

## Agenda – Reform Bill Committee

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Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1, Senedd

Meeting date: Wednesday, 13

September 2023

Meeting time: 09.15

For further information contact:

Helen Finlayson

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

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### Private pre-meeting (09.15–09.30)

#### 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions, and declarations of interest

(09.30)

#### 2 Committee remit

(09.30–09.40)

(Pages 1 – 2)

Supporting document:

Paper 1 – Committee remit

#### 3 Papers to note

(09.40)

##### 3.1 PTN 3.1 – Letter from the Finance Committee regarding scrutiny of legislation to reform the Senedd – 3 August 2023

(Pages 3 – 4)

##### 3.2 PTN 3.2 – Response from the Reform Bill Committee to the Finance Committee regarding scrutiny of legislation to reform the Senedd – 23 August 2023

(Page 5)



**4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (ix) to resolve to exclude the public for the remainder of the meeting, and from the meeting on 20 September 2023**

(09.40)

**5 Ways of working**

(09.40–10.15)

(Pages 6 – 15)

**Supporting document:**

Paper 2 – Ways of working

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# Committee remit

13 September 2023

## Purpose

1. This paper outlines the background to the establishment of the Reform Bill Committee, and provides information about its remit and its role.

## Background and membership

2. On 11 July 2023, the Business Committee agreed to propose to the Senedd that a committee, comprising four Members and chaired by a member of the Welsh Labour group, be established to scrutinise Bills referred to it by the Business Committee.

3. On 12 July 2023, the Senedd voted in favour of establishing a Reform Bill Committee. The Senedd elected David Rees MS (Welsh Labour) as Chair, and appointed the following Committee members:

- Heledd Fychan MS (Plaid Cymru)
- Darren Millar MS (Welsh Conservatives)
- Sarah Murphy MS (Welsh Labour)

4. The Chair subsequently agreed in accordance with Standing Order 17.49 that Jane Dodds MS (Welsh Liberal Democrats) may participate (but not vote) in Committee meetings and other activity.

## Committee remit

5. The Committee's remit is to scrutinise Bills referred to it by the Business Committee.

- 6.** The Committee will be dissolved either:
- when all Bills referred to the Committee have received Royal Assent and the Business Committee has decided that no further Bills will be referred to the Committee; or
  - when the Senedd so resolves;
- whichever is the sooner.
- 7.** Standing Order 17 sets out procedures and rules covering a range of matters relating to the operation of Senedd committees.

### **Role of the Committee at Stage 1**

- 8.** Procedures and rules relating to the introduction and scrutiny of Senedd Bills are set out in Standing Order 26. For each Bill referred to the Committee for Stage 1 scrutiny, the Committee will consider its general principles, focusing on the main purposes of the Bill, rather than looking at the fine detail (which is a matter for later stages). To inform its work, the Committee may invite representations from interested parties, and may take written and oral evidence. Further information about the Committee's approach to scrutiny of each Bill referred to it will be published on the Committee's website in due course.
- 9.** Once the Committee has reported on each Bill referred to it, the Senedd will be asked to debate and vote on that Bill's general principles. If the motion is agreed, the Bill progresses to Stage 2, which involves detailed consideration and disposal of amendments.
- 10.** Further information about the legislative process is available on the Senedd website.

David Rees MS,  
Chair, Reform Bill Committee

3 August 2023

Dear David,

### Scrutiny of legislation to reform the Senedd

In anticipation of the introduction of the first Senedd Reform Bill early in the autumn term, the Finance Committee considered a paper on its approach to scrutinising the Bill at its meeting on 6 July. We agreed that, due to the unique nature of this Bill, the Committee would invite oral evidence from a range of stakeholders relating to its financial implications and not just the Member in Charge, as is usually the case.

In addition to the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution, the Committee has identified the Senedd Commission, the Independent Remuneration Board of the Senedd, the Electoral Commission and the Welsh Local Government Association, as key stakeholders with particular interests in the costs of the Bill.

Given that the Reform Bill Committee may also invite the same stakeholders to attend evidence sessions, I would like to explore ways in which we could work together to avoid duplication and to maximise the time available for robust parliamentary scrutiny of this legislation.



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I fully recognise that your Committee has not yet had an opportunity to discuss these issues, given it was only established on 12 July. However, we would be grateful if you could consider working collaboratively with the Finance Committee on engaging with these stakeholders when the Senedd returns from recess in September.

Yours sincerely



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS  
Chair of the Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



**Y Pwyllgor Biliau Diwygio**

**Reform Bill Committee**

**Senedd Cymru**  
**Agenda Item 3.2**

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Peredur Owen Griffiths MS  
Chair, Finance Committee

23 August 2023

Dear Peredur

**Scrutiny of legislation to reform the Senedd**

Thank you for your letter of 3 August 2023 suggesting that we explore the potential for our Committees to work collaboratively in relation to the scrutiny of forthcoming legislation to reform the Senedd.

I agree that there is merit in exploring where there may be potential for our Committees to work together in areas of common interest, and to identify opportunities to ensure the most efficient use of the time and resources available while also recognising that our individual remits may also necessitate separate evidence sessions with some stakeholders to ensure a sufficient focus on these important issues.

I have asked the Reform Bill Committee clerk to discuss this further with the Finance Committee clerk, and will ensure that consideration of such opportunities forms part of the Reform Bill Committee's discussion of its approach to scrutiny of Senedd reform legislation.

Yours sincerely



David Rees MS  
Chair, Reform Bill Committee

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

# Agenda Item 5

By virtue of paragraph(s) ix of Standing Order 17.42

Document is Restricted