

Agenda – Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: 20 October 2015

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

Steve George – Committee Clerk

Kayleigh Driscoll – Deputy Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

1 Introduction, apologies and substitutions

(Pages 1 – 19)

2 New petitions

2.1 P-04-653 Ban the Use of Wild Animals in Circuses in Wales

(Pages 20 – 23)

3 Updates to previous petitions

Health

The following three items will be considered together

3.1 P-04-564 Restoration of Inpatient Beds, Minor Injuries Cover and X-Ray Unit to the Ffestiniog Memorial Hospital

(Pages 24 – 30)

3.2 P-04-466 Medical Emergency – Preventing the introduction of a poorer Health Service for North Wales

(Page 31)

3.3 P-04-479 Tywyn Memorial Hospital X-ray & Minor Injuries Unit Petition

(Page 32)

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

(Pages 33 – 35)



Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales

3.5 P-04-603 Helping Babies Born at 22 Weeks to Survive
(Pages 36 – 40)

3.6 P-04-630 Facebook Regulations for Looked after Children
(Pages 41 – 48)

Public Services

3.7 P-04-540 Stop Sexism In Domestic Abuse
(Pages 49 – 51)

3.8 P-04-631 Save our service- Large Animal Rescue in North Wales
(Pages 52 – 56)

Communities and Tackling Poverty

3.9 P-04-511 Support for children and young people participation standards
(Pages 57 – 61)

Farming and Food

The following two petitions will be considered together

3.10 P-04-399 Slaughter Practices
(Page 62)

3.11 P-04-433 CCTV in Slaughterhouses
(Pages 63 – 73)

4 Evidence Session – P-04-522 Asbestos in Schools
(Pages 74 – 90)

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

Item 6.

6 Consideration of Oral Evidence under Agenda Item 4

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 2.1

P-04-653 Ban the Use of Wild Animals in Circuses in Wales

Petition wording:

We, the undersigned:

- Believe the complex needs of wild animals can never be adequately met in a circus environment;
- Note that wild animals continue to face the prospect of life in an unsuitable circus environment in Wales;
- Urge the Welsh Government to ensure an outright ban on the use of wild animals in circuses is introduced in Wales as soon as possible.

Additional Information

Further information on RSPCA Cymru's work to put an end to the use of wild animals in circuses in Wales, can be found at:

<http://politicalanimal.wales/wild-animals-circuses-wales/>

Petition raised by: RSPCA Cymru

Date petition first considered by Committee: 20 October 2015

Number of signatures: 517 signatures on the Assembly's website between 15 May and 09 October 2015. An additional 7,268 signatures were gathered via the RSPCA Cymru website and offline by RSPCA volunteers

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-563
Ein cyf/Our ref: RE/00712/15

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

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

7 October 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 15 September to Carl Sargeant AM about Petition P-04-653 'Ban The Use of Wild Animals in Circuses in Wales'. It has been passed to me as this issue falls within my portfolio.

We share the concerns expressed by many of the public about the use of wild animals in circuses. We are therefore commissioning an independent review of the current evidence available to establish whether the use of wild animals in circuses compromises the health or welfare of those animals.

In the meantime, my officials are in urgent discussion with the Welsh Local Government Association, the Animal and Plant Health Agency, Police and Local Authorities to map out a cohesive, Wales-wide approach to monitoring public safety and animal health and welfare standards in travelling circuses

Yn eiddo
Rebecca

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

National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee: e-Petition 809: Ban the Use of Wild Animals in Circuses in Wales

RSPCA Cymru welcomes the opportunity to provide a briefing to the Petitions Committee following our summer 2015 public campaign to ban the use of wild animals in circuses.

CURRENT POSITION

The use of wild animals in circuses is still legal in Wales. It is possible for circuses and other such travelling menageries that use wild animals to comply with the law as it stands, despite significant concerns about the welfare of animals in these settings.

PURPOSE OF CAMPAIGN

RSPCA Cymru has long pushed for a complete ban on the use of wild animals in circuses. The power to introduce a ban lies with the National Assembly for Wales – either under section 12 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 or via primary legislation.

The complex needs of wild animals can never be adequately met in a circus environment with regular transport, cramped and bare temporary housing, forced training and performance all unavoidable realities for the animals.

The forced movement, human handling, noise, vibration, cage motion and confinement that are part and parcel of transportation are well documented sources of stress in a wide range of species¹. The cumulative effect of frequent transport events is a significant welfare problem for circus animals, and is one that cannot be overcome due to their itinerant nature.

The vehicles used to transport animals from site to site are limited in size to the maximum dimension legally allowed on roads. This, coupled with need to easily erect and dismantle enclosures and their contents, greatly limits both the size and complexity of environment that circus animals can be provided. For example, enclosures are on average a quarter of the size as the minimum recommended by zoos². Circuses³ are simply unable to provide wild animals with the standard of housing and care expected in modern zoos, which themselves are not without welfare problems, leading to an impoverished life². Furthermore, circuses are purely for entertainment, making the 'costs' to animal welfare even more unacceptable.

¹ e.g. Anonymous (2004) Opinion of the Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare on a request from the Commission related to the welfare of animals during transport. *EFSA Journal* 44: 1–36

² Iossa G, Soulsbury CD, Harris S (2009) Are wild animals suited to a travelling circus life? *Animal Welfare* 18: 129–140

³ Including those operating under alternative titles, such as 'travelling' and 'educational' shows.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE CAMPAIGN

There has been significant public support for e-petition 809. In addition to 517 signatures gathered on the assembly.wales website between 15 May and 09 October 2015 an additional 7,268 signatures were gathered via the RSPCA Cymru website and offline by our network of volunteers.

An important element of RSPCA Cymru-collected signatures came from supporters physically gathering signatures in communities right across Wales. It should be noted that RSPCA Cymru only collected signatures from those resident in Wales, adding a particular weight and legitimacy to this petition in the argument for decisive action on the matter in Wales.

A recurrent theme from the public has been that they believed that the use of wild animals in circuses had already been banned. However the high profile 'travelling show' with lions and tigers that has toured Wales throughout the summer appears to have dispelled this myth. The marketing of such shows does not appear to have fooled the public who, in our experience, continue to consider them equivalent to circuses and should be banned, like those formally referring to themselves as 'circuses'. Indeed one travelling show that has recently been touring Wales would appear to have applied, and failed to obtain, a license to operate a circus in England⁴.

NEXT STEPS

We urge the Welsh Government to introduce legislation to ban the use of wild animals in circuses and follow the example set by many of our European neighbours and countries much further afield, namely Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Israel, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Singapore.

It should also be noted that this has been ruled a Member State issue under European law, and the RSPCA believe it is not even necessary to utilise primary legislation but instead a ban could be introduced through regulations under the Animal Welfare Act in Wales.

The petition provides a substantial mandate for decisive action on the matter.

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/circus-inspection-reports-2015>

Agenda Item 3.1

P-04-564 The Restoration of Inpatient Beds, Minor Injuries Cover and X-Ray Unit to the Ffestiniog Memorial Hospital

Petition wording:

Until the Health Minister has had time to consider Prof Marcus Longley's recommendations on rural healthcare in Wales – a study that was commissioned by the Minister himself in January of this year – we, the undersigned, call on the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Labour Government to delay decision on Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board's Business Case aimed at downgrading our Memorial Hospital to a mere 'Memorial Centre'.

Petition raised by: Geraint Vaughn Jones

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 17 June 2014

Number of signatures : 2,754

Correspondence from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to the Committee, 07.10.15

- **P-04-466 Medical Emergency – Preventing the introduction of a poorer Health Service for North Wales**
- **P-04-479 Tywyn Memorial Hospital X-ray & Minor Injuries Unit Petition**
- **P-04-564 Restoration of Inpatient Beds, Minor Injuries Cover and X-Ray Unit to the Ffestiniog Memorial Hospital**

Thank you for your letter of 3rd July 2015 seeking an update on matters in relation to Tywyn Hospital and the Mid Wales Health Collaborative. I apologise sincerely for the delay in our response, noting that the original email was sent to the Chief Executive's former PA who had just retired. I trust that the following information addresses the specific questions you raised –

Tywyn Hospital

With regard to the minor injuries service at Tywyn, the opening hours were set to reflect the demand for the service, including the increase in activity during the summer months. I note the concern expressed in the letter that perhaps the current hours might be further reduced and I would wish to clarify that the Board has no plans to reduce the opening hours of this facility. With regard to the impact of the current opening hours upon demand in other sites, this has not an impact which we have observed since the changes were made. We continue to monitor access to local minor injury services and discuss this with the Community Health Council and we shall ensure that the issues raised are reflected in our ongoing monitoring arrangements.

Mid Wales Health Collaborative

The Co-Chairs of the Collaborative have established a Collaborative Board which meets on a bi-monthly basis. The Board has established a work programme and a series of working groups to progress the key themes identified within the Report. The complete papers for the Collaborative can be assessed using the following link <http://www.midwalescollaborative.wales.nhs.uk/home>

Dr Sue Fish has been appointed as Clinical Programme Director for the Collaborative and she would, I am sure, be able to provide the Committee with any further detail you require regarding its activities. Dr Fish's email address is sue.fish@wales.nhs.uk As a Health Board we are actively contributing to the work of the Collaborative and are leading two of its workstreams.

I trust that the information above is helpful to the Committee.

Mr Geoff Lang

Director of Strategy

P-04-564 Restoration of Inpatient Beds, Minor Injuries Cover and X-Ray Unit to the Ffestiniog Memorial Hospital – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 14.10.15

Update for the Welsh Assembly Petitions Committee

In early May of this year, we wrote to the Committee with an update of the healthcare provision situation in Ffestiniog and the Welsh Uplands. We pointed out that the state of the healthcare provision in Ffestiniog and the Welsh Uplands can only be described as *'dire'*. The plans that have been submitted to the Minister and to which our petition relates do not contain healthcare services beyond an unacceptably basic provision. The Betsi Cadwaladr UHB business case plan falls far short of the goal described in the Welsh Government's 'Rural Health Plan' as adopted by the then Health Minister. It makes a mockery of the Welsh Government's claim to seek to provide "world class health care in rural areas."

We also provided detailed evidence to illustrate the state of disarray amongst the Betsi Cadwaladr UHB Board and senior management in addressing the provision of adequate healthcare in a major rural area. The Petitions Committees Members will know that this disarray has extended to other areas of healthcare in North Wales, recently, including maternity and other women's services, Out of Hours Doctors provision, food hygiene in a major acute hospital and manpower planning and recruitment leading to a chronic shortage of GPs.

One month after we sent that letter to you, on June 9th, the Minister finally reacted to the lack of competence of Betsi Cadwaladr UHB, recognised the patient care damage being caused by Betsi Cadwaladr UHB and signed an intervention order placing the Board into "Special Measures". The Minister replaced the Board's Chief Executive with the Minister's own representative, Mr Simon Dean.

Suggestions to Resolve the Planned Lack of Healthcare Provision in the Welsh Uplands

Our original petition requested that the business case plan prepared by Betsi Cadwaladr UHB and submitted to the Minister be not approved until Prof Marcus Longley had completed his study of the healthcare provision in rural mid Wales. Prof Longley found the provision of healthcare in the Welsh Uplands to be at the most basic level of any rural community in Wales, and in most urgent need of addressing. The proposals contained in the Betsi Cadwaladr Business Case do not plan to provide an acceptable level of service and have been rejected firmly by the population of the Welsh Uplands in formal local community referendums.

In May, we asked the Petitions Committee to propose to the Minister that his officials involve us directly in discussions on improving the business case for the provision of enhanced healthcare services to this large and important, if sparsely populated, rural area.

Although we have had one meeting with Mr Simon Dean at our request, Betsi Cadwaladr UHB continues to proceed with service dismantling actions in isolation from the public that it is charged in serving.

Following Prof Longley's report, the Minister established the Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative charged with seeking to improve healthcare services in rural areas covering a wide area of Wales, including Ffestiniog and the Welsh Uplands. We have met more than once with the Joint Chairs of that Collaborative and also discussed the issue with Dr Sue Fish, Clinical Programme Director Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative. Their understanding of the means of providing effective healthcare in rural areas appears much enhanced over the level of understanding demonstrated by Betsi Cadwaladr UHB management.

We would ask the Petitions Committee now to remind the Minister that he has found Betsi Cadwaladr UHB to be so defective in their planning and delivery of healthcare services, as to require, uniquely in Wales, Betsi Cadwaladr UHB to be placed in special measures. It is right and proper that the Minister should arrange for decisions taken by such a recognised defective healthcare organisation to be reviewed before they deliver irreparable patient harm. An appropriate body to be charged with reviewing the healthcare plans for the Welsh Uplands could well be the Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative. We would be more than willing to co-operate with such a review.

Geoff Lang's correspondence to the Petitions Committee (07.10.2015) on behalf of BCUHB

(see 'P-04-564 Restoration of Inpatient Beds, Minor Injuries Cover and X-Ray Unit to the Ffestiniog Memorial Hospital')

OUR RESPONSE

First of all, may we remind the Committee of the background to the Business Case which you have been asked to consider. In 2012, both Tywyn and Blaenau Memorial Hospitals were allocated £4m capital spend by the Welsh Government. The Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board then decided to provide Tywyn with a brand new extension to house a 16 bed ward and an equally new X-ray department whilst at the same time, in its supposed wisdom, taking immediate steps to remove all such facilities from the Ffestiniog Memorial Hospital and to use the £4m capital spend simply to refurbish the building so that all

services from the current health centre [one that was purposely built less than 30 years ago!] can be re-located there. By its own admission (see evidence already submitted), the Board took that decision for purely mercenary reasons. (If proof were needed, it can easily be found in the Board's Planning Committee Report for January 2015: *'Building the new centre on the site of Ffestiniog Memorial Hospital will mean that there will no longer be a need for the current Health Centre or the physiotherapy building. This will result in substantial savings in the cost of maintaining services in the area and the financial rewards of such actions will become obvious within the next 2 - 4 years.'*)

Mr Lang's paragraph relating to Minor Injuries cover at Tywyn merely corroborates our allegation of discrimination by the Health Board. We have maintained all along that BCUHB decisions have favoured the more affluent coastal areas, to cater for the influx of summer tourists, and that they have done so at the expense of the more deprived rural population of the Welsh Uplands. The Betsi Executive have consistently denied the claim whilst at the same time ignoring the overwhelming evidence being presented to them. But Mr Lang himself, in his reply to you on behalf of the Board, now confirms our stance when he says:– *'With regard to the minor injuries service at Tywyn, the opening hours were set to reflect the demand for the service, including the increase in activity during the summer months.'* And he has the confidence (or perhaps the arrogance) to affirm: *'I would wish to clarify that the Board has no plans to reduce the opening hours of this facility.'*

He then continues, somewhat convolutedly, to tell you: *'With regard to the impact of the current opening hours upon demand in other sites, this has not an impact which we have observed since the changes were made.'* What 'other sites' is he referring to, if not Blaenau Ffestiniog and the Welsh Uplands? And why would he avoid referring to it by name, if not to avoid the issue as best he can?

He then goes on to say, *'We continue to monitor access to local minor injury services and discuss this with the Community Health Council and we shall ensure that the issues raised are reflected in our ongoing monitoring arrangements.'*

Since the Board offers no meaningful Minor Injuries cover in the Welsh Uplands, then we would suggest that Mr Lang be challenged on this issue as well, and be asked to produce the results of such 'monitoring' in the Welsh Uplands.

We recently provided you with proof of the numbers who visit the Blaenau Ffestiniog area annually. Those statistics far outweigh anything that the Tywyn coastal tourist belt witnesses from year to year. **Around 230,000, this year alone**, have come to experience the thrills of extreme downhill biking, zip wire rides, underground trampolining, caving experiences etc in this immediate area (i.e Welsh Uplands). And as we have also proved to you recently, such interests often result in accidents requiring ambulance and air ambulance call-outs, leading to subsequent A&E treatments in Ysbyty Gwynedd. But the BCUHB Executives are content to ignore such facts when they are presented to them and this leaves you, as members of the Petitions Committee, to draw your own conclusions.

On 28.09.2015, we copied you in with our response to Simon Dean's email to us. Hopefully, you will take account of its content, as well, during your deliberations.

We thank you again for giving of your time to consider our ongoing concerns.

Yours, most sincerely,

Geraint V Jones (On behalf of the Ffestiniog Memorial Hospital Defence Committee)

P-04-466 Medical Emergency – Preventing the introduction of a poorer Health Service for North Wales

Petition wording:

We the undersigned call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to ensure that the proposals contained within the Betsi Cadwalader University Health Board consultation– **“Health Care in North Wales is Changing”** does not result in poorer health provision and unnecessary deaths and suffering.

The proposals will have a detrimental effect on most areas of health provision and emergency services and in no way can the proposals be an improvement as is intimated. Already experiencing meltdown, the Health Service in Wales will head towards collapse, if these proposals are implemented in their present form

The current BCUHB consultation proposals in relation to Health Care in North Wales appear to be detrimental to general health provision and the safety of our communities. Accessibility, X-ray provision, Minor Injuries ,Mental Health, the Ambulance Services, the Out of Hours service and the ability of GPs to deliver an integrated service are going to be particularly hard hit by the proposals – as they are diametrically at odds with the Welsh Govt’s vision in relation to the documents **“Together for Health”**, **“Setting the Direction”**, and **“Delivering Emergency Care Services”** – it appears also to be at odds with the **“Compact”** announced by the Health Minister on the 25th of September 2012.

Petition raised by: Mike Parry

Petition first considered by Committee: 19 March 2013

Number of signatures: 306

Agenda Item 3.3

P-04-479 Tywyn Memorial Hospital X-ray & Minor Injuries Unit Petition

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to stop the withdrawal of X-ray facilities & the reduction in provision of services by the Minor Injuries Unit as a matter of urgency.

Petition raised by: Tywyn & District Health Care Action Group

Date petition first considered by Committee: 14 May 2013

Number of signatures: 4486

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

Petition wording:

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

Petition raised by: Professor Kevin Davies MBE

Date petition first considered by Committee: 16 July 2013

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



GIG
CYMRU
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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board

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

Ein cyf / Our ref: SD/JB/NWA15/499 &
COM19452

Eich cyf / Your ref: P-04-494

Ffôn: 01248 384910

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Chief Executive's
Office

E-bost/Email: janerose.buyiekha@wales.nhs.uk

Dyddiad / Date: 28th September 2015

Dear Mr Powell

Petition P-04-494 Robotic Assisted Laparoscopic Prostatectomy Must be Made Available to Men in Wales Now

Thank you for your letter dated 6th August 2015 regarding the Petition received from Professor Kevin Davies MBE in relation to the above issue. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you.

To answer the specific questions you pose:

- 1. I would be grateful if you could let the Committee know the total cost of referral of patients to Manchester for these procedures.***

The Health Board's referral costs are as follows:

- 10 BCUHB Patients had robotic surgery at the Christie in Manchester in 2014/15 at a cost of £51,216.
- 30 BCUHB Patients had robotic surgery at Wirral University Teaching Hospital in 2014/15 at a cost of £135,157.

- 2. I would also be grateful if you could let the Committee know the Health Board's estimate of what would be the cost of providing these procedures at a location within the Health Board area in North Wales.***

It is not possible to give a definitive total cost for undertaking such procedures in North Wales as this would require detailed work to identify the staff time associated with the work, cost of theatres, wards etc. However some costs are known as follows:

- Initial purchase of Robotic Device, training and the associated maintenance agreement - £2m of capital expenditure.
- Ongoing cost of additional consumables (inc limited use instruments (10 patient uses) and single use camera covers, drapes etc.) £1,500 per patient



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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board

I trust that this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Simon Dean
Interim Chief Executive

Agenda Item 3.5

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

Petition wording

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

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

Petitioner : Emma Jones

First considered by the Committee: 25 November 2014

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

Dr Ruth Hussey OBE
Prif Swyddog Meddygol/Cyfarwyddwr Meddygol, GIG Cymru
Chief Medical Officer/Medical Director NHS Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

David Rees AM
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

18th June 2015

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of the 27 May, regarding Petition P-04-603 Helping babies born at 22 weeks to survive.

I am writing to inform you of activity already underway, which will hopefully address the two issues raised in your letter.

Ms Emma Jones, the petitioner, took up the offer of a meeting with Heather Payne, senior medical officer for maternal and child health, and Edward Rees, head of obesity prevention and children's health, on the 18 February. The meeting was very positive and officials have already taken forward Ms Jones' helpful suggestions about what parents want from clinicians when they experience such a sad situation.

Following the discussion with Ms Jones, it was agreed that the Welsh Government should raise the issue of clinical management of very premature infants with Maternity and Paediatric colleagues to ensure a consistent Wales wide approach and appropriate management. In response to this, the All Wales Neonatal Network Management Group and the All Wales Maternity Network have agreed to work together to explore existing clinical guidelines and ensure a consistent All Wales approach. This piece of work is currently being conducted and they will report back in July with a Clinical Consensus Document for use across NHS Wales.

For information, the clinical guidance on resuscitation and ongoing life support for very premature babies is not Welsh Government guidance but comes from the professional organisation (British Association of Perinatal Medicine, BAPM), which has the most experience in caring for sick and premature babies. Their guidance is based on sound research evidence of outcomes of intervention in the very tiniest and sickest of babies who sadly, so often cannot be helped even by the most advanced medical care.

In addition to consideration of the clinical management and guidance, officials meeting with Ms Jones highlighted the need for parents in this situation to be well informed and be active participants and decision makers in the care given to them and their child. Therefore, as part of their work, the Maternity Group and Neonatal Network have been asked to describe the care pathway for mothers and babies in such a situation, which would include provision of palliative and bereavement care.

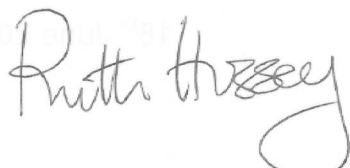


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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

To ensure that parents' views are considered, and that the communication of the care pathway is appropriate for them, Ms Jones has kindly agreed to share her views with the Group producing the Clinical Consensus Document and care pathway.

In response to your questions, I would expect all hospitals in Wales to offer care in line with the Clinical Consensus Document, once issued, with appropriate communication with parents being a core part of the care pathway. Such a document could be subjected to clinical audit at appropriate intervals.

Best wishes



DR RUTH HUSSEY OBE
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER / MEDICAL DIRECTOR NHS WALES

Dr Ruth Hussey OBE
Prif Swyddog Meddygol/Cyfarwyddwr Meddygol, GIG Cymru
Chief Medical Officer/Medical Director NHS Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

David Rees AM
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

11th August 2015

Dear David,

Petition P-04-603 Helping babies born at 22 weeks to survive

Thank you for your letter of the 14 July, requesting further information about the timescales for the work that is being undertaken jointly by the Maternity and Neonatal Networks.

The joint Maternity and Neonatal document on 'Care at the margins of viability' is due to be presented at both the September and October steering committees on maternity and neonatal networks with the final document being presented at the Neonatal Steering Group on the 6 November 2015.

The guidance will be based on current British Association of Perinatal Medicine guidance using evidence from medical literature and professional consensus.

As part of this work, feedback is also being sought from parents and BLISS (charity working to provide the best possible care and support for all premature and sick babies and their families), on both the guidelines and parent information leaflets.

Having met with Ms Emma Jones, the petitioner, on the 18 February 2015, Dr Heather Payne, Senior Medical Officer for maternity and child health will offer a further meeting with Ms Jones in order to gather her comments on the draft document. This feedback will then be presented to the Maternity and Neonatal Networks who are responsible for the issue of the guidance.

Best wishes

DR RUTH HUSSEY OBE
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER / MEDICAL DIRECTOR NHS WALES

cc: William Powell AM, Chair of the Petitions Committee



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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Dr Ruth Hussey OBE
Prif Swyddog Meddygol/Cyfarwyddwr Meddygol, GIG Cymru
Chief Medical Officer/Medical Director NHS Wales

Darren Millar AM
Shadow Minister for Health
National Assembly for Wales

30th September 2015

Dear Darren,

Petition P-04-603 Helping babies born at 22 weeks to survive

Thank you for your letter of the 14 September, requesting further information about the timescales for the work that is being undertaken jointly by the Maternity and Neonatal Networks.

The joint Maternity and Neonatal document on 'Care at the margins of viability' was due to be presented at both the September and October steering committees on maternity and neonatal networks with the final document being presented at the Neonatal Steering Group on the 6 November 2015.

The guidance will be based on current British Association of Perinatal Medicine guidance using evidence from medical literature and professional consensus. As part of this work, feedback was also being sought from parents and BLISS (charity working to provide the best possible care and support for all premature and sick babies and their families), on both the guidelines and parent information leaflets.

We are more than happy to share the contents of the final draft of the joint Maternity and Neonatal document providing guidance to Health Professionals with Ms Emma Jones, prior to it going to the Neonatal Steering Group in November. If Ms Jones would like to see a copy of the draft she should contact either Dr Heather Payne, Senior Medical Officer for Maternal and Child Health or Edward Rees, Head of Obesity Prevention and Children's Health, both of whom met with her previously to discuss her concerns.

Best wishes

DR RUTH HUSSEY OBE
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER / MEDICAL DIRECTOR NHS WALES

cc: Minister for Health and Social Services
William Powell AM, Chair of the Petitions Committee



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Agenda Item 3.6

P-04-630 Facebook Regulations for Looked after Children

Petition wording

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

To update the "IRO Handbook: Statutory guidance for independent reviewing officers and local authorities on their functions in relation to case management and review for looked after children" to prevent children under the age of 13 being set up with Facebook accounts;

That concerns relating to social media be discussed as part of the Statutory Review;

That reporting provisions be made to the Welsh Government;

That the current guidance that "computer use should be monitored from time to time" be upgraded to a statutory requirement on (at least) a weekly basis.

Additional Information

When individuals set up Facebook accounts, they are asked to certify that they are 13 or over by entering a date of birth. If the date of birth shows them to be younger they are prevented from continuing.

Concerns have been raised by David Cameron, NSPCC, Police and other organisations relating to underage children accessing Facebook.

Despite the above local authorities are knowingly allowing vulnerable children as young as 9 to be set up on Facebook and access other social media

- age falsified
- privacy setting are not set
- children posting contact details
- advertising whereabouts

- sexting
- friends are not age appropriate or known by the carers/family
- Like status friends and 1,000's of followers can result in postings of a crude/sexual nature

Risks

- Fake profiles
- Illegal/harmful content or advice
- Bullying, stalking, internet grooming, content sharing
- Information privacy – personal data collection from children
- Marketing of illegal and age restricted products, gambling, dating, food and drinks.

Lead petitioner: Christine Williams

First considered by the Committee:

Number of signatures: 11

Comisiynydd Plant Cymru Children's Commissioner for Wales

Sally Holland

By email:

23 September 2015

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

Dear William Powell

Petition P-04-630 Facebook Regulations for Looked After Children

Thank you for your letter dated 18th June 2015 in relation to the above named petition. Unfortunately this letter was not received until 22nd September 2015 due to an administrative error on the part of the Petitions Committee; I would be grateful if this could be recorded on the Committee's records. I have endeavoured to respond as swiftly as possible upon receipt of the letter.

First and foremost, children who are looked after must have the same rights as all other children to access and benefit from technology, including social media. Article 13 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) gives children and young people the right to access information through any media of their choosing.

Foster carers and residential carers must be encouraged to act as any parent would in guiding and regulating safe behaviour on the internet. This includes discussing the risks and benefits of certain behaviours while using the internet. As any parent, carers should be reinforcing safety guidelines such as age restrictions on signing up for Facebook accounts and age restrictions on gaming.

It is my view that foster carers and residential carers should be provided with adequate training and support to ensure that they feel empowered to provide the safe care needed in terms of digital technology. This would be equally applicable to Local Authority carers and independent fostering agencies or residential care providers.

As a wider issue I think that all professionals working with children and young people would benefit from greater training in relation to online safety, as methods of online communication are developing rapidly and professionals need to keep pace with this in order to adequately safeguard children and young people. The 2015 report of the four UK Children's Commissioners to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Examination of the Fifth Periodic Report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland¹ highlights the fact that although Wales has the "Hwb" digital learning platform, in a survey of 2081 13 and 14 year olds, only 40% of children report having lessons on newer platforms like Snapchat, Instagram, Kik and Twitter, which have been adopted by more than half of all the children.²

¹ <http://www.childcomwales.org.uk/uploads/publications/564.pdf>

² <http://wisekids.org.uk/wk/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/EnglishFinal.pdf>

23 September 2015
Page 2
Mr William Powell AM/AC

In addition, the education of parents and children on these matters is an urgent requirement right across Welsh society. Looked after children complain frequently that they are treated differently from other children, for example when bureaucratic barriers are put in place which prevent them from having sleepovers with friends or attending school trips. Carers should be encouraged to make responsible parenting decisions with support and advice as required but should also respond to the needs and abilities of individual children they care for.

I recognise that many looked after children are particularly vulnerable due to their difficult backgrounds, often involving abuse and neglect, and often complex relationships with birth families. This can present additional complexities in accessing social media and online information, so they therefore require particularly skilled, responsive and responsible care from their everyday carers. I agree that IROs should be alert to this issue and in review meetings encourage carers to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to provide the care and protection regarding online safety that the particular child they care for needs.

In my response to the Tranche 2 consultation on the regulations and code of practice in relation to Part 6 of the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 I have called for a revision of the IRO Guidance in Wales. However this is an issue that should also be considered by local authority decision makers and independent fostering agencies, to ensure that the relevant training and support is available to workers and carers to ensure that their corporate parenting responsibilities are discharged consistently to all children in their care, in order to safeguard children and young people in their online communications.

I look forward to receiving the conclusion of the Petitions Committee in due course.

Yours sincerely



Sally Holland
Children's Commissioner for Wales



29th September 2014

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

Dear William

re : Petition P-04-630 Facebook Regulations for Looked After Children

Children in Wales is the national umbrella organisation in Wales for organisations and individuals from all disciplines and sectors working to promote the rights and well-being of children and young people. We also have a close relationship with both Voices from Care Cymru and Tros Gynnal Plant through the 'Cymru Ifanc-Young Wales' initiative which aims to have the voices of children and young people heard by Government Ministers and policy makers. From this work we know young people have told us that online safety and bullying are one of their key concerns. Indeed it is one of their six most important issues across Wales. They worry for themselves as well as for their younger brothers and sisters.

We therefore consider it as a top priority for action for the whole child population. To this end we raised our concerns back at the time of the murder of little April Jones. At that time it was to pressure the search engine companies to take on more responsibility for protecting children online. Both Welsh Government and UK Government endeavoured to put pressure on but clearly many risks still remain.

Children in Wales subsequently brought the Director of 'Wise Kids' which specialises in online safety into Wales to speak at a conference we held last year. We aim to do further work with them in Wales to upskill professionals and parents/carers as well as children.

The speed of the developments in social media is however a major challenge and young people use a new and ever changing variety of social media platforms. Indeed Facebook for some young people is regarded as rather out of date and used as a route for parents/carers to see what young people are up to and so they have moved on to other platforms to have privacy with their friends.

The issue of giving false ages, false identities etc is a challenge across social media users as a whole.

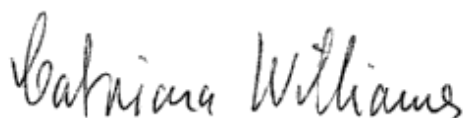
The general principle of creating a safe environment for children and young people is to regard the online world in the same way as the real world. Parental/carers knowledge, skills and parenting practices as well as the knowledge and skills of children and young people themselves are critical in creating a safe environment for children online. Great investment in public campaigns, training and PSE curriculum in schools would all contribute to a better outcome for all children and young people. Young people tell us through 'Young Wales' that what they receive in school through PSE is insufficient.

In preparing this response, with particular regard to 'looked after' children we have consulted some of our members who have some experience in online safety. The common conclusion is that children 'looked after' should not be singled out as a special case. This is particularly because they often feel stigmatised compared to their peers because of their 'looked after' status in a range of other ways. For this reason making it a statutory duty is not the answer.

However, we do agree with the petitioner that more should be done and local authorities must make sure that the children in their care have appropriate parenting in relation to online safety. There is in our view a long way to go in relation to local authorities being effective in delivering their 'corporate parenting role'. It is important for all parties, including the IRO to cover all aspects of children's well-being and this includes their emotional and physical safety as a result of online activity. It is also important that those directly looking after children and the children and young people themselves are equipped with up to date training that will inform them of the online dangers and give them the tools to avoid danger.

Online activity is here to stay and clearly has many benefits. We will continue to campaign for pressure to be put onto providers such as Google to keep children safe, however, the online world must be regarded in the same way as safety in the real world and therefore parenting skills need to be kept up to date to deal with the real online world that children live in. More information and advice needs to be given to all parents/carers and to children and young people themselves.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catriona Williams".

Catriona Williams OBE
Chief Executive

P-04-630 Facebook Regulations for Looked After Children – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 14.10.15

Facebook Regulations for Looked After Children

Response to letters from Children's Commissioner dated 23 September 2015
and from Children in Wales dated 29 September 2015

I note that the Children's Commissioner has

- In her response to the Tranche 2 consultation on the regulations and code of practice in relation to Part 6 of the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 called for a revision of the IRO Guidance in Wales.
- That concerns relating to social media be discussed as part of the Statutory Review
- That carers should reinforce safety guidelines such as age restrictions on signing up for Facebook accounts and age restrictions on gaming

I note the comments by Children in Wales that young people have told them that online safety and bullying are one of their key concerns

Google search results

- The number of children groomed is unknown
- Bullying can lead to anxiety, depression and even suicide. 20% of children cyberbullied think about suicide, and 1 in 10 attempt it

NSPCC – There are no official statistics on the number of children who are bullied. But from research studies and from what children tell us, we know that bullying is an issue that affects almost all children in some way. There were almost 26,000 counselling sessions with children about bullying last year

- Education – Anxiety, depression will have an effect on education and affect grades.

Children who spend too much time on social media fail to complete homework on time or to the standard required. Lack of concentration results in poorer grades.

In July 2015 my complaint was partially upheld. The Independent Investigating Officer's report stated that "Whilst this investigation found that there is evidence that the matter of inappropriate internet use was addressed by the social workers when it became known to them, it also recognises that the Complainant appears to have been the person drawing the Local Authority's attention to these matters. Whether without the Complainant's influence these issues would have been picked up is speculative.

A more detailed record on file of the specific issues addressed with the Carers and child together with any action taken would have been helpful to this investigation."

In light of the comments by Children in Wales, Google search results and comments made by the IIO I would asked that in order to better inform that reporting provisions be made to the Welsh Government to include details of issues addressed and action taken

Issues relating to training and the cost of implementing that training will mean that this will not be an easy fix but believe that local authorities as corporate parents and independent fostering agencies should have policies in place to protect vulnerable children and to this end that the Panel's decision should be circulated to local authorities and independent fostering agencies.

Christine Williams
14 October 2015

P-04-540 Stop Sexism In Domestic Abuse

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to stop Domestic Abuse (DA) by treating it as a gender inclusive and human phenomenon in which many men and women share both suffering and responsibility.

Practical NOT Politics

The current proposal blames men, and only men, for all violence and puts a radical gender based prejudice before the real needs of women, men and children and where 97% of men do NOT fit this profile.

Fear of repercussions and lack of publicity in Wales have prevented open and vocal dissent.

This Petition invites an alternative approach that recognises that 86% of DA is the responsibility of both women and men. It also offers greater protection to children and removes the discrimination that arises solely from radical gendered prejudice against those people in same sex female relationships.

Petition raised by: Healing Men

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 11 March 2014

Number of signatures: 238



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-540
Ein cyf/Our ref LA -/00641/15

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

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

29 September 2015

Dear William

Thank you for your letter dated March 2015 regarding the petition "Stop sexism in domestic abuse".

My officials have been in regular correspondence with the petitioner over the course of this year and have provided a number of assurances regarding Welsh Government policy in this area.

I can further assure you that the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 applies to all victims of gender based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence, both male and female. Whilst women are more likely to experience gender-based violence, the Welsh Government recognises victims can be from across the whole spectrum of society, irrespective of gender.

The provisions of the Act also cover victims of all ages and in recognition of the substantial impact on children, both as victims and as witnesses of such violence and abuse, there is no age threshold.

The Act requires Local Authorities and Local Health Boards to develop and publish local strategies for tackling domestic violence and abuse, based on the identified problems in their area. We will expect Local Authorities and Local Health Boards, in the preparation and implementation of these local strategies, to focus on the different needs of victims, recognising that gender is an important consideration and reflecting the identified needs in the services which are provided. The Act allows Authorities to provide, or continue to provide, gender-specific services. This may include, for example, provision of services or refuges for men.

The Act is a central part of a wider package of measures to tackle all forms of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence for all victims. For example the Welsh Government funds the Dyn Project which specifically supports male victims. The Project provides frontline advocacy support for men, as well as telephone and web-based support and contact details for local services. The Project also delivers training and works to raise awareness across Wales about how men can be victims, and how best to support them in these circumstances.

Welsh Government funded services, such as the All Wales Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Helpline and Bawso, also support both men and women. Our website "Live Fear Free" provides targeted information specifically for male victims, including a video highlighting one of the biggest challenges facing men suffering from abuse - admitting what is happening and feeling able to ask for help.

The Act reflects the commitment of the Welsh Government to support all victims suffering from violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. It will create stronger leadership and it will ensure a more robust, consistent focus and response to tackling these extremely serious issues across Wales for all victims, male and female.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leighton Andrews', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Leighton Andrews AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus
Minister for Public Services

Agenda Item 3.8

P-04-631 Save our service– Large Animal Rescue in North Wales

Petition wording

This is a call for action. We the undersigned want the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to intervene to prevent North Wales Fire and Rescue stopping their large animal rescue service. We believe that stopping this service will put animals at risk and have a negative impact on welfare in North Wales. There is also a human risk element as people will put themselves in situations of danger to help rescue animals if there is not a service to help them.

Large animal rescue is a highly specialised service and requires extensive training and equipment which cannot be provided by any other organisation at present. We ask that the decision is reversed and additional funding is given to enable this or other sustainable funding models are put in place. Thank you.

Additional Information

Concerns:

- More animals will be put down due to being unable to 'rescue' them (North Wales Fire and Rescue have had sixty calls in two years)
- People will try and be a hero– this decision puts people at risk, no knowledge of physical effect of mental anxiety– the release reaction.

Who will help now?

RSPCA have neither the equipment/ training or manpower. Lots of training such as that done by Hampshire has been lessons learnt from previous rescues. RSPCA don't have that. Man power– 9 officers in North Wales some of which are part time.

Vets receive no training other than specialist courses– many vets won't have attended

Why Fire service need to be involved:

- Trained– knowledge of stimulation versus restraint/sedation and how animals react to trauma
- Developed national good practice and protocol 2007
- Have roles identified
- Incident command
- Risk assessments

Hampshire Fire Service are leaders in the field of Large Animal Rescue, they state on website: Large animal rescue is recognised as one of the most dangerous activities a firefighter will be engaged in and so specialised training and equipment is essential

From a lecture given by one of their staff:

- Lack of knowledge leads to dangerous situations for animal and rescuers
- Horse/large animal rescue variety of challenges
brain/history/anxiety/owner
- Large animal should be considered– hazardous material

Cost of this service is around £8,000/£9,000 per year.

Lead petitioner: Sabina Dunkling

First considered by the Committee:

Number of signatures: 1,394 online signatures



Cymdeithas Frenhinol Atal Creulondeb i Anifeiliaid Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

25 June 2015

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

Dear William Powell AM,

Re: P-04-631: Save Our Service - Large Animal Rescue in North Wales

Many thanks for your letter, in relation to a petition currently being considered by the Petitions Committee, *P-04-631: Save Our Service - Large Animal Rescue in North Wales*.

As the Committee will be aware, as of April 2015, North Wales Fire and Rescue have ceased its large animal rescue service.

RSPCA Cymru is both saddened and concerned that this service is no longer available. We've been proud to work closely in partnership with North Wales Fire and Rescue in relation to the rescue of animals; and the on-going absence of the service is disappointing.

The ending of the service creates disparities in large animal rescue provision across Wales, with the Fire Services in both South Wales and Mid & West Wales continuing to offer rescue to animals in need. Additionally, the assistance of all three of Wales' Fire & Rescue Service in the rescue of smaller animals is often imperative, and we very much hope future support in this area is available.

Contrary to some speculation, the RSPCA is not able to solely take on large animal rescues. It should be noted that our Inspectorate are lone workers, who do not hold equipment to routinely undertake such rescues. We continue to look at each incident on an individual, case-by-case basis and seek to work in partnership with others wherever possible in the interests of the animal involved.

Further to the expiration of the service, discussions with North Wales Fire and Rescue have indicated that they have no plans to have any involvement with the rescue of large animals. Therefore, depending on the particular circumstances involved, assistance may be sought from landowners, a local farmer, other animal welfare organisations, etc.

We fully appreciate the difficult financial climate, and that Emergency Services, like other public bodies, are faced with a need to make challenging spending decisions. Equally, we appreciate this is a non-statutory service and, therefore, the Welsh

RSPCA Cymru
6 Cae Gwrydd
Greenmeadow Springs
Tongwynlais, Cardiff
CF15 7AB

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.cymru

Noddwr Ei Mawrhydi Y Frenhines
Patron HM The Queen

Chris O'Brien, Public Affairs Manager

Christopher.obrien@rspca.org.uk 0300 123 8912 / 07715 540595
Facebook: RSPCAcymru www.politicalanimal.wales Twitter: @RSPCAcymru

Cymdeithas Frenhinol Atal Creulondeb i Anifeiliaid Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Government is not in a position to intervene. However, we would urge North Wales Fire and Rescue to reinstate this important service, and feel the public reaction, exemplified by petition P-04-631, highlights the importance of this.

As ever, please don't hesitate to contact RSPCA Cymru should we be able to provide any further information on this, or other matters pertaining to the welfare of animals.

Yours Sincerely,



Chris O'Brien
Public Affairs Manager, RSPCA Cymru

P-04-511 Support for children and young people participation standards

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to provide support for the National Children and Young People's Participation Standards for Wales self-assessment process.

Additional Information:

The Participation standards were launched in 2007 after being developed by the Participation Unit. There are seven participation standards which are Information, It's your choice, No Discrimination, Respect, You get something out of it, Feedback and Improving how we work. The participation unit then developed a national standards kite – mark scheme based around the standards. The aim of the kite-mark was that the organisations would complete a self assessment and once it was complete a team of young inspectors would come and inspect the evidence the organisation had to see if they were up to the national standards. If they were seen as achieving they would be awarded the National Participation Standards Kit-mark. However the participation unit now no longer exists which means that's any organisation which does a self assessment now can only achieve a county level kite-mark which means that there is no national recognition and also there is no team co-coordinating the young inspectors.

Petition raised by: Powys Youth Forum

Date petition first considered by Committee: 11 November 2013

Number of signatures: 39

25 Windsor Place Cardiff CF10 3BZ / 25 Plas Windsor Caerdydd CF10
3BZ Tel / Ffôn: 029 2034 2434 Fax / Ffacs: 029 2034 3134
Unit 2 Victoria Dock Balaclafa Road Caernarfon LL55 1TH / Uned 2 Doc Fictoria
Ffordd Balaclafa Caernarfon LL55 1TH Tel / Ffôn: 01286 677570 Fax / Ffacs:
01286 676095
Email / Ebost: info@childreninwales.org.uk
www.childreninwales.org.uk /
www.plantynghymru.org.uk



Children in Wales
Plant yng Nghymru

29th September 2015

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

Dear William,

Re: letter of 5th August 2015.

Petition P-04-511 Support for Children and Young People Participation Standards.

Thank you for your letter of 5 August 2015 regarding support for children and young people's participation standards.

Children in Wales is the national umbrella body for organisations and individuals who work with children, young people and their families in Wales. The organisation was also one of the founder members of the Participation Unit, based at Save the Children, which developed the National Children and Young People's (CYP's) Participation Standards for Wales. In addition Children in Wales developed, with young disabled people from the All Wales 'Together for Rights', forum, an accessible version of the CYP Participation Standards poster.

The CYP's Participation Standards, the young inspectors' teams and the Kite Mark were developed as a range of tools to support practice and policy in relation to the participation of children and young people in Wales.

When the Participation Unit work ended in 2013, there was an acknowledgement that the work of the Young Inspectors would remain active in those Local Authorities where there were established teams,

Working for children, young people and their families in partnership with the National Children's Bureau and Children in Scotland Gweithio dros blant, pobl ifanc a'u teuluoedd mewn partneriaeth gyda Biwrô Cenedlaethol y Plant a Clann an Alba

Registered Charity Number: 1020313 A company limited by guarantee registered in Wales: 2805996 / Elusen Gofrestredig Rhif: 1020313 Cwmni cyfyngedig trwy warant a gofrestrwyd yng Nghymru: 2805996

with reciprocal arrangements in place between Local Authorities. It is our understanding that this arrangement continues in the Local Authorities where the Young Inspectors remain active.

Since October 2014, Children in Wales has developed Cymru Ifanc - Young Wales to enable Children and Young People to have their voices heard by Ministers and policy makers. As outlined in previous correspondence to the Committee, although not in the original bid, Children in Wales was pleased to become the national hub for the Standards and a range of activities were undertaken including making resources available for practitioners through the newly developed 'Young Wales' website www.youngwales.wales www.cymruifanc.cymru.

In relation to refreshing the standards, it became apparent from meetings with Youth Forum workers that the variation across local authorities was either due to improving the model to become more effective, or alternatively to deal with the reduction in staffing to be able to deliver the previous model. The task therefore became more complex in order to ensure that any refreshed model was in fact deliverable across the whole of Wales.

As part of the work of Young Wales, in early 2015 the Welsh Government, asked Young Wales to *involve children and young people in refreshing of the participation standards and sharing the experience of young inspectors in development of the kite-marking process.*

In undertaking this work we have had discussions with youth forums across Wales to establish which areas were supporting Young Inspectors teams and undertaking inspections, and also explored what models of work other Local Authorities have adopted and developed. It is clear that some local authorities are actively supporting and developing the Young Inspectors to inspect services within the local authority and will continue to do so. A small number of authorities have embedded the standards into their commissioning contracts, and are inspecting a range of services against the standards. The Local Authorities that are delivering the Young Inspectors and Kitemarking scheme, have established reciprocal arrangements for verifying the inspection, which, if successful, results in the award of the Kite mark. From our discussion with participation workers and those who are currently working with Young Inspectors teams, the reciprocal arrangements, are working well.

Where Local Authorities are no longer using the standards, Children in Wales is aware that there are a variety of models, all influenced by the CYP Participation Standards, but developed to suit local needs and capacity. For example, Merthyr Tydfil has developed a Participation Promise, which organisations sign up to and this is followed up by monitoring visits. The Vale of Glamorgan and Swansea have developed a framework for promoting rights.

Cymru Ifanc/Young Wales is launching two Wales Wide surveys, one aimed at children and young people and the other aimed at workers to inform our future work in relation to the Children and Young People Participation Standards.


Children in Wales has also engaged the person who previously led the original development of the CYP Participation Standards to take this work forward particularly with young people who have experience as

inspectors. Ensuring young people are involved invariably requires dates within school holidays and these are frequently the times when local Youth Forums arrange their own meetings. Locations are generally arranged in accordance with the convenience of those who are able to attend. As an All Wales organisation with offices in Caernarfon as well as Cardiff, Children in Wales arranges meetings in all parts of Wales in a variety of venues.

The geographical issues have also been addressed in part by the visits that have been arranged by this worker to meet young people in their own Youth Forum meetings. This also ensures that more children and young people are involved.

Children in Wales remains committed to ensuring that the CYP Participation Standards are effective in improving children and young people's participation and is working hard to ensure that an effective model is the result that suits all parts of Wales and is deliverable.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catriona Williams". The script is cursive and fluid.

Catriona Williams OBE
Chief Executive

**P-04-511 Support for children and young people participation standards
– Petitioner to the Chair 14.08.15**

Petition Committee Response on behalf of Powys Youth Forum - 14/10/15

Dear William Powell AM,

Thank you very much for the documents which we were sent regarding the support for the Children and Young People Participation Standards petition.

Our members have raised a number of key concerns regarding the current movement and changes being implemented.

1. In Children in Wales letter they say that they want to be the 'hub' of the participation standards but from what we understand they don't seem to be offering any support to the young inspector teams and are instead assuming this should be left to individual Local Authorities to carry out which we would raise concerns about.

2. Children in Wales have made a commitment to 'refresh' the standards and make sure they are deliverable which we are glad to see, however we want to make sure that they do not lose their impact or effect across parts of Wales where these standards are making organisations think particularly hard about children and young people participation.

While we appreciate that the changes that Children in Wales mention in their letter indicate that there will be some development with the National Standards programme, we are incredibly disappointed that the actions seem to be extremely lacking in detail.

Furthermore Children in Wales have just (late September/Early October) brought in a consultant to speak to Local Authorities about what standards system they are using or wish to use, despite this petition being raised in November 2013. This delay in any National leadership on the Standards increases the feeling within Local Authorities that the Standards no longer hold the value that they once had!

Regards

Powys Youth Forum

Agenda Item 3.10

P-04-399 Slaughter Practices

Petition wording:

We call upon the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to ban the practise of slaughtering animals without pre-stunning them.

Petition raised by: Royce Clifford

Date petition first considered by Committee: 19 June 2012

Number of signatures: 400

P-04-433 : CCTV in Slaughterhouses

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to introduce mandatory CCTV in slaughterhouses to help vets with better regulation and monitoring, to provide footage for training and retraining, to deter some of the animal welfare abuses filmed by Animal Aid, and to provide evidence for prosecutions should they be necessary.

Petition raised by: Animal Aid

Date petition first considered by Committee: 6 November 2012

Number of signatures: 1066



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE **Safeguarding animal welfare at slaughter**

DATE **8 October 2015**

BY **Rebecca Evans AM, Deputy Minister for Farming and Food**

The safeguarding of the health and welfare of all animals kept in Wales throughout their lives - up to and including the point of slaughter - is a priority for the Welsh Government. I launched the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework in July last year, and the Implementation Plan 2015-16 this year. They describe the approach we are taking to ensure animals in Wales are healthy and have a good quality of life. The documents set some specific milestones for the Welsh Government, Local Authorities, the Food Standards Agency and Food Business operators.

The Codes of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock are produced to encourage livestock keepers to adopt the highest standards of animal husbandry. Good husbandry practices on our farms ensure that the welfare of our livestock is promoted and protected from birth throughout the production chain.

However, good animal welfare does not begin and end on farm.

While there have been no reported cases in Wales, the reports earlier this year about animal welfare abuses in slaughterhouses in England should be of concern to all of us.

In Wales, we have already put in place additional welfare safeguards that improve the welfare of animals produced for food. The Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (Wales) Regulations 2014 implemented the provisions of EC Regulation 1099/2009. These Regulations apply to slaughter and related operations in slaughterhouses, and also to seasonal slaughter and related

operations outside a slaughterhouse in Wales. The provisions place greater responsibility on the slaughterhouse operator relating to the welfare of the animals, including a standard operating procedure for killing and handling. They also require the appointment of an Animal Welfare Officer at slaughterhouses operating at throughputs of 1,000 livestock units or 150,000 birds per year.

From May 2014, enhanced training requirements have been in place for new entrants to the industry in Wales. These include supervised courses in respect of the slaughter operation, the species of animal, and the equipment used before a Certificate of Competence is issued.

Those permitted to exercise transitional provisions during the implementation of the Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (Wales) Regulations 2014 (WATOK) have been reminded of the need to convert to the Certificate of Competence or appropriate WATOK licence before the 8 December by the Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales to ensure full compliance with the EU Regulations.

There is always more that we can do, although the reports by the Food Standard Agency (FSA) do present some encouraging trends. The FSA's 2013 Animal Welfare Survey of slaughterhouses in Britain published earlier this year shows an improving picture compared to the 2011 survey. 96 percent of slaughterhouses were compliant with regulations compared to only 86 percent of red meat, and 84 percent of white meat abattoirs, in 2011. The FSA carried out an unannounced inspection programme of slaughterhouses in Great Britain in the spring of 2015 which included 26 Welsh premises. 23 were fully compliant with welfare requirements and there were no urgent improvements required in any of the Welsh slaughterhouses. 12 of the 26 had CCTV systems installed.

In 2013, the Welsh Government commissioned the Farm and Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC) to provide independent and impartial advice about the methods and effectiveness of CCTV used in slaughterhouses. The FAWC report strongly recommends that all Food Business Operators should install CCTV in all areas where live animals are kept and where animals are stunned and killed. FAWC sees CCTV as an important safeguard and a part of a holistic approach to high standards of animal health and welfare.

There are a number of safeguards in place to assure the welfare of all livestock, before slaughter. The FSA monitors, delivers and enforces the welfare provisions at all slaughterhouses in Wales on behalf of the Welsh Government. The role of FSA Official Veterinarians includes the monitoring of provisions in place to ensure that animals are spared unnecessary suffering, distress or pain from their arrival in the lairage and throughout the slaughter process.

Under EU regulations full responsibility for animal welfare and food safety in slaughterhouses rests with food business operators who must meet legislative requirements in terms of slaughterhouse design, layout and equipment. Slaughterers must be competent and appropriately trained and licensed to slaughter all species presented to them.

A properly trained workforce will be most influential in safeguarding animal welfare at slaughter but it is not an absolute guarantee. Accurate monitoring and record keeping is an essential part of the controls. Alongside the important work of Official Veterinarians and Animal Welfare Officers it is encouraging to note that the use of CCTV at slaughterhouses is considered as being a useful means of monitoring animal welfare standards.

I am pleased that there have been no reports of animal welfare abuses in slaughterhouses in Wales during the round of media stories earlier this year and I want to ensure that we maintain the highest possible welfare standards at slaughter in Wales. However we must not be complacent. My firm belief is that every slaughterhouse in Wales should have CCTV installed in line with the FAWC recommendations. I am determined to make this happen. I sincerely hope that this can be achieved with the full support of the industry in Wales. It is for this reason that I am inviting Food Business Operators to participate in a task and finish group with Government to take this agenda forward and identify what else could be done to enhance standards. I will be asking the group to engage with key questions such as how the footage should be monitored and stored. This is in line with the key delivery milestone in the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Implementation Plan 2015-16 mentioned above.

It is important for Food Business Operators (FBOs) to take a lead alongside Government on this matter. The task and finish group will be able to link directly into the work of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group.

There are currently 25 slaughterhouses operating in Wales, 21 of which are red meat plants, three of this total are large scale plants and the majority are small operations. These small abattoirs are an essential part of the meat processing landscape and provide a local outlet for farmers; they reduce the transport time for livestock, and also provide jobs in rural communities. I will be writing to all FBOs to invite them to participate in the group's work.

In the interests of maintaining the reputation of the industry in Wales I will be expecting urgent progress on this matter but if required I would consider other means for implementing the FAWC recommendation. However, it is reassuring that slaughterhouses in Wales do maintain high standards, and greater partnership working will enable all FBOs to improve and attain the highest standards possible.

I will be monitoring progress on this key area and my officials will be in touch with all FBOs to take forward this strand of work. I will be monitoring progress on this key area and my officials will be in touch with all FBOs to take forward this strand of work.

P-04-399 Slaughter Practises – Petitioner to the Clerking Team 15.10.15

Hiya Kayleigh, I have just read this from Walesonline.....President of the British Veterinary Association (BVA), Robin Hargreaves is urging political leaders in Wales to get behind a vet-led campaign to end the cruel non-stun slaughter of livestock.

Writing to party leaders at the National Assembly, Mr Hargreaves emphasised the animal welfare issues involved in non-stun slaughter and the strength of public feeling about the issue.

European and UK legislation requires all animals to be stunned before slaughter to render them insensible to pain. However, an exemption in UK law allows animals to be slaughtered without stunning for certain religious communities – Dhabihah slaughter for Halal food and Shechita slaughter for Kosher food. i would like you to inform the Petitions Committee of this important News release please,

Kind Regards

Royce Clifford....



P-04-433 Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Clerking Team, 13.10.15

Comments for the Petitions Committee regarding CCTV in Slaughterhouses

Animal Aid is greatly encouraged by the Deputy Minister's clear commitment to protecting the welfare of animals at the time of slaughter. Her recent statement (*Safeguarding animal welfare at slaughter*, October 8) makes it clear that protecting animals from abuse in slaughterhouses is a priority, both for the Deputy Minister herself, and for the Welsh Government as a whole.

Animal Aid has filmed illegal cruelty in nine out of the ten slaughterhouses that we investigated between 2009 and 2014. This included animals being punched, kicked, slapped, stamped on, and picked up by their fleeces and ears and thrown into stunning pens. We filmed animals being deliberately and illegally beaten; pigs being burned with cigarettes; and the throats of conscious animals being repeatedly hacked at. The abuse was widespread and very serious.

Whilst none of the premises investigated were in Wales, we believe that illegal animal abuse could take place in any slaughterhouse, given the inevitable desensitisation of staff who spend their entire working day killing animals. We believe that independently monitored CCTV in slaughterhouses is a vital tool for protecting animals from illegal cruelty, and we are delighted that the Deputy Minister is determined to implement this important measure.

The Deputy Minister's view on CCTV in slaughterhouses is shared by the Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC), which provides independent advice to the government. In a report published in February 2015, it recommended that '*all approved slaughterhouse operators should install CCTV in all areas where live animals are kept and where animals are stunned and killed*' and that '*CCTV*

footage should be regularly reviewed by an approved independent person'.¹

The installation of CCTV would not be expensive. Earlier this year, Defra Minister George Eustice described the costs involved as '*relatively modest*' and said '*we do not think the cost of the equipment is prohibitive*'.²

However, the introduction of CCTV can protect animals from abuse only if the footage is independently monitored, as recommended above by FAWC. Animal Aid has conducted undercover investigations in two slaughterhouses that already had CCTV, but this did not protect animals from appalling abuse. At Cheale Meats, we filmed animals being burnt in the face with cigarettes for fun; one animal being punched in the head; and others being beaten or goaded (with an electric goad) in the face and anus. Although the slaughterhouse had some CCTV coverage, cameras were not located throughout the slaughterhouse, and none were sited in the stunning and killing areas. We filmed illegal cruelty in these 'blind' areas, but also in areas where there were official cameras. This suggests that the CCTV footage was not being properly monitored by the Food Business Operator (FBO).

At Bowood Yorkshire Lamb slaughterhouse, we placed our camera right beside the FBO's own camera and we filmed sheep being picked up and smashed headfirst into solid structures. They were kicked in the face, and thrown by their fleeces, legs and ears. They were tormented and abused and their throats were hacked at with a blunt knife while they were still fully conscious. The abattoir's CCTV cameras would have recorded this abuse, but the system had clearly failed to protect animals. Either the slaughterhouse operator was not monitoring the footage properly, or he had decided to turn a blind eye to the abuse. If the footage had been independently monitored and robust action taken, the outcome – Bowood going into liquidation and workers and FBO facing prosecution – could have been very different.

It is encouraging that disturbing animal abuse of this kind has not been detected in Welsh slaughterhouses, but it may be down to the fact that Animal Aid has never placed fly-on-the-wall cameras inside Welsh slaughterhouses. (The nine English slaughterhouses where we filmed breaches of welfare laws all claimed to be compliant until our independent footage revealed otherwise.) The Deputy Minister acknowledges in her statement that it is important not to be complacent.

Whilst the results of the Food Standards Agency's (FSA's) inspections of Welsh slaughterhouses appear encouraging, this may not show the whole picture. The FSA's round of 'unannounced' visits was in fact announced via the media and each slaughterhouse knew it would be checked within the coming month. Of course, slaughtermen would have taken care to comply with regulations when being watched by an FSA inspector. If workers knew that all their actions were being recorded, that these could be independently reviewed at any time, and that robust action would follow any breaches, then this would have a powerful effect on compliance.

Properly monitored CCTV is not only vital for animal protection but it could also play a key role in safeguarding the reputation of individual businesses, and of the industry as a whole. In her statement, the Deputy Minister emphasises the role that Welsh abattoirs play in providing jobs in rural communities. When slaughterhouses do not monitor worker compliance properly, these rural businesses can be forced to close.

For example, at A&G Barber in Essex we filmed a worker regularly subjecting animals to sadistic abuse, including using the stunning tongs to send powerful electric shocks through pigs' ears, tails, legs, bodies and snouts. In one case, he inserted the tongs into the open mouth of a pig who was already suffering on the ground and sent a powerful shock through her jaw. Once the footage was made public, the slaughterhouse's main customer in Germany cancelled its contract and, as a result, the slaughterhouse went out of business. Within eight months of revealing the cruelty and law breaking at Bowood Lamb Slaughterhouse (as described above), the company ceased trading and went into administration. It is in the industry's own interests to take every possible precaution to avoid such catastrophic damage.

This crucial monitoring of CCTV footage will need a robust but practical approach. We are not suggesting that all the footage that is captured should be reviewed (which would obviously be impracticable) but that independent parties who have welfare as their priority should be able to request sections of the footage, either at random, or where issues are reported to have arisen. This would enable concerned workers to discreetly suggest that certain sections of footage are reviewed without making an official complaint against a colleague.

Animal Aid has commissioned an independent report that will provide detailed information about the expected costs of independent monitoring and how that essential task could be carried out. The report will outline ways in which the cost could be met, without placing additional strain on the Welsh Government's resources. Possible approaches include:

- Re-allocating funds from the current system (which does not adequately protect animals) to a new system
- Reducing vets' hours (since their presence is not deterring cruelties)
- Passing costs to the consumer
- A levy on the whole industry (including farmers, slaughterhouses and retailers)

The monitoring could be carried out in one of the following ways:

- An independent monitoring agency could be set up in a transparent manner, possibly by FAWC or the FSA. It would comprise a small number of appropriately qualified, independently appointed staff.
- An animal welfare organisation, such as the RSPCA or Compassion in World Farming, could dedicate a small team to operate a monitoring system.
- The FSA or Defra could take responsibility for monitoring footage. FSA vets are already on-site to enforce welfare on behalf of Defra, but they are routinely criticised for failing to detect and act upon welfare breaches (they failed to detect any of the breaches Animal Aid uncovered).

We are greatly encouraged by the Welsh Government's commitment to improving the welfare of animals at the time of slaughter. We hope that both the Government and industry will embrace the installation of CCTV as a vital means of driving up standards, whilst safeguarding both animal welfare and economic interests. We would urge both industry and Government to act now, without delay, to stamp out illegal cruelty that may be taking place undetected in Welsh slaughterhouses and could be exposed to the public at any point. We would be delighted to provide any support that is needed with implementing this crucial step forward.

¹ FAWC, Opinion on CCTV in slaughterhouses, February 2015

(https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/400796/Opinion_on_CC_TV_in_slaughterhouses.pdf)

²Adjournment Debate on CCTV in slaughterhouses, February 2015

(<http://www.henrysmith.info/news/henry-smith-mp-adjournment-debate-cctv-slaughterhouses>)

Agenda Item 4

P-04-522 Asbestos in Schools

Petition wording:

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to put measures in place to ensure that parents and guardians of children across Wales can easily access information about the presence and management of asbestos in all school buildings.

Given the health risks associated with the presence of asbestos in public buildings, we believe parents and guardians across Wales have the right;

- to know if asbestos is located in their school;
- to know whether, where asbestos is present, it is being managed in line with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012;
- to access that information easily online

Petition raised by: Cenric Clement-Evans

Date Petition first considered by Committee: 10 December 2013

Number of signatures: 448

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

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