

Llyr Gruffydd AM
Chair, Finance Committee

6 March 2020

Dear Llyr

Committee legislation

As part of our work to examine the recommendations of the Expert Panel on Assembly Electoral Reform, the Committee on Assembly Electoral Reform is considering potential legislative mechanisms for any reform of the institution's size or electoral arrangements. We would welcome the Finance Committee's views on the experience of developing a committee Bill and steering it through the legislative process.

An Act of the Assembly would be required to bring about any change in the number of Members or how they are elected. In line with our strategic objective to outline a roadmap for reform in order to inform political parties' consideration of their policy positions and manifestos for the 2021 Assembly election, we are therefore considering the different mechanisms by which Bills may be introduced.

Standing Orders provide that Bills may be introduced by: the Welsh Government; Assembly committees; the Assembly Commission; or Members selected by ballot. To date, the Finance Committee is the only committee which has made use of the provision in SO 26.81 which enables any Assembly committee to introduce a Bill relating to its remit: the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2019.



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We would welcome your insight into the experience of bringing forward committee legislation, including any lessons to be learned or best practice in respect of, for example:

- Developing legislative proposals and provisions, and associated supporting documentation, impact assessments and financial estimates.
- Consulting and working with policy and political stakeholders, including on draft Bills.
- Introducing legislation and guiding it through the legislative scrutiny process.
- Building and maintaining consensus among Committee members on, for example, policy objectives, legislative proposals and amendment strategies.
- Building and maintaining consensus in support of your proposals among political parties and stakeholders.
- Engagement with the Welsh Government.
- Accessing relevant skills and resources.

It would be helpful to receive your views by Monday 4 May 2020. If you would like any further information about the Committee's work, please contact the Committee Clerk, Helen Finlayson, at SeneddReform@Assembly.Wales.

Yours sincerely



Dawn Bowden AM
Chair, Committee on Assembly Electoral Reform

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

