



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1375
Ein cyf/Our ref FM -/00621/23

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

29 November 2023

Dear Jack,

I am responding to your letter about Petition P-06-1375.

There are two scenarios in which the Government of Wales Act 2006 requires the Presiding Officer to arrange an extraordinary general election:

- (i) firstly, where, under section 5(2), at least two-thirds of the Senedd resolves that it should be dissolved;
- (ii) secondly, where, in accordance with section 5(3), one of the events described in section 47(2) occur, and the Senedd fails to nominate a member of the Senedd for appointment as First Minister within 28 days of that event.

One of the events described in section 47(2) is where the Senedd (by a simple majority) resolves that the Welsh Ministers no longer enjoy the confidence of the Senedd. If the Senedd resolves that the Welsh Ministers no longer enjoy the confidence of the Senedd, and fail to nominate a new First Minister within 28 days, the Presiding Officer would be required to arrange an extraordinary general election.

For completeness, section 4 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 also enables the Presiding Officer to bring forward the date of an ordinary general election. However, this power could only be used to bring the date forward by one month (so, the next Senedd election could take place in April 2026 instead of May 2026).

I would refer the committee to the Welsh Government's [Annual Report](#) which sets out the record of this government.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The committee will also be aware the Senedd is currently scrutinising the Senedd Cymru (Members and Election) Bill, which includes a provision to reduce the length of time between Senedd elections from the current five to four years.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARK DRAKEFORD