

Dr Elizabeth Haywood
Chair, Independent Remuneration Board of the
Senedd

22 March 2024

Dear Elizabeth

Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill: written evidence

The Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill ('the SC(ECL) Bill') has been referred to the Reform Bill Committee for Stage 1 scrutiny of its general principles. We are writing to seek written evidence from the Independent Remuneration Board to inform our work. In particular, we would welcome further information in relation to the questions set out below.

In asking these questions, we recognise that there are interdependencies between the design and cost of the SC(ECL) Bill and the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill as a package of reforms. However, our role is to scrutinise each Bill and associated Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment on their own merits, especially as the commencement provisions in the SC(ECL) Bill do not specify at which Senedd general election the Bill's provisions will come in to force.

1. We note that the Welsh Government's Regulatory Impact Assessment accompanying the SC(ECL) Bill identifies no additional costs to the Senedd Commission (including in respect of Members' pay and allowances). What involvement has the Independent Remuneration Board had in the development of the Regulatory Impact Assessment? Can you confirm that there are no anticipated quantifiable or unquantifiable costs or savings in respect of Members' pay and allowances associated with the SC(ECL) Bill?
2. When you appeared before the Committee on 30 November 2023, you indicated that the Board would shortly be discussing its thematic review of Members' pay and personal support. Given the increase in the number and proportion of women elected to the Senedd the SC(ECL) Bill aims to achieve, what assessment has the Board made of the level and effectiveness of the current financial allowance and support package for Members with childcare or caring responsibilities?



3. What consideration has been given to the way in which any levers within the remit of the Board might be used to address barriers arising from the Senedd's ways of working that might otherwise inhibit women and under-represented groups from standing for election or constrain the length of their tenure?

4. How does the Board intend to engage with Members and stakeholders on potential changes to the Determination for the Seventh Senedd aimed at supporting women and under-represented groups?

It would be helpful if you could respond by 12 April 2024. This letter is being copied to the Finance Committee and the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, and the First Minister.

Yours sincerely



David Rees MS
Chair, Reform Bill Committee

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