

## Agenda – Petitions Committee

---

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: 3 October 2017

Meeting time: 09.15

For further information contact:

Graeme Francis – Committee Clerk

Kath Thomas – Deputy Clerk

0300 200 6565

[SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales)

---

### 1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(Pages 1 – 34)

### 2 New petitions

2.1 P-05-771 Reconsider the closure of the Welsh Independent Living Grant and support disabled people to live independently

(Pages 35 – 48)

2.2 P-05-773 Don't Fill Landfill!

(Pages 49 – 58)

2.3 P-05-774 Pass Wide and Slow Wales

(Pages 59 – 71)

2.4 P-05-776 To recognize the three hundredth anniversary of Williams Pantycelyn

(Pages 72 – 88)

2.5 P-05-778 Protect the Razor Clams on Llanfairfechan Beach

(Pages 89 – 105)

### 3 Updates to previous petitions

#### Education



Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales

## **The following two items will be grouped together for consideration**

- 3.1 P-05-757 Remove the Obligation on Schools to Hold Acts of Religious Worship  
(Page 106)
- 3.2 P-05-765 Keeping Current Guidelines for Religious Assemblies  
(Pages 107 – 113)

## **Health**

- 3.3 P-04-408 Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service  
(Pages 114 – 118)
- 3.4 P-04-505 Eating Disorder Unit in Wales  
(Pages 119 – 122)

## **Environment and Rural Affairs**

- 3.5 P-04-648 Unconventional Oil and Gas Planning Applications  
(Pages 123 – 124)
- 3.6 P-04-683 Trees in Towns  
(Pages 125 – 127)
- 3.7 P-05-743 End the Exotic Pet Trade in Wales  
(Pages 128 – 131)
- 3.8 P-05-753 Strengthening the Legislative and Regulatory Framework Surrounding Waste Wood Processing Facilities  
(Pages 132 – 134)
- 3.9 P-05-756 Live Music Protection in Wales  
(Page 135)
- 3.10 P-05-759 Re-open the Cwmcarn Forest Drive at Easter 2018  
(Pages 136 – 141)

## **Economy and Infrastructure**

3.11 P-05-690 Resurfacing of the A40 Raglan-Abergavenny Road

(Pages 142 – 145)

## **Finance and Local Government**

3.12 P-05-726 Give Rate Relief to Local Authorities for Leisure and Cultural Facilities

(Page 146)

## **Communities and Children**

3.13 P-05-734 Ban Letting Agent Fees to Tenants

(Pages 147 – 148)

**Item 4 – Evidence session for P-04-472 Make the MTAN law and P-04-575 Call in All Opencast Mining Planning Applications (10.00 – 10.30)**

Dr John Cox, Petitioner for P-04-472 Make the MTAN law

Terry Evans, Petitioner for P-04-575 Call in All Opencast Mining Planning Applications

Chris Austin, representative for United Valleys Action Group

4.1 P-04-472 Make the MTAN law

(Page 149)

4.2 P-04-575 Call in All Opencast Mining Planning Applications

(Pages 150 – 160)

**5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the remainder of the meeting (10.30)**

**6 Discussion of Evidence from Preceding Session**

Document is Restricted

# Agenda Item 2.1

## **P-05-771 Reconsider the closure of the Welsh Independent Living Grant and support disabled people to live independently**

This petition was submitted by Nathan Lee Davies, having collected 324 signatures online and 307 on paper – a total of 631 signatures.

### **Petition text:**

I am a recipient of the Welsh Independent Living Grant (WILG) and a disability activist who intends on asking Welsh Government to reconsider their decision to close WILG as of April 2019.

The WILG was introduced to help people who previously claimed from the UK government's Independent Living Fund (ILF), which closed in 2015. More than 1,500 people are helped by the scheme across Wales. Recipients all have high degree of care and support needs.

It was due to run until the end of March 2017, but Social Services Minister Rebecca Evans said in November that funding would continue for another year.

The annual £27m fund will then transfer directly to local authorities during 2018–19 so they can meet the support needs of all former ILF recipients by 31 March 2019.

### **Additional information:**

Why we oppose this decision:

The Welsh Government said the decision was taken on stakeholder advice. The majority of representatives on the stakeholder group were third sector or citizens. But they didn't want WILG scrapped and the key point is that our advice was not accepted.

It should also be remembered that closure of WILG is not inevitable as is proved through the formation and success of the Scottish Independent Living Fund; which also works to support the Northern Ireland ILF.

Furthermore, the hugely popular Labour Party Manifesto outlined plans to set up a national care system to exist independently of local authorities.

This is exactly the time that the Labour Party should be united on such issues against the Tories. We must question why Welsh Labour are not playing their part in the changing political landscape?

Indeed, eventually it should be our aim to set up an Independent Living Fund for Wales so that no disabled person should have to suffer the same uncertainty and isolation as WILG recipients are now experiencing. We can only begin to believe that true social justice and equality for all is possible if Welsh Labour revisit their WILG decision.

Welsh Labour will no doubt argue that we should give the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act a chance to succeed. However, this idealistic act needs hefty investment and resources to ensure it is a success – with no sign of any of the necessary improvements to our infrastructure that the success of the Act depends on. This may indeed be the time for a revolutionary change in the way social care is delivered, but such a transformation could take a decade or more and WILG recipients do not deserve to be treated like guinea pigs when their high care and support needs require long-term stability and structure.

#### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Wrexham
- North Wales

## Briefing for the Petitions Committee

e-Petition number: [P-05-771](#)

Petition title: **Reconsider the closure of the Welsh Independent Living Grant and support disabled people to live independently**

Text of petition:

Why we oppose this decision:

The Welsh Government said the decision was taken on stakeholder advice. The majority of representatives on the stakeholder group were third sector or citizens. But they didn't want WILG scrapped and the key point is that our advice was not accepted.

It should also be remembered that closure of WILG is not inevitable as is proved through the formation and success of the Scottish Independent Living Fund; which also works to support the Northern Ireland ILF.

Furthermore, the hugely popular Labour Party Manifesto outlined plans to set up a national care system to exist independently of local authorities.

This is exactly the time that the Labour Party should be united on such issues against the Tories. We must question why Welsh Labour are not playing their part in the changing political landscape?

Indeed, eventually it should be our aim to set up an Independent Living Fund for Wales so that no disabled person should have to suffer the same uncertainty and isolation as WILG recipients are now experiencing. We can only begin to believe that true social justice and equality for all is possible if Welsh Labour revisit their WILG decision.

Welsh Labour will no doubt argue that we should give the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act a chance to succeed. However, this idealistic act needs hefty investment and resources to ensure it is a success – with no sign of any of the necessary improvements to our infrastructure that the success of the Act depends on. This may indeed be the time for a revolutionary change in the way social care is delivered, but such a transformation could take a decade or more and WILG recipients do not deserve to be treated like guinea pigs when their high care and support needs require long-term stability and structure.

Funding for the Welsh Independent Living Grant, which replaced the Independent living Fund, is due to be transferred to local authorities from April 2018 when it will be used to provide social care services as part of mainstream local authority provision. Current recipients of the Welsh Independent Living Grant will then receive their support from services provided or arranged by local authorities or via direct payments administered by local authorities.

## Background

The Independent Living Fund (ILF) was a UK Government funded discretionary scheme which helped people who had both day and night care needs and who were getting the higher rate care component of Disability Living Allowance. The ILF was aimed at disabled people with relatively high support needs as an alternative to residential care and it was provided in addition to local authority social care services.

The ILF was set up in 1988 as a UK-wide scheme with offices in Nottingham. It operated as an independent discretionary trust funded by the Department for Work and Pensions and was managed by a board of trustees. Recipients used the money to purchase support services, particularly personal assistants, in a similar way to Direct Payments.

In December 2010, the Minister for Disabled People of the UK Government announced that the ILF was to be closed to new applications. In December 2012, following a consultation on the future of the Fund, it was announced that the Fund would be closed permanently from April 2015.

However, in November 2013 the Court of Appeal upheld a [legal challenge](#) against the Government which it found had failed to meet its Equality Duty in the consultation on the future of the ILF and in its decision to close it. The Department for Work and Pensions subsequently undertook a new equality impact assessment and in March 2014 the Minister for Disabled People announced that the ILF would close on 30 June 2015. From 1 July 2015, the funding and responsibility of ILF care and support needs transferred to local authorities in England and the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Since 1 July 2015 local authorities in **Wales** have administered a Welsh Independent Living Grant (WILG) and payments have continued to be made to former ILF recipients. From April 2018 the Welsh Government is proposing to transfer the WILG funding to local authorities to be used to provide social care services to former recipients as part of mainstream local authority provision.

In **England** former ILF recipients now have needs assessments and care arrangements made through their local authority.

In **Scotland** a new [Scottish Independent Living Fund](#) has been established for people who formerly received ILF. **Northern Ireland** also has a new [replacement Independent Living Fund](#) administered through ILF Scotland.



## Welsh Government response

The Minister for Social Services and Public Health has provided a response to the petition.

She states that the stakeholder advisory group, which the Minister is consulting on decisions around the former ILF, did not oppose the decision to transfer funding from the Welsh Independent Living Grant to local authority social services.

She also states that providing all social care services through local authorities will be fairer, particularly given that the ILF had been closed to new entrants since 2010, and help to ensure that all disabled people receive social care services in the same way.

The Minister sets out the alternative options which were considered, including having ILF payments to Welsh recipients administered by the Scottish ILF. She states that this option would not have been available for some time and would have been too costly.



Eich cyf/Your ref Petition P-05-771  
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/00766/17

David J Rowlands AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

[SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales)

21 August 2017

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter seeking my views on a petition submitted to the Petitions Committee by Nathan Lee Davies in relation to the closure of the Welsh Independent Living Grant.

As Mr Davies outlines in his petition, the Welsh Government put in place in 2015 the Welsh Independent Living Grant (WILG) with local authorities to enable them to maintain payments to recipients in Wales of the Independent Living Fund (ILF). This was following the closure at that time of the ILF by the UK Government. We introduced this grant to ensure continuity of support in the short-term for recipients. This was to help them meet the additional costs of living independently in the community in a similar manner to the financial support they received from the ILF. This arrangement was to provide time for us to consider the most appropriate way to provide support to recipients in the longer-term, so as continue their ability to live independently.

As Mr Davies indicates, to assist with our consideration of what that longer-term support should be a stakeholder advisory group had been established. This had representation from the organisations which represent and act for disabled people in Wales (such as Disability Wales and the Dewis Centre for Independent Living), representation from local authorities and some recipients themselves. The majority of the representatives on the advisory group were, as Mr Davies says, from the third sector or had themselves received payments from the ILF. This was because we wanted advice from those who fully appreciated the outcomes disabled people seek and what they required from the arrangements we were to put in place to support their independent living.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

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

[Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales)  
[Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru)

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

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

The advisory group considered a number of potential options to provide support in future to those who used to receive payments from the ILF. These ranged from perpetuating the WILG indefinitely, or for a set period of time, to establishing similar arrangements in Wales to that of the ILF outside of local authorities' provision, to having support provided in future through local authorities' social care. The advisory group considered the advantages and disadvantages of each option in terms of its effectiveness to support former recipients and its fit with supporting the larger group of disabled people in Wales who had been excluded by the UK Government from receiving support from the ILF (as it had in 2010 closed the ILF to new entrants).

I am not sure why Mr Davies thinks the advisory group wished to keep the WILG. On the contrary, overall it accepted that the arrangements we had put in place through the WILG could only ever be temporary while a longer-term solution was found. After considering the potential options in the light of the issues I set out above, the advisory group on balance favoured the option of future support being provided by local authorities as part of their social care provision. None of the members of the advisory group opposed this recommendation.

The advisory group favoured this option as it matched the future support former recipients would receive with that being provided generally to disabled and older people in Wales. This is through our new person-centred ethos for social care being delivered through the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The Act came into effect from April last year and changes the way people's needs are assessed and the way support is delivered. People now have more of a say in the well-being outcomes they wish to achieve and the care and support they require to deliver those outcomes. This is similar to the ethos behind the original establishment of the ILF. The Act also contains stronger powers to keep people safe from abuse and neglect.

The advisory group also saw this option as the way forward as it removed the inequitable two-tier approach which currently exists to supporting disabled people in Wales, with some receiving only support from their local authority, while others can receive this as well as dedicated payments from the WILG.

It is also important to note that prior to the advisory group's considerations we undertook a public consultation on a number of possible options to provide support in future. While it is true that the majority of those who responded favoured arrangements in Wales similar to those of the ILF, this was not the option favoured by all recipients who responded. Indeed the vast majority of recipients did not respond to the consultation at all. Nevertheless, my officials did contact those in the Scottish Government to establish the basis of the dedicated support arrangements for former ILF recipients in Scotland and the possibility of those arrangements being extended to Wales.

While ILF Scotland could administer and make payments on behalf of the Welsh Government, it became clear it would not be in a position to do this for a considerable period of time. In addition, it required significant set-up and operating funding to administer our payments, totalling in the first year of operation well over £1 million with annual operating funding in excess of £0.750 million. Such funding would have needed to be top-sliced from the overall funding available to support former recipients in Wales, thereby substantially reducing the funding available for their support itself. On this basis we did not believe that these arrangements would be acceptable given the reduction in support to which it would lead, or that they provided good value for money. Overall the advisory group shared this view and was keen that already limited funds were not used disproportionately on establishing and maintaining separate arrangements to provide support.

Consequently, I accepted the stakeholder advisory group's advice to have support to former ILF recipients in Wales provided in future by local authorities as part of their social care provision. To put this into place the advisory group also recommended that there should be a two year transitional period, whereby in the first year authorities establish all recipients' desired well-being outcomes and agree with them the support they require to achieve these. In the second year recipients would transfer over to receiving all of their support from their local authority, with their payments under the WILG ceasing at the point at which this occurred. I also accepted this recommendation in full, with as a result the transitional period commencing from 1 April this year and due to conclude on 31 March 2019.

Clearly those who wished to see a different option chosen will be disappointed with the decision taken. However, that decision did not ignore the advice of the representatives of disabled people in Wales on the stakeholder advisory group but was fully in accordance with it.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca".

**Rebecca Evans AC/AM**

Gweinidog Iechyd y Cyhoedd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Social Services and Public Health

**P-05-771 Reconsider the closure of the Welsh Independent Living Grant and support disabled people to live independently –  
Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 28.09.17**

Dear Mr Rowlands

Many thanks for accepting my petition at the Senedd on September 20 and for taking the time to listen to my concerns regarding the closure of the Welsh Independent Living Grant (WILG). I also appreciate the right to reply to the letter regarding my petition written by Rebecca Evans AM.

As outlined in my petition, the Welsh Government put WILG in place with local authorities to enable them to maintain payments to recipients in Wales of the Independent Living Fund (ILF). This was following the closure at that time of the ILF by the UK Government in 2015. The Grant was introduced to ensure continuity of support in the short-term for recipients.

This move did help Local Authorities to support individuals to meet the additional costs of living independently in the community in a similar manner to the financial support they received from the ILF. However, it has not allowed for any increased payments to cover any change in circumstances, a particular problem for those of us with progressive conditions. I had faith that the Welsh Government would resolve this issue after holding a consultation into how best to provide support to recipients in the longer-term, so as continue our ability to live independently.

A stakeholder advisory group was established that included a number of my contacts as well as representatives from local authorities. The advisory group considered a number of potential options to provide support in future to those who used to receive payments from the ILF. These ranged from perpetuating the WILG indefinitely, or for a set period of time, to establishing similar arrangements in Wales to that of the ILF outside of local authorities' provision [option 4] to having support provided in future through local authorities' social care. The advisory group considered the advantages and disadvantages of each option in terms of its effectiveness to support former recipients and its fit with supporting the larger

group of disabled people in Wales who had been excluded by the UK Government from receiving support from the ILF (as it had in 2009 closed the ILF to new entrants).

I have a real problem with the assertion from the Minister that the stakeholder group were united in agreement with the closure of WILG and the transferring of funds to local authorities. This was quite simply not the case and I request that she provides evidence in support of her claim that "the advisory group on balance favoured the option of future support being provided by local authorities as part of their social care provision. None of the members of the advisory group opposed this recommendation." For instance, was a vote held in the stakeholder advisory group? If so, on what date, what was the result, and can the minutes of that meeting please be provided?

I have spoken to several members of the advisory group who DID oppose LA provision. Surely, this calls into question the basis for the Minister's decision. There's been a total lack of imagination on the part of the Welsh government in terms of creating an independent living plan that all local authorities must buy into. This would be a guarantee of ensuring equity across Wales.

However, this option [option 4] was not given a fair hearing during the stakeholder sessions despite its popularity across Wales when all options were put out for consultation. We were unforgivably never given the result of this consultation, and it seems churlish for the Minister to say that many people – with high care and support needs and lack of empowerment – did not reply. The percentage of voters in general elections has been disappointing for many years, but that does not make our political representatives invalid. I would also challenge the Minister to release the data collected in the consultation.

The members of the stakeholder group that I have spoken to have stated their frustrations with the whole process: "I disagreed with one side of the room almost continuously," and "I would be amazed to see minutes of a meeting where all participants agreed that passing this WILG over to the local authority beyond the ring-fenced period was the way forward." Others have said "I used to go home from all these stakeholder groups thinking we had agreed certain things to discover that was not what had been recorded." and other activists argue that many officials and civil servants do not actually "know what Independent Living means – they still think 'independent' means managing without support".

It would greatly assist me in understanding Welsh Government's decision making process on this issue if the minutes of all of the meetings of the stakeholder advisory group can be provided, and I will submit a Freedom of Information Act request if necessary.

The short-sightedness of the Welsh Government is also highlighted by developments in Northern Ireland where they have recently decided to use the ILF model to support all community living for disabled people.

I would like to ask the Petitions Committee to ask the Minister to provide a copy of the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) on which the policy decision was based. If the Minister cannot show a genuine and thorough EqIA then I would have thought the policy change has little legal standing. A former member of the stakeholder group recalls that: "at one stage there was a jump from all options being on the table (including a Welsh ILF) to "this is what's been decided", without an EqIA being carried out."

I think that the future of Independent Living in Wales depends on a robust enforcement of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act. If local authorities make genuine efforts to empower individuals to identify and achieve their Personal Wellbeing Outcomes and access all aspects of Independent Living as a civil and human right that would be great. However, I am not holding my breath. The SSWB Act was promoted by officials as "a guaranteed enforceable right to independent living". This is all positive stuff on paper, but unfortunately disabled people do not live on paper and in the real world we need to see a tough enforcement of this Act. While we wait for this to happen – I do not expect it to be truly functional in my lifetime – we need a necessary protection for those with high care and support needs such as WILG. I would therefore ask the Minister to delay ending WILG until she has concrete evidence that all 22 authorities are genuinely supporting people to achieve their identified wellbeing outcomes. A Stakeholder Group to look at this would be a transparent means to allay people's genuine fears.

One very practical way for Welsh Government to respond to the UN Disability Committee's concerns about disabled people's rights in the UK is to reconsider its misguided policy on supporting former ILF recipients. For more information, please refer to the following link:

<https://assemblyinbrief.wordpress.com/2017/09/19/rights-of-disabled-people-how-the-un-committees-findings-relate-to-wales/>

I understand that Welsh Government's Framework for Action on Independent Living is currently being reviewed. I very much hope that the Framework will be strengthened as a result and that in particular, the rights of former ILF recipients will be supported by Welsh Government re-convening the

stakeholder advisory group to reconsider its WILG policy.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the situation in England following the closure of ILF in 2015 when money was transferred to Local Authorities in the same manner that is being proposed by the Welsh Government. This cannot be allowed to happen in Wales. A report by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) shows that former recipients of the ILF in England experienced a loss of support, a greater reliance on unpaid care and an “adverse” impact on their physical and mental health after its closure. All of these concerns were raised by disabled activists who campaigned against the decision to close the fund, before it shut in June 2015.

Those former recipients who saw their support “heavily reduced” as a result of the closure – which saw non-ring-fenced funding passed by the government to local authorities – “experienced multiple changes” to their lives.

The report says: “They argued that reductions in care were unfair and denied them opportunities to participate fully in society.

“They encountered changes and restrictions to daily activities, including less support for engaging in leisure activities, work and volunteering.”

Some of those who took part in the DWP study said that the “heavy reduction in care” they had experienced had damaged their physical and mental health, with effects such as loneliness, weight loss, and frailty “due to worry, or due to the physical demands of having to perform everyday activities without the support of a carer”.

I have also included three links at the bottom of this letter that will lead you to further information and reports on the dire situation that disabled people find themselves living with in 21<sup>st</sup> Century England. This is hardly in keeping with the Welsh Government’s landmark SSWb Act.

I could go on and on all evening about the problems that the closure of WILG will present to disabled people and their families. I haven’t even mentioned the impact it will have on support workers who rely on WILG for their income. As an employer, I do not want to have to tell my team of personal assistants that I will no longer be able to employ them.

In May 2015, I was told by my Local Authority, that without the protection of WILG my hours of care and support could be reduced from 86.5 hours a week – totally inadequate for a rapidly progressive disease – to only 31 hours per week. As an active member of the community, this



would cause isolation and depression. I have no interest in merely existing. I want to live my life like everybody else and I feel that I have become an integral part of my community through involvement with Disability Wales, the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales, Glyndwr University, Wrexham AFC and FDF Centre for Independent Living. This is not to mention my work as an author and poet while I have also been awarded an Honorary Fellowship from Glyndwr University for my work in Disability Rights. To have my hours reduced so drastically – as threatened by my social worker – would have a devastating impact to me and others.

I wish I could write more but time is at a premium. I look forward to hearing the outcome of the petition committee's discussions and have faith that the National Assembly will not turn their backs on disabled people with high care and support needs.

Should you need any further information please do not hesitate to get in touch using my contact details above.

Yours sincerely

Nathan Lee

Davies

Please find below links to three different reports into the effects of the ILF closure in England:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-living-fund-post-closure-review>

<https://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk/campaigns-and-policy/facts-and-information/independent-living-social-care-and-health/ilf-one-year-on/>

<https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/independent-living-fund-shocking-drop-in-support-after-ilf-closure/>

In addition, I have added some links below concerning my own fight for the continuation of WILG:

<http://www.leaderlive.co.uk/news/2015/07/07/gallery/our-fight-to-fund-independent-lives-in-flintshire-and-wrexham-74959/#.VZu96zMTWf4.twitter>

<http://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/welsh-government-has-sold-disabled-people-down-the-river-on-post-ilf-plans/>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-38385381?SThisFB)

[38385381?SThisFB](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-38385381?SThisFB)

[https://nathanleedavies.wordpress.com/save-wilg-](https://nathanleedavies.wordpress.com/save-wilg-campaign/)

[campaign/](https://nathanleedavies.wordpress.com/save-wilg-campaign/)

[https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/disabled-activist-is-fighting-for-his-life-as-he-hands- petition-to-welsh-government/](https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/disabled-activist-is-fighting-for-his-life-as-he-hands-petition-to-welsh-government/)

## Agenda Item 2.2

### P-05-773 Don't Fill Landfill!

This petition was submitted by Claire Perrin, having collected 33 signatures online and 139 on paper – a total of 172 signatures.

#### **Petition text:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to either issue new black wheelie bin stickers ([see example included\\*](#)) or printed wheelie bins which urge households across Wales to consider the bin's contents before leaving it on the kerbside for collection.

We feel that by explicitly describing the bin as a 'landfill' bin, this will serve to reinforce consideration for the items contained within it. We have included some factual information about the amount of time certain everyday items will stay in landfill if not recycled. We think this is very powerful and may improve Wales' commitment to recycle and therefore meet our targets for the future.

Ultimately, we want to encourage people to recycle more as well as help to reduce the amount of recyclable goods that end up in landfill.

\*The graphic was submitted as part of the petition and is available in English only.

#### **Additional information:**

My name is Claire Perrin and I am a teacher at Celtic English Academy. At the start of this term, I started a class project on recycling and encouraged my 10 students to identify the possible options residents have in the capital. We also discovered that Wales is exceeding its commitment to reduce landfill by 2025 and is leading the rest of the U.K in terms of improving access to recycling centres and household collections in general.

However, my students began to notice that many residents weren't recycling correctly. We have included photographic examples of green recycle bags in black wheelie bins, food in kerbside green and black bags and recyclable items in black bags. We held class discussions about the possible reasons behind these errors. We also conducted a survey which asked people to identify recyclable goods from the following list: pet food pouches; personal hygiene items; Aluminium sheets; take away trays; magazines; crisp packets; egg boxes; plastic carrier bags; clothing

We found that a lot of people simply did not know which items could be recycled. We also discovered that people did not contemplate how long landfill items would take to biodegrade. When we informed them, they were shocked and wanted to do more to recycle. This encouraged us to come up with a possible solution to the amount of items placed incorrectly in black/green bags which could be rolled out across Wales, thus encouraging people to take more responsibility for their waste management and in the process, preventing recyclable items from going straight to landfill.

**Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Cardiff North
- South Wales Central

## Petition: P-05-773 Don't Fill Landfill

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 3 Hydref 2017  
Petitions Committee | 3 October 2017

### Research Briefing:

Petition number: P-05-773

Petition title: Don't Fill Landfill

Text of petition: We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to either issue new black wheelie bin stickers (see example below) or printed wheelie bins which urge households across Wales to consider the bin's contents before leaving it on the kerbside for collection.

We feel that by explicitly describing the bin as a 'landfill' bin, this will serve to reinforce consideration for the items contained within it. We have included some factual information about the amount of time certain everyday items will stay in landfill if not recycled. We think this is very powerful and may improve Wales' commitment to recycle and therefore meet our targets for the future.

Ultimately, we want to encourage people to recycle more as well as help to reduce the amount of recyclable goods that end up in landfill.



Fig 1. Example wheelie bin sticker

## Background

The Welsh Government published its [Towards Zero Waste](#) strategy in June 2010. The strategy sets out a long term framework for resource efficiency and waste management to 2050. It identifies the outcomes the Welsh Government wishes to achieve, sets high level targets and lays out a general approach to delivering targets and other key actions. The strategy sets a goal for as **close to zero (<5%) landfill as possible by 2025**, with an ambition of zero waste by 2050.

From April 2018, **Landfill Disposals Tax (LDT)** will replace Landfill Tax in Wales. Like the predecessor Landfill Tax, LDT will be a tax on the disposal of waste into landfill and will be charged by weight. It will be payable by landfill site operators, who pass on these costs to waste operators through their gate fee. Landfill Tax has been a significant driver of improved environmental behaviour; encouraging greater prevention, re-use, recycling and recovery of waste.

Wales has the highest recycling rate in the UK, the second highest in Europe, and the third highest in the world. The Welsh Government put in place recycling targets for all of Wales' 22 local authorities in a bid to increase recycling. Authorities had to recycle 58% of their waste by 2016–17, rising to 64% by 2019–20 and 70% by 2024–25. The figures are reviewed every three months and added to a rolling 12-month provisional total. The latest figures are for the 12 months to the end of March 2017, with the final data released in October. [Provisional data for the 12 months to March 2017](#) (published in August) reveal an increase of 4% on the previous year's recycling rate of 60%. The figures showed all but one local authority – Blaenau Gwent – met the current 2016–17 target. The best performing local authority was Ceredigion, recycling 70% of its waste and hitting the 2025 target nine years early. Although Blaenau Gwent missed the 58% target, its 57% recycling rate was an increase on the 49% seen a year earlier.

### Black bag/residual waste

One of the aims of the Welsh Government's waste strategy is to reduce the amount of residual waste produced by households. Many local authorities in Wales have introduced restrictions on the amount of black bags that can be put out for collection, and black bag waste is collected less frequently than recycling (usually every 2–3 weeks) to encourage more recycling. The [latest Welsh Government statistics \(January to March 2017\)](#) show that more than half of local authorities in Wales reported a decrease in residual household waste generated per person, compared to the same period in the previous year. Residual waste per dwelling also decreased from 111 to 106 kg per dwelling.

According to figures quoted in the Cabinet Secretary's letter to the Committee, in 2015–16 more than 300,000 tonnes of municipal waste (black bag/residual waste) were sent for incineration with energy recovery and fewer than 290,000 tonnes were sent to landfill. **She states that this demonstrates the limitation of an approach based on labelling bins as being for 'landfill'** as increasingly the contents are being sent to incineration with energy recovery.

## Welsh Government action

In her letter, the Cabinet Secretary agrees that more needs to be done to persuade people to better separate their wastes, in order to ensure that less recyclable and food waste ends up in residual waste bins.

A Welsh Government Task and Finish Group of officials and representatives of Local Government has agreed that a new behaviour change initiative is needed, with the aim of diverting as much recyclable material as possible out of residual waste and into recycling containers, including food waste caddies. The Cabinet Secretary states that the initiative is currently in the design stages, and she hopes it will commence in 2018. The letter outlines there are many aspects to behaviour change, including:

- Providing the right collection infrastructure for residents to effectively separate recyclables and food waste from non-recyclable wastes;
- Providing guidance on how these services should be used and raising public awareness about the need to use them; and
- Providing effective enforcement against those who persistently fail to perform their civic duty to separate materials for recycling.

She goes on to say that several Welsh local authorities have placed stickers on wheeled bins advising that food waste should not be deposited in them, and that this has been found to increase the amount of food waste collected separately. With regards to stickers on bins more widely she states:

It may be that placing stickers on bins will have a role as part of future initiatives, however, there is so much more to persuading people to recycle effectively.

## National Assembly for Wales action

Most of the discussion on landfill within the Assembly has centred around the Landfill Disposals Tax (outlined above). In 2014, the Environment and Sustainability Committee undertook an [inquiry into recycling in Wales](#). The focus of the inquiry was on how to improve recycling rates and practice in Wales, and it did not specifically address the issue of residual waste. However, the Committee concluded that:

A combination of good communication and engagement combined with a reduction in residual (“black bag”) waste collections can further improve recycling rates. Whilst financial penalties could play a role in the future, it would be premature to consider their introduction until other avenues of encouragement have been exhausted.

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





Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-773  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/01906/17

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee.  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

23 August 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 10 August, regarding the petition P-05-773 'Don't Fill Landfill'.

It is encouraging that a teacher and her class have given so much thought to the issues of recycling and how it can be encouraged.

There is a role for either stickers or printing on wheeled bins. Several Welsh Local Authorities have placed stickers on wheeled bins advising food waste should not be deposited in them and it has been shown this has helped to increase the amount of separate collection of food waste in associated premises. Too much information being placed on bins risks confusing residents with too much information. In most Local Authority areas across Wales, most residents are aware the residual bin or sack should not be used to deposit recyclable materials or food wastes.

This is borne out by the very high recycling rate achieved by the residents of Wales, enabled by the excellent collection services provided by Local Authorities. Wales has the highest recycling rate in the UK, the second highest in Europe and the third highest in the world and I am determined Wales will soon become number one in the world for recycling.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400  
[Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales)

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

Pack Page 55

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

In 2015-16 more than 300,000 tonnes of municipal waste were sent for incineration with energy recovery and fewer than 290,000 tonnes were sent to landfill. This demonstrates the limitation of an approach based on labelling bins as being for 'landfill'. Wales is rapidly reducing its reliance on landfill. In 2002-03 just 61 tonnes of municipal waste were sent to incineration with energy recovery and almost 155,000 tonnes were sent to landfill, illustrating how far we have come. Use of landfill will fall in future years, especially when a new energy from waste plant is commissioned on Deeside.

The petition as drafted is therefore inherently flawed. That said, the motives behind the petition are laudable and I share them. Half of the material in the residual bin or sack is easily recycled material, including food waste. We need to do more to persuade people to better separate their wastes.

A Task & Finish Group of Welsh Government officials and representatives of Local Government has agreed that there should be a new behaviour change initiative with the purpose of diverting as much recyclable material as possible out of residual waste and into the recycling containers, including food waste caddies. The initiative is being designed at the moment and I hope it will start in 2018.

There are many aspects to promoting behaviour change and these include:

- Providing the right collection infrastructure for residents to effectively separate recyclables and food waste from non-recyclable wastes.
- Providing advice on how these services should be used and raising public awareness about the need to use them.
- Providing effective enforcement against those who persistently fail to perform their civic duty to separate materials for recycling. It should become socially unacceptable for people not to recycle.

It may be that placing stickers on bins will have a role as part of future initiatives, however, there is so much more to persuading people to recycle effectively.

I am very ambitious about the future of recycling, waste prevention and resource efficiency in Wales. I want us to meet and exceed the 70% recycling target set for 2024-25 several years early and we are on course to do that. I will consult next year on when an 80% target should be set. At the same time I will consult on an aspirational target to halve the amount of food waste produced from a baseline in the year 2006-07. There will be new measures to ensure that industrial and commercial waste producers follow the same path as residents and separate their wastes for recycling.

Recycling and resource efficiency are already huge successes for Wales and are contributing to economic growth, new jobs and opportunities for individuals and communities across Wales. I hope the Petitions Committee will agree that whilst the intentions behind the petition P-05-773 are very worthy the proposals themselves are not well suited to the clear strategy for the future.

Regards  
Lesley

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs



## Agenda Item 2.3

### **P-05-774 Pass Wide and Slow Wales**

This petition was submitted by Jocelle Lovell, having collected 723 signatures online and 1,032 on paper – a total of 1,755 signatures.

#### **Petition text:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to implement an annual ‘public education’ road safety campaign to educate all road users how to pass horses and riders safely, and one that highlights the dangers/consequences of not doing so. We are aware of, and support, a UK wide petition that is campaigning to make it law to pass horses wide and slow (<https://www.change.org/p/uk-govt-make-it-law-to-pass-by-a-horse-wide-and-slow-and-abide-by-our-hand-signals>), but would prefer to see education and prevention rather than prosecution after a serious or fatal incident had occurred. Welsh Government has the opportunity to capitalise on the materials and information already available from existing campaigns such as; the British Horse Society’s road safety campaign Dead Slow (<http://www.bhs.org.uk/safety-and-accidents/dead-slow>), whilst emphasising particular issues facing Welsh road users. These include the close links between urban and rural communities in Wales, and the popularity of Wales as a tourist destination. In more urban communities (e.g. the commuter belt around Cardiff), there is a volume of traffic using country lanes, either as a short cut or main access route. In other parts of Wales (e.g. Carmarthen and Pembrokeshire) there is an annual influx of holidaymakers with little experience of encountering horses on the roads. All we ask is that drivers, recognise horse riders as vulnerable road users, and be more considerate when passing horses. We feel the best approach to achieving this is by the Welsh Government taking a lead, in line with their commitment to 'Work with representatives of the horse riding community to understand their road safety concerns and facilitate engagement with other partners.' (Welsh Government Road Safety Framework (July 2013)).

#### **Additional information:**

The British Horse Society (BHS) estimates the economic value of the horse industries across the UK to be worth £7 billion, and to employ 220,000 – 270,000 people. This, alongside, the health and wellbeing benefits associated with horse riding make it an important part of Welsh life. But,

increasingly, if feels that the voice of equestrians is not being heard. Many equestrians would rather not ride on public highways, but as the availability of accessible bridleways varies across Wales, we often have little choice. Welsh Governments Road Safety Framework (July 2013) recognises that horses and their riders (as well as carriage drivers) are vulnerable on the road network, and that a collision between a horse and a vehicle can have life threatening consequences for the horse, rider and those in a vehicle. It also states that there is evidence to suggest that the number of road traffic collisions involving horses is underreported. As the number of new houses being built in rural/semi rural locations increases, it brings with it an increase in the volume of traffic, on country roads that are frequently used by farm machinery, horses and riders. Many drivers, new and experienced, are often unaware of the potential dangers of driving fast on these roads, and many do not know how to pass horses safely. Just because the legal speed limit on these roads is 60, does not mean it is safe to drive at that speed. Furthermore, evidence from the BHS (<http://www.bhs.org.uk/our-charity/press-centre/news/jan-to-jun-2016/riding-and-road-safety-campaign>) shows that there is an increase of incidents involving horses, riders and motor vehicles in June. Although the reasons for this increase remain unclear, there is a potential correlation with holidaymakers driving on unfamiliar roads in unfamiliar circumstances.

#### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Cardiff South and Penarth
- South Wales Central

## Petitions briefing – P-05-774 Pass Wide and Slow Wales

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 3 Hydref 2017  
Petitions Committee | 3 October 2017

### Research Briefing:

**Petition number:** P-05-774

**Petition title:** Pass Wide and Slow Wales

**Petition text:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to implement an annual 'public education' road safety campaign to educate all road users how to pass horses and riders safely, and one that highlights the dangers/consequences of not doing so.

We are aware of, and support, a UK wide petition that is campaigning to make it law to pass horses wide and slow (<https://www.change.org/p/uk-govt-make-it-law-to-pass-by-a-horse-wide-and-slow-and-abide-by-our-hand-signals>), but would prefer to see education and prevention rather than prosecution after a serious or fatal incident had occurred.

Welsh Government has the opportunity to capitalise on the materials and information already available from existing campaigns such as; the British Horse Society's road safety campaign Dead Slow (<http://www.bhs.org.uk/safety-and-accidents/dead-slow>), whilst emphasizing particular issues facing Welsh road users. These include the close links between urban and rural communities in Wales, and the popularity of Wales as a tourist destination. In more urban communities (e.g. the commuter belt around Cardiff), there is a volume of traffic using country lanes, either as a short cut or main access route. In other parts of Wales (e.g. Carmarthen and Pembrokeshire) there is an annual influx of holidaymakers with little experience of encountering horses on the roads.

All we ask is that drivers, recognise horse riders as vulnerable road users, and be more considerate when passing horses. We feel the best approach to achieving this is by the Welsh Government taking a lead, in line with their commitment to 'Work with representatives of the horse riding community to understand their road safety concerns and facilitate engagement with other partners.' (Welsh Government Road Safety Framework (July 2013)).

**Additional information:**

The British Horse Society (BHS) estimates the economic value of the horse industries across the UK to be worth £7 billion, and to employ 220,000 – 270,000 people. This, alongside, the health and wellbeing benefits associated with horse riding make it an important part of Welsh life. But, increasingly, it feels that the voice of equestrians is not being heard.

Many equestrians would rather not ride on public highways, but as the availability of accessible bridleways varies across Wales, we often have little choice.

Welsh Governments Road Safety Framework (July 2013) recognises that horses and their riders (as well as carriage drivers) are vulnerable on the road network, and that a collision between a horse and a vehicle can have life threatening consequences for the horse, rider and those in a vehicle. It also states that there is evidence to suggest that the number of road traffic collisions involving horses is underreported.

As the number of new houses being built in rural/semi-rural locations increases, it brings with it an increase in the volume of traffic, on country roads that are frequently used by farm machinery, horses and riders. Many drivers, new and experienced, are often unaware of the potential dangers of driving fast on these roads, and many do not know how to pass horses safely. Just because the legal speed limit on these roads is 60, does not mean it is safe to drive at that speed.

Furthermore, evidence from the BHS (<http://www.bhs.org.uk/our-charity/press-centre/news/jan-to-jun-2016/riding-and-road-safety-campaign>) shows that there is an increase of incidents involving horses, riders and motor vehicles in June. Although the reasons for this increase remain unclear, there is a potential correlation with holidaymakers driving on unfamiliar roads in unfamiliar circumstances.

## Background

### Responsibility for road safety

The Welsh Government sets road safety policy in Wales and, as the relevant Highway Authority, is responsible for the safety of the Welsh motorway and trunk road network. Local authorities are responsible for the safety of other roads. There are several other bodies with a role in road safety including the South Wales Trunk Road Agent; North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent; and the Police.

The Welsh Road Casualty Reduction Partnership, GoSafe, works to reduce road casualties, predominantly through the deployment of safety cameras and enforcement. The Partnership is made up of 27 equal partners including the 22 local authorities in Wales, four Welsh police forces and the Welsh Government. Advice provided by the Partnership relating to [other road users](#), and as part of its [campaigns](#), makes no specific reference to equine road users.



[Road Safety Wales](#), a partnership between the 22 Welsh local authorities; the Welsh emergency services; GoSafe; the Welsh Government; and RoSPA, works to develop and sustain co-operation and interaction between key road safety partners and agencies with the responsibility for road safety promotion in Wales. Its mission is to “further casualty reduction through collaborative working”. It has produced a range of road safety [resources](#) including a [horse road safety poster](#) (PDF 311KB).

## Department for Transport action

The Department for Transport (DfT) provides advice to motorists and horse riders through its [THINK! road safety campaign](#). The DfT’s advice for motorists says:

- Slow down and be ready to stop if necessary
- Look out for riders' signals to slow down or stop
- Watch out for sudden movements, horses can be easily frightened and unpredictable
- Don't sound your horn or rev your engine
- Pass wide and slow when overtaking; giving the horse plenty of room. Don't accelerate rapidly once you have passed them.
- On roundabouts, horse riders will keep to the left within the roundabout until reaching their exit, when they will signal left. They will normally signal right only when approaching exits they don't intend to use

## The Highway Code

The Highway Code contains [rules for road users requiring extra care](#) such as horse riders. The Code highlights that “the most vulnerable road users are pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and horse riders” (Rule 204). Rule 215 relates to horse riders and horse-drawn vehicles and says:

Be particularly careful of horse riders and horse-drawn vehicles especially when overtaking. **Always pass wide and slowly.** Horse riders are often children, so take extra care and remember riders may ride in double file when escorting a young or inexperienced horse or rider. Look out for horse riders’ and horse drivers’ signals and heed a request to slow down or stop. Take great care and treat all horses as a potential hazard; they can be unpredictable, despite the efforts of their rider/driver.

Regarding the wording of the Code, [the DfT says](#) that although failure to comply with these rules “will not, in itself, cause a person to be prosecuted”, the Highway Code “may be used in evidence in any court proceedings [...] to establish liability”.

A UK wide petition calling for the introduction of a law [on passing horses and abiding by horse riders hand signals](#) was supported by over 111,000 individuals. The safety of riders and horses on rural roads was subsequently [debated in the House of Commons](#) on 4 July 2017. Responding to the debate, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, Jesse Norman, stated:

the Department [for Transport], through the “THINK! road safety” campaign, worked directly with the British Horse Society to support its own “Dead Slow” campaign, to encourage car drivers to pass horses safely. The Department was able to reinforce the BHS campaign by developing a short film that is being promoted as a public information film on UK TV stations. [...]

The Department has also invested in promoting the film on YouTube and other social media, such as Twitter and Facebook. Leaflets and posters to support the campaign further reminded motorists of the need to be patient when they encounter horses on the road and supplemented the advice already given in The Highway Code.

[...] Road safety officers around the country have also been encouraged to feature the campaign locally. To some extent, therefore, there is already a national campaign, in embryo at least.

The video co-produced by the DfT and the British Horse Society showing how to pass horses safely can be viewed [here](#).

### Action by the British Horse Society and the AA

The [British Horse Society](#) is a charity which works to “promote and advance the education, training and safety of the public in all matters relating to the horse”. The Society promotes horse and rider safety through the publications such as [Road Sense for Riders](#) (PDF 644Kb) and [Horse Sense for Motorists](#) (PDF 4.14MB), and its [Dead Slow](#) campaign.

As part of the launch of its Dead Slow campaign in 2016, the BHS disclosed [statistics on incidents involving horses on the roads](#). Based on incident reported via its [horse accidents website](#) between November 2010 and March 2016, the Society highlighted:

over 2,000 reports [2,070 incidents reported in five years] of road incidents involving horses have been reported to the charity. Of these, 36 caused rider deaths, and 181 resulted in a horse dying from their injuries or being put to sleep.

75% of accidents happened because the vehicle passed the horse without allowing enough space, while over a quarter of respondents said that they also had to deal with driver road rage during the incident.

Of the 2,070 incidents reported, 146 were in Wales. The AA has also published guidance on [safely sharing the road with horses](#).

## Welsh Government action

### The Road Safety Framework for Wales

The Welsh Government’s road safety webpage states that it is “working with police, fire and rescue services, local authorities and the third sector to improve road safety in Wales”. The Welsh Government published its [Road Safety Framework for Wales](#) (PDF 1.13MB) in 2013. The Framework sets out the Welsh Government’s approach to road safety until 2020, including its road safety targets and the actions that it is taking to achieve them.

For all Welsh roads by 2020, the Welsh Government wants to see the following compared to the average for 2004–2008:

- 40% fewer people killed and seriously injured on Welsh roads;
- 25% fewer motorcyclists killed and seriously injured on Welsh roads; and
- 40% fewer young people (aged 16–24) killed and seriously injured on Welsh roads.

The Framework includes a commitment to support various campaigns related to drink and drug driving, careless driving, mobile phone use and seat belts. In respect of horse riders, the Framework recognises the vulnerability of equestrian road users and contains a commitment to work with representatives of the horse riding community to better understand concerns and facilitate engagement:

71. Horses and their riders (as well as carriage drivers) are vulnerable on the road network. A collision between a horse and a vehicle can have life threatening consequences for the horse, rider and those in a vehicle.
72. There is evidence to suggest that the number of road traffic collisions involving horses is underreported in casualty data.
73. Horse riding is more prevalent (particularly on roads) in certain parts of the country. Rural areas have larger numbers of horse riders, who make a significant contribution to the rural economy.

We will:

- i. Work with representatives of the horse riding community to understand their road safety concerns and facilitate engagement with other partners.

We expect partners to:

- ii. Actively engage with the horse riding community and consider whether any road safety interventions should be introduced, where there are significant numbers of horse riders and/or road traffic collision involving horses.

The Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure's response to this petitions says:

We have a close working relationship with the British Horse Society. My officials speak to the British Horse Society's Welsh representative regularly and are assisting them with making contacts and engaging with other partners in Wales.

We appreciate the British Horse Society's expertise in this area. This is why we choose to support their campaigns rather than run our own campaigns.

The Welsh Government produces an annual release on [road accidents in Wales](#) based on [police recorded road casualty data](#) for Welsh roads. The [2016 release](#) (PDF 2.27MB) includes information on the severity of injury (classified as either killed, seriously injured or slightly injured) and casualties by road user type (horse rider casualties are included in figures for 'other road users'). Underpinning data for the number of [casualties by road user type across all Welsh roads](#) indicates that, of the 6,853 casualties recorded in 2016, 1 horse rider was slightly injured. In 2015, Welsh police records indicate that 5 horse riders were slightly injured and 2 seriously injured.

## Road safety funding

Funding for road safety is provided to local authorities through the Welsh Government's [Road Safety Grant](#). Local authorities can bid for grant funding on an annual basis to deliver projects that seek to reduce the number of casualties on Welsh roads. Through its allocation of funding, the Welsh Government prioritises “schemes that reduce the numbers of motorcyclists, young people and vulnerable road users being killed or seriously injured”.

The Welsh Government has also previously funded projects to seeking to [improve the safety of equestrian road use](#) through its Rural Development Fund.

## National Assembly for Wales action

The Research Service has not identified any prior consideration of this issue in the Assembly.

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-774  
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/02919/17

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee.

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

3 September 2017

Dear *David,*

Thank you for your letter of 10 August regarding petition P-05-774 Pass Wide and Slow Wales.

We take the safety of all vulnerable road users seriously. As the petitioner has noted, the Road Safety Framework for Wales includes an action to work with representatives of the horse riding community to understand their road safety concerns and facilitate engagement with other partners.

We have a close working relationship with the British Horse Society. My officials speak to the British Horse Society's Welsh representative regularly and are assisting them with making contacts and engaging with other partners in Wales.

We appreciate the British Horse Society's expertise in this area. This is why we choose to support their campaigns rather than run our own campaigns.

*Yours ever,*  
*Ken*

**Ken Skates AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400  
[Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales)

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

**Pack Page 69**

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

**P-05-774 Pass Wide and Slow Wales – Correspondence from the  
Petitioner to the Chair, 26.09.17**

David John Rowlands AC  
Chair – Petitions committee

Ref: Pass Wide and Slow Wales Petition

26 September 2017

Firstly we would like to thank members of the committee and support team for allowing us the opportunity to hand in the Pass Wide and Slow Wales (PWASW) petition in, in person on September 26<sup>th</sup>, and for allowing us to bring horses up to the Senedd.

We recognise that in the broader context our campaign crosses several Welsh Government policy agendas including: environment, economy and infrastructure, housing, and health. Our key priority is to educate drivers how to pass horses and riders appropriately to ensure everyone's safety. To do this we must also look at some of the wider issues including:

- The lack of off road and accessible riding in parts of Wales
- New build housing estates increasing the volume of traffic on the roads.
- Infrastructure that cannot cope with the increase of traffic, creating bottlenecks, which results in people using the lanes as a short cut.
- Driver's attitudes towards vulnerable road users, not just horses and riders.
- The national speed limit in country lanes and driving accordingly to the road conditions. Often when riders ask drivers to slow down they are met with a myriad of abuse including 'I'm not speeding, the limit is 60mph'.

The equestrian industry also plays an important role in the Welsh economy, along with the health and wellbeing benefits of being active and being outdoors.

It is very encouraging to see that the Welsh Government (WG) has a positive relationship with the British Horse Society (BHS), and is supportive of the work they do.

The BHS has been very supportive of the Pass Wide and Slow Wales campaign. Working in partnership, we have; promoted the petition, coordinated meetings with South Wales Police and attended the Cross Party Group on The Horse at the Assembly.

The “Dead? or Dead Slow?” campaign delivered by the BHS in 2016 was hard hitting and very informative, and they continue to focus on improving safety including educating riders through the Riding and Road Safety course, and encouraging people to share ‘Dead? Or Dead Slow’ video.

But horse riders are facing an increasing number of incidents when riding on the roads. The number of reported incidents is also increasing since the BHS developed the Horse Accidents website.

We are not asking the WG to create a brand new campaign, but we are asking that more support/leadership, is given to enable the Dead? Or Dead Slow campaign to run annually here in Wales. More so, we would like to see it publicised more widely through main stream media channels, posters etc...to maximize its long term impact.

We feel that education is the best approach, and the one that would have the most positive and lasting outcomes. We, the PWASW petitioners would be more than happy to work with WG, the BHS and other key partners to make this happen.

One incident leading to injury or death of a horse, the rider or a driver is one to many. We need to send a strong but positive united message so drivers understand the consequences of their actions.

Yours sincerely

Jocelle Lovell – lead petitioner  
Rachel Francis  
Ulrike Smalley  
Angela Baker

## Agenda Item 2.4

### **P-05-776 To recognize the three hundredth anniversary of Williams Pantycelyn**

This petition was submitted by Aled Gwyn Job, having collected 545 signatures online.

#### **Petition text:**

We call on the Welsh Government to recognize and commemorate the three hundredth anniversary of the birth of William Williams, Pantycelyn this year (1717–2017). We believe that Williams Pantycelyn has laid the foundations for the modern Wales through all his hymns (over 900), his various literary works (90), and his tireless mission work for the gospel through the whole of Wales for 40 years. The Methodist Reformation of the 18th century, in which Williams played such a key part, led to the establishment of the first national organization in the history of Wales in 400 years, namely the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists (1811). That in turn triggered a series of further educational, social and political reforms which were instrumental in creating the Modern Wales. Pantycelyn therefore is more than just one of the major figures of the faith tradition in Wales. He is one of the major figures of our national story as Welsh people. It is incumbent upon the Welsh Government to recognize his immense contribution to our nation and we call on the Government to arrange an appropriate celebration once the members have returned to Cardiff in September.

#### **Additional information:**

We note that the Welsh Government has organized similar celebrations to mark the contributions of two other prominent Welshmen recently. Last year, the contribution of the children's novelist Roald Dahl was celebrated, and the previous year, the contribution made by the poet Dylan Thomas. Vast sums of Welsh tax payers' money was spent on these events.

With this precedent having been set twice recently, we believe that it would be inexcusable for our national government to refuse to recognize the contribution of Williams Pantycelyn in the same manner.

With all due respect to Dylan Thomas and Roald Dahl, and their individual contributions in the appropriate fields – their contributions to Welsh life cannot be compared with that of the Sweet Songster, William Williams.



There has been fierce public reaction to the recent fiasco of "The Iron Ring" and the idea of spending £400,000 to celebrate the conquest of Wales by Edward I with a piece of art at Flint Castle. The complaint repeatedly expressed by members of the public was how on earth the Welsh Government could be so ignorant and insensitive in relation to Wales's own history?

The celebration and commemoration of the life and work of Williams Pantycelyn in an appropriate manner would indicate that the Welsh Government is sympathetic to our nation's history.

One idea that we would like you to consider is to transfer the funding allocated to the Iron Ring and erect a majestic piece of art in Llandovery to commemorate the Sweet Songster.

#### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Arfon
- South Wales West

## Petitions Briefing

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 3 Hydref, 2017

Petitions Committee | 3 October 2017

### Research briefing: To recognize the three hundredth anniversary of Williams Pantycelyn

Petition number: P-05-776

Petition title: To recognize the three hundredth anniversary of Williams Pantycelyn

Petition topic: We call on the Welsh Government to recognize and commemorate the three hundredth anniversary of the birth of William Williams, Pantycelyn this year (1717–2017). We believe that Williams Pantycelyn has laid the foundations for the modern Wales through all his hymns (over 900), his various literary works (90), and his tireless mission work for the gospel through the whole of Wales for 40 years. The Methodist Reformation of the 18th century, in which Williams played such a key part, led to the establishment of the first national organization in the history of Wales in 400 years, namely the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists (1811). That in turn triggered a series of further educational, social and political reforms which were instrumental in creating the Modern Wales. Pantycelyn therefore is more than just one of the major figures of the faith tradition in Wales. He is one of the major figures of our national story as Welsh people. It is incumbent upon the Welsh Government to recognize his immense contribution to our nation and we call on the Government to arrange an appropriate celebration once the members have returned to Cardiff in September.

#### Additional information:

We note that the Welsh Government has organized similar celebrations to mark the contributions of two other prominent Welshmen recently. Last year, the contribution of the children's novelist Roald Dahl was celebrated, and the previous year, the contribution made by the poet Dylan Thomas. Vast sums of Welsh tax payers' money was spent on these events.

With this precedent having been set twice recently, we believe that it would be inexcusable for our national government to refuse to recognize the contribution of Williams Pantycelyn in the same manner.

With all due respect to Dylan Thomas and Roald Dahl, and their individual contributions in the appropriate fields – their contributions to Welsh life cannot be compared with that of the Sweet Songster, William Williams.

There has been fierce public reaction to the recent fiasco of "The Iron Ring" and the idea of spending £400,000 to celebrate the conquest of Wales by Edward I with a piece of art at Flint Castle. The complaint repeatedly expressed by members of the public was how on earth the Welsh Government could be so ignorant and insensitive in relation to Wales's own history?

The celebration and commemoration of the life and work of Williams Pantycelyn in an appropriate manner would indicate that the Welsh Government is sympathetic to our nation's history.

One idea that we would like you to consider is to transfer the funding allocated to the Iron Ring and erect a majestic piece of art in Llandovery to commemorate the Sweet Songster.

## William Williams Pantycelyn

William Williams was born in Cefn-coed near Pentre-tŷ-gwyn, in the parish of Llanfair-ar y-bryn, Carmarthenshire, in 1717. Following the death of his father, his mother moved to her old family home, a neighbouring farm called Pantycelyn.

William Williams was converted while listening to the evangelist reformer, Howel Harris, preaching in Talgarth cemetery in 1737, before being ordained as a deacon in 1740, and worked as a curate to Theophilus Evans in Llanwrtyd, Llanfihangel and Llanddewi Abergwesyn until 1743. The Bishop of St David's refused to ordain him as a priest in 1743 because of his Methodist activities, so he decided to become a travelling preacher.

William Williams wrote a number of hymns, and his most popular hymn is Arglwydd, Arwain Trwy'r Anialwch, better known as "Guide me, O thou great Jehovah", translated by Peter Williams in 1771. William Williams was not only a hymn writer, he also wrote poetry and prose.

William Williams died in 1791, and was buried in St Mary's Church, Llanfair-ar y-bryn.

## Celebrating Dylan Thomas

In 2014, a series of events was organized by the Welsh Government, the Arts Council, Swansea Council and Carmarthenshire County Council, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Dylan Thomas's birth. The events included:

- A literary tour and exhibition at the National Library;
- Stage performance of A Child's Christmas in Wales;
- Production of Under Milk Wood; and
- Five concerts at Bangor University.

According to [news reports in June 2012](#), a total of £750,000 was available from the Welsh Government, the Arts Council, Swansea Council and Carmarthenshire County Council, for those who wanted to organize events to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Dylan Thomas's birth. £500,000 was available for organizing three or four high quality international events, £225,000 for up to 10 medium-sized events, and £25,000 to be shared among small community events.

## Celebrating Roald Dahl

In 2016, a series of events was organized by the Welsh Government, National Theatre Wales, Wales Millennium Centre and Literature Wales, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Roald Dahl. The events included:

- City of the Unexpected – a joint production between National Theatre Wales and the Wales Millennium Centre, which was performed throughout Cardiff, celebrating Roald Dahl's life and work;
- The Land of Song Project; and
- An exhibition of the illustrations of Quentin Blake who was responsible for creating the drawings for several of Roald Dahl's books.

According to a [Freedom of Information request from October 2016](#), the Welsh Government's Major Events Unit supported two events to celebrate the centenary of Roald Dahl, with the government providing £500,000 of grants towards the projects.

## Welsh Government Response

In response to the petition, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure, Ken Skates, said that the Welsh Government funds the arts through the Arts Council of Wales, which works within a strategic framework set by the Welsh Government. Its Major Events Unit has funded events and activities, organized by partners, as part of the centenary celebrations of Welsh writers, including Roald Dahl and Dylan Thomas. According to the Cabinet Secretary's letter, both these authors have international profiles and the relevant programmes met specific [criteria](#) set by the Welsh Government.

The Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure ends the letter by stating:

*Of course, the Major Events Unit would consider proposals from partners or other groups on ways of celebrating other iconic figures, such as William Williams, Pantycelyn - especially during the Year of Legends 2017. However, it should be noted that it has taken several years to complete the arrangements for the Roald Dahl and Dylan Thomas centenary celebrations.*

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-776  
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/02918/17

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee.

[SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales)

} September 2017

Dear

Thank you for your correspondence dated 10 August regarding the petition calling on the Welsh Government to recognise the three hundredth anniversary of the birth of William Williams, Pantycelyn this year.

The Welsh Government channels funding for the arts through the Arts Council of Wales working within the strategic framework set by Government. The Welsh Government's Major Events Unit (MEU) has previously funded events and activities, which were organised by partners, as part of the centenary celebrations of literary Welsh greats such as Roald Dahl and Dylan Thomas. Both these authors have international profiles and the associated programmes met the advertised criteria (<http://gov.wales/topics/culture-tourism-sport/major-events/?lang=en>).

The MEU would, of course, consider approaches from other groups/partners to commemorate other iconic figures, such as William Williams, Pantycelyn – particularly during the 2017 *Wales Year of Legends*. However, it should be noted that the Roald Dahl and Dylan Thomas centenary events were some years in the planning.

**Ken Skates AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400  
[Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales)

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

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

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

Document is Restricted

## **P-05-776 Cydnabod tri chan mlwyddiant Williams Pantycelyn – Gohebiaeth – gan y deisebydd at y Pwyllgor, 27.09.17**

### **SYLWADAU YCHWANEGOL AR GYFER Y PWYLLGOR DEISEBAU**

HOFFWN gyflwyno'r sylwadau ychwanegol er mwyn iddynt gael eu hystyried gan y Pwyllgor Deisebau sy'n cyfarfod dydd Mawrth nesaf.

Os cofiwch chi, roedd ein deiseb yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i goffau William Williams, Pantycelyn yn ffurfiol i nodi tri chan mlwyddiant ei eni eleni(1717-2017)

Cafodd deiseb Pantycelyn ei chychwyn ar ddechrau mis Awst, ac er mai cyfnod o amser cymharol fyr a neilltuwyd ar gyfer y gwaith o gasglu llofnodion ar y ddeiseb( 6 wythnos i bob pwrpas), cafwyd ymateb arbennig o dda o bob rhan o Gymru, gyda'r cyfanswm terfynol yn cyrraedd 1,111 o enwau.

Yn ystod y cyfnod hwn, dangoswyd cryn ddiddordeb yn y ddeiseb gan y Cyfryngau Cymraeg a Saesneg yng Nghymru ac fe gefais fy nghyfweld ar:

- Taro'r Post, Radio Cymru
- Bwrw Golwg, Radio Cymru
- Pnawn Da, S4C
- Breakfast Show, Radio Wales.

Yn ogystal, cafwyd erthyglau am y ddeiseb yn y papurau canlynol:

- Western Mail
- Daily Post
- Y Goleuad
- Y Tyst

Ar ben hynny, cefais gyfle hefyd i son am y ddeiseb wrth ddegau ar ddegau o unigolion mewn hyd at 12 o eglwysi yn ardal Mon a Gwynedd dros y cyfnod hwn mewn anerchiadau/pregethau yn rhinwedd fy waith fel Gweithiwr Cenhadol gydag Eglwys Bresbyteraidd Cymru

Dydw i ddim yn un am ganu clodydd fy hun, ond byddai'n amhosib rhestru faint yn union o unigolion sydd wedi mynegi diolch i mi a Tim Hodgins, Port Talbot am fynd ati i gynnal y ddeiseb hon. Dyma rai o'r sylwadau ddaeth i law:

**“ Dwi mor ddiolchgar bod rhywun yn gwneud rhywbeth i gofio am Pantycelyn”.**



“ Mae’n warthus nad yw Llywodraeth Cymru –ein llywodraeth ein hunain– wedi meddwl am ei gydnabod eleni ar adeg tri chan mlwyddiant ei eni”

“ Roedd William Williams yn athrylith. Byddai unrhyw genedl gall yn mynd allan o’i ffordd i ddathlu y math o gyfraniad wnaeth o i fywyd ei wlad.”

“ Byddai’n amhosib dychmygu Cymru heddiw heb gyfraniad Williams Pantycelyn”

“Mae hi mor bwysig bod pobl Cymru, yn Gymry Cymraeg a Chymry Di–Gymraeg yn dod i wybod yn iawn am gyfraniad y cawr hwn”

“Mae’n rhaid inni fel cenedl gofio cymaint o gymwynaswr oedd Pantycelyn i’r iaith Gymraeg. Mi wnaeth o ddatblygu iaith swyddogol a ffurfiol Beibl William Morgan a’i throi hi’n gyfrwng byw, deinamig ac ystywyth ryfeddol yn ei holl waith.”

Mae Tim a finnau’n grediniol ein bod wedi cyniwair ryw ddiddordeb newydd ym Mhantycelyn trwy gyfrwng y ddeiseb hon, a’n gobaith ni ydi y bydd modd cynnal a datblygu’r momentwm hwn ymhellach dros weddill y flwyddyn hon ac ymlaen i’r flwyddyn nesaf hefyd.

Yn amlwg, a ninnau’n weithwyr cenhadol gydag Eglwys Bresbyteraidd Cymru, mae cyfraniad enfawr Williams Pantycelyn i’r traddodiad ffydd yng Nghymru yn greiddiol i’r hyn a’n hysgogodd i gychwyn y ddeiseb.

Er gwaetha’r ffigyrau swyddogol sy’n dangos mai 7% yn unig o boblogaeth Cymru sydd bellach yn mynychu ein heglwysi, credwn er hynny fod Cymru’n wlad ysbrydol iawn o hyd. Yn wir, sut allai hi beidio â bod yn wlad ysbrydol o gofio am ddylanwad Cristnogaeth yma ar dirlun a phobl Cymru am 1,500 o flynyddoedd? Mae ysbrydolrwydd Cymru yn parhau’n elfen gref iawn yn ein seic genedlaethol.

Mae cyfraniad Williams Pantycelyn tuag at yr ysbrydolrwydd hynod wydn a chreiddiol hwn yn ein hanes genedlaethol felly yn haeddu cael ei gydnabod yn llawn ac mewn modd hollol deilwng gan ein Llywodraeth ein hunain.

Ond peidiwn ag anghofio chwaith am y modd y bu i Bantycelyn ymestyn terfynau’r iaith Gymraeg ei hun, a’i thywys i gyfeiriadau newydd a mentrus trwy gyfrwng ei 90 o weithiau llenyddol gwahanol.

Cyflwynodd fywyd a sioncrwydd newydd i’r iaith Gymraeg a’i rhyddhau rhag hualau’r ffurfioldeb a’r stiffwrwydd a welwyd yn y cyfieithiadau Cymraeg o’r Beibl a’r Testament Newydd gan William Morgan a William Salesbury– er cymaint oedd camp y ddau wron hynny yn eu tro.

Ac wrth helpu sefydlu'r Seiadau ar draws Cymru o 1750 ymlaen– y grwpiau bach o gredinwyr newydd oedd wedi dod i ffydd yn dilyn diwygiadau'r 18ed ganrif– roedd Pantycelyn hefyd yn gyfrifol am osod y seiliau ar gyfer datblygiad y Gymru Anghydfurfiol yn y 19ganrif, gan mai o'r seiadau hyn y blagurodd yr holl eglwysi a godwyd yng Nghymru yn ystod y ganrif honno ac ymlaen.

A rhaid hefyd cofio am ei ddawn anghymarol fel Cwnselydd i filoedd o ddynion a merched Cymru yn y Seiadau hyn ar draws y wlad am nifer fawr o flynyddoedd. Roedd un o'i weithiau olaf "Drws y Society Profiad" yn dangos sut oedd y seiadau hyn yn gweithredu fel "clinig yr enaid" i'r mynychwyr: wrth i Williams eu hannog, eu calonogi a'u hysbrydoli yn eu bywyd Cristnogol.

Ac a wnes i son am yr 80,000 o filltiroedd a deithiodd o rownd Cymru dros 40 mlynedd di-dor?!!

I derfynu, hoffem erfyn arnoch chi fel Pwyllgor Deisebau i wneud eich gorau glas i ddylanwadu ar Lywodraeth Cymru i fynd ati i gydnabod William Williams, Pantycelyn a'i gyfraniad aruthrol i fywyd Cymru.

Rydym wedi cael ar ddeall fod Ken Skates, y Gweinidog Diwylliant eisoes fel pe bai'n cyflwyno esgusodion ar ran Llywodraeth Cymru trwy ddweud fod dathliadau Dylan Thomas a Roald Dahl( a gostiodd £2 filiwn i drethdalwyr Cymru!!) wedi cymryd tair mlynedd i'w paratoi.

Mawr obeithiwn y byddwch yn herio'r ffasiwn esgusodion tila gan Weinidog Diwylliant sy'n amlwg yn gwbl anwybodus a di-ddeall ynghylch diwylliant a hanes Cymru.

Er mwyn symud y drafodaeth yn ei blaen, hoffem gyflwyno'r syniadau hyn i'ch sylw fel Pwyllgor Deisebau:

- Yn ein trafodaethau gyda gwahanol bobl dros yr wythnosau diwethaf– cafwyd consensws y byddai'n briodol iawn comisiynu darn o gelf arloesol a chreadigol yn Llanymddyfri er mwyn coffau Pantycelyn. Gellid seilio'r darn hwn o gelf ar y thema ganlynol: "Grym Geiriau i Symud ac Ysbrydoli Cenedl" gan gyfuno'r syniad o'r Gair( Y Ffydd Gristnogol) a'r holl eiriau gwahanol a sgwennodd Pantycelyn yn ystod ei oes.
- Pam na ellid trosglwyddo cyfran o'r £400,000 oedd wedi ei glustnodi ar gyfer "Y Cylch Haearn" tuag at y gwaith celf hwn? Gan ddefnyddio arian trethdalwyr Cymru ar gyfer rhywbeth sy'n ein dyrchafu fel cenedl–yn hytrach na dewis ymdrybaeddu yn ein darostyngiad cenedlaethol.

- Beth am greu Cystadleuaeth Gymreig– gan wahodd artistiaid o Gymru i gyflwyno eu syniadau ar gyfer y gwaith celf yn Llanymddyfri?
- Beth am drefnu “Taith Pantycelyn”. Comisiynu sgriptwyr ac actor I ail–greu rhai o deithiau Pantycelyn a chyflwyno ei hanes yn uniongyrchol mewn cymunedau ar hyd a lled y wlad. Gellid targedu ysgolion, ond byddai modd hefyd cynnal perfformiadau cymunedol a fyddai’n gallu denu diddordeb cyhoeddus yn ei fywyd a’i waith.

Yn olaf, hoffai Tim a finnau ddiolch o galon i gynrychiolwyr Y Pwyllgor Deisebau am eu croeso, eu cwrteisi a’u gwrandawriad parchus wrth inni gyflwyno’r ddeiseb yn ffurfiol yn y senedd yr wythnos ddiwethaf.

Mewn oes pan fo’r rhan fwyaf o bobl wedi cael llond bol go iawn gyda gwleidyddiaeth a gwleidyddion yn gyffredinol– yn enwedig yn sgil Brexit– roedd hi’n braf iawn gweld bod yna groeso I ddinasyddion Cymru gyflwyno achos i sylw ein gwleidyddion ni yng Nghaerdydd a chael cystal gwrandawriad wrth wneud hynny.

Hyderwn y gallwch ein cynorthwyo i symud yr ymgyrch hon yn ei blaen.

Diolch yn fawr

Yr eiddoch yn gywir

Aled Gwyn Jôb

Caernarfon



# Agenda Item 2.5

## P-05-778 Protect the Razor Clams on Llanfairfechan Beach

This petition was submitted by Vanessa L Dye, having collected 225 signatures online and 234 on paper – a total of 459 signatures.

### **Petition text:**

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

- commission a research study to ascertain the state of the health of the razor clam beds and their viability as a long term natural resource, and put in place a moratorium for fishing of razor clams until the research can report its findings;
- ratify a 'closed' season for the harvesting of razor clams aligned to the spawning season i.e. May to September;
- draw up regulations in addition to the minimum landing size of 10cm to include set quotas that individuals are allowed to take; and
- bring forward legislation and regulations to protect the razor clams on Llanfairfechan beach.

"The mass harvesting of razor clams on Llanfairfechan beach has been a matter of concern for many residents and conservationists for a number of years." (Ref: letter to Cabinet Secretary Lesley Griffiths AM from Janet Finch Saunders AM 28th July 2017.

Currently the only regulatory control on razor clams is that they must have a legal minimum landing size of 10cm, and there are checks relating to the control of clams ending in the food chain. Many residents are concerned about the apparent lack of procedures and/or regulations governing the taking of razor clams particularly in respect of designating a 'closed' season during spawning, quotas allowed, and the need for research evidence to be conducted on the razor clams to ascertain the impact on the local environment and ecosystem.

Since 2013 it has been noted by several sources that razor clams are being harvested in great numbers from Llanfairfechan beach. Evidence to support this claim has been documented on numerous occasions on social media. A recent request on the Llanfairfechan Noticeboard for any pictures or video footage of those gathering the razor clams clearly shows that there are large numbers of people involved in this activity. The gathering of the razor clams generally takes place after a high tide.

**Additional information:**

Just to provide some historic background about this issue. In 2013 the harvesting activity was brought to light by the Weekly News newspaper by Tom Davidson when it was noted that there was “A gang of more than 100 people harvesting huge amounts of razor clams.....” There were also concerns that illegal workers were being exploited and that the clams were being fished for commercial purposes. At the time, one resident said “they had seen similar scenes involving an increasing number of gatherers over the last few weeks. Residents are angry at the sheer number of harvesters with fears the local habitat could be damaged irreparably, with hundreds of clams taken off the beach regularly.” Whilst fears about the gatherers being used as part of modern slavery and the shellfish ending up in the food chain have been allayed by the ongoing efforts of the police and Food Standards Agency. The environmental consequences of this sustained and systematic removal of razor clams remains a major issue, which may impact on the other marine and bird life within the area, along with causing possible changes in the density of sand on the beach. There are some fears regarding the sand being unstable in places and people unfamiliar with the beach could easily get into difficulties e.g. some gatherers harvest the clams some distance away from the safety of the land. It has been quite disempowering and frustrating for ordinary citizens to watch the pillaging of an environmental resource and question why organisations who's remit is to protect the environment appear to be hamstrung because of the lack of appropriate procedures/laws. This is surprising given that Llanfairfechan beach is designated as a Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). 2013. Surely there must be regulations within these bodies of knowledge to tap into as a source to protect this imbalance in such an ecosystem?

**Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Not provided

# Petition: Protect the Razor Clams on Llanfairfechan Beach

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 3 Mis Hydref 2017

Petitions Committee | 3 October 2017

## Research Briefing:

Petition number: [P-05-0778](#)

Petition title: **Protect the Razor Clams on Llanfairfechan Beach**

Text of petition:

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

- commission a research study to ascertain the state of the health of the razor clam beds and their viability as a long term natural resource, and put in place a moratorium for fishing of razor clams until the research can report its findings;
- ratify a 'closed' season for the harvesting of razor clams aligned to the spawning season i.e. May to September;
- draw up regulations in addition to the minimum landing size of 10cm to include set quotas that individuals are allowed to take; and
- bring forward legislation and regulations to protect the razor clams on Llanfairfechan beach.

"The mass harvesting of razor clams on Llanfairfechan beach has been a matter of concern for many residents and conservationists for a number of years." (Ref: letter to Cabinet Secretary Lesley Griffiths AM from Janet Finch Saunders AM 28th July 2017.

Currently the only regulatory control on razor clams is that they must have a legal minimum landing size of 10cm, and there are checks relating to the control of clams ending in the food chain. Many residents are concerned about the apparent lack of procedures and/or regulations governing the taking of razor clams particularly in respect of designating a 'closed' season during spawning, quotas allowed, and the need for research evidence to be conducted on the razor clams to ascertain the impact on the local environment and ecosystem.

Since 2013 it has been noted by several sources that razor clams are being harvested in great numbers from Llanfairfechan beach. Evidence to support this claim has been documented on numerous occasions on social media. A recent request on the

Llanfairfechan Noticeboard for any pictures or video footage of those gathering the razor clams clearly shows that there are large numbers of people involved in this activity. The gathering of the razor clams generally takes place after a high tide.

Just to provide some historic background about this issue. In 2013 the harvesting activity was brought to light by the Weekly News newspaper by Tom Davidson when it was noted that there was “A gang of more than 100 people harvesting huge amounts of razor clams.....” There were also concerns that illegal workers were being exploited and that the clams were being fished for commercial purposes. At the time, one resident said “they had seen similar scenes involving an increasing number of gatherers over the last few weeks. Residents are angry at the sheer number of harvesters with fears the local habitat could be damaged irreparably, with hundreds of clams taken off the beach regularly.” Whilst fears about the gatherers being used as part of modern slavery and the shellfish ending up in the food chain have been allayed by the ongoing efforts of the police and Food Standards Agency. The environmental consequences of this sustained and systematic removal of razor clams remains a major issue, which may impact on the other marine and bird life within the area, along with causing possible changes in the density of sand on the beach. There are some fears regarding the sand being unstable in places and people unfamiliar with the beach could easily get into difficulties e.g. some gatherers harvest the clams some distance away from the safety of the land. It has been quite disempowering and frustrating for ordinary citizens to watch the pillaging of an environmental resource and question why organisations who's remit is to protect the environment appear to be hamstrung because of the lack of appropriate procedures/laws. This is surprising given that Llanfairfechan beach is designated as a Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) 2013. Surely there must be regulations within these bodies of knowledge to tap into as a source to protect this imbalance in such an ecosystem?

## Background

### Razor clam harvesting

The razor clam (*Ensis spp.*) is a long-lived, slow growing bivalve mollusc with two tall rectangular shells that can reach up to 20cm in length (Figure 1). They are commonly found in muddy or sandy intertidal and subtidal areas around the British coast. Razor clams are filter feeders and normally live vertically in burrows within the sediment with two small siphons (tube-like structures) for feeding, that can be visible on the surface. Spawning season occurs in summer.



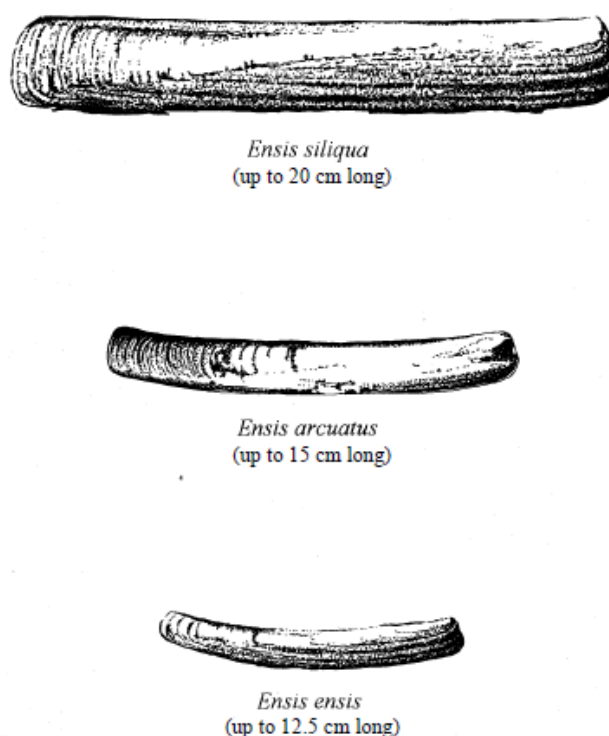


Figure 1: Commercial species of razor clams in the UK

[Source: Pyke, M. 2012. Evaluation of Good Handling Practice for Razor Clams. [Seafish report CR184 \(PDF 1.62MB\)](#)]

Razor clams can be harvested in a number of different ways, for example, hand gathering on the foreshore using rakes and buckets usually at low tide, dredge caught by vessels and diver caught. According to the [Marine Conservation Society's](#) Good Fish Guide sustainability rating of *Ensis spp.*:

Avoid eating clams harvested using illegal methods such as electrical fishing. Choose clams harvested in the wild by sustainable methods such as hand-gathering only. Avoid eating undersized animals (less than 10cm) and wild clams harvested during the spawning season (May – September).

Since the expansion of the fishery there have been no stock assessments and improved information on the state of the stocks is required.

The growing market for razor clams is predominantly for high value exports via air freight to the Far East and Europe.

### Welsh fisheries management and inshore fishery legislation

Management of fisheries is devolved to Wales through the *Government of Wales Act 2006*. The Welsh Government is responsible for management and regulation of aquaculture, intertidal, commercial and recreational sea fisheries in Wales, including its territorial seas (0–

12nm) and the Welsh Zone (as set out in [\*The Welsh Zone \(Boundaries and Transfer of Functions\) Order 2010\*](#)).

The [minimum conservation reference size](#) in UK waters for *Ensis spp.* is 10cm. There is no quota management in place for razor clam fishing in Wales. [Byelaw 12 – Restrictions on Fishing for Bivalve Molluscan Shellfish – applies to North Wales in the 0–6 nautical mile area \(PDF 250KB\)](#). It states:

1. No person shall fish for bivalve molluscan shellfish, except
  - a) by hand; or
  - b) in the case of cockles with a craam, rake, spade or jumbo; or
  - c) in the case of mussels with a rake or in that part of the District which is inshore of a line drawn North true from Penmaen-Bach Point (Latitude 53° 17.3' North, Longitude 03° 52.8' West) to the high water mark at Gt. Ormes Head with a rake, provided that the rake is no more than 1 metre in width and that it is only used from a boat when the mussel bed has at least 1 metre of water over it; or
  - d) when using a dredge or other appliance where:
    - (i) such dredge or appliance is of a pattern approved in writing by the Committee, the Committee having been advised by scientists who in the opinion of the Committee appear to be suitably qualified to comment on the conservation and environmental implications;
    - (ii) such use is in accordance with a written authorisation issued by the Committee and with any conditions subject to which that authorisation was issued, including prohibitions on use at particular times, or in particular areas and definitions of the fishing instrument. The Committee may also require as a condition that returns be made on the species and quantities of bivalve molluscan shellfish taken.
2. no person shall take or use on any mussel bed, any sledge or other contrivance which in the opinion of the Committee is likely to crush or loosen the mussels or loosen the foundations of the bed, without a written authorisation issued by the Committee.
3. no person shall dig in any mussel bed for any purpose without a written authorisation issued by the Committee.

There have been a number of [media reports](#) of commercial razor clam collecting on the foreshore at Llanfairfechan. Prior to 19 August 2017 (see subsequent section on Welsh Government Action) razor clams could be gathered for personal consumption from the area. However, the area is not [classified as a shellfish harvesting area](#) (a requirement under European Regulation 854/2004). As such they cannot be sold into the supply chain, as shellfish must adhere to strict food safety rules (health and hygiene standards).

## Assessing the impacts of fishing activities on Marine Protected Areas

The Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales<sup>1</sup> (NRW) are working together to [assess the impacts of fishing activities on Welsh Marine Protected Areas](#)<sup>2</sup>. Phase 1 of this project has been completed and generated a number of outputs including a risk matrix of fishing gear and habitat feature interactions and an associated report. The matrix's final risk rating and prioritisation category for 'towed dredges for mussels, clams and oysters' against all Welsh habitats was assessed as a category grey. The report states:

**Grey** – interaction cannot feasibly or legally occur in Welsh waters or the activity is assessed in a Habitat Regulation Assessment under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, it is therefore not considered further in the current round of assessments...

For mobile species, such as estuarine birds, cetaceans and seals, 'towed dredges for mussels, clams and oysters' has been identified as a low risk interaction. Phase 2 of the project is underway by [NRW, and will assess high risk activities](#) such as mobile gears on sensitive reef habitats. Following this, the Welsh Government will then consider the assessment and decide whether it is necessary to adopt and implement appropriate management solutions.

## Management of the north Irish Sea Razor Fishery

Due to concerns over a lack of quota and the future viability of the fishery in the north Irish sea (north of Dublin Bay), and potential impacts on adjacent Natura 2000 sites, the Irish Government's Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine undertook a [consultation](#) in 2014. The consultation contained management proposals for the fishery, prepared by the North Irish Sea Razor Fishermen's Organisation. These included:

- Weekly Total Allowable Catch limits;
- Closed season during the spawning season (4 weeks);
- Closed areas (to allow clam beds to recover, if catch rates decline below a particular threshold);
- Information and monitoring (for example, gatherers to submit landings data within 48 hours, vessel logbooks and GPS tracking devices on vessels); and
- Review of management (6 months after their introduction and annually thereafter).

Following this consultation a number of regulations were introduced. The [Razor Clam \(Conservation of Stocks\) \(North Irish Sea\) Regulations 2015](#) implemented a weekly catch limit for vessels and limiting fishing to certain days of the week (Monday to Saturday only). These

---

<sup>1</sup> Natural Resources Wales is the statutory nature conservation advisor to the Welsh Government, advising on the environmental sustainability of management measures on Marine Protected Area features.

<sup>2</sup> Marine Protected Areas include Natura 2000 sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas).

regulations were subsequently amended to reduce the weekly limit from 700kg per boat per week, to 600kg per boat per week. A closed season for 2015 was introduced for the spawning season (12 June – 5 July) by the *Razor Clam (Conservation of Stocks) (North Irish Sea) (Spawning Season) Regulations 2015*. Furthermore, on 2 May 2015, the following Ireland-wide measures for razor clams were introduced:

- Obligations to weigh and report all razor clam landings;
- A requirement to ensure fishing takes place only in shellfish production areas which have been classified for razor clams;
- A requirement to fish in only one class of shellfish production area, from a seafood safety perspective, per day; and
- An obligation for vessels in Irish waters to carry GPS tracking equipment.

In relation to the protection of Natura 2000 sites, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine advised that mitigation plans would be developed for sites with features at risk from certain fishing activities. Decommissioning of vessels to reduce the number of vessels targeting razor clams is also being considered.

### Electrofishing for razor clams in Scotland

Fishing using electricity is currently prohibited under [EU regulation 850/98](#) (Article 31). Following a public consultation in 2016, a limited trial electrofishing for razor clams was [permitted by Marine Scotland](#) in April 2017 in a number restricted locations around the Scottish coast. This technique involves low electric currents being emitted from probes that are pulled slowly over the seabed from a vessel. The electricity stuns the clams (and other animals in the seabed) causing the clams to emerge from their burrows, and they are then caught by divers. The trial will be used to gather information on stocks and population structure. In addition stock assessment surveys are planned.

### National Assembly for Wales action

This matter has not been considered before either in Plenary or by any Assembly Committee.

### Welsh Government action

On 19 August 2017 the Welsh Government [issued a public notice](#) under Byelaw 16 (Shell Fishery – Temporary Closure) of the former North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee. It took effect 00:01 on 19 August 2017 and applies until 23:59 on 31 December 2017. It states:

No person may remove, take or disturb any razor clams for a bed or part of a bed of razor clams which has been closed by this Notice.

The notice spatially applies to:

The Areas closed by this notices are the areas known as the beaches of Llanfairfechan and Penmaenmawr which lie below the line of the Highest Astronomical Tides bounded in the west by the Afon Llanfairfechan at Llanfairfechan and bounded in the east by the eastern end of the Promenade at Penmaenmawr.

The Welsh Government's [webpage](#) states:

Following concerns about the status of razor clam stocks at Llanfairfechan and Penmaenmawr, we have temporarily closed this razor clam fishery until 1st January 2018. This will allow us to conduct a survey to determine the health of the razor clam stocks and ensure they are not over fished.

The Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs' letter on 29 August 2017 to the Chair of Petitions Committee advises:

The razor clam bed at Llanfairfechan is currently closed to gathering until 1 January 2018.

Now the fishery at Llanfairfechan is closed, officials will commission a survey to establish the status of the stock before I consider when the fishery should reopen or if any additional restrictions or changes to current legislation are necessary.

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

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-778  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/01961/17

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee.  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

29 August 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 17 August, regarding Petition P-05-778 Protect the Razor Clams on Llanfairfechan Beach.

The razor clam bed at Llanfairfechan is currently closed to gathering until 1 January 2018.

Now the fishery at Llanfairfechan is closed, officials will commission a survey to establish the status of the stock before I consider when the fishery should reopen or if any additional restrictions or changes to current legislation are necessary.

Regards

Lesley

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400  
[Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales)

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

**Pack Page 98**

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

## **P-05-778 Protect the Razor Clams on Llanfairfechan Beach – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 26.09.17**

### **INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF PETITION 1229**

#### **PROTECT THE RAZOR CLAMS ON LLANFAIRFECHAN BEACH**

##### **PREFACE**

It is important to make clear to the Petition Committee that ideas set out in these supporting notes have been canvassed from as wide and as representative of the local populace, as possible , working within the time limits of preparing the petition.

##### **BACKGROUND**

###### **1.1 Razor Clams in brief**

Razor clams are bivalve molluscs which look like old fashioned razors, (hence the name). Information garnered from different sources; including correspondence from Conwy Council and Janet Finch-Saunders (AM); specifies that razor clams live up to twenty years taking some time to mature. It is believed that the clam bed on Llanfairfechan beach is one of the finest in the country, and it acts as a nursery for up to six different species of clams.

###### **1.2 Current controls, regulations and thoughts about quotas**

(a) Current legislation dictates that any razor clams harvested should only be used for personal consumption or as fish bait, and cannot be used in a food business i.e. commercially. (M.Frankcom Public Protection Manager 2016). In addition, they must achieve a landing length of at least 10 cm.

(b) Information gleaned from Head of Regulatory Services CCBC,states that:  
*“Razor clams are (subject to) the requirements of food hygiene regulations including Regulation 853/2004 for LBMs would therefore apply. The primary requirements if they are harvested for commercial purposes are:*

- *The shellfish harvesting area must be classified.....*
- *The classification given to the bed would then determine what could happen to the shellfish once gathered. If the bed was determined to be a category A bed, the shellfish could be consumed immediately; a category b bed would need to go for further treatment...etc. etc.*

***Currently, Llanfairfechan is not a classified for Razor Shells and any gathering for commercial purposes would not be permitted. A section of the beach at Llanfairfechan is***

*classified for Cockles (under Traeth lafan) however; this would not automatically mean it would be classified for razors.*

(c) In respect of collecting cockles the *“fisheries do permit an individual to gather up to 5kg of shell fish per day”*. However, if Llanfairfechan beach was ‘classified’ for razor clams, and given the number of ‘individuals’ involved in removing razor clams, this 5kg benchmark would appear to be too generous. For example, using a hypothetical number of 50 gatherers with each taking 5 kg the amount taken would be nearly half a ton. This is a moot point given that many gatherers visiting Llanfairfechan beach go well beyond a 5 kg quota, with some using large wheelie trollies.

## 2. CONTINUING CONCERNS

Over the last 4 – 5 years it has been noted the numbers of people harvesting razor clams on Llanfairfechan beach has escalated, with, sometimes, up to 100 people involved (Weekly news 26<sup>th</sup> August 2013 – reported by Tom Davidson). Large scale harvesting of the razor clams has continued up to the present time, with gatherers coming at low tides. Video and photographic evidence of the harvesting, along with discussion posts highlighting ongoing concerns, has been shared on social media, most recently: (Facebook – Llanfairfechan Noticeboard group – 27<sup>th</sup> April, 8<sup>th</sup> May, 25<sup>th</sup> June, and 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017).

Here are a few points selected from these on-line posts. *“Lads fishing in the beach are not allowed to take any bass.....until July 1<sup>st</sup>, then only one a day. Yet these people are allowed to take as much as they want with no thought for conservation of the fish stock and food chain”*.

*“Doesn’t anybody have the power to stop them?”*

*“The razor clams will be gone before any petition will do anything.....”*

Each time the gathering takes place there is a corresponding ground swell of debate on social media, along with many residents contacting the various authorities which oversee these activities. The evident lack of regulations leaves residents frustrated and disempowered as they watch the regular, and seemingly, perfectly legal, removal of an important environmental resource.

## 3. AUTHORITIES INVOLVED

Since, 2015 multi-agency operations have been conducted involving the Food Safety & Standards Team of Conwy Council, Harbour Master Conwy Council, Welsh Food Fraud



Co-ordination unit (FSA Wales), North Wales Police, Gang-masters Licensing Authority, Border Agency, North Wales Anti-slavery team and the Welsh Assembly Government Inshore Fisheries Unit and Natural Resources Wales. During this operation, investigations were carried out including identity checks on gatherers and identifying any potential links to food businesses. The operations, so far, have not exposed evidence that would indicate that the clams were being harvested for commercial purposes. These investigations have also allayed concerns that some of gatherers may have been being used as part of modern slavery operation. However, the continuing systematic removal of the clams remains unresolved.

#### **4. ASSEMBLY QUESTION TO THE FIRST MINISTER on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016**

Last year Janet Finch-Saunders(AM) raised questions and concerns in the Welsh Assembly about this activity and here is part of the response from Carwyn Jones: *Hand gathering of shellfish (including razor clams), on beaches such as Llanfairfechan, is not restricted as regards the quantities that may be collected. We do not have any evidence that such activity represents a significant threat to the stock of razor clams around the Welsh coast, nor to the ecosystem which they inhabit, nor to other environmental features that we might wish or need to protect. On that basis, we do not currently intend to regulate this activity”.*

#### **5. RAZOR CLAMS – PUBLIC MEETING 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017– Janet Finch-Saunders (AM)**

Many of those attending the meeting expressed strong feelings regarding the sustainability of the razor clam beds and the environmental and economic consequences on this ongoing gathering, such as the possible impact on other marine life, birds, other fishing activities and reputational damage to tourism within Llanfairfechan.

The meeting was informed that razor clams can be taken for personal consumption. Once again the 5kg quota was mentioned, and whilst such a quantity seemed reasonable; on face value; anxieties were voiced about the large numbers of gatherers involved. Along with the fact that some of the gatherers are now using large back packs of salt dispensers in order to obtain the shellfish.

A few concerns were raised regarding problems encountered with littering e.g. empty salt bottles and some incidents of anti-social behaviour exhibited by a few of the gatherers. Further questions were asked as to whether there was any existing research to provide evidence as to the density and types of the razor clams found within the beds, but the panel were unable to comment. It was suggested that research should be initiated in order to establish the facts and check the sustainability of the beds. Some points were mooted about the possibility of having a closed season for the clam beds, in a bid to allow recovery of the beds. A number of people called for

new legislation in order to further protect the razor clams.

## **6. LETTER OUTLINING CONCERNS WAS SENT TO LESLEY GRIFFITHS (AM) Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs after the public meeting**

## **7. TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF RAZOR CLAM BEDS**

### **7.1 Byelaw 16 put in place by the former North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee**

Since 19<sup>th</sup> August there has been a temporary closure of the razor clam beds.

### **7.2 Continuation of gathering**

Irrespective of the closure of the razor beds discussion on social media, (22<sup>nd</sup> August), indicated that gatherers were still coming to collect razor clams and Fishery officers had to be in attendance a number of times.(See newspaper clip included with these notes).

## **8. PETITION SUGGESTIONS**

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

- commission a research study to ascertain the state of the health of the razor clam beds and their viability as a long term natural resource, and put in place a moratorium for fishing of razor clams until the research can report its findings;
- ratify a 'closed' season for the harvesting of razor clams aligned to the spawning season i.e. May to September;
- draw up regulations in addition to the minimum landing size of 10cm to include set quotas that individuals are allowed to take; and bring forward legislation and regulations to protect the razor clams on Llanfairfechan beach

### **8.1 RESEARCH**

It seems inconceivable that the agency set up, in part, to protect and conserve the marine life around our lovely coastline appeared somewhat hamstrung by the lack of legislation to protect this particular species. Concerned residents have welcomed the temporary closure of the razor clam beds and assume the closure is in place in order to conduct research on the density and 'health' of the razor clam beds?

### **8.2 CLOSED SEASON**

As expressed by a number of attendees at the Public meeting (ITEM 5), there are closed seasons in place for cockles and for the hunting of wildfowl, but presently there is no closed season for the razor clam beds. Razor clams are not like

blackberries, they will not return as an annual event. Therefore, instituting a closed season would, at least, allow time for the fish beds to recover. The logical period for such a closed season should coincide with the spawning period.

### **8.3 QUOTAS**

Clearly, the amounts of razor clams currently being taken may endanger the long term sustainability of the beds, which is likely to affect, and impact on a variety of other marine and bird life which depend on the presence of the razor clams. Being conscious of the need to protect those people who gather the clams simply for fishing bait perhaps 'classifying' the beds may not be the most appropriate option to take.

In addition, although, there has been a lack of evidence to support the notion that gatherers are taking the clams for commercial purposes, the fact that the present day prices of razor clams online is around £30 plus per kilo, suggests that potential gatherers should be supporting the economy by some means of fees or licensing.

## **9. FINAL COMMENTS**

Razor shell fish may not be particularly pretty, interesting or cuddly, but they form part of the unique and beautiful environment of Llanfairfechan beach. The stories about overfishing are being played out across the planet, which resonates with the need to be proactive about what and how we are treating the environment at local and national level.

Llanfairfechan beach is a stunning visitor attraction which, in turn, brings much needed revenue to the local area. The impact of seeing large numbers of gatherers on the beach may not provide a good impression for visitors.

There will always be vital and important issues at the forefront of the Government's agenda, such as 'Brexit', 'Health' and 'Education', but it is hoped that some time and attention can be devoted to devising suitable and robust legislation to protect these razor beds for the future.

CONSERVATION

# Illegal harvesting 'could destroy razor clam beds'

By Dean Kirby

Gangs of razor clam "poachers" are targeting a Welsh beach despite the practice being banned due to conservation fears as residents warn of an impending environmental disaster.

Homeowners in the seaside town of Llanfairfechan, in north Wales, say they have seen up to 20 pickers at a time leaving the beach carrying large bags of the clams in recent days.

The razor clam beds at Llanfairfechan and nearby Penmaenmawr were shut by the Welsh Government due to fears about over-harvesting. Fishing them even for personal consumption is banned.

Warning notices on the beaches, between Bangor and Conwy, say the closure from 19 August until 31 December has been introduced to "conserve and protect razor clam stocks".

Vanessa Dye, who lives in the town, has launched two petitions in the last few days which have already been signed by nearly 300 people calling for enforcement to stop the practice.

She told **i**: "The gatherers are still coming and taking the clams. It's a big environmental concern for local

**i** Razor clams, also known as razor fish or "spoots", are shellfish that burrow into sand. They got their name because their shells resemble **old-fashioned cut-throat razors**.

people. You hear about over-fishing all over the world and the huge impact it can have. Lots of people are concerned. Even if people were taking a plateful, it would be a problem, but they are taking much more than that. We're hoping the petitions will prompt more robust legislation."

In 2013, a gang of more than 100 razor clam pickers at Llanfairfechan sparked an investigation into illegal fishing after they were spotted hauling sledges and buckets back to the shore at low tide. It was feared that foreign nationals were being exploited by gang masters to gather them.

A spokesman for the Welsh Government said it was encouraging people to report any razor clam fishing at the beach. Janet Finch-Saunders, Welsh Assembly member for Aberconwy, said enforcement must be "robust". "Over the past few years residents and business owners have raised many concerns with me regarding the influx of up to 150 individuals who are on the sands daily," she added. "There are fears that the huge amounts taken and the constant over-harvesting will lead to the destruction of these beds."

"I have called on the Welsh Government, the local authority, and other agencies to take proactive action to provide assurances that these beds will not be destroyed."



Razor clams are still being picked despite a ban meant to protect stocks



# Agenda Item 3.1

## **P-05-757 Remove the Obligation on Schools to Hold Acts of Religious Worship**

This petition was submitted by Rhiannon Shipton & Lily McAllister-Sutton having collected 1,333 signatures.

### **Petition text:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to pass a law that removes the obligation on Schools to hold acts of religious worship.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region.**

- Cardiff South and Penarth
- South Wales Central

## Agenda Item 3.2

### **P-05-765 Keeping Current Guidelines for Religious Assemblies**

This petition was submitted by Iraj Irfan, having collected a total of 2,231 signatures – 2,209 signatures online and 22 paper signatures in an alternative petition.

#### **Petition text:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to keep religious assemblies in state schools in Wales as ‘opt-out’ and ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’, while considering ways to ensure that they continue to be relevant to people of different faiths and no faith.

#### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Cardiff West
- South Wales Central

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-757 and P-05-765  
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/01220/17

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

31 July 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 24 July about petitions in relation to collective worship.

On balance there is clear strength of feeling both for and against maintaining collective worship. In order for me to give these matters my full consideration, I will respond to your questions in early September before the next scheduled Petitions Committee meeting. This will include my consideration of whether the Welsh Government will contemplate reviewing the law and guidelines surrounding collective worship, and whether the collective worship requirement placed on schools breaches human rights law.

I have previously stated that with curriculum reform being a driving focus for schools in Wales, it would not be appropriate to review collective worship until the new curriculum has been established. However, I will consider this position before replying to you in September.

Yours sincerely

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

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

[Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales)

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

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



Kirsty Williams AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-05-757 and P-05-765  
Ein cyf/Our ref: MA - P/KW/3171/17

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

20 September 2017

Dear David,

In my letter of 31 July, I undertook to provide an update on considerations regarding Collective Worship in schools in Wales.

As part of this process, I asked my officials to review this area, including a focus on the specific issues raised by the Committee around legislation and the compatibility of the current requirements with human rights law.

This has raised a number of complex legal and policy issues which require detailed consideration. In light of this, I intend to provide a more substantive response on this matter later in the Autumn.

Yours sincerely

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

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

[Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales)

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

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

**Coleg Busnes, Gwyddorau  
Cymdeithas a'r Gyfraith**  
Athrolys  
Prifysgol Bangor  
Gwynedd  
LL57 2DG



PRIFYSGOL  
**BANGOR**  
UNIVERSITY

**College of Business, Social  
Sciences and Law**  
Athrolys  
Bangor University  
Gwynedd  
LL57 2DG

Ffôn: +44 (0) 1248 388204  
E-bost: a.mawhinney@bangor.ac.uk

Phone: +44 (0) 1248 388204  
E-mail: a.mawhinney@bangor.ac.uk

14 August 2017

Dear Mr Francis,

I note with interest that following a petition on the matter, the Petitions Committee has asked the Cabinet Secretary for Education whether the Welsh Government will consider reviewing the current law and guidelines surrounding collective worship, and if any consideration has been given to the compatibility of the current requirements with human rights law.

I recently directed a two-year UK government-funded inter-disciplinary network that examined the law and policy on collective worship in schools throughout the UK. Our report was cited in the Research Brief which was prepared for the Committee. I enclose copies of the report and would be grateful if you could distribute them amongst the Committee members along with this note.

I would highlight a number of points.

1. The duty was introduced in 1944 'to help bolster the moral fibre of the nation' during the Second World War. Interestingly many Welsh MPs were strongly against it. In his speech against the introduction of the law, the Labour MP for Aberavon, William Cove, called it an unwelcomed 'revolution in British educational history' as never before had the British State mandated its non-religious state schools to promote a certain religious view. However, the Welsh MPs were outvoted and the Government passed the law arguing, inter alia, that 'it is impossible for the Anglo-Saxon conception of democracy to function unless it is based on the Christian ethic' and thus school worship needed to be introduced to support this ethic.

2. The duty introduced in 1944 was later copper-fastened and narrowed in the 1988 Education Reform Act: the worship now had to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.' This development was surprising given that a substantial number of parliamentary and government bodies had called for the duty to be completely abolished. As one commentator (Richard Cheetham) notes it was essentially a combination of the Christian religious right and the political right drawn from the Conservative Party, and with Mrs Thatcher's support, that successfully worked to ensure that the duty not only stayed but was narrowed in this fashion.

3. It is interesting to read the parliamentary speeches of the time and note the focus on England and the lack of attention paid to the different context and needs existing in Wales, including the lack of an established church here. For example, Baroness MacLeod in arguing for the law to be maintained held that 'The Christian religion is part of our country, part of our heritage, with the Queen as head of the Church and the nation', while Baroness Strange argued that 'Great Britain is supposed to be a Christian country. We have an established Christian religion'.
4. The key message from our report is that policymakers must, in deciding whether to maintain, abolish or reform the current duty, ask the following basic question: *'is there a need for a collective activity over and beyond that of a regular school assembly?'* A regular school assembly is understood as a time where pupils gather to share and celebrate news and achievements, and perhaps occasionally give short talks/presentations on topics of importance to them, but does not involve a religious element.
5. Various discussions on this question have failed to convince that there is such a need. At times there is talk of the need for building school community spirit and cohesion but the counter argument expressed is that this can be achieved through the regular assembly (as described above). Sometimes there is vague talk of the need for spiritual and moral development, and improved 'religious literacy', but when asked what this would look like in a 10 minute session at the start of the school day with a large group of pupils few concrete suggestions are put forward. Indeed, for many this type of development is better and more effectively achieved through curriculum activities and subjects. The current reform of the religious education curriculum in Wales represents an excellent opportunity and example of where such developmental and educational needs can be incorporated and met.
6. A focus on human rights issues can tend to mask the key question that needs to be addressed, i.e., *'is there a need for a collective activity over and beyond that of a regular school assembly?'* However, so long as the duty continues in schools, there are a number of human rights issues around the question of those who do not wish to participate in the worship. There must always be an opt-out for those who do not want to attend. Human rights law is very clear on this. The associated questions are:
- (a) Who should decide, parent or child? The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child last year made it very clear to the UK that pupils of 'sufficient maturity' should be allowed to decide.
  - (b) Will opt-outs be used by families? Or, do fears of stigmatisation of the child and not wanting to be different discourage their use? Research shows that human rights cannot resolve the question at primary school level where the issues are often most acute. Whereas in secondary schools some pupils may be confident enough to use the right to opt-out and be able to cope with any peer/teacher pressure, for pupils of primary school age almost no parent will use the right of withdrawal. The last thing a young child wants is to look in any way remotely different from their friends, and dread the idea of their parents 'making a fuss' at school.

Parents, especially in smaller schools, also fear the family will be viewed with suspicion, making it harder for their child to fit in. In addition, there is an irony in viewing 'opt-outs' as a solution when talking about an activity that is aiming to be 'collective' and promoting cohesiveness in a school.

7. The law on collective worship in non-religious state schools has received a significant amount of attention in the last couple of years with a number of reports in addition to our own questioning its appropriateness in contemporary society (see, for example, Clarke, C & Woodhead, L. (2015) *A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools* (Westminster Faith Debates); Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public (2015) *Life Living with Difference: Community, Diversity and the Common Good*; and Adam Dinham and Martha Shaw (2015) *REforREal Report: The Future of Teaching and Learning about Religion and Belief*.

8. In Northern Ireland (prior to the current political impasse) the Department for Education had in principle agreed to establish a working group to review the law.

9. Scotland does not have the same law on collective worship. Instead in Scotland the law requires schools to hold a minimum of six periods of 'Religious Observance' (religious schools) or 'Time for Reflection' (non-religious schools) a year. These are to be '*community acts which aim to promote the spiritual development of all members of the school community and express and celebrate the shared values of the school community*'. Research suggests that many schools struggle to know what to do during these periods, particularly so in second level schools.

10. In January I was invited to participate in a Chatham House Rule meeting in London where the aim was to consider the redrafting of the law for English schools. The meeting was convened by Rt Hon Charles Clarke and Professor Linda Woodhead with key English educational stakeholders. Here the sense was that the current law is unsustainable, particularly in a climate that demands respect for religious and belief diversity, and a focus on increased community cohesiveness.

I hope the above is of use to you in your future deliberations. I would be happy to provide further context and information if that would be helpful.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alison Mawhinney', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Alison Mawhinney



# Agenda Item 3.3

## **P-04-408 Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service**

### **Petition wording:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to fund the Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service in Wales to the same degree as the Adult Eating Disorder Service in Wales.

It has come to my attention that there is a disparity in funding between Adult Services and Child and Adolescent Services as regards funding for Eating Disorder Treatment. At the present time Adult Eating Disorder Services receive £1 million per year from the Welsh Assembly, as well as 4 specialist trained provider groups.

Sadly research points to the fact that Eating Disorders, especially Anorexia Nervosa, are predominantly first experienced around puberty. Historically puberty was around 12–15, however, puberty is becoming younger and therefore statistics are beginning to show the prevalence of Anorexia Nervosa starting at younger ages is apparent. Bulimia Nervosa is generally a disease with an onset age of 18–25, however as with Anorexia this may differ from person to person. The fact that in both disorders, and indeed all diagnosable Eating Disorders, early intervention is the key to a quick recovery, therefore preventing long term financial implications for the WAG, makes this plea more pertinent.

I therefore implore the Assembly to consider this a priority for debate and to mend this disparity by giving equal finances and services to the Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder service in Wales as already given to Adult EDS.'

**Petition raised by:** Helen Missen

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 17 July 2012

**Number of signatures:** 246

Vaughan Gething AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon  
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-408  
Ein cyf/Our ref VG/02062/17

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

[government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

29 August 2017

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 7 August in your capacity as Chair of the Petitions Committee, regarding Petition No. P-04-408 - Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service in Wales (CAMHS).

The Welsh Government takes mental health very seriously and this is why it is the largest area of health expenditure with ring-fenced funding of £629million in the current year.

In relation to funding for CAMHS services, we recognise the importance of children's mental health services and we have invested almost £8million of additional funding annually in CAMHS in recent years to speed up access to services and expand existing provision, particularly in relation to talking therapies, which form a core component in the treatment of eating disorders.

Of the £8million additional funding, £2.7million has also been specifically used to establish CAMHS crisis care teams. These teams work expanded hours in the evenings and at weekends to ensure young people presenting in crisis at accident and emergency units and elsewhere are able to have their needs met in a timely fashion.

The Together for Children and Young People (T4CYP) programme, launched in February 2015, is about ensuring the current system works more effectively across all sectors, not just specialist NHS services. One of the priorities of T4CYP has been to develop a care pathway for young people with co-morbid eating disorders.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

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

[Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales)

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

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

The latest data we have for the number of under 18 year old Welsh residents admitted where the primary diagnosis was for an eating disorder has remained relatively static in recent years. In 2016-2017, the figure was 98 young people from Wales.

We know that CAMHS services see the treatment of eating disorders as part of its core business and the Welsh Government has sought to strengthen this area, through the provision of an additional £250,000 per annum to recruit new specialist staff, up-skill existing staff and expand out-patient services.

You may have also seen my recent announcement of an additional £500,000 per annum to improve the transition experience of young people with an eating disorder from CAMHS to adult mental health services, in which we have also invested an additional £1million per annum.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Vaughan Gething'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon  
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport



**P-04-408 Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Service – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 27.09.17**

Dear Petitions Committee Chair

Thank you for allowing me to respond to the ministers letter.

It intrigues me that the minister appears to have ignored the original petition.

The intrigue is really that the minister has been wonderful in his explanation for provision of monies for general CAMHS services. He fails to realise that the petition is specific in the request to align monies that are provided across Wales for children and adolescent suffering with eating disorders, which are already provided at the sum of £1 million per annum for adult eating disorder services.

His predecessor only provided £250,000 specifically for the provision of a specialised eating disorder CAMHS service. This is based in South Wales, is a fantastic service, though Dr Gill Davis, and her team have a huge undertaking to train and equip other clinicians throughout Wales, plus they are only employed part time!

This appears to be an afterthought to all the other monies provided by his office in his letter.

As I referred to in my last letter, there needs to be a large injection of funds at the earlier treatment stages of an eating disorder for the illnesses not to become entrenched. The provision of the requested money, (plus inflation of the past 5 years!!) would ultimately save many years of anguish for the sufferer and families, plus would garner less long term care: the hit which would be taken by the Welsh government in provision through adult services.

Mr Vaughan speaks of the £500,000 provided for the transition from CAMHS to adult services for young people with eating disorders. I am part of the sub group that is working on how to spend this money wisely by employing new staff and the training of those employed. This will be a wonderful service that will help countless young people to make that transition. However, how much better it would be to provide specifically for early intervention, thus reducing those needing to access the transition.

Dr Glaze in North Wales has set up the SPEED tram, which is just that...early intervention. As it is in its first year, figures have not yet been provided to its efficacy, the early signs are that it is working incredibly effectively in steering young people to recovery quickly.

Dr Davies in South Wales has a huge undertaking to train clinicians across Wales, as is her remit from the Welsh Government. The funding of her service to become full time would free her and their team up to be more effective.

To be able to see replication of these two services rolled out across Wales would be a coup, and would save many years, and funds.

The figures provided on inpatient care of children with eating disorders is also a mis representation, as the directive is to keep young people in the community for treatment of their eating disorder.

The best evidence treatment remains Family Based Treatment (The Maudsley method, FBT) which is all about putting the treatment of children and young people firmly back in the family, with support from clinicians and a team.

Therefore, Mr Vaughan cannot use small numbers as proof of needing less funding.

I would also be interested to see how these figures stand alongside physical illness admissions, such as appendicectomies. No one would use the fact that an appendicectomy is life threatening to wait for treatment, and would always provide immediate and early care of a child who presents with the clinical symptoms of appendicitis. Why then are we not doing the same for those presenting with an eating disorder? Eating disorders have a high mortality, and so should be treated early to prevent this.

It would make interesting reading, and I would suggest is not that far different to the admission rate of children with eating disorders.

Thank you again for your insight, support and pressure in keeping this important issue on the agenda. I hope that it will eventually bring success and an alignment of funding.

I look forward to hearing from you following your next hearing

Helen Missen

## **P-04-505 Eating Disorder Unit in Wales**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to inform the Welsh Government of the urgency and necessity to provide a specialist eating disorder unit in Wales.

### **Additional Information:**

We would like to see a specialist eating disorder unit built in Wales to reduce the stress and disruption of traveling so far from family and friends by having to go to England to receive treatment. In 2007 the government acknowledged that there was no specialist treatment in Wales and that this needed to change, yet 5 years on we are still waiting for that change. I know from personal experience how hard it is to be in hospital so far away from home and believe that an eating disorder unit in Wales would make the process of treatment and recovery easier for welsh sufferers.

**Petition raised by:** Keira Marlow

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 8 October 2013

**Number of signatures:** 526



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/01288/17

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

[government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

11 June 2017

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 24 May on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-04-505 – Eating Disorder Unit in Wales.

I am aware of the petition from Keira Marlow and I note her concerns in relation to this matter.

As with all other services, it is the responsibility of health boards to provide health services to meet the needs of their population according to their clinical need. The vast majority of people with eating disorders who require inpatient care would be treated locally within child and adolescent or adult mental health services where they can get the appropriate care and treatments which includes specialist care for eating disorders.

Whilst there are currently no single condition adult eating disorder units in Wales, within Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) both of the Welsh inpatient units have significant specialist experience of managing young people with eating disorders, as around 40% of inpatients are admitted for conditions relating to eating disorders.

In 2012, we made annual funding of £1 million available to develop specialist community eating disorder teams for adults. Since 2013, we have invested an additional £250,000 a year in CAMHS services, which has provided new specialist staff and funded additional training for both inpatient and community services. This ensures that most people can be treated early and prevent the disorder escalating and requiring specialist inpatient care. It also ensures on the rare occasions when people do need to leave Wales for treatment they have the support they need to allow a speedier return.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400  
[Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales)

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

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

A review of inpatient eating disorder provision in Wales undertaken by Cwm Taf University Health Board on behalf of the Welsh Government in 2015 concluded there was no strong case for development of dedicated eating disorder provision at this time and given the investment in both adult and children's provision in recent years.

It may also be useful for the Committee to know that the Welsh Government's 2017-18 budget includes proposals to increase funding for eating disorder services in Wales by an additional £500,000. We are currently in the process of discussing with health boards how best to use this funding to benefit people with eating disorders.

In relation to the results of the formal review of the Eating Disorders Framework, an update of the evidence underpinning the Framework was undertaken by Public Health Wales in 2016. Our Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan 2016-19 includes a commitment to consider the need to review the *Eating Disorders Framework* following publication of NICE Guidance on Recognition and Treatment of Eating Disorders by March 2018. The NICE guidance was published in May 2017 and we will consider the need now to review the Framework.

I hope this information is helpful to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Vaughan Gething'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Vaughan' being larger and more prominent than the surname 'Gething'.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon  
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport

**P-04-505 Eating Disorder Unit in Wales – Correspondence from the  
Petitioner to the Committee, 15.09.17**

Dear Hannah,

I was unaware that additional funding was being put into the eating disorder service this year and even though money was added in 2013 and that there are facilities within CAMHS for those suffering with an eating disorder, I still think an adult inpatient unit is needed in Wales. This is because relapse is not uncommon among those suffering from an ED and if as an adolescent they were treated in CAMHS but relapsed badly as an adult, there is no Welsh inpatient service for them to access if they needed to. Also eating disorders are occurring for the first time more often during men and women of middle age and again there is no where for them to access inpatient treatment in Wales, this is why I think an adult inpatient hospital is still needed in Wales.

Best wishes,

Keira

## **P-04-648 Amendment to Unconventional Oil and Gas Direction 2015**

### **Petition wording:**

We the undersigned call upon the Minister for Natural Resources to amend the THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (NOTIFICATION) (UNCONVENTIONAL OIL AND GAS) (WALES) DIRECTION 2015 to call in all Planning Applications for Unconventional Oil and Gas development including exploratory drilling for Shale Gas, Coal Bed Methane and Underground Coal Gasification, to the Minister

### **Additional Information**

At present the Direction only relates to applications involving certain unconventional extraction techniques where the Local Planning Authority is inclined to approve the application.

The current Direction does not apply to Underground Coal Gasification, the impacts of which would be equally damaging to the environment and communities. Nor does it apply to exploratory drilling or test drilling. There are growing concerns about the impact of exploratory drilling, particularly around noise, traffic, disturbance of water courses, the potential for seismic disturbance, industrialisation of the countryside and the impact on house prices.

If there is an effective moratorium on extraction, then what is the purpose of exploration? Allowing exploration to proceed when, at present, extraction will be prohibited is perverse and illogical

**Petition raised by:** Councillor Arfon Jones

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 22 September 2015

**Number of signatures:** 1,254 online signatures and 293 paper signatures. A further 415 signatures have been handed in after the petition was closed.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-648  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/01880/17

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

[SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales)

18

August 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 7 August requesting an update on how the Welsh Government will approach the handling of existing oil and gas onshore licenses and future policy.

As indicated in my letter of 28 June to the Committee, we are in the process of developing the evidence to inform the way forward. For clarification the licensing of Underground Coal Gasification will not be transferring to Welsh Ministers as it is a function of the Coal Authority rather than the Oil and Gas Authority.

We are somewhat dependent on information from and agreement with the UK Government regarding the transfer of the onshore petroleum licensing system. I would anticipate being able to provide the Committee with an up-date on the matter before the Christmas recess.

Lesley

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400  
[Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales)

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

**Pack Page 124**

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



## P-04-683 Trees in Towns

This petition was submitted by Coed Cadw Woodland Trust, having collected 2,258 signatures.

### *Text of the Petition*

- *I support the aspiration that every city, town and village in Wales should benefit from at least 20% tree canopy cover, matching the leafy suburbs of the best places to live*
- *I call on the Welsh Government to support this by establishing a challenge fund for tree planting to improve the environment where people live*
- *This should particularly support the planting of native trees, that can provide a habitat and nectar source for pollinators, and also fruit trees, that will provide a sustainable source of food.*

### Assembly Constituency and Region

- Cardiff South and Penarth
- South Wales Central



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-683  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/01879/17

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee.  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

KF August 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 7 August, regarding increasing tree canopy cover in Wales' towns and cities as a priority for the area statement process.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has responsibility for the preparation of area statements to facilitate the implementation of the Natural Resources Policy. Every area of Wales will be covered by one or more statements. Each statement will include information on the natural resources within the area it covers and will detail the benefits and opportunities that arise from their sustainable management. Area statements will therefore be a means for NRW and other public bodies to prioritise at a local level the opportunities arising from natural resources, including trees in towns and cities.

NRW has a wealth of Wales-related tree canopy evidence available to assist it in the preparation of area statements. They have published a country-wide study of urban tree canopy cover, '*Tree Cover in Towns and Cities*', contributed to technical good practice guidelines and participated in three 'iTree Eco Studies'. iTree Eco is a tool for quantifying the ecosystem services that can be delivered by urban trees, for example in relation to air quality improvement, carbon dioxide reduction and flood control, and assessing the value of them.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400  
[Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales)

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

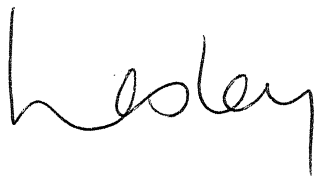
Pack Page 126

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

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 establishes Public Service Boards for each Local Authority area in Wales, NRW is a member of each Board. Public Service Boards have responsibility for preparing and delivering Local Well-Being Plans for their respective areas which set out local objectives and steps for their delivery. Area statements will help Public Service Boards to develop their local objectives and plans. I am content, therefore, that there are already sufficient measures in place in order for each Public Service Board to consider tree canopy cover as part of their statutory duties when preparing their Local Well-being Plans and the NRW area statements.

---

Our forestry strategy '*Woodlands for Wales*' already recognises the benefits of urban trees and woodlands (Chapter 2.6 refers) however, during our refresh of it in early 2018, we will be compelled to consider their role further.

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

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs

# Agenda Item 3.7

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

This petition was submitted by David Sedley, having collected 222 signatures.

### **Text of the Petition**

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

### **Additional Information**

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

### **Assembly Constituency and Region.**

- Swansea West
- South Wales West

**P-05-743 End the Exotic Pet Trade in Wales – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 19.09.17**

Dear Hannah,

Thank you for forwarding the correspondence between Mike Hedges AM and Lesley Griffiths AC/AM Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs. I am also grateful for the opportunity to contribute further to the debate on the trade and keeping of exotic pets in Wales.

Worldwide tens of thousands of wild animals, including reptiles, large felines, primates, and others, are kept in private possession. Globally the trade in exotic animals is a multi-billion-pound-a-year industry. However, exotic “pets” are wild animals that do not adjust well to a captive environment. They require special care, housing, diet, and maintenance that the average person cannot provide. Animals enter the exotic “pet” trade from a variety of sources. Some are stolen from their native habitat; some are “surplus” from zoos or menageries; some are sold at auctions or in pet shops; while others come from backyard breeders. The Internet has dramatically increased the ease with which people can find and purchase wild animals for their private possession.

There are many instances of exotic “pets” purchased as infants being abandoned by their owners as they age and become impossible to control. Unfortunately, the majority of these animals are euthanized, abandoned, or doomed to live in deplorable conditions. Furthermore, many exotic “pets” can transmit deadly diseases — including herpes B, monkeypox, and salmonellosis — to humans. An estimated 90% of all reptiles carry and shed salmonella in their faeces. In the United States alone The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that 93,000 salmonella cases caused by exposure to reptiles are reported each year. As many as 90% of all macaque monkeys are infected with herpes B virus, which although harmless to monkeys can be fatal in humans.

Wherever exotic “pets” are kept there are health risks. The Welsh Government in taking unilateral action to end the sale in exotic “pets” will not only be doing its duty to protect the people of Wales from the health risks associated with it, but also be adding its weight, and conscience, to the fight against the decline of species and the destruction of their habitats, threatened by it.

I believe the committee will find the following BBC article of great interest, as it specifically addresses the issues and concerns brought about by the trade in the UK.

Further to that, the link following it will take those interested to the RSPCA's report: Exotic Animals as Pets.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-36356363>

---



Wild animals at UK homes include lions, zebras and ...

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

Wild animals including lions, crocodiles, rattlesnakes and zebras are being kept legally on private property across the UK, licensing figures reveal.

---

<http://politicalanimal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/ExoticsDec15WHdebate.pdf>

Once again, I am grateful for the opportunity to bring my concerns to the committee's attention, and I hope, by so being able to do, that a consensus for change will result, for the sake of humans and animals alike. The Government of Wales can bring an end to the cruel trade in exotic wild animals, and in so doing show the rest of the UK the way forward. All that is required is the conviction of the need to do it, and the will to carry that conviction out.

Best regards

David Sedley

# Agenda Item 3.8

## **P-05-753 Strengthening the Legislative and Regulatory Framework Surrounding Waste Wood Processing Facilities**

This petition was submitted by Alexander Williams having collected 232 signatures.

### **Text of the Petition**

We, the undersigned, call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to:

Direct Natural Resources Wales, local authorities and other relevant public bodies to work together to use their existing powers and duties to take effective and efficient enforcement action within the recycling industry.

Strengthen the legislative and regulatory framework where required to enable relevant public bodies to undertake more efficient and effective enforcement action (including monitoring), and enable them to prosecute and impose stronger financial penalties on companies and individual company directors who breach their operational controls such as planning conditions or terms of their operational licences and environmental permits;

Review existing legislation to allow the public, Fire and Rescue Services and other public bodies to recoup the costs of dealing with incidents, such as the recent fire at South Wales Wood Recycling Ltd, if the cause of the fire is found to be as a result of the company's negligence, criminal action or breaches of other regulations, conditions or permissions.

Review environmental protection rules and provide guidance to local authorities to ensure that all waste wood processing facilities are not located in close proximity to residential premises, sites of special scientific interest or sites of importance for nature conservation.

Undertake a comprehensive assessment on the long-term health implications of the inhalation of wood dust caused by the processing of waste wood and undertake an ongoing assessment of the dust deposits at wood processing facilities.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region.**

- Ogmere
- South Wales West



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-753  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/01878/17

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee.  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

14 August 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 7 August, regarding Petition P-05-753 on strengthening the legislative and regulatory framework surrounding waste wood processing facilities.

In my letter of 23 April to Mike Hedges, I responded to the points raised in the petition. My subsequent letter of the 29 June dealt with a number of follow up points raised by Councillor Williams. The issues which are now being raised are quite technical in nature and refer to other information and discussions which Councillor Williams has had with Natural Resources Wales (NRW). To get a detailed response to these matters and a precise explanation of the action taken by NRW, it would be better for you to raise these matters with the Chair of NRW. Specifically on the point about compliance with the operating hours detailed in the planning consent, this is a matter for the Planning Authority and you may wish to raise it separately with Bridgend County Borough Council or Councillor Williams could possibly raise this with colleagues on the Planning committee.

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

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

[Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales)

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

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



## **P-05-756 Live Music Protection in Wales**

This petition was submitted by Richard Vaughan having collected 5,383 signatures.

### **Petition text:**

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to take steps to protect live music venues in Wales. In particular, we ask that the Assembly introduces the 'agent of change' principle to make it the responsibility of the developers of any new premises, commercial or residential, to find solutions to noise from nearby pre-existing business. We further call on the National Assembly to legislate so that it is possible for local authorities to recognise an area of 'cultural significance for music' within the planning framework.

### **Additional information:**

The 'agent of change' principle has been adopted in England and protects existing live music venues by stipulating that the person or business responsible for the change is also responsible for managing the impact of that change. That means if housing or a hotel, for example, are built next to a live music venue it is the developer's responsibility to mitigate the noise, rather than the existing live music venue. Without the 'agent of change' principle in Wales, there are threats to live music venues from new developments, as can be seen through the proposed building of a new hotel on Womanby Street in Cardiff. In addition, the Mayor of London is currently proposing to recognise parts of London as 'an area of cultural significance for music'. We believe this should be an option for local authorities in Wales, particularly for places like Womanby Street, where so many famous Welsh musicians have started their career.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region.**

- Cardiff South and Penarth
- South Wales Central

# Agenda Item 3.10

## **P-05-759 Re-open the Cwmcarn Forest Drive at Easter 2018**

This petition was submitted by The Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive having collected 1450 signatures – 353 on paper and 1097 on-line.

### **Petition text:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to provide the necessary means to allow Natural Resources Wales to fully re-open the Cwmcarn Forest Drive to private cars at Easter 2017.

### **Additional information:**

In the summer of 2014 Natural Resources Wales stated that the Cwmcarn Forest Drive, also known as the Scenic Drive, would be closed for a minimum of two years from November 2014 and that this was necessary because of the infection of the Japanese larch in the Cwmcarn valley and surrounding hillsides. The removal of the larch is now almost complete and NRW are beginning to reinstate the cycle tracks and footpaths, however there does not appear to be a plan to reinstate the scenic drive, even though the vast majority of the route is undamaged. To single out private car users of the drive is unfair and unnecessary when other users will face only temporary disruption. Many of those who access the Drive via private car do so because they have limited mobility, some are families with small children, many are elderly, disabled or from our ethnic minority and immigrant communities. Failing to provide a facility for these people is discriminatory especially when there are plans, and funds available, to provide further facilities for other users. The lack of a fully accessible scenic drive deprives those people who are our most culturally and materially deprived of their main facility for health and well-being. Our organisation, the Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive wants equality of access for all users of the scenic drive and calls for the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales to provide the means to make this possible.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region.**

- Islwyn
- South Wales East

Mr David J Rowlands, AM  
Chair of the Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

4 September 2017

**Re: Petition P-05-759 Re-open the Cwmcarn Forest Drive at Easter 2018**

Dear Mr Rowlands,

Thank you for your letter of 7 August 2017 concerning Cwmcarn Forest Drive and the petition requesting the reinstatement of the scenic drive.

At the outset I should make clear that we fully understand the concerns of the community, and that we are in contact with Mr Southall on a regular basis. We recognise the importance of the site, not just to the local community but to many others who use the site. For that reason, we continue to invest in the site following the removal of infected larch trees; to that end, 170,000 trees will be planted over the next 12 months to provide a more diverse forest than has been present in the recent past.

We continue to work with Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) on the feasibility study; however, we are currently unable to give a precise commitment as to when we will be in a position to commission that study. Our focus to date has been on planning the replanting schemes, but I would like to reassure you that we do see the study as priority and will endeavour to move forward this matter as quickly as possible. We will provide you with an update as soon as possible.

I should like to add that the feasibility scheme will only suggest medium to long term options, and the question of reinstatement of the drive is obviously one of the concerns of the community. We are currently looking at the condition of the drive and will be assessing the costs of such reinstatement; we will then be in a better position to understand how we proceed further.

The community has also expressed concerns about the opening up of new mountain bike trails at a time when we have been unable to reinstate the drive. These new trails, although on the Welsh Government estate, are a proposal being developed by CCBC at no cost to NRW.

Finally, can I reiterate that we do understand the concerns of the community and will continue to work closely with them as we want as many people as possible to enjoy the facilities provided at Cwmcarn. We will aim to update you within two months on progress.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emyr Roberts'.

**Emyr Roberts**

**Prif Weithredwr, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru  
Chief Executive, Natural Resources Wales**



24 Mount Pleasant Terrace, Pontywaun, Crosskeys, NP11 7GH

David Rowlands AM  
Chair – Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales,  
Ty Hywel,  
Cardiff Bay,  
Cardiff,  
CF99 1NA

robertsouthall@outlook.com

Sunday 24 September

2017

Dear David

Thank you very much for forwarding Emyr Robert's letter. I have to say that I am absolutely flabbergasted with Mr Roberts' response as our society has been told by NRW that the feasibility study is 'happening' for the last eighteen months. We actually thought that this feasibility study had started but they wanted to keep it under wraps. Please ask Mr Roberts how could NRW say 'we continue to work with Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) on the feasibility study' if it has not yet been commissioned? It strikes me that Mr Roberts and his organisation think themselves completely unaccountable to your committee, and to the National Assembly for Wales, and because of this they see it is acceptable to sell half-truths and outright fabrications to you as well as to our society.

Secondly I have to take Mr Roberts to task when he says 'we are in contact with Mr Southall on a regular basis'. It has been over six months now since I received any update on NRW's work in the Nant Carn valley which I could forward to the committee members of the Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive –this was actually before our last public meeting which you attended –I checked and it was 20

February 2017. I have been in touch with NRW officials since then but the only communications I have had with them have been over the extension to the cycle tracks in the Cwmcarn valley and my request for a path clearance for a walk I led for the Twmbarlwm Society in June. We have been told that Sally Tansey, their regional land manager, would update us but we have had no information from her since the last public meeting and she has not responded to any of my emails since March.

Mr Roberts also seems to be down playing the whole purpose of the feasibility study when he writes “I should like to add that the feasibility scheme will only suggest medium to long term options, and the question of reinstatement of the drive is obviously one of the concerns of the community” –so what is the point of commissioning yet another expensive study – NRW and CCBC have at least two other studies from the last decade. It makes us think that the whole purpose of this study was simply a stalling tactic and this is again apparent when he writes “We are currently looking at the condition of the drive .... “ We have to ask how long does it take? If it takes them this long to look at the condition of the drive, then it will take a decade for NRW to assess the costs of such reinstatement. I can walk around the entire length of the forest drive in about 2 hours and it seems to me that, although there are some sections which will need complete replacement, over eighty percent is as good as it was before the Drive was closed three years ago.

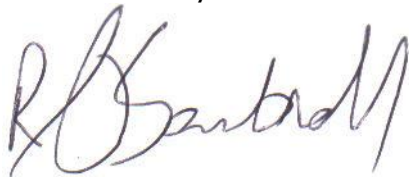
We also expressed concerns about the opening up of new mountain bike trails and Mr Roberts refers to this in his letter stating that these “new trails, although on the Welsh Government estate, are a proposal being developed by CCBC at no cost to NRW.” I am afraid my committee feels that this response is disingenuous. CCBC could not have made a planning application if it did not have the agreement of NRW as it is on their land. It seems to us that CCBC and NRW can get together to look at the condition of the land over which the track is to run and to make decisions about its suitability and for NRW to give permission to CCBC to press ahead with the project and yet NRW just does not have time to consider re-instating the Forest Drive which would bring a great deal of pleasure to those in our community who lack the mobility to make use of these ‘elite’ cycle tracks. We would like to re-iterate here that these cycle tracks are for ‘the few’ whereas the Forest Drive was for ‘the many’ i.e. those who wish to access the drive in their cars perhaps because of limited mobility or those with young children, are being overlooked in favour of the needs of a relatively small number of mountain bikers who are usually young, fit and affluent males, often from outside of Wales. It should also be stated that the public paid a fee to drive around the Forest Drive whereas cyclists pay nothing to ride on these cycle tracks. Further to this, in respect to the issue of the new cycle track, we must ask Mr Roberts if Robert Campbell, Mountain Bike Manager for NRW, will be involved with the new cycle trail if it goes ahead. If he will then that means

that NRW are financially involved. In addition, we must also ask who is responsible for the upkeep of this new cycle track. If it is CCBC then our society will be asking questions about where that money is coming from. CCBC cannot seem to be able to clear footpaths, and definitely not bridleways, so it should not really have the resources to keep a cycle track up in tip top condition. The grant would only pay for the instalment of the trail and it would not provide for the upkeep.

Since our last correspondence we have been made aware that Ken Skates AM, the Welsh Government's Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure, stated in a response to a question raised by Rhianon Passmore AM (Lab-Isllwyn) in late June or early July that the Welsh government hopes to re-open the Forest Drive to cars in 2019 as a part of a government programme of works for that year -If my memory is correct I was told that the year 2019 will be the 'year of exploration' or some such thing. I have not been able to get more details on this but I think that it would be worth your committee writing to Ken Skates to see whether he is willing to make a statement on this. Obviously this is especially relevant to the question raised by our petition as it asks for the Welsh Government to help source the finances required to re-open the Forest Drive and if there is a requirement to draw on European Union (WEFO) funding then time is now of the essence and it should be done as soon as possible.

Once again I would like to stress that our society understands that these issues take time to resolve but we strongly believe that when the Welsh government has a will they will usually find a way. The fifteen hundred people who have signed our latest petition certainly think that this is the case and for this reason we would like to request that the Petitions Committee keep our petition active. We believe that this is essential if we are get a positive outcome for 'the many' and not just for 'the few' and we continue to hope that the Welsh Government will provide the resources to ensure that the drive is once again open to private cars.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Southall', written in a cursive style.

Robert Southall  
Chair, Friends of Cwmcarn Forest Drive

# Agenda Item 3.11

## P-05-690 Resurfacing of the A40 Raglan–Abergavenny Road

This petition was submitted by Sara Jones, having collected 22 signatures. The petition also collected 142 signatures on an alternative e-petition website

### *Text of the Petition*

*This petition calls on the Welsh Government to replace the old concrete surface on the A40 road from Raglan to Abergavenny with whispering tarmac.*

*The Noise Action Plan (2013–18) states that this road is a priority, after the consultation responses received and the measurements taken. Yet no progress has been made despite repeated calls from residents, the local County Councillor, Assembly Member and Member of Parliament.*

*We, the undersigned, state that this road should be given immediate priority, given the numerous concerns raised from both public and representatives and that it has been identified under the existing Welsh Government Noise Action Plan.*

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Monmouth
- South Wales East





Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref KS/01977/17

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

21 June 2017

Dear

Thank you for your letter of 2 June regarding Petition P-05-690 Resurfacing of the A40 Raglan-Abergavenny Road. I appreciate you forwarding the latest comments made by the petitioners and Nick Ramsay AM.

As explained in previous responses, the A40 at this location is not life expired and there are currently no plans to resurface it. However, work will commence in the current financial year to design suitable noise mitigation measures for the current Priority 1 section of the A40/Usk Road roundabout. Implementation is anticipated from 2018/19, depending on available funding and the relative priority of other schemes in the programme. Alternative measures to new surfacing such as noise fences are typically better at mitigating noise in the long term than new surfacing which can reduce in effectiveness over time.

The current priority list will also be reviewed this financial year following a new noise survey of the motorway and trunk road network. It is important to note therefore that priorities could change and new sections of trunk road may enter the programme.

**Ken Skates AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

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

[Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales)

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

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

**P-05-690 Resurfacing of the A40 Raglan-Abergavenny Road –  
Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 19.09.17**

Dear Hannah

Having listened to today's discussion I note the Ministerial correspondence suggests the road is not deemed a priority. I ask that members examine the attached letter (which I've previously issued) which was provided by the then Minister in 2014 which states the road is deemed a priority and that works would take place. I would ask the committee reviews this letter in light of the Minister's response at their earliest convenience.

Regards

Sara

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref EH/05432/14

Cllr Sara Jones  
Llanover Ward  
Monmouthshire County Council

SaraJones2@monmouthshire.gov.uk

3 November 2014

Dear Cllr Jones,

Thank you for your email of 12 October regarding timescales for resurfacing the A40.

Parts of this road were identified as priority areas for mitigation work in our Noise Action Plan. A resurfacing scheme is being designed in the current financial year. However timing of the actual works will be dependent on available funding in 2015/16. I will update you once next year's programme has been agreed.

# Agenda Item 3.12

## **P-05-726 Give rate relief to Local Authorities for Leisure and Cultural facilities.**

This petition was submitted by Ryan Dansie, which collected 17 signatures.

### **Text of the Petition**

Due to ever increasing budget pressures, Local Authorities in Wales are looking at creating charitable trusts to take over the running of public services like libraries and leisure centres.

The main benefit of such an arrangement is the rate relief which a charity would be entitled to. This amounts to moving money from the central pot of non-domestic rates and into the authorities budget. No public money is saved overall, although there are overheads involved in setting up such arrangements which can involve payments being made to specialist private consultants.

Pembrokeshire County Council is about to begin the process of creating a charity to take over the running of all leisure and cultural services in the whole county. It's almost inevitable that other local authorities in Wales will follow suit in order to deal with their own impossible budget pressures.

I call on the Welsh government to change the rules of rate relief so that all Local Authority run leisure and cultural facilities are covered on an equivalent basis to that which a charity would be entitled to. If this is not done then the end result of losing this business rate income will still happen through the creation of these charitable trusts, but we will be unnecessarily losing control of our public services in the process.

Please take away this unnecessary incentive to outsource our important leisure and cultural services.

### **Assembly Constituency and Region**

- Preseli Pembrokeshire
- Mid and West Wales

## **P-05-734 Ban Letting Agent Fees to Tenants**

This petition was submitted by Shelter Cymru, which collected 328 online signatures.

### **Text of the Petition**

We, the undersigned, call on the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to end the unfair practice of charging letting agent fees to tenants.

Earlier this year Shelter Cymru campaign supporters mystery-shopped letting agents across Wales and found that more than half (55%) are not advertising fees on their websites as required by law. The study found that a tenant could pay between £39.99 and £480 for the same service depending which agent their landlord had chosen to go with.

The reality is that there is no such thing as consumer choice in tenants' fees, and a real risk that tenants and landlords are being double-charged for the same service. We believe that Wales should follow Scotland's example and ban fees to tenants. The private rented sector in Scotland is still going strong and three-quarters of Scottish agents say the ban has had no impact, or a positive impact, on their business.

Welsh letting agents are enjoying a business boom thanks to Rent Smart Wales which is encouraging smaller landlords to sign up with agents. However, extortionate letting fees are pushing tenants into debt and making it harder for local authorities to prevent homelessness. Please act now to give a fair deal to Wales' growing numbers.

### **Assembly constituency and Region.**

- Swansea West
- South Wales West

**P-05-734 Ban Letting Agent Fees to Tenants – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 25.09.17**

We have discussed this as a team, here are our comments:

We strongly welcome that the Welsh Government has announced its intention to introduce legislation within the next year to end letting fees to tenants. This fulfils the objective of our petition. We note that the recent consultation document used our letting fees report extensively as evidence. We look forward to working with the Government over the next year to help develop the detail of the legislation.

In light of our comments does this mean that our petition will be withdrawn. What are the next steps?

Thanks

Laura

## **P-04-472 Make the MTAN law**

### **Petition wording:**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to make the MTAN Guidance Notes, notably those relating to a 500 metre buffer zone around open cast workings, mandatory in planning law for Wales.

### **Additional information:**

On 20th January 2009, Jane Davidson, the Minister for the Environment, introduced newly published Coal Minerals Technical Advice guidance Notes (MTAN) for Wales, and stated: “.. the Coal MTAN will fulfil the pledges (in 2008) to introduce Health Impact Assessments for coal applications, together with buffer zones, and with an emphasis on working closely with local communities. It reaffirms the commitment (in 2008) to a 500m buffer zone.” In 2009 the Welsh Government did not have the power to make its planning guidelines law. It does now.

**Petition raised by:** Dr John Cox

**Date petition first considered by Committee:** 16 April 2013

**Number of signatures:** 680. Associated petition collected 330 signatures.

# Agenda Item 4.2

## **P-04-575 Call in All Opencast Mining Planning Applications**

### **Petition Wording**

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to call in all opencast mining planning applications over 10 years duration or over 350 hectares in size because the implications of these developments are far reaching and long standing with effects beyond the immediate locality.

**Petition raised by:** United Valleys Action Group

**Date Petition first considered by Committee:** 15 July 2014

**Number of signatures:** 130 – An associated petition relating to a specific planning application collected in excess of 6500 signatures



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

Document is Restricted