

Elin Jones MS
Y Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee

14 May 2020

Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill

Annwyl Elin,

Thank you for your letter of 12 May seeking the Committee's views on the revised timetable proposed by the Welsh Government for the remaining stages of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill.

The Committee considered the revised timetable at its meeting today and Members are generally content with the proposals. There are, however, a number of matters that may impact on whether the proposed deadlines are achievable.

I note that that the revised timetable does not include any details of when the tabling of amendments could resume, and Members ask that the Business Committee provide further details on this as soon as possible. We believe that, should the tabling period resume during the final week of the summer recess, this would allow sufficient time for amendments to be tabled and considered in line with the proposed deadline for the completion of Stage 2 proceedings.

Whilst the practice of remote committee meetings has proved successful, we believe that remote committee meetings may not be appropriate for holding Stage 2 proceedings. Some clear areas of difficulty would involve the disposal of amendments, where numerous votes by show of hands would need to be held. It is also often necessary for Stage 2 meetings to be paused while legal advice is sought in private on specific amendments. In addition, depending on the number of amendments tabled, the fortnightly afternoon meeting slots allocated to the Committee may not allow sufficient time for this work.

Taking the above into account, while the Committee is content in principle with the proposed revised timetable, we request that Business Committee give this



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matter further consideration should the current emergency situation continue beyond the summer recess.

Finally, I would also like to note that the ELGC Committee is also midway through its Stage 1 scrutiny of the Renting Homes (Amendment) (Wales) Bill. Although our work on that Bill is currently paused, it is unclear whether the timetables for both Bill would overlap, should scrutiny of that Bill resume at around the same time.



John Griffiths MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

