

Petitioning the Assembly



We are the National Assembly for Wales.

We are the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

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Petitioning the Assembly

Do you feel strongly about an issue affecting you or your community? Make your voice heard by the National Assembly – set up or sign a petition.

When you set up a petition, you're asking us to look at an issue, problem, or proposal. It must be about something devolved to Wales that the National Assembly or the Welsh Government has the power to change.

When you sign a petition, you're showing your support. You're supporting others who feel the same as you do about the issue. You're joining together as a community to make something happen.

Petitioning the Assembly is one of the most direct ways you can raise your concerns. You can petition us to suggest a new policy, different ways of doing things or to change something in Wales.

You can set up a petition and see others that are collecting signatures now by visiting www.assembly.wales/petitions.



How does a petition work?

Setting up a petition with the National Assembly is easy. Remember, you're not alone – the Petitions team will support you at every stage.

When you're getting started, you might not know what to expect. In general, you'll need to:

- **Write your petition** – we can provide support to help you do this if you need it.
- **Send us your petition to check** – we'll check your petition to make sure we can accept it.
- **Collect signatures** – you'll need to gather at least 50 signatures for the Petitions Committee to look at your petition.
- **Hand over your petition** – once you've collected all your signatures, you can hand it over to the Petitions Committee at the Senedd. The Committee will look at your petition and decide what needs to happen next.

You can find out more about the process by visiting www.assembly.wales/petitions.



Writing your petition

Putting your idea for a petition into words can be tricky – but we're here to help you get underway.

There are a few requirements your petition must meet:

Do you have a base in Wales?

We only look at petitions from people who live in Wales or organisations with a base in Wales. This makes sure we focus on the issues that are a genuine concern for the people of Wales.

What are you asking for?

Your petition must be about an issue, problem, or proposal devolved to Wales. Something the National Assembly or the Welsh Government has the power to change. If you're unsure, contact us and we'll explain the types of issues the Petitions Committee can look at.

Who has the power to do what you're asking?

Your petition should ask us, or the Welsh Government to do or change something. We can't look at issues that are the responsibility of local authorities because they have their own way of doing things.

You can find out more about writing a petition by visiting www.assembly.wales/petitions.

Send us your petition to check

You've had your idea and put it in writing.
Now it's time to send us your wording.

The Petitions team will need to check whether it's admissible
or inadmissible.





An **admissible petition** is one about a devolved issue, and meets our requirements. We can only look at admissible petitions. If your petition is admissible, you can start collecting signatures.



An **inadmissible petition** is one about something that's the responsibility of the UK Government or your local authority. If the issue is not the responsibility of the National Assembly or the Welsh Government, we can't look at it.

If your petition is **inadmissible** we'll explain why, or we'll help you change it.

We publish a list of inadmissible petitions on our website. This list helps people see why we can't accept certain petitions.

You can find out more about submitting your petition by visiting www.assembly.wales/petitions.



Collecting signatures

We've looked at your petition and decided it's admissible. Now you can start collecting signatures.

There are a few ways you can collect your signatures:

The National Assembly e-petitions system:

We have our own e-petitions system. This lets you collect signatures through our website. If you use this system, we'll check if your petition is admissible automatically.



On paper:

We accept the more traditional paper petitions too. We can give you advice and templates for paper petitions.

Alternative petitions systems:

We can sometimes accept petitions which have collected signatures through another website. However, if you haven't spoken to us about your petition there's no guarantee it will be admissible – even if you've already collected 50 signatures or more. You should contact the team to discuss.

Every petition we look at needs to have collected at least 50 signatures before it can move to the next stage. If you collect 5,000 signatures or more, we'll consider your petition for debate in Plenary – where all 60 Assembly Members will be able to discuss your issue.





Hand over your petition

You've collected your signatures, and you're ready to hand your petition to the Petitions Committee.

Once you've collected your signatures, you can hand it over to members of the Committee in person. This is a positive and popular way for you to finish this part of the petition process.

Handing over your petition in person gives you the opportunity to meet the Committee members. You can chat to them about your petition, and share the story behind it.

This is also an opportunity to gather some publicity for your petition. We'll take photos of you handing the petition over to the Committee. We'll publish these photos to our Flickr account so you can use them on your own social media.

If you can't hand over your petition in person – don't worry. It is an option but not required.

If you would like to, contact the Petitions team:

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales
0300 200 6565

You can find out more about presenting your petition to the Committee by visiting

www.assembly.wales/petitions.



What happens next?

You've presented your petition to the Petitions Committee. Now the Members who make up the Committee can look at your issue.

There are a few things the Petitions Committee can do:

- **Gather information about your issue:** The Committee will get information. Each time the Committee gets more information about the petition they'll look at it again. You'll always have an opportunity to provide comments before the Committee decides what happens next.
- **Invite people to speak at a Petitions Committee meeting:** The Committee can invite people to a meeting so they can find out more about the petition. They might ask to speak to you, the Welsh Government, an organisation or an expert on the subject.
- **Conduct a short inquiry into the issue:** The Committee could take all the information they've collected, and use it to produce a report. In the report, they'll say what they think should happen to help with your issue.
- **Ask another committee to look at the issue:** Whether another committee looks at the issue is a decision for members of that committee. They will already have their work planned out, but it's possible they could investigate the issue as part of their work.

Meet the committee

The Petitions Committee is a group of five Assembly Members who look at every admissible petition we receive.

When you hand your petition over to the Petitions Committee, you're giving it to these Assembly Members to look at and work on.



David J Rowlands AM

UKIP
South Wales East



Rhun ap Iorwerth AM

Plaid Cymru
Ynys Môn



Mike Hedges AM

Welsh Labour
Swansea East



Neil McEvoy AM

Independent Member
South Wales Central



Janet Finch-Saunders AM

Welsh Conservative
Aberconwy

Get in touch

Now you know how a petition works and how to set one up - we want to hear from you.

There are many ways you can get in touch with us and find out more about our work. You can contact us using the details below, or you can come to the Senedd in Cardiff bay to speak to us in person.



www.assembly.wales/petitions



SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales



0300 200 6565



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