



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

**Y Pwyllgor Deisebau  
The Petitions Committee**

**Dydd Mawrth, 13 Gorffennaf 2010  
Tuesday, 13 July 2010**

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

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

**Aelodau'r pwyllgor yn bresennol**  
**Committee members in attendance**

Christine Chapman	Llafur (Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor) Labour (Committee Chair)
Andrew R.T. Davies	Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives
Veronica German	Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru Welsh Liberal Democrats
Bethan Jenkins	Plaid Cymru The Party of Wales

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

Joanest Jackson	Cynghorydd Cyfreithiol Legal Adviser
Andrew Minnis	Dirprwy Glerc Deputy Clerk
Naomi Stocks	Clerc Clerk
Ann Thomas	Gwasanaeth Ymchwil yr Aelodau Members' Research Service

*Dechreuodd y cyfarfod am 9.29 a.m.*  
*The meeting began at 9.29 a.m.*

**Cyflwyniad, Ymddiheuriadau a Dirprwyon**  
**Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions**

[1] **Christine Chapman:** I welcome you to the National Assembly's Petitions Committee. We have not received any apologies today, but I would like to welcome Veronica German, who is the new Liberal Democrat committee member. Obviously, she is replacing Mike German. Welcome to the committee, Veronica.

[2] **Veronica German:** Thank you.

9.30 a.m.

**Y Wybodaeth Ddiweddaraf am Ddeisebau Blaenorol**  
**Updates to Previous Petitions**

[3] **Christine Chapman:** The first update is on petition P-03-081, which calls for changes to the student loan regulations to ensure that mature students can apply for loans when undertaking undergraduate degrees that are mandatory legal prerequisites for qualification and registration in a given profession. We have had correspondence from the Minister for Health and Social Services providing more information on modernising pharmacy in Wales. Are there any thoughts on this with regard to possible action?

[4] **Bethan Jenkins:** Perhaps we should write to the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning asking for an update on the outcomes of the review in England of course eligibility and the impact that that will have on Wales. I think that, at the moment, they are framing it in the context of what will happen in England. Perhaps that is something we

can clarify.

[5] **Christine Chapman:** Are Members happy with that? I see that you are. The second update is on petition P-03-085 regarding surgeries in Flintshire. The petition called for the development of a primary care centre in Flint to improve GP services. The ministerial response stated that this work is being taken forward by the local health board. Are committee members happy for us to write to the Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board to ask for details of the expected timescale for the development of a health centre in Flint? There is quite a lot of correspondence on this. I see that Members are happy with that.

[6] **Bethan Jenkins:** It would probably be worth asking the petitioners whether it is possible for them to have an input to any developments at a local level.

[7] **Christine Chapman:** Yes, that is important. The next update is on petition P-03-092, which calls for a relief road to be built on the A465 to Tafarnaubach. We have had correspondence from Blaenau Gwent County Council and the Deputy First Minister on this. What would Members like to do with this one?

[8] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** We visited the area regarding this petition many moons ago, did we not?

[9] **Bethan Jenkins:** Things seem to be positive, considering where we have been with this. However, perhaps we should contact the petitioners to see whether they are happy, because I know that they put forward their own proposals to the Deputy First Minister. Just reading the information, the situation seems positive, but whether this is what they want is another thing.

[10] **Christine Chapman:** I think that we had better write to the petitioners.

[11] **Veronica German:** I think so, because I do not think that they are particularly happy. It would be worth while getting things in writing, because I do not think that they are impressed with the improvements, or they think that they are not as good as they could have been.

[12] **Christine Chapman:** Okay, we will write to the petitioners on that. The next update is on petition P-03-118 from the Welsh Canoeing Association, as it was then called. The petition called for legislation that would permit access to inland water for sport and recreation purposes. As you know, we have received correspondence from the Sustainability Committee with details of its inquiry, which went on for some time. We have had the results of that. What do committee members want to do with this one?

[13] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** This petition has had an extensive airing. It is to be hoped that the outcome has been positive from the petitioners' point of view, given that the Sustainability Committee undertook a detailed inquiry. However, I do not think that we can take it forward any further. I imagine that that would be the consensus, so is there a case for closing the petition now and producing a report on the action that we have undertaken?

[14] **Christine Chapman:** I would be happy with that. What do other Members feel? Are you happy to close the petition and produce a summary report?

[15] **Bethan Jenkins:** Yes. We carried out our own investigation as well. I know that they are probably not happy that there will not be a proposed Measure on access rights, but I think that we have taken it as far as we can.

[16] **Christine Chapman:** The next petition has been going on for some time. Petition P-

03-136 concerns parking in the Heath and Birchgrove areas. The petition calls for solutions to parking problems around Heath hospital in Cardiff. We have received correspondence from the local health board and the petitioners. What do Members want to do about this one?

[17] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** I think that the issue here was that a great deal of the action that we might have been able to take on this petition was held back because the local health board was instructed by the Minister to undertake a review of sustainable transport options. We were assured in various items of correspondence from the health board that it was actively working with the community and its staff to offer alternatives to people who, in using their own cars to travel in, are causing the problems that have been endured by residents in the area. I would be grateful if we could approach the health board to see what actions have flowed from the sustainable travel plan that is supposed to be in place, along with the work that the board has undertaken with Cardiff Council. The council was supposed to be active in working with the health board to offer alternatives. A joint approach was required. It would be pertinent to see what has happened, because there has been sufficient time for these things to be put in place. If they have not, we need to go in hard and ask the Minister to intervene.

[18] **Bethan Jenkins:** We have information here from the health board. Do you want to write to the board again?

[19] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** I want to see what action it has undertaken with the council. The council was a player in this, or so the original documents led me to believe. The council has a major role in providing bus routes and other support for the sustainable travel plan. That is what I was led to believe when I read the plan. At that time, we were focusing our attention on the health board, when, in fact, the council was also responsible.

[20] **Christine Chapman:** We need to clarify what is happening as a result of the commitments made. We will do that and make sure that we keep the petitioners updated.

[21] The next petition is P-03-148, on introducing a direct train service between Ebbw Vale and Newport. We have had correspondence from the Deputy First Minister, stating that the necessary infrastructure work will be completed later this year and that further feasibility work is ongoing. I understand that we have contacted the petitioner, but we have not had any response. As a result, I suggest that we should possibly close the petition and produce a summary report. Are Members happy with that? I see that you are.

[22] The next petition is P-03-169, which calls for the establishment of a Welsh team for the Olympics. We have had a response from the Minister on this. We are still awaiting responses from the International Olympic Committee and the British Olympic Association. Would Members be happy for us to write to the petitioner with details of the ministerial correspondence, and to say that we are still waiting to hear from the other two organisations?

[23] **Bethan Jenkins:** Have we asked the IOC how it constructs its rules? Under rule 31, Wales is not determined to be a country. That is based on the definition used by the United Nations. We could ask the IOC whether it would look at amending this rule in relation to devolved nations, or whether such issues are taken into consideration at all. I understand that we have already written to the IOC, but when it writes back, perhaps we could probe further, since we did not include that question in our first letter.

[24] **Christine Chapman:** We probably did not. When did we first write to the IOC?

[25] **Ms Stocks:** We first wrote to the IOC in October 2008, and we sent another letter in May.

[26] **Bethan Jenkins:** Have we still had nothing back?

- [27] **Ms Stocks:** We have had nothing.
- [28] **Christine Chapman:** Have we had nothing at all?
- [29] **Ms Stocks:** No.
- [30] **Christine Chapman:** That is bad, is it not?
- [31] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** The IOC is still looking at the map to see where we are. *[Laughter.]*
- [32] **Christine Chapman:** I think that that is pretty bad. We will try to chase that up.
- [33] **Ms Stocks:** We are chasing that up. We have also written to the British Olympic Association, highlighting the fact that we have not had a response from the IOC.
- [34] **Christine Chapman:** The next petition is P-03-187, calling for the tolls on the Severn bridge to be abolished. The Deputy First Minister has responded, stating that he is considering undertaking a study on the economic impact of the tolls. As you know, there has been quite a lot of discussion and debate on this in Plenary. Would Members be happy to write to the Deputy First Minister to ask for details of his discussions on this issue with the Secretary of State for Transport?
- [35] **Veronica German:** He has agreed to do the impact assessment, so it is a case of being kept informed on when that is happening.
- [36] **Christine Chapman:** Yes, and we will keep the petitioners in the loop as well.

9.40 a.m.

- [37] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** It might be worth sending the petitioners a copy of the Record of the debate tabled by the Liberal Democrats, although some of them might have seen it. Mike German spent considerable time on this. He was genuinely pleased with the Deputy First Minister's response, so it may be worth the petitioners having sight of that, if they have not done so already. They may then be able to take comfort from it or pick some things out of it on which they want us to follow up.
- [38] **Christine Chapman:** We can do that.
- [39] Our next petition is P-03-188, calling for the Royal Glamorgan Hospital's special care baby unit not to be downgraded from a level 3 to a level 2 unit. We have had correspondence from the Minister for Health and Social Services. As you know, the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee has published a report on neonatal services in Wales. There has been some correspondence back and forth on this, so what would you like to do with this petition?
- [40] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** Again, this is a case of showing the petitioners what the Assembly has been doing to date. A substantial report has been published by the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee on neonatal care across Wales, on which there will presumably be a Plenary debate and, thereby, recommendations that the Minister will hopefully feel able to act on. It is perhaps worth asking the petitioners for their view on the report, particularly what references they think are included, or not included, on the Royal Glamorgan Hospital. Their recommendations will then hopefully be pushed forward at the debate stage, and they can have confidence that we are moving forward on this issue.

[41] **Christine Chapman:** Are you happy with that? I see that you are.

[42] The next petition is P-03-200, which calls for the creation of a Glamorganshire canal historic trail from Merthyr to Cardiff bay. We have had correspondence from the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing and the Minister for Heritage. Are you happy for us to write to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Cardiff Council to ask for further details on the options that are being considered for walking and cycling routes along the canal?

[43] **Bethan Jenkins:** The petitioner was not very happy with the Minister's response, because it seemed negative in its tone. So, it is important that we take that into consideration when we frame letters to the local councils, and take a positive tone with regard to the petitioner's aims to push this agenda forward.

[44] **Christine Chapman:** Some help could also be available through other funding streams, which the Members' research service has mentioned. So, we will do that.

[45] The next petition is P-03-204 on public accountability and consultation in higher education. The petitioner has provided his views on the ministerial response. What would you like to do with this petition?

[46] **Bethan Jenkins:** The petitioner's response is quite extensive. I think that we should ask the Minister's opinion on whether the governance review would incorporate the 13 points that the petitioner mentioned in his analysis. The Minister is carrying out that governance review, so there may be scope to include the petitioner's comments. Perhaps we should write to the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, because there seems to be some variance in the petitioner's opinion about the role of HEFCW and its accountability in relation to the Government. The Minister said that it is autonomous, but the petitioner argues that it cannot be that autonomous because the funding comes direct from Government. So, there are governance issues there.

[47] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** As Bethan said, the petitioner sent us a comprehensive piece of work. Is it worth approaching the vice-chancellors, via their representative body, to seek their views on this piece of work? The Minister is in the Government, HEFCW is the funding body, and we do not seem to be taking a view from the vice-chancellors, who, ultimately, have the role of governing the higher education sector in Wales. They do have a representative body, and I have met its representatives on several occasions. So, it is not as if we do not have a body that we can approach.

[48] **Christine Chapman:** That is a good idea.

[49] **Bethan Jenkins:** If we do that, we should open it up further; if we are going to contact Higher Education Wales, perhaps we should also contact University and College Union and the National Union of Students to see how they feel at the receiving end. It mentions here that the NUS has not been responsive, but if we incorporate it into our work, we may be able to get a response from the user's end as well as from the deliverer's end.

[50] **Christine Chapman:** Okay. I see that you are happy with that.

[51] The next petition is P-03-209, which calls for the abolition of tuition fees for Welsh students studying at Welsh universities. We have sent letters to the petitioner based on ministerial correspondence, but, unfortunately, we have not had a response. As we said, people may have moved on. Are you happy for us to close the petition and to produce a summary closure report?

- [52] **Bethan Jenkins:** I am not saying anything. [*Laughter.*]
- [53] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** If you are not getting any feedback from the petitioner, it is difficult to proceed.
- [54] **Veronica German:** That is the problem, no matter what you might think about it.
- [55] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** There is an election in eight months' time. [*Laughter.*]
- [56] **Christine Chapman:** We could send a final letter to the petitioner to say that we are considering closing the petition, even though they may not respond. We may need to tell them that they need to get in touch with us.
- [57] **Veronica German:** We highlight that, if we do not get any views back, then the committee—
- [58] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** I thought that the organisation was Cymru X.
- [59] **Bethan Jenkins:** That is the youth movement of our party.
- [60] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** Of what?
- [61] **Bethan Jenkins:** Of Plaid Cymru.
- [62] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** I see. You are the ones responsible for this. [*Laughter.*]
- [63] **Christine Chapman:** We will move on to the next petition, P-03-211, which calls for sufficient and appropriate provision of specialist care homes and centres for people with dementia. The Minister has responded with information on the four identified improvements for dementia service provision. We are awaiting further information from the Welsh Local Government Association on local authority provision. So, what would you like to do with this one?
- [64] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** The real problem, to a greater or lesser degree, is that, instead of having an overall dementia plan, we now have four streams of work groups working on various aspects of that plan. The hope was that the dementia plan would have an all-encompassing role in improving dementia services. So, do we need to ask the petitioner's view on how they see the service moving forward? The Minister, to her credit, has given us a comprehensive answer, but ultimately, we have to come in somewhere in between and see whether we can determine what the petitioner is looking for.
- [65] **Christine Chapman:** So, we will frame a different type of letter to the Minister on that.
- [66] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** The Minister has clearly identified work streams, so we need to ask the petitioners if they think that those work streams meet their aspirations. The dementia plan would have done so because that would have had a corporate vision, but it is important that the work streams do not miss out things that might fall between individual remits.
- [67] **Christine Chapman:** We can do that.
- [68] The next petition is P-03-215, calling for the prohibition of political events in schools unless parents' permission has been gained. The committee sought the petitioner's views on



ministerial correspondence last October, but despite a number of follow-ups, no response has been received. So, again, would you be happy to close the petition and produce a summary closure report? I see that you are happy with that.

[69] The next petition is P-03-223, which calls for the Assembly to investigate the possibility of amending section 6 of the Welsh Language Act 1993 to include MPs. We have had a response from the Minister, stating that he does not think that it would be appropriate to ask MPs to prepare a Welsh-language scheme.

9.50 a.m.

[70] **Bethan Jenkins:** I think that we should seek the views of the petitioner. I am not really happy with that response. The crux of this was that a constituent wanted to receive correspondence in the language of his choice. Whether MPs are aware of the cost of translation or not, there is an underlying principle. We should write to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to ask whether it could look into this, and look at more than just the translation costs. I am not sure how we can take it further if the Minister does not want to move on it.

[71] **Christine Chapman:** As you said, we can write to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I see that you are happy with that, so we will do that.

[72] The next petition, P-03-224, is again of long standing. It calls for the closure of Stepping Stones nursery to be halted, but, as you know, it has closed. Correspondence has been received from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and the petitioner. Again, would you be happy for us to close this petition and produce a report?

[73] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** Yes.

[74] **Christine Chapman:** The next two petitions, P-03-227, against the access road in Llanmaes, and P-03-252, opposing RAF St Athan's northern access road, oppose the construction of the northern access road. One petition additionally opposes the building of the Tremains Farm housing estate for the proposed defence technical college at St Athan. Correspondence has been received from the Deputy First Minister regarding when the decision will be made on the compulsory purchase order. Again, would you be happy for us to write to the Ministry of Defence to ask when it envisages a decision being made in relation to the defence training college?

[75] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** The strategic defence review is scheduled to report in October. Obviously, there is no harm in putting it on a formal piece of paper—

[76] **Veronica German:** However, we saw people from there the other day and they said that it falls outside the strategic defence review.

[77] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** No, it is definitely included.

[78] **Christine Chapman:** We will seek clarification on that.

[79] The next petition, P-03-244, calls for a public register of road safety projects. We have received correspondence from the Deputy First Minister and the petitioner.

[80] **Bethan Jenkins:** We need an update from the traffic services sub-group meeting on Monday, 5 July with regard to the list of schemes in local areas. I was led to believe that the Deputy First Minister understood that it was a prioritisation list, but the petitioner wanted that clarified. Perhaps we can reiterate what type of list we were talking about in a letter to the

Deputy First Minister, so that what the petitioner is asking for is absolutely clear.

[81] **Christine Chapman:** Okay, we will do that.

[82] The next update is on P-03-248, which calls for improvements to the accessibility of public transport for people with disabilities. We have had correspondence from Arriva Trains Wales and the Committee on Equality of Opportunity. Again, what would you like to do with this?

[83] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** Is the committee undertaking an inquiry? Has it started?

[84] **Ms Stocks:** It is due to start in the autumn.

[85] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** This petition would be an ideal candidate for that. I presume that we have made the committee aware of it and, if not, could we do so and see what it has to say?

[86] **Christine Chapman:** We have done so.

[87] **Bethan Jenkins:** We asked Arriva whether it had any plans to review the accessibility of services, but it does not address that in its letter to us, so perhaps we need to write again.

[88] **Christine Chapman:** We need to get further information from Arriva on this.

[89] The next petition is P-03-264, which calls for an inquiry into why Wales has not met the 2010 biodiversity target. As you know, we have had correspondence from the Sustainability Committee. Again, would you be happy for us to write to the petitioners with the details of the Sustainability Committee's response and, if you are happy to do so, to revisit the petition with a view to closing it once the Sustainability Committee has published its report? Are you happy with that?

[90] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** You cannot ask for fairer than that, can you?

[91] **Christine Chapman:** Okay.

[92] The next petition, P-03-265, calls for the inclusion of leaving home education in the personal and social education curriculum. Correspondence has been received from the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning. We took evidence on this, did we not? What would you be happy to do?

[93] **Bethan Jenkins:** Since the Minister says that he is looking forward to receiving the evaluation report on the Housemate resource, perhaps we could get that from Shelter to further inform the Minister. We could also ask Shelter for its response to the Minister's letter. On the discussions with the PSE subject specialist board, I think that Shelter has said that it is represented on that board to try to push forward the Leaving Home project.

[94] **Christine Chapman:** The next one is P-03-270, the Action for Children petition that calls for improvements to work-based learning provision for vulnerable young people. We have had correspondence from Estyn and the Minister, and we have agreed to undertake an inquiry into this issue. Later in the meeting we will be looking at the terms of reference for this, so, again, are you happy to incorporate these responses into the inquiry?

[95] **Bethan Jenkins:** I had one comment on this. Regarding the task and finish group, do you have any idea as to its terms of reference? It seems to me that he is saying that he will be

talking about young people, but he cannot tell us whether that means young people living independently. I am just curious as to why they cannot consider that group of people as a whole. Could we get some information on the types of young people that they are considering as part of this task and finish group?

[96] **Christine Chapman:** We can seek clarification on that. The next petition, P-03-272, calls for the code of practice for the welfare of equines to be revised to ban the use of equines underground. We have had correspondence from the Minister for Rural Affairs, so would you be happy to seek the petitioners' views on the ministerial response, which was comprehensive?

[97] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** Could we also refer this to the all-party group on the horse? I am not sure if we can do that—I do not think that we have ever referred anything to an all-party group before. I have attended one or two of the meetings and, to be fair, they have a lot of specialist bodies attending them. Brynle Williams is the chair. When I looked at this petition, I have to say that I did not know that there was extensive use of horses underground, but obviously there is.

[98] **Christine Chapman:** Apparently there is not at the moment, but there could be. If you read the Minister's letter, it says that it could happen, but that there are no horses being used underground at the moment. I think that that is a good idea, Andrew—we could send it to that all-party group.

[99] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** Yes, we have all these all-party groups, and they have experts sitting on them, and there might be a view that some sort of welfare regulations need to change, and it might open up a wider debate on welfare issues.

[100] **Christine Chapman:** That is a good idea. Is everyone happy with that? I see that you are. The other possibility is that we write to the Minister because she mentions the difficulties of repealing the Coal and Other Mines (Horses) Order 1956; we could seek further clarification on that.

[101] **Bethan Jenkins:** It is not my speciality.

[102] **Christine Chapman:** It is not mine either, but you learn a lot working here.

[103] The next petition, P-03-273, calls for an inquiry into the transportation of wind turbine components, and we have had correspondence on this from the Deputy First Minister. Would you be happy for us to write to the petitioners seeking their views on this response, and clarifying what they would like to look at? I see that you would.

[104] The next one, P-03-276, is from Motion for Women and calls for priority to be given to creating environments that support and encourage cycling. Again, we have had correspondence from the Deputy First Minister, so what would you be happy to do here?

[105] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** He is publishing his annual report into walking and cycling shortly, is he not? It would be interesting to see whether he is incorporating any of these points in that annual report. If not, we can obviously take action.

[106] **Christine Chapman:** The next one, P-03-279, is the petition to save Welsh universities, which calls for funding for universities to be brought into line with England, Europe and the United States. We have had correspondence from the Minister and the Chair of the Finance Committee, and the Minister recently made a statement on the higher education strategy, which outlines a radical change in the structure of higher education institutions in Wales. What would you be happy to do with this petition?

10.00 a.m.

[107] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** I would very much welcome the opportunity to see what the vice-chancellors have to say about this. The title mentions Welsh universities, so there would be a lot of interested parties. It is not just the Government, and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales just works to the instruction letter that the Minister sends it with regard to funding, so perhaps we should be taking a wider view. In the past three months, there have been quite a few statements on the higher education sector, and I think that there is another one this afternoon on student places. Could we do that to see what the vice-chancellors have to say?

[108] **Christine Chapman:** Yes. Is there anybody else that you would like to write to?

[109] **Veronica German:** All the stakeholders, really, as we said before.

[110] **Bethan Jenkins:** The University and College Union submitted this petition, so we should just ask for its views. Perhaps we could write to HEFCW as well, as we decided to do with the other petition.

[111] **Christine Chapman:** Good. The next one is P-03-280, which seeks the reopening and refurbishment of Cardiff Royal Infirmary to include an accident and emergency department and an intensive care unit. We have had correspondence from the Minister for Health and Social Services, the local health board, and the petitioners. Would you be happy initially to write to the lead petitioner with details of the services planned for the Cardiff Royal Infirmary site? Is there anything else?

[112] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** Hopefully, they will take the petitioners' views on board via their public consultations and any consultative groups that they have. I am sure that the petitioners are being very proactive and making themselves known to the LHB, but just in case they have not, could we formally write to the LHB and perhaps any consultative groups or fora that it may have, so that they take the petitioners' views on board and try to include the petitioners?

[113] **Christine Chapman:** Okay. The next petition is P-03-282, which calls for funding to be continued for the early onset dementia support service at Oldwell Court in Roath. Correspondence from the Minister for Health and Social Services states that the local health board has confirmed that it will continue to fund the service on a recurrent basis. Would you be happy to close this petition and produce a summary closure report? I see that you would.

[114] The next petition is P-03-291, which calls for the establishment of a multiplatform sexual health resource, similar to the FRANK drugs campaign. We have had a response from the Minister for Health and Social Services. As you know, we have written to the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning to seek his views on the issues raised by the petition. Would you be happy for us to write to the petitioners to highlight the invitation for them to be involved in a review of sexual health information? I see that you would.

[115] **Bethan Jenkins:** Would it be worth us writing back to the Minister for health? She has invited Speak Out Gwent, but there are other groups of this nature in Wales. Is she actively encouraging these groups to take part in the review? If she were to do so, her decisions would be informed by the people who have the greatest interest.

[116] **Christine Chapman:** We can do that.

[117] The next petition is P-03-292 on public toilet provision. It calls for the National

Assembly to undertake an investigation into the health and social wellbeing implications of poor toilet provision and for the Welsh Government to issue guidance to local authorities to ensure adequate public toilet provision. We have had correspondence from the Minister and from the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee. We are still waiting for the Welsh Local Government Association's response on the level of provision across Wales. What would you be happy to do with this one?

[118] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** I think that it is important to have the WLGA's view, on the basis that it represents those who maintain and provide funding for public conveniences in many instances, especially as we are trying to get an overview of what is going on in Wales.

[119] **Christine Chapman:** Yes, these are very important issues.

[120] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** Sadly, the health committee was unable to fit it into its forward work programme, given that there are only two terms left. If we can wait until the WLGA has come back to us, we can put the Minister's view and the local authorities' view together.

[121] **Christine Chapman:** If we write to the Minister, we could also ask for more information on which local authorities have signed up to the public facilities grant scheme for 2010-11. That might be useful.

[122] The last of our updates is on P-03-295, which calls for the delivery of paediatric neurological rehabilitation services for children who have brain injuries in Wales. This was a petition raised by Kyle's Goal. We have received a response from the Minister on this one. What would you like to do with this petition?

[123] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** There are a couple of things. The first one is to ask what improvements are planned in paediatric neurology and how patients in Wales can acquire intensive specialist rehabilitation in this particular field. That is to try to get an overview of the services on the ground, and how their implementation and monitoring is undertaken, so that there is consistency in the service, rather than have good practice in one area and pretty patchy practice in another. You should not have to worry about what type of service you will receive depending on your postcode. It would be a good step for us to understand how the implementation of the recommendations is being undertaken by local health boards across Wales.

[124] **Christine Chapman:** We will also keep the petitioners in the loop, which is very important. Are you happy with that? I see that you are. That completes the updates.

10.06 a.m.

### **Cynnig Trefniadol Procedural Motion**

[125] **Christine Chapman:** I move that

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

[126] I see that the committee is in agreement.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.  
Motion agreed.*

*Daeth rhan gyhoeddus y cyfarfod i ben am 10.06 a.m.*  
*The public part of the meeting ended at 10.06 a.m.*