



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Adroddiad Cwblhad

Crynodeb o ystyriaeth y Pwyllgor Deisebau ar P-03-171 Cadarnhau
safonau diogelwch tân cyfredol

Tachwedd 2008

Derbyniwyd yr e-ddeiseb

15 Awst 2008

Dyfarnwyd yn dderbyniadwy

29 Medi 2008 (ar ôl casglu llofnodion)

Ystyriaeth gychwynnol

16 Hydref 2008

Ystyriodd y pwyllgor y ddeiseb am y tro cyntaf, a chytunwyd i ysgrifennu at y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol i ofyn am gynlluniau lleihau risg newydd Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru.

(Gweler Atodiad 1 am y dyfyniad perthnasol o gyfarfod 16 Hydref 2008, ac Atodiad 2 am y llythyr a anfonwyd at y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol)

Ystyriaeth bellach

20 Tachwedd 2008

Bu'r pwyllgor yn ystyried ymateb gan y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol, a chytunwyd i gau'r ddeiseb gan nad oedd y pwyllgor yn teimlo bod modd mynd â'r ddeiseb ymhellach.

(Gweler Atodiad 1 am y dyfyniad perthnasol o drawsgrifiad cyfarfod 20 Tachwedd 2008, ac Atodiad 2 am yr ymateb a gafwyd gan y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol)

Clerc Deisebau

Tachwedd 2008

Atodiad 1

Darn Perthansol o Drawsgriadau Cyfarfodydd y Pwyllgor Deisebau

16 Hydref 2008

Val Lloyd: The next petition is on fire safety. It reads:

'We, the undersigned, note the new risk reduction plans for the fire service in many parts of Wales. We believe that these plans may lead to an increase in risk for many communities. We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Assembly Government to take action to ensure that current standards of safety are not reduced'.

I think that we have to write to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government and bring it back. I am reading the petitions out because our audience does not necessarily have access to the papers.

20 Tachwedd 2008

Val Lloyd: The last petition is P-03-171, on fire safety. This petition notes the new risk reduction plans, and calls on us

'to urge the Welsh Assembly Government to take action to ensure that current standards of safety are not reduced.'

We have received a comprehensive reply from the Minister, which has clarified issues that I was not aware of previously.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I believe that we have all been enlightened by the various points in the Minister's letter. I fail to see how much further the petition can progress.

Val Lloyd: I agree. We should perhaps send a copy of the Minister's letter to the petitioner. I can understand the petitioner's concerns, but I think that the Minister has addressed all of them. It might not be the answer that the petitioner wanted, but the concerns have been addressed in depth. Is everyone happy to close this petition and to send the letter? I see that you are.

Atodiad 2

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Petitions Committee

Brian Gibbons AM
Minister for Social Justice and Local
Government
Welsh Assembly Government
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: PET-03-171
28 October 2008

Dear Brian

PETITION: TO ENSURE CURRENT STANDARDS OF FIRE SAFETY ARE MAINTAINED

At its meeting on 16th October, the Petitions Committee gave initial consideration to a petition to ensure that current standards of fire safety are not reduced in light of the new risk reduction plans for the fire service in Wales. A link to the petition wording is attached below:

<http://assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions/eform-sign-petition/p-03-171.htm>

During the meeting, the Committee agreed to write to you to ask you to provide details of the Welsh Assembly Government's new risk reduction plans for the fire service.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



Val Lloyd
Chair, Petitions Committee

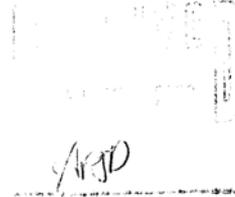
Brian Gibbons AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth
Leol
Minister for Social Justice and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-171
Ein cyf/Our ref BG/00621/08

Val Lloyd AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly For Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA



6 November 2008

Dear Val,

Thank you for your letter of 28 October regarding the petition on standards of fire safety.

Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) have developed knowledge and expertise in managing risk in their areas over the course of many years. This has been achieved by developing professional and local knowledge in the discipline of fire management and augmenting this with new technology, allowing FRAs to model risk to life and property. This, coupled with an emphasis on preventative activity, which since 2004 has been a statutory duty for FRAs, has meant the number of primary fires (including all dwelling, industrial, retail, road and others) has reduced from over 10,000 in 2004 to 8,692 in 2006 (the latest year for which figures are available).

Building on this, the Assembly Government developed guidance for FRAs on Risk Reduction Planning (RRP) in March 2006. The production of RRP is the responsibility of each FRA, as the statutory body with the responsibility for the provision of fire cover in its area. Over the course of the summer, each FRA has consulted on their draft RRP proposals for 2009-10. Our RRP guidance states that proposals contained within RRP should be based on robust evidence and developed in consultation with the communities and others affected. The plans have, or are, in the process of being finalised, in line with RRP guidance and will be available from each FRA.

Linked to our RRP guidance the Assembly Government also published Service Standards to domestic fires. These set a 10 minute standard for the arrival of the first appliance, 5 minutes where life risk is estimated to be higher, to 80% of domestic fire incidents. Where it is estimated that an FRA will be unable to meet this target in an area, then they are expected to undertake increased levels of fire safety preventative activity. Our recently published Fire and Rescue National Framework for Wales 2008-2011, commits the Assembly Government to review the effectiveness of existing RRP guidance and Service Standards. We will also introduce new Standards (such as road Traffic collision and non domestic dwellings) to complement the existing activity.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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Wedi'i argraffu ar babur wedi'i ailwylchu (100%)

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Ministerial powers to intervene in FRA operational matters are limited by statute. No powers exist under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to require FRAs to seek Welsh Minister's approval to proposals contained within RRP's. The underlying purpose of the National Framework, as enabled by the 2004 Act, is to provide strategic direction from government, while ensuring that FRAs continue to make local decisions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Gibbons', written in a cursive style.

Brian Gibbons AM

