

Michael German AM
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Welsh Liberal Democrat Assembly Member
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Dear Local Resident,

This is my third annual report, produced and delivered at no cost to yourselves as taxpayers.

It has been a very busy summer for me since I published my last annual report in Summer 2001 both as your Assembly Member and as Deputy First Minister, Minister for Rural Development and for Wales Abroad.

As your regional representative I have held regular advice surgeries across the region from Newport to Monmouth and Chepstow to Merthy. Please remember, where ever you live in this region, there are also Welsh Lib Dem Councillors you can contact for help.

During the year, I have dealt with many problems facing local people. Most frequently raised are health issues, housing problems, availability of school places, student debt, traffic and litter! In addition, there are often controversial planning applications such as the turkey farm in Chepstow, the recycling plant in Risca and the location of new schools.

If you would like me to deal with a problem, please contact me, details are on the back page.

Best Wishes



Michael German AM

Constituency Office: 101A The Highway, New Inn, NP4 0PN

New Community Hospitals for Ebbw Vale and Merthyr Tydfil

Ebbw Vale and Merthyr Tydfil are both set to get new community hospitals from the National Assembly health budget.

Michael German AM welcomes this boost for hospital services in an area where ill health is at its worst, another example of the Liberal Democrat partnership government delivering for communities in Wales.

5 easy ways to contact Michael German AM

Post

You can write to Michael in Cardiff or at his regional office in New Inn.

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Michael German AM, 101A The Highway, New Inn, NP4 0PN

Internet

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Phone

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National Assembly - 029 2089 8741

Email

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Advice Surgeries

Michael German AM regularly has advice surgeries throughout the region, contact the regional office for details of the next surgery in your area.

**Working all year round
not just at election time**
www.michaelgerman.com

 **At your
service**



Michael
German AM

Michael German AM reports back to constituents



The Welsh Assembly government is a partnership of two parties - the Welsh Liberal Democrats and Labour. Michael German signed the historic agreement to work together in October 2000. Much of the original Partnership Agreement has now been delivered: we are on track to deliver on our pledges. Here are just some of the major successes since the partnership was signed:

“I’m here to help...”

Highlights from the past year...



Michael responds to questions in the Assembly chamber.



Michael German met with the Archbishop of Wales, raising concerns on the future of the Childrens’ Society. Here, visiting the charity’s project in Merthyr.



A Christmas visit to Monmouth Sorting Office, Michael German is campaigning against Post Office closures.

- ✓ More than £60 million in Corus regeneration money
- ✓ Safeguarding of mid-15th century ship found in Newport
- ✓ Support for Gwent Theatre in education
- ✓ Dualling of the Heads of the Valleys road
- ✓ Grants for C&G Management Newport, PHS Group
- ✓ Caerphilly, Technical Product Solution Rhymney creating a total of 130 new jobs
- ✓ £65m extra to recruit more teachers in order to reduce class sizes for children aged eight, nine, ten and eleven.
- ✓ £200m available for investment in the upgrade of school buildings in Wales.
- ✓ Student grants introduced for those in both further and higher education.
- ✓ Extra spending in health - £150m in 2001/2002, £400m in 2002/2003 and £665m in 2003/2004.
- ✓ Funding an extra 25 specialist beds, and 400 General Medical Beds throughout Wales.
- ✓ Freeze on prescription charges in Wales, with exemptions for those most in need.
- ✓ Extension of an annual free dental check to individuals aged 18-25 and those over 60.
- ✓ Appointment of a Children's Commissioner to protect, inform and intervene on behalf of young people throughout Wales.
- ✓ Huge increase in funding for the Welsh Development Agency, Wales Tourist Board, and other bodies.
- ✓ Introduction of free bus passes for pensioners and disabled people.
- ✓ Free school milk for children aged 5 - 7 re-introduced.

Free Eye Tests

The Welsh Assembly Partnership Government has made available a free eye examination to “At Risk” groups, aimed to achieve early diagnosis of eye disease.

The new eye examination is available free of charge to the patient, and also to the following groups: Black African, Black Caribbean, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Unioocular, Hearing impaired, and Retinitis pigmentosa sufferers.

Action on Student Grants

Student grants are back in Wales. At up to £1500 a year, the new grants are targeted at the least well-off to overcome poverty of opportunity and increase access for those on low incomes.

It was a Welsh Liberal Democrat commitment to tackle student hardship in the partnership agreement. Today, students in Wales can see evidence that the partnership government is committed to delivering its promises.

These new grants represent a huge stride forward for Wales. It was a black day indeed when grants were abolished in 1998. For the first time, students on Further Education courses will benefit from learning grants. This is a welcome recognition of the range of support needed for Welsh students. Wales is leading the way in decisive government and in measures to improve the lot of students. Unfortunately the Welsh Assembly Government does not have the power to tackle tuition fees.

Come and visit

You are welcome to visit Michael at the National Assembly for Wales. Please let his office know in advance and Michael will meet you on the day. Arrangements can be made by calling Michael's Assembly office on 029 2089 8741

Rail Link Update

On 18 April 2002, the Welsh Assembly Government announced the re-opening of the Ebbw Vale -Cardiff passenger rail link.

Work is now underway on the design and business plan for the Ebbw Vale passenger rail service with new stations en route. A programme for the implementation of the proposal will be ready by midsummer. Now the campaign moves on to ensuring the swift development of appropriate signalling and new rails at the Gaer in Newport so the link into Newport Station can be reopened quickly as well.

Working all year round - not just at election time