House of Commons
Welsh Affairs Committee

Formal Minutes of the Committee

Session 2013-14
The Welsh Affairs Committee

The Welsh Affairs Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Office of the Secretary of State for Wales (including relations with the National Assembly for Wales).

Current membership
David T.C. Davies MP (Conservative, Monmouth) (Chair)
Guto Bebb MP (Conservative, Aberconwy)
Geraint Davies MP (Labour, Swansea West)
Glyn Davies MP (Conservative, Montgomeryshire)
Stephen Doughty MP (Labour/Co-operative, Cardiff South and Penarth)
Jonathan Edwards MP (Plaid Cymru, Carmarthen East and Dinefwr)
Nia Griffith MP (Labour, Llanelli)
Simon Hart MP (Conservative, Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire)
Mrs Siân C. James MP (Labour, Swansea East)
Karen Lumley MP (Conservative, Redditch)
Jessica Morden MP (Labour, Newport East)
Mr Mark Williams MP (Liberal Democrat, Ceredigion)

Powers
The Committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 152. These are available on the internet via www.parliament.uk

Publications
The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the internet at www.parliament.uk/welshcom

The Reports of the Committee, the formal minutes relating to that report, oral evidence taken and some or all written evidence are available in printed volumes.

Additional written evidence may be published on the internet only.

Committee staff
The current staff of the Committee is Marek Kubala (Clerk), Anwen Rees (Committee Specialist), Alison Mara (Senior Committee Assistant), Baris Tufekci (Committee Assistant) and Jessica Bridges-Palmer (Media Officer).

Contacts
All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Welsh Affairs Committee, House of Commons, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 3264; and the Committee’s email address is welshcom@parliament.uk
The Chair, Geraint Davies, Glyn Davies, Jonathan Edwards, Jessica Morden, and Mr Mark Williams visited the Work Programme centre Pontypridd, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 12 February.

TUESDAY 14 MAY 2013
Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Guto Bebb
Geraint Davies
Glyn Davies
Stephen Doughty

Jonathan Edwards
Simon Hart
Jessica Morden
Mr Mark Williams

1. Voluntary Code of Practice in the dairy sector
Draft Report (The Voluntary Code of Practice in the dairy sector), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the First Report of the Committee, HC 155.

2. Crossing the border: road and rail links between England and Wales
Draft Special Report (Crossing the border: road and rail links between England and Wales): Government Response to the Committee’s Third Report of Session 2012-13), proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government’s response to the Third Report from the Committee of Session 2012-13 was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the First Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

3. Work Programme in Wales
The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Work Programme in Wales be reported to the House for publication on the internet:
4. The Severn Crossings Toll: follow up

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to the Severn Crossings Toll: follow up submitted by Stephen Hammond MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Transport be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Resolved, That the Committee take oral evidence from the Department for Transport and the Welsh Government.

5. Financial Scrutiny

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to the Main Estimate 2013-14 submitted by the Wales Office be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

6. The impact of changes to housing benefit in Wales

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to The impact of changes to housing benefit in Wales be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

CHB 10B – Welsh Government
CHB 12B – Community Housing Cymru
CHB 12C – Community Housing Cymru
CHB 22 – Welsh Tenants

Lord Freud, Minister for Welfare Reform, Geoff Scammel, Head of Housing Strategy, and Martin King, Assistant Private Secretary, Department for Work and Pensions gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 4 June at 9.15 a.m]
Draft Special Report (Support for Armed Forces Veterans in Wales): Government response to the Committee’s Second Report of Session 2012-13), proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government’s response to the Second Report of Session 2012-13 from the Committee was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Second Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

2. Future programme
The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into Energy Generation in Wales: Shale gas.

Resolved, That the Committee take oral evidence on the closure of HMRC Enquiry Centres in Wales.

2. The impact of changes to housing benefit in Wales
Ordered, That the written evidence relating to The impact of changes to housing benefit in Wales submitted by Department for Work and Pensions (CHB 15B) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. The Severn Crossings Toll: follow-up
Ordered, That the written evidence relating to the Severn Crossings Toll: follow-up submitted by National Alliance Against Tolls (SCT 01) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. The Work Programme in Wales
The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Work Programme in Wales be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

   WPW 14 - Futureworks at Pembrokeshire County Council
   WPW 15 - Tydfil Training Consortium Ltd
   WPW 16 - Federation of Small Businesses

Gareth Parry, Director, Remploy Employment Services, Paul Gray, Chief Executive Officer, Tydfil Training Consortium Ltd and Arthur Beechey, Chief Executive Officer, Agoriad Cyf gave oral evidence.
Monday 10 June

The Chair, Geraint Davies, Jonathan Edwards, Simon Hart, Jessica Morden, and Mr Mark Williams visited the Welsh Government London office, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 27 November 2012.

TUESDAY 18 JUNE 2013

Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Geraint Davies
Stephen Doughty
Jonathan Edwards
Nia Griffith

Simon Hart
Mrs Siân C James
Jessica Morden

1. Future programme

Resolved, That the Committee’s decision of 4 June to take oral evidence on the closure of HMRC Enquiry Centres be rescinded.

Resolved, That the Committee take oral evidence on the Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales.

Resolved, That the Committee visit the National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff, in connection with its inquiry’s into the Severn Crossings Toll: Follow up and the Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales.

2. The impact of changes to housing benefit in Wales

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to The impact of changes to housing benefit in Wales be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- CHB 15C - Department for Work and Pensions
- CHB 16B - The TaxPayers’ Alliance
- CHB 21D - Bron Afon Community Housing

3. The Severn Crossings Toll: follow up

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Severn Crossings Toll: follow up be reported to the House for publication on the internet:
Stephen Hammond MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, and Chris Pope, Project Sponsor for the Severn Crossings, Highways Agency, Department for Transport gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 3 July at 2.15 p.m.]

**WEDNESDAY 3 JULY 2013**

Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair
Guto Bebb
Geraint Davies
Glyn Davies
Jonathan Edwards
Nia Griffith
Simon Hart
Mrs Siân C. James
Jessica Morden
Mr Mark Williams

1. **Responsibilities of the Secretary of State for Wales**
The Committee considered this matter.

2. **The impact of changes to housing benefit in Wales**
   *Ordered*, That the written evidence relating to The impact of changes to housing benefit in Wales submitted by the Welsh Government *(CHB 10C)* be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. **Financial Scrutiny**
   *Ordered*, That the written evidence relating to the Main Estimate 2013-14 submitted by the Secretary of State for Wales be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. **The Work Programme in Wales**
The Committee considered this matter.

   *Ordered*, That the supplementary written evidence relating to Work Programme in Wales submitted by Citizens Advice Cymru *(WPW 02B)* be reported to the House for publication on the internet.
Mr Mark Hoban MP, Minister for Employment, and Martin Brown, Jobcentre Plus, Work Services Director (Wales), Department for Work and Pensions, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 10 July at 9.15 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2013**

Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Guto Bebb               Nia Griffith
Geraint Davies         Simon Hart
Glyn Davies            Jessica Morden
Stephen Doughty        Mr Mark Williams
Jonathan Edwards

1. **Responsibilities of the Secretary of State**

Rt Hon David Jones MP, Secretary of State for Wales, and Glynne Jones, Director, Wales Office gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 11 July at 10.00 a.m at National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff

**Wednesday 10 July – Thursday 11 July**

*The Chair, Stephen Doughty, Jonathan Edwards, Nia Griffith, Simon Hart and Jessica Morden visited Cardiff in connection with the Committee’s inquiries on the Severn Crossings Toll: follow up, and Work of the Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 18 June.*

**THURSDAY 11 JULY 2013**

The Committee met at Committee Room 1, Senedd, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff

Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Stephen Doughty         Simon Hart
Jonathan Edwards        Jessica Morden
Nia Griffith

1. **The Severn Crossings Toll: follow up**

Jane Hutt AM, Finance Minister, Claire Bennett, Deputy Director of Transport, Policy, Planning and Partnerships and Andrew Jeffreys, Deputy Director of the Strategic Investment Division and Financial Reform, Welsh Government gave oral
Ordered, That the public withdraw.

Ordered, That the public be now re-admitted.

2. Work of the Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales

[Adjourned till Tuesday 16 July at 9.15 a.m.]

TUESDAY 16 JULY 2013
Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Geraint Davies  Mrs Siân C. James
Glyn Davies  Karen Lumley
Stephen Doughty  Jessica Morden
Jonathan Edwards  Mr Mark Williams
Nia Griffith

1. The Work Programme in Wales
The Committee considered this matter.

2. The impact of changes to housing benefit in Wales
The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 3 September at 9.15 a.m.]

TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2013
Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Guto Bebb  Nia Griffith
Glyn Davies  Simon Hart
Stephen Doughty  Mr Mark Williams
Jonathan Edwards
1. **The Voluntary Code of Practice in the Dairy Sector**

   Draft Special Report (*Voluntary Code of Practice in the Dairy Sector: Government Response to the Committee’s First Report of Session 2013-14*), proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

   The Government’s response to the First Report from the Committee was appended to the Report.

   *Resolved*, That the Report be the Third Special Report of the Committee to the House.

   *Ordered*, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

2. **The Work Programme in Wales**

   *Ordered*, That the following written evidence relating to the Work Programme in Wales be reported to the House for publication on the internet:
   - WPW 08A – Remploy Employments services
   - WPW 15A – Tydfil Training Consortium Ltd
   - WPW 17 – Welsh Government

3. **Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas**

   *Resolved*, That the Committee visit Milford Haven in connection with its inquiry into Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas.

   *Ordered*, That the following written evidence relating to Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas in Wales be reported to the House for publication on the internet:
   - ESG 01 – Wales Green Party
   - ESG 02 – Climate Outreach Information Network
   - ESG 03 – David F Maratos
   - ESG 04 – Institution of Civil Engineers Wales Cymru
   - ESG 05 – CDN Planning Ltd
   - ESG 06 – UK Onshore Gas Limited
   - ESG 07 – David Powell
   - ESG 08 – Energy Saving Trust
   - ESG 09 – Mrs C Maratos
   - ESG 10 – Mr M Bridger
   - ESG 11 – Welsh Power Group Limited
   - ESG 12 – WWF-Cymru
   - ESG 13 – Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth
   - ESG 14 – Department for Energy and Climate Change
   - ESG 15 – Friends of the Earth (Cyfeillion Y Daear Cymru)
   - ESG 16 – Dr Elen Stokes
   - ESG 17 – Natural Resources Wales
   - ESG 18 – RSPB
4. Petitions
The Committee considered the petitions to the House from:
   Gruffydd Meredith regarding the Signage of the Welsh Senedd building (P001210) and a Welsh Second Chamber (P001212)

5. Future Programme
The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the International Representation and Promotion of Wales by UK bodies.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Chubut and Buenos Aires in March 2014 in connection with its inquiry, International Representation and Promotion of Wales by UK bodies, and that the Chair seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 10 September at 9.15 a.m.

TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2013
Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair
Guto Bebb
Geraint Davies
Glyn Davies
Stephen Doughty
Jonathan Edwards
Nia Griffith
Simon Hart
Mrs Siân C. James
Mr Mark Williams

1. The impact of changes to housing benefit in Wales
The Committee considered this matter.

2. Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas
The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit the National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff, in connection with its inquiry into Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 8 October at 2.00 pm.

TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2013
Members present:
1. **The impact of changes to housing benefit in Wales**

Draft Report (*The impact of changes to housing benefit in Wales*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

*The draft Report was amended and agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the Second Report of the Committee, HC 159.*

2. **The Work Programme in Wales**

The Committee considered this matter.

3. **The Work of the Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales**

The Committee considered this matter.

*Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Work of the Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales be reported to the House for publication on the internet:*

- PCC 01 – Dyfed-Powys PCC
- PCC 02 – North Wales PCC
- PCC 03 – Gwent PCC

[Adjourned till Tuesday 22 October at 9.15 a.m.]

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**Thursday 17 October 2013**

*The Chair, Guto Bebb, Glyn Davies, Stephen Doughty, Jonathan Edwards, Nia Griffith, Simon Hart, Jessica Morden and Mr Mark Williams visited Milford Haven in connection with the Committee’s inquiry on Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 3 September 2013.*

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**TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2013**

Members present:

David T.C. Davies, in the Chair
1. The Work Programme in Wales

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (*The Work Programme in Wales*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

*The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the Third Report of the Committee, HC 1264.*

2. Constitutional and devolution matters

Ordered, That Alan Trench be re-appointed Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in Constitutional and devolution matters. (*For details of declaration of interests, see Appendix.*)

3. Severn Crossings Toll: follow-up

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Severn Crossings Toll: follow-up be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- SCT 04 - Letter from the Chair to the Secretary of State for Wales, dated 11 September
- SCT 05 - Letter from the Secretary of State to Wales to the Chair, dated 30 September

4. Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Bill

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to the Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Bill submitted by the Secretary of State for Wales be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

5. Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas

Resolved, That the Committee visit Cuadrilla shale gas site, Preston, Lancashire in February in connection with its inquiry into Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas.

Professor Hywel Thomas, Royal Society and Royal Academy of Engineering (Cardiff University), Professor Richard Davies and Professor Kevin Anderson, Deputy Director, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, Manchester; and Trefor Owen, Executive Director for National Services, Natural Resources Wales, Gareth Clubb, Director, Friends of the Earth Cymru and Nick Molho, Head of Policy, Climate and Energy, WWF gave oral evidence.
Adjourned till Thursday 28 November at 11.00 a.m.

Wednesday 6 - Thursday 7 November 2013

The Chair, Nia Griffith, and Jessica Morden visited Brussels in connection with its inquiry into Energy Generation in Wales: shale gas and for an update on relevant EU developments in accordance with the Committee's decision of 16 April 2013.

Thursday 28 November 2013

The Chair, Geraint Davies, Glyn Davies, Jonathan Edwards, Nia Griffith, Jessica Morden and Mark Williams visited the National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff, in connection with its inquiry into Energy Generation in Wales: shale gas in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 10 September 2013.

THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2013

The Committee met at Committee Room 3, Senedd, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff

Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Geraint Davies  Nia Griffith
Glyn Davies      Jessica Morden
Jonathan Edwards  Mr Mark Williams

1. Future programme
Resolved, That the Committee conduct pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill.

2. Severn Crossings Toll: follow-up
Written evidence relating to the Severn Crossings Toll: follow up was ordered to be reported to the House for printing.

3. The work of the Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales
Written evidence relating to the Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales was ordered to be reported to the House for printing.

4. Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas
The Committee considered this matter.
Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

ESG 30 - The Planning Inspectorate  
ESG 31 - Cuadrilla Resources  
ESG 32 - United Kingdom Onshore Operators Group  
ESG 33 - Dart Energy (Europe) Ltd  
ESG 34 - Health And Safety Executive  
ESG 35 - Planning Officers Society Of Wales

Mr Gerwyn Williams, Director, Coastal Oil and Gas, Matt Lambert, Government and Public Affairs Director, Cuadrilla and Andrew Nunn, UK Exploration Manager, Dart Energy; Peter Brown, Deputy Director, Policy, Health and Safety Executive, Andrew Farrow, Chair, Planning Officers Society for Wales and Richard Poppleton, Director for Wales, The Planning Inspectorate gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 9 December at 4.15 p.m.

Monday 9 December 2013

Members present:  
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Guto Bebb  
Glyn Davies  
Stephen Doughty  
Jonathan Edwards  
Jessica Morden

1. Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas submitted by Natural Resources Wales (ESG 36) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.


[Adjourned till Tuesday 10 December at 2.00 pm.

Tuesday 10 December 2013

Members present:  
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Geraint Davies  
Simon Hart
1. Silk Commission and financial devolution in Wales

Rt Hon David Jones MP, Secretary of State for Wales, and Mr Glynne Jones, Director, Wales Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 17 December at 9.00 am.

Tuesday 17 December 2013

Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Glyn Davies
Jonathan Edwards
Nia Griffith

1. Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas

Chris Faulkner, Chief Executive Officer, Breitling Energy Companies; and Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP, Minister for Energy, and Duarte Figueira, Head, Office of Unconventional Gas and Oil, Department for Energy and Climate Change, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 18 December at 10.00 am.

Wednesday 18 December 2013

Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Guto Bebb
Glyn Davies
Stephen Doughty
Jonathan Edwards
Nia Griffith

1. Pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill

The Committee considered this matter.
Resolved, That the Committee visit the National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff, in connection with its pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 7 January 2014 at 9.15 am.]

**Tuesday 7 January 2014**

Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Guto Bebb
Geraint Davies
Glyn Davies
Stephen Doughty

Nia Griffith
Simon Hart
Jessica Morden
Hywel Williams

1. **Declaration of interests**

Hywel Williams declared his interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 (see Appendix).

2. **Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas**

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas submitted by Mr J Vaughan (ESG 37) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. **Pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 14 January at 9.15 am.]

**Tuesday 14 January 2014**

Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Guto Bebb
Geraint Davies
Glyn Davies

Simon Hart
Jessica Morden
Hywel Williams
Nia Griffith  Mr Mark Williams

1. The impact of changes to housing benefit in Wales

Draft Special Report (The impact of changes to housing benefit in Wales: Government response to the Committee’s Second Report of Session 2013-14), proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government’s response to the Second Report from the Committee was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Fourth Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

2. Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas submitted by the UK Environmental Law Association (ESG 38) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Silk Commission and financial devolution in Wales

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to the Silk Commission and financial devolution in Wales submitted by the Secretary of State for Wales be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. Pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

   DWB 2 – Graham Allen MP
   DWB 3 – Gerald Holtham
   DWB 4 – Professor Roger Scully

Gerald Holtham and Professor Jim Gallagher; and Professor Richard Wyn Jones, Director, and Professor Roger Scully, Wales Governance Centre, Cardiff University, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 16 January at 1.15 pm.

Thursday 16 January 2014]
Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Geraint Davies
Glyn Davies
Nia Griffith

Simon Hart
Hywel Williams

1. Pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the pre-legislative scrutiny of
the draft Wales Bill be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

DWB08 – Federation of Small Businesses Wales
DWB07 – Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Wales
DWB06 – Electoral Reform Society Wales
DWB05 – Dr John Ball

Huw Roberts, Chair, Institute of Directors Wales, Iestyn Davis, Head of External
Affairs, Federation of Small Businesses, and Professor Dylan Jones-Evans OBE, Bristol
Business School; Neil Brierley, Chair, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Wales,
and Dr John Ball; and Stephen Brooks, Director, Electoral Reform Society Wales, and
John Turner, Chief Executive, Association of Electoral Administrators, gave oral
evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 20 January at 10.10 am at National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff.

Monday 20th January

The Chair, Guto Bebb, Geraint Davies, Glyn Davies, Stephen Doughty, Nia Griffith,
Simon Hart, Sian James, Jessica Morden, Hywel Williams and Mark Williams visited
the National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff, in connection with its pre-legislative scrutiny
of the draft Wales Bill in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 18 December
2013.

Monday 20 January 2014

The Committee met at Committee Room 1, Senedd, National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff

Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair
1. Pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

DWB09 – Electoral Commission
DWB10 – Dr Thomas Lundberg, University of Glasgow
DWB11 – Welsh Government
DWB12 – Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
DWB13 – Welsh Liberal Democrats
DWB14 – Professor Laura McAllister, University of Liverpool
DWB15 – UK Independence Party

Dame Rosemary Butler AM, Presiding Officer, Adrian Crompton, Director of Assembly Business, and Elisabeth Jones, Director of Legal Services, National Assembly for Wales; Jocelyn Davies AM, Chair, Finance Committee, Martin Jennings, Researcher, and Joanest Jackson, Lawyer, National Assembly for Wales; and Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister of Wales, Jane Hutt AM, Minister for Finance, Hugh Rawlings, Director of Constitutional Affairs, and Andrew Jeffreys, Deputy Director of Strategic Capital Investment, Welsh Government, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 21 January at 9.15 am.

Tuesday 21 January 2014

Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Glyn Davies
Stephen Doughty
Nia Griffith
Mrs Siân C. James

Jessica Morden
Hywel Williams
Mr Mark Williams

1. Pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill

The Committee considered this matter.
Kay Jenkins, Head of Wales Office and English Regions, Electoral Commission; and Graham Allen MP, Chair, Political and Constitutional Reform Committee, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 30 January at 9.15 am.

Thursday 30 January 2014

MORNING SITTING

Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Guto Bebb
Glyn Davies
Stephen Doughty
Nia Griffith

Mrs Siân C. James
Jessica Morden
Hywel Williams
Mr Mark Williams

1. Pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

DWB16 – Chartered Institute of Taxation
DWB17 – The Electoral Commission (supplementary)
DWB18 – Professor Jonathan Bradbury
DWB19, 20, 21 – Wales Office

Andrew RT Davies AM, Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, Kirsty Williams AM, Leader, Welsh Liberal Democrats, Leanne Wood AM, Leader, Plaid Cymru, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 30 January at 1.15pm.

Thursday 30 January 2014

AFTERNOON SITTING
Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair
Guto Bebb
Glyn Davies
Stephen Doughty
Nia Griffith
Mrs Siân C. James
Jessica Morden
Hywel Williams
Mr Mark Williams

1. The Work Programme in Wales

Draft Special Report (*The Work Programme in Wales: Government Response to the Committee’s Third Report of Session 2013-14*), proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government’s response to the Third Report from the Committee was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Fifth Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

2. Severn Crossings Toll: follow up

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill

Rt Hon David Jones MP, Secretary of State for Wales, David Gauke MP, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, and Geth Williams, Deputy Director Constitution and Corporate Services, Wales Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 11 February at 9.15 am.

Thursday 6th February

*The Chair, Guto Bebb, Stephen Doughty and Nia Griffith visited the Cuadrilla shale gas site, Preston, Lancashire in February in connection with its inquiry into Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 22 October.*

Tuesday 11 February 2014

Members present:
1. Pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- DWB 23 – Dame Rosemary Butler AM, Presiding Officer, NAW
- DWB 24 – Andrew RT Davies AM, Leader of the Opposition, NAW
- DWB 25 – Professor Richard Wyn Jones, Wales Governance Centre

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee take oral evidence from the Commission on Devolution in Wales on the Commission’s Part II Report.

[Adjourned till Monday 24 February at 5 pm.

Monday 24 February 2014

Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Guto Bebb
Stephen Doughty
Nia Griffith
Simon Hart

Guto Bebb
Jessica Morden
Stephen Doughty
Hywel Williams
Nia Griffith
Mr Mark Williams
Simon Hart

1. Pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- DWB 26 – Wales Office (supplementary evidence)
- DWB 28 – Institute of Directors Wales

2. Financial Scrutiny
Ordered, That the written evidence relating to the Supplementary Estimates 2013-14 submitted by the Wales Office be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Future of AHVLA Veterinary Laboratories in Wales

Ordered, That the correspondence between the Chair and George Eustice MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Farming, Food and Marine Environment, on the future of AHVLA veterinary laboratories in Wales be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. Support for Armed Forces Veterans in Wales

Ordered, That the correspondence between the Chair and Anna Soubry MP, Minister for Defence Personnel Welfare and Veterans, on the support for armed forces veterans in Wales be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

5. International Representation and Promotion of Wales by UK bodies

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 26 February at 5.30 pm.

Wednesday 26 February 2014

Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Guto Bebb
Glyn Davies
Stephen Doughty
Nia Griffith

Simon Hart
Jessica Morden
Hywel Williams
Mr Mark Williams

1. Pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill

Draft Report (Pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill) proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was amended and agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the Fourth Report of the Committee, HC 962.

2. Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Severn Crossings Toll: follow-up
The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 11 March at 9.15 a.m.

Tuesday 11 March 2014

Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair
Guto Bebb
Jonathan Edwards
Nia Griffith
Simon Hart
Mrs Siân C. James
Jessica Morden
Mr Mark Williams

1. Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas submitted by Mr M Howell (ESG 40) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

2. Severn Crossings Toll: follow-up

Ordered, That the correspondence from Robert Goodwill MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Transport, on the Severn Crossings Toll be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 1 April at 9.30 a.m.

Sunday 16 March – Monday 24 March

The Chair, Guto Bebb, Stephen Doughty, Jonathan Edwards, Nia Griffith, Simon Hart, Mrs Siân C. James, Jessica Morden and Mr Mark Williams visited Chubut and Buenos Aires in March in connection with the Committee’s inquiry into the International Representation and Promotion of Wales by UK bodies, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 3 September.

Tuesday 1 April 2014

Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair
Glyn Davies
Stephen Doughty
Jonathan Edwards
Mrs Siân C. James
Jessica Morden
Mr Mark Williams

1. Pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill
Draft Special Report (Pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill: Government Response to the Committee’s Fourth Report of Session 2013-14), proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government’s response to the Fourth Report from the Committee was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Sixth Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

2. Energy generation in Wales: Shale gas

The Committee considered this matter.

3. International Representation and Promotion of Wales by UK bodies

Resolved, That the Committee visit the Residence of the Argentinian Ambassador to the United Kingdom in London in connection with its inquiry into the International Representation and Promotion of Wales by UK bodies.

Resolved, That the Committee visit the offices of British Council Wales, Cardiff, in connection with its inquiry into the International Representation and Promotion of Wales by UK bodies.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the International Representation and Promotion of Wales by UK bodies be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

IRW 01 – National Museum Wales
IRW 02 – Helen Jones
IRW 03 – British Council
IRW 04 – John Ball
IRW 05 – Dr Andrew Crawley and Professor Max Munday
IRW 06 – The Learned Society of Wales
IRW 07 – Cymdeithas Cymru-Ariannin (The Wales-Argentina Society)
IRW 08 – Stephen Bristow
IRW 09 – Wales Tourism Alliance
IRW 10 – Institute of Directors, Wales
IRW 11 – Wales Office
IRW 13 – Visit Britain

Professor Annette Pritchard, Director, Welsh Centre for Tourism Research, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Professor Jerry Hunter, School of Welsh, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Bangor University, and Dr Andrew Crawley, Research Fellow, Cardiff Business School, Cardiff University gave oral evidence.
[Adjourned till Tuesday 29 April at 9.15 a.m.]
Tuesday 29 April 2014

Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Guto Bebb
Geraint Davies
Glyn Davies
Stephen Doughty
Jonathan Edwards

Nia Griffith
Mrs Siân C. James
Jessica Morden
Mr Mark Williams

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into Prisons in Wales and treatment of Welsh offenders.

2. International Representation and Promotion of Wales by UK bodies

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the International Representation and Promotion of Wales by UK bodies be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

IRW 14 – Wales Literature Exchange
IRW 15 – Welsh National Opera
IRW 16 – South-West Wales Tourism Partnership
IRW 17 – Federation of Small Business Wales
IRW 18 – Mr J.B. Wood

3. Silk Commission Part II: devolving legislative powers to Wales

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Silk Commission Part II: devolving legislative powers to Wales be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

SLK 02 – UK’s Changing Union: Our Future
SLK 03 – UK’ Changing Union
SLK 04 – Friends of the Earth Cymru
SLK 06 – The Law Society of England and Wales
SLK 07 – YourLegalEyes
SLK 08 – Consumer Council for Water
SLK 09 – United Kingdom Independence Party
Paul Silk, Chair, Helen Molyneux, Member, and Professor Noel Lloyd CBE, Member, Commission on Devolution in Wales, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 13 May at 9.15 a.m.]

Tuesday 6 May

The Chair, Jonathan Edwards, Nia Griffith, Simon Hart, Jessica Morden and Mr Mark Williams visited the Residence of the Argentine Ambassador to the United Kingdom in connection with the Committee’s inquiry into the International Representation and Promotion of Wales by UK bodies, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 1 April.

Tuesday 13 May 2014

Members present:
David T.C. Davies, in the Chair

Guto Bebb
Glyn Davies
Jonathan Edwards
Nia Griffith

Simon Hart
Mrs Siân C. James
Jessica Morden
Mr Mark Williams

1. Broadband Services in Wales

Resolved, That the Committee visit the offices of BT Openreach, London, in connection with its inquiry into Broadband Services in Wales.

2. Silk Commission Part II: devolving legislative powers to Wales

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to Silk Commission II: devolving legislative powers to Wales submitted by Mr S Cramp (SLK 05) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. International Representation and Promotion of Wales by UK bodies

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the International Representation and Promotion of Wales by UK bodies be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

IRW 19 – Capital Region Tourism
IRW 20 – Wales Association of Self Catering Operators
IRW 21 – Vale Tourism Association
IRW 22 – TC (Welsh Producers Association)
Adrian D. Greason-Walker, Executive Director, Wales Tourism Alliance, Roger Burgess, Chairman, Wales Association of Self Catering Operators, Mandy Davies, Chairperson, Vale Tourism Association; and Simon Gibson OBE, Director, and Ian Edwards, Chief Operating Officer, Celtic Manor Resort, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 3 June at 9.15 a.m.]
DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS’ INTERESTS

14 July 2010: declaration of Members’ interests

Guto Bebb:
Remunerated employment, office, profession etc: Proprietor of Egin Partnership, Caban, Brynrefail, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 3NR, an economic consultancy.

Sponsorships: Donation of £5,000 to the constituency association from the Patrons Club of Conwy, Caerhun Hall. Ty’n Groes, Conwy LL32 8HX, a private members club. The constituency association will report this donation to the Electoral Commission.

David T.C. Davies:
Gifts, benefits and hospitality (UK): As a serving Special Constable with the British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, I may travel for free on London transport in return for intervening if I see a crime or if someone needs first aid. Remunerated consultancy work for Phoenix Chinese News & Entertainment Co. Ltd Television and Radio Station Operators and president of the Welsh Amateur Boxing Association

Sponsorships: Donation of £3,000 from Ronald Hear, The Old Manor, Forge Road, Osbaston, Monmouth, NP25 3AZ which has been reported to the Electoral Commission.

Geraint Davies:
Sponsorships: Donation of £4,500 from the GMB, Newport Road, Cardiff and a donation of £3,000 from the Cooperative Party, 1 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, which have been reported to the Electoral Commission.

Land and Property: Two properties in London for which rental is received.

Registrable shareholdings: In Pure Crete Ltd, a tour operator to Crete.

Jonathan Edwards:
Remunerated employment, office, profession etc: Payments of £30 from BBC Wales, PO Box 480, Manchester M14 OEL, for a 30 minute appearance on a radio programme on 21 June 2010, and £100 from Boomerang, 218 Heol Penarth, Caerdydd CF11 8NN, for three hours media work.

Nia Griffith:
Land and Property: Small holding in Camarthenshire.

Susan Elan Jones:
Remunerated employment, office, profession etc: Payment of £25 from Boomerang Plus plc, 218 Heol Penarth, Caerdydd, CF11 8NN, a radio station, for a 15 minute telephone interview for Radio Cymru

Karen Lumley:
Directorships: RKL Geological Services, 4 Grove Road, Wrexham LL11 1AY, a geological consultancy company.

Sponsorships: Donation of £500 per month to my constituency party from Loxton Developments Ltd, Longbourn Farm, Pittern Hill, Kineton. Warwick CU35 0JF, company registration number 02171248.

Jessica Morden:
Nil.

Mr Mark Williams:
Sponsorships: Donation of £2,000 from Mr Clive Jenkins.

Stuart Andrew
Elected member of Leeds City Council. Resigned September 2010. Received payments as follows:


Mr Robin Walker
Remunerated employment, office, profession etc:
Finsbury Limited, (financial communications advisory), Tenter House 45 Moorfields London, EC2 9AE.

Received £2,500 for June 2010 Hours: 2 hours (Registered 5 July 2010)
Received £2,500 for July 2010 Hours: 1 hour (Registered 28 July 2010)
Received £2,500 for August 2010 Hours: 10 hours (Registered 6 September 2010)
Received £2,500 for September 2010 Hours: 10 hours (Registered 19 October 2010)
Received £2,500 for October 2010 Hours: 1 hour (Registered 16 November 2010)
Received £2,500 for November 2010. Hours: 3 hrs. (Registered 9 December 2010)
Received £2,500 for December 2010. Hours: 10 hrs. (Registered 26 January 2011)
Received £3,000 in December 2010 for work over the year 2010. No additional hours worked. (Registered 26 January 2011)
Received £2,500 for January 2011. Hours: 8 hrs. (Registered 26 January 2011)
Received £2,500 for February 2011. Hours: 4 hrs. (Registered 2 March 2011)
Received £2,500 for March 2011. Hours: 2 hrs. (Registered 7 April 2011)
Received £2,500 for April 2011. Hours: 0 hrs. (Registered 11 May 2011)
received £2,500 for May 2011. Hours: 10 hrs. (Registered 7 June 2011)

Clients:
Clients of Finsbury Limited advised by me:
Tomkins plc, East Putney House 84 Upper Richmond Road London DW15, 2ST, diversified engineering company.
Morgan Crucible plc, The Morgan Crucible Company plc Quadrant 55-5 High St Windsor Berkshire SL4 1LP, specialist materials company
Rio Tinto plc, 2 Eastbourne Terrace London W2 6LG, diversified mining company
Vedanta Resources plc, 16 Berkeley Street London W1J 8DZ, diversified mining company
African Barrick Gold plc, c/o Shearman and Sterling (London LLP, Broadgate West 9 Appold Street London EC2A 2AP, gold mining company
Hochschild Mining plc, 46 Albemarle Street London W1S 4JL, precious metals mining company
CRH plc, Belgard Castle Clondalkin Dublin 22 Ireland, building materials company
NSG Pilkington Ltd, Alexandra Business Park Prescott Road St Helens Merseyside London WA10 3TT, building materials company
Trigon Agri A/S, Trigon Agri A/S Viru Valjack 2 Tallin Estonia, agribusiness (until 31 July 2010).

Overseas visits:
Name of donor: Conservative Middle East Council
Address of donor: 83 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0HW
Amount of donation (or estimate of the probable value): flights, hotels, transport and food to the value of £1,100
Destination of visit: Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories
Date of visit: 3-7 February 2011
Purpose of visit: study visit including meeting the Prime Minister of the Palestinian National Assembly and Deputy Foreign Minister of Israel.
(Registered 8 February 2011)

Mrs Siân C James
Ownership of a house in Neath

6 November 2012

Glyn Davies:

Remunerated employment, office, profession etc:

Self-employed farmer.
Land and Property

Two-bedroom flat at Century Wharf, Cardiff Bay.
Farmland, house and buildings near Castle Caereinion, Montgomeryshire.
Farmland, house and buildings near Llanefydd, Montgomeryshire.
I receive rental income from all the above properties.

9 January 2013

Stephen Doughty:

Sponsorships: Donation of £2,636.29 from Mr Clive Jones.

Miscellaneous: Unremunerated trustee, Moorland Day Centre.

Simon Hart:

Remunerated employment, office, profession etc: Payments received as Trustee of the Sundorne Estate. Payments for administration and attending meetings made by Balfours, Windsor House, Windsor Place, Shrewsbury SY1 2BY: Payment of £850.
Hours: 5 hrs.

7 January 2014

Hywel Williams:
Nil.

DECLARATION OF SPECIALIST ADVISERS' INTERESTS

26 October 2010

Mr Alan Trench
Constitutional Adviser and Director, Tomorrow’s Wales (company limited by guarantee).

Author, ‘Devolution Matters’ blog.

Honorary Senior Research Fellow, The Constitution Unit, University College London (all remunerated)

Occasional remuneration from academic work for University of Edinburgh

11 October 2011
Mr Robert Aitken CBE FCMI
Nil.

13 April 2012

Mr Charles Richard Goldson
Specialist Adviser to the Transport Select Committee of the House of Commons.
Associate with the Oxford Economic Research Association.
Chairman of the RPMI (Rail Pensions Administration).
I attended a cricket test match during the summer of 2012 as a guest of the First Group pension fund and have agreed not to be involved in any work by the Committee relating to the West Coast Main Line franchise.

22 October 2013

Alan Trench:
Remunerated interests:
Professor of Politics, School of Criminology, Politics and Social Policy, University of Ulster
Consultant to Institute for Public Policy Research for ‘Devo More’ project
Commissioned research for ‘Wales in a Changing Union’ project, Wales Governance Centre, Cardiff University
Occasional teaching for Cardiff Law School, Cardiff University

Unremunerated interests:
Adviser to Scottish Conservative Party working group on devolution
Honorary fellow, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh
Honorary senior research associate, The Constitution Unit, University College London
Author, ‘Devolution Matters’ blog