

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet on 19 June 2018

Present:

- Rt. Hon. Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister (Chair)
 - Alun Davies AM
 - Mark Drakeford AM
 - Vaughan Gething AM
 - Lesley Griffiths AM
 - Julie James AM
 - Ken Skates AM
 - Kirsty Williams AM
 - Jeremy Miles AM
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- Shan Morgan, Permanent Secretary
 - Carys Evans, Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister
 - Peter Greening, Head of Cabinet Division
 - Toby Mason, Head of Strategic Communications
 - Catrin Sully, Cabinet Office
 - Matt Greenough, Special Adviser
 - Madeleine Brindley, Special Adviser
 - Kate Edmunds, Special Adviser
 - Andrew Johnson, Special Adviser
 - Rachel Maycock, Special Adviser
 - Huw Price, Special Adviser
 - Alex Rawlin, Special Adviser
 - Jane Runeckles, Special Adviser
 - Tom Woodward, Special Adviser
 - Christopher W Morgan Head of Cabinet Secretariat (minutes)
 - Damian Roche, Cabinet Secretariat
 - Yasmin Khan, National Adviser – VAWDA (item 4)
 - Nazir Afzal, National Adviser – VAWDA (item 4)
 - Amelia John, Deputy Director of Communities Division (item 4)

Item 1: Minutes of the previous meeting

1.1 Cabinet approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

Item 2: First Minister's Items

EU (Withdrawal) Bill

2.1 The First Minister advised Cabinet that there had been some discussion on whether the Government would need to table a further LCM on the EU (Withdrawal) Bill as the UK Parliament had recently agreed a UK Government amendment placing a duty on the relevant Secretary of State to publish a draft Bill consisting of a set of environmental principles.

2.2 The Leader of the House informed Cabinet that the Assembly's Business Committee had noted the assurances made during the recent debate that the amendment would apply to England only. As the amendment had been passed by both the Lords and the Commons, and given that that part of the Bill could no longer be changed, the Business Committee had agreed that a LCM debate was not necessary. Although, members requested briefing from the Government on the impact of the amendment.

Extra Funding for the NHS

2.3 The First Minister referred to the Prime Minister's recent announcement about extra funding for the NHS in England, however, it was unclear how much extra funding would be allocated to the Welsh Government. The Finance Secretary informed Cabinet that it was his understanding that resources to fund the lifting of the pay cap for NHS staff would be financed through this additional investment and there was no guarantee that this would be new money, as the UK Government may decide to reduce spending in non-protected areas, such as health education, public health, or other public services. It was noted that the UK Government was expected to publish the Barnett consequentials later that day.

British Irish Council

2.4 The First Minister informed Cabinet that he would be attending the British Irish Council (BIC) in Guernsey on Thursday. As well as the usual BIC agenda, the Minister for the Environment would be attending a pre-meeting of Environment Ministers. It was noted that in the margin of the BIC the First Minister intended to hold separate discussions with the Taoiseach and the First Minister of Scotland.

Item 3: Government Plenary Business

3.1 Cabinet noted the contents of the Plenary Grid.

3.2 The Leader of the House advised Cabinet that, in addition to discussing the potential LCM, the Assembly's Business Committee had agreed to schedule a debate on a Member's Legislative Proposal relating to the abolition of building leasehold residential buildings in Wales.

Item 4: Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 – Attendance of National Advisors

4.1 The Leader of the House introduced the paper, which facilitated a discussion with the National Advisers for Violence Against Women, Gender Based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV).

4.2 The Welsh Government introduced the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act in 2015 to enhance prevention, protection and support for people affected by such violence and improve the response of the public sector. The appointment of a National Adviser to provide advice to Welsh Ministers was a requirement of the Act and Yasmin Khan and Nazir Afzal took up the post on a job share basis in January, replacing the first adviser, Rhian Bowen-Davies, who stood down in October 2017.

4.3 The First Minister invited Yasmin Khan and Nazir Afzal to provide an overview of their initial impressions of progress in tackling VAWDASV in Wales since the introduction of the legislation.

4.4 Their initial findings suggested that victims of VAWDASV had very different experiences depending on where they lived in Wales. Achieving consistency in service provision had been one of the drivers for the Act, but there was a need to accelerate progress to achieve better outcomes for victims and survivors and, at the very least, to reduce disparity in access to services across Wales.

4.5 To help meet these challenges there was a need to ensure that there was better collaboration and integration to help deliver the Government's ambition to make Wales the safest place in Europe for women.

4.6 Cabinet welcomed the opportunity to engage collectively with the National Advisers and agreed that there was a need to improve collaboration and integration, particularly in relation to non-devolved and cross-border delivery partners.

4.7 It was suggested that the National Advisers should meet with Dr Freda Scott-Park, chair of the multi-agency LINKS group that promoted the welfare and safety of vulnerable children, animals and adults, which was focusing on the connections between animal and human abuse.

4.8 There was a need to consider what help could be provided to support victims with pets. Some people at risk were refusing to leave violent households due to fears over what would happen to their companion animals as many refuges did not have facilities for pets.

4.9 It was noted that guidance for schools on sex and relationship education would be published before Christmas.

4.10 The First Minister thanked the National Advisers for attending Cabinet.

**Cabinet, Plenary and Committee Secretariat
June 2018**