



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

The Petitions Committee

Completion Report

**Summary of the Petitions Committee's consideration of
P-03-125 Abolish the Cleddau Bridge toll**

December 2008

E-Petition Received

18 April 2008

Ruled Admissible

31 August 2008 (following collection of signatures)

Initial Consideration**16 October 2008**

The Committee gave initial consideration to the petition, and agreed to write to the Deputy First Minister to seek his views on the matter.

(See Annex 1 for the relevant extract from the transcript of the meeting on 16 October 2008, and Annex 2 for the letter sent by the Chair to the Deputy First Minister)

Further Consideration**4 December 2008**

The Committee considered a response from the Deputy First Minister, and agreed to close the petition and forward it to Pembrokeshire County Council as it was unable to progress it any further.

(See Annex 1 for the relevant extract from the transcript of the meeting on 4 December 2008, Annex 2 for the response received from the Deputy First Minister and Annex 3 for the letter sent to Pembrokeshire County Council)

Petitions Clerk

December 2008

Annex 1

Extracts from Petitions Committee meetings

16 October 2008

Val Lloyd: The next petition is P-03-125 on Cleddau bridge tolls, which calls

'upon the National Assembly for Wales to request that the Welsh Assembly Government negotiates with Pembrokeshire County Council to find an acceptable proposal that will enable road tolls on the Cleddau Bridge ... to be scrapped'.

This petition has collected 39 signatures, and there is an accompanying letter from the lead petitioner.

Michael German: As a matter of principle, I think that, as we have done before, we should ask the Minister, the Deputy First Minister in this case, for a view on the matter and then we should consider whether we should speak to the petitioners in light of the response that we get.

Val Lloyd: Yes. I think that we are all agreed on that.

4 December 2008

Val Lloyd: The next petition is on the Cleddau bridge. We considered this petition for the first time at our meeting on 16 October. We then wrote to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport to ask for the Government's current position in relation to this bridge. The Deputy First Minister has given us a very comprehensive response. I now open this petition up for discussion.

Andrew R.T. Davies: The response, as you rightly point out, Chair, is very comprehensive. I note the eye-watering figure of £40 million required to take over the responsibility for the bridge. I am sure that quite a few councillors wish that they had an asset that they could get that much for. This is clearly something for Pembrokeshire County Council; we are unable to direct the council or interfere with this issue. Therefore, I cannot see how we can take the petition any further forward.

Val Lloyd: I think that that is quite right.

Michael German: To be helpful to the petitioners, could we refer the issue to Pembrokeshire County Council, saying that we have received this petition, that we have looked at it and have been told that it wants £40 million, but for us to do that we would have to repeal an Act—a private Bill, which is always the most difficult to do in Westminster terms? However, we could say to the council that it may wish to consider it itself.

Val Lloyd: So, are you saying that we should close the petition? I am sorry; I think that I have misunderstood your intention.

Michael German: My intention was to encourage the council to look at it; it would not report back to us, but we could encourage it to consider the issue.

Val Lloyd: I agree with that.

Michael German: It will probably say that it would cost us £40 million to do away with the tolls.

Annex 2

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Petitions Committee

Ieuan Wyn Jones AM
Deputy First Minister and
Minister for Economy and Transport
Welsh Assembly Government
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: PET-03-125

28 October 2008

Dear Ieuan Wyn

PETITION: TO ABOLISH THE CLEDDAU BRIDGE TOLL

At its meeting on 16th October, the Petitions Committee gave initial consideration to a petition to abolish the Cleddau Bridge toll. A link to the petition wording is attached below:

<http://assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions/eform-sign-petition/p-03-125.htm>

During the meeting, the Committee agreed to write to you to ask for the Welsh Assembly Government's policy regarding the Cleddau Bridge toll.

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

Yours sincerely



Val Lloyd
Chair, Petitions Committee

Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM
Dirprwy Brif Weinidog /Deputy First Minister



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-125
Ein cyf/Our ref DFM/02056/08

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



14 November 2008

Dea Val

Thank you for your letter of October 28, on behalf of the Petitions Committee, regarding the Cleddau bridge tolls.

Pembrokeshire County Council is currently the Highway Authority responsible for Cleddau Bridge and decides on whether to toll this bridge and the level of such tolls. The Council wrote to my Transport officials on December 12, 2007 to advise of the conditions they would wish to be satisfied before being willing to allow the Welsh Assembly Government to take over responsibility for the Cleddau Bridge. These conditions were: -

- Remove tolls and give an absolute guarantee that they will not be reimposed
- Commit to maintaining the current level of expenditure on maintenance and improvement of the bridges and their approach roads (some £1.3M per year)
- Settle the outstanding loan debt of some £3.1M
- Pay the Council a sum of £39.3M which is their assessment of their loss of capital investment capacity
- Repeal parts of the Dyfed Act 1987 and create new legislation, along with payment of the Council's legal costs
- Pay the Council all costs incurred related to the redundancy of staff such as toll collectors.

The Welsh Assembly Government, as part of the outcome of its Trunk Road Review 2002, included the potential trunking of the Cleddau Bridge section of the A477 in its future programme. In view of the Council's decision and associated costs, trunking of the route is not currently viewed as high priority or affordable from within existing budgets. The current position is therefore that the Cleddau Bridge and this part of the A477 remains the responsibility of Pembrokeshire County Council as Highway Authority.

Ieuan Wyn Jones
Ieuan Wyn Jones

Ieuan Wyn Jones
Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for the Economy and Transport

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Ffacs * Fax 029 2089 8198
PS.DeputyFirstMinister@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Annex 3

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Petitions Committee

Mr Bryn Parry-Jones
Chief Executive
Pembrokeshire County Council
County Hall, Haverfordwest
Pembrokeshire
SA61 1TP

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: PET-03-125

8 December 2008

Dear Mr Parry-Jones

PETITION: TO ABOLISH THE CLEDDAU BRIDGE TOLL

The Petitions Committee has been considering a petition that calls for the abolition of the Cleddau Bridge toll. The Committee has written to the Deputy First Minister (the 'DFM') to ascertain the Assembly Government's position in relation to this bridge. The DFM has since replied and it has become apparent that Pembrokeshire County Council is the relevant highway authority responsible for any tolls imposed on the Cleddau Bridge and the level of such tolls.

The Petitions Committee recognises that this petition addresses a local matter for local determination. The Committee has therefore agreed to close the petition and to refer this petition to you for consideration according to your own procedures.

I have attached copies of the petition and the DFM's letter. Please contact the Committee's clerking team should you require any further information on 029 2089 8998 or at petition@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely



Val Lloyd
Chair, Petitions Committee

Enc. DFM's letter and petition wording

