Dear John,

I will shortly be laying a Statutory Instrument, *The Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2020* before the Assembly introducing new Regulations which will govern the annual electoral canvass from 2020 onwards. This Statutory Instrument will follow the affirmative procedure.

The new Regulations represent the culmination of a joint programme of work with the Scottish and UK Governments to modernise and reform the annual canvass. The Regulations will retain the robust elements of the current canvass but will allow more flexibility for Electoral Registration Officers to tailor the canvass to the households in their area.

As responsibility for electoral matters relating to local government elections in Wales and Assembly elections has now been devolved, in order to reform the canvass it has been necessary to introduce legislation in each of the three administrations. The UK Government has already done this through the introduction of *The Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) (Amendment) Regulations 2019* which were made on the 4th November 2019.

The Statutory Instrument is introduced to complement and work with the suite of electoral reforms the Committee is already considering as laid out in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill which include a number of provisions relating to improving voter registration; registration without application and the Database of Electoral Registration Information.
Provision made in the Statutory Instrument is also consistent with the extension of the franchise for local government elections set out in the Bill and in the Senedd and Elections (Wales) Bill which passed in the Senedd on the 27th November.

Yours sincerely

Julie James

Julie James AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government