

December 2016

Dear Colleague

A stronger voice for Wales: engaging with Westminster and the devolved institutions

The Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee have agreed to undertake an inquiry into inter-institutional working. The Committee intends to build on the work already undertaken by other legislatures on this issue, including the House of Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee; the House of Lords Constitution Committee and the Scottish Parliament's Devolution (Further Powers) Committee.

The Committee has set the following inquiry objectives:

Inquiry objectives:

To produce best practice principles for inter-institutional working for constitutional legislation.

To reflect and build on the work of other legislatures on inter-institutional working as it relates to broader policy areas.

To seek, establish and promote opportunities for inter-parliamentary working, including promotion of citizen engagement.



The Committee has split the work into two strands. We will start work on the first strand in January, with the aim of finishing work on both strands by summer 2017.

Terms of reference

In order to assist us in our work we would welcome your views on any or all of the following points:

Strand I: Inter-institutional relations [Constitutional matters]

To review how inter-institutional relations have influenced development of Welsh devolution since 1998.

This will include looking at:

-
- How inter-governmental mechanisms have impacted on the development of the devolution settlement.
 - How inter-governmental relations have developed and evolved, what worked well and the impact these relations have had on the devolution settlement.
 - How inter-parliamentary relations have evolved, the current state of these relations and how they could be further developed in relation to the development and scrutiny of constitutional legislation.
-

Strand II: Inter-institutional relations [Policy matters]

By building on the work previously undertaken across the UK to explore within the Welsh context:

-
- The nature of relationships between the Welsh and UK Government, how these relationships function and how they can be improved.
-



-
- Improving opportunities for improved policy learning between Governments and Parliaments.
 - Best practice in inter-institutional relations from across the UK which could be imported into the Welsh context.
 - The nature of the relationship between the Welsh and UK legislatures and to identify opportunities for effective inter-parliamentary working.
-

To cover any other matters that relate to inter-institutional relationships, including relevant implications of the UK leaving the EU.

Invitation to contribute

General information regarding consultation procedures, which should be considered carefully before submitting evidence to the Committee, is set out in the Annex. Responses should be submitted by **Monday 5 June 2017**. It may not be possible to take into account responses received after this date.

If you have any queries, please contact Gareth Williams, Committee Clerk on 0300 200 6362 / SeneddCLA@assembly.wales

Yours sincerely

Huw Irranca-Davies

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English



Annex

Submitting Written Evidence to the Committee

Disclosure of Information

1. The Assembly's [policy on disclosure of information](#) is available; please ensure that you have considered these details carefully before submitting information to the Committee. Alternatively a hard copy of this policy can be requested by contacting the Clerk.

Submitting evidence

2. If you wish to submit evidence, an electronic copy of your submission should be returned to: SeneddCLA@assembly.wales

Alternatively, you can send it to:

Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee

National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff Bay

CF99 1NA.

3. Submissions should arrive by **15 June 2017**. It may not be possible to take into account responses received after this date.

4. When preparing your submission, please keep the following in mind:

- your response should address the terms of reference;
- the National Assembly normally makes responses to public consultation available for public scrutiny and they may also be seen and discussed by Assembly Members at Committee meetings. If you do not want your response or name published, it is important that you specify clearly this in your submission; and
- please indicate whether you are responding on behalf of an organisation, or as an individual.



Guidance for witnesses providing written evidence for committees

5. The Assembly is committed to providing accessible information to the widest audience possible. This short guide is to assist witnesses who produce written information for committees. This will enable the Assembly to provide information submitted by third parties in an accessible manner.

- Use plain English and plain Welsh – avoid unnecessary jargon.
- Use a minimum of font size 12.
- Use a clear sans serif typeface, such as Lucida Sans.
- Do not have writing over graphics, pictures or watermarks.
- Colours and contrast – writing should have maximum contrast to the background: dark on light, light on dark.
- Do not use block capitals, and minimise use of bold, underlining and italics.
- If you wish to refer to a published document, please include a hyperlink to that document, rather than the document itself.

6. Where possible, information should be provided in Microsoft Word to ensure accessibility. Where a scan or PDF is provided, particularly in the case of signed letters or tables of information, the original Word document should be provided along with it.

General

7. The Committee welcomes evidence from those with an interest in this subject. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please provide a brief description of the role of your organisation.

8. The Committee welcomes contributions in both or either of our official languages, English and Welsh. Information not submitted bilingually will not be translated and will be published in the language of submission only.

9. The Committee will consider responses to the written consultation.



10. For your information, the Committee has invited submissions from a wide range of organisations, a list of which is available on request. A copy of this letter has also been placed on the National Assembly's website with an open invitation to submit views. However, the Committee would be grateful if you could forward a copy of the consultation letter and Annex to any individuals or organisations that you believe might wish to contribute to the inquiry.

