gwersi perthnasol. Dylid craffu yng Nghymru ar y penderfyniadau a wnaed yng Nghymru a effeithiodd ar bobl Cymru.

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol:

Fel y mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi nodi'n glir drwy gydol y pandemig, cafodd y penderfyniadau ar reolau COVID-19 yng Nghymru eu gwneud yng Nghymru. Mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi bod yn awyddus i dynnu sylw at wahaniaethau sy'n aml yn arwyddocaol rhwng y rheolau yng Nghymru a Lloegr.

Byddai cynnal ymchwiliad penodol i Gymru yn gyfle am adolygiad annibynnol i archwilio a ellid fod wedi atal marwolaethau yng Nghymru.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn haeddu cael ei chraffu'n llawn – nid ei thrin fel troednodyn mewn ymchwiliad gan Lywodraeth y DU.

Etholaeth a Rhanbarth y Cynulliad

- Mynwy
- Dwyrain De Cymru

P-06-1262 Welsh Government to hold a public inquiry into decisions taken by them before & during the pandemic

Following first hearing in the UK Covid-19 Inquiry in June 2023 it has further demonstrated the need for a Wales specific public judge -led independent Covid inquiry,

Module 1 of the UK Covid Inquiry, which examined pandemic preparedness lasted six weeks, yet the focus on the Welsh Government was limited to just over 2 days. There were just 7 witnesses from Wales called providing just 8 hours of testimony from a total of 87 hours. This lopsided approach did not adequately scrutinise why the Welsh Government did not prepare for a pandemic.

Furthermore, the location of the committee in London poses significant barriers for Welsh bereaved families who are unable to easily travel there to participate.

In the First Minister, Mark Drakeford's letter to the sponsor for the UK Inquiry, Boris Johnson, dated 12 Nov 2021, he writes:

***Evidence hearings in Wales.** Public participation in Wales will only be effective if the inquiry has a significant presence and visibility in Wales throughout the duration of the inquiry. It will be essential that resources should be made available for testimony to be given in the Welsh language, at the request of Welsh-speaking participants.*

Of the 7 modules already announced only Module 2B will be located in Wales, with only 13 working days covering the Welsh Government response.

Module 3 examining healthcare, the most important module, is scheduled for 10 weeks only. Its scope is vast inc. Preparedness. Core decision-making and leadership within healthcare systems. Staffing levels and critical care capacity. The establishment and use of Nightingale hospitals and the use of private hospitals, 111, 999 and ambulance services. GP surgeries and hospitals and cross-sectional co-operation between services. Healthcare provision and treatment for patients with Covid-19. Healthcare systems' response to clinical trials and research during the pandemic. The allocation of staff and resources. The impact on those requiring care for reasons other than Covid-19. Quality of treatment for Covid-19 and non- Covid-19 patients, delays in treatment, waiting lists and people not seeking or receiving treatment. Palliative care. The discharge of patients from hospital. Decision-making about the nature of healthcare to be provided for patients with Covid-19, its escalation and the provision of cardiopulmonary resuscitation, including the use of do not attempt cardiopulmonary resuscitation instructions (DNACPRs).The impact of the pandemic on doctors, nurses and other healthcare staff, including on those in training and specific groups of healthcare workers (for example by reference to ethnic background). Availability of healthcare staff. The NHS surcharge for non-UK healthcare staff and the decision to remove the surcharge. Preventing the spread of Covid-19 within healthcare settings, including infection control, the adequacy of PPE and rules about visiting those in hospital. Communication with patients with Covid-19 and their loved ones about patients' condition and treatment, including discussions about DNACPRs. Deaths caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, in terms of the numbers, classification and recording of deaths, including the impact on specific groups of healthcare workers, for example by reference to ethnic background and geographical location. Shielding and the impact on the clinically vulnerable (including those referred to as "clinically extremely vulnerable"). Characterisation and identification of Post-Covid Condition (including the condition referred to as long Covid) and its diagnosis and treatment.

Module 3 is not even split by nation despite healthcare being fully devolved and each nation having their own system.

In England alone, there are 229 NHS Trusts and 43 Integrated Health Boards, 220 general acute hospitals, 826 community providers and 6,925 GP practices.

It will simply not be possible to cover even England in this time let alone scrutinise Wales and the other devolved nations.

The absence of Welsh experts or even experts that include Wales in their reports in the UK Inquiry further undermines its ability to comprehensively assess the Welsh context and provide meaningful insights.

The First Minister stressed he would only be in a UK Inquiry if it was in Wales, in Welsh and with Welsh experts yet that is not happening.

In stark contrast, Scotland has set an exemplary standard for devolved governments by establishing a separate Scottish Covid Inquiry that collaborates with the UK Covid Inquiry. This joint effort ensures there is no duplication and gaps and guarantees thorough scrutiny of Scotland's response.

For Wales, we demand more than a Senedd Special Purposes Covid Committee that operates behind closed doors and within the same political arena where Welsh decision making occurs. It is imperative that the Wales Covid inquiry is conducted independently and led by a judge, ensuring transparency, impartiality, and public trust. Additionally, the current committee's lack of enforcement powers, limited only to producing a report, fails to provide the necessary mechanisms for holding accountable those responsible for any shortcomings identified.

We continue to call for a Wales specific independent, judge-led public inquiry that incorporates the valuable lessons learned from Scotland's approach and prioritises meaningful participation of bereaved families in the proceedings. It is only through such a comprehensive and inclusive inquiry that we can hope to achieve justice, accountability, and the prevention of future tragedies.

=====

Regards

P-06-1288 Byddai agor Gorsaf Gerdded ym Magwyr a Gwndy, sy'n rhan o Raglen Gyflenwi yr Arglwydd Burns, yn llwyddiant cyflym

Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb hon gan Paul Turner, ar ôl casglu 297 lofnodion ar-lein ac 250 ar bapur, sef cyfanswm o 547 o lofnodion wedi casglu.

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn annog Llywodraeth Cymru i gyflymu'r broses o agor gorsaf gerdded ym Magwyr a Gwndy, a hynny fel 'llwyddiant cyflym' yn y broses o roi adroddiad yr Arglwydd Burns ar waith. Mae angen yr orsaf yn awr, gyda phoblogaeth Magwyr a Gwndy yn ehangu'n gyflym, a'r ardal ar fin dod yn dref.

Mae Grŵp Gweithredu Rheilffordd Magwyr (MAGOR) wedi bod yn ymgyrchu ers 10 mlynedd, gyda'r nod o adfer gorsaf reilffordd ar gyfer cymunedau Magwyr a Gwndy. Mae'r ymgyrch hon wedi ennyn cefnogaeth frwd gan y gymuned a chefnogaeth gynhwysfawr gan wleidyddion lleol yn y sir a'r Senedd, a chan ein Haelod Seneddol. O ganlyniad, cafodd y cynllun hwn ei gynnwys yn yr argymhellion a wnaed yn Adroddiad Burns ac yn y Rhaglen Gyflenwi gysylltiedig.

Credwn y byddai'r cam hwn yn 'llwyddiant cyflym' gan ei fod yn elfen dechnegol o'r cynllun sydd yn syml ac yn gost-effeithiol .

Mae hanes llawn yr ymgyrch ar gael ar ein gwefan: magorstation.co.uk.

Etholaeth a Rhanbarth y Cynulliad

- Dwyrain Casnewydd
- Dwyrain De Cymru



19th September 2023

Please find below an update from the MAGOR group -

- **Since the petition was debated on the 6th of February 2023. On the 14th February 2023, the Welsh Government cancelled the road building programme. This has meant that the integration of the public transport link with Severn Tunnel Junction has either been delayed or cancelled. Magor & Undy Walkway Station could link all modes of public transport at very little cost. This is because the bus route passes the station entrance. Therefore, there is not a need to build an expensive road link, just needs a couple of pavement bus stands.**
- **The design for Magor & Undy Walkway Station has been completed and will be consulted on in the autumn, although we have not seen the design as yet. We anticipate it will be a low-cost construction as it is not dependant on the upgrade of the relief lines.**
- **A statement of opinion supporting Magor & Undy Walkway Station as a quick win for Lord Burns Report. It was tabled by John Griffiths SM supported by Natasha Asghar SM, Peredur Owen Griffiths SM and Laura Anne Jones on 10th February 2023.**

Ted Hand and Paul Turner

MAGOR GROUP

P-06-1348 Comisiynu gwasanaethau GIG addas yng Nghymru ar gyfer pobl ag EDS neu anhwylderau sbectrwm hypersymudedd

Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb hon gan Natasha Evans-Jones, ar ôl casglu 1,125 o lofnodion.

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Yn hanesyddol mae'r rhai sy'n dangos arwyddion o syndrom Ehlers-Danlos (EDS) neu anhwylderau sbectrwm hypersymudedd wedi cael eu cyfeirio at adrannau rheumatoleg. Yn 2021, fe'u cyfarwyddwyd i roi'r gorau i weld y cleifion hyn er mwyn iddynt gael diagnosis a rheolaeth mewn gofal sylfaenol, ond nid yw'r adnoddau ar gyfer y rôl hon mewn gofal sylfaenol ar hyn o bryd. Mae gwasanaeth trydyddol unigryw yn Lloegr hefyd wedi cau i gleifion o'r tu allan i'r ardal. Mae'r sefyllfa hon wedi arwain at anghydraddoldebau o ran cael gafael ar ofal iechyd i'r rhai sydd ag EDS ac anhwylderau sbectrwm hypersymudedd yng Nghymru gan arwain at ddiodefaint annerbyniol.

Gwybodaeth ychwanegol:

Mae syndromau Ehlers-Danlos yn anhwylderau genetig ar y meinwe cysylltiol gyda symptomau ledled y corff a all achosi anabledd, gan effeithio ar bob agwedd ar fywyd. Mae un math sy'n peryglu bywyd. Mae symptomau'r rhan fwyaf o fathau'n cynnwys problemau cyhyrysgerbydol, poen cronig a blinder, aflonyddwch gastroberfeddol, croen bregus, problemau gyda'r pelfis a'r bledren, camweithrediad awtonomig a gorbryder. Gellir cael diagnosis o ran deuddeg o'r 13 math drwy brofion genetig. Nid oes un prawf ar gyfer y math mwyaf cyffredin (hEDS) nac ar gyfer yr anhwylderau sbectrwm hypersymudedd cysylltiedig, sy'n gwneud diagnosis yn heriol. Gyda'i gilydd, mae hEDS a HSD yn weddol gyffredin. Mewn astudiaeth yn 2019, a oedd yn defnyddio data o ysbytai Cymru a chofnodion meddygon teulu, canfu bod 1 o bob 500 o bobl yn cael eu heffeithio (Demmler et al, <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/9/11/e031365>).

Mae'r sefyllfa yng Nghymru yn achosi diodefaint i'r rhai sy'n aros am ddiagnosis, y rhai sydd ar lwybrau triniaeth amhriodol, a'u teuluoedd.

Etholaeth a Rhanbarth y Cynulliad

- Dyffryn Clwyd
- Gogledd Cymru



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1348
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/01941/23

Jack Sargeant AS
Cadeirydd – y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1SN

Government.Committee.Business@llyw.cymru

16 Awst 2023

Annwyl Jack,

Diolch am eich llythyr pellach dyddiedig 14 Gorffennaf ar ran y Pwyllgor Deisebau ynglŷn â'r gwasanaethau i bobl sydd â syndrom Ehlers-Danlos ac anhwylderau sbectrwm hypersymudedd.

Mae arbenigwyr ymgynghorol cyffredinol ar gael ym mhob Bwrdd Iechyd yng Nghymru, a bydd y rheini sy'n byw gyda chyflwr anghyffredin yn cael gofal amlddisgyblaeth o ansawdd da mor agos i'w cartrefi â phosibl. Bydd y rhan fwyaf o gleifion sydd â syndrom Ehlers-Danlos o dan ofal rhiwmatolegydd, a fydd ag arbenigedd yn y maes. Gan y bydd syndrom Ehlers-Danlos yn effeithio ar nifer o systemau fel arfer, yr arfer gorau yw defnyddio arbenigeddau Tîm Amlddisgyblaeth i ddarparu gofal.

Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau Iechyd Arbenigol Cymru sy'n comisiynu'r diagnosis o syndrom Ehlers-Danlos mewn plant yr amheuir bod ganddynt y syndrom. Er y gellir atgyfeirio plant ar gyfer cael asesiad diagnostig, bydd y cyflwr yn cael ei reoli a'i drin drwy glinigwyr lleol. Dim ond plant sydd â mathau clasurol, fasgwlaidd, neu anghyffredin o syndrom Ehlers-Danlos sy'n cael eu hystyried gan y gwasanaeth diagnostig arbenigol, a rhaid i blant gael eu hatgyfeirio gan arbenigwr mewn ysbyty.

Mae'r llwybr arferol i oedolion yn rhan o gyfrifoldeb rhewmatoleg y bwrdd iechyd. I rai cleifion, dim ond nifer bach o ganolfannau yn y DU sy'n cynnig y lefel uchel o arbenigedd y mae ei hangen i'w trin. Os oes posibilrwydd fod gan unigolyn fath anghyffredin o syndrom Ehlers-Danlos, gall meddygon teulu ei atgyfeirio i'r gwasanaeth geneteg lleol ar gyfer asesiad. Os bydd angen ymchwilio ymhellach, mae'n bosibl atgyfeirio'r claf i'r Gwasanaeth Diagnostig Cenedlaethol ar gyfer syndrom Ehlers-Danlos.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@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.

Mae'r Grŵp Gweithredu ar gyfer Clefydau Anghyffredin wrthi'n cwmpasu'r cyfle y gallai canolfan iechyd rithiol ei ddarparu i'r rheini y mae clefydau anghyffredin yn effeithio arnynt. Y nod fydd darparu cefnogaeth gan gymheiriaid a chyfleoedd arweinyddiaeth, gwella sut mae gofal yn cael ei gydgyssylltu, a chodi ymwybyddiaeth o astudiaethau ymchwil.

Mae'r Grŵp hefyd yn cefnogi clinig SWAN a chlinig Tîm Amlddisgyblaeth ar gyfer Clefydau Anghyffredin Pediatrig ym Mwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Cwm Taf Bro Morgannwg, sy'n awyddus i ddeall effeithiau cydgysylltydd gofal a enwir, ymhlith amcanion eraill.

Bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn gweithio'n agos gyda'r rhwydweithiau clinigol strategol yng Ngweithrediaeth GIG Cymru sydd newydd ei sefydlu, er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn manteisio ar ddealltwriaeth a chymorth y rhwydweithiau i wella mynediad at ddiagnosis a thriniaeth i'r rheini sydd â chlefydau anghyffredin, a thrwy hynny gwella ymwybyddiaeth a hyfforddiant o fewn y rhwydweithiau eu hunain.

Yn gywir,



Eluned Morgan AS/MS

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

P-06-1348 Commission suitable NHS services in Wales for people with EDS or hypermobility spectrum disorders, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 18.09.23



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1348
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/01941/23

Natasha Evans-Jones
Lead engagement and community volunteer for Wales
Area coordinator for North Wales
Student social worker
Ehlers-Danlos Support UK

18 September 2023

Dear Eluned,

Thank you for your letter regarding our petition calling for the funding or commissioning of suitable services for those with hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and hypermobility spectrum disorders (hEDS/HSD).

Within your letter you state that patients with hEDS/HSD should be under a local rheumatologist to help manage their care. Unfortunately, currently most health boards within Cymru decline all referrals for local rheumatology stating that they do not deal with hEDS/HSD. I have evidence of this including letters sent to our members who have been bounced back, and emails from rheumatologists stating this. It is best practice to refer to rheumatology to get diagnosis and support, but unfortunately for hundreds of patients with hEDS/HSD in Cymru, they are left with no care as rheumatologists are refusing to see them. Many of the patients with hEDS/HSD must pay themselves for private healthcare to gain any diagnosis or support, if they can afford it. If a patient needs support from a specialist service in England, then they must apply for individual patient funding. In my experience this is very rarely given, and often the application to these specialist centres needs support of local rheumatology, of which most patients are not able to access.

Within your last two letters you state that hEDS/HSD is classed as a rare disease so would be included under the Welsh rare disease awareness plan 2022. Demmler et al (2019) found that hEDS/HSD is around 1 in 500 in Cymru and therefore no longer classed as a rare disease. There are 13 types of EDS, 12 of those are classed as rare diseases. The rarer types are covered by genetic diagnosis services as they have a gene that can be tested. hEDS/HSD do not currently have a genetic test, so diagnosis would be through physical presentation.

Without access to local rheumatology many patients in Cymru are being let down by the NHS. We need to fund or commission specific services for people with hEDS/HSD.

Tudalen y pecyn 103

Yours sincerely,

Natasha Evans-Jones (she/her)
Lead Engagement Volunteer and Area Co-ordinator

P-06-1344 Moderate quality agricultural land (grade 3b) should be used for food security not solar farms, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 18.09.23

Petition: P-06-1344 CAEVOD (Campaign Against East Vale Overdevelopment)

Dear Petitions Committee,

Thank you for considering this petition. The Welsh Minister's response (*included in italic print for ease of reference*) appears to be based on an incomplete assessment of Welsh Government policies and documents and as a result open to challenge. The following points are raised following considerable research by CAEVOD members although none are experts in this field.

1. *As the Minister responsible for determining DNS applications, neither I nor my officials can comment directly on any particular scheme.*

Comment:

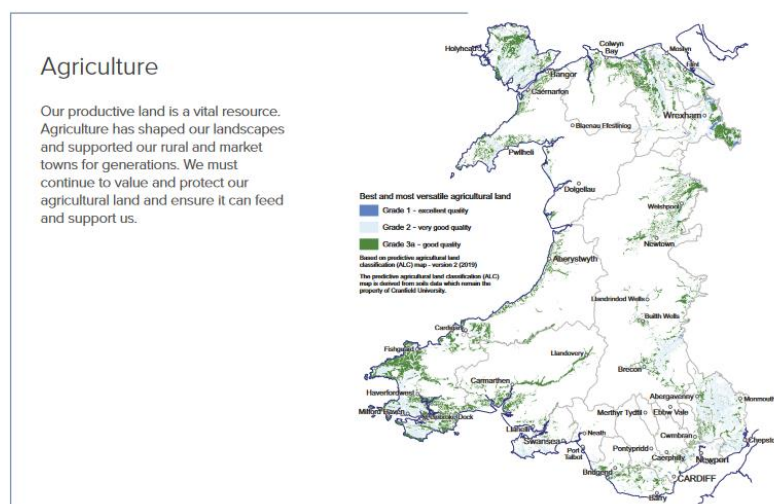
CAEVOD's petition is in response to researching several Welsh solar farm proposals listed on PEDW's website and concerns these proposals raise about the increasing use of agricultural land for solar development in Wales. There is no intention for this petition to be linked to any particular scheme.

2. *Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 in respect of high-quality agricultural land is: - 'Our productive land is a vital resource. Agriculture has shaped our landscapes and supported our rural and market towns for generations. We must continue to value and protect our agricultural land and ensure it can feed and support us'.*

Comment:

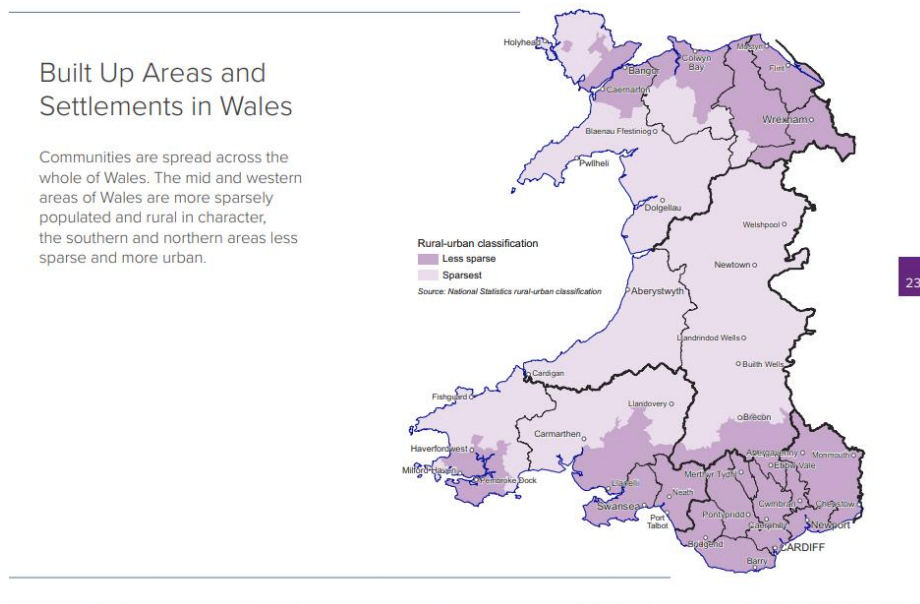
Given the rare and scattered nature of Best & Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land illustrated in Figure 1 below, is it all available for food production?

Figure 1: PDF page 27 Future Wales: The National Plan 2040.



-
- BMV agricultural land (especially grade 3a) is often found within areas of 3b land. Retention of this BMV land for agricultural use is only considered if the amount of BMV land within the solar farm proposal 'exceeds the 20 hectares threshold over which the development of BMV agricultural land for alternative uses is considered to be nationally significant' (p35 PEDW website Inspector's Report 2021-08-10 DNS/3245056). In other words, if less than 20 hectares BMV land will be covered by a solar farm proposal it is likely to be lost to this development.
- When comparing Figure 1 with Figure 2 (Built Up Areas & Settlements in Wales) below, a significant amount of BMV agricultural land falls within these urban/semi-urban areas making it vulnerable to loss for housing and other urban development.

Figure 2: PDF page23 Future Wales: The National Plan 2040



3. *BMV agricultural land accounts for 10-15% of land in Wales. The 10-15% range reflects some uncertainty in the Predictive Agricultural Land Classification Map. Certain site-specific limitations were not included in the production of the Map due to a lack of available data. These include frost risk, agricultural flood risk, pattern limitations, micro-relief limitations and chemical limitations. The severity of these limitations may limit some areas currently graded as predictive BMV agricultural land.*

This statement suggests that the % of actual BMV agricultural land is likely to be nearer 10% than 15%. Is this really sufficient to 'feed and support us'?

- How much land will be needed to 'ensure it can feed and support us'? No information is given.
- This statement drawn from p12 of the following Welsh Government publication https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-08/review-welsh-soil-evidence_0.pdf, omits the bullet point that follows it: 'Only 32% of total BMV land (296,897 ha) is used to grow crops (including arable crops, uncropped land, and high value horticultural products; 95,500 ha), the majority of BMV land is under grassland. Most arable production (ca. 60%) occurs in ALC land grades 3a and 3b, with very little occurring in the grade extremes. **ALC subgrade 3a represents the core BMV resource. Due to the large extent of agricultural production on subgrade 3b land, future review of the ALC and policy might include or split the 3b subgrade.**' (emphasis added).

- *ALC subgrade 3b accounts for an additional c.23% of agricultural land in Wales..... 3b is defined as, “land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops, principally cereals and grass or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass which can be grazed or harvested over most of the year”.*

This statement clearly illustrates that 3b land is an important food resource and is capable of growing a wide range of crops. Even if productivity may be less than 3a for some crops it is still widely used by farmers to grow a range of commercially viable crops suitable to feed humans and animals. Its inclusion in with the BMV figures above still only gives a total of 33-38% of the land area in Wales capable of food production – even if all this land was actually used to produce food, is this figure really enough to feed the Welsh population and significantly reduce our food miles carbon footprint?

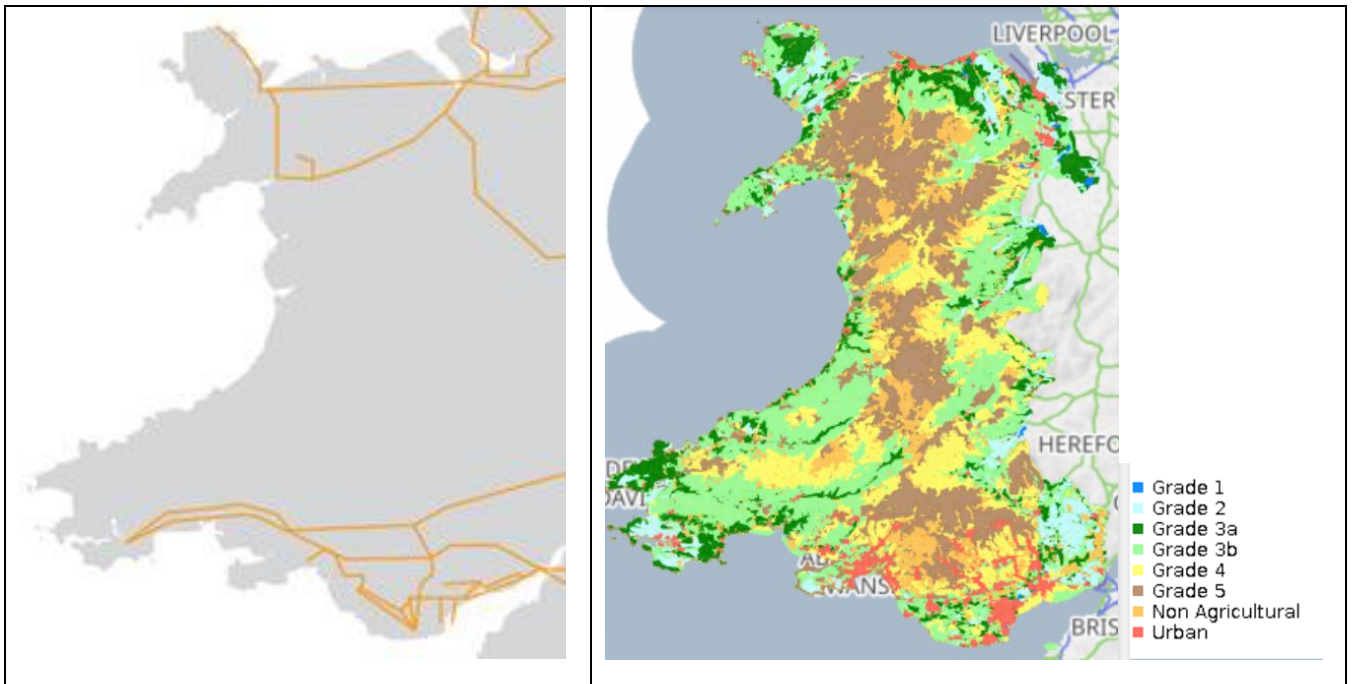
4. *The table below illustrated the latest available data on the quality of agricultural land used for solar PV sites in Wales by area (hectares). **This covers the period 2012-2020 and excludes DNS permissions.** (emphasis added).*

Grade 1		Grade 4	
Area	%	Area	%
0	0	254.8	17
Grade 2		Grade 5	
Area	%	Area	%
268.1	18	116.3	8
S'grade 3a		Non-agri	
Area	%	Area	%
202.4	13	15.6	1
S'grade 3b		Urban	
Area	%	Area	%
660.8	43	3	0

Comment:

From this data it can be seen that:

- the total area covered by solar panels up to 2020 (excluding DNS permissions i.e. solar farms that are larger than 10MW) is 1521 hectares. CPRW (2023 data) calculates the additional land covered by existing and proposed DNS solar farms as at least 2652 hectares **so the total land area covered by solar panels will be at least 4173 hectares**, nearly 3x more land than the Welsh Minister’s data suggests. <https://cprw.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Developments-of-National-Significance-RWAS-V1.7a-20230711.pdf>
- Despite 3b land being capable of commercially profitable food production it is being favoured for solar PV sites over less useful lower grade land (3b=43%, lower grades=26%). This overuse of 3b land is likely to be much higher once DNS solar farms proposals are taken into account. These developments need to link up to main National Grid routes at points that are easily accessible and the land is not steep for construction vehicles, which tends to be on flatter higher-grade land (see National Grid network & ALC predicted grades maps below).



National Grid network

ALC predicted grades

<https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/network-route-maps>

https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/new?layer=inspire-wg:wg_predictive_alc2#/

5. The ALC grades definitions are published in the 'Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land' (MAFF 1988). The Welsh Government continues to ensure the Agricultural Land Classification System is fit for purpose.

Subgrade 3b is defined as, "land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops, principally cereals and grass or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass which can be grazed or harvested over most of the year".

BMV land often contains lighter and easy to work soils, it requires fewer "passes" by agricultural machinery to establish seedbed. The reduction in the amount of time machinery spends on the land helps reduce fuel, labour, and maintenance costs. It also reduces the potential for damage to soil organic matter. Horticultural and root crops grown on BMV land can also be harvested in a cleaner condition reducing loss of soil, water usage and crop wastage.

Comment:

The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) grading system which is being used to determine which land can be used for solar farms is based on a 1988 land classification scheme. However, the 1985 ALC map for England & Wales which ran alongside grading system is now considered obsolete and has been replaced by the Predictive Agricultural Land Classification Map 2 for Wales 2017.

Why has the ALC grading system itself not also been updated?

The following document (listed on page 3 of the Welsh Minister's response) recommends that the factors that determine the ALC grades should be reviewed

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-11/agricultural-land-classification-technical-review-scoping-study.pdf>.

PDF page 10 'Given that the guidelines were published over 30 years ago, it is important that the threshold limits for establishing grading are reviewed and updated to ensure they are valid and appropriate for the future. In addition, major advances in technology (e.g. GIS or remote sensing) since 1988 may provide methods for assessing criteria that were not previously possible'.

PDF page 73 'many of these changes are considered important for the ALC to reflect current climatic conditions and continue to be of relevance in planning decisions.'

PDF page 88 'The ALC system was designed to identify land that is best suited to productive agriculture. The system does not consider the sustainability of production or the wider environmental or amenity value of any land.'

PDF page 90 'It is very likely that the overall ALC grade of some sites will change, particularly those that are close to the boundary between two Grades for a particular limitation.'

Surely this suggests that relying on the current fine distinction between grade 3a and 3b land in determining which land should be retained for food production and which can be used for solar is a mistake?

Why is other agricultural information not being taken into account in this DNS decision for example: the current & historical agricultural use; land management practices that enhance the quality and ease of working of 3b land increasing its productivity to grow a wider range of human and animal crops; the location of subsidised crops held by Rural Payments Wales?

Even the aforementioned report **PDF page 88** advises 'Review the potential benefits of expanding the ALC guidance to include additional reference crops'.

The Land Quality Advisory Service (LQAS) assesses soil survey data provided by developers and carries out further investigation if deemed necessary. Why does the Developments of National Significance process not make more use of the LQAS to oversee the planning and performance of developers' soil surveys including site visits to confirm the accuracy of their land grading first hand? Discrepancies do occur, for example Scruton Solar Farm, North Yorkshire, the developer's survey graded the agricultural land as 3b but the subsequent independent survey graded it as 2.

The phrase subgrade 3b suggests that this land is of much poorer quality which is not necessarily the case. The 1988 land grade 3 is now subdivided into two grades, subgrade 3a and subgrade 3b. LQAS have advised CAEVOD that the cut-off point between the physical characteristics of these two grades can be quite fine.

6. *Non-BMV land tends to be made up of heavier wetter soils and those in colder wetter climatic zones which limit their workability and cropping potential.*

Comment:

Climate is changing. Within the lifespan of current Development of National Significance proposals, Wales is expected to become warmer and rain patterns change. This will alter some of the physical characteristics of the soil. BMV agricultural land may no longer be able to realise its cropping potential as the climate becomes warmer with longer dryer spells in the summer stunting crop growth. As a result of this surely there could be an increased need non-BMV land with its ability to hold onto water to make up for this shortfall in food production?

This likely loss of BMV land is made at several points in the report

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-11/agricultural-land-classification-technical-review-scoping-study.pdf>. For example, **PDF page 90** 'In comparison with the original data Keay (2020) reported that under the 2020 medium scenario the proportion of land in ALC Grades 1, 2 and 3a decreased whilst the proportion of land in Grades 3b, 4 and 5 increased.'

7. *Over the summer, Welsh Government will publish an evidence review into 'The impact of solar photovoltaic (PV) sites on agricultural soils and land quality,' Report Code: SPEP2021-22/03.*

Comment:

Developers describe current solar farm proposals as temporary structures with the land being returned to its previous agricultural use after 40 years. However, the following statements suggest that the actual long-term impacts of solar farm development on agricultural land are still not fully understood. Following publication of this document why is the Welsh Government not initiating an immediate moratorium on all solar farm development?

PDF page 8 (Literature Review): 'There are few studies of solar PV sites and their impact on agricultural land and soils.'

PDF page 15 'There is limited evidence specifically relating to solar PV sites to confirm the benefits to soil health.'

PDF page 15 'Soil compaction can vary from short term and very low impact to irreversible. The assessment of the impact on agricultural land quality was demonstrated and that in wetter areas there is loss of BMV agricultural land and in slightly drier parts of England and Wales there is generally loss of versatility of the BMV agricultural land.'

PDF pages 13-15 provides an insight into the destructive impact on the soil structure of installing and subsequent removal of huge numbers of solar panels (whether on long metal poles or concrete bases) and deep trenching miles of cables on agricultural land. Further, the Inspector's Report DNS/3245065 acknowledges that this impact results in a permanent change in land use due to the very real difficulties in restoring the soil structure so that it can be returned to its original agricultural use.

PDF page 21/22 (Roundtable Discussion) 'Risks posed by solar PV sites to soils and land: too much trenching, leaching of toxic material from batteries, introduction of concrete to site, ... lack of understanding about soils best practice amongst developers, environmental

best practice guidelines are currently focused on biodiversity only, inadequate soils management planning, inadequate decommissioning statements may result in failure to return land to pre-development condition.'

Alarminglly the following statement illustrates the clear loss of BMV despite policies to preserve it.

PDF page 23 'The report on Solar PV Sites in Wales for Work Package 2b (10/10/2022) did include an ALC analysis of operational sites in Wales and the finding was that 31% of land used is BMV.' ...'However, this analysis was of operational sites and was based on the June 2021 BEIS Renewable Energy Planning Database.'

This review raises further concerns:

Inaccurate information - **PDF page 12** 'The BEIS Renewables Database is described as being 'as accurate and comprehensive a snapshot as possible of projects'. 'During the review, several sites were identified, which were not included in the BEIS Renewables Database.'

Increased loss of agricultural land - **PDF page 10** 'The data shows that there is a significant increase from 2018 in projects with a generating capacity close to 50MW (BEIS Renewable Energy Planning Database June 2021). For projects close to 50MW each development typically requires a land area of 60-80 ha. For larger projects with a generating capacity of 350MW the land area required is about 800ha.'

Lack of current knowledge - **PDF page 28** (Recommendations for Future Work) 'Analysis of ALC Grade and BMV land take for developments that have been constructed or been awarded planning permission since the date of those visible on the satellite images available during the Work Package 2b study in June 2021' and 'The impact of re-powering solar PV developments beyond a typical 40-year period on the soil and land.'

The following document

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5802/cmselect/cmwelaf/607/report.html> (PDF page 10) states 'Climate change is already having a clear impact on farming.... Wetter weather will increase challenges to livestock production with increased flooding of fields potentially reducing the crop production used to supply bedding and feed. We are concerned that a reduction in yield, as a result of environmental factors, could reduce the viability of farms and, in turn, could have negative consequences for the cultural, economic and social significance of family farms in Wales.'

The average agricultural land holding for farms in Wales is 48ha

<https://senedd.wales/research%20documents/16-053-farming-sector-in-wales/16-053-web-english2.pdf> . The advent of 50MW solar developments typically of 60-80ha (stated above) will clearly tie up large swathes of agricultural land and the loss of entire farms in one generation seems inevitable. How does this align with *Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 in respect of high-quality agricultural land is: -'Our productive land is a vital resource. Agriculture has shaped our landscapes and supported our rural and market towns for generations. We must continue to value and protect our agricultural land and ensure it can feed and support us'?*

A lot of work has clearly gone into the above document however it is disappointing to see the repetition of often touted mantras that are inaccurate at best and in some cases clearly wrong.. for example:

PDF page 9 ‘Developers identify geographical areas of interest, either because it is known that there is spare capacity on the grid or the area has a high solar irradiation. Using a combination of desk-top and on-site searches, land which is free of development constraint is identified..... Following the identification of constraint free land and interested landowners further steps are undertaken.’

Through reading the environmental statements of many large solar development proposals in Wales and England it is clear that development constraints are not seen as red lines but more as hurdles that developers seek to minimise so they can be discounted. For example, Local Planning Authority landscape designations both to protect certain landscapes and identify solar search areas are often ignored.

PDF page 11 ‘Grass on the site is usually grazed by sheep.’

This statement is frequently cited by solar farm developers, yet this document fails to provide any supporting evidence. In reality sheep are rarely seen grazing on solar farms. Why is this? It certainly sounds a good idea and some studies show it to be beneficial e.g.

https://files.bregroup.com/solar/NSC_Guid_Agricultural-good-practice-for-SFs_0914.pdf

but...there is no contractual requirement for this to happen, sheep are fussy eaters and do not graze the sward uniformly, it is simply quicker and cheaper to employ a contractor to keep the grass down by cutting with a machine.

It is disappointing that this document has not gone further to consider whether sufficient evidence exists to support developers claims that solar development actually improves soil diversity and biodiversity (which favour crop production and the environment). If these improvements are correct they would be directly related to the management of the land, and as with grazing sheep, must become a contractual obligation to ensure they happen.

8. *Future Wales policies 17 and 18 set out the Welsh Government’s policies for renewable and low carbon energy development, including the key criteria for the determination of DNS. These key criteria ensure that applications for DNS are rigorously assessed so that communities, designated areas, landscapes and natural resources are protected from unacceptable adverse impacts. Policy 18 also requires consideration of the cumulative impacts of existing and consented renewable energy schemes where this is appropriate as well as the provision for ‘...effective restoration’.*

Comment:

CPRW has recently stated that the DNS system is not fit for purpose.

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUK EwjUya2m76mBAxUwWUEAHeYaAK4QFnoECBAQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fcprw.org.uk%2Fwelsh-government-planning-system-not-fit-for-purpose%2F&usg=AOvVaw1IQEtBEX-R1c20j450TCxU&opi=89978449> .

From our research of solar farm proposals there is far too much reliance on the developer identifying suitable areas for solar development – why is the Welsh Government not doing this? Developers are also asked to provide information about their perceptions of unacceptable adverse impacts, cumulative effects and plans for effective restoration. The DNS process provides no definitions or examples for such criteria instead these definitions appear to be decided by the Inspector after submission on a case-by-case basis. This is not helpful for either the developers investing heavily in

their proposals or the communities left wondering for months/years what is going to happen on their doorstep.

We would like to draw the committee's attention to our second petition 'Improve the quality of information used in Developments of National Significance' which unfortunately did not gain sufficient signatures for separate consideration. Our research has found that apart from ALC grading there are few independent checks on the information developers provide to back up their assertions and no checks at all on the developer's credentials and previous record to turn their plans into reality.

9. *I can confirm that there are no plans to review the policy on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land to include Subgrade 3b land.*

Comment:

The comments above illustrate that the Welsh Minister's response to this petition is not consistent with Welsh Government Policy - *Future Wales: The National Plan 2040* 'We must continue to value and protect our agricultural land and ensure it can feed and support us'. The response has failed to address:

- the ongoing loss of BMV land (despite PPW's approach to avoid the development of BMV land if alternatives exist and the Welsh Minister's reiteration of the protection of this finite resource to Chief Planning Officers in March 2021)
- this rate of loss is likely to increase significantly because to be commercially viable, solar farm proposals are becoming significantly larger and more frequent close to existing grid connections which often cross more favourably graded agricultural land.
- PPW's approach to avoid the development of BMV land is further increasing the loss of 3b land
- 3b land is commonly used by farmers in Wales to grow a wide range of crops for human and animal consumption. Its preservation for this use makes sense to future-proof our food supply particularly in response to climate change.

Further, the Welsh Minister's response ignores much of the information in the guidance it quotes; selecting points that support its argument rather than making a more balanced assessment. The most recent Welsh Government publication referred to in point 7 highlights just how little is known about the long-term effects of solar development on the agricultural capability of the land – surely this emphasises the need for a much more cautious approach when considering solar development on any agricultural land?

In summary, to meet the Future Wales 2040 commitment that agricultural land in Wales can '*feed and support us*' it would be prudent at the very least for the Welsh Minister to exclude all grade 3a and 3b land from solar development. It is hoped that the Petitions Committee will recognise the ongoing and inevitable further loss of productive agricultural land and will go much further by recommending to the Welsh Minister that:

- solar farms should only be located on brownfield sites, and solar panels should only be on building roofs. If agricultural land has to be used for solar development, then it should be land that is graded 4 & 5, free from planning constraints and not currently used to feed livestock.
- a moratorium on all solar development should be brought into effect immediately until the amount and location of land to '*feed and support us*' has been determined by Welsh Government to meet this Future Wales 2040 commitment.

Thankyou.