

RUABON NEWS LETTER 514

First Minister Vaughan Gething Announces New Welsh Government Cabinet

THURSDAY 21st MARCH 2024, 17:00

First Minister Vaughan Gething has announced his Ministerial team for a Wales full of optimism, ambition and unity.

Vaughan Gething said:

“I’m incredibly proud to bring together a government drawn from all parts of Wales to serve the whole of our nation, with progressive politics at its heart. In particular, I am pleased to appoint a Minister for Mental Health and Early Years to ensure we deliver in the first 1,000 days of the life of every child.

“This Ministerial team will answer the call of the generation in waiting, to create a stronger, fairer, greener Wales. We will take action to strengthen our economy by providing opportunities for everyone and being steadfast in our commitment to a just transition to net zero. Our goal to deliver green prosperity is reflected by the creation of a new Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language.

“I believe in a Wales that recognises that we can celebrate our differences and take pride in all those things that draw us together and make us who we are. While there will be many challenges ahead, there are even greater opportunities.

I am ambitious about the work this team will do to make Wales an even better place."

Full Cabinet and Ministers list:

First Minister	Vaughan Gething
Counsel General-designate	Mick Antoniw MS
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy & Welsh Language	Jeremy Miles MS
Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care	Eluned Morgan MS
Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution & Cabinet Office	Rebecca Evans MS
Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Local Government & Planning	Julie James MS
Cabinet Secretary for Education	Lynne Neagle MS
Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport	Ken Skates MS
Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change & Rural Affairs	Huw Irranca Davies MS
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice	Lesley Griffiths
Chief Whip & Trefnydd	Jane Hutt MS
Minister for Social Partnership	Hannah Blythyn MS
Minister for Mental Health & Early Years	Jayne Bryant MS
Minister for Social Care	Dawn Bowden MS

First Minister Vaughan Gething has announced his new cabinet with a return to frontline politics for Ken Skates. The Clwyd South MS had

previously held the Economy and Transport brief and was widely praised for his performance in that role.

But after the 2021 Senedd election he stepped back for personal reasons although remained an active backbencher. Now though he has returned as minister for Transport and North Wales in a new look cabinet.



Team for a Wales full of OPTIMISM, AMBITION and UNITY.

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The Floral Committee of the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod present

5-7 April 2024

DAFFODIL FLOWER FESTIVAL

2024
Llangollen
International Musical
Eisteddfod



A weekend in celebration of daffodils at St Collen's Church, Llangollen

EVENING CHORAL CONCERT

Friday 5 April 7pm

Lleisiau'r Afon Ladies Choir

Conducted by Leigh Mason

Soloist Clare Harrison

Accompanied by Owen Roberts

Shea Ferron Songs from Musical Theatre



Tickets from £10* available from

Llangollen Tourist Information Centre & www.llangollen.net

*Booking fee per transaction also from Dee Valley Produce, Oak Street. Cash only.

DAFFODIL WAVE AND DISPLAYS

Saturday 6 April

• Daffodil wave and floral displays in St Collen's Church, Llangollen - Daffodils of all shapes, sizes and materials crafted by our community including local schools and organisations.

• Stalls, refreshments and prize raffle at the adjacent St Collen's Community Hall.

SONGS OF PRAISE

Sunday 7 April 3pm

Come and take part in our Songs of Praise concert led by Father Lee Taylor with popular hymns. FREE ENTRY



Church open all weekend

All proceeds go to the running of the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod Registered Charity Number: 504620



Daffodil Flower Festival

As Easter fast approaches the Floral committee of Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod are getting ready for a fundraising Daffodil Flower Festival hosted by St. Collen's Church, Llangollen.

On Friday 5th April we start our floral weekend with a much anticipated evening concert by Lleisiau'r Afon, ladies choir, soloists Clare Harrison and Shea Ferron. Tickets are still available from Llangollen Tourist Information Centre, www.llangollen.net or Dee Valley Produce, Oak Street.

A huge thank you to Ruabon WI for their beautiful handmade daffodils, which will form part of our Daffodil Wave displayed in the church. The support and creativity from surrounding communities has been fantastic.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to St. Collen's Church, Friday 5th April-Sunday 7th April 2024.

Michelle Davies – Floral Chair



FARNBOROUGH INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW 2024

Welsh Government will be participating in a number of businesses to business (B2B) exhibitions, conferences, trade missions and export market visits, in Wales, the UK and around the World to promote Wales and Wales based businesses.

This will create opportunities for Wales-based businesses to participate with us under the Wales banner.

All opportunities are subject to an application process. The details for the next event can be found below:

Farnborough International Airshow 2024 (FIA24) is a major event in the aerospace and defence calendar. Held every two years, it highlights the commercial opportunities available within an industry worth £14.8bn to the UK economy, with a focus on the UK, European and USA markets.

FIA2024 connects colleagues, business, and government with the aim of enabling business growth and recovery in the aerospace and defence industry.

Why Attend?

Attending with Welsh Government can be a very cost-effective way to showcase your company, gain valuable contacts and identify potential business in this sector.

The 80.5m² Wales Pavilion will be in Hall 1, with space for up to 10 exhibitors and a number of visitors.

Exhibitor package - £2,000 + VAT

- a dedicated exhibitor pod on the Wales pavilion with graphic panel, cupboard, power supply and access to storage.
- Access to a meeting table on stand
- At least one exhibitor pass for the 5-day duration of the event
- Inclusion in UK marketing material and associated networking events where available
- Bid for meetings with UK and international civil and military delegations
- Engage with key businesses and decision makers at the event, including your fellow stand partners.
- Inclusion in Wales social media schedule and potential PR opportunities.
- The stand's logistics are all taken care of with experienced events and marketing professionals.

If you're planning to attend the Airshow independently, you can use the Wales stand as a meeting space*, recharge your tech, and meet with the

Welsh Government team, the Aerospace Wales Forum and Space Wales.

**subject to availability*

Event Details

Event name:

Farnborough International Airshow 2024

Location:

Farnborough International Exhibition and Conference Centre, Farnborough, England

Date:

22-26 July 2024

Size of Event:

up to 1,500 exhibitors, 75,000 visitors from 96 countries.
The Wales stand will have space for up to 10 exhibitors and numerous visitors.

Sector(s):

Aerospace & Defence, Space, Cyber, Innovation

What do I do next?

Please download the application, complete and return to ITD.Events@gov.wales

Closing date for Applications:

16.00 23 April 2024

Resources

Find out more at:

Website

farnboroughairshow.com

The following is by request from Jo Smith known by many as a resident of Ruabon

“Jo Smith:

‘Someone once said if you take care of someone with dementia you lose them more and more every-day. When they get the diagnosis, when they go through different stages, when they need treatment and when they pass away. This is called "ambigua loss."

I don't wish dementia on anyone. As the brain slowly dies, they change physically and eventually forget who their loved ones are. They could end up lying in bed, not moving and not eating or drinking.

There will be people who will scroll past this post because Dementia has not touched them.

They may not know what it's like to have a loved one who has battled or is still battling dementia.

To raise awareness of this cruel disease, I would like my friends to put this on their page today.

Hold your finger on the post to copy and paste to your timeline.

A special thank you to anyone willing to put this on their timeline for Alzheimer Awareness Week! 💜💜💜”



The new prosthetic has been life-changing for Martin Padfield

Martin is one of 80 people across Wales who have had their mobility transformed by Microprocessor

Controlled Prosthetic Knees (MPKs), since the £700,000 Welsh Government fund was launched two years ago.

The funding was split across the three artificial limb and appliance centres (ALAC) located in Swansea, Cardiff and Wrexham.

MPKs are a type of prosthetic knee, used by people who have lost a leg at or above the knee. It improves people's quality of life by giving the best mobility and function possible.

The knee uses computer technology to provide increased stability, enable safer walking and constantly monitors the user's pattern of walking depending on their weight and speed - making it easier for them to navigate slopes, stairs, and uneven surfaces.

Martin Padfield has coached his son's under 13s football team for the last 7 years and is also an engineering manager in a busy food manufacturing industry. He lives an active lifestyle both in, and outside of work.

A road traffic accident in August 2000 resulted in Martin losing his leg below the knee.

A year later, further complications caused him to have another amputation above the knee, putting him out of work for almost 3 years.

In 2021, Martin met with the Swansea ALAC team, and was told he would be eligible for an MPK.

Martin Padfield said:

Ever since I lost my leg, I researched constantly about what's available for me. I read about how life-changing they had been for people who lived a similar active lifestyle to me.

Before 2021, MPKs were available to veterans only. So, I explored the avenues of buying the best myself, and even thought about remortgaging my house at one point, but I never got to that stage.

So, when I was told that I had been selected to receive an MPK, I cannot express how elated I was. From day 1 of having the MPK, I can't put into words how much of an immense difference it has made to every aspect of my life.

Everything I can do with it has been completely life changing. It's been revolutionary.

He added:

"I've been coaching my boys for 7 years. I used to play football before my accident. And coaching the team was a way of me getting my interest back into playing football again. But having the MPK means that I can join in a lot more, and I can do more than just standing on the sidelines and talking.

Before having the MPK, stumbles weren't common, but they were often. I would have to concentrate and think more when I was walking on uneven terrain or on a slope.

Now, I have 100% confidence in my leg - sometimes I forget it's there. I just go on with my daily duties with so much more ease and confidence.

I'm so grateful that I was lucky enough to be chosen to have an MPK. It's made a massive difference to my quality of life and I'm sure it would be for anyone else.

I was a lucky boy. It could've been a much darker picture. Life is good now; I have no complaints at all.

Martin thanked and expressed his gratitude to the Swansea ALAC team for their commitment to ensuring that he has had the best care and support throughout.



A Healthier Wales

Health and social services news

Welcome to the Social Partnership newsletter which provides an update on the implementation of the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023.

The Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023

The Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023 was passed by the Senedd on 14th March and received Royal Assent on 24th May, fulfilling a Programme for Government commitment to place social partnership on a statutory footing in Wales.

The Act is a culmination of extensive consultation and engagement with social partners and its implementation will have a far-reaching impact on public services across Wales.

Establishing the Social Partnership Council

The statutory Social Partnership Council (SPC) held its inaugural meeting on 1st February 2024.

The first meeting brought together social partners representing workers and employers from the public, private and third sector. The meeting included a series of short presentations setting out the legislative and policy background to the SPC's work, and a discussion of the draft budget.

The Minister for Social Partnership said, "It was a privilege to chair the first meeting of the Social Partnership Council today - the culmination of a decade of work to put our Welsh way of working on a more formal footing".

The SPC will meet again in late Spring, with a view to holding a further meeting ahead of the Senedd's summer recess and another during the autumn.

Information about the SPC can be found at the [SPC website](#) or email SocialPartnershipCouncil@gov.wales.



Members of the SPC attended their first meeting on 1st February 2024

Social Partnership learning update

A new online learning package to help people to learn more about the benefits of social partnership and the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023 was officially launched on 1 March. It provides access to free, interactive modules to help learn more about social partnership in Wales.

The online learning is available on the ESR platform for NHS staff. For non-NHS the online learning is available through the [Learning@Wales platform](#), you need to be registered on the platform to access it and you can search for the learning by typing in social partnership.

If you haven't already registered an account on the Learning@Wales website, please email eateb@wales.nhs.uk.

The learning consists of three chapters:

- Chapter 1 – Social Partnership – The Welsh Way
- Chapter 2 – The Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023
- Chapter 3 – The Social Partnership Duty

The learning offers a great opportunity to find out more about social partnership and embed social partnership within your organisation.

Social Partnership Conference

The Social Partnership Conference took place in St Asaph on Friday 15 March at the Optic Centre. The event featured inspiring keynote speakers, including the Minister for Social Partnership, Hannah Blythyn MS, Shavannah Taj, Wales TUC's General Secretary and Kay Hannigan, Betsi Cadwalladr UHB People Services Associate Director. The day comprised a series of workshops relating to the development of social partnerships across Welsh public services and ambitions for growing the social partnership approach. The conference gave an opportunity for delegates to network to help to ensure that the commitment to social partnership working is felt, as well as seen, by those delivering it across Wales.

The conference was aimed at public bodies, trade unions and other interested parties, and offered a unique opportunity to explore how we can ensure the Welsh Way of social partnership continues to thrive and deliver positive outcomes for the people of Wales.

Planning is well advanced for the delivery of an equivalent conference in South Wales later this year. If you'd like to register for further information, please contact spefw@gov.wales.



Minister for Social Partnership, Hannah Blythyn MS, opening the Social Partnership Conference on 15 March 2024

#HeartUnions Week in Wales

From 12th-18th February, the trade union movement across Wales

celebrated #Heartunions week. #Heartunions week is an annual event held to recognise the contribution trade unions make in the workplace and the positive impact they have on individual workers. During this period, unions showcased the invaluable support they provide to their members, particularly during challenging times like the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

Throughout #Heart Unions week, unions across Wales held events to encourage new members to join, emphasising the ways in which unions can offer assistance and resources to those in need. Ranging from grants for individuals facing financial hardships, to access to learning through initiatives like the Welsh Government funded Wales Union Learning Fund (WULF), unions highlighted the positive influence they have on workers' lives.

The celebrations ranged from stalls at diverse workplaces such as the University of South Wales and a call centre in Merthyr and attracted support from Welsh Ministers. The events highlighted the breadth of union support and reinforced the importance of fostering strong relationships between employers and workers in difficult economic times.

This year's #HeartUnions week in Wales held particular significance following the enactment of the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023, led by the Minister for Social Partnership, Hannah Blythyn MS, and which seeks to strengthen collaboration between Government, employers, and trade unions. The week of campaign activity served as a powerful reminder of all that can be achieved through working in partnership and demonstrated the benefits of collaboration in advancing the rights and well-being of the workforce in Wales.

Menopause in the Workplace

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has published guidance to help employers understand their legal obligations in relation to supporting workers experiencing menopausal symptoms.

Menopause symptoms can have a significant impact on women at work.

Research by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development

found that two thirds (67%) of working women between the ages of 40 and 60 with experience of menopausal symptoms said they have had a mostly negative impact on them at work.

Of those who were negatively affected at work:

- 79% said they were less able to concentrate
- 68% said they experienced more stress
- nearly half (49%) said they felt less patient with clients and colleagues
- 46% felt less physically able to carry out work tasks

Under the Equality Act 2010, workers are protected from discrimination, harassment and victimisation on the basis of protected characteristics, including sex.

If menopause symptoms have a long term and substantial impact on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities, these symptoms could be considered a disability. If menopause symptoms amount to a disability, an employer will be under a legal obligation to: make reasonable adjustments; and to not directly or indirectly discriminate because of the disability or subject the woman to discrimination arising from disability.

For further information see: [Menopause in the workplace: Guidance for employers | EHRC](#).

Socially Responsible Procurement Duties **Background**

The Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023 provides a framework to enhance the well-being of Wales by improving public services through social partnership working, socially responsible public procurement and promoting fair work.

On procurement, the Act includes a statutory duty on [certain public bodies](#) to consider socially responsible public procurement, to set objectives around well-being goals, and to publish a procurement strategy and annual reports. It also requires bodies to ensure that socially responsible outcomes are pursued through supply chains.

Progress

Current activity includes:

- Recommendations provided by our secondee from Fair Trade Wales on areas of focus for [Global Responsibility](#).
- Contract clauses for use in major construction contracts are now being drafted.
- Work on the new Workforce Code and Workforce clauses is well underway.
- Positive steps agreed by the working group developing a standard set of well-being impact measures.
- Ongoing engagement and drafting of the overarching Socially Responsible Procurement duties statutory guidance.

If you have any questions and would like to be included in any piece of this work, please email: spefw@gov.wales.

Procurement Reform Update

To prepare stakeholders for the introduction of the UK Government's Procurement Act 2023, which will regulate the way that public procurements are undertaken in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, an extensive range of Learning & Development (L&D) offerings will be available to stakeholders in the lead up to the new regime going live in October 2024.

This L&D programme aims to support everyone operating within the new regime and will include:

- Short Knowledge Drop videos for all stakeholders, including suppliers, VCSEs and SMEs
- Focused eLearning
- Intensive Deep Dive learning

The L&D has been designed for those who operate in a public sector procurement or commercial function. Welsh Government will supplement the UK Government's core eLearning with six additional eLearning modules that will focus on the wider legislative landscape in Wales.

Procurex National (Liverpool) – 16th May 2024, to find out more see here: <https://www.procurexnational.co.uk>.

Gofod 3rd – 5th June 2024, Cardiff City Stadium. To find out more see here: <https://gofod3.cymru>.

Social Partnership Conference – South Wales - Summer 2024. Exact date and venue to be confirmed. To register your interest please email: SPEFW@gov.wales.

Taking bookings for holiday club (easter) starting March 25th for 2 weeks (closed the 2 Bank holidays)

3 - 14 YEARS
(18
ADDITIONAL
NEEDS)

Jumping Jack's OUT OF SCHOOL CLUBS

After School Club:
Mon-Fri 3 till 6

Holiday Club: Mon-Fri
8 till 6 (closed
Christmas holidays)

CIW Registered,
Qualified Staff

Based in Ruabon High
School

Always lots of fun!

Contact us → 07543455965

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Wishing you all a lovely holiday and
of course – marvellous weather!!!

Sybil (Bremner)

