

## Agenda – Reform Bill Committee

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Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Committee Room 1, Senedd	Helen Finlayson
Meeting date: Thursday 26 October 2023	Committee Clerk 0300 200 6565
Meeting time: 09.15	<a href="mailto:SeneddReform@senedd.wales">SeneddReform@senedd.wales</a>

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### Private pre-meeting (09.00–09.15)

- 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions, and declarations of interest**  
(09.15)
- 2 Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill: Evidence session with the Expert Panel on Assembly Electoral Reform**  
(09.15 – 10.15) (Pages 1 – 22)  
Professor Laura McAllister, Chair of the Expert Panel on Assembly Electoral Reform  
Professor Alan Renwick, Member of the Expert Panel on Assembly Electoral Reform

### Supporting documents

Paper 1 Written evidence: Professor Alan Renwick  
Research Brief

### Break (10.15–10.30)

- 3 Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill: Evidence session with the Llywydd and the Senedd Commission**  
(10.30–12.00) (Pages 23 – 52)



Elin Jones MS, Llywydd

Manon Antoniazzi, Chief Executive and Clerk of the Senedd

Siwan Davies, Deputy Chief Executive and Clerk and Director of Senedd  
Business

Alun Davidson, Clerk, Constitutional Change / Parliamentary Business  
Strategy Team

### **Supporting documents**

Paper 2 Written evidence: Llywydd

Research Brief

## **Lunch (12.00 – 12.45)**

### **4 Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill: Evidence session with parliamentary academics**

(12.45 – 13.45)

(Pages 53 – 60)

Professor Diana Stirbu, Professor of Public Policy and Governance, London  
Metropolitan University

### **Supporting document**

Research Brief

## **5 Papers to Note**

(13.45)

### **5.1 Letter from the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-06-1334 Make the Senedd More Representative of the Welsh Population – 2 October 2023**

(Page 61)

### **5.2 Response from the Reform Bill Committee to the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-06-1334 Make the Senedd More Representative of the Welsh Population – 3 October 2023**

(Page 62)

- 5.3 Letter from the Petitions Committee regarding Senedd reform petitions – 3 October 2023**  
(Pages 63 – 65)
- 5.4 Response from the Reform Bill Committee to the Petitions Committee regarding Senedd reform petitions – 5 October 2023**  
(Page 66)
- 5.5 Letter to the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution regarding the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill – 16 October 2023**  
(Pages 67 – 74)
- 5.6 Letter to the former Chair of the Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform regarding the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill – 16 October 2023**  
(Pages 75 – 77)
- 6 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (ix) to resolve to exclude the public for the remainder of the meeting**  
(13.45)
- 7 Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill: Consideration of evidence**  
(13.45–14.00)
- 8 Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill: Technical briefing**  
(14.00–14.15) (Pages 78 – 112)

**Supporting document**

Paper 3 Additional background briefing

## **Senedd Reform Bill Committee**

### **Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill**

#### **Written Evidence from Professor Alan Renwick, UCL Constitution Unit**

#### **Introduction**

1. I am Professor of Democratic Politics in the Department of Political Science at University College London, and Deputy Director of the UCL Constitution Unit. My research examines the channels through which members of the public can participate in democratic processes. For current purposes, my most relevant work focuses on electoral systems and electoral reform. I was a member of the Expert Panel on Assembly Electoral Reform, which reported in 2017.

#### **Summary**

2. In summary, this submission welcomes most aspects of the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill ('the Bill'):
  - The increase in the size of the Senedd is needed for it to fulfil its duties to the people of Wales with maximum effectiveness.
  - The reduction in the length of the Senedd term is welcome.
  - It is sensible to increase the maximum number of ministers.
  - Progress towards allowing job sharing is a step forward.
  - The proposed electoral system will have an appropriate level of proportionality.
  - The principle that boundary review conclusions should be implemented automatically, without political intervention, is correct.
3. But some aspects of the Bill deserve challenge:
  - Most importantly, the use of a 'closed list' form of proportional representation will not serve democracy or the Senedd effectively.
  - Allowing the maximum number of ministers to be further increased without primary legislation is not appropriate.
  - The absence of gender quotas and limited progress towards job sharing is regrettable.
  - The Committee should consider carefully whether some aspects of the boundary review process are justified.

#### **Increase in the size of the Senedd**

4. The proposed increase in the number of Senedd members from 60 to 96 is very welcome. The report of the Expert Panel on Assembly Electoral Reform analysed the size question in considerable detail and concluded that a larger chamber was needed to enable the Senedd to represent the people of Wales and to scrutinise government activity and legislative proposals as effectively as possible. The Senedd is currently unusually small in international comparison. The limited number of members makes it particularly difficult to run an effective committee system.
5. While the Expert Panel envisaged an increase in the number of members to between 80 and 90, that does not imply any argument against an increase to 96. The Panel was clear that the benefits of expansion would be greater at the upper end of its proposed range than at the lower end. By implication, a small further increase would enhance those benefits again.

### **Reduction in the length of the Senedd term**

6. The question of what the length of the parliamentary term should be has no definite answer. Around the world, the commonest length is five years, but most of the world's healthiest democracies have shorter terms.<sup>1</sup> Scholars generally agree that the two-year term of the US House of Representatives is too short, meaning too much time is dominated by electioneering, and that the three-year terms used in Australia and New Zealand tend towards the same weakness. A five-year term greatly reduces that problem, but means that, by the end of the term, the preceding election is very distant and much may have changed since voters last had a direct say. Countries including Germany, Japan, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden all have four-year terms. Following perceived best practice at the time, almost all of the new democracies created in Central and Eastern Europe after the fall of communism likewise adopted four-year terms.
7. The Senedd's term was originally set to four years. This was altered only because of changes at Westminster, which have now been reversed. While a five-year term is acceptable, a four-year term probably provides better balance between the need for government to be able to plan ahead and the need for voters to have their say.

### **Increase in the number of ministers**

8. Just as the number of Senedd members is currently low given their many important responsibilities, so is the maximum number of ministers. An increase in that number is sensible.
9. At present, there may be fourteen ministers (including the First Minister and Counsel General): 23.3% of the Senedd membership. At Westminster, the maximum number of ministers in the House of Commons (set by the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975) is 95: 14.6% of the chamber's membership. The Bill would raise the maximum total number of Welsh ministers to nineteen: 19.8% of the Senedd membership. It would permit a further increase (through regulations) to twenty-one: 21.9% of the membership.
10. A larger number of ministers within the legislative chamber increases the 'payroll vote' and therefore weakens the chamber. This needs to be balanced against the value of a larger ministerial team. I do not have a firm view on whether the maximum should be nineteen (i.e., in the terms used in the Bill, seventeen plus the First Minister and Counsel General) or twenty-one (i.e., nineteen plus the First Minister and Counsel General). But two principles should apply:
  - First, as the chamber expands, the number of ministers should expand by a less-than-proportional amount, so that the number of ministers as a share of the chamber membership declines.
  - Second, determining the maximum number of ministers is an important matter that should be subject to full parliamentary scrutiny. It should be set out in primary legislation and should not be subject to change by secondary legislation.

### **Gender quotas and job sharing**

11. The Expert Panel set out its clear reasoning on the value of gender quotas and job sharing, and it is regrettable that progress on these matters has been so slow. The proposed review of the latter is nevertheless welcome. This process should be taken seriously and any recommendations should be acted on.

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<sup>1</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union, Parline Database, available at <https://data.ipu.org/>.

## Electoral system

12. The proposed changes to the Senedd electoral system would have two key effects: upon electoral proportionality; and upon the nature of voters' choice.
13. The effect on *proportionality* is in principle ambiguous: depending on the distribution of votes, it could yield outcomes that are either more or less proportional than those delivered by the current rules. Given what the actual distribution of votes has tended to be in Wales, however, the effect of the change would be somewhat to increase proportionality. Specifically, Labour would lose the bonus that it currently obtains from winning the large majority of constituencies in South Wales. The overall level of proportionality would, however, still be moderate: D'Hondt formula would still bring some advantage to the largest party; and the relatively small size of constituencies (six members each) would mean that small parties would still face a significant hurdle to winning seats.
14. There is no clear optimal level of proportionality, but the proposed system is within the range of the moderate proportionality that many experts have advocated.
15. The effect on *voter choice* of the proposed reforms is not at all ambiguous: the reforms would reduce it. Voters would no longer be able to vote for an individual candidate and would no longer be able to split their vote as the current system allows. Voters in the UK are used to voting for candidates, not for party lists, and confidence in political parties is very low. While political parties are central to representative democracy and their strong functioning is therefore desirable, forcing voters to think solely in party terms and denying them any choice over individuals would be harmful to democracy and to public confidence in the Senedd. It would also risk giving parties undue control over their MSs, thereby limiting the value of the expanded chamber. This is by some margin the most significant weakness in the Bill as it stands.
16. The Expert Panel proposed that a Single Transferable Vote (STV) voting system would be most appropriate for the Senedd. If it was felt that this system shifted the balance too far away from united parties, the Expert Panel suggested a moderate 'flexible list' system that would allow voters to select among the individual candidates and thereby influence which of their chosen party's candidates were elected. This system would be simple to use – for voters, parties, and election administrators.
17. Most European democracies use flexible (or fully open) lists, and the trend has been to increase this flexibility over time.<sup>2</sup> The adoption of closed lists would be a retrograde step and would put Wales out of line both with the British democratic tradition and with modern European democratic practice. I therefore strongly urge the Committee to consider amendments to provide for either flexible lists or STV.

## Boundary reviews

18. The Bill provides for the automatic implementation of boundary commission recommendations. This is very welcome: boundary review processes should be strictly impartial, and allowing a Senedd vote on recommendations would put that in danger.
19. So-called 'automaticity' in the implementation of boundary commission recommendations does, however, make the impartiality of the review process itself even more important. The Committee should consider whether extra safeguards against undue government influence are needed. It would be possible, in particular, to tighten up procedures around the appointment of members of the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru, and to provide the Commissioners will serve

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<sup>2</sup> Alan Renwick and Jean-Benoit Pilet, *Faces on the Ballot: The Personalization of Electoral Systems in Europe* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), p. 52.

non-renewable terms. (I wish to make it clear that I make absolutely no suggestion that there has been improper practice in the past, or that the existing Commission has acted with anything other than complete impartiality.)

20. Most aspects of the proposed boundary review processes are entirely sensible, including the proposed shortened review process for the initial pairing of Westminster constituencies.
21. On two points, however, the Committee may wish to consider carefully whether the proposed approach is optimal:
  - First, the Bill allows for a 10% margin of variation in constituency electorates around the electoral quota after 2030. That is twice the margin allowed for Westminster constituencies. It is unclear why such wide variation – which is a deviation from the principle of democratic equality – would be justified.
  - Second, the Bill allows six months for the implementation of new boundaries after the Commission’s final report. This compares with four months for Westminster constituencies. It is unclear why such a long period is deemed necessary.

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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David Rees MS  
Chair  
Reform Bill Committee  
Welsh Parliament

16 October 2023

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your Committee's invitation to take part in an oral evidence session on Thursday 26 October 2023, and for your invitation to provide written evidence ahead of the session. Please find attached my written submission.

I look forward to discussing these matters further with the Committee on 26 October.

Yours sincerely,




Rt Hon Elin Jones MS/AS  
Llywydd

Cc. Mick Antoniw MS, Counsel General



Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English



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## Annex A: Roles and responsibilities

### The Llywydd

The Llywydd has a range of responsibilities in relation to the legislative process, including (amongst other things) determining whether a Bill falls within the legislative competence of the Senedd, determining questions of scope, and the selection of amendments.

To ensure the Llywydd's impartiality in discharging her functions, the Llywydd does not engage in discussing the merits or otherwise of a Welsh Government Bill and/or its provisions whilst it is before the Senedd for scrutiny.

Given the provisions of the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill relate to the Senedd, the Llywydd intends to make observations relating to the Bill's provisions in terms of their practical application and possible effect in the context of the Senedd.

As Chair of the Senedd Commission, and as Chair of the Business Committee, the Llywydd engages fully in discharging these bodies' responsibilities in relation to the Bill.

### The Senedd Commission

The Senedd Commission has four roles in relation to the Welsh Government's Bill.

#### *1. Significant stakeholder*

It is a significant stakeholder, given the implications the Bill has for the Senedd Commission and the bodies it supports. In this role, it has responded to the Welsh Government's request for a best estimate of the cost implications arising for the Senedd Commission from the Bill.

#### *2. Supporting scrutiny*

The Senedd Commission ensures the Senedd receives the same high-level of support for scrutiny of this Bill as it provides for all Welsh Government Bills.

#### *3. Prudently preparing*

The Senedd Commission is prudently preparing for the prospect of Senedd Reform, so that it can respond swiftly to the outcome of the Bill scrutiny process. If the Bill receives Royal Assent, these preparations will intensify to ensure that the Senedd estate and Commission-provided services are ready to respond to the needs of an enlarged Seventh Senedd. This includes supporting the Commission, Business Committee and Independent Remuneration Board in their response.

#### *4. Communicating change*



If the Bill receives Royal Assent, the Senedd Commission is prepared to play its part, alongside the wider electoral community, to communicate the electoral changes that are to be enacted.

### The Business Committee

In addition to performing its routine role in the legislative process, the Business Committee considered a number of recommendations arising from the Special Purpose Committee's Report relating to Senedd Reform and [published](#) its views ahead of the Bill being drafted, to inform Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government has indicated that a number of the provisions in the Bill have been drafted based on the Business Committee's views.



## Annex B: Observations on provisions of the Bill

### Section 3: Frequency of ordinary general elections

The Committee may wish to investigate the impact this provision would have on the interaction between the dates of Senedd elections and the term durations of public officeholders which fall within the remit of the Senedd and are set out in their founding statutes, such as the Auditor General for Wales, and members of the Independent Remuneration Board.

For instance, the Auditor General may hold the post for a maximum of 8 years. Therefore, while Senedd elections are held every five years, there is a natural degree of separation between the appointment of the Auditor General and elections to the Senedd. However, if Senedd elections were held every 4 years, it is possible that this natural degree of separation may be diminished somewhat.

### Section 6: Disqualification from being a Member of the Senedd or a candidate

Without making any comment on the merits of the policy objective behind this provision, it has a possible practical effect in relation to the disqualification of a sitting Member, which the Committee may wish to explore.

Under section 16 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 ("GoWA"), a person is disqualified from being a Member of the Senedd, and from being a candidate to be a Member of the Senedd, if that person falls within any of the categories of persons or offices listed in Schedule 1A to GoWA.

The Bill amends Schedule 1A to additionally disqualify "a person who is not registered in the register of local government electors at an address within a Senedd constituency".

If an Electoral Returning Officer ("ERO") has decided that a person has ceased to be resident at an address, and thus ceased to satisfy the conditions for registration, an ERO must delete the person's entry from the register.

A deletion takes effect when a notice of alteration is published, or a revised electoral register is published, whichever is first.

Generally, notices of alterations to the register are published on the first day of the coming month. However, if that date would fall in less than 14 days, the notice would be published on the first day of the following month.

Once a deletion takes effect, a Member of the Senedd would cease to be registered in the register of local government electors. As such, under the Bill as drafted, they would fall



within the categories of persons listed in Schedule 1A to GoWA, and would be disqualified from being a Member of the Senedd.

A person may appeal to the County Court against a decision to remove them from the register. Appeals must be made within 14 calendar days beginning from the date of the decision to remove them from the register (rather than the date the deletion takes effect).

The effect of an appeal is unclear. In particular, it is unclear whether an appeal has the effect of suspending deletion from the register until it has been considered by the County Court.

On the basis of the Electoral Commission's [guidance](#), this does not seem to be the case. The guidance only considers appeals from the perspective of a person who has already been deleted from the register. This suggests that a successful appeal would lead to a person being reinstated to the register, but would not have the effect of suspending their deletion in the first place.

It is therefore foreseeable that a Member's qualification status may be uncertain between an ERO's determination, and the outcome of any outstanding appeal. However, this may not make any practical difference given the effect of disqualification.

Under section 18(3) of GoWA, the effect of disqualification is that the person ceases to be a Member of the Senedd so that the person's seat is vacant. Even if they are reinstated to the register, on appeal, by that stage they will already have ceased to be a Member and the seat will be filled by someone else.

The Bill does not allow for reinstatement to the Senedd in these circumstances.

As previously determined, the Llywydd is content that this provision, as drafted, falls within the legislative competence of the Senedd. However, in considering this provision, the Committee may wish to give particular focus to any Human Rights implications. For example, under Article 3, Protocol 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights, individuals generally have a right to stand for election.

It may be helpful also for the Committee to note the background to the changes that the Senedd and Elections Wales Act 2020 introduced in the Government of Wales Act on disqualification of a Member of the Senedd. These changes were introduced in response to the Fourth Assembly's Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee's report on disqualification in July 2014. The Committee recommended a set of principles to underpin disqualification from membership of the Assembly, as it was then named.

The Government of Wales Act now distinguishes between the circumstances that are a bar to candidature for the Senedd and those offices that are a bar to membership of the



Senedd but not to candidature. The latter are those that could give rise to a conflict of interest with membership of the Senedd, but where the conflicting office can be resigned before taking the oath, or making the affirmation, of allegiance.

Special provision is made in relation to members of the House of Lords. Members of the House of Lords will not be disqualified if they obtain leave of absence from it. The Act provides that the exemption from disqualification applies if, within 8 days of being elected, they apply for leave of absence from that House and provide a copy of the application to the Clerk of the Senedd. The exemption does not rely on the Member having obtained leave of absence, rather than for those who have applied for leave of absence, in case of delay in the process of granting an application for leave of absence.

Section 7: Review of possible job-sharing of offices relating to the Senedd and Section 19: Review of operation of Act etc. after 2026 general election

Without offering a view on the merits of these provisions, it can be observed that placing a statutory duty on a Llywydd, with a view to seeking a future Senedd's consent to establishing a Senedd Committee is unusual.

It is noted that the provisions in sections 7 and 19 do not necessarily lead to any action other than the Llywydd tabling a motion i.e. the Seventh Senedd will decide whether the remaining actions described in the provision are to be progressed or not.

The Reform Bill Committee might wish to consider:

- whether this is the most appropriate means of achieving the Welsh Government's policy objective underpinning these provisions;
- whether it is appropriate for the Executive to propose the placing of a duty on any office holder of a future Senedd in relation to the establishment of Senedd committees, in particular when they relate to the consideration of policy matters or post-legislative scrutiny of Welsh Government legislation;
- the effect of the potential establishment of two Senedd committees on the Business Committee's function in deciding the Seventh Senedd committee structure and timetables and how, if agreed, it would impact the aim of increasing the Seventh Senedd's committee scrutiny capacity;
- the prescriptive nature of the provision in relation to its task, the timing of the proposed review under section 19, and the timescale within which it must be completed.

The following further observations can be made in relation to section 19:



- If the Seventh Senedd were to reject the motion that the Llywydd is required to table to initiate a review, then there is no requirement for a review to take place at all.
- Examples from other electoral legislation place a duty on the executive (Welsh Ministers in a Welsh context) to review their electoral reform legislation.
- The Electoral Commission has a duty to report on Senedd Elections and can be asked by Welsh Ministers to report on other matters relating to devolved Welsh elections within specified timeframes.



## Annex C: Relevant work of the Business Committee and Senedd Commission

### **The Senedd Commission's role/contributions during the Bill development phase**

In December 2022 the Senedd Commission was asked by the First Minister to provide core information relating to financial implications on the Senedd Commission of the Welsh Government's proposals for Senedd reform.

Following this request, the Commission developed and agreed a set of common assumptions, based on two scenarios, from which estimates could be developed; the common assumptions were developed in consultation with the Business Committee and the Independent Remuneration Board, given that they related to matters which fell within their respective remits and functions, as well as the Commission's functions.

In relation to Senedd Commission staff cost and non-staff cost estimates, information was collated from each Service area. These were collectively reviewed by the Leadership Team and Executive Board. In parallel, Determination cost estimates were modelled across the two scenarios, based on the 2022-23 Determination.

The Senedd Commission considered and agreed the cost estimates and sent them to the Welsh Government at the end of March 2023. Following this submission, there was an on-going dialogue between the Welsh Government officials developing the RIA and Senedd Commission officials who had led on gathering the cost estimates, to ensure that the Welsh Government had understood the cost estimates presented to the level of detail required for their RIA.

During this phase, and at the Welsh Government's request, costs were reprofiled to reflect four-year Senedd terms and to adjust the Senedd Commission's cost estimates to conform with the Welsh Government's RIA methodology.

The final figures that were to be used in the RIA were communicated to the Commission in writing by the First Minister in August 2023 prior to the introduction of the Bill.

### **Relevant work of the Business Committee**

The Business Committee's current procedural work programme includes a proposal for it to consider whether changes to Standing Orders should be made to facilitate job-sharing between Members in particular roles, such as the role of committee chair. This was raised in a recommendation made by the Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform. The Business Committee currently intends to commence work on this matter in early 2024.





The Business Committee also intends to begin to consider the options for work which will be necessary, subject to the Bill proceeding, to review Standing Orders, other procedures, the structure of Senedd business and related guidance ahead of the 2026 election.

### **Preparations being made by the Senedd Commission**

Without pre-empting the Senedd's decision on whether the Bill proceeds, the Senedd Commission has had to begin preparing for the possibility of Senedd Reform, else it would not be in a position to deliver the significant changes it will be required to deliver (if the Bill is passed) in time for the 2026 Senedd Election.

Given the scale of the change, the Executive Board has retained overall control of the portfolio of work required to prepare for Senedd Reform. To support it with its work, the Executive Board has established two programmes.

The **Senedd Reform Programme** has been established to coordinate provision of support and advice to enable the Senedd Commission, the Business Committee, the Independent Remuneration Board, Chairs' Forum, and the Llywydd to deliver the work required of them to prepare for parliamentary business in the Seventh Senedd, in clear sight of each other's work whilst respecting each body's independence.

The Senedd Reform Programme will coordinate Senedd Commission-provided support and advice to ensure:

- all necessary procedural preparations can be made to enable the Seventh Senedd to operate following the 2026 Senedd elections;
- the Independent Remuneration Board can deliver its Determination for the Seventh Senedd in accordance with its strategic work programme;
- the Senedd Commission can respond to any issues it may wish to respond to before, and/or during, the passage of the Senedd Reform Bill;
- the Senedd Commission can deliver Senedd Business services that have the capacity, capability, and planned flexibility to respond to the requirements of the Seventh Senedd; and
- the Seventh Senedd can take informed decisions on the configuration of its parliamentary business from the outset of its term.

The **Ways of Working Programme** is a programme with a remit wider than just Senedd Reform-related projects, but which has the Siambr 2026 and Tŷ Hywel 2026 projects within its responsibilities (i.e. the projects established to deliver the capital works required to accommodate an increase in the number of Members of the Senedd on the Senedd estate).



The Senedd Commission's Audit and Risk Assurance Committee has a standing agenda item on Senedd Reform.

Given the interdependencies that exist between the Senedd Commission's role in preparing for the Welsh Government's Senedd Reform proposals, and the Welsh Government's responsibility for implementing its legislation, particularly the electoral arrangements that need to be in place ahead of the 2026 Senedd Election, a Senedd Commission – Welsh Government Joint Assurance Board has been established at officials-level to share appropriate information and assist with respective risk-management processes.

The Senedd Commission is a member of the Welsh Government's Senedd Electoral Reform Delivery Board. This is the Welsh Government's officials-level forum for engaging with key stakeholders affected by the Bill.

### **The Senedd Commission's role in educating and engaging the public about current and/or pending systems for the election of Members of the Senedd**

The Senedd Commission has developed early, high-level plans to educate and engage the public on the changes proposed in the Members and Elections Bill. Work will continue to develop these plans as the Bill progresses.

The primary target audience will be the politically less engaged with a focus on first time voters (14-20 year olds), ethnic minority groups, low socio-economic areas and areas of low turnout.

A priority is to work in partnership with key groups and stakeholders, for example Welsh Government and the Electoral Commission. Work to make these connections is already underway and will ensure each other's work is complementing rather than duplicating, seeking to collaborate where appropriate.

Upon the passing of the legislation, if this occurs, the Commission's Communications and Engagement teams will reflect the Senedd Reform changes and incorporate relevant activities in its election campaign planning, education services including updating its educational resources, its public engagement activities on the Senedd estate and off-site and media engagement.



By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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## Petitions Committee

David Rees MS  
 Chair  
 Senedd Reform Bill Committee  
 Tŷ Hywel  
 Cardiff Bay  
 CF99 1SN

## Welsh Parliament

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN  
 Petitions@senedd.wales  
 senedd.wales/SeneddPetitions  
 0300 200 6565

2 October 2023

Dear David

**Petition P-06-1334 Make the Senedd More Representative of the Welsh Population**

The Petitions Committee considered the above petition at our meeting on 11 September, alongside correspondence from the First Minister and the Petitioner.

At the meeting members agreed to write to your Committee in order to highlight the petition and bring it to your attention pending the introduction of the Senedd Reform Bill.

Further information about the petition, including related correspondence, is available on our website at: <https://business.senedd.wales/issueDetails.aspx?Id=41308&Opt=3>.

If you have any queries, please contact the Committee clerking team at the e-mail address below, or on 0300 200 6454. I would be grateful if you could send your response by e-mail to the clerking team at [petitions@senedd.wales](mailto:petitions@senedd.wales).

Yours sincerely



Jack Sargeant MS  
 Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

# Agenda Item 5.2

## Reform Bill Committee

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair, Petitions Committee

3 October 2023

Dear Jack

### Petition P-06-1334 Make the Senedd More Representative of the Welsh Population

Thank you for your letter of 2 October 2023 bringing the above petition to the attention of the Reform Bill Committee.

As you know, our role is to scrutinise Bills referred to us by the Business Committee. We are currently scrutinising the Welsh Government's Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill, and we anticipate that further legislation to introduce candidate level gender quotas for Senedd elections and require the publication of diversity information about candidates will also be referred to us in due course.

I will ensure that Reform Bill Committee members are made aware of the petition, and related correspondence, as we carry out our work.

You may also wish to consider drawing the petition to the attention of the Local Government and Housing Committee, which is currently scrutinising the Elections and Elected Bodies (Wales) Bill. I note that this Bill places a duty on the Welsh Ministers to put in place arrangements aimed at improving diversity within Senedd and local government democratic structures, and for individual schemes to be created and tailored to provide support for protected characteristics.

Yours sincerely



David Rees MS  
Chair, Reform Bill Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

## Petitions Committee

David Rees MS  
Chair  
Senedd Reform Bill Committee  
Tŷ Hywel  
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## Welsh Parliament

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senedd.wales/SeneddPetitions  
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3 October 2023

Dear David

## Senedd Reform Petitions

I am writing to share details of a range of petitions relating to Senedd Reform. It is my hope that this information will be useful to your committee as you undertake your scrutiny of the bills that would translate plans for reform into reality.

The Committee has previously considered two petitions relating to Senedd reform.

Petition Title	Signatures and closing date
<u><a href="#">The Welsh Government should hold a referendum before expanding the size of the Senedd</a></u>	<u><a href="#">1,633 signatures</a></u> <u><a href="#">Completed by the Petitions Committee on 9 January 2023</a></u>
<u><a href="#">Reject proposed 36 extra Members of the Senedd by 2026.</a></u>	<u><a href="#">760 signatures</a></u> Completed by the Petitions Committee on 5 December 2022

In both cases, the Committee noted that “the Welsh Government will also bring forward a Senedd Reform Bill in the new year which will be a further opportunity for these issues to be debated and scrutinised in the Senedd.” On that basis, we agreed to close the petitions.

There are three petitions currently collecting signatures which will come to the Committee in the coming weeks.

Petition Title	Current status

<a href="#">Oppose the Welsh Government "Senedd Reform Bill", published 18 September 2023, becoming law</a>	This petition has collected over 10,000 signatures, and will be considered for a Senedd debate. Closing date is March 2024, but the petitioner may close earlier should he wish to bring consideration forward.
<a href="#">Adopt a single transferable vote system for Senedd seats</a>	This petition has 163 signatures at time of writing, but could reach 250 by the time it closes in March 2024.
<a href="#">Introduce a way for constituents to vote out their MS before the end of their term</a>	This petition has collected over 250 signatures, and will be considered by the Committee in the New Year.

Since 18 September, when the first bill was published, to the end of September, the Petitions website has seen an increased volume of petitions being submitted on a wide range of subjects. A number of these petitions related to the issue of Senedd Reform and the proposed increased in Members of the Senedd.

Petitions which call for an action similar to a petition that is already open, or has been closed by the Committee within 12 months, cannot be accepted.

Details of the 23 rejected 'duplicate' petitions that were submitted in September can be found in the table below:

Petition Title
<a href="#">Cancel plans to expand the number of members of the Senedd</a>
<a href="#">Cancel the proposal to increase the Sennedd to 96 AMs</a>
<a href="#">Allow the people of wales to decide if the senedd should be increased in size</a>
<a href="#">Stop the increase in senedd members to 96</a>
<a href="#">To stop the Senedd creating an extra 36 AM members taking the Senedd from 60 members to 96</a>
<a href="#">No expansion of senedd members without a referendum</a>
<a href="#">Hold a referendum seeking approval from the people to increase Senedd members by 36*</a>
[* This petition was withdrawn before it could be rejected]
<a href="#">cancel the reform bill that increases members</a>
<a href="#">Referendum on increase of MS by 36</a>
<a href="#">Abolish the proposals to increase the number of Senydd members</a>
<a href="#">Repeal the legislation to appoint 36 new Senedd Members</a>
<a href="#">Abolish the increase of Senedd by 36 members, save £17.5 million per year</a>
<a href="#">Reject the proposal for 36 more Senedd members-we already have enough members</a>
<a href="#">Oppose the enlargement of the Welsh Senedd from 60 to 96 members</a>
<a href="#">Stop any increase in the number of MSs in the Welsh Parliament</a>
<a href="#">Stop 36 new MS at a huge cost which could be better spent elsewhere</a>
<a href="#">Stop the expansion of the Senedd</a>
<a href="#">Stop the introduction of 36 new senedd members at a cost of 17.8 million a year</a>



[The Senedd must not increase the number of sitting members from the current number of 60 to 96](#)

[That the proposal to increase the number of MS's be decided by referendum](#)

[Cancel expansion of the Senedd](#)

[The people of wales do not want extra AMs](#)

[Create a recall and by-election mechanism for any Members of the Senedd](#)

There are also a handful of (rejected) petitions calling for the First Minister to resign, or for an immediate election, which referred to the Senedd Reform proposals as a reason.

If you have any queries, please contact the Committee clerking team by e-mail [petitions@senedd.wales](mailto:petitions@senedd.wales), or on 0300 200 6454.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Sargeant". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a long horizontal line that extends to the right.

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

# Agenda Item 5.4

## Reform Bill Committee

### Senedd Cymru

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN  
SeneddDiwygio@senedd.cymru  
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0300 200 6565

### Welsh Parliament

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Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair, Petitions Committee

5 October 2023

Dear Jack

### Senedd Reform Petitions

Thank you for your letter of 3 October 2023 providing details of recently closed, current and rejected petitions in relation to Senedd reform.

I will ensure that this information is circulated to members of the Reform Bill Committee to help inform our work.

Yours sincerely



David Rees MS  
Chair, Reform Bill Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English



**Reform Bill Committee**

**Welsh Parliament**

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

SeneddReform@senedd.wales

senedd.wales/SeneddReform

0300 200 6565

Mick Antoniw MS

Counsel General and Minister for the  
Constitution, Welsh Government

16 October 2023

Dear Mick

**Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill: follow up questions after oral evidence session on 5 October 2023**

Thank you for attending the Committee's meeting on 5 October 2023 and responding to our questions on the Welsh Government's Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill.

Following the evidence session, Members agreed to write to you with follow up questions on the issues outlined in the annex to this letter

It would be helpful to receive your response **by 8 November 2023**.

Yours sincerely



David Rees MS

Chair, Reform Bill Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

**Annex: follow up questions after oral evidence session on 5 October 2023**

Following the oral evidence session on the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill on 5 October 2023, we would welcome further information on the matters listed below. It would be helpful to receive your response **by 8 November 2023**.

### Political support for the proposals

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As discussed during the evidence session, the First Minister and the then leader of Plaid Cymru issued a joint position statement on 10 May 2022 setting out their proposals for, among other matters, a Senedd of 96 Members, elected by closed list proportional representation on the basis of pairings of the 32 UK Parliamentary constituencies. They wrote to the Special Purpose Committee on the same day to draw the statement to the Committee's attention, stating:

*"We are grateful for the hard work of your committee in exploring some of the core elements of Senedd reform. We are confident that the statement below will enable you to make recommendations on these fundamental issues."*

You said during the evidence session that you had "no knowledge" of the letter (paragraph 36).

1. Could you clarify when you became aware of the letter sent by the First Minister and the then leader of Plaid Cymru to the Special Purpose Committee on 10 May 2022.
2. What information are you able to provide about the evidence underpinning the May 2022 joint position statement, how its conclusions were reached, or the influence it had on the recommendations made by the Special Purpose Committee.

During the evidence session you referred on a number of occasions to the need for the legislation and its provisions to command a supermajority of support within the Senedd. You also said that you consider your role as Member in charge of this Bill to be:

*"...implementing what actually emerges from the Senedd, from the parliamentary process itself. [...] My function and my interest are solely to actually create viable, effective and in-competence legislation for the Senedd to consider, to implement the wishes of the Senedd". (paragraph 39)*

3. On this basis, what approach will you take to considering any recommendations made by this Committee, or other Senedd committees, that call for you to bring forward amendments to the Bill.
4. What approach will you take to engaging with Cooperation Agreement partners and other political parties within the Senedd during the legislative scrutiny process to (i) assess whether the proposals in the Bill as introduced continue to command a supermajority, and



(ii) assess whether any alternatives recommended by Senedd committees or put forward as amendments by Members of the Senedd could command a supermajority.

### Public support for the proposals

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5. What steps the Welsh Government is taking to assess public support for the proposals in the Bill.
6. What preparations the Welsh Government is making to work with partners to raise public awareness and understanding of the new electoral arrangements it is proposing be implemented for 2026.

### The Elections and Elected Bodies (Wales) Bill

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7. An overview of the areas of interaction and interdependency between the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill and the Elections and Elected Bodies (Wales) Bill.
8. Your views on the potential impact of the introduction of three Bills that amend and reform electoral reform in quick succession, and whether this could present risks to the clarity and accessibility of the law (for example if one or more of the Bills were not passed, or as a result of the scope and scale of the changes to be implemented).

### Number of Deputy Presiding Officers

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9. Whether the approach taken in the Bill risks creating a hierarchy between the Deputy Presiding Officer elected under 25(1)(b) of GOWA 2006 and any DPO elected under new section 25(1A) to be inserted by section 4 of the Bill.
10. Whether the Welsh Government gave any consideration to arrangements in other legislatures for the election of additional DPOs. For example, the Scottish Parliament has the flexibility to elect one or more DPOs, and the House of Commons has provision in place both for a hierarchy of Deputy Speakers and to ensure that the cohort of Speaker and Deputy Speakers includes at least one man and at least one woman.
11. Whether having an additional DPO could have an impact on the political balance of a future Senedd.

### Size of the Welsh Government

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12. What the rationale is for providing in new section 51(4) of GOWA 2006 (as inserted by section 5 of the Bill) that the power to increase the limit on the number of Welsh Ministers under new section 51(3) may not be used to reduce the maximum number of Welsh Ministers.

13. How the Welsh Government sees the use of the power working in practice should a First Minister wish to raise the maximum number of Welsh Ministers, for example to accommodate new powers being devolved to the Senedd, to respond to events, or to reflect coalition arrangements.

### Increasing the frequency of Senedd elections

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The proposal to increase the frequency of Senedd elections is not based on the Special Purpose Committee's recommendations. The EM to the Bill notes that the Welsh Government has considered the balance between "democratic renewal, voter fatigue and providing a sufficient amount of time for an administration to implement its agenda". It states that:

*"...it is considered that four-year terms sufficiently balance these considerations and were in fact the "norm" in Welsh democracy at the point of devolution and continued until relatively recently".*

However, it does not explain why the Welsh Government considers that four year terms provide a more appropriate balance than five year terms.

14. Please provide further information about the evidence base for your decision to include provision within the Bill to increase the frequency of Senedd elections from every five years to every four years.
15. Please outline any Equality Impact Assessment that has been undertaken in relation to this provision, in particular any consideration of whether the proposal could have a differential impact on the basis of age as to whether people may be more or less likely to stand for election to the Senedd as a result of a change in the frequency of Senedd elections.
16. What discussions or engagement have taken place to date or are planned with local government representatives about the potential impact of increasing the frequency of Senedd elections. This should include any discussions or engagement about (i) the impact of administering more frequent Senedd elections, (ii) the impact of every fifth Senedd election coinciding with every fourth local government election (absent of any change in the frequency of local elections), and (iii) whether there should be any change to the frequency of local government elections in Wales

### Requirement for candidates and Members to be registered to vote at an address in Wales

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The proposal to require candidates and Members to be registered to vote at an address in Wales is not based on the Special Purpose Committee's recommendations. During the evidence session you indicated that part of the reason you are proposing that residency in Wales for the purpose of standing for election or being a Member of the Senedd is assessed solely through registration on an

electoral register at an address in Wales rather than models similar to those in use for other purposes such as eligibility for housing is because of the potential for legal challenges (paragraphs 86-97).

You also indicated that in order for a candidate on a party's list to be eligible to take up a seat that became vacant between ordinary general elections they would need to be registered to vote at an address in Wales at the time at which the vacancy arose i.e. they would have no opportunity to reestablish their residency before the Returning Officer passed on to the next candidate on the list (paragraphs 172-175).

Will Whitely, the Welsh Government's Deputy Director for Senedd Reform, confirmed that no public consultation had been undertaken on the proposal because there had not been sufficient time before the Welsh Government introduced the Bill (paragraphs 99-100).

17. Could you provide more information about the nature of the potential "legal challenges" you referred to during the evidence session.
18. In reaching your decisions on the provisions in the Bill, what consideration did you give to section 79 of the Local Government Act 1972, which provides that a person may only be qualified to be elected to serve on a local authority in England and Wales if they have a connection to the local authority area, and that such a connection may be established in a number of ways including, among others: electoral registration, land or property ownership, employment, or residence.
19. Has the Welsh Government considered whether the absence of any 'grace period' or other mechanism to enable a candidate on a party's list to reestablish their residency within a reasonable period should a vacancy arise between ordinary general elections which they would otherwise be qualified to fill could dissuade people from putting their names forward for selection or from agreeing to be nominated if selected lower down on parties' lists.
20. In the absence of any public consultation prior to the inclusion of this provision in the Bill, what discussions or engagement does the Welsh Government plan to undertake (and with whom) in respect of this requirement, how it would operate in practice, and whether it could give rise to any unintended consequences.

## Electoral system

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21. The rationale for reducing the maximum length of parties' candidate lists from the current 12 (for 4 seats in each region) to 8 (for 6 seats in each new constituency), and what assessment has the Welsh Government made of the potential impact on the ability to fill vacant seats arising between ordinary general elections, especially given the proposed new residency requirement.

22. Why the Bill does not include express provision that the names of candidates on parties' lists will be included on ballot papers (in line with the recommendation of the Special Purpose Committee), and whether any consideration has been given to amending the Bill in this respect.

### Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru ("DBCC")

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23. Whether any additional commissioners will need to be appointed to enable the DBCC to undertake its 'pairing' review of Senedd constituencies ahead of the 2026 election.
24. Could you outline the appointment process that will apply to DBCC commissioners, including whether the Welsh Government has considered (and/or discussed with the Senedd) whether the process for appointing the Chair of the DBCC should include a pre-appointment hearing with a Senedd committee.

### Boundaries for the 2026 Senedd election

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25. Whether the process outlined in Schedule 1 to the Bill will provide sufficient opportunities for the public and interested stakeholders to engage in the boundary review process given the curtailed consultation periods for which the Bill provides.
26. What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the impact of the difference between the UK electoral franchise (on which the UK Parliamentary boundaries are based) and the local government electoral franchises (on which Senedd elections take place) on the equality or otherwise of representation across the 16 paired constituencies for 2026.
27. Whether the Welsh Government will provide a definition of "contiguous" to support the DBCC's pairing considerations.
28. Whether the Welsh Government intends to provide any further definition or guidance on which matters the DBCC should consider to be "local ties" when conducting its pairing review. For example, the EM suggests the Welsh language will be a local tie, but this is not included in the Bill.

### Future boundary reviews

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29. The rationale for setting the electoral quota for ongoing reviews of the Senedd's boundaries at  $\pm 10\%$ .
30. Whether there is any tension between the requirement in new section 49C(1) of the 2013 Act (as inserted by Schedule 2 to the Bill) to equalise the size of Senedd constituencies, and the requirements in new section 49C(2)(b) to minimise the amount of change to Senedd constituencies and have regard to the inconvenience of making changes.





31. Whether such tension may be particularly acute in the first 'full' review under new Part 3A of the 2013 Act on the basis that the review that takes place between 2025 and 2028 will be based on a different franchise from the 2023 UK Parliamentary review, and will need to take account of potentially significant changes to the constituency containing Ynys Môn.

#### Review of provisions

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32. The rationale behind the requirement in section 19 for the Llywydd to propose the establishment of a Senedd committee to undertake a review of the operation and effect of the Welsh Government's legislation, rather than placing a requirement on the Welsh Government to undertake such a review.
33. Whether it is appropriate for the Welsh Government to require in legislation that the Llywydd should propose the establishment of a Senedd committee to undertake an inquiry into the "extent to which the elements of a healthy democracy are present in Wales", and for the Welsh Government to propose in the EM what such an inquiry might consider.

#### Diversity provisions

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We have previously written to you to ask for information about the Welsh Government's proposals to introduce a further Bill to introduce candidate gender quotas and require the publication of candidate diversity information. We look forward to receiving a response by 3 November 2023 as previously requested.

34. Could you outline the rationale for the Welsh Government's intention to issue guidance to political parties on diversity and inclusion strategies, rather than including provision relating to these matters in the Bill.

#### Financial implications

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35. Why does the EM not include financial estimates for alternative proposals, particularly for those provisions that are not based on the recommendations of the Special Purpose Committee.
36. What assurance can you give that the figures in the EM are robust and an accurate reflection of the potential cost of the proposals.
37. The EM notes that some costs have not been estimated on the basis that they are subject to decisions to be taken by the Seventh Senedd and the Welsh Government in place after 2026. Are you able to provide a ballpark estimate for these unknown additional costs that could come as a result of the Bill's implementation.

38. What consideration has the Welsh Government given to issues relating to mechanisms to enable constituents to recall Members of the Senedd, including, for example, the extent of public and political support for such provisions, and how such provisions could be incorporated within the Welsh Government's proposed closed list proportional representation electoral system.

Resourcing and funding for opposition party policy development

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39. What consideration has the Welsh Government given to developing proposals to support policy development by political parties in opposition in Wales.

## Reform Bill Committee

## Welsh Parliament

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

Former Chair

Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform

16 October 2023

Dear Huw

### Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill

As you are aware, the Welsh Government formally introduced the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill ("the SC(ME) Bill") to the Senedd on 18 September 2023. The Reform Bill Committee's role is to undertake Stage 1 scrutiny of the general principles of the Bill. I am writing to invite you, as the former Chair of the Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform, to share your views on the Bill with us.

The remit given to the Special Purpose Committee by the Senedd was to consider the conclusions previously reached by the Committee on Senedd Electoral Reform ("CSER") in its September 2020 report, and to make recommendations for policy instructions for a Welsh Government Bill on Senedd reform.

In 2017, the Expert Panel on Assembly Electoral Reform recommended that the Senedd should have at least 80, and preferably closer to 90, Members. In relation to the electoral system, the Expert Panel recommended that if its proposed interventions to support and encourage diversity of representation (including candidate-level legislative gender quotas and requiring the publication of candidate diversity information) were implemented, Members should be elected by single transferable vote ("STV"). It said that if such diversity interventions were not implemented, Members should be elected by flexible list proportional representation. In terms of electoral boundaries, it recommended that

either the current constituency boundaries or local authority boundaries should be used as a basis for creating new multimember constituencies.<sup>1</sup>

In 2020, CSER concluded, based on the evidence it received and its consideration of the Expert Panel's recommendations, that the Senedd should have between 80-90 Members, elected by STV. Its report noted that it was unable to reach conclusions on electoral boundaries because the COVID-19 pandemic curtailed its ability to gather evidence.<sup>2</sup>

In 2022, the Special Purpose Committee recommended, among other matters, that the Senedd should have 96 Members, elected by closed list proportional representation to represent constituencies based upon the 32 new Westminster constituencies.<sup>3</sup>

It is clear from the Explanatory Memorandum to the Bill<sup>4</sup>, and from statements made by the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution<sup>5</sup> and the First Minister<sup>6</sup> that the Special Purpose Committee's report has played a substantial role in the Welsh Government's development of the policy proposals underpinning the SC(ME) Bill and the Bill itself.

Therefore, while responsibility for the SC(ME) Bill and the provisions it contains rests with the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution as Member in charge of the Bill, we would welcome your views as the former Chair of the Special Purpose Committee on a number of matters, including:

1. The Committee's interpretation of its remit (to consider the conclusions reached by the Committee on Senedd Electoral Reform and to make recommendations for policy instructions for a Welsh Government Bill on Senedd reform), and how that remit shaped the Special Purpose Committee's recommendations.
2. The impact of the joint position statement issued by the First Minister and the then leader of Plaid Cymru on 10 May 2022, and the letter to the Special Purpose Committee of the same date, on the Committee's report, including any impact on the Committee's direction of travel, conclusions or recommendations.

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<sup>1</sup> Expert Panel on Assembly Electoral Reform, A parliament that works for Wales: the report of the Expert Panel on Assembly Electoral Reform, November 2017, recommendations 1, 4 and 6

<sup>2</sup> Committee on Senedd Electoral Reform, Senedd reform: the next steps, September 2020, recommendations 1 and 4 and para 16

<sup>3</sup> Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform, Reforming our Senedd: a stronger voice for the people of Wales, May 2022, recommendations 2, 7 and 18

<sup>4</sup> For example, Welsh Government, Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill: Explanatory Memorandum incorporating the Regulatory Impact Assessment and Explanatory Notes, September 2023, para 17

<sup>5</sup> For example, Plenary RoP [para 206], 19 September 2023, Reform Bill Committee RoP [paras 12, 25 and 27]

<sup>6</sup> Plenary RoP [para 49], 26 September 2023

3. The evidence upon which the Special Purpose Committee based its recommendations, particularly recommendations in respect of: the specific number of Members (recommendation 2); the use of closed list proportional representation to elect Members of the Senedd (recommendation 7); the use of the D'Hondt electoral formula to allocate seats (recommendation 8); and the proposal that Senedd constituencies should initially be created by pairing the 32 Westminster constituencies established by the 2023 UK Parliamentary boundary review (recommendation 18).
  
4. The way in which the Special Purpose Committee's recommendations have been interpreted and reflected in the Welsh Government's Bill and accompanying Explanatory Memorandum.

We would welcome a written response on these matters by **Friday 3 November 2023**.

Yours sincerely



David Rees MS  
Chair, Reform Bill Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

# Agenda Item 8

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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