

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Lleoliad:
Ystafell Bwyllgora 1 – y Senedd

Dyddiad:
Dydd Mawrth, 26 Tachwedd 2013

Amser:
09:00

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



I gael rhagor o wybodaeth, cysylltwch a:

Steve George
Clerc y Pwyllgor
029 2089 8421
deisebau@cymru.gov.uk

Kayleigh Driscoll
Dirprwy Clerc y Pwyllgor
029 2089 8421
deisebau@cymru.gov.uk

Agenda

- 1 Cyflwyniad, ymddiheuriadau a dirprwyon**
- 2 Trafod sesiwn dystiolaeth 11 Tachwedd 2013**

Bydd y ddwy eitem a ganlyn yn cael eu trafod gyda'i gilydd (09.00 – 09.05)

- 2.1 P-04-466 Argyfwng Meddygol – Atal cyflwyno gwasanaeth iechyd o safon is yng ngogledd Cymru (Tudalen 1)
- 2.2 P-04-479 Deiseb Adran Pelydr-X ac Uned Mân Anafiadau Ysbyty Tywyn (Tudalennau 2 - 22)

2.3 P-04-343 Atal dinistrio mwynderau ar dir comin - Ynys Môn (**09.05 – 09.10**) (Tudalennau 23 - 29)

2.4 P-04-496 Ysgolion Pob Oed (**09.10 – 09.15**) (Tudalennau 30 - 34)

2.5 P-04-432 : Atal Recriwtio i'r Fyddin mewn Ysgolion (**09.15 – 09.20**) (Tudalennau 35 - 41)

3 Deisebau newydd (09.20 – 09.35)

- 3.1 P-04-514 Dylid adeiladu gorsaf bŵer sy'n defnyddio glo glân o Gymru a/neu gorsaf ynni adnewyddadwy yn hytrach na gorsaf niwclear arfaethedig Wylfa B ar Ynys Môn. (Tudalen 42)
- 3.2 P-04-515 Darparu rhagor o arian ar gyfer Gwasanaethau Bysiau Cymru (Tudalen 43)
- 3.3 P-04-516 Gwneud gwyddor gwleidyddiaeth yn rhan orfodol o addysg (Tudalen

44)

- 3.4 P-04-517 Atal Llywodraeth Cymru rhag cyflwyno system i fonitro plant sy'n dewis cael eu haddysgu gartref o dan wedd diogelu (Tudalen 45)
- 3.5 P-04-518 Ciniawau ysgol am ddim yn gyffredinol (Tudalen 46)

4 Y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am ddeisebau blaenorol (09.35 – 11.00)

- 4.1 P-04-483 Polisi Cymraeg Clir / Plain English ar gyfer pob cyfathrebiad y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol a Llywodraeth Cymru (Tudalennau 47 - 52)

Yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth

- 4.2 P-03-315 Deiseb i gael croesfan newydd dros Afon Dyfi (Tudalennau 53 - 54)
- 4.3 P-04-319 Deiseb ynghylch Traffig yn y Drenewydd (Tudalennau 55 - 56)
- 4.4 P-04-393 Grŵp Gweithredu Ffordd Osgoi Llanymynech a Phant (Tudalennau 57 - 59)
- 4.5 P-04-446 Rhyddhad Ardrethi Busnes i siopau elusen yng Nghymru (Tudalennau 60 - 64)
- 4.6 P-04-468 Pryderon am Ddiogelwch Ffordd A48 Cas-gwent (Tudalennau 65 - 66)
- 4.7 P-04-475 Yn eisiau – Bysiau i Feirionnydd (Tudalennau 67 - 102)
- 4.8 P-04-508 Rhaid adfer yr Olygfa o Landyfi (Tudalennau 103 - 104)

Iechyd

- 4.9 P-04-362 Gwasanaethau Ambiwlans yn Nhrefynwy (Tudalennau 105 - 106)
- 4.10 P-04-448 Gwella gwasanaethau iechyd rhywiol yng ngorllewin y Fro (Tudalen 107)
- 4.11 P-04-452 Hawliau Cyfartal i Bobl Ifanc Tiwb-borthedig (Tudalennau 108 - 111)

Bydd y ddwy eitem a ganlyn yn cael eu trafod gyda'i gilydd

- 4.12 P-04-457 Yr Ymgyrch Caplaniaeth Elusennol (Tudalen 112)
- 4.13 P-04-474 Cefnogaeth i wasanaethau caplaniaeth y GIG (Tudalennau 113 - 127)
- 4.14 P-04-463 Lleihau Lefelau Halen mewn Bwyd (Tudalennau 128 - 129)
- 4.15 P-04-490 Meddyginiaeth Gwrth-retrofeirydol yng Nghaerdydd (Tudalennau 130 - 133)
- 4.16 P-04-501 Gwneud Canolfannau Dydd ar gyfer pobl hŷn yn ofyniad statudol yng Nghymru (Tudalennau 134 - 137)

4.17 P-04-505 Uned Anhwylderau Bwyta yng Nghymru (Tudalennau 138 - 141)

Tai ac Adfywio

4.18 P-04-363 Cynllun i Wella Canol Tref Abergwaun (Tudalennau 142 - 143)

4.19 P-04-419 Moratoriwm ar Ddatblygu Ffermydd Gwynt (Tudalennau 144 - 152)

4.20 P-04-423 Cartref Nyrsio Brooklands (Tudalennau 153 - 154)

4.21 P-04-469 Dileu'r Cap Rhanbarthol ar Brisiau mewn Perthynas â'r Cynllun Hawl i Brynu (Tudalennau 155 - 158)

4.22 P-04-473 Cymorth Ariannol ar gyfer yr Ymchwiliad Cyhoeddus i Ffermydd Gwynt (Tudalennau 159 - 161)

4.23 P-04-497 Cynllun Tai Cenedlaethol i Raddedigion (Tudalennau 162 - 165)

4.24 P-04-503 Adfywio Tonpentre a Phentre (Tudalennau 166 - 168)

Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth

4.25 P-04-397 Cyflog Byw (Tudalennau 169 - 170)

4.26 P-04-454 Gwahardd yr Arfer o Ddal Swyddi fel Cynghorydd ac fel Aelod Cynulliad ar yr un Pryd (Tudalennau 171 - 175)

4.27 P-04-495 Rhoi Terfyn ar Fasnachu mewn Pobl a Chaethwasiaeth yng Nghymru (Tudalennau 176 - 178)

Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd

4.28 P-04-445 Achub ein cŵn a chathod yng Nghymru rhag cael eu lladd ar y ffyrdd (Tudalennau 179 - 192)

4.29 P-04-422: Ffracio (Tudalennau 193 - 196)

4.30 P-04-444 : Ymgyrch 'Dig for Victory' (Tudalen 197)

Cyllid

4.31 P-04-436 Gwariant a Refeniw Llywodraeth Cymru (Tudalennau 198 - 201)

Addysg

4.32 P-04-441 Gwaith i Gymru - Work for Wales (Tudalennau 202 - 206)

4.33 P-04-484 Lwfans Cynhaliath Addysg i bawb! (Tudalennau 207 - 208)

Eitem 2.1

P-04-466 Argyfwng Meddygol – Atal cyflwyno gwasanaeth iechyd o safon is yng ngogledd Cymru.

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym ni sydd wedi llofnodi isod yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau nad yw'r cynigion yn ymgynghoriad Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr, Mae Gofal Iechyd yng Ngogledd Cymru yn Newid yn arwain at ddarpariaeth iechyd o safon is a marwolaethau a dioddefaint dianghenraid.

Bydd y cynigion yn cael effaith andwyol ar y rhan fwyaf o feysydd darpariaeth iechyd a gwasanaethau brys ac ni ellir galw'r cynigion yn welliant mewn unrhyw ffordd, fel yr honnir. Mae'r gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru eisoes yn mynd â'i ben iddo, a bydd yn wynebu chwalfa lwyr os caiff y cynigion hyn eu rhoi ar waith ar eu ffurf bresennol. Mae cynigion ymgynghori presennol Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr ar ofal iechyd yng ngogledd Cymru yn ymddangos yn andwyol i'r ddarpariaeth iechyd gyffredinol ac i ddiogelwch ein cymunedau. Mae hygyrchedd, darpariaeth pelydr-X, mân anafiadau, iechyd meddwl, y gwasanaeth ambiwlans, y gwasanaeth tu allan i oriau a gallu meddygon teulu i ddarparu gwasanaeth integredig yn mynd i gael eu taro'n benodol gan y cynigion – gan eu bod yn cyferbynnu'n llwyr â gweledigaeth Llywodraeth Cymru yn y dogfennau Law yn Llaw at Iechyd, Gosod y Cyfeiriad a Cyflenwi Gwasanaethau Gofal Brys - ymddengys ei bod hefyd yn mynd yn groes i'r "compact" a gyhoeddodd y Gweinidog Iechyd ar 25 Medi 2012.

Prif ddeisebydd: Mike Parry

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 19 Mawrth 2013

Nifer y llofnodion: 306

P-04-479 Deiseb Adran Pelydr-X ac Uned Man Anafiadau Ysbyty Tywyn

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Galwn ar y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol dros Gymru i annog y Llywodraeth
Gymraeg i atal diddymu a chwtogi ar y gwasanaethau Adran Pelydr-X ac Uned
Man Anafiadau Ysbyty Tywyn fel mater o frys.

Prif ddeisebydd: Tywyn & District Health Care Action Group

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 14 Mai 2013

Nifer y llofnodion : 4486

**P-04-466 Argyfwng Meddygol—Atal Cyflwyno Gwasanaeth Iechyd o Safon Is
yng Ngogledd Cymru, a P-04-479 Deiseb Adran Pelydr-X ac Uned Mân
Anafiadau Ysbyty Tywyn**

**P-04-466 Medical Emergency—Preventing the Introduction of a Poorer Health
Service for North Wales, and P-04-479 Tywyn Memorial Hospital X-ray and
Minor Injuries Unit Petition**

[1] **William Powell:** I ask the petitioners to take their seats, please. I extend a warm welcome to Jennie Windsor, Brian Mintoft, Mike Parry and Dr Delyth Davies. We are very grateful to you for joining us this morning. I ask you to introduce yourself briefly and the organisation that you represent for the sound levels and for our record, and to then make a brief introductory statement about your position on your respective petitions. We will then get the session under way. As I said, I have an eye on the clock, but we will take those couple of minutes out in the course of proceedings. Over to you, Jennie.

[2] **Ms Windsor:** I am Jennie Windsor, minute secretary for Tywyn and district healthcare action group. This is following a petition that we sent in to protect the minor injuries unit at Tywyn hospital and to keep the x-ray unit open.

[3] **Mr Mintoft:** Excuse me if I cough; I am Brian Mintoft and I am chair-come-secretary of the aforementioned group, because nobody else wanted to do it.

[4] **William Powell:** A volunteer is better than several pressed people.

[5] **Mr Mintoft:** I am retired. I have nothing to do with the medical profession, but I am very appreciative of the medical profession, because I have had umpteen operations, and I had a transient ischaemic attack—a mini-stroke—about two years ago. So, I really appreciate what it does, and that is why I am very interested that other people should get the service that they deserve.

[6] **Mr Parry:** Good morning, Chair. My name is Councillor Mike Parry. I am the immediate past mayor of Pwllheli. I am chairman of the Pwllheli partnership and a former chair of the district council. I think that the wording in our petition sums up what I am doing here today in relation to health services.

[7] **Dr Davies:** I am Delyth Davies, a retired GP, and I am here to support my friend Mike. I have over 25 years' experience of general practice in Pwllheli, so I remember the good days in the past, and now is definitely not good.

[8] **William Powell:** Okay. You will have heard in our consideration of some of the earlier petitions some of the difficulties that we as a committee and our colleagues have had in engaging with another health board, which is not your own, and you may have had cause to reflect that there are some wider issues here in play. I will kick off with a question around transport. Do you feel that the Welsh Government's commitment to examining the local transport access issues that have been a considerable concern to many campaigners here in north Wales and elsewhere in any way alleviates the concerns that have been expressed with regard to having access to services? If not, what would you like to see coming from the Government to address those concerns? I do not know who is the most appropriate person to lead off on that.

[9] **Mr Mintoft:** In our area, there are certainly some short-term attempts. For example, there is a bus route being preserved between where we live and Dolgellau, which is along the coast road. However, that is a short-term thing—it is less than six months. You mentioned, actually, in relation to another petition, the X94 bus service, which is relevant to us. For

example, my wife had treatment in Wrexham and she used that bus service on occasions. Most of the time, I used to drive her to Wrexham for attention. There were attempts to preserve that, or to keep it going, but I do not know how long it will last. Some attempts are being made but, overall, I cannot see how any long-term measures can retain that, because it is so rural. Whatever bus service is there is not ever going to be busy. So, I do not know what the solution is, but it needs a different solution and a new way of thinking to enable transport in the area.

[10] **Mr Parry:** Similarly, Chair, on the Llŷn peninsula, we are literally out on a limb, so physically, for instance, for appointments in the acute hospital, it is impossible for people down the Llŷn to access services at the acute hospital and be back on the same day. Public services do not exist to that extent.

[11] **William Powell:** So, there need to be customised modes of transport.

[12] **Mr Parry:** Yes, there are small transport initiatives that have sprouted up that are helping, but they are not always available.

[13] **William Powell:** No, indeed.

[14] **Mr Mintoft:** On transport, if I could wave this map—you can have copies of it if you wish—it is actually a health service-produced map. You can see that the red areas mark where the general hospitals are and the accident and emergency units. That is the area that we live in, and that is the area where you live. The red actually represents public transport that will get you there in 30 minutes. That happens to be between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. on a Tuesday; do not ask me why, but that is what the survey was. You can see that the colours thin out to different ones. The white, in effect, means it is more than 90 minutes.

[15] **William Powell:** That covers the whole of Gwynedd, and the whole of Powys.

[16] **Mr Mintoft:** Yes.

[17] **William Powell:** Large chunks of Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire are in the same position.

[18] **Mr Mintoft:** Our concern is around this area. It is separate from our main petition. You can see that our main general hospital here is Aberystwyth.

[19] **William Powell:** Yes, Bronglais.

[20] **Mr Mintoft:** It still takes an hour to drive to there. We currently have a concern, which we did not have before, about the facilities there being moved to Carmarthen, and you can see where Carmarthen is by comparison.

[21] **William Powell:** Absolutely.

[22] **Mr Mintoft:** Yet, the distances to the north Wales hospitals are equally large. I have some quotes on the times.

[23] **William Powell:** I was impressed by the turnout of people from your community and the Tywyn area, and Russell George and I were present at a meeting in Machynlleth in, I think, the spring of last year, when there was a really strong turnout from your community, from concerned patients, user groups and local councillors.

[24] **Mr Mintoft:** There is a lot of strong feeling in the area.

[25] **Mr Parry:** In relation to that, Chair, looking at the map—and I will not go into it in any depth today—I have an example of a 999 call down in Aberdaron on the Llŷn, where the ambulance came from Glan Clwyd. Now, you are talking two hours, and that is one way. You then have to get back to Bangor, which is the nearest acute hospital. That is not an isolated incident. I have made a request under the Freedom of Information Act—quite an extensive one—and that is due to be delivered to me today or tomorrow, so I will forward that to the committee.

[26] **William Powell:** That would be really helpful, to have clarity on that.

[27] **Mr Parry:** With the various tranches, you know—eight minutes, up to an hour and a half, or two hours. Another example is an ambulance that came from Dolgellau to the Llŷn, picked the guy up who, you know, had some kind of heart complaint—it is 999 again—and it got lost. So, he had to get up and show them the way. Now, I do not blame the ambulance service, because that is another issue. It is composite within the whole scenario. They are under tremendous pressure, as, indeed—*[Interruption.]*

[28] **William Powell:** Yes, indeed, and with the best will in the world, the more remote the source of the ambulance is—and sat-navs are notorious, particularly in the kind of parts of Wales that some of us live in, for taking you up one-way tracks and leading you into a bad place as well.

[29] **Mr Parry:** Yes, we are on very good terms with a lot of Polish lorry drivers. *[Laughter.]*

[30] **William Powell:** I can imagine that you probably are.

[31] **Bethan Jenkins:** Did the health board undertake a transport impact assessment when it was proposing the changes? In my area, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Universtiy Local Health Board did not talk to First Cymru, which is the biggest transport provider, when it was making the changes to the south Wales programme. So, if it did, were you satisfied, and if it did not, why not?

[32] **Mr Parry:** Certainly, in our area, there was a PR exercise, for want of a better word, and I was involved on what they call a locality basis—I was invited to these rather intense meetings, and I refer to this in my submission. The questions there were fairly loaded and, while we had questions, there was no actual evaluation of what the results would be, if they should go a certain way. Unfortunately, we are now finding out what is happening with transport, closing minor injuries units and what have you. The golden hour is ticking, and we are not able to access it, and the results of that are horrendous for the patient and in terms of cost.

[33] **Mr Mintoft:** In our area, it is impossible to make the golden hour. It takes an hour by road, and pretty much an hour for an ambulance with flashing lights. The only way it can be made is by this red vehicle that comes down out of the sky—locally, it is called the Tywyn taxi, and that is not even run by the NHS.

[34] **William Powell:** Yes, the air ambulance, which is obviously subject to significant restrictions on its hours of operation and as a result of weather-related issues. Dr Davies, it is clear that you have some specific things to contribute here from your own background as well.

[35] **Dr Davies:** Well, times have changed. As regards the golden hour, it is much more important now for the golden hour to be accessed by an ambulance with paramedics than a

doctor, actually. If you have an ambulance with paramedics able to get to you in less than an hour, then you are actually safer than being treated by a doctor, really, and I think that the ambulance service is becoming very thinly spread and being criticised unfairly for not being able to reach places in a reasonable time.

[36] **Mr Mintoft:** I would agree with that; it is spread very thinly. The other day, within the last two weeks, there was a lady who needed to be moved. It was only about half a mile within Tywyn, and she needed a wheelchair for that to be done. They had to call an ambulance from Bala. There are supposed to be ambulances in Tywyn, but there were none to cover that area, so it took four hours to actually get that ambulance. It was not an emergency, but, it took four hours to get that in. Again, when the ambulance people got there, they did not know the place, as they had not been before.

[37] I am not blaming the ambulance service, as I think that it tries to do a very good job. However, about two months ago, within a one-week period, I saw three incidents where there were two ambulances together. The reason was that they had staffed an ambulance with one person. If somebody needs to be lifted and moved, they have to get another ambulance, so you end up with two ambulances in the same place doing just one job. I think that that is not good.

[38] **William Powell:** It is certainly not the best use of resources in any way.

[39] **Mr Mintoft:** Having one person can be useful if they can get there quickly and can deal with it, but in these specific incidences, which involve moving people, one person cannot do it.

[40] **Russell George:** Why were there two ambulances there?

[41] **Mr Mintoft:** Sorry?

[42] **Russell George:** Why were there two ambulances there?

[43] **Mr Mintoft:** The staff in the original ambulance could not move the person; they were not allowed to move the person. They had to get somebody else to help—

[44] **William Powell:** There was a manual handling restriction.

[45] **Mr Mintoft:** Yes, that is right; manual handling.

[46] **Russell George:** Did they need more than two people in that situation? Is that why there were two ambulances?

[47] **Mr Parry:** It depends. If they have to transport somebody who is having a heart attack to hospital, say—

[48] **Dr Davies:** There was only one person in the ambulance.

[49] **Mr Mintoft:** There was only one person in the first ambulance. That is the problem. They cannot move the person.

[50] **Russell George:** So, the second person who came in the second ambulance was not coming because the ambulance was needed, but because the second person was needed.

[51] **Mr Mintoft:** Yes, that is correct. They were needed to lift the person.

[52] **Russell George:** The issue is not really the ambulance, then; the issue is about the two members of staff required.

[53] **Mr Parry:** If they need to be given treatment on the way to hospital, they have to have the second person. They cannot go until they have the second person.

[54] **Russell George:** Clearly, while someone is driving, there needs to be someone in the ambulance to provide treatment. The ambulance is acting like a second vehicle to get the second person there; is that right?

[55] **Mr Mintoft:** Yes, although they are qualified staff. If there had been two of them in that ambulance, they could have dealt with it on their own, but they had to be called in because the first one could not deal with it. With the distances involved, it is silly, because the ambulance can sometimes take hours to get there. It is a waste of time.

[56] **William Powell:** In the brief moment that we have before 11 a.m., I ask you to give us your current view on the opening hours for MIU, which I know was a particular concern in the context of Tywyn. What are your views on that?

[57] **Mr Mintoft:** Our concern is enhanced because of the environment in which we live. The accident and emergency unit is a long way away, and the minor injuries units—I have changed the name slightly; they are local unscheduled care services—are very important to us. That is the first line, as it were, for patients. The fact that the hours have now been reduced—they were reduced from 1 October—is already starting to have an impact, and I have some examples of that.

[58] **William Powell:** We will return to that in a moment. As the library clock is telling us that it is 10.59 a.m., I think that we should prepare to stand and show our respects.

11:00

*Safodd y pwyllgor am funud o dawelwch.
The committee stood for a minute's silence.*

[59] **William Powell:** Thank you very much.

[60] **Mr Mintoft:** As I said, I have some examples where delay has been caused because the minor injuries unit has not been open, since 1 October. It is open between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; obviously, accidents and other incidents do not stop at 6 p.m. It is not open at weekends. There was a man with a dog bite, which could potentially be extremely serious, who decided that he did not want to go a long way; the place was closed, but he did not know that it was closed and had to check. He waited 15 hours for treatment. That could have been a major problem as he needed to be seen, checked over and stabilised. Before that, with the minor injuries unit—in fact, I put this example in my last correspondence to you—a friend of mine put his head through a glass door at 9 p.m. He tried to get minor injuries treatment, but could not, either in Tywyn or Dolgellau. He rang the out-of-hours service, which referred him to Bangor accident and emergency unit. That is a 140-mile round trip. He had no car—his wife did not drive anyway—and he had a 12-hour overnight wait for treatment, so I guess that he had a sleepless night. I have plenty of examples here, all since the MIU has gone to shorter hours. A lady with asthma who had difficulty breathing over the weekend was told by the out-of-hours service to ring Dolgellau, which referred her to Ysbyty Alltwen, which is nearer to Porthmadog. That is 43 miles away, therefore an 86-mile round trip. She decided to wait for Tywyn on Monday, and was treated for a chest infection. A 12-year-old boy with asthma had pneumonia some months ago, therefore his mother was very concerned. He recently had breathing difficulties on a Saturday. Tywyn was closed. The doctor was not available in

Dolgellau, although he was supposed to be. He went to Alltwen in Tremadog—an 86-mile round trip—to be treated for a chest infection.

[61] Those are the ones that we know about. Most of the time, as I said in my previous correspondence to you, we have no way of telling how many people are missing treatment and not being treated, or are travelling a long distance elsewhere to be treated. We are trying to put something in place, such as a Facebook page, for people to report those experiences. There will be some inertia in that, and we will not necessarily know, but the NHS will not measure those things—it measures the people treated once they come within its remit.

[62] **William Powell:** What is your perspective on the community health council and any engagement that you have had with it as far as this is concerned?

[63] **Mr Mintoft:** The CHC in north Wales was very helpful to us. I have something here to read out. As you know, the x-ray unit is still working.

[64] **William Powell:** Absolutely, and that is something that we are pleased about, in that it was relieved.

[65] **Mr Mintoft:** It has two sessions. The morning session is fully utilised. The afternoon session is very well utilised—it is not totally full, but it is well used. That is great. In the case of the minor injuries unit, I am not sure whether the CHC agrees with the shortened hours, but it had to in the end, I think; I have talked to some of the people there. However, the CHC has been very helpful in trying to fight our case, and it took it a long time to get the solution that we have, which is that the x-ray unit is still open and the minor injuries unit is still working on shorter hours.

[66] **William Powell:** I believe that my colleague Russell wanted to raise issue around the out-of-hours service.

[67] **Russell George:** You mentioned the out-of-hours service. What improvements could be made to the out-of-hours service?

[68] **Mr Parry:** Abolish it.

[69] **Mr Mintoft:** I have forgotten his name, but we talked to the man who organises it for north Wales—I think that he sits in Caernarfon; it might be Bangor; sorry, it is Bangor. He said that less than 20% of doctors in north Wales are willing to participate in the out-of-hours service. I have talked to other people, and although I cannot say how often, it happens often that there is one doctor to cover from Bangor right down to our area for the out-of-hours service. That is not good enough. What happens—I have already referred to it—when someone rings up is that they are probably referred to A&E. Laughingly, I say ‘local’ A&E, because they are all a long, long way—

[70] **William Powell:** An hour and a half or two hours away in some cases.

[71] **Mr Mintoft:** Exactly. In a sense, I cannot blame the doctors. If they are sitting there, they know that they have to spend x amount of hours to get out to us and back.

[72] **William Powell:** That is dead time in the car with their driver, presumably.

[73] **Mr Mintoft:** That is right. They have a driver.

[74] **Russell George:** I was going to ask Dr Davies if the out-of-hours service in the past was a much better service. Is that your view?

[75] **Dr Davies:** It was certainly very different, and it was better.

[76] **Russell George:** How was it different in the past?

[77] **Dr Davies:** Each practice looked after its own patients, 24 hours a day. In the practice where I worked, there were six doctors, so it was a rota where you did one night in six. We had some difficulty in recruiting replacements. We had a husband and wife who left, and we wanted to recruit, but people were not applying for the job because they were going to have to work one night in six. They were not willing to come to Pwllheli, which is a very nice place to live, because they could get a job in Bangor or Wrexham where they did not have to do any nights.

[78] The other helpful thing, especially with evenings and nights on-call, was that if, for example, you were called to see an elderly patient whose spouse was frail and unwell, you also saw the spouse. Let us take the example of an elderly lady with pneumonia or bronchitis, who did not really need to go to Ysbyty Gwynedd, she could go into a GP bed in the community hospital, and if the husband was too frail to look after himself, but they managed together, you could ring social services and they would put the husband in a respite bed in Plas y Don. They would both come home from the respective places—where they had been looked after—in better shape than before the wife became ill.

[79] **Russell George:** Is it your view that the out-of-hours service should be improved or abolished? Mr Parry was saying that it should be abolished.

[80] **Dr Davies:** It is almost abolished already, is it not? I do not know. I think that the British Medical Association made a bad decision, really. I will add that I left before the big money came in.

[81] **Russell George:** Okay.

[82] **Dr Davies:** So now, it is big money and no nights.

[83] **Russell George:** Yes, I see.

[84] **William Powell:** Bethan has the final group of questions. I am conscious that time is pressing us a little.

[85] **Bethan Jenkins:** I just wanted to ask where you wanted to go from here. Obviously, we are concerned about the out-of-hours service, about the downgrading of the MIU and about transport. You have said that the CHC has been satisfactory, in terms of your negotiations with it, but where do you see movement now, in terms of holding the health board and the Minister to account on the changes and how they will affect people's daily lives? I appreciate the work that you are doing with regard to Facebook and people putting their stories there, but that will not be conclusive for the health board—it could just dismiss that and say, 'We dispute that that has happened; we think that our service is acceptable'. We need a qualitative analysis of what is happening. How do you see the whole process moving on, so that we can be secure in the knowledge that people are getting the treatment that they deserve, that the ambulance service is effective and that people are not suffering unnecessarily because of these changes?

[86] **Mr Parry:** I think that our submissions, Chair, will expand on and set the scene properly as to the problems; certainly, my submission does so.

[87] **William Powell:** Yes. The broader picture, and also issues around the consultation—

[88] **Bethan Jenkins:** Is there one thing, or a few things, that you would specifically home in on today?

[89] **Mr Mintoft:** At the top of my list—I thought that I was going to give a presentation today—there are two words: availability and accessibility. Those are the two problems. If you shorten the hours of whatever is available, there will be people who are ill or who have a problem outside of those hours. It is wonderful to have very skilled people in great places, who can offer wonderful treatment—I do not decry that at all—but it is no good if it is not available for people. That is what we are talking about: availability and accessibility.

[90] **William Powell:** That is fair enough.

[91] **Mr Parry:** Could I launch into this, Chair? At the outset, I need you to consider that in no way am I an expert witness, but I represent—

[92] **William Powell:** You speak from experience and on behalf of the people that you represent.

[93] **Mr Parry:** Yes, precisely. In the 30 years that I have been involved with local social matters, this matter has caused me the most concern, in terms of potential harm to our communities and to individuals.

[94] I worded the petition in a generic way because I was very aware that what Betsi was proposing was harmful to the majority of rural communities. I avoided being parochial. The main thrust of our petition fits comfortably with Tywyn's expressions of concern, articulated in that petition. If we look at the status quo, all of the symptoms of collapse are there: extremely low morale among staff; huge ambulance queues outside A&E; patients inappropriately placed in wards and homes because of bedblocking and non-availability of ambulances; a crisis in GP recruitment; the out-of-hours service not being user friendly or even responsive within acceptable parameters; and stories of near misses—which I can provide, of course. All in all, it is a complete lottery, which will, sooner or later, arrive at what will be, or have been, plainly avoidable tragedies.

[95] Where we live, the theory of the benefits and outcomes of the golden hour—which we referred to earlier—is a complete joke. It is a given today, sadly, that the Betsi board has been in a shambolic state. It has admitted to being dysfunctional, and is presently in a state of reconstruction. It is a scandal that the Auditor General for Wales had to get involved to highlight the problems with the board. The recent timely resignations and retirements within the board and the CHC locally and nationally tell their own story, in my view. Betsi now has a new chair, Dr Peter Higson, and I look forward to our meeting with him next week and wish him well. I shall not be taking any baggage with me to that meeting; I am quite open-minded about it. There is also, in our area certainly, contrary to Brian's, no public confidence in the function of the CHC, considered widely to be the lapdog of the Betsi board, as evidenced by mass resignations of CHC members—Councillor Peter Read from the executive board, Councillor Selwyn Griffiths, and Councillor Huw Edwards, the chairman of Gwynedd Council. Some of these members have 20 years plus standing on the CHC, which must, I suggest, signal something of significance. Gwynedd Council also passed a motion of no confidence in the Betsi board and in the CHC, to reflect what its communities were telling it. The effectiveness of CHCs depends, in part, on the public's perception of their reputation and standing. As far as I am concerned, they have no standing and their reputation is not to be envied. In my view, and that of many others, they need root and branch reform or even abolishing.

[96] With regard to the consultation process that Betsi Cadwaladr undertook, I attended a

series of what were called locality meetings, which were designed, in my personal view, to give some kind of endorsement and validity to the supposed research that they conducted within those meetings, under the guise of public consultation. It included a lot of leading questions and scenarios. On reflection, I was probably mugged. The limited public meetings also convened were also stage-managed and demand was not satisfied; Dr Delyth Davies would attest to that. Whilst I appreciate that the Betsi Cadwaladr board has a serious fiscal situation to deal with, the reconfiguration of services that has led to a poorer service and a threat to patient safety is totally unacceptable. Ironically, the whole new package that it put together was sold as offering a better and a safer service.

11:15

[97] At this juncture, it would be remiss of me if I did not pay tribute to the trust staff who are doing their best and operating under very frustrating and difficult circumstances. I am as frustrated as they are. If I achieve nothing else here today, I will be happy to have made you aware of some of the real problems troubling our health service in the rural regions. I can provide you with real life scenarios and examples that have been subjected to this systemic casino that we now have. I do not want the Assembly to be like the German nation after the war, being in denial of the atrocities that were taking place within their boundaries; I am telling you candidly today that people are, and will, suffer and die as a result of these changes. The priority has to be not particularly apportioning blame, but finding solutions. However, I find the complacency and denial by some politicians—not all, I must say—asserting that our health service is not in crisis, to be offensive and beyond belief. The individuals, including the First Minister, need a reality check.

[98] I have nearly finished now, Mr Chair. Any change, even a change for the better, is always accompanied by drawbacks and discomforts, and whilst one is not resistant to change, one is resistant to the outright dereliction of duty, or what is plainly a series of historical poor decisions, some of which clearly need to be reconsidered. Our healthcare system is in meltdown and on the pathway to becoming neither healthy, caring or a system. The onset of winter is likely to exacerbate problems and move our systemic difficulties from the general ward into intensive care, with the end result of unnecessary suffering. Let us face it: we do not have a healthcare system; we have a system of care that is ill. Seriously, our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. To conclude, Chair, do not take life too seriously; you will never get out of it alive.

[99] **William Powell:** Councillor Parry, thank you very much for that concluding statement, which addressed the couple of remaining questions that I had. One request that I would make to you on behalf of the committee is that you please send us an update when you have the meeting with the new chief executive, to which you have just referred. You said that you would leave your guns at the door and that you were hoping for a fresh start. It would be really helpful to us to have your perspective on that forthcoming meeting. Also, because of time constraints, we are not going to consider your evidence today, but we will do so at a future meeting and, hopefully, we will have that update from you by then as well. So, I would like to thank you very much for taking the time out to join us here at Prestatyn High School, and we shall come back to consider this evidence session at an early future meeting and we will hopefully hear more from yourself. If you have any other additional submissions in the meantime, please send them to us as a committee and we will take them forward.

[100] **Mr Mintoft:** I have four points that I would like to mention, which are single sentences. At the last meeting, you talked about the Tywyn hospital development. Sure enough, there is a development, but it is nothing to do with the MIU or the x-ray services that you were talking about. It is simply moving the health centre into a different building and providing some beds for dying people and people who are recovering. It does not affect what we have said. I agree about staff morale. On the reduction of the hours of staff, with fewer

people using the facility we can eventually see it dying. We have seen it elsewhere. They will say, 'There are not many people using this, so we don't need it'. That is the staff. There are also some skills there. Some of the nurses have been able to diagnose for years; they have done it well for people. They have the skills and the training, but they are now not allowed to do it. The new nurses being recruited are being recruited on only six-month contracts and they do not have any training to do that sort of thing, so the thing is deliberately being run down. Thank you very much.

[101] **Bethan Jenkins:** We do not have time now, but would you write to us saying what you think that we, as a committee, could suggest? You could include some ideas—perhaps you will know more once you have met with the new members of the community health council—so that we will have an idea of how we could satisfy the demands in your petition when we discuss it at the next meeting.

[102] **William Powell:** Diolch yn fawr am ddod heddiw, ac am y sesiwn y bore yma. **William Powell:** Thank you very much for coming today, and for the session this morning.

P-04-479 Tywyn Memorial Hospital X-ray & Minor Injuries Unit Petition Unit Petition – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee, 20.11.2013

To: The Petitions Committee.

Re:

At the meeting in Prestatyn you asked us what we want you to do. In response I have compiled the following.

As per the original petition request

1. Ensure fair treatment for patients in Tywyn & District.
2. Ensure that the Minor Injuries Unit in Tywyn Hospital is able to operate for longer hours (e.g. 8am to 8pm) to serve the local rural population and to cover outside the normal Doctor's surgery hours.
3. Ensure that the skilled staff are treated fairly & are offered reasonable contracts of a reasonable length (they are currently only for 6 months), including appropriate training to make good decisions about assessment, appropriate treatment or referral needed by their patients. (Morale has been severely affected).

As acknowledged at the meeting on the 11th November 2013

The MIU situation in Tywyn & District needs to be seen as part of a larger problem in the region involving General Hospitals, A&E departments, Out of Hours Service, Ambulance Service and transport generally. Therefore the following are suggestions-

4. Create a mid-Wales health area centred on Aberystwyth to act as a hub for rural services. Urban solutions do not fit rural areas. Bronglais Hospital, as part of a Health Board based in the South but serving an area West, South & North of Aberystwyth cannot compete against demands from more populated areas in the South of the Hywel Dda area, especially when Hywel Dda does not consider South Meirionnydd to be in their area. Clearly define the mid-Wales area & population to be covered including North Powys, Ceredigion & South Meirionnydd. A mid-Wales coordination group was promised but does not seem to be happening.
5. In rural areas - ensure satellite local facilities and trained staff nearer to patients and origin of need for **Unscheduled Care Services** to check, assess, treat or refer as necessary. (At present nurses with the required training & experience are being stopped from doing this). These satellite local facilities, in our opinion, are key to a satisfactory service in rural areas. They can be seen as outriggers to the A&E departments filtering out the minor problems which do not need A&E specialist skills or equipment. The vast majority of Minor Injuries do not need to go beyond this level. Cases where the assessment is that A&E specialist skills or equipment are needed should be referred and transported quickly.

Doctors' practices do not normally provide this service. Ideally they should, but no doubt it would be difficult and take a long time to renegotiate contracts.

Community nursing is essential for "closer to home" treatment but does not provide this unscheduled service.

Result:

- reduced A&E workload

- reduced “Out of Hours” service requirement.
 - increased patient satisfaction & early availability of treatment.
 - minimum transport required
 - patients transferred to A&E or specialist sites only when required
 - avoidance of patients delaying treatment because of perceived or real difficulty of access to medical opinion & consequently the condition becoming much more serious.
 - ambulances (including Air Ambulance) called less frequently; only when required to transport patients to A&E or other medical services. (Because there is limited early assessment & check available now, patients are being transported (sometimes by helicopter) to General Hospitals & being discharged the same day. (Source: local nurse).
 - reduced carbon emissions by patients, relatives & friends
 - reduced cost to the Health Service and the patient. (Patients taken to A&E have to pay for the journey home. Bronglais to Tywyn taxi in late evening / night costs £70. (Actual example: elderly patient (80+) with heart problem discharged late at night after receiving treatment. Fortunately he had a credit card!)
 - reduced inconvenience & cost to relatives & friends.
6. Improve or change the **Out of Hours Service**. Insufficient doctors are available (only 20% of doctors in North Wales are willing to do out of hours work) and at such distances from the patient that assessment & treatment is not quickly available. (We have several examples following implementation of reduced MIU availability on 1st October 2013). Public transport is not available to patients. Ideally doctors, or groups of doctors, should be on call to deal with their own local areas & patients. However I’m sure there will be considerable resistance to changing their contracts to include this.
7. Improve **transport** to medical facilities of all kinds if possible. It not feasible in a rural area to ensure that sufficient ad hoc usage of public transport for medical reasons is economical. It may be possible for special mini-buses or cars to be used in some circumstances (some have been provided in the past) to transport patients who need regular checks or treatment but would need much coordination. Public transport improvement for unscheduled care is probably not realistic.
8. Improve the **Ambulance Service**. Ensure that the ambulance service is not understaffed and aim for those providing emergency care to be staffed by two people in rural areas. Often two people are needed to lift or care for a patient being transported, and, in that circumstance, if an ambulance attends with only a driver, another ambulance has to be called. With long distances being involved there is potentially much wasted staff time & vehicle time. In urban areas this may not be such a problem since backup ambulances do not have so far to travel and take so much time doing it.

Brian Mintoft

Secretary, Tywyn & District Health Care Action Group.

Attachments:

1. Map showing travel times to Unscheduled Care Services in North Wales as shown at the Petitions Committee Meeting 11/11/13.

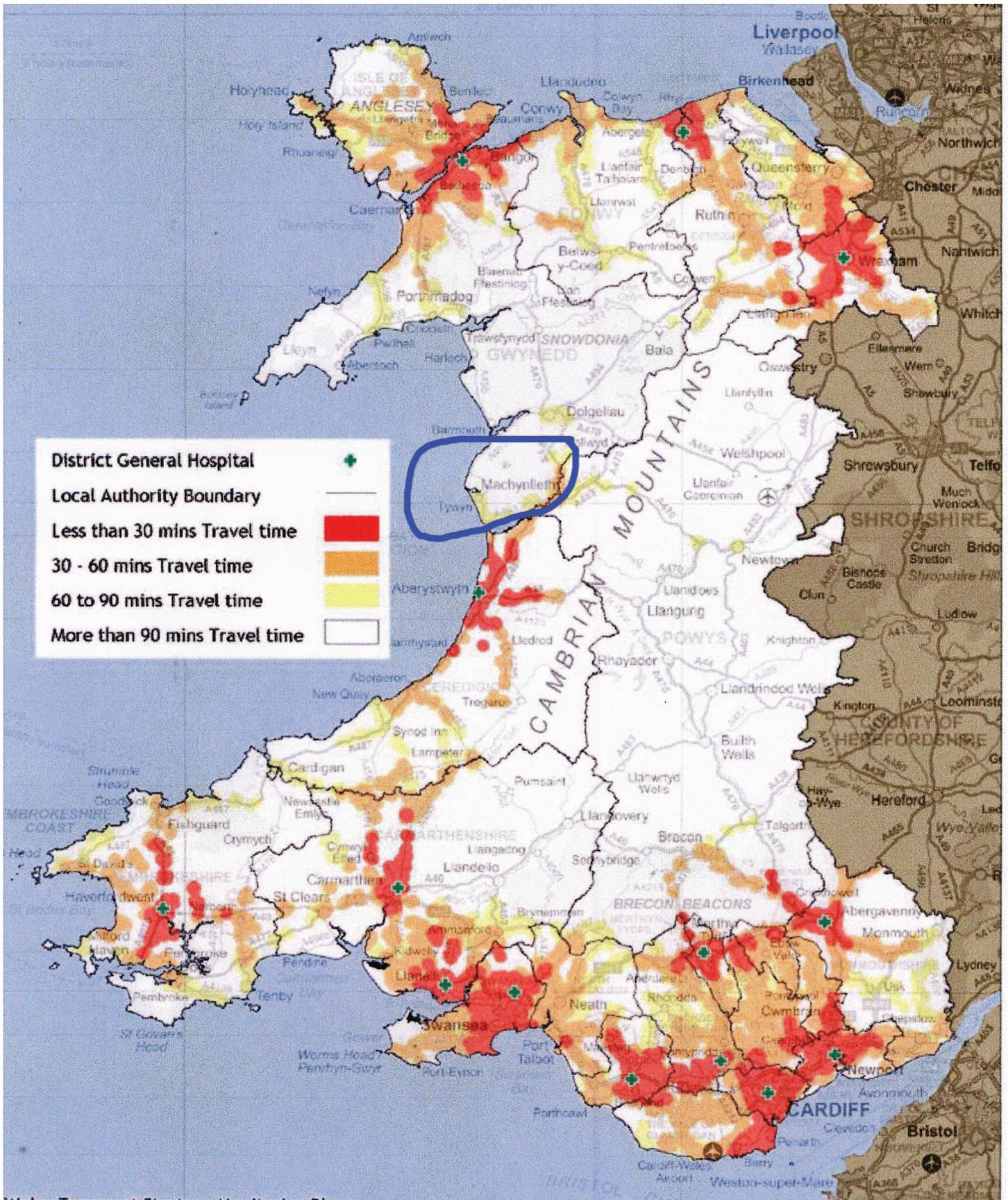
Source:

National Public Health Service for Wales Rapid Review of Hospital Element of Unscheduled Care Services in North Wales

Author: Margaret Webber Date: 29/4/09 Status: Final

Version: 1 Page 13 of 13 Intended Audience: Expert & Stakeholder Groups

2. The text of a 5 minute presentation we had expected to use at the Prestatyn meeting to be followed by questions. **“Downgrading of local unscheduled care services (MIU) in Tywyn & District”**.
3. A letter to the Petitions Committee from Jennie Windsor, Petitioner, who was present at the meeting on the 11th November 2013, regarding some of the issues raised by the Committee at that meeting.
4. A document outlining the weakening of services offered at our nearest General Hospital, Bronglais, Aberystwyth, which is managed by the Hywel Dda Health Authority, and the shift South to Carmarthen of some of the services. **“Some facts about Bronglais Hospital.”** 8/11/13. Any downgrading of services available to us in this area is of great concern.



Downgrading of **local unscheduled care services (MIU) in Tywyn & District.**

Thanks to Petition Committee for interest & being willing to allow us to talk to them. (11/11/2013)

Two words I want to emphasize right from the beginning are –

Availability Accessibility

In general, the focus in Health Care at the moment is on reduction of cost, improved quality of service & outcomes, which we all want. **However, excellent facilities without availability & accessibility to the patient are no good.**

1. The petition.

In Tywyn Hospital **X-ray facilities** have been saved from closure & I can report that the morning session is fully utilised & the afternoon session well utilised.

The minor injuries unit reduced the hours of availability from 1st October & we are already seeing problems for patients. Opening times for 6 months of the year have been reduced to 10am to 6pm with no availability at weekends.

2. The Context:

I think I need to briefly outline the context of our area to understand the importance to us of local **unscheduled** care services.

Prestatyn is 75 miles from Tywyn; Over 2 hours travelling by car to get there! Technically our area is part of Gwynedd & considered as North Wales.

In logistical terms we are better considered as being in Mid-Wales as can be seen from the map. Our nearest General Hospital is Bronglais at Aberystwyth which is 35 miles (one hour) away. It can be reached by public transport but needs careful scheduling to get there and back. Other General Hospitals are at

- Wrexham 130 miles round trip (over 3 hours),
- Bangor 140 miles round trip (just under 4 hours)
- Carmarthen 160 miles round trip (4hrs 40 mins)

(I include Carmarthen because it is obvious to us that Bronglais Hospital facilities are largely being moved to Carmarthen and without surgical backing the A&E will probably be downgraded).

Excluding Bronglais, These are the nearest A&E facilities. (Except Shrewsbury hospital is nearer).

We have no dual carriageways within 60 miles.

For comparison Cardiff to Carmarthen round trip is 132 miles (less than 2.5 hours), Cardiff to Hereford is less than 120 miles round trip (2.5 hours). Imagine A & E depts. being that far away!

In our area the Golden Hour target is largely not attainable. It can be achieved occasionally using the Air Ambulance (known by local nurses & doctors as the Tywyn taxi) which is not even an NHS provided means of transport.

3. In this context the Minor Injuries Service (unscheduled care) in South Gwynedd (South Meirionnydd) is vitally important.

- i. **We note the aims of BCUHB from their Equality Impact Assessment published in January 2013 (P18) “The proposals aim to provide equality of access and service provision across the region”. We believe this not to be achieved in the case of Tywyn & District.**
Actual achievement: Worse services provision to the community.
- ii. ***NB. Tywyn hospital investment is intended only for re-homing of the existing Tywyn Health Centre & provision of care for the dying & rehabilitation beds in a new ward. No change for X-ray or minor injuries treatment (unscheduled care) is planned. It is a capital project – unlikely to lead to staff & services increase).***
- iii. We wish to acknowledge the dedication, skill & willingness of doctors & nurses to provide necessary treatment wherever & whenever they can. One exception is the “Out of Hours Service”.
- iv. We do not have the same confidence in managers within the Health Board who often seem to go for short-term cost cutting & as a result do not demonstrate joined up thinking & benefits for the patients & their relatives.
- v. Front line staff is not valued, morale is undermined, training & skills are wasted. Only 6 month contracts are being offered to nurses in Tywyn. Shorter hours have already been implemented and the future is uncertain. Recruitment therefore becomes a problem.
- vi. The model of health care being implemented may suit urban environments but it does not suit rural ones. **The NHS aims to provide higher quality in fewer places with poorer accessibility & availability.** Care in the Community is the aim but for minor injuries we have to travel further to get unscheduled care outside “normal” hours during the week and any time at weekends for 6 months of the year.
- vii. There is no dispute about **specialist** services being concentrated in fewer locations to improve experience & skills of surgeons & nursing staff & outcomes for the patients.
- viii. We do dispute over withdrawal of local minor injury examination, assessment, diagnosis, possible treatment & speedy referral when required. Nurses with training & years of experience in diagnosis are now being stopped from doing that. New, 6 month contracts being offered do not include any such training. The result is more pressure on A&E Depts.
- ix. Joined up thinking should look for local speedy contact, examination & diagnosis using appropriate equipment, using telemedicine if necessary, to deal with the maximum number of patients close to home & the place of the accident/incident. More serious and difficult cases can be referred quickly to specialist

centres. The benefits are a reduced need to deal with patients in more expensive specialist centres as well as **speedier appropriate treatment**.

- x. The Health Minister statement of July 2013 about reduced MIU hours states “..... **so that people can be confident that they will get the minor injuries service they need from GP surgeries, the out of hours service and their community hospitals**”. GP surgeries do not provide for unscheduled minor injuries care, are available only 4.5 days per week and close for treatment at 5pm. They do not open at weekends. The “out of hours” service, because of lack of personnel (**sometimes only one doctor between Bangor and our area**) & distances involved will frequently refer people to A&E services or Alltwen (80 miles round trip). There are only 20% of North Wales doctors willing to work “out of hours”.
- xi. Patients who receive no treatment, have to travel long distances or have to wait many hours to obtain treatment, are not monitored by the NHS. We aim to set up some systems to let patients report these instances using social media. Reduced footfall will eventually lead to more reduction & even closure of the facility.
- xii. **What differences would we see if there were targets for door to door treatment? Waiting times door to door would be very revealing!**
- xiii. Can we learn from the Australian Health Service which has enormous rural areas to cover & various methods to cope with this?

Instead of providing equality of access and service provision across the region, we believe the situation has been made much worse.

To: National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee 16th November, 2013

Evidence Sessions P-04-479 Tywyn Memorial Hospital X-Ray & Minor Injuries Unit Petition (page 152)
Brian Mintoft, Lead Petitioner Jennie Windsor Petitioner

Thank you for your kind attention to details of this petition which we were given the opportunity to convey to you at the meeting to which we were invited to attend on the 11th of November at Prestatyn High School, North Wales. As we were asked to confirm the points which we felt required further consideration I am now writing in this respect;

The Chairman asked whether we were satisfied that the Government had made adequate attempts to provide transport services in relation to accessing unscheduled services.

A pilot scheme has been put in place for six months from the 21st of October 2013 for an increased bus service to Dolgellau departing from Tywyn at 18.50 hrs and 21.00 hrs respectively. Although the advertisement of this route suggests that we can access hospitals through the use of the service, general hospitals cannot be accessed without considerable planning of connections to other transport services. More importantly the fact that the minor injuries unit at Dolgellau closes at 8pm limits the use of the service, in order to access the nearest available minor injuries to Tywyn (20 miles away), to the one bus which departs from Tywyn at 18.50. This is the only attempt to provide improved transport services to other areas which the group is aware of.

The Chairman asked what contribution we felt that the Community Health Council had made towards the provision of Services in this area.

The group would like to refer the Petitions Committee to a letter written on the 4th March 2013 to Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Health and Social Services from Christine Evans, Chair of the Community Health Council which states that *'the CHC cannot support the health boards proposal's for minor injury services as they are not in the interest of the people who use the service because they limit people's access to the services to an unacceptable degree and do not take into account the needs of people living in rural areas which represent a significant reduction in the level of service provided to the people living in Gwynedd'*

This is further explained in a letter to Mark Drakeford A.M. written on the 22nd of May 2013 by Gordon Donaldson, Chair of North Wales Community Health Council, which states that what is meant by the previous statement is *'that the cornerstone of a good quality service is that people can get to it when they need it-this is the definition of 'access'. People living in South Gwynedd now have to travel significantly greater distances to get to routine services. This is not just a matter of convenience limited access to service means that people may delay asking for investigations or treatment and this can lead to less effective and more expensive care in the longer term which is more likely for people living in rural communities'*

Appendix 1, the Summary of information and evidence from the Community Health Council to the Minister states that *'Getting to the right sort of care, quickly is very important. We are not persuaded that GP's provide a service during most of the day and the 'out of hours service' covers the night. We are concerned that people, living particularly in South Gwynedd, will not have access to the same level of service as people living elsewhere in North Wales'* A written Statement of the 17th of July 2013 by The Welsh Government in which The Minister refers to the CHC agreement that revised hours of the Minor Injuries Service should continue and that any amendments to the Service should be discussed through the Service Planning Committee contains a recommendation from the Community Health Council that *'the Health Board will need to have plans for implementing and communicating its proposals so that people can be confident they will get the Minor Injuries Services they need from G P's surgeries, out of hours services and community hospitals'*

The group are not aware, as yet, of the communication or implementation of any of the proposals relating to this recommendation. The current situation is that the reduction of the Minor Injuries Service exactly coincides with the closure, at the weekend of G P surgeries, so that rather than having access to either one or the other we are left with no service at all and the alternative of an 'out of hours' emergency service which is under considerable pressure with no more than two G P's on call at any time who are expected to cover the huge and not easily accessible areas of North Wales.

Frequently there is no allocated Ambulance Service on call in this area and consequently Emergency Services are despatched from outlying districts distances of 40+ miles away. Earlier in the year we were informed that there would be the formation of a Mid-Wales Planning Board in which a committee of

representatives from Powys teaching Health Board, Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board and Hywel Dda Health Board would direct issues in which services may be found to overlap the boundaries of different areas. The group have not been informed of any further development of a Mid-Wales Planning Board.

The Chairman asked what could improve the 'out of hours' service in this area.

In answer to this the group would like to suggest that the Health Board would inform us what action it has taken to bring the 'out of hours service' in line with its proposals and provide equal access to Minor Injuries Services in this area particularly during the time in which both the Minor Injuries Service and the G P's surgeries are closed. It has been suggested that perhaps both of these services could provide minor injury cover for each other when one or the other is unavailable rather than expecting people to travel with such difficulty in order to access services from other areas when all the equipment needed and a long standing expert team of highly trained staff are already available in this location.

One of the main concerns of the Staff at the Minor Injuries Unit is that the monitoring of the service cannot be undertaken effectively while, at times, the service is unavailable and that the unavailability of the service may eventually become its downfall.

Jennie Windsor

Five years ago in Bronglais Hospital there was a ward called Owain Glyndwr which had 32 surgical beds. A couple of years later it was to be refitted, half the ward was closed at a time. Reassurances were given that it would reopen fully once the refit was completed, but Llewellyn ward (orthopaedics) moved onto one half "while they were refitted." They never did return to their ward, 16 surgical beds were lost and the ward was renamed Ceredig.

Due Mr Jackson and Mr Edwards retiring there were rumours that colorectal and urology surgery would move down south rather than employ more surgeons. Due to pressure by various groups wanting to maintain health care provision in Bronglais and mid wales, more surgeons were employed and surgery continued. However, despite new surgeons being employed urology and colorectal surgery has been forced down south – it was all part of 'the plan' to downgrade Bronglais by Hywel Dda. In their 'consultation' time they inferred that they wanted to provide only day case surgery in BGH, downgrade A&E to level 2, maternity to become midwifery led and close ITU; orthopaedics, colorectal and urology were to move south. Pressure from staff was so great that they back tracked almost immediately and said 'nothing had been decided, it was only 'consultation'. It was then agreed to continue colorectal surgery as new surgeons were now in place, although reduced numbers of urology patients would have surgery there.

In the mean time, nursing staff had left from Ceredig ward (both qualified and support staff) but not replaced over a period of 3 years or so, leaving staffing levels depleted, not helped by the staff/patient ratio that had been concocted that has turned out to be woefully inadequate and does not consistently even meet minimal staffing requirements set by NHS.

Money has only just been released to employ more qualified nurses, by which time they needed 7 full time qualified nurses and 9 support staff. Unfortunately not all these posts have been filled and half the ward has now closed, losing 16 more general and orthopaedic surgical beds. Hywel Dda got what they wanted – no planned major surgery in BGH, colorectal and urology surgery have been moved to Camarthen and Haverfordwest and planned orthopaedics has been cancelled or moved elsewhere. Initially staff were told it would be for a month, now it is to be closed for 3 months. Only emergency surgery will take place, this means the surgeons will soon lose their registration as they have to perform so many 'sessions' to maintain their skills and so be licensed to operate by The Royal College of Surgeons, skilled doctors and nurses will be de-skilled further wasting valuable NHS resources.

The impact of this could mean that A&E at level 3 is under question if there are not any surgeons available to operate. A&E could therefore be downgraded (despite millions of £ being spent on the new facilities) and be used as a stabilisation area before patients would be transferred south, ITU and general surgical beds would not be required either, so reducing the quality of care provided in mid Wales, so much for "Right care, right place, right time, every time."

(<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/862/page/50337>)

Eitem 2.3

P-04-343 Atal dinistrio mwynderau ar dir comin

Geiriad y Ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i chwilio am ffyrdd i atal dinistrio mwynderau ar dir comin, gan gynnwys tir comin y Marian yn Llangoed, Ynys Môn.

Cynigwyd gan: JE Futter

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor am y tro cyntaf: 15 Tachwedd 2011

Nifer y llofnodion: 156

P-04-343: Atal dinistrïo amwynderau ar dir comin—Ynys Môn
P-04-343: Prevent the destruction of amenities on common land—Anglesey

[1] **William Powell:** I ask Mr Tom Pollock, lead petitioner on petition P-04-343, to step up in a moment, together with Lewis Davies and Dr Karen Pollock.

[2] Croeso cynnes iawn i bawb. A warm welcome to everyone.

[3] I ask you, when you have drawn breath, just to introduce yourselves for the record and to ensure that the levels are right. I ask Dr Karen Pollock to kick off.

[4] **Dr Pollock:** I am Karen Pollock. I am here because my father and I were two of the petitioners. My father, sadly, died last year. My father's house abutted Marian common. I am also here because I work in the heritage industry and I have an interest in how the beauty and archaeology of Wales are promoted, thus preserving the natural environment.

[5] **William Powell:** We are grateful to you. Mr Pollock?

[6] **Mr Pollock:** I am Tom Pollock. I am here to support the petition, and to lead the petition on behalf of everyone who has signed and supported it in the past. Of course, I am also here to support my wife, Karen.

[7] **William Powell:** Mr Davies?

[8] **Mr Davies:** Rwy'n gynghorydd sir dros ward Seiriol lle mae tir comin y Marian. Hefyd, rwyf wedi bod yn athro daearyddiaeth, ac wedi byw yn yr ardal ers blynyddoedd. Rwy'n nabod yr ardal fel cefn fy llaw, a fi yw'r person sydd wedi cael y mwyaf o broblemau gyda difrodi'r tir comin hwn.
Mr Davies: I am a county councillor for the Seiriol ward where the Marian common land is located. I have also been a geography teacher, and have lived in the area for years. I know the area like the back of my hand, and I feel that I am the person who has had the most problems with the damage to this common land.

[9] **William Powell:** I will kick off just by asking you, as a group of petitioners, to give a little bit more clarity to the committee and colleagues about the level of legal protection that is currently afforded under the Commons Act 2006, and in what respects you would like to see that protection enhanced through the action of the Assembly.

[10] **Mr Pollock:** I have a prepared statement, if you would like me to read it.

[11] **William Powell:** I would be very happy for you to kick off in that way.

[12] **Mr Pollock:** Just bear with me a moment: I just need to put my other eyes on. [*Laughter.*]

[13] First, we would like to thank the Petitions Committee for this opportunity to put forward oral evidence in support of this petition. The online petition contained 156 signatures, and followed a paper petition with 320 signatures, which sought to prevent the destruction of a specific common, Marian common in Llangoed, Anglesey. This common land is under the stewardship of Llangoed and Penmon Community Council and is registered common land, with registered rights of common for grazing, estovers and the collection of stone. There is registered public right of way for open recreation under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. A length of the Anglesey coastal footpath crosses the common. To recap, in June 2011, during the nesting season, large swathes of vegetation were destroyed, and earthmovers

changed the topography of the land to create two 7m-wide dirt roads. Photographic evidence has been submitted to the committee.

[14] This is an area with a wealth of flora and fauna. Detailed lists compiled by environmental experts have been submitted to the committee. The local community, which enjoys this beautiful area for recreation, was shocked and saddened by this act, but felt powerless to protect the common against further destruction in the light of inadequate laws. While section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 should, in theory, prevent the resurfacing of the land, it does not prevent the destruction of vegetation and the modification of the landscape for vehicular use. Basically, anyone can cut and drive large dirt tracks across any common land with impunity. In the worst-case scenarios, little of the natural heritage would be left for the enjoyment of local communities.

[15] In the case of Marian common, under the Prescription Act 1832, if no greater protection is provided for common land, it is likely that rights of access will be applied for after 20 years, and then, of course, vehicular trespass will be legitimised. We feel that the law—section 38 of the Commons Act—is inadequate. It makes no provision for the protection of the natural environment or protected species. Any individual can plough up or denude the plant life and wildlife on common land without fear of prosecution. The example above, of Marian common in Llangoed, specifically shows that one way to alter the use of common land from common to private is to carry out an unannounced, pre-emptive, legally unrestricted change to the land, and then to sit back and wait for any civil legal action to restore the land to common determination. All agencies in our case have refused to help the Marian community as, being subject to civil law, no-one, including the local county council, has the funds to run a civil case against an experienced perpetrator.

[16] We would like to make the following points in support of this petition. Using the example of Marian common as a precedent, the petitioners feel that the committee has an opportunity to provide all common land in Wales with greater protected legal status. In terms of securing and protecting a better environment for the people of Wales, any change in legislation would be strongly supported by many. Greater legal protection for common land would strengthen the intention behind many areas of natural beauty. Greater legal power would devolve power to local communities. Local councils are currently helpless to enforce the overwhelming local consensus for the preservation of common land. The economy of north Wales is supported by tourism. The beauty of the local heritage draws visitors from across the globe. As well as local signatures, the paper petition to protect Marian common also contains signatures from visitors enjoying the coastal path. The relaxation of planning laws, which comes into effect this autumn in Wales and will allow local people to improve their homes, should run hand in hand with new laws that protect common land, and thus the local environment, for local communities.

[17] Finally, recently, local people have been extremely frightened by official letters sent by the Land Registry on behalf of a certain Lord Treffos in Cheshire, who is reinstating claims to exercise archaic, manorial rights to collect tithes and dues from local people. Tightening up the laws related to common land would give greater security to those who feel under threat from external forces hoping to acquire land for individual gain.

[18] **William Powell:** I believe that that point was raised by Rhun ap Iorweth with the First Minister last Tuesday in Plenary session.

[19] **Mr Pollock:** Indeed, yes.

[20] **William Powell:** It would be useful, possibly, for us to engage with him, as the new Member for Ynys Môn, on these matters.

[21] **Mr Davies:** Fel cynghorydd sir, rwyf wedi cael trafferthion mawr ynghylch hawliau tir—hawliau maenorol Treffos ar dir. Mae dros 4,500 o hawliau ac maent yn dal i ddod i mewn. Mae rhai o hen bobl fregus yn dychryn pan maent yn derbyn y llythyron, heb wybod yr hanes na dim byd arall am yr hawliau. Rwyf wedi bod yn helpu llawer ohonynt, a dweud y gwir.

Mr Davies: As a county councillor, I have had great difficulty around the land rights—Treffos manorial rights on land. There are over 4,500 rights, and they are still coming in. Some older, vulnerable people are scared when they receive these letters, without knowing the history or anything else about these rights. I have been helping a lot of these people, to be honest.

[22] **William Powell:** Potentially, this is coming at a favourable time, with the imminent emergence of the environment Bill. This is exactly the background to that, and two of the three Members that you have here today are actually involved directly with the Environment and Sustainability Committee. Russell George and I serve on that committee, and this is something that we could take some of the lead on within the committee, now that we have heard testimony at first hand. Russell, do you wish to add anything?

[23] **Russell George:** No, I am okay for the moment.

11:30

[24] **William Powell:** To be honest, your statement has been pretty comprehensive in addressing a number of the questions that I wanted to bring forward. Dr Pollock, do you have anything to add at this stage?

[25] **Dr Pollock:** I would like to see stronger regulations, but I would also like to see an independent arbitrator in places like Marian common, which would be somewhere for people to go and put forward their case. There would then be a balanced response, so that commons are not just taken out of the community's usage, really.

[26] **William Powell:** Could I ask you briefly what engagement there has been with the North Wales Police on any issues around criminal activity? I know that in the part of Wales that I come from, issues around off-road use have not seen a very active response from Dyfed-Powys Police, but that is often because of resource issues and other complexities. I do not know whether the council would like to add something in this regard.

[27] **Mr Davies:** Cefais fy ngalw i'r safle hon pan oedd y dinistrio yn digwydd, yng nghanol mis Mehefin, yn ystod amser nythu bywyd gwyllt. Gofynnais i fab y datblygwr a oedd wedi cael caniatâd, ac nid oedd wedi cael caniatâd. Bûm mewn cysylltiad â swyddog yr heddlu a oedd yn cydweithio gyda Chyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru o ran byd natur, a dywedodd yntau fod y dystiolaeth i gyd wedi mynd, wedi'i dinistrio, ac oherwydd hynny, ni allai wneud dim byd. Ni allwn ddeall hynny. Roedd cynefin arbennig yno, gydag adar yn nythu a phopeth, ac yng nghanol mis Mehefin, canol y mis nythu, daeth y peiriannau mawr i mewn. Roedd ef yn dweud na allai wneud dim byd, am nad oedd unrhyw dystiolaeth. Nid oeddwn yn hoff iawn o'r ateb hwnnw, a dweud y gwir.

Mr Davies: I was called to this site when the destruction was taking place, during the middle of June, during the nesting time for wildlife. I asked the son of the developer whether he had had permission, and he had not. I was in contact with the police officer who was collaborating with the Countryside Council for Wales in relation to wildlife, and he said that the evidence had all been destroyed, and because of that, he could not do anything about it. I did not understand that. You had a special habitat there, with birds nesting and everything, and in the middle of June, in the middle of the nesting period, these big machines arrived, and he said that he could not do anything about it, because there was no evidence. I was not very happy with that response, if truth be told.

[28] **William Powell:** It sounds to me clearly like an environmental crime that should have been taken more seriously.

[29] **Mr Pollock:** I also wrote, along with several other people, to North Wales Police complaining that nothing had been done, especially at the time a four-wheel drive was driven up Snowdon, and the gentleman was prosecuted. I thought that would have been a fair case to answer on the Marian, because of the lorries and tractors being driven across it. However, a so-called investigation was carried out and it was said that there were no grounds for any prosecution at all.

[30] **Dr Pollock:** I do not think that any of us want to stop farmers from carrying out the things that they have to do. If you have an off-road vehicle it can go on common land, but I think our point was that the whole habitat was destroyed. The whole topography was changed. The earth was moved to make these tracks.

[31] **Mr Pollock:** Yes, they actually constructed a road where there had not been a road.

[32] **William Powell:** Have you yet engaged with the police and crime commissioner, Mr Winston Roddick, on this matter, or is that something that you would welcome us taking forward as a committee, potentially?

[33] **Dr Pollock:** I do not know what Lewis would think as a county councillor. Would that be—

[34] **Mr Davies:** Rwy'n meddwl ei fod yn syniad da. Mae'n debygol, fel mae pethau'n mynd, y bydd hyn yn digwydd ar dir comin mewn lleoedd eraill yng ngogledd Cymru neu drwy Gymru hefyd. Dyna beth roeddem ni yn dymuno heddiw yn y fan hon oedd sicrhau deddfwriaeth gryfach i wneud yn siŵr bod tir comin yn cael ei edrych ar ei ôl i'r dyfodol. Mae hynny'n bwysig iawn.

Mr Davies I think that that is a good idea. It is likely, the way that things are going, that this is going to happen on common land in other places in north Wales or throughout Wales as well. What we wanted to do here today was to ensure stronger legislation to make sure that common land is looked after for the future. That is very important.

[35] **William Powell:** I call on Russell George and then the last word will go to Bethan.

[36] **Russell George:** What conversations have you had with the farming unions, the National Farmers Union or the Farmers Union of Wales?

[37] **Mr Pollock:** We did not have any conversations at all with farming unions, or I did not, anyway, because it was deemed that common land was what we were looking at and the protection of it. We contacted all the bodies such as, at the time, the Countryside Council for Wales, which is now Natural Resources Wales, and the community council that, supposedly, was the custodian of the land. Wherever we turned, it was all directed back at us with nobody being willing to take a lead on it. In terms of the farming unions, I must admit that it had not occurred to me—

[38] **Russell George:** Perhaps we can write as a committee to seek the views of the farming unions on this matter.

[39] **William Powell:** Yes, we can write to the farming unions on the island, initially.

[40] **Russell George:** Yes, if they have not yet been engaged with on this, they will have views on this.

[41] **William Powell:** We will write to both of them and to Winston Roddick, as that was previously welcomed by Councillor Davies.

[42] **Mr Pollock:** I think that the Winston Roddick idea is quite good; it is just that no-one seemed to have any teeth. There are laws in place, but it is like saying that burglary is against the law, but if nobody is prosecuted for burglary—

[43] **William Powell:** Absolutely. There is no credibility, is there?

[44] **Mr Pollock:** Yes. The law is in disrepute.

[45] **Dr Pollock:** I think that it is a case of looking forward, rather than looking back at what happened, because we cannot really change that now. The shrubs are growing back—

[46] **William Powell:** It is about trying to learn from the episode.

[47] **Dr Pollock:** Yes, that is right. We do not want this to happen to us or to other people in the future. I think that that is the point. We are not trying to persecute anyone; we would just like the law to be that this cannot happen to the natural habitat.

[48] **William Powell:** Daw'r cwestiwn olaf wrth Bethan Jenkins.

William Powell: The final question comes from Bethan Jenkins.

[49] **Bethan Jenkins:** Roeddwn yn trio deall peth o'r cefndir, ac rydych chi wedi dweud, Lewis, eich bod wedi cwyno wrth y bobl oedd yn gwneud hyn, ac iddynt hwy ddweud nad oeddent wedi cael caniatâd. O dan adran 41 o'r Ddeddf, mae'n dweud os nad yw'r Gweinidogion wedi rhoi hawl iddynt fynd ar y tir neu i wneud y gwaith penodedig hwnnw, mae'r Gweinidogion yn gallu gweithredu yn eu herbyn. A oedd yr adran honno wedi cael ei defnyddio mewn unrhyw ffordd? Rwy'n trio deall beth sydd yn anghywir neu ddim yn digwydd nawr i ni fel pwyllgor allu cynnig sut mae gwella'r ddeddfwriaeth. A ydym ni'n gallu edrych ar dargedu elfennau eraill? I mi, sut mae gwneud i hyn weithio yw'r peth pwysicaf. Os nad yw'r ddeddfwriaeth yn gweithio, sut ydym ni'n gallu sicrhau ei fod yn gweithio?

Bethan Jenkins: I was trying to understand some of the background, and you have said, Lewis, that you had complained to the people who did this, and that they had said that they had not received permission. Under section 41 of the Act, it says that if the Ministers have not given them the right to go on the land or to do that appointed work, the Ministers can take action against them. Was that section used in any way? I am trying to understand what is wrong or what is not happening now so that we as a committee can put forward ways of improving the legislation. Can we look at targeting other elements? To me, making this work is the most important thing. If the legislation does not work, how can we ensure that it does?

[50] **Mr Davies:** Diolch am yr wybodaeth honno. Rwyf wedi bod yn aelod o Gyngor Cymuned Llangoed a Phenmon ac mae tir comin y Marian yn yr ardal hon; rwyf hefyd yn gynghorydd sir ers ychydig o flynyddoedd. Ar ôl i mi gael fy ngalw yno yn ystod y difrodi, cysylltais â phob adran yn y cyngor sir roeddwn i'n teimlo y byddai'n medru bod o gymorth. Nid oedd un ohonynt yn medru rhoi cymorth i mi. Nid oedd y cyngor cymuned oedd â hawliau'r tir comin

Mr Davies: Thank you for that information. I have been a member of Llangoed and Penmon Community Council, and Marian common is in this area; I have also been a county councillor for a few years. After I was called there when the destruction happened, I got into contact with every single department in the county council that I thought could be of assistance. Not one of them could give me any assistance. The community council, which had the rights for the common land,

yn medru gwneud dim byd yn erbyn hyn. Byddai wedi bod yn braf pe byddwn wedi medru codi'r ffôn, ffonio'r cyngor sir a gofyn i'r adran orfodaeth yn yr adran gynllunio i fynd yno'n syth i hel tystiolaeth ac i wneud rhywbeth yn ei gylch. Roeddwn yn bwrw wal bob tro roeddwn yn trio gofyn am gymorth gan y cyngor sir—dim ond esgusodion a gefais, neu roeddent yn dweud wrthyf nad oedd ganddynt hawl i wneud hynny. Felly, byddwn yn hoffi cryfhau'r rheolau rhwng y Cynulliad, y cyngor sir a hefyd y cymunedau—bydd rhywbeth fel hyn yn digwydd eto i gyngor cymunedau, ac nid oes ganddynt y pwerau. Yn y cynghorau sir, mae adrannau cyfreithiol a ddylai fedru bod yn gymorth i gyngor cymunedol pan fydd pethau fel hyn yn digwydd, ond ni ddigwyddodd hynny yn yr achos hwn.

could not do anything against this. It would have been good if I could have picked up the phone, phoned the county council and asked the enforcement department in the planning department to go there straight away to collect evidence and to do something about it. I was hitting a brick wall every time that I asked for assistance from the county council—there were just excuses or they would say that they did not have the right to do that. So, I would like to strengthen the regulations between the Assembly, the county council and community councils—something like this will happen again to community councils, and they do not have the powers. In county councils, there are legal departments that should be able to provide assistance to community councils when things like this happen, but it did not happen in this instance.

[51] **Bethan Jenkins:** Felly, fe fyddech yn anghytuno â'r hyn y mae'r Gweinidog yn ei ddweud yn ei lythyr bod y pwerau yn ddigon cryf fel y maent?

Bethan Jenkins: So, you would disagree with what the Minister says in his letter that the powers are sufficiently strong at present?

[52] **Mr Davies:** Nid ydynt yn hanner digon cryf

Mr Davies: They are not half as strong as they should be.

[53] **William Powell:** Diolch o galon am ddod y bore yma.

William Powell: Thank you very much for coming along today.

[54] It has been really helpful for us to gain an understanding at first hand from your testimony of what the specific concerns are, and how, in a number of different ways, we can take this forward. Given the time constraints this morning and the programme that we need to fit into, we need to defer consideration of your evidence, but we have a number of actions coming out of this morning anyway. We will be considering the evidence in the round at our meeting on 26 November. Thank you very much indeed for what you have contributed today to our consideration of this petition.

P-04-496 Ysgolion pob oed

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i gyflwyno canllawiau i awdurdodau addysg lleol ar uno a chau ysgolion yn ymwneud ag ysgolion pob oed (hy ysgolion sy'n cynnig addysg gynradd, uwchradd ac ôl-16 ar yr un safle).

Gofynnwn i ganllawiau o'r fath:

- atal awdurdodau lleol rhag creu ysgolion ar ddau safle neu ragor, yn ymwneud ag ysgolion pob oed, os oes raid teithio dros 10 milltir rhwng y safleoedd.
- atal awdurdodau lleol rhag creu ysgolion ar ddau safle neu ragor, yn ymwneud ag ysgolion pob oed, cyn adleoli i un safle newydd, oni bai bod yr un safle newydd honno'n gallu darparu addysg i ddisgyblion o bob oed;
- cydnabod mai dymuniad rhai rhieni a disgyblion yw cael ysgol pob oed a'i gwneud yn ofynnol i awdurdodau lleol ateb y galw am ysgolion o'r fath os oes digon o alw amdanynt;
- hyrwyddo ymdrechion i sefydlu ysgolion pob oed yng Nghymru ac i sicrhau eu bod yn parhau;
- sicrhau nad yw disgyblion, o ganlyniad i benderfyniad i gau neu uno ysgol, yn ymwneud ag ysgol pob oed, yn cael eu gorfodi i deithio dros 45 munud i ysgol sy'n darparu addysg ffydd addas.

Prif ddeisebydd: Dawn Docx

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 24 Medi 2013

Nifer y llofnodion: 10

P-04-496 Ysgolion Pob Oed
P-04-496 Through Schools

[1] **William Powell:** I ask Dawn Docx and Anna Gresty of the St Brigid's Action Group to stand-by: we will just organise the nameplates and then we will get under way.

[2] Croeso cynnes. It is great to see you again, Dawn, and to meet you, Anna. I wonder whether you would introduce yourselves briefly just to check the sound levels and also give us a brief update on developments, which I know have been broadly positive and widely covered in the last couple of weeks with regard to the specific issues in your campaign.

[3] **Ms Docx:** Thank you very much. Diolch yn fawr for the opportunity to be able to give some background to our concerns, as well as an update. My name is Dawn Docx, I am the lead petitioner. I am also the parent of a pupil at St Brigid's School.

[4] **Ms Gresty:** I am Anna Gresty, and I am the parent of a pupil at St Brigid's and a member of the action group.

[5] **William Powell:** Thank you.

[6] **Ms Docx:** Since the consultation closed on the proposed merger of the two schools—obviously, we will talk about that in more detail later—the results of that consultation have been considered by Denbighshire County Council, and it has decided not to go ahead with phase 1, which was the closure of two schools, which are over 10 miles apart, and combining them to be, in effect, one school, but on two sites. Its intention is to go forward with the phase 2 of the consultation, which is to close both schools once they have built the new school on a different site. Thank you very much.

[7] **William Powell:** Excellent. Please refresh your glasses with the water. So, clearly, in that case, there has been significant progress in terms of the local issue at this stage, in terms of getting that further involvement.

[8] **Ms Docx:** Yes, I think that what we are asking for is Welsh Government guidance around school mergers and closures—not just for St Brigid's, but for other schools as well.

[9] **William Powell:** Absolutely. I was just going to ask you to clarify the points that you think are of wider application across Wales, particularly, for example, in situations where there is not such a concerted, articulate group as has assembled around the St Brigid's case to protect school communities and wider communities against something inappropriate happening as the result of a particular bureaucratic decision.

[10] **Ms Docx:** Thank you. We particularly wanted to focus on through schools, which, as you are aware, are primary, secondary and sixth form, because, obviously, having pupils aged from three to 19 brings additional complexities to any of these changes.

[11] **William Powell:** Like pastoral things and all sorts of other matters.

[12] **Ms Docx:** We believe that this guidance could be necessary for other schools, and not just through schools, but schools throughout Wales that may be facing closures and mergers. We do understand that there has to be development and improvement in the infrastructure of our education establishments, and we do know about the guidance that surrounds the twenty-first century schools funding, but we believe that it is not strong enough, because—dare I say it?—in their dash for cash, local authorities may well be tempted to produce a plan with an eye to the future, or the vision of the new school that they wish to build, with very little

consideration for the impact that it has on the current pupils or, indeed, on pupils moving into the schools. The whole process takes years, and these are years that we do not get back for our children's education.

[13] We are using St Brigid's as a case study, as you know, and it is a very popular and oversubscribed school, very much like Prestatyn High. Unlike Prestatyn High School, however, we have not been able to have the capital to expand and to meet that demand. As parents, we found ourselves with this plan that Denbighshire County Council had created, where the idea was that it would close both schools and then reopen on the same two sites, over 10 miles apart, and with very little consideration of the practicalities of this arrangement. So, when we ask how it would work, whether the children would be bussed from one site to another, and whether the teachers would be driving up and down in their cars, the answer that we received was that it would be up to the new headteacher and the governors to work out how that would work in practice. We do not think that that was good enough, really.

11:45

[14] We also believe that there was very little consideration of children with special educational needs or medical needs. Although an equality impact assessment needs to be undertaken, it certainly was not developed to the extent that it should be—and this is why Anna is with me. Anna has a son, Jake, who is seven—

[15] **Ms Gresty:** Do you want me to—

[16] **Ms Docx:** Yes; thanks.

[17] **Ms Gresty:** Go on, then; I will.

[18] Jake is seven and has a life-limiting illness. So, obviously, his medical needs are quite great, and the equality impact statement had no provision for how things would change or how his needs would be met. When I asked the question at the consultation meeting of how they would meet his additional needs, they just said, 'Well, this is why we're here'. So, I said, 'Well, I'm asking this question now', and there was no attempt to engage with children with medical needs or special educational needs, and there was no consideration given to those children. I think that they needed to look at how they were going to meet those needs, because I know that St Brigid's meets the needs of children quite well in a through-school setup. It needs to be considered.

[19] **William Powell:** In any management of change of that sort, children with specific conditions are the most vulnerable to suffer, are they not?

[20] **Ms Gresty:** Yes, and they will suffer. They just did not seem to understand that.

[21] **Bethan Jenkins:** Did they say that they did not have guidance from Government? What was the reason given for why they did not come up with that initially, so that you had to prompt them for an answer?

[22] **Ms Gresty:** They did not give any sort of reason. I asked quite a long, convoluted question about how they were going to meet all these different needs, and when it was minuted, it was, 'A parent asked how they were going to interact with parents'. I did not ask that; I asked how they were going to meet specific needs, and there was no understanding of the requirement by the Welsh Government to meet the needs of children with additional needs.

[23] **Bethan Jenkins:** Where has that gone now? Where does that sit now in the scheme

of things for the development and progression of the discussions?

[24] **Ms Docx:** The intention now is to move to phase 2 of the consultation, in which they will consult on the idea of building a new, combined school on a different site. What we would want to see is much more careful consideration of some of these issues that we have raised and have put in writing during the first phase of the consultation, so that we can see that the issue is being addressed, rather than it being left to petitioners to try to prompt the local council regarding the need to think about these things.

[25] We note the response from the Minister, and he obviously thinks that the code is sufficient. However, our experience is that it is not really sufficient and that more needs to be available for local authorities, which have the ultimate responsibility. However, it needs to be able to show that they have considered these things, not simply at the end of a consultation process when we have explained it all to it.

[26] We also are very pleased to see that the Minister recognises that through-school education is very valuable. Although, maybe, it is not the place of the Welsh Government to actively promote it, given that a number of through schools are being built or exist in west Wales, we think that it is right that we promote the benefits of through schools and the fact that it makes a real difference to pupils moving into year 7. They do not have a dip in educational attainment.

[27] **William Powell:** The issues of transition do not exist in the same way, do they?

[28] We have the opportunity to represent the views that you have expressed today and, when we have a transcript of today's session, we will feed that back to the Minister. It would also be helpful for us if you could, together with colleagues, reflect on your response to the Minister. You have given an oral response today, but if you could give a considered view, taking into account the views of other campaigners and others involved in the petition, it would help things considerably.

[29] **Bethan Jenkins:** What has the Welsh Local Government Association said on this? Have you talked to the WLGA? Obviously, to play devil's advocate for a minute, the Welsh Government would say that, if it was to micromanage and be so prescriptive, where would it start and end on these things, because education budgets are given to local government to administer. So, have you spoken to the WLGA to see what is done in other parts of Wales, so that best practice can be shared?

[30] **Ms Docx:** No, we have not, but that is a useful suggestion; thank you.

[31] **William Powell:** That is something that we as a committee can also consider doing in the next phase, after 26 November. Russell, you have been very patient.

[32] **Russell George:** My question was very similar to the one that Bethan asked. Ultimately, these are decisions for the local authority and, once again, playing devil's advocate, what can happen or what some people argue is that too much guidance from Welsh Government can be restrictive for the local authority, particularly because the geography in different areas across Wales is so different. What are your views on that?

[33] **Ms Docx:** The difficulty is that there are certain directions, such as the need to remove surplus school places, and the letter states that the focus has to be on educational achievement. We would say that we have a school here that is achieving really excellent results and yet, because of the surplus school places issue at the other school involved in the merger, they are being overridden by the need to get the money and therefore address surplus places, and it has not been thought out with regard to the way in which this will work out here

and now for the pupils involved at both schools. When we took the wider petition out, we got 3,300 signatures.

[34] **William Powell:** Clearly, this is an issue of concern, not just in your own community, but potentially, as you said, across Wales.

[35] **Ms Docx:** Yes, it could be.

[36] **William Powell:** If there is a final message that you would like to leave us with today for us to take away and to inform our consideration of the evidence on 26 November, which is when we shall do that, we would be very grateful for you to share it with us now.

[37] **Ms Docx:** It is really about having a broader consideration than is in the guidance now. There is also the matter of the complexities of through schools, and the fact that we do not want to do away with through schools, because we see the advantages of them. It is a question of whether that is taken into account when closures and mergers are considered.

[38] **William Powell:** Do you have any view on the weight given to the views of diocesan authorities in the case of faith schools, and whether any additional guidance or support might be helpful there, because I realise that that is factor in your particular case?

[39] **Ms Docx:** We would not know the answer to that. With our case, we get the impression that the opinion of the two diocese is very important, and they are pushing for the concept of the faith school, which does not seem to have the same general enthusiasm from parents.

[40] **William Powell:** That is useful.

[41] Diolch yn fawr am ddod heddiw ac Thank you for coming today and for the
am y sesiwn y bore yma. session this morning.

[42] We are extremely grateful to you for having come here to Prestatyn High School to speak to us in person. We will take that forward, because of time constraints, at our next meeting on 26 November. We look forward very much to receiving your correspondence in the meantime, in terms of a fuller response to the letter that we received from Huw Lewis. Diolch yn fawr iawn.

Eitem 2.5

P-04-432 : Atal Recriwtio i'r Fyddin mewn Ysgolion

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i argymhell na ddylai'r lluoedd arfog fynd i ysgolion i recriwtio.

Prydain yw yr unig wlad yn yr Undeb Ewropeaidd sy'n caniatu presenoldeb milwrol yn ei ysgolion. Prydain yw yr unig wlad o 27 gwlad yr Undeb Ewropeaidd i recriwtio plant 16 oed i'r lluoedd arfog. Mae'r lluoedd arfog yn targedi ei recriwtio i ysgolion mewn ardaloedd fwyaf difreintiedig Cymru

Prif ddeisebydd: Cymdeithas y Cymod yng Nghymru

Ysytyriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 6 Tachwedd 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 374 Casglwyd deiseb gysylltiedig tua 700 o lofnodion

Trafod y Broses o Gasglu Tystiolaeth **Discussion of Evidence Gathering**

[1] **William Powell:** The petition under discussion is P-04-432, Stop the Army Recruiting in Schools. We have the opportunity to discuss evidence that was previously gathered from Cymdeithas y Cymod and its colleagues. We also had a really useful informal session this morning with a group of year 10 and year 11 pupils here at Prestatyn High School. It would be useful if any of those of you who were present or, indeed, those of you who were not present but would like to contribute, feel able to do so. Do we have a roving microphone? I see not. However, there is an opportunity for folk to step up if they would like to make a contribution. I will ask Bethan to kick off on this issue. There was a particularly strong response this morning to the issue, and it was really useful to hear from pupils in years 10 and 11 about their experience of the public service qualification that you are pursuing. It would also be useful to hear about the Kimmel camp and some of the experiences that you have had there, and some of the benefits that we heard about this morning.

[2] **Bethan Jenkins:** There are a few people here from this morning. It was good to have the debate, and it would be really good if we could talk to lots of different schools, but we do not have the time. I thank the pupils. It was interesting that some people thought that they had been influenced by the army coming in to schools, but others thought differently, and just said 'As long as I'm aware of what the army is saying, I'm able to make my own decision'. Some people thought that they were too young to make a career choice at 16, but others thought that they were able to, so we had varying opinion. It was interesting that, when the army comes into the school, it was more glossy, telling people how great it is, but when questioning the soldiers who were talking to them, they were able to ask more probing questions about conflict and how it would affect morale. What students would potentially benefit from is more of a balanced approach at the start, from when the army comes in, so that they know exactly what they are doing. We also found that pupils might want to talk to other professions within the public sector, such as firemen, policemen or other professions, so that they could understand what other job prospects they had, instead of just the army. I am not sure that they all enjoyed the gruelling sporting exercises.

[3] **William Powell:** No, I think that there was a touch of the boot camp about some of the things that they had to do.

[4] **Bethan Jenkins:** That is what they have to do. I have my own views on this, but what is most important is that the young people feel that they are not being told something that is not a reflection of reality. We need to look at that within the whole educational structure, so that if one profession is given precedent over another, how the school and the school management team would cope with that and how they would make sure that all students are given a balanced approach, because when we go in as politicians we cannot be party political in schools. So, you would expect the army to take a more pragmatic approach in saying, 'Yes, conflict happens and mental health problems happen when people go into the army.' Children do not want to be patronised and be told that it is all perfect when it is not. I think it was a really useful session to have.

[5] **William Powell:** It was very useful indeed. I think the message we heard was that there was a clear sort of aura of glamour around some of the people going in, dressed in their fatigues, talking about some of the travel opportunities that they had and the world that it had opened up. However, there was a sense that if there had been input from either the British Legion or Combat Stress or a more rounded picture given, it would have been more valid. Having said that, when there was a vote taken—I think there were about eight or nine people in the room this morning—we had just one expressing concern about the army coming in. Otherwise, it was pretty much unanimous that that focus group of young people that we were

speaking to this morning was strongly in favour of the army having the opportunity to come to set out its stall. However, as Bethan said, there was a feeling that it would be great to have a wider slice of people across public services and, indeed, as you pointed out or maybe you want to open up now, Russell, opportunities to meet people with an entrepreneurial background to look at other career paths and opportunities.

12:00

[6] **Russell George:** I want to thank the students who were in the meeting this morning. I was very grateful for your time as well. However, from my perspective, what I picked up is that all the students we met this morning wanted to take part in the exercise. They wanted to take part, but, for me, it was a bit of an eye-opener, in terms of where the other professions are. Why are they not coming into schools? To my mind, perhaps, I would be more persuaded to say that rather than it being a negative campaign highlighting that the army should not go to schools, there should be more of a positive look at this and at where the other professions are. Perhaps there is a role for us as a committee to contact the Minister on those grounds and ask him to state that there should be a balanced approach in getting all professions in to give their views, really.

[7] **Bethan Jenkins:** I think that is where the word ‘recruit’ comes in. I know that there has been a dispute around it, but if one profession gets more access to children it surely then will lead to them considering that prospect, because we were talking to the children about careers options and some people had not accessed the careers service in the school. So, if they are not, perhaps, yet thinking about alternatives, such as looking into the science professions or other things that might interest them, then there may be a skew in the statistics showing that more young people join the army, if that is the main option for them in the school structure. That would be the concern, because it is not something to take lightly. At the end of the day, it is a very serious profession in terms of the fact that you go into combat. It is not to be shunned. I think, as a committee, we need to look at all the implications of when these professions come into school and how that impacts on different children, because some young people have formulated opinions and they know what they want to do when they are older, while others do not have a clue and want to be guided and to have that advice. It is a really important time for them. It is something that we have to take really seriously, I think.

[8] **Russell George:** What came out of it was that nobody felt that they were being recruited, which is very much the wording of the petition, although I take the points that Bethan has raised now about what recruiting means if no other professions are coming in. I think it would be good, Chair, if we offered that invitation again to any students, young people or teachers here who want to give their views on this. We would very much welcome, would we not, Chair, their views?

[9] **William Powell:** Absolutely, I wonder whether you could help us at this point, as you facilitated the session this morning.

[10] **Mr Barons:** I am Alex Barons, an associate senior leader in the school. I completely agree with a lot of the points that you have raised about getting other groups in to promote their professions. The school has a lot of freedom in terms of how much it gets people in to do things. The army is very willing and keen to come in; therefore, there is a lot of opportunity to come in because it is willing to do so.

[11] **William Powell:** It also has a budget appropriate for that.

[12] **Mr Barons:** Absolutely, whereas getting other services in—especially other public services—can be trickier. If businesspeople have to give up their time, it costs them money and that can be difficult. In this school, particularly, we have good relationships with a lot of

local entrepreneurs who come in and provide entrepreneurial workshops for the pupils before they go out to work experience and things like that. Those are often very successful. So, they have some opportunities. However, it would be very helpful for people who work as careers advisers and those who co-ordinate ‘Careers and the world of work’ in schools to have guidance or framework from the Government to say which people should be coming into schools.

[13] **Russell George:** What other professions did you have in—for example, the police and so on?

[14] **Mr Barons:** All pupils have regular contact with our police liaison officer. She comes into the school regularly. It is the difference between someone coming in to recruit or coming in to give information. Even when the army is in doing its army day, it is not so much, ‘Here we are, come and join us’, but it is more that it provides information.

[15] **William Powell:** It is an informational, promotional role.

[16] **Mr Barons:** Mainly, we have local entrepreneurs and businesspeople coming in as part of the Dynamo project. Have you come across that?

[17] **Russell George:** I was a Dynamo role model in my previous life.

[18] **Mr Barons:** So, we have the Dynamo project, which brings people into our school to talk to pupils about life in business and how they have got to where they are. They are usually successful people talking about how they have achieved that success. It tries to build that entrepreneurial spirit among pupils. It can, otherwise, be tricky to get people to come in to promote their professions.

[19] **William Powell:** Do you sometimes have a careers-focused day, every year or second year, where you try to get a wide range of people from different walks of life in, or is there no space for that within the curriculum?

[20] **Mr Barons:** It is certainly not something that we do in this school at this time. Maybe it is something that we could look into. It can be difficult in terms of fitting everything in—in terms of time in the curriculum—to get a specific careers day in, but it is certainly something that we can look into.

[21] **William Powell:** It is certainly something that I saw working well in other schools when I was in the profession, so it is worth taking that on board.

[22] Excellent, we have another contributor. Could you introduce yourself?

[23] **Ms Major:** I am Daisy and I am a year 11 pupil. I have not taken the public services diploma so I have not done the army day, but before we went on work experience last year, we had a day when we had people from different career backgrounds coming in. As part of that, we had somebody from the ambulance service coming in. I think that it was in year 7 or 8 when we had a day with the Crucial Crew, when police officers and firemen came in and we spoke to them. So, we have had access to other communities, apart from the army.

[24] **William Powell:** That is good, because in the group that we met this morning, there were potentially two or three recruits to the police service, or people who would be keen to go that way.

[25] I ask those of you who have just joined us to take a seat and to introduce yourselves so that we can hear your views.

[26] **Mr Collings:** I am Sebastian Collings. I am a pupil at this school and I am on the school council.

[27] **Ms Hinson:** I am Holly Hinson and I am one of the head girls at the school. I am in the sixth form and I am on the school council.

[28] **Mr Collings:** While we are on the issue of stopping army recruitment in school—

[29] **William Powell:** That was the wording drawn from the petition.

[30] **Mr Collings:** Personally, I think that it is a good thing, because it would not be as strong as it is today if it did not recruit. It has to go somewhere to find people to go in the army. I agree with what you are saying in that it should not be forced upon students, but it should be providing a realistic view of what the army will be like. I have done it myself as I used to take part in the combined cadet force in Ruthin and we went to train with the territorial army and things like that. I think that they should do more realistic forms of army recruitment, giving people the choices in schools to go to experience it themselves, as I did. We camped with the proper TA, which opened my eyes to see that it was not for me, but if other people had the opportunity to do that, they could decide for themselves whether it would be for them, instead of just doing a day on the field that does not really show you what the army is really about.

[31] **William Powell:** I believe that the CCF can lead to away days and opportunities of field trips over two or three days, and can involve a meaningful range of activities.

[32] **Mr Collings:** Yes, there are promotions and real-life sorts of scenarios and so on, which are really helpful.

[33] **Ms Hinson:** I think that it is really good because not everyone learns in a classroom. I do not know what it is, but I now see people getting on the bus wearing army clothes.

[34] **Mr Barons:** It is the Kinmel camp.

[35] **William Powell:** Perhaps they are the Kinmel camp cadet contingent.

[36] **Ms Hinson:** Yes, they do that. They get GCSEs and qualifications out of it, which they would not normally get in school, so it is really quite helpful. Also, in our sixth form, we are taken on days. For example, I did a Pure Potential course. You had to sign up for if you thought that you could meet the target grade. That had different workplaces. People can go to the sixth form to get A-levels, but they still do not have to go to university. We realise that you can use them to start school-leaver programmes and so on. I want to study accounting at university, but people on the course told me that if I met their grade, I could leave school straight away and go with them and get the qualifications and stuff. So, it does help. School does take us on a lot of things. I do not think that the army should stop recruiting because it is really handy.

[37] **Mr Barons:** It is important to actually have a range. I think that having the army in can be quite helpful, but I think that the main point that seems to come out a lot in this discussion is that there has to be a realistic view; it cannot be glamorised. It has to be a kind of open and honest thing. I think that that is very true, but I think that that is also very true of all professions. Anyone who comes into a school tries to promote their profession. I tell them all how wonderful teaching is, and how it is the best career in the world and that they should do it. I love my job, but it is not going to be for everyone. We all have a tendency to glamorise what we do, and that will be difficult to rule out completely. However, there has to

be guidance on who should come in to promote their career choices in school.

[38] **Russell George:** To what extent are teachers present on the course, because they should do the check and balance? Were you a part of the careers lesson when the army came in, or were you on the course? There is no doubt that you must have a responsibility and feel that the young people must also have a balanced view.

[39] **Mr Barons:** Absolutely. I do not teach the public services course and I have not been on the army day to see this, but obviously I think that there is a responsibility on us as teachers to provide a balanced view. I agree with that.

[40] **Russell George:** So, you have to tease that out. So, if you feel that they are not being balanced, it is your duty to tease that out. Is that how you would feel that the teaching profession should police it?

[41] **Mr Barons:** When you are dealing with teenagers, you will know that they are quite savvy at teasing it out for themselves. That has to be said. They are quite good at it. Given that we are in an era of such mass media, people and teenagers can either see the glamorous side of the army or they can make a judgment for themselves from things that they can see on the internet or television about the not-so-glamorous side of the army.

[42] **William Powell:** On the news also.

[43] **Mr Barons:** Therefore, the pupils are very aware of the non-glamorous side of it. If they want to ask about it, if they have a concern over it, and if they are seriously considering a career in the army and are thinking, 'This is a concern', teenagers are savvy enough to ask.

[44] **Russell George:** The reason I ask is because I was a Dynamo role model, and I noticed that there would be differences between schools and teachers. If they felt that the young people were not taking a balanced view, or if they felt that I was not giving a balanced view, some teachers would help to tease that out of me. However, in some schools a teacher would sit at the back and not seek to be involved. I felt that that was wrong on their part, because they did not know who I was. They could have been there to do the checks and balances—

[45] **William Powell:** To kind of moderate the session, really, in a sense.

[46] **Mr Barons:** If it was me, as a teacher, I would be interrogating, trying to push you to kind of tease these things out. That is what we would call an effective model of how to do it in terms of careers. It would be effective of the teacher to push these points.

[47] **Russell George:** That is good to hear.

[48] **Bethan Jenkins:** I suppose that the issue on guidance is what I agree with because we know from research that we have done before that the army will go into certain areas of Wales, or certain schools. We know from freedom of information requests that we have done before that it would go into more deprived areas. Whether you think that is a political decision or not is something for another day, I suppose, but it is about cautious approaches. We want to make sure that people from all schools and children from all backgrounds get the same treatment and the same access to information as everyone else, and that the army is not ringing you up, saying, 'We want to come to your school', because it knows that there is a facility nearby that will make it easier to recruit people afterwards, potentially. That is my concern as a politician.

[49] **Mr Barons:** That is, I think, why it is really good that this petition has come before

this committee, because, hopefully, as a result of that, there may be some guidelines as to what schools should do in terms of the army, but maybe also other public services in terms of them coming in. That would be something that, as schools, we would appreciate.

[50] **Bethan Jenkins:** Did you want to say something on that?

[51] **Mr Collings:** I was just going to say that the army, as far as careers go, is the only one actually pushing it, actually going for it—the police, the ambulance and fire services do not seem to be pushing it to try to recruit people into their professions. However, the army seems to be doing it a lot more than—

[52] **William Powell:** That is going to be guided partly by its need for new recruits.

[53] **Mr Collings:** It is clearly doing it a lot more than any other profession out there, which is good in some respects, but I think that the other professions should be enlightening students like us as to what the roles are, because I do not know of half of them, and we should really know of them, should we not?

[54] **William Powell:** Daisy, do you have any reflections? You were kind enough to open the battle from the student point of view.

[55] **Ms Major:** I just think that we do have access to other things, like I said, with the ambulance service coming in for work experience day and crucial careers and stuff. However, I think that there is an aspect where the army is glorifying it and making it look like it is better than it is. If it brought along people who could explain the risks of entering the army and the things that could happen, that would make it more balanced.

[56] **William Powell:** It would be a truer picture, effectively. Maybe we should leave the last word to Holly, as one of the head girls here and part of the leadership team.

[57] **Ms Hinson:** I just do not think that they should stop, really, because the more that I go on trips and stuff and find out what more is going on, the more that I want to do stuff, so I think that it is a good thing that it is coming to school. It is good for most children. It is true that it does not show the bad side, because I remember doing Army Day on our back field and it was loads of fun—

12:15

[58] **Mr Collings:** There was a bouncy castle.

[59] **Ms Hinson:** There was a bouncy castle, was there not? It was like an assault course. We were all in teams, and we all won prizes and stuff. It was not like a real army.

[60] **William Powell:** Diolch yn fawr **William Powell:** Thank you very much. iawn. Diolch yn fawr iawn i Ysgol Uwchradd Thank you very much to Prestatyn High School. Prestatyn.

[61] Thank you to Prestatyn High School for all its hospitality this morning and for allowing us to come to invade the library. I saw a notice on the door saying that one or two activities had been postponed or relocated—

Eitem 3.1

P-04-514 Dylid adeiladu gorsaf bŵer sy'n defnyddio glo glân o Gymru a/neu gorsaf ynni adnewyddadwy yn hytrach na gorsaf niwclear arfaethedig Wylfa B ar Ynys Môn

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i gydweithio â Hitachi, sef perchennog newydd safle Wylfa B, er mwyn hyrwyddo'r defnydd o lo glân o Gymru neu o'n cyflenwadau helaeth o dechnolegau/adnoddau hyfyw yn lle adeiladu gorsaf niwclear beryglus.

Mewn adroddiad ar dechnoleg glo glân a ddeilliodd o Gyngres Ynni'r Byd XXI, a gynhaliwyd ym Montreal, Canada, yn 2010, dywedodd cwmni Hitachi ei fod yn datblygu portffolio llawn o dechnolegau glo glân, gyda'r nod o wella effeithlonrwydd ymhellach, lleihau allyriadau CO2 90 y cant, a lleihau allyriadau o lygryddion eraill i lefel sy'n agos at sero. Fel arweinydd byd-eang ym maes technoleg glo glân, pam nad yw Hitachi'n cydweithio â Llywodraeth Cymru i roi'r dechnoleg hon ar waith ar safle Wylfa B, yn hytrach nag adeiladu gorsaf niwclear sy'n hynaflyd ac yn wenwynig, ac sydd hefyd yn debyg i'r gorsafoedd a adeiladwyd yn rhannol gan Hitachi yn Fukushima?

Gwybodaeth ychwanegol:

Mae defnyddio gorsafoedd niwclear yn ddull peryglus ac aneconomaidd o gynhyrchu trydan. Oes fer sydd ganddynt, sy'n eu gwneud yn anymarferol, ac maent yn costio degau o filiynau o bunnoedd i drethdalwyr mewn costau datblygu, cymorthdaliadau a chostau datgomisiynu. Yn ogystal â bod yn agored i risg o ran ymosodiadau a thrychinebau naturiol, fel y gwelwyd yn Fukushima, mae ynni niwclear yn peri risgiau iechyd cydnabyddedig. Mae adroddiad pwysig gan Lywodraeth yr Almaen yn dangos bod cyfraddau uwch o ganser a lewcemia ymhlith plant yng nghyffiniau safleoedd niwclear. Gan nad oes yna ddull cydnabyddedig o gael gwared ar wastraff niwclear, bydd y gwastraff hwn yn llygru'r blaned am filoedd o flynyddoedd.

Gellid rhoi'r dulliau a ganlyn o gynhyrchu ynni, neu unrhyw gyfuniad ohonynt, ar waith ar Ynys Môn ac ar safleoedd eraill, yn hytrach na chynhyrchu ynni niwclear: glo glân o Gymru, nwy, hydrogen, ynni solar, ynni'r tonnau, ynni'r llanw, ynni'r dŵr, pŵer gwynt Maglev, ynni geothermol, llosgi sbwriel, treulio anerobig a biomas. Yn ôl maniffesto PAWB ar gyfer Ynys Môn, dim ond tua 600 o bobl sy'n gweithio yn Wylfa ar hyn o bryd, ond byddai'n bosibl creu hyd at 3,650 o swyddi newydd drwy ddatblygu prosiectau ynni adnewyddadwy lleol yn unig.

Prif ddeisebydd: Cymru Sofren

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 26 Tachwedd 2013

Nifer y llofnodion: 104

Eitem 3.2

P-04-515 Darparu rhagor o arian ar gyfer Gwasanaethau Bysiau Cymru

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i ddarparu rhagor o arian ar gyfer gwasanaethau bysiau, er mwyn iddi ymlynu wrth amcanion ei pholisi ei hun o leihau tlodi ac allgáu, a sicrhau nad yw pobl ar draws Cymru o dan unrhyw anfantais cymdeithasol nac economaidd oherwydd eu lleoliad.

Gwybodaeth ychwanegol: Nod y ddeiseb hon yw cynyddu'r arian a gaiff ei roi i ardaloedd anghysbell, a than anfantais yng Nghymru. Mae nifer o ardaloedd awdurdodau lleol wedi gorfod lleihau amllder y bysiau a'r dewis o lwybrau bysiau sydd ar gael ers i'r Grant Gwasanaethau Trafnidiaeth Rhanbarthol gael ei gyflwyno. Mae nifer o breswylwyr yn teimlo'n ynysig oherwydd hwn, yn arbennig ar benwythnosau ac ar ddyddiau gŵyl banc.

Prif ddeisebydd: Daniel Thomas

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 26 Tachwedd 2013

Nifer y llofnodion: 246

Eitem 3.3

P-04-516 I wneud gwyddor gwleidyddiaeth yn rhan orfodol o addysg

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i bwysu ar Lywodraeth Cymru i wneud gwyddor gwleidyddiaeth yn rhan orfodol o'r cwricwlwm ysgol.

Prif ddeisebydd: Mark Griffiths

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 26 Tachwedd 2013

Nifer y llofnodion: 12

Eitem 3.4

P-04-517 Atal Llywodraeth Cymru rhag cyflwyno system i fonitro plant sy'n dewis cael eu haddysgu gartref o dan wedd diogelu

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Mae adolygiadau achos gwirioneddol wedi dangos mai awdurdodau, nid dewis addysgu plant gartref, sydd wedi gwneud cam â phlant. Ymrwymodd y llywodraeth i gyflawni hawliau'r plentyn yn 2004, a nododd bryd hynny y bydd yn ymgynghori â phlant cyn newid pethau sy'n effeithio ar blant. Nid yw'r llywodraeth yn ymgynghori â'n plant, sydd eisoes wedi dangos mewn ymgynghoriad gwahanol y llynedd eu bod yn gwrthwynebu system fonitro. Rydym ni, felly, yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i atal cyflwyno system i fonitro plant sy'n dewis cael eu haddysgu gartref o dan wedd diogelu.

Prif ddeisebydd: New Foundations Home Education

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 26 Tachwedd 2013

Nifer y llofnodion: 864

P-04-518 Ciniawau ysgol am ddim yn gyffredinol

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym ni, y rhai sydd wedi llofnodi isod, yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i gyflwyno cynllun ciniawau poeth am ddim i bob plentyn mewn dosbarthiadau derbyn, blwyddyn1 a blwyddyn 2.

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol:

Mae nifer o astudiaethau wedi dangos fod bod â chwant bwyd yn effeithio ar y gallu i ganolbwyntio, a bod plant sy'n cael digon o faeth yn gwneud yn well yn yr ysgol. Byddai ymestyn y ddarpariaeth ciniawau ysgol am ddim hefyd yn helpu teuluoedd i dalu eu costau byw, oherwydd amcangyfrifwyd bod cinio ysgol cyffredin ar gyfer pob plentyn yn costio £437 y flwyddyn i rieni. Mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi cyhoeddi y bydd pob plentyn rhwng pump a saith mlwydd oed yn ysgolion y wladwriaeth yn Lloegr yn cael ciniawau ysgol am ddim. Rydym ni o'r farn y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru wneud yr un peth.

Prif ddeisebydd: Jane Dodds

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 26 Tachwedd 2013

Nifer y llofnodion: 14

Eitem 4.1

P-04-483 Polisi Cymraeg Clir / Plain English ar gyfer pob cyfathrebiad y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol a Llywodraeth Cymru

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i ddatblygu polisi Cymraeg Clir/Plain English ar gyfer ei holl gyfathrebiadau, a hefyd rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i ddatblygu polisi o'r fath fel bod yr iaith a ddefnyddir yn glir ac yn ddealladwy bob amser.

Mae siarad dwbl, iaith gyfreithiol ddiangen a defnyddio acronymau a jargon annealladwy, ar ffurf ysgrifenedig ac ar lafar yn Siambr y Senedd, yn atal gwleidyddiaeth yng Nghymru rhag bod mor gynhwysol a hygyrch ag y dylai fod. Byddai polisi iaith glir yn helpu i annog mwy o ddiddordeb a chyfranogiad mewn gwleidyddiaeth Cymru ymysg pawb. Dylai'r polisi hefyd fod yn gymwys i ddogfennau cyfreithiol/Biliau/Deddfau cyhyd â'u bod yn parhau i fod yn gyfreithiol gadarn. Fel enghraifft dda o gyfathrebiad dealladwy a chlr, gellid defnyddio templed Cymraeg Clir Canolfan Bedwyr fel templed Cymraeg cyfatebol i dempled Plain English, fel bod y defnydd o'r Gymraeg, p'un a gaiff ei defnyddio mewn adroddiadau gwreiddiol neu ddeunydd wedi'i gyfieithu, yn berthnasol, modern a dealladwy, ac nid yn gyfieithiad llythrennol, annealladwy a slafaid o'r geiriadur o'r fersiwn Saesneg. Mae dyletswydd ar y Cynulliad a Llywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau bod pob penderfyniad llywodraethu sy'n effeithio ar Gymru yn ddealladwy i bawb, pa bynnag iaith a ddefnyddir.

Prif ddeisebydd: Cymru Sofren

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 14 Mai 2013

Nifer y llofnodion : 11



13 Awst 2013

Annwyl William Powell AC,

Deiseb P-04-483 Polisi Cymraeg Clir / Plain English

Diolch yn fawr am eich llythyr dyddiedig 23 Gorffennaf 2013 ynghylch y ddeiseb uchod. Diolch hefyd am y copïau o ohebiaeth Llywodraeth Cymru a Chynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru mewn perthynas â'r un ddeiseb. Rydym yn falch iawn o weld holl fater yr angen i gyfathrebu â'r cyhoedd mewn Cymraeg clir a dealladwy yn destun trafodaeth gyhoeddus. Rydym yn falch hefyd o weld fod canllawiau arddull y Cynulliad yn rhoi anogaeth bendant i gyfieithwyr mewnol ac allanol sy'n cyfieithu ei ddogfennau cyhoeddus i gadw at arddull ac iaith glir. O ran ein profiad ni fel canolfan o ymwneud ag adrannau gwahanol y Cynulliad, rydym yn berffaith fodlon tystio i'r ymdrechion amlwg y mae'r swyddogion yn eu gwneud i gadw at y canllawiau hyn.

Mae eich llythyr yn gofyn yn benodol am ein barn ynghylch priodoldeb mabwysiadu polisi ffurfiol ar gyfer cyfathrebu mewn Cymraeg Clir / *Plain English*. Gan fod llythyrau Prif Weinidog Cymru a Phrif Weithredwr a Chlerc y Cynulliad yn amlygu'r ffaith fod yr egwyddor o gyfathrebu mewn iaith glir a naturiol eisoes wedi'i derbyn, efallai na fyddai unrhyw ddrwg mewn crynhoi hynny ar ffurf dogfen fer. O fabwysiadu polisi o'r fath, efallai y gellid hefyd

CANOLFAN BEDWYR
SAFLE'R NORMAL
PRIFYSGOL BANGOR
BANGOR, GWYNEDD,
LL57 2PX
FFÔN: (01248) 388054
FFACS: (01248) 383243

CANOLFAN BEDWYR
NORMAL SITE
BANGOR UNIVERSITY
BANGOR, GWYNEDD,
LL57 2PX
TEL: (01248) 388054
FAX: (01248) 383243

DR. LLION JONES
Cyfarwyddwr / Director

E-BOST/EMAIL:
llion.jones@bangor.ac.uk
www.bangor.ac.uk/canolfanbedwyr

Tudalen 48

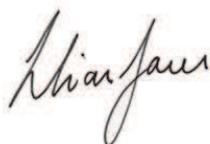
CANOLFAN BEDWYR

ystyried y cam o ddefnyddio marc Cymraeg Clir¹ a'r *Crystal Mark* yn y Saesneg er mwyn amlygu hynny mewn modd gweladwy ar ddogfennau cyhoeddus. Yn y cyswllt hwn, mae'n werth pwysleisio pwysigrwydd amcanu at eglurder yn y naill iaith a'r llall. Does dim yn hwyluso mwy ar waith cyfieithydd na thestun sydd wedi'i ysgrifennu'n glir a dealladwy yn y lle cyntaf.

Yn naturiol, yr her wrth symud o ganllawiau at bolisi ydy sicrhau fod gweithdrefnau digon cadarn yn eu lle ar gyfer cadw at yr egwyddorion sy'n cael eu mabwysiadu. Mewn sefydliad sy'n cynhyrchu cymaint o ddeunyddiau dwyieithog, gwyddom nad tasg hawdd yw sicrhau cysondeb arddull er gwaethaf pob anogaeth a chanllaw. Yn hynny o beth, un awgrym gwerth ei ystyried yw sefydlu trefn olygu fewnol (neu allanol) ar gyfer sicrhau fod pob un o ddogfennau cyhoeddus y Cynulliad yn glir a dealladwy.

Gobeithio y bydd y sylwadau hyn o gymorth i'r pwyllgor wrth geisio ymateb i gynnwys y ddeiseb. Os oes unrhyw gyfraniad pellach y gallwn ni ei wneud i'r drafodaeth ei hun, neu i unrhyw gamau yn deillio o'r drafodaeth, fe fyddem yn hapus iawn i geisio gwneud hynny.

Yn gywir,



Dr Llion Jones

Cyfarwyddwr Canolfan Bedwyr

(ar ran Uned Cymraeg Clir y ganolfan)

¹ Mae gwybodaeth am farc Cymraeg Clir i'w chael yma:

http://www.bangor.ac.uk/canolfanbedwyr/marc_cc.php.cy

CANOLFAN BEDWYR
SAFLE'R NORMAL
PRIFYSGOL BANGOR
BANGOR, GWYNEDD,
LL57 2PX
FFÔN: (01248) 388054
FFACS: (01248) 383243

CANOLFAN BEDWYR
NORMAL SITE
BANGOR UNIVERSITY
BANGOR, GWYNEDD,
LL57 2PX
TEL: (01248) 388054
FAX: (01248) 383243

DR. LLION JONES
Cyfarwyddwr / Director

E-BOST/EMAIL:
llion.jones@bangor.ac.uk
www.bangor.ac.uk/canolfanbedwyr

P-04-483 A plain English /Cymraeg clir policy for all Welsh Assembly and Government communications – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee, 01.09.2013

A response to William Powell and all at the petitions committee regarding petition P-04-483 ‘A plain English /Cymraeg clir policy for all Welsh Assembly and Government communications’

Many thanks for your active interest in this petition and subject. Here is an additional response which I hope you will find constructive:

I believe that having an official policy of fully implementing Cymraeg Clir/Plain English for all Welsh Government and Assembly communications would be hugely beneficial to politics in Wales. Although I have been in touch with both groups, I can't speak for them personally on this matter but agree that this would be a great place to focus attention. Their work has been crucial in helping to make sure language is clear and understandable where possible and necessary. I would hope that this is something they would be able to help to implement and manage, and believe that local authorities and public bodies should also consider implementing this policy.

Although I think it's fair to say that most AM's themselves do use clear, non elusive or overly jargonised language for the most part, (refreshingly less jargonised/elusive than many Westminster members) and no one should be told how they should or shouldn't speak, I believe the use of abbreviations and acronyms that's mostly only known to Senedd and Government members could be cut down or limited when speaking in public. This especially includes media appearances and, for example, the Senedd debates which are filmed and televised to Wales by S4C's 'Y dydd yn y Cynulliad'

Where possible I also believe it would be better for Welsh and English material to be written as separate original versions rather than what often seems to be the case that Welsh material is merely translated from English. I realise that this may not always be possible but I believe it would help strengthen a bilingual policy that isn't solely based on systematic literal translations and would ensure that information can be expressed in an original, idiosyncratic and uniquely expressive manner in both respective languages.

In my view it is often not only about the style/quality of language used but often as much about how language and information is used by public bodies, local authorities and Government to avoid answering questions in a simple direct way. From experience, simple questions or

enquiries are often answered in such a jargonised and bamboozlingly unclear way, and by numerous referrals to other sources, that it puts people off engaging and asking straightforward questions and therefore not being helped with their query and not being able to fully understand the process under which they are being governed.

Members of the committee made very good points at the 16th of July meeting about people's lack of general understanding of the political process as well, which also has relevance to the way it's communicated. A clear language policy could work hand in hand with a clear politics policy which would mean that the Welsh public could be more engaged in the political process as well. The complex process of initial consultations, open consultations and the forming of bills is something that most of the public have no knowledge of yet are able to play a vital part if they so wish. Perhaps there is a need for the Welsh Government to also publicise/advertise consultations more in traditional newspapers and online and invite more public interaction in open consultations as well as clearly explain what these are about, how they will affect our lives and what we can do contribute to them.

A well branded one stop information house for Wales, filled with knowledgeable, helpful and enthusiastic staff to help anyone with all matters relating to Wales, including current open consultations and all other governmental and civic matters could be developed, with a single memorable phone number help line (branded and marketed like the 118 118 campaign for example), a single email address and a simple informative website especially concentrating on current open public consultations perhaps. Anyone would be able to call or contact the centre for any information on the Government and Senedd, such as government policies, consultations (as mentioned), who their representative are and what they do, local authorities , the cost of a bus pass or the price of bread. All done under a clear/plain language policy.

I hope this is of some constructive interest and I thank you for taking the time to read and consider these important subjects,

Diolch yn fawr

P-04-483 A plain English /Cymraeg clir policy for all Welsh Assembly and Government communications – Correspondence from the Plain English Campaign to the Clerking team, 26.09.2013

Dear Kayleigh

Thank you for your email.

We think there is a real need for the Assembly to communicate in plain English and plain Welsh.

It will certainly help people understand what you have to say and they are far more likely to actually read your documents (rather than consigning them to the bin).

Whether you need a formal plain English and plain Welsh policy is a matter for the committee to debate.

We wholeheartedly agree with the use of plain language but are worried that a formal plain language policy would prove expensive to police and maintain.

Most organisations train their staff to write in plain language and get key documents accredited to show their support to the general public. This works out to be far cheaper than editing and checking every document.

It will also help if any campaign to use plain language has the total support of senior staff.

I hope this helps.

Yours sincerely

Chrissie Maher OBE
Founder Director
Plain English Campaign

Eitem 4.2

P-03-315 Deiseb i gael croesfan newydd dros Afon Dyfi

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym ni, sydd wedi llofnodi isod, yn cefnogi ac o blaid unrhyw gynnig i adeiladu croesfan newydd dros afon Dyfi (neu i ailgyfeirio ffordd yr A487) i gysylltu de Meirionnydd â Phowys, Dyfed a Cheredigion, a hynny er mwyn bodloni ac addasu i ofynion traffig modern, ac rydym yn annog y dylid rhoi blaenoriaeth i ariannu a rhoi cychwyn ar unrhyw gynnig o'r fath. Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i roi blaenoriaeth i'r prosiect.

Cynigwyd gan: Fforwm Pobl Hŷn De Meirionnydd

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor am y tro cyntaf: Mis Chwefror 2011

Nifer y llofnodion: 3,204

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-315
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/03110/13

William Powell AM
AM for Mid & West Wales
Chair Petitions committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

8 October 2013

Dear William,

I am writing to provide an update on the A487 Dyfi Bridge. Since taking on the transport portfolio, I have had the opportunity to review investment in transport in light of its contribution to my wider economic development priorities. I refer you to my written statement of 10 July:

<http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2013/transport/?lang=en>

A study to investigate ways of reducing the frequency of road closures from flooding has already commenced. As this is seen as a short term solution, I have also earmarked funding to investigate improvements to the Dyfi Bridge.

The investigation will consider in more detail four options identified from previous work and will enable me to determine the most appropriate solution to the current problems.

Eitem 4.3

P-04-319 Deiseb ynghylch Traffig yn y Drenewydd

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i:

1. Osod cylchfan ger y gyffordd â heol Ceri ac, os bydd llif y traffig yn gwella, osod cylchfan barhaol yno.
2. Cyhoeddi dyddiad cychwyn cynnar i adeiladu ffordd osgoi i'r Drenewydd ac i'r gwaith hwnnw fynd ar drywydd carlam hyd nes ei gwblhau.

Cyflwynwyd gan: Paul Pavia

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor am y tro cyntaf: Mis Mehefin 2011

Nifer y llofnodion: 10 (casglwyd tua 5,000 o lofnodion ar ddeiseb gysylltiedig).

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-319
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/03109/13

William Powell AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee

William.powell@wales.gov.uk

8 October 2013

Dear William,

With reference to your letter of 22 May and further to my response of 2 July, I would like to update you on progress being made to help address the pinch point in Newtown.

The review of options identified by the stakeholder group has been completed. My officials are now developing some of the measures proposed by the group. I have asked my officials to provide written quarterly progress reports to the stakeholder group rather than continue the series of meetings.

Eitem 4.4

P-04-393 Grwp Gweithredu Ffordd Osgoi Llanymynech a Phant

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i adfer y cynlluniau ar gyfer ffordd osgoi heibio i bentrefi Pant a Llanymynech, sydd ar y ffin rhwng Cymru a Lloegr. Bydd 15,000 o geir a lorïau yn gyrru trwy'r ddau bentref bob dydd, a bydd y nifer hwn yn siŵr o gynyddu unwaith y rhoddir caniatâd i'r ffermydd gwynt. Rydym yn galw ar y llywodraeth yn awr i fwrw ymlaen â'i chynlluniau, neu i ddechrau cynnal trafodaethau am y ffordd osgoi o leiaf, a chynnal dadl lawn yn ei chylch, gan wrando ar lais ein cymuned ynghylch ein hanghenion a sut y mae'r ffordd hon yn effeithio arnom ni ac ar ein bywydau. O wneud hyn, gobeithio y bydd y llywodraeth yn Lloegr yn cymryd sylw o'r drafodaeth ac yn bwrw ymlaen â chynlluniau ar eu hochr hwy i'r ffin. Ein dymuniad yw y bydd dadl lawn ac agored yn cael ei chynnal ar yr angen am ffordd osgoi i bentrefi Pant a Llanymynech, a fydd wedyn yn arwain at adeiladu'r ffordd osgoi pan fydd arian ar gael.

Rydym wedi cael llond bol ar y sŵn, y llygredd, a'r ffaith na allwn gerdded gyda'n plant i'r ysgol, cerdded i'r siopau, na mynd a'n cŵn am dro ar hyd y ffordd. Ni fydd gwelliannau fel lledu'r ffordd yn gweithio yma. Cynlluniwyd y ffordd i ddechrau fel ffordd un lôn ar gyfer ceffylau a cherti. Mae llawer o'r tai ar y ddwy ochr yn agos iawn at y ffordd, ac mae nifer o lonydd yn ymuno â'r A483, sydd hefyd yn gwneud y ffordd yn anaddas i'w gwella. Teimlwn mai adeiladu ffordd osgoi yw'r unig ateb, a throi'r ffordd o Lynclys (sy'n hynod o beryglus) o gylch pentrefi Pant a Llanymynech a'i chysylltu â'r ffordd osgoi newydd ger Llandysilio. Hon yw'r brif gefnffordd rhwng Manceinion ac Abertawe, ac nid yw'n addas i'w diben. Mae llawer o Aelodau Seneddol ac Aelodau'r Cynulliad o blaid ein hymgyrch ac rydym yn benderfynol o gyflawni ein hamcan, a gweld dadl lawn yn cael ei chynnal ar y mater hwn yn y Cynulliad.

Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb gan: Duncan Borthwick

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 29 Mai 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 84

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-393
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/03534/13

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

04 November 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your further letter of 23 October about improvements to the A483 between Pant and Llanymynech, and joint working with the Department for Transport.

My officials and agents already liaise with colleagues at the Highways Agency and its area teams about cross-border schemes and operations. This is how we became aware that there were no plans for any improvement schemes in the border areas at Llanymynech.

My officials are still investigating what can be achieved without significant investment from the Highways Agency. I will come back to you once this work reaches a conclusion.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Edwina Hart'.



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-393
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/03534/13

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
committeebusiness@wales.gsi.gov.uk

19 November 2013

Dear William

Further to my letter of 4 November I am now updating you regarding proposed improvements to the A438 between Pant and Llanymynech.

My officials have now completed their investigation of potential improvement options on the A483 through Llanymynech. It is accepted that a bypass of Pant and Llanymynech would provide benefits to the local community and trunk road traffic. However, the major section of any such scheme would lie in England. It would be difficult for the Welsh Government to progress proposals for a bypass of Llanymynech without negatively impacting the future of any potential joint scheme. Without implementing a bypass, opportunities to improve capacity along the existing route are limited.

My officials will continue to liaise with the Highways Agency regarding cross-border issues between Pant and Llanymynech to ensure a joined up approach. Traffic levels and congestion will be monitored over the next twelve months and any further potential opportunities for action identified.

P-04-446 : Rhyddhad Ardrethi Busnes i siopau elusen yng Nghymru

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Mae siopau elusen yn gwneud cyfraniad hollbwysig i godi arian ar gyfer ystod eang o achosion da yng Nghymru. Mae 100 y cant o'u helw yn mynd i elusen, gan godi dros £12 miliwn bob blwyddyn yng Nghymru.

Byddai cynlluniau i leihau cymorth cyfradd i siopau elusen yng Nghymru yn lleihau'r incwm hwn, a byddai'n achosi i siopau elusen i gau, gan adael mwy o siopau gwag ar strydoedd mawr Cymru ac yn bygwth 700 o swyddi llawn amser a 9,000 o gyfleoedd gwirfoddoli sy'n cael eu cynnig gan siopau elusen yng Nghymru. Byddai'n lleihau y gwasanaethau mae elusennau yn gallu eu darparu i gymunedau yng Nghymru yn arwyddocaol.

Rydym ni'n galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i wrthod cynlluniau allai gyfyngu y cymorth cyfradd hanfodol i siopau elusen Cymru.

Prif ddeisebydd: Charity Retail Association

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 15 Ionawr 2013

Nifer y llofnodion: +22,600



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-446
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/03108/13

William Powell AM
AM for Mid & West Wales
Chair
Petitions committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

09 October 2013

Dear William,

I am writing to update you on the Welsh Government response to the review of Business Rates Reliefs for Charities and Social Enterprises. This is further to previous correspondence from the Petitions Committee and my oral statement on 1 October 2013.

Following the Task and Finish Group's Report on Business Rates Reliefs for Charities and Social Enterprises, I consulted on its findings. I published the responses as well as a summary of these online and encouraged Members to see the views that had been expressed. In addition, I consulted with Cabinet Colleagues on the recommendations and obtained legal advice.

The response that I set out to Members is a measured and considered one.

The key recommendations from the Review that were of interest to the Committee, concerned the proposals to alter business rates relief for charities. These recommendations attracted the most interest and debate throughout the consultation. I have considered these in detail.

These recommendations would need primary legislation and I have written to the UK and Devolved Governments to ascertain their position and assess whether there is consensus in this area. As a result, I will be keeping all of these recommendations under review.

I will, however, be acting immediately on a number of the recommendations from the Review. One of the key issues for the Task and Finish Group was the

need for diversity in our town centres. As a result, I have launched the Open for Business Scheme. This scheme will offer 50% business rates relief to occupiers who take on a property that has been empty for a year or more and will run for an initial 18-month period.

I was very pleased to see broad support across most responses to the consultation for the recommendation to more effectively monitor the selling of new goods in charity shops. I have been discussing with the Minister for Local Government how to best ensure that this is being enforced. We will be taking action to make sure that this is properly and consistently acted upon.

I have also written to the Minister for Housing and Regeneration and asked him to ensure that the concept of a separate planning use class is kept in mind for future consideration. In addition, the joint fund that we announced to provide start-up funding for Business Improvement Districts in Wales will actively encourage charities to participate in these.

I will ensure that the Petitions Committee are kept informed of any important updates against the recommendations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Jones', written in a cursive style.

P-04-446 Business Rate Relief for Welsh Charity Shops – Correspondence from the petitioner to the clerking team, 08.11.2013

8th November 2013

Dear Ms Giddins,

I am writing to submit comments prior to the Petition Committee's consideration of our petition on Business Rate Relief for Welsh Charity Shops (P-04-446) on 26th November 2013.

The Minister for Economy, Science & Transport has now given the Government's response to the Task & Finish Group's report into Business Rate Relief for Charities, Social Enterprises & Credit Unions.

The Charity Retail Association welcomes the fact that no immediate changes will be made to charity shop rate relief.

We remain concerned about the uncertain position for charities in Wales with regard to their fundraising, which is already having an impact on the investment strategy of our members. It was widely reported in September that the Welsh cancer charity Tenovus had abandoned its plans to open several new shops over the next two years. This will undoubtedly have an impact on the charity's income; and when the vacancy rate in Welsh town centres is estimated to be 18 per cent, it is unfortunate that retailers may be disincentivised from taking up empty units.

Over 22,600 members of the public in Wales signed our petition, in just a few short weeks, to request that the Welsh Government did not place restrictions on charity shop rate relief. This is one of the largest petitions the Welsh Assembly has ever received, and indicates that the Welsh Government would not have the support of the general public should it continue to pursue the proposals in the report.

We have consistently argued that no evidence has been presented to support the Task & Finish Group's recommendations. In addition, the majority of consultation responses did not support the recommendations on restricting charity shop rate relief. If charity shops were a real source of concern for other retailers we also believe it would be reasonable to expect more responses from commercial high street traders.

The Charity Retail Association is happy to support its members to be more involved in Business Improvement Districts and we have written to the Minister offering our assistance. In addition, we have offered support in monitoring the sales of new goods in charity shops, though it should be noted that the Task & Finish Group's report recognised that the percentage of income from new goods sales in charity shops is only 4.4 per cent.

We now hope that the Welsh Government will provide charities with the certainty to continue to invest in the Welsh high street and support their fundraising efforts, which make a vital contribution to services in Welsh communities. We reiterate our willingness to meet with the Minister in order to discuss this and outline the evidence base for our position.

I would like to thank the Committee for considering our petition.

Yours sincerely,

Warren Alexander
Chief Executive

Eitem 4.6

P-04-468 Pryderon am Ddiogelwch Ffordd A48 Cas-gwent

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i ostwng y terfyn cyflymder ar Bont yr A48 yng Nghas-gwent o 50mya i 30mya.

Prif ddeisebydd: Cyngor Tref Cas-gwent

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 19 Mawrth 2013

Nifer y llofnodion : Casglodd deiseb gysylltiedig 1,000 o lofnodion

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-402
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/03535/13

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions committee

stephen.george@wales.gov.uk

1 November 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 23 October about road safety concerns A48, Chepstow.

The 50mph speed limit on the bridge was implemented in 2011, in conjunction with Gloucestershire County Council. As the highway authority for the eastern half of the bridge, the Council made the permanent order for their network. Gloucestershire and Gwent Police were consulted as part of the review process and confirmed that the existing 50mph speed limit should remain.

I have asked my officials to investigate measures that could help highlight the use of the bridge by school children and assist pedestrians. This will include pedestrian guard railing and traffic signs. The feasibility study will be carried out in the next financial year (2014 -15) and I will update you with the findings once I have had an opportunity to consider them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edwina Hart', written over a faint, light-colored background.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff

Tudalen 66

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

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence.edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled paper

Eitem 4.7

P-04-475 Yn eisiau - Bysiau i Feirionnydd

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i:

- Adolygu'r arian a ddarperir ar gyfer gwasanaethau bysiau gwledig i sicrhau bod gwasanaethau digonol ar gael ar gyfer Gwynedd yn ei chyfanwydd, ond yn benodol ar gyfer de Meirionnydd.
- Ystyried rhoi sicrwydd bod arian ar gael i ddarparu ar gyfer gwasanaethau ychwanegol, er mwyn ei gwneud yn haws i gyrraedd gwasanaethau iechyd, addysg a chyflogaeth, ac i gefnogi economi a thwristiaeth yn yr ardal.

Prif ddeisebydd: Barbara Snowball

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 30 Ebrill 2013

Nifer y llofnodion : 174

Children's Commissioner for Wales' submission to the Enterprise and Business Committee Inquiry into Integrated Public Transport.

The Children's Commissioner for Wales is an independent children's rights institution established in 2001. The Commissioner's principal aim is to safeguard and promote the rights and welfare of children.¹In exercising his functions, the Commissioner must have regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).²The Commissioner's remit covers all areas of the devolved powers of the National Assembly for Wales insofar as they affect children's rights and welfare. They may also make representations to the National Assembly for Wales about any matter affecting the rights and welfare of children in Wales.³

The UNCRC is an international human rights treaty that applies to all children and young people aged 18 and under. It is the most widely ratified international human rights instrument and it gives children and young people a wide range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights which State Parties to the Convention are expected to implement. In 2004, the Welsh Assembly Government adopted the UNCRC as the basis of all its policy making for children, and in 2011 Welsh Government passed the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure.

Methodology

As Children's Commissioner for Wales I am aware that transport is an important issues for children and young people. Evidence from numerous consultations and projects on the issue of transport has already been captured by youth networks and by organisations working with children and young people. This submission seeks to consolidate this existing evidence to help inform Committee Members .

I have also directed a piece of work to gather the current views and experiences of young people in relation to the impact of transport on their ability to realise rights and entitlements across areas of their lives. Officers engaged with young people at a North Wales Pride Event in Bangor, where young people were attending a festival celebrating the LGBT community. Officers also visited Flintshire Youth Forum and met with 'Save the Family' a charity that supports young mothers.

¹ Section 72A Care Standards Act 2000

² Regulation 22 Children's Commissioner for Wales Regulations 2001

³ Section 75A (1) Care Standards Act 2000

My submission considers many of the issues noted in the Committee's terms of reference as well as those contained within the on-line questionnaire.

I have included in my response specific examples of good practice, comments regarding integration and suggestions on innovative approaches in the delivery of public transport.

Introduction

I would urge the Committee to consider the provision of public transport from a rights based perspective. From a general public perspective, ascertaining how transport can assist in enabling realisation of the international covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and, particularly in relation to those under the age of 18, from the perspective of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

My submission will focus on the rights of children and young people in Wales and the ways in which public transport can empower children and young people, consider transport as an enabler in realising rights and suggest that, if effectively configured and implemented, it can transform the lives of the most vulnerable in Wales. Conversely, an ineffective transport system can operate as a significant barrier to children, young people and their families in relation to securing goods, services and in realising their rights. Young people are particularly exercised by transport issues as weaknesses in the system are likely to disproportionately impact upon young people negatively as they are less likely or even unable to access private transport.

I suggest that the Committee should seek to ascertain not only the degree to which public transport is integrated, but also to scrutinise how transport can support the delivery of integrated public services as a key driver in the realisation of Welsh Government's public policy aspirations.

Decisions regarding policy and funding allocations should be fully assessed both under the public sector equality duty in Wales via equality impact assessments and also in compliance with the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011.

From May 2012 to the end of April 2014, Welsh Ministers must have 'due regard' to UNCRC part 1 and the optional protocols when making any decision which falls within subsection 1(3) of the Measure.

A decision within subsection 1(3) is a decision about any of the following:

- provision proposed to be included in an enactment;
- formulation of a new policy;
- a review of or change to an existing policy.

I would therefore assume that policy decisions and major funding decisions would fall within the scope of the Measure.

During the summer of 2009, the National Assembly for Wales' Children and Young People Committee balloted 2700 children and young people about issues of concern to them. Transport was in the top 10 issues listed and received 7.1% of the vote.

The UK Government has already offered a response through *Transport Guidance: Supporting Access to Positive Activities (2007)*.⁴ This was a result of a commitment made by the UK Government' to 'work with the Department for Transport to improve guidance, support and challenge to children's trusts and transport planners to encourage joined up planning and commissioning of local transport'.⁵

While the guidance does not necessarily offer the solutions that can be transferred directly to the Welsh context, the messages conveyed by children and young people regarding transport are consistent across the UK, I believe a coherent response to the barriers facing children and young people in Wales in accessing goods and services for the good of social cohesion and mobility is urgently needed.

Welsh Government's own National Transport Strategy states: '*Our country's system has a vital role to play in ensuring the prosperity and cohesion of 21st century Wales. It is not an end in itself but is vital to achieve many of our objectives for employment, society, health and the environment*'.⁶ We must ensure that clear measures are in place to ensure that our national transport system meets the needs of everyone, including children and young people.

The wider policy context: Integrated public transport and the UNCRC

Flying start in life

Transport has a key role to play in enabling parents to access quality childcare and participate in initiatives aimed at improving skills, either in relation to parenting or improving employment opportunities. This is a vital component of Welsh Government ambitions to tackle child poverty.

A key action within the parenting element of the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services in Wales is: '*Finding creative solutions for*

⁴ https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-Transport_Guidance.pdf

⁵ <https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/PU214>

⁶ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/publications/ntp/?lang=en>

*barriers to participation, which may include transport, timing and availability of childcare;*⁷

Research has found that parents of children with special educational need (SEN) are particularly likely to report difficulties in arranging transport to and from childcare settings.⁸ A pilot programme to increase access to childcare for families with disabled children found that access to flexible and affordable transport is a key element in securing access, in particular where families live in rural areas.⁹ An evaluation of major Scottish Big Lottery programme to increase opportunities for quality childcare also found that transport to and from venues, and a lack of flexible transport routes or provision by local authorities acted as a major barrier for some projects.¹⁰

Within Wales findings from the *Evaluation of the Flying Start programme: baseline survey of families – mapping needs and measuring early influence among families with babies aged seven to twenty months*¹¹ identified commonly cited issues by parents who would like more support. A factor mentioned within this work was transport problems.

Access to education, training and learning opportunities

Young people not in education, employment and training face additional and significant barriers if there are access issues in relation to transport, particularly in rural areas. It is crucial that education services consider transport considerations when developing their provision.

The Wales Transport Strategy, Connecting the Nation ‘...seeks to improve access to education and training with good transport opportunities’.¹² The strategy also states as an objective:

‘People of all ages are able to access education and training to increase their skills base, thereby contributing to reduced economic inactivity and social exclusion and helping raise opportunities in the labour market, particularly for the most disadvantaged groups.

*Indicator: Access to key education, training and lifelong learning services. Measured by accessibility mapping for public and private access to further education premises’.*¹³

⁸ K.Stanley et al (2006) Equal Access? Appropriate and affordable childcare for every child , Institute for Public Policy Research

⁹ Department for Education, (2009) Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH) pilot activity - Information for local authorities, Research Report DFE-RR168

¹⁰ Big Lottery Fund Research Issue 55, (2009) *New opportunities for quality childcare: evaluation summary*

¹¹ <http://wales.gov.uk/about/aboutresearch/social/latestresearch/EvalFlyStart7-20/?lang=en>

¹² <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/publications/transportstrategy/?lang=en>

¹³ *ibid*

The Children and Young People Committee Inquiry into Implementation of the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009¹⁴ raised concerns about the cost of travel and transport to local authorities, schools, and for individual learners, particularly in rural areas. Access to good public transport has particular relevance for learners who are over the compulsory age of education.

The Minister for Local Government and Communities committed to review the situation during 2012-13, reporting back by the end of March 2013. The Minister stated that *'the review will also need to consider the opportunities for greater collaboration between local authorities and other partners'*¹⁵ and I would hope that transport providers will be one of those key partners to ensure that access to education is affordable to all learners and those between 16-18 years of age in particular.

Clust i'r Ifanc, Gwynedd's Children and Young People's forum referred in their annual report 2010-11 to the evidence provided by a Aberdaron Communities First Report which stated that the cost of transport to college or sixth form will stop people from participating in further education. The report states that 'Clust i'r Ifanc' were seeking ways to ensure consistency for all 16-18 year olds to pay half fare on buses and were in discussions with Gwynedd's Integrated Transport Department. This work may be of interest to Committee members.

Enjoy the best possible physical, mental, social and emotional health

The consequences of lack of public transport to health settings can have serious repercussions for children and young people.

The Wales Transport Strategy¹⁶ has a stated outcome in relation to improving access to healthcare with an indicator of *'Access to key health services and facilities'* and that this be measured through accessibility mapping.

Inequalities of power and wealth and wellbeing are at the root of poverty and social exclusion. The most important factors lie in the wider domains of the environment, housing, education, employment and crucially transport. This understanding offers opportunities for governments to improve health and reduce inequalities by investing in sectors other than health and social care.¹⁷

¹⁴ <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-business-fourth-assembly-laid-docs/cr-ld8895%20e.pdf?langoption=3&ttl=CR-LD8895%20>

[Report%20by%20the%20Children%20and%20Young%20People%20Committee%3A%20Inquiry%20into%20Implementation%20of%20the%20Learning%20and%20Skills%20%28Wales%29%20Measure%202009](http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-business-fourth-assembly-laid-docs/cr-ld8895%20e.pdf?langoption=3&ttl=CR-LD8895%20)

¹⁵ <http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/documents/s9828/%20%20%20Response%20from%20the%20Minister%20for%20Education%20and%20Skills%20on%20the%20Implementation%20of%20the%20Learning%20and.pdf>

¹⁶ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/publications/transportstrategy/?lang=en>

¹⁷ <http://www.childrensrightswales.org.uk/UserFiles/resources/1706-CPHIGChildpovertyadvocacydocument%5B1%5D.pdf>

The group of young mothers who attended the focus group facilitated by my office in Mold were aware of young people who face difficulties in getting to some healthcare settings to keep appointments. The group themselves felt lucky that they were able to depend on a support network of people who did own private transport to get their children to health appointments but recognised the difficulties for those who did not have access to such support.

Access to health services is a vital element of public service in ensuring children develop, are healthy, enjoy good wellbeing and have their needs met. The health service may not be in a position to offer support in a way that addresses the lack of accessible and affordable transport and the impact this has on the ability of parents to get their children to health services

The National Service Framework (NSF) for Children and Young People and maternity services states as an objective, under 'Improving equity of access states:

'Families who have children in hospital, or who have to attend out-patient appointments, are provided with information about eligibility and arrangements for claiming travelling subsistence'; (Standard 7.11)

and standard 3.7 refers to:

'Information and support is given to parents and families on how to access funds for travel to and from specialist centres'¹⁸

The obligation to make people aware of eligibility should rest with various agencies to ensure that families are aware of this source of support. The requirement to claim in arrears can be particularly difficult for families in financial hardship who do not have the funds to meet up front costs and then to claim a reimbursement. Furthermore, unless there are appropriate travel options available to families this commitment may be rendered redundant.

Most severely affected are those with a chronic illness or disability which requires frequent in-patient admissions and/or visits to outpatient and other departments¹⁹. Transport impacts both in terms of affordability of public transport as well the frequency of services (if at all) to health settings.

The Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital (AWCH) note that there is limited statutory assistance and the cost of visiting children in hospital has escalated enormously, given the extremely high costs of transport and the longer journeys

¹⁸ ibid

¹⁹ <http://www.awchwales.org.uk/nsltrFeb2012.pdf>

necessitated by the policy of transferring children to centres of excellence which may be hundreds of miles away²⁰. This puts undue additional stress upon families that are already dealing with extremely challenging circumstances.

AWCH also refer to the fact that a child's Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is stopped after 84 days in hospital and subsequently the parents' Carer's Allowance is suspended, despite the extra costs to a family when their child is in hospital²¹.

Research²² also suggests that young people in rural areas face additional difficulties in accessing health services, for instance sexual health, drug and alcohol services so access to public transport can be invaluable in enabling young people to be healthy and safe.

Have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural opportunities

The National Assembly for Wales' (NAfW) Children and Young People's Committee (CYP) report on their inquiry into the *Provision of Safe Places to Play and Hang Out* is a rich and relatively recent source of information available to the Committee.

During the inquiry, the Deputy Minister for Children stated:

*"There is a structural problem in how Wales organises its public transport system. My personal view is that while we continue with the current regulatory setup, particularly in relation to buses, we will never be able to do anything other than ameliorate this problem"*²³

The Deputy Minister then went on to say that meanwhile, short term improvements may be possible, for instance through the provision of community transport, in order to address the needs of children and young people.

It was clear during the Children and Young People's Committee deliberations that some pupils are missing out on extra curricula activities because school transportation is not available at the activity end time.²⁴

These issues are not being resolved as evidenced by the statements made by the young people my officers met as part of the exercise undertaken to inform this response.

'To come to activities I have to rely on getting picked up.'

²⁰ ibid

²¹ ibid

²² <http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/areasofwork/childpoverty/endchildpovertyetwork/index.html>

²³ <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-third-assembly/bus-guide-docs-ub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid/cr-ld8301.pdf?langoption=3&ttl=CR-LD8301%20Children%20and%20Young%20People%20Committee%3A%20Provision%20of%20Safe%20Places%20to%20Play%20and%20Hang%20Out>

²⁴ ibid

'Living here - it's hard to get to places unless you drive'

[Quotes from the young people's session in Mold]

'It's not fair how it depends on where you live – if you can get to places or not'

'I use the bus to get to college; it's busy but ok. But on weekends, I miss out on some things because of when the buses run'.

[Young people at the north Wales Mardi Gras]

Post-graduate research undertaken in Wales and published on the Sport Wales website illustrates the importance of travel to enable participation. It also specifically refers to particular challenges for more rural areas and those from disadvantaged communities.

Both the availability and affordability of transport are clear issues outlined below:

'The rural locality of the school partly explains why some pupils attended at lunch-time and found more difficulty after school...The additional challenges such as transport faced at Meadow Bank were similar to findings in rural areas in Norway, Scotland and Sweden (Hendry et al., 2002) and also included the length of time to travel to the nearest town/sports club and a lack of things to do.'

'The whole philosophy behind E3 is to remove barriers to participation. Some of the biggest barriers for our students are cost of activities and transport...We provide those at the end of our school day from 2.45- 7.45pm with free transport, a healthy meal option available, and no charge for the activities'²⁵

The CYP Committee recommended that:

'Welsh Government issues guidance to local governments to ensure that pupils are not excluded from extra curricular activities because of difficulties in securing transportation home at the end of the activity'.²⁶

The Llais Ni Youth Forum on Ynys Mon²⁷ undertook research regarding after school clubs with a substantial number of years 7, 8 and 9 pupils stating that getting home from their after school clubs in Holyhead would be a problem for them.

²⁵ <http://www.sportwales.org.uk/media/937078/five60thesis201103.pdf>

²⁶ <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-third-assembly/bus-guide-docs-ub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid/cr-ld8301.pdf?langoption=3&ttl=CR-LD8301%20Children%20and%20Young%20People%20Committee%3A%20Provision%20of%20Safe%20Places%20to%20Play%20and%20Hang>

²⁷ http://www.gwyneddni.org.uk/gwyneddni/1116/gn_11_16_dogfen.asp?cat=6325&doc=25963&p=1&c=0&Language=1

Unless parents have access to private transport, the ability of children and young people to access after school activities is severely hindered. This is especially true of rural Wales as noted in the End Child Poverty Network (ECPN) report '*Child Poverty and Social Exclusion in Rural Wales*'²⁸.

ECPN note that one solution would be to extend the hours on school passes, although this would be dependent on the availability of transport during those hours.

Policy makers and those responsible for designing services clearly need to consider these issues so that there is equity of access to important initiatives which can play an important part in the health and wellbeing of children and young people. There are numerous options in relation to affordable and flexible transport such as Demand Responsive Transport and Community Transport schemes available to policy makers. Additionally, there may be opportunities to engage directly with transport providers. One such example was brought to the attention of the CYP Committee:

*'The Committee was pleased to hear that Ysgol Ardudwy in Harlech had taken a proactive role in ensuring its pupils were able to access public transport at suitable times to allow them to travel to and from school by train. Having discussed the problems faced by pupils with Arriva Trains Wales, the school made adjustments to the timing of the school day and Arriva Trains Wales made adjustments to its timetable. These changes, among others, meant that trains were available both before and after school, and after extra curricular activities. Children are now able to access various school-run activities out of hours.'*²⁹

School Holidays and meeting friends

Public transport also plays an important role in the lives of children and young people as a means of tackling social exclusion and isolation and in offering pro-social opportunities.

Very often the cost of public transport is prohibitive and the lack frequency or complexity of routes make it difficult for children and young people to maintain social links which is a well accepted component for maintaining good mental health.

A welcomed initiative from Welsh Government was the delivery of free swimming to all school aged children and young people. This positive policy intervention is undermined and hindered by lack of public transport options for many young people.

²⁸<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/areasofwork/childpoverty/endchildpovertynetwork/index.html>

²⁹ *ibid*

Treated with respect and to have their race and cultural identity recognised

Children and young people's participation in the planning and delivery of services has developed substantially in Wales over recent years. This has culminated in a commitment within the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 to ensure that the participation agenda was embedded in law.

In evaluating current provision and in examining options regarding planning and transport, Welsh Government and all stakeholders should engage with children and young people to ensure that the views of children and young people are given appropriate consideration.

I am aware that the Public Transport Users Committee (PTUC) for Wales undertook a consultative exercise with children and young people in early 2011 and they are to be commended for that.

The Committee concluded:

- 1. It was agreed that further surveys were not the best way of engaging with young people as the results to this questionnaire did not cover every local authority area and were difficult to analyse even at a regional level due to the number of responses received. The Committee agreed that in future they would engage with young people through sub-committees. This would provide an opportunity to hear more directly from young people their views on the issues the Committee are considering.*
- 2. This type of engagement will allow Committee members to gain a substantive knowledge of the issues and opinion of young people throughout Wales today³⁰.*

It is clear that the Committee felt that there were lessons to be learnt in ensuring the voice of children and young people are heard within transport discussions and I look forward to further development in this field.

I understand that there are members of the PTUC who have a keen interest in relation to young people's issues and are advocates for their needs, however, it may well be worth the Committee considering having a young person's representative. The same could apply to Regional Transport Plan Committees / Boards who should identify ways of engaging actively with local children and young people's participation fora.

The PTUC may even wish to consider affording observer status to those who represent particular interests, for instance the Older People's Commissioner, the EHRC and the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

³⁰ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/public/ptuc/reports/?lang=en>

Work undertaken in Gwynedd offers an example of good practice within a local authority via the 'Yellow Card' project. 'Clebran' who are a group for disabled young people in Gwynedd have identified some of the difficulties it's members have encountered when using public transport.

Gwynedd County Councils' Integrated Transport Unit in collaboration with Clebran, a group ran by Barnado's have created an identity card which is available by request for disabled people within the local authority.

The card will hold contact details and information on what help they require e.g. 'I need more time to get on and off the bus' 'Please speak clearly and let me know when my stop is'. Bus drivers are being made aware of the card, and an initial pilot has been really valued by young people, one young person saying *'it does help, and has helped make it feel safe'* resulting in young people feeling empowered and making it more accessible to use public transport independently. On the 10th of November 2012 the card is being launched by the Integrated Transport Unit, and a group of disabled young people are travelling from Caernarfon to Porthmadog using the yellow card.

This is an excellent piece of participatory practice with service users having a voice resulting in practical policy solutions. Young disabled people in Gwynedd have expressed how empowering this small step has been in enabling the young people to live fuller lives. I would urge that this project be promoted and that it is made as accessible as possible to those in Gwynedd who require additional support.

There have been numerous projects over many years which have enabled young people to voice concerns about transport provision and the messages have been consistent. It is disappointing that in engaging on these issues once more, the same issues persist.

Specific Issues raised by the young people:

Lack of integration:

'Bus stations and train stations should be closer together.'

'We should have tickets to destination that can be used on both buses and trains - Oyster Card Style system.'

'Buses and trains never synced and you have to wait a long time'

'Suppose to be able to use train ticket on bus – but bus drivers don't know about it – Better training/ partnership work is needed'

'When you have different companies on the same routes, it's confusing and tickets are not valid – this is unclear'.

Transport experience:

Young people have consistently referred to having negative experiences with bus drivers and the fact that they are not treated with respect.

Young people told us:

'They (drivers) need to believe our age when we tell them how old we are'

'Drivers short of change. Tell you to wait till you get off and will let you get off without your change.'

'Bus drivers are rude to everyone'

'Bus drivers driving while on phone and even smoking out the window'

'Bus drivers need better attitudes. I've complained numerous times about being spoken to like rubbish and nothing has changed. Is it part of their job not to be friendly to the public?'

This chimes with the recommendation made by the PTUC in their report on provision of information where they stated the need for:

'Consistent customer care training including a demonstrable understanding of equality and diversity, and practical guidance on disability awareness should be included in this training requirement'³¹

Other issues:

'Taxis won't come to travellers site because of the bad reputation.'

'Don't feel safe on buses and trains'.

'timetables change and we don't know about it'

'timetables are confusing'

It is worth reiterating that these messages are consistent with numerous previous opinion gathering exercises, including those undertaken by the PTUC.

³¹ <http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/report/120531provisionptien.pdf>

Provision of information appears to be an issue of concern and I note the PTUC report on provision of public transport information from April 2012³² and recommendations into this particular issue. I would support those recommendations but also urge specific engagement with young people in addressing these concerns.

Not disadvantaged by poverty

Young people told us:

'You aren't adult at 16 so why should we pay for an adult fare!'

'The prices are ridiculous'

'Stopping return tickets is bad idea! People can't afford to pay day ticket prices for short journeys i.e. getting children to school and back.'

Subsidised bus and train fares for children and young people would, in my opinion, have the potential to transform access to goods and services.

Within the National Tackling Poverty Action Plan, a critical statement of intent made by the Welsh Government was that they would develop a screening tool that will enable Government to *'assess the socio – economic impact of transport policy and investment options and to make policy and investment choices that will contribute to tackling poverty.'*³³

The briefing 'Access Denied'³⁴ calls for smarter targeting of public transport subsidies. Young people often ask me why it is that there is free bus travel on registered local bus services for those aged over 60 but not for young people. I am clear as to the rationale and benefits for older people but would be interested to seek Welsh Government's position on why this should not also apply to young people. I would not wish to pitch different generations against each other, but would appreciate being in a position to communicate to young people why they do not benefit similarly.

The report by the NAFW's Children and Young People's Committee stated:

'Young people from Funky Dragon told the Committee that from the age of 15, young people are charged adult fares on public transport. This makes accessing the limited

³² <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/public/ptuc/reports/provisionpti?!lang=en>

³³ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/socialjustice/publications/tacklepovactionplan?!lang=en>

³⁴ <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/resources/in-the-news/access-denied-transport-poverty-in-wales>

*public transport even more problematic to those young people who can't afford full fares*³⁵

The Committee report recommended,
*'...that the Welsh Government prioritises the provision of concessionary fares on public transport for 16 – 18 year olds to enable them to access leisure and recreational facilities as well as educational and training opportunities in their wider locality.'*³⁶

The inquiry also heard that:

*'...The WLGA recognises the importance of transport enabling children and young people to access play provision and would welcome a re-examination of the idea of concessionary fares for young people.'*³⁷

Young people's poverty is a very real issue, especially when considering the fact that benefit eligibility and levels are low for 16 and 17 year olds and also that the minimum wage for those under the age of 18 is significantly lower than the rest of the population at £3.68. The cost of transport therefore disproportionately impacts on those under the age of 18 wanting to work due to the lower wage threshold.

In the Clywed report the cost of public transport was identified as an issue for children and young people and Clust i'r Ifanc were working on plans to seek to address this issue.

This has also been reflected in a recent report by the British Youth Council:

We consider it unacceptable that young people might be excluded from education, training or local communities as a result of high transport costs," the report states.

*"These costs are often increased as a result of young people being asked to pay adult fares. The government should provide a clear lead to transport operators by defining when adult fares should be applicable."*³⁸

There have been steps in the right direction through a number of short term pilots. These examples include Welsh Government's half fares scheme in Bridgend and Flintshire.

³⁶ <http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/2046/1/cr-ld8301-e.pdf>

³⁷ <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-third-assembly/bus-guide-docs-ub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid/cr-ld8301.pdf?langoption=3&ttl=CR-LD8301%2020Children%20and%20Young%20People%20Committee%3A%20Provision%20of%20Safe%20Places%20to%20Play%20and%20Hang>

³⁸ <http://www.byc.org.uk/news/all-full-'adult'-fares-should-start-at-18,-concludes-youth-select-committee.aspx>

We have also seen free bus travel for young people over school holiday periods and the feedback I have received is very positive, especially in relation to the positive impact for households with a number of young people.

Within the section on young people not in employment, education or training, the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan states that they are developing pilots in respect of smart cards for public transport. The aspiration is that the technology could enable different fare offers for particular groups, for instance young people needing to access employment and training.

The Committee may want to consider the application of pilots in Newport and Mon a Menai because we know that lack of transport options is a significant factor in exclusion from the job market.

The 'School Gates Programme'³⁹ in Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil was set up to support parents/guardians to look at what goal they would like to achieve for a brighter future for themselves and their families. In developing the work, a key barrier for non-working parents in low income families in accessing training and employment included limited public transport.

Young people in our workshop in Mold stated that seeking jobs in areas where there are more options for retail employment opportunities is impossible because of infrequency and timing of public transport into hubs such as Chester.

Conclusion

It is clear that the Welsh Government's commitment to an integrated public transport system as envisaged in the Wales Transport Strategy faces significant barriers.

It is worth considering the various ways these can be overcome, such as demand responsive services, community transport and open dialogue with public transport providers.

Welsh Government must ensure that transport requirements are considered across all service developments. Recommendation 20 by the CYP Committee is one which Welsh Government and all stakeholders should give due consideration:

'The Committee recommends that the current public transport system should be re-assessed against the needs of children and young people, alongside those of other users. If the re-assessment highlights systemic problems with public transport provision in

³⁹ <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2011-2012/rrep747.pdf>

*Wales, then further steps should be taken by the Welsh Government to ensure that those issues are resolved.*⁴⁰

A powerful quote from the report states:

*‘..you might be dealing with transport, but if your transport policy or approach to transport means that someone cannot access a local play opportunity or an open space, that is a problem that needs to be addressed and you have a role in addressing that.’*⁴¹

This is a message that should reverberate as local service boards develop their Single Integrated Plans.

Engagement with children and young people is critical in establishing new and innovative solutions to the challenges facing the public transport agenda. Stakeholders also need to listen to what young people have to say regarding their experiences of public transport and respond accordingly. There is a danger of negative experiences impacting on future use of public transport.

Possibly the biggest issue facing the integration agenda is funding cuts. I noted in January 2012 that the Local Transport Services Grant and Bus Service Operators Grant was to be cut by 25% in Wales in 2012/12.

Very often it will be the less well patronised services which are likely to be cut. Whilst I understand that difficult funding decisions are to be made, Welsh Government must ensure that the most vulnerable in society are protected from the worst and that they are not disproportionately impacted by such decisions.

We would again draw attention to the briefing paper *Access Denied – Transport Poverty in Wales*⁴² which outlines the cost of maintaining funding levels. Whilst significant, Welsh Government must consider the wider implications and cost benefits in relation to general public services. We know that it can often be the case that the least popular routes/modes of transport can also be the most critical to people’s lives.

To this end, Welsh Government should ensure that they both equality impact assess major decisions (including allocation of resources) relating to transport funding as well as complying with the Rights of Children and Young People (Wales) Measure 2011. Bearing in mind the critical importance of public transport, I would strongly urge the

⁴⁰[http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-third-assembly/bus-guide-docs ub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid/cr-ld8301.pdf?langoption=3&ttl=CR-LD8301%2020Children%20and%20Young%20People%20Committee%3A%20Provision%20of%20Safe%20Places%20to%20Play%20and%20Hang](http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-third-assembly/bus-guide-docs%20ub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid/cr-ld8301.pdf?langoption=3&ttl=CR-LD8301%2020Children%20and%20Young%20People%20Committee%3A%20Provision%20of%20Safe%20Places%20to%20Play%20and%20Hang)

⁴¹ ibid

⁴² <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/resources/in-the-news/access-denied-transport-poverty-in-wales>

Committee to scrutinise the application of the due regard applied to the UNCRC in making important transport decisions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Towler". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Keith Towler
November 2012



William Powell AC/AM
Cadeirydd
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff, CF99 1NA

Cambrian Buildings
Mount Stuart Square
Cardiff CF10 5FL

Adeiladau Cambrian
Sgwâr Mount Stuart
Caerdydd CF10 5FL

1 August 2013

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 26th June regarding the petition from Barbara Snowball concerning bus transport in Gwynedd.

I have been very clear in my view as Older People's Commissioner that good, effective public transport is a lifeline to older people, and has a critical influence on their quality of life and overall wellbeing. This has been reinforced to me when I go out and speak with older people from right across Wales, and they consistently tell me just how important public transport can be in helping them to stay active and independent.

I strongly support the concerns on the petitioner who has contacted you, and in particular the frustration expressed at the lack of access to key community services through a lack of suitable transport.

In setting out my thoughts on this issue for your committee, I want to highlight three main areas – the evidence from relevant research, current policy challenges, and my own recommendations around transport.

Research evidence

There is significant evidence from research which shows the importance of public transport to older people:

- Recent research from Royal Voluntary Service Cymru ¹ highlighted that older people in Wales are increasingly left isolated by a lack of access to suitable transport:
 - More than 18,000 over-75s feel trapped in their own home through lack of suitable transport;
 - 17% of older people in Wales have been affected by a reduction

¹ Royal Voluntary Services Cymru (2013) *Going Nowhere Fast: impact of inaccessible public transport on wellbeing and social connectedness of older people in Wales*, Cardiff: Royal Voluntary Services Cymru.

- in public transport services;
 - 19.6% of respondents were unable to manage the walk to/from their nearest public transport;
 - 10.7% said public transport is not accessible for them;
 - 18.8% did not know what public transport services are available in their area;
 - 25.1% of those who did not use public transport to get out and about have to rely on others to do their shopping for them.
- Transport is a particular problem in rural areas (where the population is much older than is the case for urban areas² - a trend which is set to continue³), but not exclusively so. Reduced mobility and inaccessible transport infrastructure can mean that even in towns and cities, transport fails to meet older people's needs⁴.
- Reliable local transport networks become increasingly significant as people get older, with journeys for essential items and social activities becoming more of a challenge⁵. The ability to travel contributes to prolonged independence and continued social inclusion⁶ – so transport therefore has to be seen as an integral part of policies aimed at improving the experiences of older people.
- Public transport is much more important to older people than to the population as a whole. Two-thirds of single pensioners have no car, and for this group the local bus or train is a lifeline⁷.

Current policy challenges

- **Funding:** Recent reforms have seen the Regional Transport Services Grant (RTSG) replace the former Bus Services' Operators Grant and the Local Transport Services Grant. The new funding mechanism has resulted in an overall funding cut of 26% over the previous equivalents⁸ – a deeper overall cut than in England and Scotland, and one which means that bus services and community transport services are being reduced. Alongside this, and very possibly related to it, statistics show⁹ that bus travel in Wales fell by 6.9% in 2012/13 (more than twice the fall in either England or Scotland) whilst Welsh bus fares increased by 6.9% last year (more than twice the rate of inflation).

² Public Health Wales Observatory (2012) *Older People Indicators 2012*, Wales: PHWO.

³ Welsh Assembly Government (2009) *Rural Health Planning – improving service delivery across Wales*, Wales: Welsh Assembly Government.

⁴ Phillipson, C., Bernard, M., Phillips, J. & Ogg, J. (2001) *The Family and Community Life of Older People: social networks and social support in three urban areas*, London: Routledge.

⁵ Centre for Social Justice (2011) *Age of Opportunity: transforming the lives of older people in poverty*, London: CSI.

⁶ Age Cymru (2012) *Prevention Into Practice*, Cardiff: Age Cymru.

⁷ Sustrans (2012) *Access Denied: transport poverty in Wales*, Cardiff: Sustrans, Age Cymru, Citizens Advice Bureau, Save The Children.

⁸ Community Transport Association Wales (2012) *CTA Newsletter, Winter 2012/13*, Swansea: CTA Wales.

⁹ Clark, R. (2013) *"Bus travel in Wales at its lowest since launch of free passes for over-60s and the disabled"*, WalesOnline, 21st June 2013.

- **Concessionary fares:** There is no doubt that the concessionary bus pass policy has brought major benefits to older people in Wales, and is hugely valued for its impact, as demonstrated by our own research¹⁰ which showed:
 - 81% of respondents believed that without the pass, their quality of life would suffer;
 - 78% believed they would be more lonely without it;
 - 92% of respondents said that the bus pass allowed them to be independent.

Yet for all its totemic political importance, we should not allow the concessionary bus pass policy to act as a panacea for the wider problems older people face in relation to transport. All too often, older people will say that they value the bus pass, but their local bus service has been reduced or cut completely. We also have anecdotal evidence suggesting that private bus operators see routes predominantly used by concessionary bus pass holders as 'soft targets' when cuts need to be made.

- **Transport to/from hospital:** A quarter of car-less households feel that the local hospital is one of the most difficult locations to access via local bus services¹¹. This is particularly relevant in light of proposals for NHS reorganisation in Wales: getting older people to and from hospital will become an even greater logistical challenge when there are fewer specialist hospitals, so effective transport planning is critical to NHS changes.

Recommendations

Despite a very clear consensus from older people themselves and from relevant research, it is clear that cuts to bus services have often disproportionately affected older people – and too often, older people's voices are not heard when changes to bus services and routes are considered. This is supported by the petition which you have received and the supporting information which has been submitted by the petitioner. It seems equally clear that if we are to make Wales a good place to grow older, we have to start by ensuring older people right across the country are connected and can get to where they need to go.

I am particularly concerned by the fact that older people often feel powerless to influence decisions being taken about bus services in their area, and feel that their voices are not being heard when services are reduced, re-routed or cut entirely. I would like to see bus operators being forced to carry out an impact assessment of any changes to routes to ensure that older people are

¹⁰ Older People's Commissioner for Wales (2010) *Concessionary Bus Pass Research*, Cardiff: OPCW.

¹¹ Sustrans (2012) *Access Denied: transport poverty in Wales*, Cardiff: Sustrans, Age Cymru, Citizens Advice Bureau, Save The Children.

not disproportionately affected by changes.

I also believe that access to health services is a key priority for older people, and I would like to see more being done to ensure that community transport fills the gaps left by cuts to regular public transport. Community transport is viewed¹² very positively, and also provides excellent value for money – with the new Strategy for Older People in Wales¹³ suggesting that community transport is worth £3 for every £1 spent on it. It may be that by increasing the proportion of regional transport grant funding which must be spent on community transport schemes, we can prevent older people in parts of Wales (particularly rural areas) from being left stranded through lack of access to public transport.

I trust this information is of assistance, and that the Petitions Committee find it useful in guiding their discussion on this important matter.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Rochira
Older People's Commissioner for Wales

¹² Age Cymru (2010) *Key Findings of the Community Calculator*, Cardiff: Age Cymru.

¹³ Welsh Government (2013) *Strategy for Older People in Wales 2013-2023: living longer, ageing well: making Wales a great place to grow old*, Wales: Welsh Government.

Aelod Cabinet Amgylchedd
Cabinet Member for Environment
Y Cynghorydd / Councillor
William Gareth Roberts
Ward – Aberdaron



10.

Gofynnwch am/Ask for: Aled Davies

☎ (01286) 679371

📠 (01286) 673324

✉ AledDavies@gwynedd.gov.uk

Ein Cyf / Our Ref: **AD/gmo**

Eich Cyf / Your Ref:

William Powell AS /AM
Cadeirydd / Chair
Y Pwyllgor Deisebau / Petitions Committee
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1NA

29th July, 2013

Dear Mr. Powell

Thank you for your letter to our Chief Executive Officer dated 26th June 2013 regarding a petition signed by 174 signatures asking for Welsh Government to:

- *Review the funding for rural bus services to ensure adequate levels of service for the whole of Gwynedd but particularly south Meirionnydd*
- *Consider funding to be ensured for additional services to improve access to health services, education, and employment, and thus support the economy and tourism in the area.*

I am pleased to inform you that we are actively looking at options to improve the levels of service in the Meirionnydd area within the budgets available to us. We are currently out to tender for services between Tywyn and Dolgellau, and have also recently secured additional connections from Porthmadog to Ysbyty Alltwen to allow residents of south Meirionnydd to attend appointments and visit friends and relatives.

In what I can only describe as challenging financial times in the provision of all local authority services, whatever the nature of the service provided by the authority, it is difficult to envisage that all petitioners will be satisfied. It is likely that they will all have different travel needs, but we do very much hope to be able to offer an adequate level of service which allows reasonable travel choices.

I have included recent correspondence regarding the present situation for the service between Tywyn and Dolgellau and correspondence relating to Ysbyty Alltwen to give you a fuller picture of the situation.

I trust that meets your immediate needs, if however you require further information or an update at some time in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Cynghorydd/ Councillor W Gareth Roberts
Aelod Cabinet Amgylchedd
Cabinet Member for Environment

Swyddfa'r Cyngor
Caernarfon
Gwynedd. LL55 1SH
01766 771000
www.gwynedd.gov.uk

Copy

Public transport in Meirionnydd

Delivering sustainable public services in a challenging period for public finances means that councils must think of creative ways of providing services that meet the needs of local residents.

As part of this effort, Council Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor Gareth Roberts has instructed officers from Gwynedd's Integrated Transport Unit to look in detail at options to meet some of the public transport needs in the Meirionnydd area of the county.

Councillor Gareth Roberts, Gwynedd Council Cabinet Member for the Environment said:

"As a Council, we make every effort to support sustainable travel across the county whilst making the best possible use of the decreasing resources available to us.

"We realise that public transport is an important link in rural areas like Meirionnydd and make every effort to ensure that services are in place to enable convenient travelling choices to educational facilities and other public services.

"But, the hugely challenging financial climate means that we can't continue to plough public money into bus services that aren't being used - as a Council we are trying to deliver the best possible service despite the fact that the funding available to us is reduced.

"That is why we want to look at the current use of the bus services available in the area and consider whether we can introduce new, smarter and practical alternatives along routes which require significant subsidy from the public purse.

"The work currently ongoing which is looking at usage within Meirionnydd will help to inform future decisions on the public transport network in the area."

Meeting the transport needs of residents

Ensuring suitable and sustainable public transport is vitally important so that Gwynedd residents can get from A to B.

As part of this commitment, Gwynedd Council transport officers are currently looking in detail at the current transport links to Ysbyty Alltwen in Tremadog.

Councillor Gareth Roberts, Gwynedd Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment said:

"Delivering effective and regular public transport for the residents of Gwynedd is hugely important to the Council. We recognise that in a rural area like Gwynedd, many people depend on public transport to get to work, make the weekly shop or visit a relative in hospital.

"With changes currently being implemented in the health provision in this area of the county, I am especially keen to ensure that there are suitable transport links in place so that residents can get to their appointment on time or visit a relative or friend as easily as possible.

"That is why I have asked the Council's Integrated Transport Unit to carry out research work to look at the local public transport links with Ysbyty Alltwen."

As part of this work, officers are looking in detail at the connecting bus and train services in the area to consider how they can be provided at regular and dependable times in order that passengers can reach the hospital for visiting times and appointments.

Councillor Roberts added: "When this initial research is completed, we will then be well placed to consider the options for the future."

Pennaeth Adran Rheoleiddio
(Cynllunio, Trafnidiaeth a Gwarchod y Cyhoedd)
Head of Regulatory Department
(Planning, Transportation & Public Protection)
Aled Davies

Gofynnwch am/Ask for: Aled Davies
☎ (01286) 679371
☎ (01286) 673324
✉ AledDavies@gwynedd.gov.uk

Ein Cyf / Our Ref: **AD/gmo**
Eich Cyf / Your Ref:

Copy

Mrs D M Harper
Chair – Public Affairs Sub-Committee
The WI
Argraig
Talsarnau
Gwynedd

4th June, 2013

Dear Madam

Parking & Public Transport

A copy of a recent letter written by yourself dated 20th May 2013, was recently brought to my attention. The letter raised two issues which lie within the responsibilities of the Regulatory Department at Gwynedd Council and I have been asked to provide an update for you on these issues.

Firstly, with regard to parking, your comments are noted. However, I should also point out the only free parking provided in Gwynedd's "Pay and Display" car parks has been the two weeks free Christmas parking. There is considerable evidence that the arrangement is extremely popular amongst business owners and shoppers.

The arrangement is provided at an annual cost of around £40,000 to the authority. Whilst acknowledging that many people would welcome an extended period of free parking, I'm sure that you would agree that incurring an additional burden in the current financial climate would be challenging for the authority and may have an effect on the ability to maintain other services.

I can however, confirm that a review of parking provision is currently underway and this will include an assessment of the provision of free Christmas parking. A decision on the recommendations of the parking review is likely to be made at the end of the year.

You have also raised the issue of public transport to enable access to Ysbyty Alltwen. I can confirm that Councillor W Gareth Roberts, Cabinet Member for the Environment, who has responsibility for Transport, has already asked the Council's Integrated Transport Unit to specifically look at how public transport services connect with Alltwen. The work will specifically look as to whether services meet the needs of local communities in the context of changes currently being made in the provision of local health services. It is hoped that the Unit will be able to report on the first phase of this work within the next few months, which will then allow the Council to consider the options for the future. This may mean commissioning additional work on actions based on the findings of the initial work.

I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Aled Davies
Head of Regulatory Department

c.c. Economy & Community Department

Aelod Cabinet Amgylchedd
Cabinet Member for Environment
Y Cynghorydd / Councillor
William Gareth Roberts
Ward – Aberdaron

Gofynnwch am/Ask for: Aled Davies

☎ (01286) 679371

📠 (01286) 673324

✉ AledDavies@gwynedd.gov.uk

Ein Cyf / Our Ref: **AD/gmo**

Eich Cyf / Your Ref:

Copy

Mrs Tingey
4 Pant yr Onnen
Llanfair
Harlech
Gwynedd
LL46 2SP

29th May, 2013

Dear Mrs Tingey

Petition – Bus Service Between Porthmadog Railway Station and Alltwen Hospital

Thank you for the recent correspondence and petition relating to public transport services and connections to Ysbyty Alltwen in Tremadog. I apologise for the delay in responding.

An encouraging message for me from your covering note is that it is clearly possible to make the journey from Llandanwg to Alltwen by public transport. However, I do note your view that the current timetable does not suit everyone and that the waiting times for onward journeys at Porthmadog are excessive.

The Council makes every effort to ensure that the public transport services in the County are fully integrated. The Council is also always open to suggestions relating to improving routes and connections.

I am pleased therefore to confirm that, I had already asked the Council's Integrated Transport Unit to specifically look at how public transport services connect with Alltwen and whether they meet the needs of local communities in the context of changes currently being made in the provision of local health services. The issues you have raised relating to connecting services from Porthmadog bus and rail stations can now feed into this work. I hope that they will be able to report on the first phase of this work within the next two months which will then allow me to consider the options for the future. This may mean commissioning additional work or actions based on the findings of the initial work.

I hope this clarifies the Council's current position on your concerns.

Yours sincerely



Councillor W Gareth Roberts
Cabinet Member for Environment

C.C. Cllr E Caerwyn Roberts; Aled Davies, Head of Regulatory Department

Swyddfa'r Cyngor
Caernarfon
Gwynedd. LL55 1SH
01766 771000
www.gwynedd.gov.uk

Aelod Cabinet Amgylchedd
Cabinet Member for Environment
Y Cyngorydd / Councillor
William Gareth Roberts
Ward – Aberdaron

Copy

Gofynnwch am/Ask for: Aled Davies

☎ (01286) 679371

📠 (01286) 673324

✉ AledDavies@gwynedd.gov.uk

Ein Cyf / Our Ref: **AD/gmo**

Eich Cyf / Your Ref:

Mrs Barbara Snowball
1 Bryn Coch
ARTHOG
Gwynedd
LL39 1BX

29th May, 2013

Dear Mrs Snowball

Re: Public Transport in Meirionnydd

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the above and I apologise for the delay in providing a response. The contents have been noted.

Many of the issues e.g. relating to the purpose of the public transport within the context of all transport opportunities, have been raised and responded to in previous correspondence either from myself or from the Officers of the Integrated Transport Unit and I will not go over these issues again.

I also note the examples that you have provided relating to the difficulties that some people are experiencing. Whilst I can not argue that such examples do exist and that in an ideal world where resources are not a problem they could be addressed, it is difficult to gauge that actual size of the issue in relation to each example you provide. As you are fully aware, use of early morning and evening services on this route in the past was very low and it is difficult to justify the introduction of 'traditional' bus services which would be extremely costly for the public purse in terms of level of use.

In your correspondence, you specifically ask if I could consider allocating some of the RTSG grant recently given by the Welsh Government for the purpose of improving service. I am sure that you are aware that the grants have been repackaged by the Government but that it is not new money to support services. In reality, the effect of the changes is that the overall sum of money being invested by the Government to support the provision of local transport services has reduced from £33 million a year to £25 million a year over the last two years. This will have a direct effect on the ability of Gwynedd Council and all other local authorities to sustain the current level of services, let alone provide additional services such as the provision of later buses between Tywyn and Dolgellau.

As you are aware, Gwynedd Council are currently undertaking a re-tendering exercise for all public transport services. When that is completed in 2014, the Council will be in a better position to assess whether the services currently provided are meeting community needs or whether some should be stopped or amended because of lack of use. It will also enable the Council to assess whether there is justification for additional services to be provided in certain areas.

Swyddfa'r Cyngor
Caernarfon
Gwynedd. LL55 1SH
01766 771000
www.gwynedd.gov.uk

I can confirm that the Integrated Transport Unit is continually reviewing the levels of service provided, as well as investigating innovative ways of addressing weaknesses in the public transport network. From previous correspondence, I am sure that you can appreciate that clearly the subsidy per passenger for the additional journeys between Tywyn and Dolgellau at around £58 subsidy for every £1.00 taken in fares was prohibitively high.

I can also confirm that I had already instructed the Unit to look whether it would be possible to bring the costs on this route down to a reasonable level, and to seek funding opportunities from the Transport Consortia (TAITH) to fund a pilot scheme in the area for a specified period.

However, I should stress at this early stage that practical and affordable model for a pilot service can be identified it is unlikely that this would take the form of a "traditional" bus service. I believe that if a practical option can be identified, it would provide a further opportunity to monitor usage which could inform future decisions on the public transport network in the Meirionnydd area.

I will keep you informed of developments. Hoping that this clarifies the Council's current position.

Yours sincerely



Councillor W Gareth Roberts
Cabinet Member for Environment

C.C. Aled Davies, Head of Regulatory Department

William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee

31 July 2013

Dear William

Petition P-04-475 - Buses for Meirionnydd

Thank you for your letter (reference P-04-475) regarding the petition received from Barbara Snowball.

We are pleased to provide our views in relation to the petition and the provision of bus services in Wales, and have incorporated views from our local partner covering Meirionnydd, Age Cymru Gwynedd a Môn.

We support the views raised in the petition over the importance of local bus services to many older people, and the fact that insufficient transport links can restrict people's access to key services such as healthcare.

Age Cymru Gwynedd a Môn informs us that they have received several complaints in respect of the reduction of bus services in Meirionnydd and have discussed these with the local authority. We understand that the reduction followed a change of operator which led to a number of routes being changed or discontinued for economic reasons.

A major concern locally is the consequential reduction in access to health services. For example, people needing to travel from Dolgellau to Wrexham for hospital treatment only have the option of one service which departs in the morning and returns at 2pm. Therefore people cannot use bus services to return home after afternoon appointments or visits. In addition, once the bus returns to Dolgellau there is no onward connection at that time of day to areas such as Tywyn, Barmouth or Aberdovey. This makes attending hospital appointments extremely difficult for people in these areas who rely on public transport. We understand that the situation is similar on the Llŷn peninsular where there is no public transport from Pwllheli to outlying villages after 6pm.

The national position

Age Cymru recently commissioned research into older people's use of bus services, the adequacy of current service provision and the impact of recent Welsh Government changes to grant programmes for local bus services and community transport. This research will be

Tŷ John Pathy
13/14 Cwrt Neptune
Ffordd Blaen y Gad
Caerdydd CF24 5PJ

Tŷ John Pathy
13/14 Neptune Court
Vanguard Way
Cardiff CF24 5PJ

ff/t 029 2043 1555
ff/f 029 2047 1418
e/e enquiries@agecymru.org.uk
www.agecymru.org.uk

Ygrym newydd sy'n cyfuno
The new force combining
The logo for AGE Concern, with 'AGE' in a large, bold, blue font and 'Concern' in a smaller, red, cursive font below it.
A black rectangular logo with the text 'HELP THE AGED WE WILL' in white, bold, uppercase letters.
Help the Aged yng Nghymru
Help the Aged in Wales

published in the autumn and we would be pleased to provide a copy to the Committee.

This research found that while older people were often satisfied with daytime bus services in urban areas, there were significant concerns about the poor frequency of daytime services in rural areas, and services in the evenings and on Sundays in all areas. Concerns about reliability, waiting facilities and access to information (such as timetables) were also raised.

In our view there is a significant challenge for the Welsh Government and Regional Transport Consortia to improve the provision of services, especially in rural areas. The Regional Transport Services Grant plays a key role in the provision of these services, however the consequences for older people of the loss of services as a result of funding cuts is a serious concern.

The aims of the new Regional Transport Services Grant are laudable. However the combination of the two previous schemes – the Local Transport Services Grant (LTSG) and Bus Services Operator Grant (BSOG) – has also resulted in a significant reduction in funding. Our research found that the combined value of these grants has fallen by 22 percent between 2011-12 and 2013-14¹.

It is not clear what impact this change will have on evening, weekend and rural provision. While the Regional Transport Consortia are optimistic that it will result in better quality and integrated services, this has to be off-set against the drop in funding. In particular, the response of bus operators to the reduction in and possible loss of rebate for fuel costs is unknown and could have consequences for marginal services.

The Welsh Government's National Travel Plan recognises the importance of good bus services. However, as the Assembly Enterprise and Business Committee has noted, beyond the provision of the Concessionary Fares Initiative the Welsh Government has done very little to improve bus services in recent years². Indeed, its main action has been to peg and then cut funding for non-commercial bus services.

We believe that the Welsh Government should require Regional Transport Consortia, as a condition of their funding, to include consultation with older people, including disabled older people, in the preparation of their strategies.

Without steps to improve the frequency, reliability and accessibility of bus services throughout Wales, more and more older people will be unable to reach essential services.

¹ Age Cymru, Older People's Experience of Bus Services in Wales (to be published September 2013)

² National Assembly for Wales Enterprise and Business Committee (2013), Integrated Public Transport in Wales. Available at: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-business-fourth-assembly-laid-docs.htm?act=dis&id=246495&ds=5/2013>

Tŷ John Pathy
13/14 Cwrt Neptune
Ffordd Blaen y Gad
Caerdydd CF24 5PJ

Tŷ John Pathy
13/14 Neptune Court
Vanguard Way
Cardiff CF24 5PJ

ff/t 029 2043 1555
ff/f 029 2047 1418
e/e enquiries@agecymru.org.uk
www.agecymru.org.uk

Ygrym newydd sy'n cyfuno
The new force combining
The logo for AGE Concern features the word 'AGE' in a large, bold, blue font, with 'Concern' in a smaller, red, cursive font below it.
The logo for 'HELP THE AGED WE WILL' features the text 'HELP THE AGED WE WILL' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with 'Help the Aged yng Nghymru Help the Aged in Wales' in a smaller font below it.
Help the Aged yng Nghymru
Help the Aged in Wales

Not only will their well-being suffer but there are significant consequences for other services, notably health and social care services, which will have to cope with older people's isolation.

We fear that unless the Welsh Government look at this issue quickly, the situation will only get worse and will potentially enter a downward spiral. Fewer people will use the buses because of poor connections or infrequent services, which will in turn lead to further reduction in services

We would welcome any recommendations that the Committee can make in relation to improving the provision of bus services, both in Meirionnydd and more generally across Wales, and would be happy to provide more information as required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Graeme Francis'.

Graeme Francis
Head of Policy and Public Affairs

Tŷ John Pathy
13/14 Cwrt Neptune
Ffordd Blaen y Gad
Caerdydd CF24 5PJ

Tŷ John Pathy
13/14 Neptune Court
Vanguard Way
Cardiff CF24 5PJ

ff/t 029 2043 1555
ff/f 029 2047 1418
e/e enquiries@agecymru.org.uk
www.agecymru.org.uk

Ygrym newydd sy'n cyfuno
The new force combining

The logo for AGE Concern, with 'AGE' in a bold, black, sans-serif font and 'Concern' in a smaller, red, cursive font below it.

HELP THE AGED WE WILL
Help the Aged yng Nghymru
Help the Aged in Wales

P-04-475 Wanted - Buses for Meirionnydd – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee, 14.11.2013

Thank you very much for inviting my views relating to the ongoing Petition to be discussed on 26th November.

I would like to make the following comments please.

I have read with interest the letters addressed to yourselves from Age Cymru, the Older People's Commissioner for Wales and the Children's Commissioner for Wales. They have all made very pertinent points based on evidence from numerous consultations on transport, i.e.

- Human rights.
- Impact of transport on abilities to realise rights and entitlements.
- Older persons unable to reach essential services, which affects health and social care services, which will result in a greater burden on other services.
- There is great value in the holding of a bus pass - but set against this is the loss of/reduction in services.

A further example of one of the current difficulties being experienced in Meirionnydd:

- There is no longer a bus to take people from Dyffryn Ardudwy to Blaenau Ffestiniog to link up with the main line train to Llandudno, Chester, Manchester and beyond. The No. 38 bus from Barmouth now only goes as far as Harlech/Talsarnau. Alternative routes by train (Brewitt Bridge currently closed, so NO trains!) involve changes which are difficult, well nigh impossible for infirm/elderly. It is vital that a proper through link be established and public transport in Gwynedd becomes useable.

Hopeful outlooks:

Ease of travel to areas previously difficult to access.

Positive local economic impact created by extra tourism.

Increase of people using more accessible public transport.

Greater area access creates more job opportunities.

Health benefits as greater freedom to travel can ease depression.

School children and college students enabled to study later in the day.

Hospital appointments easier to attend.

Small rural areas matter - people matter.

Accessible public transport is a basic human right.

If I could give you a personal example from my own experience:

I have just returned from spending 5 days with my grand-children, who live in Port Sunlight, Wirral. We have one car, which my husband uses for work. Therefore, for me to visit them, involves a bus (No. 28) to Dolgellau, X94 to Wrexham, No. 1 to Chester, and then a No. 1 or 2 to Port

Sunlight. This sounds very long and arduous but it is well worthwhile. Due to the trial period of the No. 28 bus, I was able to return home today. Otherwise, we cannot get to Chester at all. How much worse it would be for people who do not own a car, or who simply cannot afford the fuel.

Please see attached letter to Councillor Gareth Roberts concerning the 6 months pilot for the No. 28 bus Dolgellau to Tywyn.

1) The lady in Fairbourne who is the Chair of the Senior Citizens' Club (membership of 120), commented to me that a lot of elderly people do not feel happy about returning home in the dark.

2) Due to the lack of tourists during the winter, this will impact on the figures during the pilot scheme.

Gwynedd Council Transportation Department have assured me that these facts will be taken into consideration when assessing the situation after the 6 months.

We realise the financial implications of providing improved bus services. However, set against this is:

- Our basic rights - of being able to attend hospital for consultations and treatment and return home on the same day.
- Less illness and depression in elderly/infirm, resulting in less financial burden on other services.
- Some elderly people have to choose between food and heating at the moment, how can they possibly afford to run a car in these circumstances?
- Improved employment prospects for students.
- People who can not afford a car, being able to travel to work.
- More employment for local bus drivers, less financial drain on the Government.
- Financial gain to local businesses (e.g. we used the new evening bus service to go to Tywyn for a meal with friends, and are planning a cinema evening).

Thank you very much for your further consideration of this Petition. I hope it is acceptable to you in the form of an e-mail, in view of my being away from home during this last week.

Yours,
Barbara Snowball
Mawddach Bus Users

Correspondence from the petitioner to Councillor Gareth Roberts

3-Nov-13

Councillor Gareth Roberts

Dear Councillor Roberts,

No. 28 evening service

On behalf of Mawddach Bus Users, we are very grateful for the opportunity of the 6 month trial period. We are doing our very best to ensure that more people use the services. We have had printed 5000 of the attached flyers to make people fully aware of when and where they can travel to. I am constantly being told that people have difficulty reading the timetables. So these flyers are meant as a pocket/handbag help, with the times in an easy to read format.

For such a long time now, people have stopped making journeys because they knew they would have difficulty returning home. It is unfortunate that the trial period is in the winter months because I have been told that older people, for instance, do not like returning home in the dark. We also have very few tourists at this time of year, so the expected numbers will not be as great as they would be in the spring/summer months. Nevertheless, it is an opportunity, and I remain positive.

We are also using Facebook as an advertising tool for the service, and encouraging people to go out in the evenings. We hope local businesses will prosper more as a result. The Cambrian News also publishes regular features for us. Sibrydion magazine, our community magazine with a circulation of about 4000, also features the bus services regularly.

Once again, thank you.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Barbara Snowball
Mawddach Bus Users

Eitem 4.8

P-04-508 Rhaid adfer yr Olygfa o Landyfi

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Er ein bod yn croesawu'r cam i ledu ffordd yr A487 yng Nglandyfi yn gyffredinol, rydym yn hynod o bryderus ac yn tristáu'n ddirfawr bod y gwaith wedi golygu bod y wal ar ochr y môr i'r ffordd wedi'i chodi'n ddiangen, ac mae hyn bellach yn atal preswylwyr a defnyddwyr y ffordd rhag mwynhau'r golygfeydd godidog draw dros yr Afon Ddyfi, sydd wedi bod yn rhan o'r tirwedd lleol ers canrifoedd. Nid ydym yn teimlo bod creu man ffurfiol 'i weld yr olygfa' yn gwneud iawn am golli'r golygfeydd sydd wedi'u mwynhau'n ddyddiol cyn hyn gan ddefnyddwyr y ffordd bwysig hon, yn ymwelwyr a phobl leol. Felly, rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i roi gorchymyn i'r contractwyr ar unwaith i ostwng uchder y wal o faint digonol i adfer ein golygfa briodol o'r tirwedd hardd ac unigryw hwn.

Gwybodaeth ychwanegol:

Mae'r gwaith hir-ddisgwyledig i ledu'r A487 yng Nglandyfi bron wedi ei gwblhau erbyn hyn. Bydd yr holl ddefnyddwyr cyson y ffordd yn falch iawn o weld diwedd ar y tagfeydd ofnadwy a achoswyd gan y troeon cul ar y ffordd ger Cyffordd Glandyfi.

Ond sgîl-effaith hollol ddiangen y gwaith (yn ychwanegol at adeiladu'r waliau mwyaf yng Nghymru ers Edward I) ydy'r gwaith o adeiladu wal newydd rhwng y ffordd a'r Aber Dyfi. Mae'r wal newydd yn cuddio'r olygfa o'r ardal brydfarth hon yn gyfan gwbl o olwg y bobl sy'n gyrru heibio, golygfa sydd wedi cael ei fwynhau gan ddefnyddwyr y ffordd am ganrifoedd.

Bu'r hen wal ddim ond cwpl o droedfedd o uchder, ac yn caniatáu golygfeydd di-dor o'r golygfeydd gwych ar draws yr afon a banciau tywod i'r bryniau tu hwnt. Mae'r wal newydd, am resymau sydd yn amlwg i'r datblygwyr yn unig, bron yn chwe throedfedd o uchder mewn manau, ac y mae'n blocio'r olygfa yn gyfan gwbl. Mae rhai golygfeydd newydd wedi eu creu, ond nid yw hyn yn gwneud iawn am y golled.

Nid yw'n rhy hwyr i newid pethau: gall y wal gael ei gostwng i uchder rhesymol heb fawr o ymdrech neu gost, a gallwn unwaith eto fwynhau ein golygfeydd ar draws yr afon.

Prif ddeisebydd: Nigel Callaghan

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 8 Hydref 2013

Nifer y llofnodion : 83

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-508
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/03606/13
William Powell AM
Chair Petitions Committee
committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

5 November 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 23 October regarding the petition from Nigel Callaghan about the A487 Glandyfi Improvements and the raising in height of the seaward wall.

The purpose of the wall between the road and estuary is to reduce the risk of errant vehicles falling a height of approximately 5m onto the railway and property below. This wall has been designed to meet national standards and Network Rail requirements which stipulate a minimum wall height of 1.4m and 1.5m respectively. As such I am afraid that it is not possible to reduce the wall height.

I can appreciate the position of the petitioners regarding views across the estuary and it is for this reason a viewing point was included as part of the improvement work.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence.edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu 100% Tudalen 104

Printed on 100% recycled paper

Eitem 4.9

P-04-362 Gwasanaethau Ambiwllans ym Mynwy

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym ni o'r farn y dylai Mynwy gael y ddarpariaeth ambiwlans briodol. Gan fod disgwyl i boblogaeth Mynwy gynyddu, a bod Uned Mân Anafiadau Monnow Vale wedi cau'n ddiweddar, bydd rhagor o alw ar y gwasanaeth ambiwlans.

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru:

Rydym yn gofyn i Bwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol gynnal ymchwiliad i'r gwasanaeth ambiwlans yng nghefn gwlad Cymru. Byddem yn annog y Pwyllgor i ymchwilio i'r problemau penodol sy'n bodoli ym Mynwy a pha effaith gafodd cau'r Uned Mân Anafiadau yn Monnow Vale ar y gwasanaeth ambiwlans.

Llywodraeth Cymru:

Rydym yn annog y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i ddefnyddio'i phwerau i'w gwneud yn ofynnol i Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gwasanaethau Ambiwllans Cymru ddarparu gwasanaeth ambiwlans o safon uchel ledled Cymru ac yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd gwledig fel Mynwy.

Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gwasanaethau Ambiwllans Cymru:

Rydym yn galw ar Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gwasanaethau Ambiwllans Cymru i wella'r ddarpariaeth ym Mynwy mewn termau real, gydag uned dibyniaeth fawr a/neu ambiwlans yn nhref Mynwy.

Prif ddeisebydd: Mathew Davies

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor am y tro cyntaf: 7 Chwefror 2012

Nifer y deisebwyr: Casglwyd tua 450 o lofnodion.

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

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru
National
Assembly for
Wales



William Powell

Cadeirydd, Y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Chair, Petitions Committee

30 September 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 23 July 2013 regarding the petition relating to ambulance services around Monmouth.

The Committee considered your letter at its first meeting after the summer recess, on 25 September 2013. Members agreed that if the Committee decides to undertake an inquiry into ambulance services in the near future, we will inform you of that decision.

Yours sincerely,

David Rees AM

Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Bae Caerdydd
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Ffôn / Tel: 029 2089 8403

Tudalen 106

E-bost / Email: PwyllgorIGC@cymru.gov.uk / HSCCommittee@wales.gov.uk

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

Eitem 4.10

P-04-448 : Gwella gwasanaethau iechyd rhywiol yng ngorllewin y Fro

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i gynyddu'r cyllid i Fwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro. Dylid defnyddio'r cyllid ychwanegol hwn i wella gwasanaethau iechyd rhywiol yng ngorllewin y Fro.

Gwybodaeth ychwanegol

Ar hyn o bryd, cynhelir dim ond un clinig yr wythnos bob amser cinio ar ddydd Gwener yn Llanilltud Fawr. Mae'r clinig hwn yn gwasanaethu pawb yng ngorllewin y Fro. Mae'n darparu gwasanaethau cyngor iechyd rhywiol a chynllunio teulu. Nid yw'r gwasanaeth hwn yn ddigonol i ateb gofynion yr ardal ddaearyddol fawr hon. Cynhelir tri chlinig yr wythnos yn nhref y Barri. Helpwch ni i wella iechyd rhywiol nifer o bobl ifanc a phobl agored i niwed nad ydynt yn gallu teithio 10 milltir neu fwy yn aml i glinig lleol. Mae'r clinigau hyn yn cynnig gwybodaeth/addysg/cefnogaeth/triniaeth feddygol hanfodol y mae ar bobl ifanc eu hangen. Gall gwella gwasanaethau iechyd rhywiol helpu i ddangos y ffordd i'r grwpiau mwyaf agored i niwed yn ein cymdeithas, i'w cefnogi ac i ofalu amdanynt. Helpwch ni i wneud gwahaniaeth. Er bod cyfraddau beichiogrwydd ymysg y glasoed yn gostwng, mae cyfraddau erthyly yn codi (fel y dyfynnwyd gan Helen Rogers, Cyfarwyddwr Coleg Brenhinol y Bydwagedd, ffynhonnell BBC Wales 29/03/12). Yn ei hymateb i'r adroddiad hwn, addawodd Llywodraeth Cymru y byddai'n cynyddu'r cyllid drwy Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru i wella mynediad i ganolfannau iechyd rhywiol integredig (BBC Wales 29/03/12). Daw'r bobl ifanc hyn sy'n agored i niwed yn aml o deuluoedd difreintiedig, nad ydynt yn cael y gofal sydd ei angen arnynt. Pe bai'r bobl ifanc hyn yn byw yn y Barri, byddent yn cael gwasanaeth llawer gwell. Caiff ardal wledig y Fro ei diystyru fel ardal "gyfoethog", ond mae enghreifftiau o amddifadedd economaidd-gymdeithasol i'w cael yn yr ardal. Mae angen rhagor o glinigau. Mae Cymru am gael "Gwasanaeth Iechyd o'r Safon Uchaf" ar gyfer y dyfodol. Y bobl ifanc hyn yw ein dyfodol. Gall beichiogrwydd/erthyliadau ymysg y glasoed gael effaith niweidiol eang ar bobl ifanc yng Nghymru. Gellir atal clefydau a drosglwyddir yn rhywiol os rhoddir y wybodaeth gywir i bobl.

Prif ddeisebydd: Rebecca Lowrie

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 29 Ionawr 2013

Nifer y llofnodion: 16

P-04-452 : Hawliau Cyfartal i Bobl Ifanc Tiwb-borthedig

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau bod cyllid ar gael i sicrhau bod yr offer a'r gwasanaethau hanfodol sydd eu hangen ar blant a phobl ifanc tiwb-borthedig ar gael iddynt.

Er enghraifft, ar hyn o bryd mae hawliau cyfartal ar gyfer pobl ifanc tiwb-borthedig yng Nghyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili yn syrthio rhwng 2 gategori o angen sydd wedi'u diffinio. Mae Bwrdd Iechyd Aneurin Bevan yn dweud oherwydd nad ydynt yn blant sydd angen Gofal Iechyd Parhaus - 'dim ond' plant tiwb-borthedig ydynt - ni all ariannu'r offer a'r gwasanaethau hanfodol yr ydym eu hangen. Mae Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Caerffili hefyd yn dweud na allant helpu oherwydd bod gan y plant hyn anghenion iechyd sylweddol. Mae'r diffiniadau hyn yn cau Pobl Ifanc Tiwb-borthedig allan ac felly'n gwahaniaethu yn eu herbyn, ac rydym yn mynnu bod ymchwiliad yn cael ei gynnal i'r arferion hyn yng Nghaerffili. Er nad yw'n pobl ifanc yn gymwys i gael cymorth naill ai gan y gwasanaethau iechyd ym Mwrdeistref Caerffili neu'r gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, mae gennym berson ifanc sydd angen gofal bob awr o'r dydd - yr un peth â phlenty newydd-anedig - sydd yn aml ag anabledau oherwydd salwch sy'n peryglu bywyd.

Gwybodaeth ychwanegol

Mae angen 'label' ar ein pobl ifanc er mwyn iddynt allu gael mynediad awtomatig at gyllid ar gyfer offer a gwasanaethau hanfodol. Ar hyn o bryd, mae dadlau cyllidol rhwng adrannau'n digwydd yn dilyn cais am unrhyw beth ar gyfer Person Ifanc Tiwb-borthedig, a ni ddylai Rhieni/Gofalwyr fod yn rhan o'r dadleuon hyn. Y cyfan sydd ei angen arnom yw help i'n pobl ifanc cyn gynted â phosibl. Gofynnwn fod ateb cyflym yn cael ei ganfod i'n Pobl Ifanc ac er lles eu Rhieni/Gofalwyr, a bod yr ateb hwnnw'n un synhwyrol sy'n berthnasol yn yr hir dymor.

Prif ddeisebydd: Dr Tyandra Blewett-Silcock

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 29 Ionawr 2013

Nifer y llofnodion: 142

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-452
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/01818/13

William Powell AM
AM for Mid & West Wales
Chair Petitions committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

6 August 2013

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Deu William,

Thank you for your letter of 23 July about the petition on 'Equal Rights for Tube-fed Youngsters', and for drawing my attention to the evidence on direct payments presented to the committee on 16 July.

The case of Poppy Blewett-Silcock is well known to me and to the Deputy Minister for Social Services. There has been much correspondence about this, and Dr Blewett-Silcock had a meeting with my predecessor, Lesley Griffiths AM, in October 2012. Officials have also discussed the issues raised with Aneurin Bevan Health Board and Caerphilly County Borough Council. I am pleased that all the partners involved in Poppy's care have now agreed a way forward, although there are still wider issues around direct payments and Continuing NHS Healthcare which need to be addressed at a national level.

The Direct Payments Guidance was last updated in April 2011, to reflect the extension of direct payments to those without capacity to consent to them. The legislation and guidance around direct payments will be completely re-written as a consequence of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill currently before the National Assembly. We will be using the Bill to promote direct payments and make them easier for people to access and use. We are currently working with stakeholders, including disabled people's organisations, on a set of principles to underpin regulations and a code of practice on direct payments under the Bill. The Bill's provisions are likely to be implemented from 2016.

There are already three forums which monitor how direct payments are operating across Wales and feed back on any issues. At a strategic level, there is the Direct Payments Overview Group, which we set up to advise us on all aspects of policy and practice around direct payments. This is the group that has helped us develop a set of principles under the

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

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

Printed on 100% recycled paper

Bill. There is also the All-Wales Direct Payments Forum, which brings together direct payments officers from each local authority, and which undertakes an annual survey of direct payments users. Finally, there is the Support Scheme Network, which brings together those organisations which provide support for direct payments users under contract to local authorities. The Forum and Network are both represented on the Direct Payments Overview Group. We will be consulting each of these forums as we develop the regulations and code of practice under the Bill.

We are also currently reviewing the Framework for Continuing NHS Healthcare, including the links between it and the direct payment schemes run by local authorities. There is a particular issue around the loss of eligibility for direct payments once an individual has become eligible for Continuing NHS Healthcare, which can lead to people losing the ability to arrange their own care and support or even to refuse to move to an NHS-funded package to which they are entitled. I have asked my officials to gather evidence about the barriers and issues that individuals have experienced, and about the practical solutions that have been found through partnership working between the NHS and local authorities. This evidence will be used to inform both the review of Continuing NHS Healthcare and the development of new direct payments guidance under the Bill. Without wishing to anticipate the outcomes of either piece of work, my initial view is that the answer to these issues lies in the NHS and local government working together in partnership to meet the needs of individuals, their families and carers.

Best wishes
Mark.

Mark Drakeford AC / AM

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

Y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Health and Social Care Committee

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



William Powell

Cadeirydd, Y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Chair, Petitions Committee

30 September 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 23 July 2013 regarding the petition from Dr Tymandra Blewett-Silcock relating to services for tube-fed children and young people.

I would like to thank you for raising this petition with the Health and Social Care Committee. The Committee noted your letter at its first meeting after the summer recess, on 25 September 2013. Members will give the matter due consideration during Stage 2 proceedings on the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill.

Yours sincerely,

David Rees AM

Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Bae Caerdydd
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Ffôn / Tel: 029 2089 8403

Tudalen 111

E-bost / Email: PwyllgorIGC@cymru.gov.uk / HSCCommittee@wales.gov.uk

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

P-04-457 Yr Ymgyrch Caplaniaeth Elusennol

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i beidio â defnyddio cyllideb y Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol ar gyfer gofal crefyddol, ac i weithio gydag arweinyddion crefydd gyfundrefnol i sefydlu ymddiriedolaeth elusennol i ariannu gofal crefyddol yn ysbytai Cymru.

Gwybodaeth ychwanegol

Mae'r ymgyrch caplaniaeth elusennol yn cynnwys rhwydwaith anffurfiol o ddinasyddion sy'n pryderu y dylid defnyddio pob miliwn o bunnoedd o arian cyhoeddus a ddyrennir i'r GIG yng Nghymru i hyrwyddo iechyd cyhoeddus ac i drin y rheini sydd angen sylw meddygol.

Nid oes gan ein hymgyrch unrhyw arian ac nid oes angen unrhyw arian arnom. Ni chaiff ei noddi gan unrhyw sefydliad arall yng Nghymru na'r tu allan i Gymru. Mae gwasanaethau modern sy'n seiliedig ar y rhyngrydd yn caniatáu i ni gyfathrebu â'n gilydd ac â'n cynrychiolwyr sydd wedi'u hethol yn ddemocrataidd.

Mae ein cefnogwyr i gyd wedi gweld dwy ddogfen sydd wedi'u darparu i gefnogi'r ddeiseb hon ac maent yn cytuno â hwy, sef Principles, sy'n nodi ein hysgogiad, a Proposal sy'n nodi ein hachos gyda thystiolaeth ategol a dadl resymegol.

Rydym yn darparu trydedd dogfen sef Employment, sy'n rhoi tystiolaeth o'r ffordd y caiff yr arian sy'n cael ei dynnu o Gyllideb y GIG ar gyfer gwasanaethau caplaniaeth ysbytai ei wario ar hyn o bryd.

Prif ddeisebydd: Yr Ymgyrch Caplaniaeth Elusennol

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 19 Chwefror 2013

Eitem 4.13

P-04-474 Cefnogaeth i wasanaethau caplaniaeth y GIG

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn cydnabod cyfraniad cadarnhaol gwasanaethau caplaniaeth ysbytai o ran darparu gofal ysbrydol o fewn y GIG yng Nghymru ac yn cydnabod y gwaith aruthrol y mae'r gwasanaeth caplaniaeth yn y GIG yn ei ddarparu.

Mae'r gwasanaeth hwn yn chwarae rhan bwysig yn lles ysbrydol cleifion a staff y GIG, nid yn unig i'r rheini sydd â chysylltiad crefyddol ond hefyd i eraill nad oes ganddynt unrhyw gysylltiad â grŵp crefyddol. Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i barhau â'i ymrwymiad i ariannu gwasanaethau caplaniaeth ysbytai ac i ehangu manteision gwasanaethau caplaniaeth i leoliadau gofal eraill, gan gynnwys lleoliadau gofal sylfaenol a chymdeithasol.

Prif ddeisebydd: Jim Stewart

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 16 Ebrill 2013

Nifer y llofnodion: 1077

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-457/P-04-474
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/01729/13

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee

26 July 2013

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 11 July regarding the Petitions currently under consideration regarding spiritual care services.

I note the information you have enclosed relating to the petitions on spiritual care services.

As I said in my previous response of 8 May, the NHS Spiritual Care Standards were introduced by the Welsh Government in May 2010 under section 47 of the Health and Social Care Community Health and Standards Act 2003. The Standards committed NHS organisations to provide the appropriate funding for spiritual care services to patients, their families, carers and staff.

The Standards were introduced to facilitate the audit of spiritual care services, to ensure equality across services and to develop an integrated approach to the delivery of religious and spiritual care.

Progress on the implementation of the Standards has been good with many of the criteria in each Standard having already been met across all NHS organisations in Wales.

From May 2013, Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW) have been responsible for ensuring NHS organisations are compliant with the Spiritual Care Standards as they are linked to the to Doing Well, Doing Better – Standards for Health Services in Wales. HIW undertake testing and validation of the self assessment against the Standards for Healthcare as part of their public assurance role.

*Best wishes
Mark.*

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

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



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd
Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board

Cyfarwyddwr Therapiau
& Gwyddorau Iechyd
Ty Mansion
Bronllys
Aberhondu
Powys LD3 0LS
Ffon (01874) 712421

Director of Therapies &
Health Science
Mansion House
Bronllys
Brecon
Powys LD3 0LS
Tel (01874) 712421

e-mail: foi.foi@wales.nhs.uk

Our ref: AS/as/FOI/13.R.174

30 July 2013

Sent via email to: naomi.stocks@wales.gov.uk

Dear Ms Stocks

Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Further to your previous correspondence in respect of your request for information which we originally received on 25 July 2013, I can confirm in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that Powys teaching Health Board holds the information you require.

FOI Request

1. Whether any data in relation to use of chaplaincy services is recorded; and
2. For clarity on how funding is allocated for chaplaincy services across the range of sites your LHB is responsible for and how you ensure equity of service provision.

Powys Response

1. We do not record any data on use of chaplaincy services
2. The total cost for our Chaplaincy Services is £31,253 – this cost is salaries only. We do not hold any additional information.

Should you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address below.

If you are dissatisfied, with the way your request has been dealt with by the teaching Health Board (tHB), you have the right to request a review in which case you should write to:

Pencadlys y Bwrdd Iechyd
Y Plasty, Bronllys, Aberhondu, Powys LD3 0LS
Ffôn: 01874 711661 Ffacs: 01874 711601



Health Board Headquarters
Mansion House, Bronllys, Brecon, Powys LD3 0LS
Tel: 01874 711661 Fax: 01874 711601

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth Gymraeg
Bwrdd Iechyd Addysgu Powys yw enw gweithred Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol
Addysgu Powys



We welcome correspondence in Welsh
Powys Teaching Health Board is the operational name of
Powys Teaching Local Health Board

Andrew Cottom
Chief Executive
Powys Teaching Health Board
Mansion House
Bronllys
Brecon
Powys LD3 0LS

If you are still dissatisfied at the end of the review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SH9 5AF

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Smith', written in a cursive style.

Amanda Smith
Director of Therapies & Health Science and Executive Lead
for FOI



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

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

Ysbyty'r Eglwys Newydd
Whitchurch Hospital

Park Road, Whitchurch.
Cardiff, CF14 7XB
Phone 029 2069 3191

Heol Parc, Yr Eglwys Newydd
Caerdydd, CF14 7XB
Ffôn 029 2069 3191

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-457
Ein cyf/Our ref: AC-jb-08-2826
Welsh Health Telephone Network:
Direct Line/Llinell uniongychol: 02920 745681

Adam Cairns
Chief Executive

7 August 2013

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

Dear Mr Powell

P-04-457: The Charitable Chaplaincy Campaign

Thank you for your letter of 11 July in which you are seeking information to set before the Petitions Committee for their consideration.

- whether any data in relations to use of chaplaincy services is recorded;
- for clarity on funding allocated for chaplaincy services across the range of sites your LHB is responsible for and how you ensure equity of service provision.

With regard to your first question I can confirm that there is some limited data recorded pertaining to religious support, for example prayer or communion services, last rites, infant emergency Baptisms. Also patient referrals are documented and recorded. However, generic pastoral support through ward rounds or requests is not stored. Whilst we do have this limited information I must highlight that this does not represent the breadth and depth of the spiritual service within the UHB offered by the Chaplaincy Service to our patients, visitors and staff.

In answering your second question I can confirm that the funding for chaplaincy is used to create a staff team who can provide the services required by the Welsh Government 2010 Standards for Spiritual and Religious Care, these include for example:

1. Pastoral visiting at the bedside by request and general calling
2. Religious services
3. Emergency on-call cover 24 hours per day 7 days per week
4. Support for our staff
5. Facilitation, advice and guidance about faith and cultural issues as they relate to health and health care, death and dying.

The team of chaplains work across the different hospital sites within the UHB on a weekly basis. At all sites a patient will have access to a chaplain upon request Monday to Friday during the working day. An out-of-hours emergency service is also available and can be accessed through the switchboard. As I am sure you can appreciate, with a limited work force chaplaincy has, like all departments, to prioritise work according to need.

I hope the information above meets your needs.

Yours sincerely



Adam Cairns
Chief Executive



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
University Health Board

Steve Combe

Ysgrifennydd y Bwrdd / Board Secretary

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol ABM / Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board

Pencadlys ABM / ABM Headquarters

1 Talbot Gateway, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

(01639) 683323 : WHTN: 0 1885 3323 Steve.Combe@wales.nhs.uk

Swyddfa Prif Weithredydd/Chief Executive's Office
Ein Cyf/Our Ref: SC/gok

Rhif Ilinell union/Direct Line: 01639 683323
Dyddiad/Date: 8 August 2013

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

Dear Mr Powell,

Thank you for your letter dated 11th July 2013 seeking information regarding Chaplaincy Services.

I can confirm that we do not hold data on the use of such services. With regard to how funding is allocated, this is as follows:-

2011/12 £237,246 for 4.73 staff split between

	£
Bridgend Locality	67,683
Neath Port Talbot Locality	31,681
Swansea Locality	138,062

2012/13 £187,179 for 4.02 staff (0.7 vacancy)

	£
Bridgend Locality	30,602
Neath Port Talbot Locality	20,242
Swansea Locality	136,335

You also ask how we have equity of provision. I can confirm that the chaplains are in regular contact and aim to ensure cover across the Health Board.

Yours sincerely,

STEVE COMBE
BOARD SECRETARY

- Cadeirydd/ Chairman: **Andrew Davies**
- Prif Weithredydd/Chief Executive: **Paul Roberts**

Bwrdd Iechyd ABM yw enw gweithredu Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
ABM University Health Board is the operational name of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Local Health Board
Pencadlys ABM / ABM Headquarters, 1 Talbot Gateway, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR. Ffon / Tel: (01639) 683344



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board

Mr William Powell AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA

Ein cyf / Our ref: GL/RC/10229/630

Eich cyf / Your ref: P-04-457/P-04-474

☎: 01248 384910

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Geoff Lang

Ffacs / Fax: 01248 384937

E-bost / Email: geoff.lang@wales.nhs.uk

Dyddiad / Date: 15 August 2013

Dear Mr Powell

Thank you for your letter dated 11th July 2013 regarding the Charitable Chaplaincy Campaign.

Background

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) provides spiritual and religious care for patients, carers and staff in line with the Standards for Spiritual Care Services in the NHS in Wales (2010). The provision of religious care is a statutory responsibility of the LHB under Equalities Legislation, as such Chaplains provide a valuable resource in meeting the requirements for this protected group and ensuring an equitable service is delivered across BCUHB. While it is clear that Spiritual care is an important element of compassionate care and the responsibility of all staff Chaplains provide an important resource to the LHB in supporting staff in the delivery of high quality holistic care. The availability of Chaplains to spend time with patients, carers and staff listening to their concerns and needs enhances the healthcare experience for all. Chaplains work in partnership with nursing and medical staff to deliver appropriate spiritual or religious care in a manner that takes full account of patient choice. Chaplains in BCU contribute to a range of training across the Health Board including bereavement, Dignity Ambassadors, student nurses and volunteer inductions. As NHS employees Chaplains are subject to the same rigorous confidentiality and data protection policies as all staff.

Specific Questions

Whether any data in relation to use of chaplaincy services is recorded:

The Pastoral Care Chaplaincy Team in BCUHB have a Data Set for evidencing chaplaincy activity within the three acute district hospitals and some community hospitals or Locality sites which includes a number of activity episodes under the headings:

- Referrals for patients requesting spiritual/religious care from patients, carers, family staff or third party e.g. Faith Community
- Spiritual or Religious Care of Patient at/after time of Death
- Bereavement support for Family or carers



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board

- Spiritual/Religious /Bereavement care following pregnancy loss, including miscarriage, still birth and neonatal/child death
- Support for Mental Health and Learning Disability Patients
- Support for distressed Patients referred by staff
- Staff Support, including bereavement support following death of staff member
- Religious Care provided/facilitated by chaplains for all Faith/Belief groups
- Hospital provided funerals, all Faiths and Civil, for adults and babies, including bereavement support

This data set is currently under revision to include full evidence of Chaplaincy activity in all community sites and Localities. This revision should be completed by October 2013.

An update to the Spiritual Care Standards Action Plan is reported annually to the Chief Nursing Officer, NHS Wales.

The Pastoral Care Chaplaincy team reports regularly to the BCU Board through Improving Service User Experience Committee which is a subcommittee of Quality and Safety. Chaplaincy is included in the BCUHB Annual Report, Service User Experience Plan and other CPG Service User Experience reports. Pastoral Care Chaplains have been fully involved in all service reviews and public consultations.

Clarity on how funding is allocated for chaplaincy services:

A specific Budget for all Pastoral Care Chaplaincy, including acute, community and locality is part of the Executive Nurse Directors budget. It is overseen by an Assistant Director of Nursing along with the Head of Nursing Service User Experience and Pastoral Care Manager. This budget is regularly reviewed being subject to same scrutiny and savings requirements as all Board budgets. This budget does not relate solely to religious care but encompasses the full range of care provided by chaplaincy which enhances the patient experience. This budget funds a 24/7 on call service available across BCUHB hospitals and Localities.

The Pastoral Care Chaplaincy team is currently working in an interim structure to ensure equity of service provision whilst awaiting completion of a revised structure. There are three teams of chaplains with responsibility for hospitals, acute and community including Enhanced Home Care and Hospice at Home.

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

Yours sincerely

GEOFF LANG
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**P-04-457 The Charitable Chaplaincy Campaign-
correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee,
15.11.2013**

The Charitable Chaplaincy Campaign

The Wales-wide, cross-party campaign for a charitable hospital chaplaincy.

To understand how relevant the responses discussed below are to Petition P-04-457 one has to keep in mind the following very important fact.

Our *Proposal*, which is the reason for the Petition, clearly states that the present establishment of hospital chaplains be retained. The 2010 Standards documentsⁱ must be retained as the service definition for hospital chaplaincy, despite the many problems with these standards, since there is no better definition to hand. The Campaign believes that the 2010 Standards documents should eventually be re-written. Some reasons for that opinion are given below but this is irrelevant to the issue of the funding of hospital chaplaincy.

The *Proposal* and the Petition are concerned **exclusively** with the **funding** of hospital chaplaincy.

The *Proposal* advances no criticism of hospital chaplaincy as it is currently practiced.

To reject the Petition request it must be demonstrated that charitable funding of hospital chaplaincy is **impossible** or **unacceptable** for reasons that do not apply to, say, The Children's Hospital of Wales, The Wales Air Ambulance Service or Tŷ Hafan.

In six years of campaigning no one in Government, in organised religion or in the National Assembly has provided such a demonstration of impossibility or unacceptability. The Welsh Government simply assures us, without evidence, that it is best that the State funds religious care in hospitals using our National Insurance contributions and general taxation. Organised religion and others either make false claims that we plan to remove chaplains from hospitals (Christian Council of Britainⁱⁱ), make highly dubious claims for the medical efficacy of religious care which they are unable to substantiate with peer reviewed evidence, make false claims that there is a statutory duty to fund hospital chaplaincyⁱⁱⁱ or they simply re-iterate that chaplains do a worthwhile job. Such a claim to be worthwhile does not appear to be applicable to The Children's Hospital of Wales, The Wales Air Ambulance Service or Tŷ Hafan since they all rely upon charitable fund raising for their existence and survival.

A question which **is** directly relevant to our petition and which might have been asked of Health Board administrators is this:-

*If the existing Chaplaincy Service in your Health Board were to be funded by a grant from a charitable trust set up for this purpose, which nursing, midwifery or medical services would you chose to assist with the £***,*** per annum so made available?*

The amount of money in question could be provided from the financial tables of our *Proposal* document.

Consideration of the Minister's Response

From: Professor Mark Drakeford AM 26th July 2013

Professor Drakeford in his third sentence attempts to justify spending NHS Wales budget on religious care by referring to Section 47 of the Health and Social Care Community Health Standards Act of 2003. His view is that these Standards **commit** NHS organisations to provide appropriate funding for spiritual care services.

Now whatever the Minister intends "commit" to mean, it is clear that the Department of Health believes that the provision of hospital chaplains is not a **statutory** requirement placed upon NHS organisations. In a email dated July 2010 (some seven years later than the Act referenced by the Minister) the Department of Health wrote to me as follows:-

Subject: Response to your Query : - Ref:DE00000515284 - Chaplaincy

Date: Fri, 2 Jul 2010 15:53:29

Our ref: DE00000515284 Chaplaincy

Dear Mr Rogers,

Thank you for your email of 20 June about hospital chaplaincy.

The Department of Health will consider your suggestions as it starts to take a new, coherent, and better coordinated approach to the provision of healthcare chaplaincy services in the near future.

Unlike prisons and the armed services, **there is no statutory requirement for hospitals to provide chaplaincy services**. However, healthcare chaplaincy has remained part of the patient offer since the inception of the NHS. [My emphasis: AJR]

The Department's policy is set out in NHS Chaplaincy: Meeting the Religious and Spiritual Needs of Patients and Staff (November 2003), which makes clear that Hospital Trusts should aim to provide a multi-faith chaplaincy service.

In order to meet continually rising demands for healthcare (including from a growing and ageing population and new technology) while improving outcomes and the quality of services, the NHS will need to deliver billions of pounds in efficiencies over the next few years. These efficiencies will be reinvested in meeting rising demands, improving outcomes and supporting frontline staff. This includes the provision of spiritual care in the NHS. Improving the productivity of public services is the key to reducing the deficit while maintaining and improving services.

Thank you again for sharing your ideas with us.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Jones
Customer Service Centre
Department of Health

The statement above is simple, clear and unambiguous. However it carries the implication that, given the historical presence of chaplaincy in the “patient offer”, the NHS Wales may well feel that it is appropriate to **facilitate** hospital chaplaincy. This should not be confused with **funding** hospital chaplaincy.

The NHS Wales probably has no statutory duty to provide for the visiting of patients by family and friends but historically it is expected that this should be facilitated. Visitor hours are set, car parks are provided and staff are no doubt encouraged to answer questions that visitors may have concerning patient care and the progress that patients are making.

BUT the NHS Wales does not fund the visiting of patients. It does not refund travel costs or overnight accommodation costs should these be necessary. It provides a car park for visitors but expects them to pay a charge which will cover the cost of that provision. It plausibly argues that the money needed to maintain a car park would be better spent on medical and nursing care.

Our Petition [P-04-457] asks only that the Welsh Government work with organised religion to transfer funding to a charitable trust while maintaining the existing facility of religious care and ensuring that it at least meets the Standards defined as a response to the 2003 Health Standards Act.

Despite the many problems with the 2010 Standards for Spiritual Care (which include, a failure to define “spiritual care” adequately, ambiguity and a lack of participation by NHS Wales service users in its production) it remains, for now, the only available definition of the role of hospital chaplains.

Consideration of Individual Health Board Responses

Returns available for:-

Powys Teaching H.B.
Cardiff & Vale U.H.B.
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg U.H.B.
Betsi Cadwaladr U.H.B.

No returns for:-

Hywel Dda H.B.
Aneurin Bevan H.B.
Cwm Taf H.B.

Questions:

1. Whether any data in relation to use of chaplaincy services is recorded; and
2. For clarity on how funding is allocated for chaplaincy services across the range of sites your LHB is responsible for and how you ensure equity of service provision.

Response from:

Director of Therapies & Health Science – Executive Lead for FOI , Powys Teaching Health Board, 30th July 2013

The response reveals the fact that, despite frequent claims by the College of Health Care Chaplains and organised religion that chaplains are much valued and extensively used there seems to be very little in the way of useful data to support these claims.

This is not a problem in respect of our *Proposal* since we do not question the value of chaplaincy (we have no more data to do this than do supporters of state funding of religious care). We only wish to see the funding of the existing service transferred from the NHS Wales budget to a charitable trust.

We have for six financial years asked Health Boards in our FOI Act requests the following question.

For the previous financial year, what was the total cost to your Board for the provision of Chaplaincy Services?

To which the Powys Teaching Health Board provided the following data:-

2007/8	£35,228	2008/9	£38,119	2009/10	£46,603
2010/11	£45,389	2011/12	£34,543	2012/13	£38,364

The figure of £31,253 given in the response does not state the year (financial or calendar) and indicates that this is for salaries only. Our request was for “total cost”. The total cost to an employer is far more than salary when National Insurance, pension, accommodation and support services are included. Indeed a commonly used “rule of thumb” is to double the salary cost. This response casts some doubt upon the data for cost, hinting that it may be even higher than we fear and sheds no light on how chaplains are deployed.

Response from:

Chief Executive, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, 7th August

The response adds little to our understanding of the reasons for the use of NHS Wales budget for religious care. The activities listed are: Prayer, Communion services, Last Rites, infant emergency Baptism, pastoral visiting, religious services, advice and guidance about faith and cultural (probably code for non-Christian religious observances) issues as they relate to health, health care, death and dying. These are all religious care services. No comparable specific instances of so called “spiritual care” are provided thus we get no clear idea of what such non-religious “spiritual care” really is.

It is clear that the Chief Executive sees that allocation of budget to religious care is required because of the 2010 Standards documents.

Response from:

Board Secretary, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, 8th August

This response simply states that there are no data on the use of chaplaincy services. A geographical breakdown of spend is given. The total spend is identical to that obtained by the Charitable Chaplaincy Campaign through FOI Act requests. Equality of provision is confirmed but no explanation is given on how this is ensured - as was requested.

Response from:

Acting Chief Executive, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, 15th August

In this response we believe that a serious error is made by the Acting Chief Executive in asserting that Equalities Legislation makes the provision of religious care a statutory responsibility. The Charitable Chaplaincy Campaign has asked the National Secular Society to obtain legal advice on this matter but the present view is that this claim is unfounded so should be expunged from the Petitions Committee evidence.

The account of chaplaincy activities is extensive although there is no clear distinction between “spiritual care” and “religious care”. The terms appear to be interchangeable.

The author appears to misunderstand the medical use of the term “holistic”. This is a common error made by those who are enthusiastic about religious care for the sick.

Alan Rogers

15th November 2013

ⁱ *Standards for Spiritual Care Services in the NHS in Wales 2010* and *Standards for Spiritual Care Services in the NHS in Wales 2010, Supporting Guidance*. Published during the Third Assembly

ⁱⁱ <http://www.bnp.org.uk/news/nhs-hospital-chaplaincy-service-under-threat>

ⁱⁱⁱ See email from the Department of Health in comment on Minister’s response above.

P-04-463 Lleihau Lefelau Halen mewn Bwyd

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym ni, sydd wedi llofnodi isod, yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i leihau'r swm o halen sydd mewn bwyd, fel bod modd i bobl ddewis ffordd o fyw iach yng Nghymru.

Gwybodaeth gefnogol: Mae bwyta llawer o halen yn gyfrannwr nodedig at orbwysedd (pwysedd gwaed uchel) a all achosi strôc a thrawiad ar y galon.

Prif ddeisebydd: Harry Hayfield

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 19 Mawrth 2013

Nifer y llofnodion: 11

P-04-463 Reduction of Salt Levels in Food: Correspondence from the Petitioner to Clerking team – 18 October 2013

Firstly I do apologise for taking such a long time to get back to you. When I got the first e-mail on August 18th 2013, the Welsh language came up first (and the only reason I knew it had something to do with my petition was the PDF attachment with the Minister's reply). I had no idea that you were expecting my thoughts on the Minister's reply until the second e-mail (which happened to arrive whilst I was on holiday in England and therefore away from my computer where I could read the Minister's reply)

I am glad that the Minister recognises that three quarters of all the salt ingested by the Welsh population is hidden, and that the Welsh Government supports the targets laid down by the Food Standards Agency but am disappointed that the Minister does not believe that anymore can be done under the current constraints of the devolution settlement. I would like to think that the Minister would take these statements and my petition on board and put forward (either in his and the Assembly Government's time or via a backbencher) whatever the term is given for a policy passed by the Assembly that is signed into law by Her Majesty (I regret that I do not know the term). Therefore, would it be possible to speak with the Minister (ideally in person when he next visits Ceredigion) and address these concerns with him?

P-04-490 Meddyginiaeth Gwrth-retrofeirysol yng Nghaerdydd

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i weithredu ynghylch y cyflenwad cyfyngedig iawn o feddyginiaethau HIV gwrth-retrofeirysol. Mae newidiadau diweddar a wnaed gan Ysbyty Athrofaol Caerdydd yn golygu bod yn rhaid i bob claf sy'n cael meddyginiaethau gwrth-retrofeirysol naill ai ddod i fferyllfa'r ysbyty, sydd ag amseroedd agor cyfyngedig, neu ddewis i'r feddyginiaeth gael ei hanfon i'r cartref. Caiff cleifion sefydlog sy'n glynu at y driniaeth apwyntiad bob 4-6 mis gyda'r ymgynghorydd. Er hynny, mae dosbarthiad meddyginiaethau wedi'i gyfyngu i gyflenwad misol yn unig. Nid yw'r Gweinidog Iechyd yn teimlo mai ei gyfrifoldeb ef yw hyn ac nid yw am ymyrryd. Dylai cleifion gael dosbarthiad teg o feddyginiaeth yn unol â chanllawiau cymdeithas HIV y DU.

Prif ddeisebydd: Joerg Thieme

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 18 Mehefin 2013

Nifer y llofnodion : 150

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-490
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/01457/13

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee

10 July 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 26 June on behalf of the Petitions Committee, regarding the inclusion of antiretroviral HIV medicines in the 28 day prescribing rule and for providing a copy of the supporting information provided by the petitioner, Joerg Thieme.

Health Boards in Wales are encouraged to adopt 28-day prescribing period as the standard duration for all prescriptions wherever possible and appropriate. The 28 day prescribing policy is not mandatory and Welsh Government expects Health Boards to give consideration to individual patient needs. Prescribing intervals for all medication should be in line with the medically appropriate needs of the patient.

The changes implemented by the University Hospital of Wales (UHW) regarding the prescribing of antiretroviral HIV medications follows concerns raised in the Health Board around the financial cost of prescribing these high cost medicines and the need to minimise waste. For example, if a patient is given three months supply of an antiretroviral HIV medication and the patient's prescription is changed before the end of the three months - as conditions can change during that period - there is a substantial risk of waste.

One means of reducing waste within NHS, which is currently estimated to be in the region of £15 - 50 million a year in Wales, is to ensure the prescribing interval is clinically appropriate, as this can reduce the risk of medicines waste when a patient's clinical condition/medication changes. The 28 day prescribing policy is recognised by the NHS as achieving the best possible balance between patient convenience, good medical practice and minimising waste.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

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

I recognise, however, that it is important a range of options for receiving medication, other than the patient having to collect it from a hospital pharmacy, should be available. In the case of UHW they are working closely with HIV patients to ensure the needs of each patient are accommodated. There is a choice of delivery for the medicines including:

- Royal Mail
- Collection from post offices
- Collection from the Cardiff Royal Infirmary Pharmacy
- Through a home care package

Until patients are stable they continue to receive monthly supplies. Once stable, UHW have confirmed to me they will work closely with patients to ensure a degree of flexibility in the delivery of their medicines. I expect the hospital to negotiate with individual patients to make sure the delivery mechanism is right for them.

In the particular case of Mr Thieme, I have been advised that the Pharmacy Department at UHW met with him on 26 June to discuss his particular issues and concerns. Consequent to this meeting I understand that Mr Thieme has discussed alternative arrangements for the delivery/collection of his medication with his consultant. I trust Mr Thieme's issues have now been resolved.

I hope this information has been helpful.

Best wishes

Mark.

Mark Drakeford AC / AM

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

P-04-490 Antiretroviral Medication in Cardiff – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee, 08.11.2013

I am appalled by the response of the Health Minister! Stating a saving of 15-50 million for Wales is totally inaccurate. The 28 prescription guidelines was implemented to reduce waste but was NEVER intended for HIV patients. I am amazed about the sheer blindness of this. Somebody, god knows who, implemented the 28 days cycle for HIV patients in Wales. Something hospitals in London never heard of!!!!

The Welsh Health Minister underestimates guidelines in hospital. As a former Radiographer myself I would get into trouble if I work against guidelines, justifying myself for managers and the health board.

I can assure the Health Minister with absolute certainty that no clinician with sound mind would voluntarily act against given guidelines. That is because of the justification that has to follow in front of managers and health boards. Something no staff member is keen on doing!

Is the Welsh Government saving 15 Million or 50 Million? Maybe somebody can explain those numbers?

I wish to stress that the 28 guidelines are intended for GP mainly. Also I wish to stress that hardly there are HIV patients where the prescription has to be changed suddenly! The consultant will get a feeling for that very well in advance and this takes time. Never ever is a HIV patient required to suddenly change medication. If a HIV patient is believed to change medication then that will be implemented over time, NEVER suddenly.

I am appalled about the lies in order to justify the 28 days prescription rule for HIV medications in Wales. I wonder if the Health Minister can point out one single hospital in England doing that as well. There is not any.

I therefore urge the Welsh Government to admit a wrong approach with this and come back to the normality.

I will not come back for treatment in Cardiff until this mess is sorted out. I cannot come to the hospital pharmacy with such restricted opening times and I cannot opt for home delivery. Its not working for me.

I rather travel to London twice a year to get my medication.

kind regards
Joerg Thieme

P-04-501 Gwneud canolfannau dydd ar gyfer pobl hŷn yn ofyniad statudol yng Nghymru

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i wneud canolfannau gofal dydd ar gyfer pobl hŷn yn ofyniad statudol ar gyfer Cymru gyfan.

Prif ddeisebydd: Pamela Hughes

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 24 Medi 2013

Nifer y llofnodion: 1240

Gwenda Thomas AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-501
Ein cyf/Our ref GT/00643/13

William Powell AM
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

17 October 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 3 October addressed to the Minister for Health and Social Services in relation to the petition to make day centres for older people a statutory requirement for the whole of Wales. As I have responsibility for this matter, I have been asked to respond.

Whilst I can appreciate the intention behind this, it is also important to take account of the needs of individuals and whether this is something that all older people would want. The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Bill places a duty on local authorities to assess the needs of people requiring care and support. In carrying out this assessment the local authority must identify the outcomes the individual wishes to achieve in day to day life and to what extent the provision of care and support could contribute to the achievement of those outcomes.

The Bill aims to ensure that the needs and outcomes identified as being important to the individual are met. This may involve support from family or friends, the use of community resources, the use of direct payments where the individual can manage their own care and support or the allocation of specific services. In some cases, for example, an older person who has become isolated may benefit more from help to enable them to use community transport to visit friends, go shopping or attend church, rather than attend a day centre.

The Commissioning Guidance issued in 2010 requires local authorities to develop commissioning plans which should specify the services required to meet the needs of their residents. These plans must be based on an understanding of the needs of citizens and must develop clear service development priorities to meet these needs.

The development of services will therefore depend upon an analysis of both the needs of individuals and groups of service users and therefore should be a matter for local decision making.

I would suggest the Petitions' Committee explores the purpose of day centres and the needs they are designed to address. If day centres are focused on addressing loneliness and isolation there may be other more effective options. If the purpose is to provide respite care for carers, again there may be more effective options. Local communities may also want to explore potential developments with third sector partners.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Gwenda'.

Gwenda Thomas AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services

P-04-501 Day Centres for the elderly in Wales to be made statutory – Correspondence from the petitioners to the Committee, 18.11.2013

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PETITIONS COMMITTEE:

Having read the letter from Gwenda Thomas to William Powell, we are very much in your hands with regard to the next step.

Gwenda Thomas states "I would suggest the Petitions Committee explores the purpose of Day Centres, and the need they are designed to address".

Could this be possible for discussion at your next meeting?

Many thanks,
Martin W. Shewring.

P-04-505 Uned Anhwylderau Bwyta yng Nghymru

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i roi gwybod i Lywodraeth Cymru am yr angen brys i ddarparu uned anhwylderau bwyta arbenigol yng Nghymru.

Gwybodaeth ychwanegol:

Hoffem weld uned anhwylderau bwyta arbenigol yn cael ei hadeiladu yng Nghymru i leihau'r pwysau a'r anghyfleustra o orfod teithio mor bell o aelodau'r teulu a chyfeillion drwy orfod mynd i Loegr i gael triniaeth. Yn 2007, cydnabu'r Llywodraeth nad oedd triniaeth arbenigol ar gael yng Nghymru a bod angen i'r sefyllfa hon newid, ond bum mlynedd yn ddiweddarach rydym yn dal i aros am y newid hwnnw. Gwn o brofiad personol pa mor anodd yw bod mewn ysbyty mor bell o gartref, a chredaf y byddai cael uned anhwylderau bwyta yng Nghymru yn gwneud y broses o gael triniaeth ac o wella yn rhwyddach i ddiodefwr o Gymru.

Prif ddeisebydd: Keira Marlow

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 8 Hydref 2013

Nifer y llofnodion : 526



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-505
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/02919/13

William Powell AM
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

William.powell@wales.gov.uk

3 November 2013

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 23 October on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding the petition from Keira Marlow calling on the Welsh Government to provide a specialist eating disorder unit in Wales.

It is not clear from the petition wording whether the call is for an adult or children's specialist unit. Nevertheless, the Welsh Government has made good progress in relation to the provision of Eating Disorder services for both groups, and tackling this issue remains a priority in our Together for Mental Health Strategy.

The vast majority of people with an eating disorder can be cared for either in the community or local mental health inpatient facilities in Wales. Those in need of highly specialised care are supported by specialist staff concentrated in a small number of centres across the UK until they are well enough to return home, with the support of the aforementioned services, or to their local mental health unit.

Eating Disorders: A Framework for Wales was published in 2009. Issued to all Health Boards, it established that services should be developed according to clinical need and as locally as is practicable, and it sets out roles and responsibilities relating to the investigation, treatment and monitoring of those with eating disorders.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i **atgylchedd 100% 39**

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

To support implementation of the Framework, we provide annual funding of £1 million to sustain the two specialist community eating disorder teams, serving north and south Wales which were established in 2010. The teams support both secondary and primary care services, and assist with the delivery of care to those with more complex requirements. The services support those over the age of 18 and close links have been established with child and adolescent mental health teams across Wales.

Some individuals with an eating disorder might require hospitalisation, ordinarily in a mental health in patient facility in Wales or, should circumstances warrant, a specialist eating disorders facility in England. Few Welsh patients require the services of facilities in England, and equally England-based patients might themselves have to travel long distances to access specialist services depending on where they live. Given this issue of critical mass, and the ongoing pressures on the public finances, it is not viable to establish a specialist eating disorders unit in Wales at this time.

The importance we assign to the needs of young people with mental ill-health such as eating disorders is reflected in the investment of £42m that was used to establish young people's mental health in-patient units in north (Abergele) and south Wales (Bridgend). Providing a total of 34 beds for those requiring the highest levels of care, these invaluable facilities provide safe environments where young people can receive treatment for a range of complex mental health problems, including eating disorders.

Your letter refers to my evidence to the Committee on 8 October regarding the provision of Eating Disorder services to children and young people and my comments remain extant in relation to this petition. I particularly refer you to paragraph 308 of the meeting transcript, where I indicated that the treatment of Eating Disorders in young people is regarded as very much a part of CAMHS core business. I further stated that, whilst treatment in the community is our approach, between one third and 40% of admissions to the tier 4 CAMHS residential units are for those with an Eating Disorder. My evidence also referred to the additional investment in treating Eating Disorders within CAMHS, which I announced on 7 October. This recurrent £250,000 investment will provide additional skilled staff; improve the skills of the existing workforce; enable more frequent out-patient clinics to be run; and, crucially, enable better use to be made of the CAMHS inpatient units, ensuring more young people can be treated in Wales rather than be sent out of area.

I hope this information is helpful.

Best wishes
Mark

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

P-04-505 Eating Disorder Unit in Wales – Correspondence from the petitioner to the clerking team, 09.11.2013

Dear Sian,

Thank you for letting me know when the petition will be considered.

I would only like to state how important it is to have an eating disorder hospital in Wales, due to there not currently being one. It would reduce the patients stress of being so far from home and would mean that the patients family and friends could visit more often due to a welsh hospital being much closer than an english one. It would also allow the patient to have faster access to the specialist care and treatment that an inpatient hospital would offer, without having to be on a long waiting list for a bed in an english hospital with which the spaces are limited.

As noted in the Minister for Health and Social Services pdf, my petition didn't state what age the hospital was for, but I was campaigning for an over 18 hospital.

Best wishes,

Keira Marlow

P-04-363 Cynllun i Wella Canol Tref Abergwaun

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym ni sydd wedi llofnodi isod yn gofyn i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol gefnogi'r alwad ar Lywodraeth Cymru i weithio gyda Chyngor Sir Penfro i sicrhau y buddsoddir mewn cynllun i wella canol tref Abergwaun, gan gynnwys mesurau sy'n ymwneud â cherddwyr a rheoli traffig. Mae'n rhaid i gynllun gwella o'r fath wella hyfywedd a chynaliadwyedd y dref a'i gwneud yn gwbl hygyrch i'r holl drigolion ac ymwelwyr, gan gynnwys y rheini sydd ag anghenion o ran symudedd ac anabledau eraill.

Prif ddeisebydd: Cynghorydd Bob Kilmister

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor am y tro cyntaf: 7 Chwefror 2012

Nifer y deisebwyr: Casglwyd 1,042



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

e.mail: Rworkman@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
e.bost:

Your ref: Our ref:
Eich Cyf: Ein Cyf:

Direct Line: 01267 224647 Date:

This matter is being dealt with by: Richard
Workman
Trafodir y mater hwn gan: Director of Technical
Services, Carmarthenshire County Council,
County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1LZ

Dear William,

PETITIONS COMMITTEE –TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME – FISHGUARD

Thank you for your letter of 3rd October and for including copies of other mail relating to this issue to allow me to make an informed response to you.

Your Committee has asked SWWITCH to give some guidance to help the petitioners ensure that their plans are more likely to meet the criteria for inclusion in the 2014/15 SWWITCH Delivery Plan. This is not possible to do with any degree of certainty at this stage as the Welsh Government has not yet issued guidance to the four transport consortia for the next financial year.

This means that we do not know what the likely budget will be and whether certain types of schemes will be ring fenced (for example in 2013/14 more than 30% of the available total was ring fenced for Active Travel Schemes).

However, the expectation is, that in the context of the Minister's announcement of the Swansea Bay City Region, the focus will be on schemes which support the key aims of the City Region and the South West Wales Regional Economic Regeneration Strategy. Indeed as soon as the City Region was announced SWWITCH Members agreed to the principle of focusing future Delivery Plan bids on strategic transport schemes which will support employment and training and improve access for business, residents and visitors.

I am sorry not to be able to provide anything more specific at present, but hope that the above may be helpful nonetheless.

Yours sincerely

Richard Workman
SWWITCH Lead Chief Officer

P-04-419 : Moratoriwm ar Ddatblygu Ffermydd Gwynt

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Galwn ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i ofyn i Lywodraeth Cymru am foratoriwm ar ddatblygu ffermydd gwynt a thyrbinau gwynt y mae ganddi gyfrifoldeb datganoledig drostynt. Bydd y moratoriwm yn gyfnod o fyfyrto, a bydd pwyllgor trawsbleidiol yn cael ei gynnull yn yr amser hwn i archwilio effeithiau gweithredu tyrbinau gwynt ar iechyd, lles cymdeithasol, gwerth adeiladau, twristiaeth, a'r economi leol, o fewn 15 kilometr i'r safleoedd hyn.

Gofynnwn i'r pwyllgor trawsbleidiol gael caniatâd i gomisiynu gwaith ymchwil annibynnol ar faterion datganoledig iechyd, lles cymdeithasol a thwristiaeth mewn perthynas â thyrbinau gwynt, ac i gytuno ar gyfres o safonau ar gyfer ynni gwynt datganoledig, a fydd yn blaenoriaethu gofalu am yr amgylchedd lleol, tir amwynderau, cynefinoedd a natur.

Gofynnwn hefyd i bob safle tyrbin gwynt ddatganoledig orfod cael cymeradwyaeth mewn refferendwm lleol (o fewn 5 kilometr).

Nid yw'r ddeiseb hon yn ymwneud ag ynni gwynt a reolir gan Gyfarwyddiaeth y Seilwaith Cenedlaethol.

Prif ddeisebydd: James Shepherd Foster

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 1332



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio
Minister for Housing and Regeneration

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-419
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/01645/13

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions Committee
C/O Committee Clerk

Stephen.George@wales.gov.uk

22 October 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 3 October with regard to a petition calling for a moratorium on wind farm applications. I note the additional information submitted by the petitioner. However, I remain of the view that there should not be a moratorium on wind farm applications.

Planning policy and technical advice notes produced by the Welsh Government are subject to public consultation when in draft form before being finalised. Technical Advice Note (TAN) 8: Planning for Renewable Energy was no exception and was published in draft form for an extended public consultation exercise in 2004 with 1,723 people responding. All Members of Parliament, Assembly Members, and local planning authorities were consulted. The planning system provides the opportunity for members of the public to participate in the preparation of Local Development Plans and make representations on applications. Planning applications are subject to public consultation and the views of the local community should be taken into account in the decision-making process. The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 sets out the publicity requirements to be undertaken by local planning authorities. For schemes over 50MW, which are not devolved and are the responsibility of the UK Government, the developer is responsible for undertaking public consultation at the pre-application stage as set out in the Planning Act 2008.

I do not support the introduction of a moratorium on wind farm applications.

Yours sincerely

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio
Minister for Housing and Regeneration



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio
Minister for Housing and Regeneration

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-419
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/01645/13

William Powell AC
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deisebau
druwy ofal Clerc y Pwyllgor

Stephen.George@cymru.gov.uk

Hydref 2013

Annwyl William,

Diolch am eich llythyr dyddiedig 3 Hydref parthed deiseb sy'n galw am foratoriwm ar geisiadau am ffermydd gwynt. Nodaf yr wybodaeth ychwanegol y mae'r deisebydd wedi'i chyflwyno. Fodd bynnag, rwyf yn parhau i fod o'r farn na ddylid cael moratoriwm ar geisiadau am ffermydd gwynt.

Cyn llunio fersiynau terfynol o bolisi cynllunio a nodiadau cynngor technegol a gynhyrchir gan Lywodraeth Cymru, cynhelir ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus pan fyddant ar ffurf drafft. Nid oedd Nodyn Cynngor Technegol 8: Cynllunio ar gyfer Ynni Adnewyddadwy yn eithriad a charfodd ei gyhoeddi ar ffurf drafft yn 2004 gyda 1,723 yn ymateb. Ymgynghorwyd â phob Aelod Seneddol, pob Aelod Cynulliad a phob awdurdod cynllunio lleol.

Mae'r system gynllunio'n rhoi cyfle i'r cyhoedd gymryd rhan yn y gwaith o baratoi Cynlluniau Datblygu Lleol a gwneud sylwadau ar geisiadau. Cynhelir ymgynghoriadau cyhoeddus am geisiadau cynllunio a dylid ystyried barn y gymuned leol wrth ddod i benderfyniad. Mae Gorchymyn Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref (Gweithdrefn Rheoli Datblygu) (Cymru) 2012 yn nodi'r hyn y mae gofyn i awdurdodau cynllunio lleol ei wneud o ran cyhoeddustrwydd. I gynlluniau sydd dros 50MW, nad ydynt yn ddatganoleddig ac sy'n gyfrifoleb Llywodraeth y DU, y datblygwr sy'n gyfrifol am gynnal ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus yn ystod y cam cyn y cais fel y nodir yn Nodf Cynllunio 2008.

Nid wyf yn cefnogi cyflwyno moratoriwm ar geisiadau ffermydd gwynt.

Yn gywir

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio
Minister for Housing and Regeneration

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu **Tudalen 146**

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

P-04-419 Wind Farm Moratorium – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Chair, 14.11.2013

Galar ecology volunteer group

14th. November 2013

Dear Mr. Powell,

Thank you once again for the opportunity to respond to the information being supplied by the Welsh Assembly Government to our petition.

We have no information to report, from NRW or Mr. John Griffiths, in answer to our last requests. (Your letter 3rd. October 2013 Ref. P-04-419).

I would like to thank Mr Carl Sargeant AC/AM Minister for Housing and Regeneration for his response and would make the following points, in respect of his letter:

Para 2. Firstly I would consider a consultation which only drew 1,723 responses from the Welsh population, (0.006%), to be inadequate. I would remind you that this petition of 1,332 responses is 77% of the target the minister considers adequate for consultation by the National Government of this country. Our responses were achieved by a few volunteers acting by word of mouth, and door to door. Further, this is with regard to one form of Renewable Energy, where the Welsh Assembly Government considers 12 in its proposals, (see Practise Guidance- Planning Implications of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy).

Para 3. LDP's; these can and are subject to WAG approval, when local opinion is out of sync with the WAG the Central Governments opinion takes precedence.

Mr. Sargeant's claim that, "wind farm planning applications are subject to public consultation and the views of the local community are taken into account in the decision making process", is meaningless if that consultation is ignored in favour of WAG targets. The evidence for this was amply demonstrated at the inquiry into Carmarthenshire County Councils refusal of the RES application at Bryn Llywelyn. RES lawyers stated the targets set for SSA G by Mr. J. Griffiths had to be adhered to. Carmarthen County Council conceded this, but claimed that accepting other applications and the possible extension of SSA G could see WAG targets met. At no point between 2004 and the present day, despite increasing targets, has further consultation been undertaken.

The Developer led 'consultation' Mr. Sargeant refers to in the last part of the paragraph is merely a public relations exercise by the developer, and offers no alternative technology as required by both Aarhus and EU directives. At no point has this petition sought to address developer installations over 50MW. WAG approves in principal applications over 50 MW, otherwise they would not be counted in the Ministers demand for SSA totals. These totals, are decided by WAG, and have not been subject to public consultation.

Consultation

I would show two examples of consultation requirements from EU directives. Both ratified before TAN 8. (Please note TAN 8 is not an EU directive, and the SSA's should have been subject to the checks and balances of EU Directives, in force at the time of TAN 8's inception, and at intervals when substantive changes were made).

1. European Noise Directive 2002/49/EC Article 3V defining those who should be consulted. *'the public' shall mean one or more natural or legal persons and, in accordance with national legislation or practice, their associations, organisations or groups.*
2. From the Habitats Directive: *To achieve this, the Directive introduces a modern, flexible and inclusive approach to site conservation that puts people at the heart of the process. It recognises that humans are an integral part of nature and that the two work best in partnership with one another. Everyone has a role to play in making Natura 2000 a success –*

be they public authorities, private landowners and users, developers, conservation NGOs, scientific experts, local communities or individual members of the public..

The Petition.

In our document **Wind Farm Moratorium Petition** of the 4th.April 2013 we asked the Petitions Committee to examine seven points in relation to our petition. Perhaps it would be advantageous at this point to examine where we are in relation to these, and suggest some sort of solution. We are very aware of the Committees time available to consider petitions is valuable; and that this petition has had its fair share of the time available. I have listed the seven points in the table overleaf, and our own suggestions how this can be satisfactorily concluded from the petitioners viewpoint.

Petition Points & Requests	Progress
<p>1. Matters of Health & Safety in Construction and Design of Wind Turbines.</p>	<p>We have made little progress, in that the Minister for Housing and Regeneration considered all our requests to be without merit. I feel that the petitions process has gone about as far as it can go on this matter. However there is one outstanding point we would ask the Committee to address. This is point A below.</p>
<p>2.Matters of planning and placement of turbines in rural landscapes. 3. Matters where turbines are given precedence over other EU and WAG regulation and directives.</p>	<p>These two points were the most important to those who signed the petition. The planning and placement of wind turbines is not only a decision for the developer, it is a matter for an EIA, EU landscape regulation, The Habitats Directive and EU Soundscape regulation. At the heart of all EU environmental directives is consultation with the public. This refers to Point B below.</p>
<p>4.Matters where TAN 8 Guidelines need to become regulatory limits.</p> <p>5.Disclosure on imperatives placed on County Councils by WAG to accept applications. The efficacy of applications within the National Energy Policy, and a clear indication of what that National Energy Policy is</p>	<p>In SSA G we have a TAN 8 Final Report 2005, which we understood to be the guidelines on which applications within SSA G would be judged. We went through a pointless exercise on the Application for Brechfa Forest East discovering that all of the twelve turbines failed to meet the final report criteria. We now discover that Mr. Griffith's targets are more important and outweigh Arup.</p> <p>These two points (opposite) sought to have WAG adopt a more open and honest approach from the start, and to have a clear distinction between WAG and the developer, and a clear indication what the future National Energy Policy is, and how it will be structured. Our suggested way forward on these points is C below.</p>
<p>6. Tourism</p>	<p>Our suggested way forward on is D below</p>
<p>7 Community Benefits</p>	<p>Our suggested way forward is E below</p>

Point A. If the Minister feels that the quality of the product being installed in Wales should be decided by the Developer, a party with only a financial interest in outcomes, then there is never going to be a meeting of minds. However, one point is of overriding interest to our farming communities. All turbines are insured by the developer against damage and loss, this includes turbine fire. What is not clear is if the developer insures to compensate adjacent farmland from PCB and other noxious chemical deposits contamination from fires, bio security failures allowing the introduction of damaging species during installation, (e.g Japanese Knot weed), and at what level such compensation is set. If there is no imperative or rule, should farmers adjacent to wind farms be obliged to take out separate insurance? This is particularly pertinent on single turbine installations, which in the recent past have suffered far higher incident rates than major wind farms.

Point B. The public should be made aware of all EU directives, and local LDP conditions appertaining to wind farms at the planning stage. We are well aware that a Minister can seek subsidiarity on directives in the interest of WAG ambitions, but such subsidiarity should be clearly indicated. Similarly, LDP's would have more credibility if they were in the gift of the County Councils and WAG ministers exercised the WAG imperative on a case by case basis, clearly indicated to the public. We would like the petitions committee to ask the WAG for clearer planning guidance on all wind turbine installations, and all EIA's to have the list of pertinent EU directives and whether NRW is seeking subsidiarity and upon what grounds. We would also ask the Petitions Committee to ascertain from NRW the position regarding the full implementation of 2002/49/EC for areas of open country, and more specifically their noise mapping plans, which to have any credence, should precede wind farm installations. I have tried as a private individual to obtain this information prior to our petition, this petition has also asked this question, and we have received no reply.

Point Ca. We would ask the Petitions Committee to ask the Welsh Government to set a clear set of guidelines for TAN 8, in a similar way that Arup did for the final reports on the SSA's in 2005. If a developer feels that his application has to breach these guidelines, then he should seek NRW's permission for the breach, and NRW's reasons should be clearly set out in the EIA.

Point Cb. The WAG planning directive **Practise Guidance-Planning Implications of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy** lists 12 on shore renewable energy disciplines. In practice, however, only wind energy has a target and target date, in effect this is a Wind Energy Document. Any CO2 emissions saved by wind energy are aggregated into world emissions, where the following disciplines are recognised by the IPCC as having a direct effect on local climate, as well as potentially reducing CO2 emissions far faster than a single technology. The disciplines are:

Ground, water and air source heat pumps: Geothermal : Fuel cells : Combined heat and power (CHP) and combined cooling heat and power (CCHP) : District heating : Waste heat.

We ask the Petitions Committee to ask the WAG to provide targets and target dates for the above technologies, and to clearly indicate where the funding and budgets will come from. We would like this information to be made available in respect of Wind energy as well, so the public are fully aware of the potential costs to their family budgets.

Point Cc. The public inquiries in Carmarthen and Welshpool, (still current) are restricted to considering impacts over the next 25 years, (as though this is a time limited programme, with an end scenario). Developers only consider this time, EIA's are the same. Yet both the Secretary of State for Energy and WAG talk about wind energy being **Future Energy Security**. Clearly future means more than 25 years, or does it? At the Powys Inquiry it is often made plain that on some topics, (Landscape for example), that the advice would be different, if we considered an ongoing programme, rather than a time limited one. The first consideration is that the turbine is no longer infrastructure, but is now a consumable. To keep the SSA's operating in a rolling programme GALAR did a table top calculation exercise, which took decommissioning and recommissioning into account, and the Load Factor of 30% it was calculated after the initial installations it would require 105 x 2.4MW installations per year, over the next 100 years to maintain the 30% target (of course 100 years would be no more an end date, than 25 years is now, we chose it as being the possible lifespan of children born today). We also considered some infrastructure alterations, (road improvements, SSA's having permanent crane facilities, building material availability), this reduced the figure to 98 x 2.4MW installations per year, but the true figure is in the gift of NRW working

with DECC and calculating the infrastructure changes possible to speed de/recommissioning, and of course the ongoing costs. This information is available on the Nuclear programme, recently announced. **We would ask the petitions committee to ask NRW to estimate turbine numbers to maintain the SSA's at a 30% load factor over a realistic time period, inclusive of impacts on infrastructure, environment, biodiversity, disposal of unrecyclable parts etc.**

Point D. Several studies have been produced which look at the acceptance of turbine to the visitor/tourist. (These are two defined groups, those who have a set destination, and those who move from place to place). Most tourism reports on wind farm impacts do not differentiate, because reports are aimed at proving no impact. In fact, the effects on Spanish tourism of building work in resort areas are germane to the soon to be realised Welsh experience. Spain suffered not from the resultant architecture, but the fact that building continued while tourists/visitors were trying to enjoy rest and relaxation in the area they had chosen. The effect on Spain was so severe that they had to change their preferred visitor profile, and reduce drastically the fiscal expectation per visitor in areas common to the existing Welsh model, and change it to high consumerism of their new visitor profile. Current studies on Windfarm impact hark to the days when the programme is complete, and if the predictions by GALAR in Cc above are correct, that scenario will never be achieved. **We ask the Petitions Committee to request a report from WAG Tourism to examine the build time of turbines, on the areas local to the SSA's. Further that they should advise established hotels and guest facilities of methods to reduce the impact over the next seven years, in all the areas of Wales affected.**

Point D While Mr. Sargeant has said he is examining community benefits with the Developers, this is totally unsatisfactory if any significant increase, which does not impact on the fuel poor of Wales, is to be obtained. If wind farms are to be recognised as **future energy security** then the impact on communities in and around the SSA's and other wind turbine installations will need a far greater recompense per megawatt than the present £5,000 per installed MW suggested. As we originally said new money from the windfall profits of the landlords, and central taxation, (or indeed now WAG has tax raising powers from them.) The Central Government Minister for Energy and the Prime Minister have said money for renewable energy should be at least part funded from central coffers. On this we repeat our original request. **We ask the Petitions Committee to ask the WAG to appoint a cross party committee to examine Community Benefits with respect to Wind Farms and report to the WAG their recommendations in achieving realistic payment for the imposition of life changing industrial structures on rural communities.**

Yours Sincerely

James Shepherd Foster

Technical Advisor GALAR

GALAR

Attention of the Petitions Committee

14 November 2013

To William Powell AM. Chair

Dear Sir,

Ref. Wind Farm Moratorium Petition P-04-419

Our section of GALAR examines tourist matters in relation to Wales and we would like to put forward the following comments in respect of the impact on tourism which wind farms may have.

The first point we wish you to consider is that Wales has two types of holidaymaker, the visitor and the tourist. Visitors typically go to a destination, holidaying and visiting places close to their destination. Tourists move around Wales, either by coach, their own motor transport, or bicycle.

Visitors tend to be faithful to their area of choice and record the best returns figures, often holidaying in the same area year on year.

Tourists tend towards one off visits, and returns are much more sporadic. However, there are key group numbers, mainly among cyclists, caravaners, and motor homes who do record a high number of returns.

We haven't the skill sets or manpower within the group to undertake accurate and verifiable opinion polls, so our conclusions regarding wind farms have been obtained from tourists/visitors and people operating holiday accommodation at the moment.

Visitors who have chosen destinations which do not have the prospect of wind farms, are the group least likely to have negative feelings towards wind farms. Conversely visitors who regularly use an area which is threatened by wind development, have the most positive feelings against wind farms siting both construction and landscape change as being the reason for not revisiting an area. It was unclear whether they would move to another non threatened destination within Wales, or seek other areas of the country.

Coach tourists have itineraries usually planned around National Parks and resort destinations, and are more disturbed by pylons than wind farms. However, caravaners and motor home tourists all reported high degrees of opposition mainly on construction traffic, but many on despoliation of landscape.

Cyclists were the most negative of all groups, the cyclists using mountain bike trails are particularly opposed, especially in areas where trails are likely to be closed for extensive periods of time. 151 of these cyclists do not believe the trails will be reopened. Touring cyclists, are more generally affected by the

prospect of construction traffic on the quiet single track roads, which many site as their reason for visiting Wales. They usually are a cross between a visitor and a tourist, in that they move around the country by train or motor vehicles with bike carriers. They generally site areas like Cornwall and Devon as being destinations ruined by wind farms, and recently the publicity on wind farm impact on electricity bills has increased opposition in all groups.

Areas of Measurable Tranquillity

Our Technical advice team has recognised a new "blue flag" type area depiction in the countryside, promised by an EU Directive, (The European Noise Directive), which should be available in the near future. Our 'in house' News Sheet comments on it as follows:

Once we have full acceptance of 2002/49/EC it will provide noise mapping of the open country where all industrial noise, is pollution, to a degree. The European Noise Directive seeks to protect areas where natural noise is good, and to seek **Areas of Measurable Tranquillity** within member states, to be similar to the blue flag beaches of our coastal areas. This is especially important to Wales's tourist industry, especially as medical professionals increasingly equate noise stress to cardio vascular health issues. There is a vast degree of acoustic difference between an "**Area of Measurable Tranquillity**" and an Industrial area within an agglomeration, but the key to all noise control is basic noise measurement, or base levels. This is why it is important that the open country around wind farms is mapped prior to the installation or operation, to provide that base level.

All our members who run Holiday Accommodation, and some others we questioned were positive in favour of areas of measurable tranquillity, and considered it would be a real boost to tourism.

We feel that an honest appraisal of visitors/tourists is required taking into account construction times as well as visual impact. We recently downloaded a tourist document presented as evidence to the Bryn Llywelyn enquiry in Carmarthen. It reported that tourism would likely be positively affected by wind farms, but closer scrutiny reveals there was no assessment of the build period, there was no distinction between tourists and visitors, and one table showed a 99% approval of wind turbines. (Neither Stalin, Hitler, or Saddam Husain achieved that level of approval), this has caused us to doubt much of the evidence produced by Government or certainly, the developers.

Yours faithfully,

Sylvia Maskelyne

GALAR Tourism

Eitem 4.20

P-04-423 : Cartref Nyrsio Brooklands

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i ystyried a fyddai lleoli safle amwynder dinesig tua 30 metr o Gartref Nyrsio Brooklands yn tresbasu ar hawliau dynol preswylwyr y cartref.

Gwybodaeth ategol : Mae staff Brooklands a pherthnasau'r cleientiaid yn anfodlon iawn. Mae'r cyngor yn cynnig lleoli'r amwynderau dinesig o Ddinbych y Pysgod ger Cartref Nyrsio Brooklands. Rydym yn teimlo'n gryf y dylai'r preswylwyr dreulio'u diwrnodau olaf yn mwynhau heddwch a thawelwch, ac na ddylai sŵn, llygredd, traffig ac amhariad gan wylanod ac yn y blaen amharu arnynt. Mae ein cleientiaid yn oedolion bregus nad ydynt yn gallu mynegi eu barn ac felly mae angen eich cymorth chi arnynt. A hoffech chi dreulio gweddill eich bywyd â'r tip sbwriel yn gymydog i chi? Ni fyddem ni'n dymuno hynny. Gofynnwn i chi helpu gyda'n deiseb a llofnodi isod.

Prif ddeisebydd: Darren Umanee

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 115 Casglwyd dros 4484 o lofnodion gan ddeisebau cysylltiedig.

P-04-423 Brooklands Nursing Home – Correspondence from the petitioner to the clerking team, 15.10.2013

Dear Mr George

Re: response from Pembrokeshire County Council to the withdrawal of CA application.

We are aware that PCC are remaining non - committal with regard to this issue. Of late there have been local rumours that they are getting ready to resubmit the application. Of course the fact that we are still in limbo remains a cause of deep distress for our residents & their relatives and we hope that PCC have the decency to make us aware of their decision soon.

Many apologies for the delay in our response.

We would like to thank the Petitions Committee for their continued support.

Darren Umanee
Manager, Brooklands Nursing Home.

Eitem 4.21

P-04-469 Remove the Right-To-Buy Regional Price Cap

Petition wording:

Removal the regional price cap of the Right-To-Buy scheme in Wales.

Wales has yet again been left in the dark ages with policies. The UK government have outlined plans for a maximum of £75,000 discount in England yet it is still capped at a measly £16,000. The disparity in wealth will continue to grow and council tenants will never fulfil their ambitions of ever purchasing their own home.

Petition raised by: James Jackson

Date petition first considered by Committee: 16 April 2013

Number of signatures : 171

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio
Minister for Housing and Regeneration



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-469
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/00883/13

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee

William.powell@wales.gov.uk

15th May 2013

Dear William

PETITION NUMBER P-04-469 - REMOVAL OF THE REGIONAL PRICE CAP OF THE RIGHT-TO-BUY SCHEME IN WALES

Thank you for your letter of 24 April concerning a 171 signature petition submitted by Mr James Jackson. The petition requests an increase to the Right to Buy maximum discount cash limit in Wales, which has stood at £16,000 since 2003.

The main provisions of the Right to Buy scheme are contained in primary legislation first enacted by the UK Government in 1980. Much of this primary legislation, now contained in the Housing Act 1985, is still applicable to Wales.

The Secretary of State for Wales did, however, have delegated power for secondary legislation in a number of areas, including the Right to Buy maximum discount cash limit. In 1998, the UK Government decided to reduce the maximum discount cash limit from £50,000. They introduced regional limits throughout England, ranging from £24,000 to £38,000. In Wales, the Secretary of State reduced the limit to £24,000 in early 1999.

When the National Assembly for Wales was established later in 1999, it assumed devolved responsibility for secondary legislation in a number of areas, including housing.

In 2003, the UK Government decided to further reduce the discount cash limit to £16,000 in parts of south east England, due to concerns about a shortage of affordable housing available for rent. In Wales, following consultation, Ministers also decided to reduce the discount level further. However, they decided against reductions on a regional basis and opted to set a new limit of £16,000 throughout Wales.

In April 2012, the UK Government increased the discount limit in England to £75,000. It is their intention that homes sold as a result of the higher discount levels will be replaced by

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: Carl.Sargeant@wales.gsi.gov.uk

new homes for 'affordable rent' funded, in part, by the additional Right to Buy receipts. There is a specific definition of affordable rent in England.

The Welsh Ministers decided not implement similar changes in Wales. That is because, under the provisions of the Government of Wales Act 2006, the Welsh Government now has full legislative powers in a number of areas, including housing.

Using these powers, it is open to the Welsh Ministers to propose changes to any aspect of the Right to Buy scheme, including those enshrined in primary legislation.

Two years ago, the National Assembly for Wales passed the Housing (Wales) Measure 2011. The Measure allows local authorities to apply to the Welsh Ministers for a direction to suspend the Right to Buy in areas of housing pressure for a period of up to five years.

The Welsh Ministers were concerned that, for many years, there had been no formal provisions to replace social housing stock sold under the Right to Buy scheme. The Housing (Wales) Measure 2011 sought to address this.

Demand for housing in Wales exceeds supply. So, while the Welsh Government recognises the aspiration of many social housing tenants to own their home, we must also have regard to the requirements of people who do not have a home which meets their needs.

We do not intend, therefore, to replicate the UK Government's approach in terms of increasing Right to Buy discounts. Different approaches by different legislatures are, of course, an inevitable result of devolution. We consider that our approach is best suited to the needs of the people of Wales.



Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio
Minister for Housing and Regeneration

**P-04-469 Remove the Right-To-Buy Regional Price Cap –
Correspondence from the petitioner to the clerking team,
29.09.2013**

Hi Kayleigh,

My response would be thus;

It is a real shame that the petition was seen as 'dead in the water' as soon as it was brought up for discussion. First of all is it that fair that a border could alter a house price by up to £59,000? Not really. The incentives to buy the current housing stock are just completely unjust.

Secondly – whilst it would initially lower the council owned housing stock, hopefully it would grow the overall housing stock in the long run – addressing shortage issues altogether.

Finally – with much of the Welsh housing stock pre-1970 and totally energy-inefficient and hard to maintain it would release the expensive burden of the upkeep of the older properties and allow more concentration on newer stock with much easier asset management.

We just as for a bit of parity.

Thank You

Kind Regards
James Jackson

Eitem 4.22

P-04-473 Cymorth Ariannol ar gyfer yr Ymchwiliad Cyhoeddus i Ffermydd Gwynt

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i ddarparu cymorth ariannol ychwanegol sylweddol i helpu Cyngor Sir Powys i amddiffyn ei safiad yn ystod yr Ymchwiliad Cyhoeddus Cyfun i ddatblygiadau ffermydd gwynt ym Mhowys, a gynhelir yn fuan.

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol:

Gwnaed y penderfyniad i wrthwynebu'r ceisiadau drwy broses gyfreithiol a democrataidd gan Gynghorwyr Sir sy'n cynrychioli pobl Powys. Bydd y broses hon yn parhau drwy gynnal ymchwiliad cyhoeddus cyfun. Drwy wrthod darparu arian a chymorth, ymddengys na roddodd Llywodraeth Cymru ystyriaeth o gwbl i atebolrwydd democrataidd lleol.

Prif ddeisebydd: John Christopher Day

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 16 Ebrill 2013

Nifer y llofnodion: 1247



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

The Rt Hon Gregory Barker MP
Minister of State

Department of Energy & Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

Ms Naomi Stock
Clerk, The Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

www.gov.uk

Our ref: PO2013/16374/JH

Your ref: P-04-473

17 October 2013

Dear Ms Stock,

I refer to William Power's letter to Edward Davey dated 17 July, regarding the Petition Committee of National Assembly for Wales' consideration of a petition relating to a request for additional funding support for Powys County Council, in respect of the Mid Wales public inquiry into five wind farm applications and a related overhead line application. I am replying as this matter falls within my portfolio, and I apologise for the lengthy delay in doing so.

You will appreciate that the costs incurred by Powys County Council in defending their objections to the applications is a matter for them. The Secretary of State is, however, recovering the costs of the venue, Inspector and administrative support from the applicants. More generally, funding for local authorities in Wales, including for matters relating to planning, is a matter for the Welsh Government. The details of how this funding is allocated to Local Authorities in Wales for the current financial year are outlined in the Green Book 2013/14 available from on the Welsh Government's web-site:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/localgovernment/finandfunding/settlement/lqsettlement1314/?lang=en>.

Yours sincerely,

**P-04-473 Wind farm public inquiry financial support –
Correspondence from the petitioner to the Chair, 15.11.2013**

DEAR MR POWELL

Wind Farm Public Inquiry Financial Support

Thank you for considering the above petition.

I am extremely disappointed at the Welsh Assembly Governments' refusal to provide additional financial assistance to Powys County Council. It is because of the lack of clarity and guidance in the Welsh Assembly Government planning processes and the outdated Technical Advice, that Powys County Council has been forced into their current position. The Council is being unfairly penalised for carrying out their legal and moral duty whilst representing the residents of Powys.

The additional expenditure incurred through the Public Inquiry process will undoubtedly mean a further reduction in essential services.

I urge you to ask the Assembly Government to reconsider its position.

I thank you, the Petitions Committee, and the Administrative staff for their help and advice.

Yours sincerely,

John Day

P-04-497 Cynllun Tai Cenedlaethol i Raddedigion

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i gefnogi cynllun i adeiladu Tai ar gyfer Graddedigion.

Gwybodaeth ategol:

Manylion am y Cynlluniau Tai Cenedlaethol Arfaethedig i Raddedigion

Cyfes chwyldroadol o Henebion Cenedlaethol a ddisgrifir gennyf fan hyn, ac mae gan yr adeiladau hyn swyddogaeth sy'n effeithio ar dwf cymdeithasol craidd. Tyrau o gyfleoedd a chanolfannau o ailddatblygu; y Cynlluniau Tai Cenedlaethol i Raddedigion yw'r agwedd fwyaf real ar y byd fel y bydd yn y dyfodol. Wedi'u hadeiladu yn yr un dull â'n canolfannau siopa a'n hysbytai mwyaf modern; mae'r campweithiau hyn yn ysblennydd ac yn gyraeddadwy i lawer iawn o bobl. Rwy'n dychmygu ystadau o adeiladau sydd cyfuwch ag wyth neu ddeuddeg llawr. Wedi'u hadeiladu o fframiau dur; mae eu ffurf yn llyfn a'u swyddogaeth yn gadarn. Gall y trigolion fwynhau bwyd a gwin da, coffi, ffasiwn a dawnsfeydd. Y cyfan o fewn ffiniau a chyfleusterau eu hadeiladau hynod.

Mae'r lefelau stryd isaf yn cynnwys strydoedd, canolfannau siopa, a rhesi o dai. Y syniad yma yw bod y datblygiadau modern iawn hyn yn well nag ymdrechion blaenorol i greu tai torfol, a hynny am fod cyfleusterau siopa ac adloniant yn rhan ohonynt. Mae 'mannau Canfod Swyddi i Raddedigion' ar lefel y brif stryd yn cynnig mwy na chynghor ar yrfaeod yn unig. Mae'r cysylltiad rhwng y cenedlaethau yno yn hwyluso dealltwriaeth lawn o'r union raddau sydd ar y Gofrestr Breswylwyr. Gwaith y Rheolwyr yn y 'mannau Canfod Swyddi i Raddedigion' wedyn yw cynorthwyo graddedigion i ganfod eu lle yn yr economi. Gellir neilltuo lle i wasanaethau proffesiynol eraill yn y cynlluniau pensaernïol, a fyddai'n hwyluso'r gwaith o sefydlu busnesau. Gellir cynnull tasgluoedd amlddisgyblaethol i weithio'n uniongyrchol ar y materion sydd fwyaf perthnasol i sefydliad myfyrwyr blaengar.

Bydd lle i fusnesau wasanaethu a chyflogi'r preswylwyr yn strwythurau'r adeiladau mwyaf. Mae'r ddwy neu dair lefel isaf yn cynnwys nifer o unedau, gan gynnwys siopau bwyd, caffis, bariau, ac ati. Mae lle yn yr adeiladau hefyd ar gyfer swyddfeydd masnachol/ sifil i dasgluoedd o fyfyrwyr arbenigol a chyrff proffesiynol weithio ar hyrwyddo'r canolfannau o ran yr economi. Caiff yr un dulliau cynllunio ac adeiladu a ddefnyddir i lunio'r adeiladau ar gyfer meysydd economaidd allweddol fel ffasiwn a'r cyfryngau arwain at well lefelau cyflogaeth.

Mae'n bwysig bod y sector Graddedigion yn cael cefnogaeth gan y Llywodraeth os yw'r arian y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi'i fenthycu dal yn ddilys. O ran y Llywodraeth yn ariannu rhent y Graddedigion sy'n byw yno, mae'r system yn llawer mwy diogel o ran colli arian os yw'r Llywodraeth hefyd yn Landlord. Mae'r Cynlluniau Tai Cenedlaethol i Raddedigion yn gampweithiau

cymdeithasol-wleidyddol a all brofi eu hunain, ac a fydd yn profi eu hunain, wrth i'r wlad hon a gwledydd yn fyd-eang edrych tua'r dyfodol.

Yn olaf, rwy'n awgrymu byd ar gyfer graddedigion a gaiff ei reoli'n syml a llyfn, fel bod pawb sy'n llwyddo yn y Brifysgol yn dod o hyd i le priodol mewn cymdeithas sy'n datblygu. Mae hyn, yn syml, yn golygu stiwardiaeth ddoeth ar gymwysterau, a'u cyfeirio at fusnes.

Prif ddeisebydd: GWYRDDISM

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 24 Medi 2013



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio
Minister for Housing and Regeneration

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-497
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/01651/13

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

14th October 2013

Dear William

Thank you for your letter attaching the proposed petition from GWYRDDISM regarding a national graduate housing scheme.

I can see no justification for specialist housing provision exclusively for graduates which would include government subsidy. This would appear to be an alternative to more general investment in meeting the housing need of first time buyers and those who can not afford market rents.

Yours sincerely

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio
Minister for Housing and Regeneration

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu 100%
Printed on 100% recycled paper

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: Carl.Sargeant@wales-gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled paper

P-04-497 National Graduate Housing Scheme - Correspondence from the petitioner to the Chair, 08.10.2013

Dear Sir,

I write to explain the benefits of working specifically upon housing the Graduate Sector of the Demographic Economy. Firstly let me tell you this; The National Graduate Housing Scheme is not simply a Housing Solution aimed at a 'Foot Loose' section of the Economy, it includes self contained 'offices' where Managerial training can build Socio-Economic Accelerator Systems (S.E.A.S.)

This proposed system does not exist as a machine or as an electronic structure but rather as a continually developing and refining sociological heirarchy. To give an example let us firstly focus upon Government itself; a small-medium National Graduate Housing Scheme Development may contain 600-1200 Graduates ready for employment. A number of Graduates as small as 100-180 may realise many concepts for Socio-Economic Acceleration in a relatively short space of time. A managerial task force preparing these Graduates for a career in employment may easily come by a good many ideas for socio-economic acceleration using 'brain-storming' exercises. Here Graduates can explain their own material needs and systems to answer those needs can be designed.

My point is thus: A housed and secured Graduate sector in conjunction with an active Managerial Task Force can realise many goal such as much higher employment ratios. New and more modern concepts of Sociological Co-ordination can become realised. New Housing can be conceptualised and construction work forces can be trained and prepared.

To Conclude I say this; the 'linking in' of the idle graduate sector and the next phase tutors (Managerial Career Trainers) creates a fluid and buoyant economic drive train. These national Graduate Housing Schemes work to create new jobs Nationwide and thereby massively quicken the economy.

Yours, R.P.H.B.

P-04-503 Adfywio Tonpentre a Phentre

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i roi ystyriaeth arbennig i ddefnyddio cyllid rhanbarthol Ewropeaidd i ailddatblygu Tonpentre a Phentre yng Nghwm Rhondda.

Gwybodaeth ychwanegol:

Mae Glynrhedynog a'r Maerdy yn Rhondda Fach a Threherbert yn Rhondda Fawr wedi cael cyllid o Ewrop drwy gynllun Blaenau'r Cymoedd i ailddatblygu. Rydym yn teimlo y dylai Tonpentre a Phentre gael arian Ewropeaidd hefyd i'w rhoi yn yr un sefyllfa â gweddill yr ardal.

Prif ddeisebydd: Mike Powell

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 24 Medi 2013

Nifer y llofnodion: 389

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio
Minister for Housing and Regeneration



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyfi/Your ref P-04-503
Ein cyfi/Our ref CS/01666/13

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

23rd
October 2013

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 3 October regarding a petition relating to European funding for Ton and Pentre in the Rhondda Valley.

Unfortunately the current European Convergence Programme is fully committed and no new projects can be considered.

A new programme currently being negotiated is expected to be agreed by the European Commission sometime in 2014, and my officials are working with local authorities and other partners to develop project proposals. However it is too early in the process to consider individual applications.

It may however be helpful for the petitioners to talk to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council about their aspirations.

Yours sincerely

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio
Minister for Housing and Regeneration

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA
Medi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i Fiudatenu 100%

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

P-04-503 Regeneration of Ton and Pentre – Correspondence from the petitioner to the clerking team, 08.11.2013

Dear Sian

Thank you for the e-mail

Although i am as you could understand I disappointed with the result

I thank you for you kind help in my dealings with the petitions department.

Kind regards

Mike Powell

Eitem 4.25

P-04-397 Cyflog Byw

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i gadw at ei haddewid i weithio tuag at gyflog byw i bob gweithiwr yng Nghymru a dweud wrthym pryd a sut y bydd yn gwneud i hyn ddigwydd.

Waeth pa mor galed y maent yn ymdrechu, nid yw'r isafswm cyflog yn ddigon i rai rhieni gael deupen llinyn ynghyd a rhoi'r cyfle gorau mewn bywyd i blant fel ni. Mae'r cyflog byw yn golygu y byddai rhieni sy'n gweithio yn ennill o leiaf £7.20 yr awr.

Rydym yn ymgyrchwyr ifanc sy'n gweithio gydag Achub y Plant ledled y DU o blaid newid. Rydym yn ymgyrchu dros gyflog byw, ac yn cynrychioli barn pobl ifanc, teuluoedd a chymunedau yng Nghymru.

Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb gan: Achub y Plant

Ystyriwyd y ddeiseb am y tro cyntaf: 19 Mehefin 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 483

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth
Minister for Local Government and Government Business



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-397
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/01813/13

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

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

October 2013

Dear Bill

Thank you for your letter of 3 October concerning the Living Wage Advisory Group.

I have recently written to Advisory Group members to inform them work on the Living Wage in the public sector was being referred to the Workforce Partnership Council (WPC). WPC accepted the reference at their meeting on 30 September.

As the body which brings together public sector employers and trade unions in Wales to consider public sector workforce issues, the WPC is the most suitable forum to progress the Living Wage in the broader context of other workforce priorities.

I am currently exploring options for the wider community of organisations which have an interest in the Living Wage to feed into the work of the WPC as it develops.

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth
Minister for Local Government and Government Business

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff

CF99 1NA
Medi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu **Tudalen 170**

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

Eitem 4.26

P-04-454 : Gwahardd yr Arfer o Ddal Swyddi fel Cynghorydd ac fel Aelod Cynulliad ar yr un Pryd

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Mae'r deisebydd yn gofyn i Lywodraeth Cymru gyflwyno deddfwriaeth i wahardd yr arfer y mae saith Aelod Cynulliad yn ei ddilyn ar hyn o bryd sef dal DWY swydd etholedig ar yr un pryd, sef swydd fel Cynghorydd o fewn awdurdodaeth Cymru yn ogystal â swydd fel Aelod Cynulliad etholedig yng Nghynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru.

Prif ddeisebydd: Nortridge Perrott

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 29 Ionawr 2013

Nifer y llofnodion: 52

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

5 July 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for seeking the view of the Electoral Commission on the petition submitted by Nortridge Perrott on multiple mandates.

The Commission, in its response to the UK Government's Green Paper on future electoral arrangements for the National Assembly for Wales, commented on this issue (albeit at that time relating to the UK Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales):

Question 6: Multiple Mandates

1. *Whilst the Commission does not have a specific view on the question of multiple mandates, we would consider that any decision relating to this question should place the interest of the voter or voters first. For example, what would voters expect of their elected representatives and how can an elected representative ensure the best possible level of service for the electorate? Can this be achieved by representing voters at a variety of different levels (for example at the UK Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales) and the experience which this brings about or should the focus be entirely on one legislature?*
2. *The Green Paper does refer to the European Parliament and the restrictions in place in order to qualify for election to this legislature. In order to achieve a consistent approach to this issue it may also be appropriate to look at those members who are both elected councillors (at local authority level) and AMs as this is another clear example of a multiple mandate.**

The Electoral Commission
Companies House
Crown Way
Cardiff CF14 3UZ

Y Comisiwn Etholiadol
Tŷ'r Cwmnïau
Ffordd y Goron
Caerdydd CF14 3UZ

Tel/Ffôn 029 2034 6800
Fax/Ffacs 029 2038 0996
info@electoralcommission.org.uk
gwybodaeth@
comisiwnetholiadol.org.uk
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
www.comisiwnetholiadol.org.uk

Putting voters first
Rhoi pleidleiswyr yn gyntaf

An independent body established by Act of the UK Parliament
Corff annibynnol a sefydlwyd gan Ddeddf Seneddol y DU

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg



Tudalen 172

INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

As you may already be aware, the Northern Ireland Executive's Minister for the Environment, Alex Attwood MLA, has also announced his intention to ban "double jobbing" (being a local councillor and an MLA) in Northern Ireland from April 2014.

The Commission would be happy to consider providing a more detailed response to this specific question at a later point dependent on any decision taken by the Petitions Committee and / or by the Minister for Local Government and Government Business.

Yours sincerely,



Rhydian Thomas
Deputy Head – Electoral Commission Wales

02920 346804

rthomas@electoralcommission.org

* The Electoral Commission's response to the UK Government's Green Paper on future electoral arrangements for the National Assembly for Wales (August 2012)

**P-04-454 Call to end Councillor and Assembly Member Dual Role
– Correspondence from the Welsh Local Government Association
to the Clerking team, 26.09.13**

Kayleigh thanks for this. It is not so much that we missed it as frankly its not in our purview. This fundamentally is a matter for political parties to sort out and I would not wish to see any state interference in this. There are currently councillors who are AMs and if parties are content with that then so be it. Hope this helps

Cheers Steve

P-04-454 Call to end Councillor and Assembly Member Dual Role – Correspondence from Electoral Reform Society Wales to the Clerking team, 27.09.2013

Dear Kayleigh,

Many thanks for your email regarding the issue under consideration by the Petitions Committee. To confirm for your records, I'm the director of ERS Cymru and the contact for future request for information.

The Electoral Reform Society Cymru does not support the proposal that the Welsh Government should bring forward legislation to bar Assembly members from holding office as a councillor in Wales (so called 'double jobbing').

The Society would expect that any conflict of interest, perceived or otherwise, that may arise from an individual holding office in both a local authority and the National Assembly, should be dealt with under exist arrangements. Ultimately it should be for the voters to decide whether or not they are content for an individual to hold both local and national office. The Society does however support further consideration of the implications of 'double jobbing' for AMs who are also MPs, which we expect to be part of the UK Government's forthcoming Draft Wales Bill.

Best wishes

Stephen Brooks

P-04-495 Rhoi Terfyn ar Fasnachu mewn Pobl a Chaethwaesiaeth yng Nghymru

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i bwysu ar Lywodraeth Cymru i wneud pob peth yn ei gallu i gael gwared ar weithgarwch anghyfreithlon masnachu mewn pobl a chaethwasiaeth yng Nghymru.

Prif ddeisebydd: Ignite / Big Ideas

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 16 Gorffennaf 2013

Nifer y llofnodion : 2622



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-495
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/01729/13

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions Committee
c/o kayleigh.driscoll@wales.gov.uk
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

21 September 2013

Dear Bill

Thank you for your letter of 23 July about the petition from Ignite/Big Ideas on anti-slavery and trafficking.

Success in tackling human trafficking requires a cross-cutting approach across the boundaries of the four Governments in the UK and we have been working with the other administrations to ensure a co-ordinated response. I am a member of the Inter-Ministerial Departmental Group on Human Trafficking and will be attending a meeting with the Prime Minister in October where the UK Government will be outlining its recently announced proposals for a Modern Slavery Bill and the appointment of a Commissioner.

In Wales we have led the way, not least by appointing the first Anti-Human Trafficking Co-ordinator. The aim of this role is to make Wales a hostile place for human trafficking to exist and to co-ordinate the best possible support for victims.

The Welsh Government is the only Government within the UK to employ an Anti-Human Trafficking Co-ordinator. The Welsh Government funded post has been in existence since April 2011 and Stephen Chapman is the current Co-ordinator having taken up his post in November 2012.

The Co-ordinator sits within our Community Safety Division and so is very well placed to integrate with the wider Violence Against Women and Domestic Abuse agenda, including the proposals in the planned legislation to combat violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. As part of this role he will also take the lead on the key issues of so called honour based violence including female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

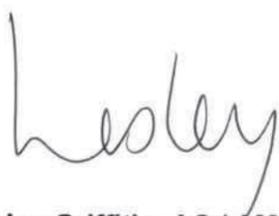
English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: lesley.Griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled paper

We recognise effective co-ordinated action and partnership working is vital to ensure we achieve the aim of Wales becoming hostile to human trafficking and victims who have been trafficked receive the best possible support. Since being appointed the Co-ordinator has established a Wales Anti-Human Trafficking Leadership Group. The Leadership Group has adopted a Delivery Plan which provides clear strategic objectives for the public service in Wales to achieve. These include working collaboratively to raise awareness; to introduce training for key professionals and to develop a robust evidence base of statistical data and information to enable more informed decisions to be made and to direct future activity to tackle human trafficking in Wales.

The Leadership Group is chaired by the Head of the Welsh Government's Community Safety Division and brings together leaders from our partners in Wales including the Association of Chief Police Officers Cymru, the Serious Organised Crime Agency, Wales Regional Intelligence Unit, Gangmasters Licensing Authority, Home Office (including Immigration & Enforcement), Crown Prosecution Service, Youth Justice Board, Department of Work and Pensions, Welsh Local Heath Boards, Welsh Local Authorities, Welsh Local Government Association, Wales Anti-Human Trafficking NGO Forum, Bawso and the Wales Children's Commissioner.

In November 2013 I will be publishing the Anti Human Trafficking Co-ordinator's first Annual Report which will reflect his work and achievements since taking up the post.

I am confident we have a structure in place to deliver our aims and I will keep Assembly Members updated on our progress accordingly.



Lesley Griffiths AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth
Minister for Local Government and Government Business

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

Eitem 4.28

P-04-445 : Achub ein cŵn a chathod yng Nghymru rhag cael eu lladd ar y ffyrdd

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym ni, y rhai a lofnodwyd isod, yn galw ar breswylwyr Cymru sy'n berchen ar gŵn a chathod i gefnogi ein deiseb i Lywodraeth Cymru i gael gwared ar y gwaharddiad ar goleri electronig wedi'u cysylltu â ffensys ffin anweladwy/ffensys cudd fel y gallwn ddiogelu ein hanifeiliaid anwes rhag niwed naill ai o: a) Traffig Ffyrdd b) Crwydro i Berygl c) Achosi damweiniau a allai olygu y byddwn ni, perchenogion y cŵn a'r cathod, yn gyfreithiol atebol iddynt.

Prif ddeisebydd: Monima O'Connor

Ysytyriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 15 Ionawr 2013

Nifer y llofnodion: 10 - Casglodd deiseb gysylltiedig 500 o lofnodion

Alun Davies AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd
Minister for Natural Resources and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-445
Ein cyf/Our ref AD-/01084/13

William Powell AM
AM for Mid & West Wales
Chair Petitions committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

24 September 2013

Petitions Committee: P-04-445 Electronic 'Invisible' Fencing

I am writing further to my letter of 4th September regarding the Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) (Wales) Regulations 2010 and the petition calling for the Welsh Government to remove the ban under this legislation on electronic collars linked with invisible boundary fencing/hidden fencing.

The Welsh legislation that bans the use of electronic collars has been in force since 2010. The Welsh Government will be reviewing the operation of the ban and the legislation that applies it in due course. This will inform any policy decisions that result in change to the legislation. In carrying out the review, a wide range of evidence will be considered both from available scientific enquiry and representations from interested parties, but that review will not start until the summer of 2014 simply because of other priorities related to animal welfare.

Alun Davies AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd
Minister for Natural Resources and Food

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: Alun.Davies@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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

Printed on 100% recycled paper



Reference: P-04-445

Response to Alun Davies's letter to William Powell, Chair, Petitions Committee

1.

I am very encouraged by the Minister's response that there will be a review of the Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) 2010 legislation in Summer 2014 that "will inform any policy decisions that result in a change to the legislation".

It is apparent from my meetings with some Assembly Members including the then Minister for Rural Affairs Elin Jones (who signed this legislation) that there is a complete lack of understanding of how the fencing system works; none of them has ever personally visited a garden or field with invisible fence system to see how it operates.

This was very apparent from the Draft Legislation of 2009 - copy enclosed (which was abandoned at the last minute in 2010 in favour of a blanket ban for dog training collars and invisible fencing collars to make it easier for officials to police the law. It cannot be that cats & dogs must die on the roads to make it easier for officials to do their job !)

It states that " *a person may attach an electronic device to a cat or a dog if –*

- a) Any electric shock to the animal is caused by virtue of the animal's proximity to a boundary marked by a physical barrier;*
- b) The physical barrier is clearly visible to the animal*
- c) The boundary marked by the physical barrier is entirely outdoors and*
- d) The device is attached to the animal for a period of no more than 2 months from the date on which it was first attached"*

During training, flags are put around a chosen boundary in a garden and the collar emits audible warning alerts when the cat or dog is within 8 feet from this boundary. Pets are taken on a lead towards the boundary by the owner but pulled back quickly when the alerts start and the pet is praised and fussed. It can take less than an hour before the pet understands that the alerts represent a sign of danger of a static charge or correction (not a live electric shock as with a livestock fence) and they do not proceed any further.

This correction mimics the 'nip' given by an adult animal in the wild to its young and recognised by domestic pets.

The training procedure is gradual and reinforced with the pet on a lead taken to the training flags in brief sessions during this reinforcement period until the flags are alternatively removed over a period of up to 4 weeks until the owner can see the pet's progress and then the animal is free to roam in the garden.



Also, the collars are only attached to the cat or dog when it is outside in the garden and removed in the evening. The manufacturer's instructions clearly state that the collars should only be worn for a maximum of 12 hours and this is easily achieved.

This is a set training protocol by the American Kennel club used throughout the USA and also in England, Scotland and Ireland.

It is baffling why the RSPCA is not in favour of the invisible fencing system. It would free up the Charity's resources for real cases of genuine cruelty and neglect which are so graphically shown on their website.

There are many thousands of cats and dogs abandoned by owners every year which are housed by the RSPCA and other animal welfare charities. Yet bizarrely, the RSPCA refuses to re-house a rescue animal in a home that is near a road. This is the first question I was asked when I rang my local RSPCA 3 years ago to adopt cats. Who doesn't live near a road, for heaven's sake? Perhaps the RSPCA cannot see the 'clear blue water' difference between dog training collars activated by a human hand and the invisible fencing collars governed by the animal's own behaviour.

Or maybe there are commercial reasons for it.

2.

No-one across the UK has ever been prosecuted under the Animal Welfare Act of 2006 for using an electronic collar on a cat or a dog since it was introduced 7 years ago.

This Act is the gold standard for legislation for protection of animals from cruelty

I sincerely hope this reassures the Minister that these invisible fences are only a force for good and demonstrated by the fact that that no other country in the UK has followed Wales over the past 3 years in implementing a ban.

Monima O'Connor
Petitioner.

13th November 2013

Draft Regulations laid before the National Assembly for Wales under section 12 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (and paragraph 34 of Schedule 11 of the Government of Wales Act 2006), for approval by a resolution of the Assembly

W E L S H S T A T U T O R Y I N S T R U M E N T S

2008 No. (W.)

ANIMALS, WALES

ANIMAL WELFARE

**The Animal Welfare (Electronic Devices) (Wales) Regulations
2009**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations are made under section 12 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (c.45). By virtue of section 162 of, and paragraph 30 of Schedule 11 to, the Government of Wales Act 2006 (2006 c.32), this section confers powers on the Welsh Ministers to make such provision as they think fit for the purpose of promoting the welfare of animals for which a person is responsible, or the progeny of such animals.

Regulation 2 defines “electronic device”.

Regulation 3 provides for offences in relation to the use of an electronic device on a dog or a cat.

Regulations 4 and 5 provide for defences in cases where an electronic device is used on a dog or a cat.

Regulation 6 provides for penalties for the offences established in regulation 3.

Regulations 7 to 16 provide post-conviction powers, including powers relating to: deprivation (regulation 8); disqualification (regulation 9); seizure of animals (regulations 10 and 11); destruction in the interests of the animal (regulation 12); forfeiture of equipment used in offences (regulation 13); appeals (regulation 14); termination of disqualification (regulation 15); and reimbursement of expenses (regulations 16 and 17).

Regulation 17 provides powers of entry and search, by treating an offence under the Regulations as a relevant offence for the purposes of section 24 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

A regulatory appraisal has been prepared. Copies may be obtained from the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, the Welsh Assembly Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ.

2008 No. (W.)

ANIMALS, WALES

ANIMAL WELFARE

**The Animal Welfare (Electronic Devices) (Wales) Regulations
2009**

Made 2009

Coming into force 2009

The Welsh Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 12 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (1), and having consulted such persons as they consider appropriate, make the following Regulations—

A draft of these Regulations was laid before the National Assembly for Wales under section 12 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and has been approved by a resolution of the National Assembly for Wales.

Title, commencement and application

1. The title of these Regulations is the Animal Welfare (Electronic Devices) (Wales) Regulations 2009; they apply in relation to Wales and come into force on the day after they are made.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

“the Act” means the Animal Welfare Act 2006;

“electronic device” means a device or instrument of a type which is capable of causing an electric shock to an animal;

“electric shock” means stimulation of nerves or contraction of muscles caused by a flow of electric current through the body.

Prohibition on use of electronic devices

3.—(1) A person commits an offence if he or she—

- (a) attaches an electronic device to a dog or a cat;

(1) 2006 c.45. By virtue of section 162 of and paragraph 30 of Schedule 11 to the Government of Wales Act 2006 (2006 c.32) the functions of the National Assembly for Wales are exercisable by the Welsh Ministers.

- (b) causes an electronic device to be attached to a dog or a cat; or
 - (c) is responsible for a dog or a cat to which an electronic device is attached.
- (2) Nothing in these Regulations prohibits the insertion and reading of a microchip for the purpose of identifying a cat or a dog, where that is done in accordance with good practice.

Defences

4. It is a defence for a person accused of an offence under regulation 3 to show that the electronic device—

- (a) was not capable of causing an electric shock to the animal;
- (b) was attached by or under the direction of a veterinary surgeon; or
- (c) was attached in accordance with regulation 5.

Fencing systems

5.—(1) A person may attach an electronic device to a cat or a dog if—

- (a) any electric shock to the animal is caused or to be caused by virtue of the animal's proximity to a boundary marked by a physical barrier;
- (b) the physical barrier is clearly visible to the animal;
- (c) the boundary marked by the physical barrier is entirely outdoors; and
- (d) the device is attached to the animal for a period of no more than 2 months from the date on which it was first attached.

(2) In this regulation, "outdoors" means outside of, or not covered by, any building or permanent structure.

Penalties

6.—(1) A person convicted of an offence under these Regulations is liable, on summary conviction, to—

- (a) imprisonment for a term not exceeding 51 weeks, or
- (b) a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale,

or to both.

Deprivation

7.—(1) If a person convicted of an offence under regulation 3 is the owner of an animal in relation to which the offence was committed, the court by or before which he or she is convicted may, instead of or in addition to dealing with that person in any other way, make an order depriving him or her of ownership of the animal and for its disposal.

(2) Where the owner of an animal is convicted of an offence under regulation 8(9), because ownership of the animal is in breach of a disqualification under regulation 8(2), the court by or before which that person is convicted may, instead of or in addition to dealing with him or her in any other way, make an order depriving him or her of ownership of the animal and for its disposal.

(3) Where the animal in respect of which an order under paragraph (1) or (2) is made has any dependent offspring, the order may include provision depriving the person to whom it relates of ownership of the offspring and for its disposal.

(4) Where a court makes an order under paragraph (1) or (2), it may—

- (a) appoint a person to carry out, or arrange for the carrying out of, the order;

- (b) require any person who has possession of an animal to which the order applies to deliver it up to enable the order to be carried out;
 - (c) give directions with respect to the carrying out of the order;
 - (d) confer additional powers (including power to enter premises where an animal to which the order applies is being kept) for the purpose of, or in connection with, the carrying out of the order;
 - (e) order the offender to reimburse the expenses of carrying out the order.
- (5) Directions under paragraph (4)(c) may—
- (a) specify the manner in which an animal is to be disposed of, or
 - (b) delegate the decision about the manner in which an animal is to be disposed of to a person appointed under paragraph (4)(a).
- (6) Where a court decides not to make an order under paragraph (1) or (2) in relation to an offender, it must give its reasons for the decision in open court and cause them to be entered in the register of its proceedings.
- (7) Paragraph (6) does not apply where the court makes an order under regulation 8(1) in relation to the offender.
- (8) In this regulation, references to disposing of an animal include destroying it.

Disqualification

8.—(1) Where a person is convicted of an offence under regulation 3, the court by or before which he or she is convicted may, instead of or in addition to dealing with that person in any other way, make an order disqualifying him or her under any one or more of paragraphs (2) to (4) for such period as it thinks fit.

- (2) Disqualification under this paragraph disqualifies a person—
- (a) from owning animals,
 - (b) from keeping animals,
 - (c) from participating in the keeping of animals, and
 - (d) from being party to an arrangement under which he or she is entitled to control or influence the way in which animals are kept.
- (3) Disqualification under this paragraph disqualifies a person from dealing in animals.
- (4) Disqualification under this paragraph disqualifies a person—
- (a) from transporting animals, and
 - (b) from arranging for the transport of animals.
- (5) Disqualification under paragraph (2), (3) or (4) may be imposed in relation to animals generally, or in relation to animals of one or more kinds.
- (6) The court by which an order under paragraph (1) is made may specify a period during which the offender may not make an application under regulation 14(1) for termination of the order.
- (7) The court by which an order under paragraph (1) is made may—
- (a) suspend the operation of the order pending an appeal, or
 - (b) where it appears to the court that the offender owns or keeps an animal to which the order applies, suspend the operation of the order, and of any order made under regulation 10 in connection with the disqualification, for such period as it thinks necessary for enabling alternative arrangements to be made in respect of the animal.
- (8) Where a court decides not to make an order under paragraph (1) in relation to an offender, it must give its reasons for the decision in open court and cause them to be entered in the register of its proceedings.

- (9) A person who breaches a disqualification imposed by an order under paragraph (1) commits an offence.

Seizure of animals in connection with disqualification

9.—(1) Where—

- (a) a court makes an order under regulation 8(1), and
- (b) it appears to the court that the person to whom the order applies owns or keeps any animal contrary to the disqualification imposed by the order,

it may order that all animals that that person owns or keeps contrary to the disqualification be taken into possession.

- (2) Where a person is convicted of an offence under regulation 8(9) because of owning or keeping an animal in breach of disqualification under regulation 8(2), the court by or before which he or she is convicted may order that all animals that that person owns or keeps in breach of the disqualification be taken into possession.
- (3) An order under paragraph (1) or (2), so far as relating to any animal owned by the person subject to disqualification, has effect as an order for the disposal of the animal.
- (4) Any animal taken into possession in pursuance of an order under paragraph (1) or (2) that is not owned by the person subject to disqualification is to be dealt with in such manner as the appropriate court may order.
- (5) A court may not make an order for disposal under subsection (4) unless—
 - (a) it has given the owner of the animal an opportunity to be heard, or
 - (b) it is satisfied that it is not reasonably practicable to communicate with the owner.
- (6) Where a court makes an order under subsection (4) for the disposal of an animal, the owner may—
 - (a) in the case of an order made by a magistrates' court, appeal against the order to the Crown Court;
 - (b) in the case of an order made by the Crown Court, appeal against the order to the Court of Appeal.
- (7) In subsection (4), the reference to the appropriate court is to—
 - (a) the court which made the order under subsection (1) or (2), or
 - (b) in the case of an order made by a magistrates' court, to a magistrates' court for the same local justice area as that court.
- (8) In this section, references to disposing of an animal include destroying it.

Seizure of animals: supplementary

10.—(1) The court by which an order under regulation 9 is made may—

- (a) appoint a person to carry out, or arrange for the carrying out of, the order;
- (b) require any person who has possession of an animal to which the order applies to deliver it up to enable the order to be carried out;
- (c) give directions with respect to the carrying out of the order;
- (d) confer additional powers (including power to enter premises where an animal to which the order applies is being kept) for the purpose of, or in connection with, the carrying out of the order;
- (e) order the person subject to disqualification, or another person, to reimburse the expenses of carrying out the order.

(2) Directions under paragraph (1)(c) may—

- (a) specify the manner in which an animal is to be disposed of, or
- (b) delegate the decision about the manner in which an animal is to be disposed of to a person appointed under subsection (1)(a).
- (3) In determining how to exercise its powers under regulation 9 and this regulation, the court must have regard, amongst other things, to—
 - (a) the desirability of protecting the value of any animal to which the order applies, and
 - (b) the desirability of avoiding increasing any expenses which a person may be ordered to reimburse.
- (4) In determining how to exercise a power delegated under subsection (2)(b), a person must have regard, amongst other things, to the things mentioned in subsection (3)(a) and (b).
- (5) If the owner of an animal ordered to be disposed of under regulation 9 is subject to a liability by virtue of paragraph (1)(e), any amount to which he or she is entitled as a result of sale of the animal may be reduced by an amount equal to that liability.

Destruction in the interests of the animal

11.—(1) The court by or before which a person is convicted of an offence under regulation 3 may order the destruction of an animal in relation to which the offence was committed if it is satisfied, on the basis of evidence given by a veterinary surgeon, that it is appropriate to do so in the interests of the animal.

- (2) A court may not make an order under subsection (1) unless—
 - (a) it has given the owner of the animal an opportunity to be heard, or
 - (b) it is satisfied that it is not reasonably practicable to communicate with the owner.
- (3) Where a court makes an order under subsection (1), it may—
 - (a) appoint a person to carry out, or arrange for the carrying out of, the order;
 - (b) require a person who has possession of the animal to deliver it up to enable the order to be carried out;
 - (c) give directions with respect to the carrying out of the order (including directions about how the animal is to be dealt with until it is destroyed);
 - (d) confer additional powers (including power to enter premises where the animal is being kept) for the purpose of, or in connection with, the carrying out of the order;
 - (e) order the offender or another person to reimburse the expenses of carrying out the order.
- (4) Where a court makes an order under subsection (1), each of the offender and, if different, the owner of the animal may appeal against the order to the Crown Court;
- (5) Subsection (4) does not apply if the court by which the order is made directs that it is appropriate in the interests of the animal that the carrying out of the order should not be delayed.

Forfeiture of equipment used in offences

12.—(1) Where a person is convicted of an offence under regulation 3, the court by or before which he or she is convicted may order any electronic device which is shown to the satisfaction of the court to relate to the offence, to be—

- (a) forfeited, and
- (b) destroyed or dealt with in such manner as may be specified in the order.

- (2) The court may not order anything to be forfeited under subsection (1) if a person claiming to be the owner of it or otherwise interested in it applies to be heard by the court, unless he or she has been given an opportunity to show cause why the order should not be made.

Orders: Appeals

13.—(1) Nothing may be done under an order under regulation 8, 10 or 11 with respect to an animal or an order under regulation 12 unless—

- (a) the period for giving notice of appeal against the order has expired,
- (b) the period for giving notice of appeal against the conviction on which the order was made has expired, and
- (c) if the order or conviction is the subject of an appeal, the appeal has been determined or withdrawn.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to an order under regulation 11(1) if the order is the subject of a direction under subsection (5) of that section.

(3) Where the effect of an order is suspended under paragraph (1)—

- (a) no requirement imposed or directions given in connection with the order have effect, but
- (b) the court may give directions about how any animal to which the order applies is to be dealt with during the suspension.

(4) Directions under paragraph (3)(b) may, in particular—

- (a) authorise the animal to be taken into possession;
- (b) authorise the removal of the animal to a place of safety;
- (c) authorise the animal to be cared for either on the premises where it was being kept when it was taken into possession or at some other place;
- (d) appoint a person to carry out, or arrange for the carrying out, of the directions;
- (e) require any person who has possession of the animal to deliver it up for the purposes of the directions;
- (f) confer additional powers (including power to enter premises where the animal is being kept) for the purpose of, or in connection with, the carrying out of the directions;
- (g) provide for the recovery of any expenses in relation to removal or care of the animal which are incurred in carrying out the directions.

(5) Any expenses a person is directed to pay under paragraph (4)(g) are recoverable summarily as a civil debt.

(6) Where the effect of an order under regulation 8 is suspended under paragraph (1) the person to whom the order relates may not sell or part with any animal to which the order applies.

(7) Failure to comply with paragraph (6) is an offence.

Termination of disqualification

14.—(1) A person who is disqualified by virtue of an order under regulation 9 may apply to the appropriate court for the termination of the order.

(2) No application under paragraph (1) may be made—

- (a) before the end of the period of one year beginning with the date on which the order is made,

- (b) where a previous application under that paragraph has been made in relation to the same order, before the end of the period of one year beginning with the date on which the previous application was determined, or
- (c) before the end of any period specified under regulation 9(6) or paragraph (5) below in relation to the order.
- (3) On an application under paragraph (1), the court may—
 - (a) terminate the disqualification,
 - (b) vary the disqualification so as to make it less onerous, or
 - (c) refuse the application.
- (4) When determining an application under paragraph (1), the court must have regard to the character of the applicant, his or her conduct since the imposition of the disqualification and any other circumstances of the case.
- (5) Where the court refuses an application under paragraph (1), it may specify a period during which the applicant may not make a further application under that subsection in relation to the order concerned.
- (6) The court may order an applicant under paragraph (1) to pay all or part of the costs of the application.
- (7) In paragraph (1), the reference to the appropriate court is to—
 - (a) the court which made the order under regulation 9, or
 - (b) in the case of an order made by a magistrates' court, to a magistrates' court acting for the same local justice area as that court.

Orders made on conviction for reimbursement of expenses

15. Where an order is made under regulation 8(4)(e), 11(1)(e) or 12(3)(e), the expenses that are required by the order to be reimbursed are not to be regarded for the purposes of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980(2) as a sum adjudged to be paid by a summary conviction, but are to be recoverable summarily as a civil debt.

Orders for reimbursement of expenses: right of appeal for non-offenders

- 16.**—(1) Where a court makes an order to which this regulation applies, the person against whom the order is made may appeal against the order to the Crown Court;
- (2) This regulation applies to an order under regulation 11(1)(e) against a person other than the person subject to disqualification.

Entry and search

17. An offence under these Regulations is to be treated as a relevant offence for the purposes of section 24 of the Act.

Name

Minister for Rural Affairs, one of the Welsh Ministers

[Date]

(2) 1980 c. 43



Cymdeithas Frenhinol Atal Creulondeb i Anifeiliaid Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

20th November 2013

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

Dear William Powell AM,

Re: P-04-445 - 'Save our Welsh cats & dogs from death on the roads'

I write in relation to P-04-445, entitled 'Save our Welsh cats & dogs from death on the roads', which is currently being considered by the National Assembly for Wales' Petitions Committee.

RSPCA policy states that no technical device should be used (or offered for sale) where an animal can be subjected to a painful stimulus at the direct instigation of a human or where a painful stimulus is delivered as a result of an animal's action from which it cannot retreat.

The RSPCA also has a very strong position against the use of training aids which are based on the principles of applying an unpleasant stimulus to inhibit unwanted behaviour.

We are, therefore, deeply concerned by any proposals to remove the ban on electric collars linked with invisible boundary fencing or hidden fencing, as proposed by P-04-445. We also believe that such discussions are untimely.

The report from the Companion Animal Welfare Council, referred to during the Committee's deliberations, argues that there is no scientific evidence that these boundary fence systems necessarily cause any welfare problems, nor is there a compelling argument to believe that this should be the case. However, the report also states there is a lack of conclusive scientific research concerning the welfare implications of the use of Electronic Pulse Training Aids. Such conclusions about boundary fence systems, therefore, appear premature.

We would suggest that the lack of evidence in relation to welfare problems relate primarily to a shortage of research. Committee members will be aware that the University of Lincoln is presently undertaking research in this field, and we hope

Chris O'Brien, Public Affairs Manager

Christopher.obrien@rspca.org.uk - 0300 123 8912 / 07715 540595

Facebook: RSPCA www.politicalanimal.org.uk/wales Twitter: @RSPCAcymru

RSPCA Cymru

10 Cwrt Ty Nant/ Ty Nant Court
Treforgan /Morganstown
Caerdydd /Cardiff
CF15 8LW

Cruelty Line
0300 1234 999

Elusen a gofrestrwyd yng Nghymru
a Lloegr Rhif. 219099
A charity registered in England &
Wales Charity no. 219099

www.rspca.org.uk/wales

Noddwr Ei Mawrhydi Y Frenhines
Patron HM The Queen

Cymdeithas Frenhinol Atal Creulondeb i Anifeiliaid Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

their deliberations will encourage further, informed debate on this important issue.

Certainly, existing evidence has highlighted many of the negative consequences concerning the use of boundary fence systems. The Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors (APBC), for example, found additional behavioural problems in animals subject to such systems. Suitable alternatives which pet owners can use have been highlighted by the APBC.

Invisible boundary fencing systems support a form of aversive training which inhibits unwanted dog or cat behaviours by applying an unpleasant stimulus. We are concerned that legalising such systems in Wales could encourage poor practices in animal training and ownership, which could have negative consequences for an animal's welfare and which may cause pain and fear, as well as other behavioural problems, including aggression.

RSPCA Cymru hugely welcomed the decision to introduce the Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) (Wales) Regulations 2010, which included the ban on devices which administer an electric shock to pets to stop them getting too close to a defined boundary. We are concerned that a reversal of any such ban, particularly given the lack of conclusive evidence, could be a backwards step for animal welfare and, more broadly, lead to irresponsible pet ownership and a prevalence of ineffective, aversive approaches to animal training. We, therefore, presently support the view which the Welsh Government communicated to the Committee in February 2013 that no significant proposals have been brought forward to suggest changes to the legislation are warranted.

As ever, RSPCA Cymru would be very pleased to meet with you to discuss this or provide any further information which may be required.

Yours Sincerely,



Chris O'Brien
Public Affairs Manager, RSPCA Cymru

Chris O'Brien, Public Affairs Manager

Christopher.obrien@rspca.org.uk 0300 123 8912 / 07715 540595
Facebook: RSPCA www.politicalanimal.org.uk/wales Twitter: @RSPCAcymru

Tudalen 1.92

Eitem 4.29

P-04-422 : Ffracio

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy i lunio Datganiad Polisi Cynllunio Mwynau Interim Gweinidogol, yn ogystal â nodyn cyngor technegol newydd, i gryfhau'r egwyddor ragofalus ynglŷn â cheisiadau cynllunio ar gyfer olew a nwy ar y tir, gan gynnwys ffracio. Rhaid dileu pob amheuaeth wyddonol resymol bod risg o effeithiau niweidiol, a rhaid rhoi'r ystyriaeth gryfaf i'r angen brys i liniaru'r newid yn yr hinsawdd.

Prif ddeisebydd: Cyfeillion y Ddaear Cymru

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: Tua 1000



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-422
Ein cyf/Our ref AD-/01130/13

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

Dear Bill,

9 August 2013

FRACKING

Thank you for your letter of 23 July to Carl Sargeant seeking information about the number of officials in Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government which have technical knowledge and/or long standing experience in the field of unconventional gas / fracking, including what external expertise is available.

As unconventional gas exploration in Wales is in the early stage there has been no requirement upon Natural Resources Wales all its predecessor organisations to issue environmental permits to unconventional gas developers.

Natural Resources Wales has access to all guidance material from legacy bodies such as that developed by the Environment Agency to deal with unconventional gas exploration and staff from its predecessor body Environment Agency Wales contributed to the development of this guidance. Natural Resources Wales is undertaking a review of resources required to deal with unconventional gas exploration in Wales. This will focus on their role as an advisor, a regulator and enforcer of unconventional gas exploration in Wales.

Currently NRW have technical expertise should it need to regulate exploratory activities for unconventional gas, including for example:

- The EC Mining Waste Directive
- Radioactive Substances
- Groundwater & Contaminated Land
- Site-Based Regulation
- Advice & licence in relation to designated sites
- Legal aspects

In terms of external expertise, I am advised that NRW have a Transition Plan in place with the Environment Agency to provide access to experts, as well as a range of consultants and advisors working in this field. Currently it is not contracted to any external organisation to provide support.

In respect of Welsh Government, officials have discussed and are continuing to discuss unconventional gas matters with a number of UK Government Departments, regulatory bodies and geological specialists including the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the Office of Unconventional Gas and Oil, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), British Geological Survey (BGS) and Wales based academia. Officials also participate in DECC chaired meetings on unconventional gas regulation alongside other devolved administrations and regulatory bodies including NRW, the HSE and the Environment Agency.

Finally officials have also tendered for the procurement of a specialist report to assess any geological or environmental issues particular to the areas in Wales where unconventional gas exploration or development might take place.



Alun Davies AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd
Minister for Natural Resources and Food



Welsh Affairs Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
Tel 020 7219 6189 Fax 020 7219 0300 Email welshcom@parliament.uk
Website <http://www.parliament.uk/welshcom/>



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

3 September 2013

Dear William

Petition to National Assembly for Wales on shale gas

Thank you for your letter of 23 July, informing the Welsh Affairs Committee about the petition received by your Committee about shale gas exploration. This will be a helpful contribution to our inquiry on Shale Gas in Wales, which is set to begin in October. I will ensure your letter and the petition are circulated to Committee Members.

You asked about being kept updated with the progress for our inquiry. We will soon be publishing the written evidence for the inquiry on our website, at www.parliament.uk/welshcom. Oral evidence is likely to begin in late October. The Committee staff will liaise with your officials to keep you informed of progress with the inquiry.

I am grateful that you contacted the Welsh Affairs Committee in this way. It is a good example of co-operation between our two legislatures. I would be grateful if you let us know in future of any other petitions considered by the National Assembly's Petitions Committee which are relevant to our inquiries.

Yours sincerely,

David T.C. Davies MP
Chair, Welsh Affairs Select Committee

Eitem 4.30

P-04-444 : Ymgyrch 'DIG FOR VICTORY'

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i gyflwyno ymgyrch 'Dig for Victory' gyfoes drwy gynghorau lleol.

Gyda phris bwyd yn parhau i godi yn ystod cyfnod o ddirwasgiad, mae angen unwaith eto i ni dyfu ein bwyd ein hunain, fel y gwnaethpwyd yn ystod yr Ail Ryfel Byd, pan gyflwynwyd ymgyrch 'Dig for Victory' i sicrhau bod pawb yn cael bwyd. Os byddai Llywodraeth Cymru yn cyflwyno ymgyrch debyg drwy'r cynghorau lleol, gan roi talebau neu hadau, compost neu hyd yn oed cutiau ieir ac ieir (lle bo hynny'n briodol), byddai pobl yn cael budd ariannol a byddai eu hiechyd hefyd yn elwa. Byddai hefyd yn cwtogi ar y bwyd rydym yn ei fewnforio, gan leihau ein hól troed carbon. Mae gan y rhan fwyaf o bobl ardd, a gall pobl sydd heb ardd dyfu rhai llysiau ar batio neu falconi. Gadewch i ni balu i fuddugoliaeth.

Prif ddeisebydd: Plaid Cymru Aberavon

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 15 Ionawr 2013

Nifer y llofnodion: 13

P-04-436 : Gwariant a Refeniw Llywodraeth Cymru

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i baratoi adroddiad ar Wariant a Refeniw Llywodraeth Cymru.

Mae gan yr Alban adroddiad Government Expenditure and Revenue Scotland. Ei nod yw gwella dealltwriaeth y cyhoedd o faterion ariannol drwy ddadansoddi ystadegau ariannol swyddogol Llywodraeth y DU a'r Alban yn fanwl. Mae'n bryd i Lywodraeth Cymru gyhoeddi adroddiad tebyg fel y gallwn weld gwir sefyllfa ariannol Cymru.

Prif ddeisebydd: Stuart Evans

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 15 Ionawr 2013

Nifer y llofnodion: 27



Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid ac Arweinydd y Ty
Minister for Finance and Leader of the House

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-436
Ein cyf/Our ref SF JH 0532/13

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

9th October 2013

Dear William,

Petitions Committee: analysis of Welsh and UK Government financial statistics

Thank you for your letter of 3 October, enclosing a further communication asking that the Welsh Government publishes a new report on Government expenditure and revenue in Wales.

As I said in my previous replies, I have no plans at this stage to produce such a report. There is already a wealth of data available on public expenditure in Wales (Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses, published by the UK Government, and of course the Welsh Government's own budget documentation), to which has been added recently HMRC's publication of tax receipts in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The overall position has also been considered by the highly respected Holtham Commission and Silk Commission. I am enclosing links to useful statistical sources and publications.

Should the UK Government accept the Silk Commission's recommendations for tax devolution to Wales, then there may well be a need to publish further information in the future. However, that must await the UK Government's response to the Silk Commission's report.

*Best wishes,
Jane*

Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid ac Arweinydd y Ty
Minister for Finance and Leader of the House

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA
*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)
paper*

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: Jane.Hutt@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled

Tudalen 199

Useful statistical sources and publications

Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses, published by the UK Government:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-treasury/series/public-expenditure-statistical-analyses-pesa>

Welsh Government's budget documentation:
<http://wales.gov.uk/funding/budget/?lang=en>
<http://wales.gov.uk/funding/budget/?lang=cy>

HMRC's publication of tax receipts in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland:
<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/statistics/announcements/22-07-13.htm>

Holtham Commission reports:
<http://wales.gov.uk/funding/financereform/report/?lang=en>
<http://wales.gov.uk/funding/financereform/report/?lang=cy>

Silk Commission's Part 1 report:
<http://commissionondevolutioninwales.independent.gov.uk/>
<http://commissionondevolutioninwales.independent.gov.uk/cy/>

**P-04-436 Government Expenditure and Revenue Wales report –
Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee,
08.11.2013**

The finance minister has used every opportunity she can to ignore the word REVENUE in the petition so asking yet again that they look at REVENUE would be like banging my head against a wall.

Thanks

Stuart.

P-04-441 : Gwaith i Gymru – Work for Wales

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Yng ngoleuni'r ffigurau diweddaraf ar gyfer diweithdra ymhlith ieuenctid Cymru, mae Plaid Ifanc yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i gymryd camau effeithiol a chadarnhaol i sicrhau dyfodol gwell ar gyfer y genhedlaeth hon o bobl ifanc.

Yn benodol, rydym yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i (1) creu cynllun i gefnogi 30,000 o brentisiaethau ac ehangu'r rhaglen Recriwtiaid Ifanc; (2) datblygu rhaglen hyfforddiant mewn gwaith modern ac uchel ei werth i gynyddu gallu pobl ifanc i gael eu cyflogi; a (3) ymestyn pwerau benthyca awdurdodau lleol i £350 miliwn er mwyn iddynt allu cynorthwyo busnesau bach a chanolig eu maint gyda chronfeydd benthyca lleol. Yn ogystal â'r camau hyn, rydym yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i wneud pob peth o fewn ei gallu i wyrdroi'r sefyllfa bryderus hon ac i greu gwaith i Gymru er gwaethaf y toriadau i'r sector cyhoeddus gan Lywodraeth y DU. Mae'r cyfnod hwn yn un anodd, ac mae Plaid Ifanc yn credu bod y toriadau sy'n cael eu gorfodi arnom gan lywodraeth y glymblaid yn San Steffan yn gwbl afresymol. Fodd bynnag, ni ddylai'r toriadau hynny atal Llywodraeth Cymru rhag gweithredu yn awr i helpu'r economi yng Nghymru. Mae diweithdra ymhlith yr ifanc wedi cyrraedd y lefelau gwaethaf erioed, ac mae diweithdra'n waeth yng Nghymru nag mewn rhannau eraill o'r Deyrnas Unedig, sy'n peri pryder; mae'n ymddangos ein bod yn mynd yn groes i'r duedd yn y DU. Mae perygl gwirioneddol y bydd y genhedlaeth hon o bobl ifanc rhwng 16 a 24 oed yn troi'n genhedlaeth goll. Maent mewn perygl o wynebu cynni ariannol am weddill eu bywydau oherwydd yr argyfwng swyddi y maent yn ei wynebu heddiw. Nid yw cael chwarter o'n pobl ifanc yn ddi-waith yn sefyllfa gynaliadwy, ac mae'n gam cyntaf ar lwybr peryglus at anawsterau economaidd i Gymru am ddegawdau i ddod. Rhaid cymryd camau effeithiol a chadarnhaol yn awr i wyrdroi'r duedd frawychus hon a sicrhau ein bod yn creu gwaith i Gymru.

Prif ddeisebydd: Cerith Rhys Jones

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 4 Rhagfyr 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 129

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

8 October 2013

Dear William

Petition on Brighter Future for Young People

I apologise for not responding to your letter of 24 April 2013 seeking the views of Colegau Cymru on a petition urging the Welsh Government to put forward effective and positive steps to ensure a brighter future for the current generation of young people.

Colegau Cymru represents 16 further education (FE) colleges and FE institutions in Wales. In 2010/11, there were 82,985 students attending FE colleges, of which 59,355 students were aged below 20¹.

FE colleges have a twin purpose – promoting social justice and inclusion and supporting a buoyant economy.

(i) Promoting social justice

Investing in the future of our young people and tackling disadvantage are both core to the approach taken by colleges – indeed they are the *raison d'être* of colleges' existence.

A survey of 15 colleges in Wales in July 2013 showed that almost 37,000 learners received Educational Maintenance Allowances, Assembly Learning Grants or college Financial Contingency Funds. This funding ensures that those requiring financial support are not deterred from enrolling on courses. Colleges have almost 500 looked-after children to whom they give specialist and dedicated support. Providing support to all these learners is at the heart of what colleges do; it is nonetheless time consuming and expensive. Investment needs to be sustained to ensure the most disadvantaged learners are catered for. Where does a learner go if deprived of a second chance opportunity? Maintaining investment in these learners ensures that they do not become NEET (not in employment, education or training).

¹ Further Education, Work-based Learning and Community Learning in Wales Statistics 2010/11 Welsh Government 2012

Colleges make probably the single biggest impact to reducing those who are NEET by either being the first point of contact for the young persons or being the point of first referral by other agencies in many cases.

Colleges received Financial Contingency Funds (FCF) of £7m from the Welsh Government in 2011/12. There were 17,145 successful applications for funds from students, 88% of which were from full-time students. The highest costs were for childcare and transport with other key areas being luncheon vouchers, equipment and books.

16 year olds who choose to remain in school may continue to receive means-tested free school meals (FSM). There is no dedicated FSM funding for college students. Colleges often increase the amount of funding available to disadvantaged learners by reallocating sums earned from entrepreneurial activity.

Colleges also receive funding for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. In 2012/13 this amounted to £6.4m. This funding contributes towards providing specialist support in areas such as sign language and Braille and in-class (ancillary) support.

As well as providing financial support through grants, colleges deliver curriculum specifically designed for those from disadvantaged or vulnerable groups – that is, education and training provision as well as financial support. This provision, some of which can be termed as ‘uneconomic’, means that classes can be run in smaller groups, or that classes can be run in the community. By so doing, colleges encourage learners to participate in learning where they may not have done so previously.

In addition, colleges use a significant amount of resources to boost levels of literacy and numeracy. Estyn has pointed out the differences between chronological age and reading age for example, and colleges seek to compensate for these gaps. In November 2010, a survey carried out by ColegauCymru showed that 43% of their new full-time students had literacy levels below level 1 on entry to college, with the comparable figure being 48% for level 1 numeracy. Improving literacy and numeracy levels is crucial in tackling disadvantage.

(ii) Supporting a buoyant economy

The second key element is the major contribution made by colleges to the economy in Wales by raising skills levels in Wales. This is particularly significant as the increased level of long term unemployment in Wales since the recession in 2008 runs the risk of denuding the skills base of our country.

ColegauCymru believes that despite the extremely testing economic outlook, Wales has the opportunity to rebuild its industrial future based on an ever more highly skilled workforce with FE colleges responding positively to the needs of business and industry.

According to the latest large scale UKCES *Employers' Skills Survey*, FE colleges in Wales prepare 17-18 year old ‘education leavers’ better than school sixth forms in Wales by a margin of 10%. 75% of employers in the survey stated that college leavers

are 'well prepared' or better compared to less than two thirds of school leavers who were so.²

Work with business has remained a central priority for the sector over many years. Most colleges now have a commercial arm or business unit and promote their services to a wide range of employers. ColegauCymru has estimated that colleges engage with over 25,000 businesses every year to work to develop a suite of products designed to meet the needs of private and public sector employers in Wales. Such services range from work on apprenticeships (all levels), bespoke training programmes for staff, consultancies, product innovation and general advice on future skill needs of their workforce. Colleges are constantly seeking to make sure that their work with business is nimble, at the cutting edge and suited to individual employer needs. This is a central goal for colleges in Wales.

Colleges have responded to the Welsh Government's investment with an improving quality profile year-on-year. For example, the Department for Education and Skills' (DfES) annual *Learner Outcomes Reports for 2010/11* showed that 90% of students completed their courses in FE colleges and of these 90% achieved their qualifications – making an overall success rate of 81%. This can be compared with a 40% successful completion in 2000/01.

Sustaining public investment in skills in the medium to long term is crucial. Vocational education delivered by colleges makes a major contribution to meeting the aims of Wales' ambitious skills agenda. Approximately 85% of courses (at level 3 and below) offered by colleges in Wales are vocational or vocationally related. Colleges are therefore, by a large margin, the predominant providers of vocational and technical education in Wales.

The need to develop a skills base for a renewed emphasis on industrial and construction industry growth is supported by clear evidence on projected labour demand in Wales up to 2020. According to the latest estimates from the UK Commission on Employment and Skills' *Working Futures* report: "*Wales is the only nation/region [in the UK] where skilled trades occupations are expected to grow in employment, and not decline*" and employment growth in Wales is projected to be: "*above the UK average ... for the primary sector and utilities, construction, and trade, accommodation and transport*". This gives a particular impetus to investment focused on enhancing Wales' crucial vocational skills base.

Colleges enrol more 16-19 students than do school sixth forms. Colleges provide a "sixth form" provision which is often unrecognised by many politicians. Key features:

- ❶ results are very good – the 2013 AS/A level results showed outstanding performance in many colleges with results comparable to school sixth forms
- ❷ in several areas tertiary colleges widen student choice and provide specialist support
- ❸ tertiary reorganisation is cost effective and provides a more efficient and fair solution than just reducing budgets and cuts out unnecessary competition for 16-19 students.

² UK Commission for Employment and Skills: *Employer Skills Survey 2011: Wales Results*, Evidence Report 62, Nov 2012, fig. 3.1 p.28.

Comment

Colleges play a key role in investing in the future of 16-24 year olds. They are supporting disadvantaged learners; promoting opportunities for developing vocational qualifications; supporting apprenticeships and vocational learning routes; raising standards for all learners – academic and vocational; and seeking to ensure that young people and adults are equipped with the skills necessary to take on jobs when the economy eventually improves. Colleges have invested heavily in their student support services which provide appropriate support and guidance and independent careers advice that meets the needs of young people.

In short, colleges are playing key role in ensuring that 16-24 year olds do not become a 'lost generation'. Rather, they are providing an education and skills environment that will help ensure a brighter future for young people in Wales.

Yours sincerely

Dr John Graystone
Chief Executive

c Mark Jones
Ken Skates, Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology

(signed copy in the post)

Eitem 4.33

P-04-484 Lwfans Cynhaliaeth Addysg i bawb!

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i ganiatáu pob plentyn 16-19 oed mewn addysg llawn amser i gael y £30 llawn o'r Lwfans Cynhaliaeth Addysg yr wythnos, beth bynnag yw incwm eu rhieni.

Gwybodaeth ychwanegol: Dylai pob plentyn 16-19 oed gael y £30 llawn o'r Lwfans Cynhaliaeth Addysg yr wythnos, beth bynnag yw incwm eu rhieni. Nid yw pob rhiant sy'n ennill cyflog digonol yn helpu eu plant yn ariannol i fynd i'r coleg, ac mae'n anodd dod o hyd i waith oherwydd bod y rhan fwyaf o weithleoedd yn gofyn am brofiad yn eu meysydd. Dylai pob plentyn gael y lwfans wythnosol, ar yr amod eu bod yn mynd i'r ysgol neu'r coleg.

Prif ddeisebydd: Jack Gillum

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 4 Mehefin 2013

Nifer y llofnodion : 10

P-04-484 EMA for all! – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee, 15.10.2013

Dear Petition Committee,

Following the response from the minister I do not think that this petition is worth continuing being to the fact that I can see why they are doing what they do and now the fact that I don't think that this will now change anything.

Many thanks

Jack Gillum