



**Elin Jones AC, Llywydd**

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

**Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer**

National Assembly for Wales

Mick Antoniw AM  
Chair  
Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

Your ref:  
Our ref: EJ/RT

20 June 2018

Dear Mick

### **Update on Speakers' Conference proposal**

The Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee recommended in its report on ***UK Governance post-Brexit*** that the Llywydd should seek:

*to establish with the other Speakers and Presiding Officers of UK legislatures, a Speakers' Conference with the aim of determining how best to develop UK inter-parliamentary working, particularly as a means of scrutinising the impact of withdrawal from the European Union on the constitutional framework of the UK.*

I discussed your recommendation with my fellow Speakers at our recent Speakers' quadrilateral meeting, with a view to establishing a shared understanding of the proposal, gauging the appetite for further work in this area, and considering possible next steps.

We recognise the potential value of a Conference such as that recommended by your Committee, and are open to considering the matter further. However, we were all agreed that a Conference such as that recommended by your Committee would need to be separate from the existing quadrilateral meetings, which serve a different purpose.

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

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During our discussions, we reflected on the very different positions and traditions in which each Speaker operates, and agreed that this would need to be taken into account as these issues are taken forward.

We also noted the work of the House of Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs in its inquiry into devolution and exiting the EU. Consideration of how inter-parliamentary working could be progressed through various means would usefully be informed by any recommendations made in due course by that Committee, as well as by the views and recommendations of other committees across the legislatures and interparliamentary bodies such as the interparliamentary forum on Brexit.

I believe further consideration of the potential implications with regards to purpose, mandate and membership of any Speakers' Conference would be valuable. This would be assisted by any further expert advice or research which your Committee might be able to provide.

I would be happy to share any further advice or more detailed recommendations you may wish to make with my fellow Speakers in due course.

Yours sincerely

Elin Jones AM  
Llywydd