

**Darganfod
Dadlau
Dewis**

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**Discover
Debate
Decide**

Petitioning the Assembly



What is the National Assembly for Wales?

The National Assembly for Wales is made up of 60 Assembly Members from across Wales. They are elected by the people of Wales to represent them and their communities, make laws for Wales and to ensure the Welsh Government is doing its job properly.

Petitioning the Assembly

The petitions process enables the people of Wales to raise issues and directly influence the work of the National Assembly. A petition is a way of asking the National Assembly to consider any issue, problem or proposal that it has the power to do something about.

The Assembly's system ensures that all admissible petitions are considered by the Petitions Committee. The system was set up to enable members of the public who feel strongly about an issue to gather support and submit a petition to the Assembly in a way that is accessible and meaningful.



The Petitions Committee

The Assembly has set up a Petitions Committee to consider petitions and to decide what action should be taken. If there is something that you would like to change about life in Wales, you can start a petition to raise your concerns.



The Petitions Committee's role is to consider all admissible petitions that are submitted to the Assembly. The Petitions Committee is made up of four Assembly Members – William Powell, Russell George, Bethan Jenkins and Joyce Watson.



Your petition

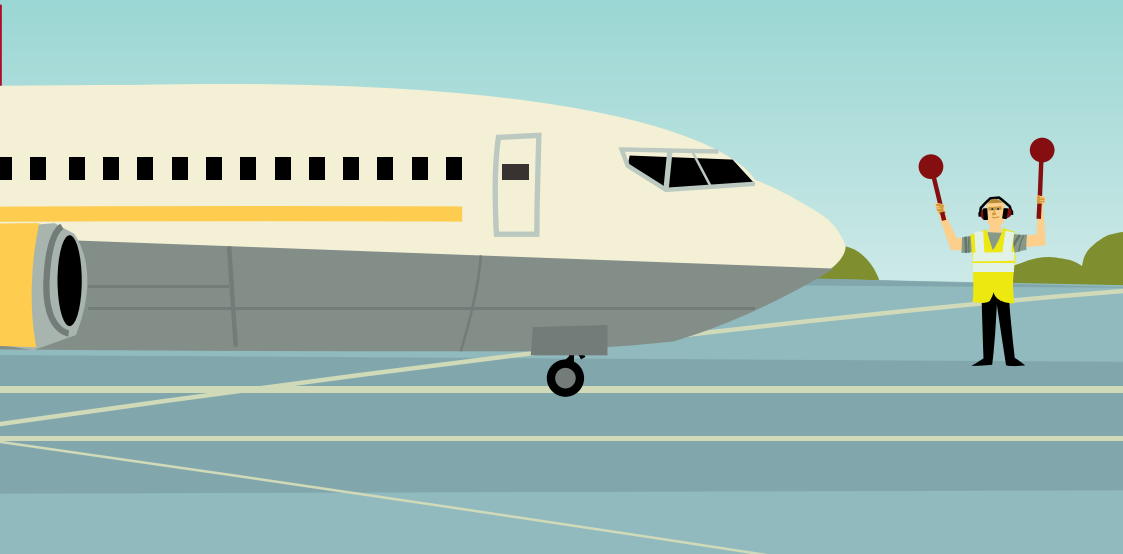
Petitions must meet a small number of terms and conditions set by the Assembly for them to be considered by the Petitions Committee. These terms and conditions are available at www.assemblywales.org/get-petitions-terms. One of the main conditions is that your petition must be about one of the devolved subject areas in which the National Assembly can make laws for Wales. These are laid out overleaf.

As long as the issue you would like to raise falls in to one of these areas and meets the other terms and conditions, you can start a petition. The Petitions team can help you make sure that your petition meets these terms and conditions before you start collecting signatures.

You can contact the Petitions team by emailing Petition@wales.gov.uk or calling 029 2089 8998.



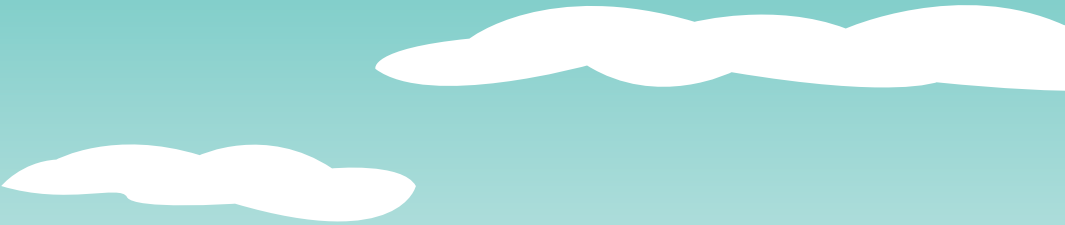
- 01 Agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development
- 02 Ancient monuments and historical buildings
- 03 Culture
- 04 Economic development
- 05 Education and training
- 06 Environment
- 07 Fire and rescue services and promotion of fire safety
- 08 Food
- 09 Health and health services
- 10 Highways and transport
- 11 Housing
- 12 Local government
- 13 National Assembly for Wales
- 14 Public services
- 15 Social welfare
- 16 Sport and recreation
- 17 Tourism
- 18 Town and country planning
- 19 Water and flood defences
- 20 Welsh Language



Getting started

The easiest way to submit your proposal is through our website, www.assemblywales.org. We also welcome traditional paper petitions.

To help you get started, contact the Petitions team to discuss the wording of your petition. We'll work with you to help make sure that your petition can be considered by the National Assembly for Wales and we'll explain the types of issues that cannot be considered. We recommend you do this before you start collecting signatures.

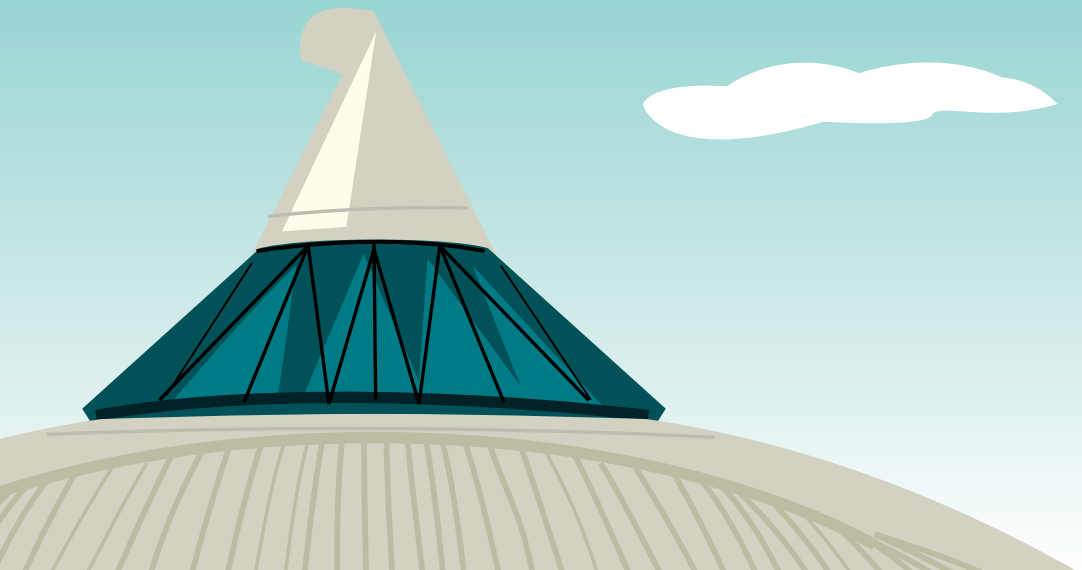


Collecting signatures

Petitions submitted by individuals will need to collect at least 10 signatures for the petition to be considered. Petitions submitted by an organisation, or even an unincorporated association or group, do not require signatures.

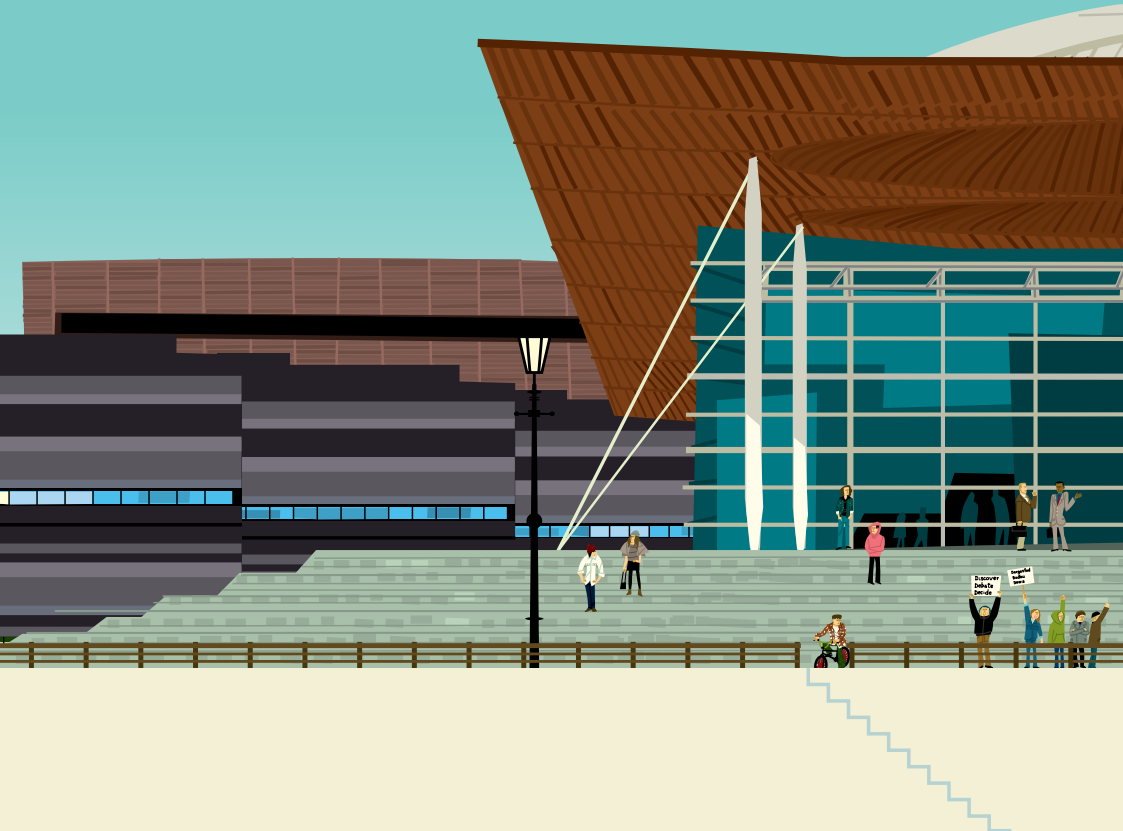
See www.assemblywales.org/e-petitions for more details on collecting signatures online.

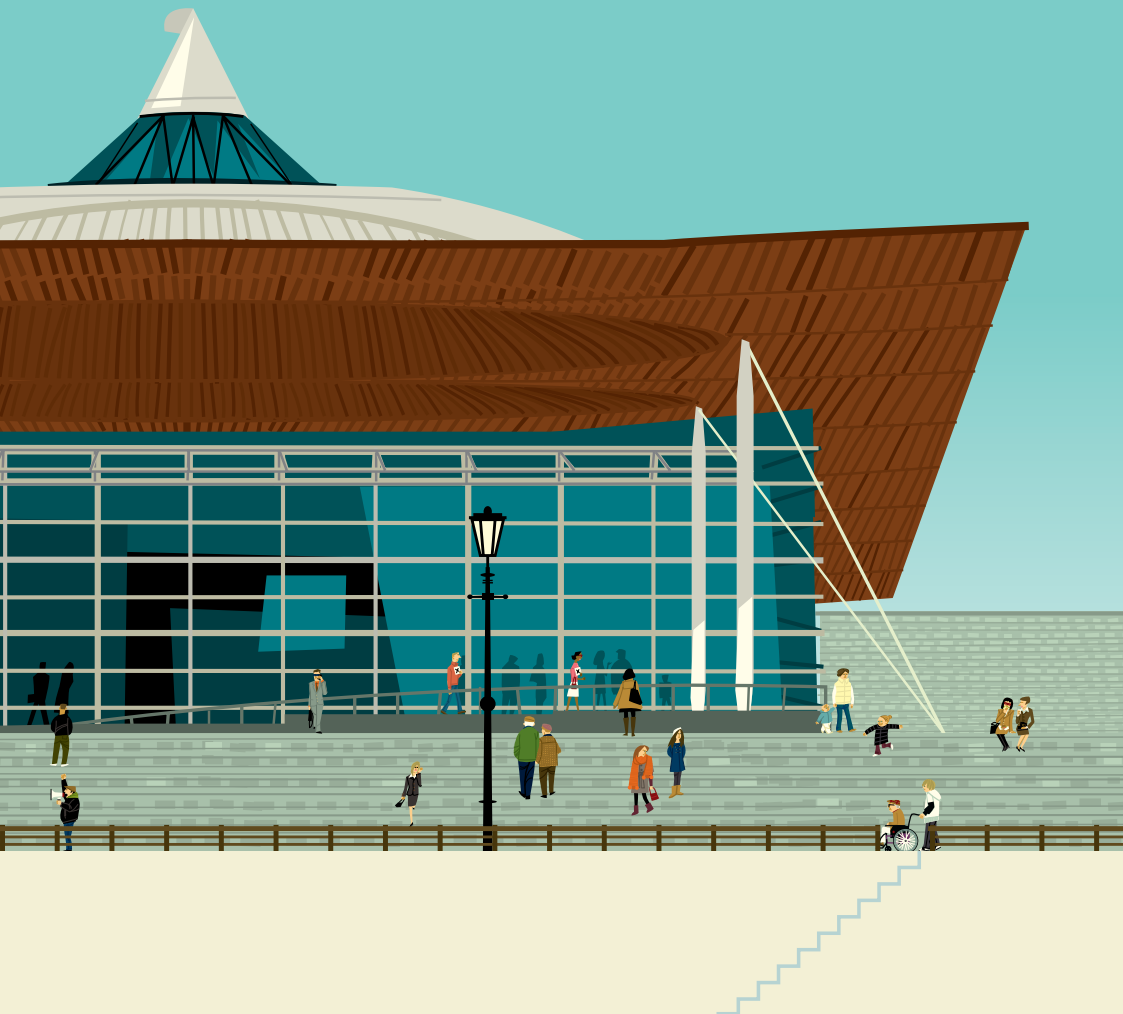
If the wording of your petition has not been discussed with the Petitions team beforehand, it will need to be assessed for admissibility before it goes any further.



Presenting your petition

Once your petition has finished collecting signatures, you can formally present it to members of the Petitions Committee on the steps of the Senedd in Cardiff Bay. This provides you with an opportunity to meet committee members and chat to them about the issue, and also to gather some publicity for your petition.





What happens next?

The petition goes to the Committee who can take a number of actions to progress it, including:

- inviting petitioners or any other organisation to present oral evidence. This usually does not happen until at least the second consideration of a petition. Not all petitioners will be invited to give evidence, and it is up to the Committee to decide who to invite;
- seeking further information from the Assembly’s Research Service or Legal Service;
- conducting a short inquiry into the issue;
- asking another committee to consider the issue. Whether they then take up issue is a decision for members of that committee.

When further information is received, the petition is considered again by the Petitions Committee. The Committee members decide what action to take in light of this new information. We'll get in touch with you before the Committee considers your petition to let you know when the meeting is taking place. We will also let you know the outcomes following the meeting.

All committee meetings can be viewed online at www.senedd.tv.



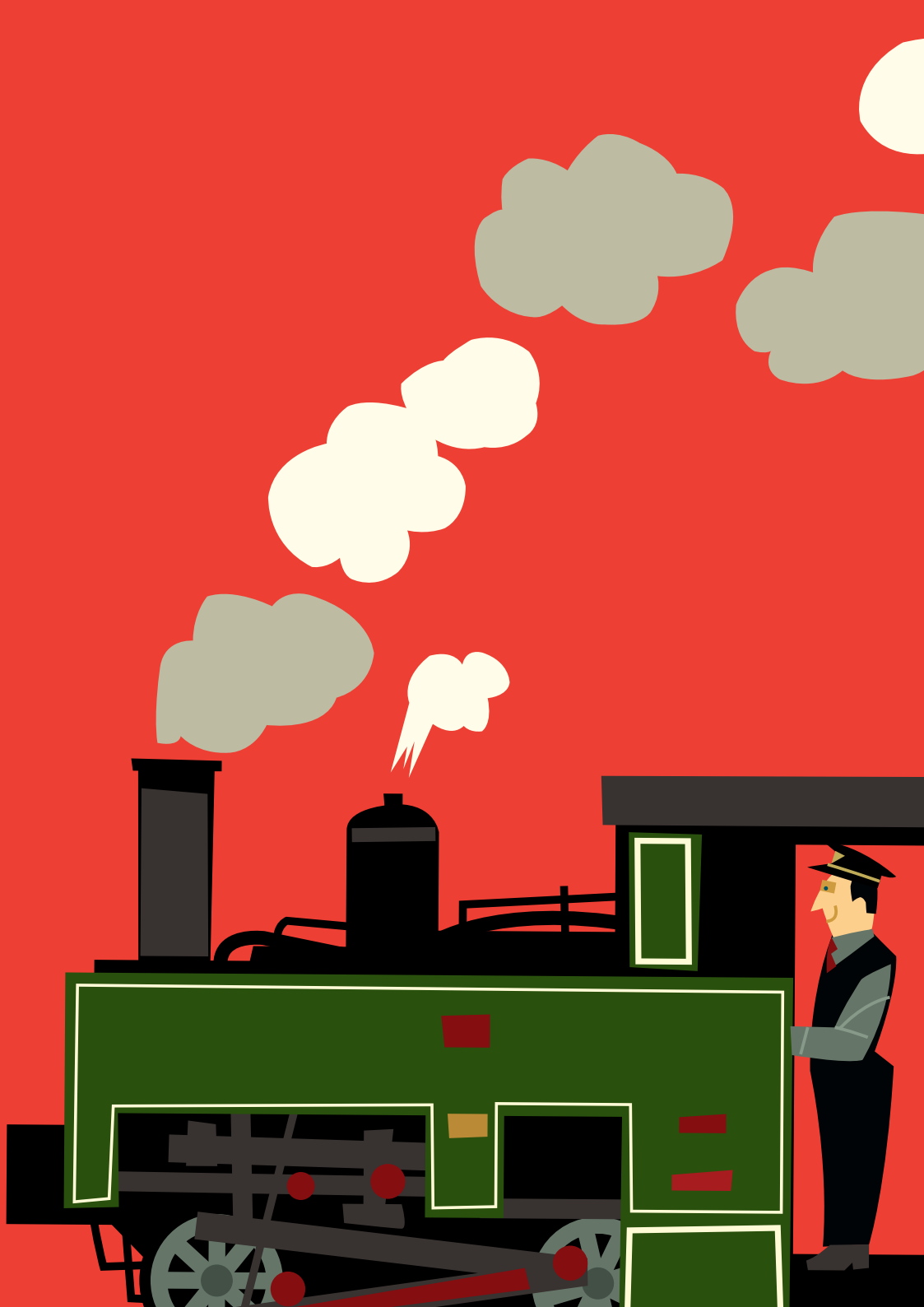
Case studies

Since the petitions process was launched in 2007, the people of Wales have used petitions to make their voices heard in a number of ways.

Fishguard Trains

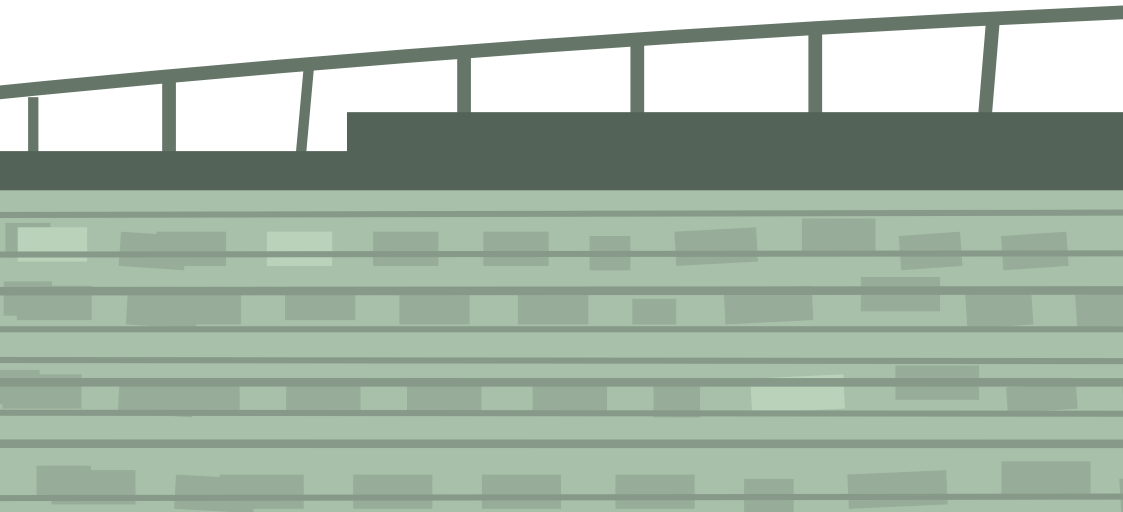
Two young people submitted a petition in 2009 calling for more train services to Fishguard. Their petition was part of a broader campaign, which included using Facebook to gather support and the help of their local Assembly Member to raise the issue in the Assembly.

The Petitions Committee wrote to the Minister with responsibility for this area and referred the issue to the Enterprise and Learning Committee who considered it as part of their inquiry into rail infrastructure in Wales. As a result of the combined representations and recommendations, the Minister funded five additional train services to and from Fishguard.



Maritime and Coastguard Agency in Wales

In July 2011, the Petitions Committee considered a petition calling for independent risk assessments to be carried out on the UK Government Maritime and Coastguard Agency's proposed closure of several coastguard stations in Wales. The closure of coastguard stations is not a matter that is devolved to Wales, but as the petitioners were not challenging the decision itself but were calling for independent risk assessments, the petition was admissible.



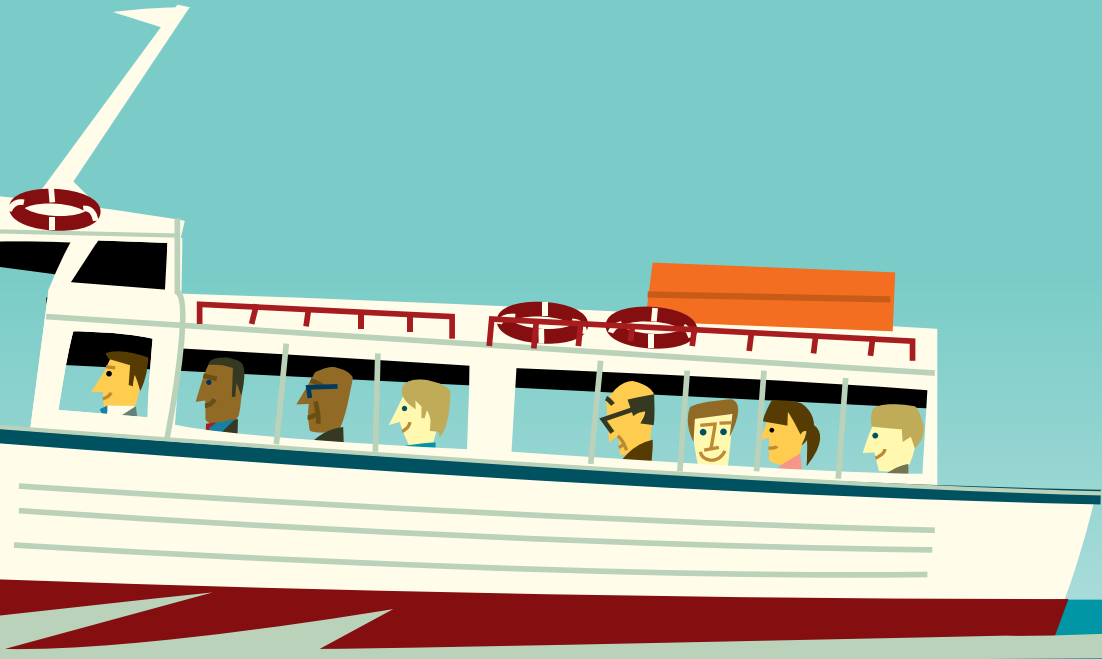
The Committee wrote to the Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science on the subject. The Minister responded to say that she shared the petitioner's concerns but that it was for the UK Government to account for the consequences of their actions.

The Committee felt that more should be done to fully understand the potential consequences of the closure and so decided to take oral evidence from the petitioner. The evidence they received confirmed the Committee's view that the Welsh Government must continue to challenge the UK Government's decision.



The Committee then published a report on the issue, which recommended that the Welsh Government carry out a risk assessment and look at ways to mitigate any risks to tourists and others.

The report was debated by the whole Assembly during a Plenary meeting in the Senedd and the Minister issued a public response to the report. In this response, she said she would make a commitment to challenging the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's proposals. She also said she would write to the UK Government to request that it commission a full and independent risk assessment, which it would be willing to jointly finance.



Get in touch

Now the Assembly wants to hear from you. Whether it's something that affects your town or village, or an issue that is of concern to your interest group or society, petitions can help you make it known to the Assembly.

If you are interested in submitting a petition, please contact us on 029 2089 8998 or email petition@wales.gov.uk

We are also happy to meet you in person.
The Petitions team
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

www.assemblywales.org
www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions.htm

T 029 2089 8998
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