

Agenda – Reform Bill Committee

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Committee Room 1, Senedd	Helen Finlayson
Meeting date: Thursday 30 November 2023	Committee Clerk 0300 200 6565
Meeting time: 09.15	SeneddReform@senedd.wales

- 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions, and declarations of interest**
(09.15)

- 2 Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill: Evidence session with the Independent Remuneration Board of the Senedd**
(09.15–10.00) (Pages 1 – 13)

Elizabeth Haywood, Chair, Independent Remuneration Board of the Senedd
Daniel Hurford, Clerk, Independent Remuneration Board of the Senedd

Supporting document
Research Brief

- 3 Papers to Note**
(10.00)
 - 3.1 Letter to the First Minister and the Leader of Plaid Cymru regarding the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill – 22 November 2023**
(Pages 14 – 15)
 - 3.2 Letter to the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution regarding the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill – 22 November 2023**
(Pages 16 – 17)

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 7 December 2023

(10.00)

5 Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill: Consideration of evidence

(10.00 – 10.15)

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Agenda Item 3.1

Reform Bill Committee

Senedd Cymru

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Welsh Parliament

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Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS
First Minister, Welsh Government

Rhun ap Iorwerth MS
Leader, Plaid Cymru

22 November 2023

Dear Mark and Rhun

Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill

We are now approaching the end of the process of gathering evidence to inform our scrutiny of the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill.

We note that, as introduced, the Bill broadly gives effect to the recommendations of the Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform, which were endorsed by the Senedd in June 2022.

As we begin to reach conclusions based on the evidence we have received, and to consider potential recommendations, we are mindful that this Bill is likely to require a supermajority of at least 40 Members if it is to pass its final stage.

The Joint Position Statement published in May 2022 by the Cooperation Agreement partners and provided to the Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform also recognised that a two-thirds majority would be required for the proposals to succeed.

To inform our work, the Committee would like to invite you both, as Cooperation Agreement partners, to give evidence on the following issues:

1. Whether you remain confident that the proposals in the Bill, including the proposed closed list electoral system, will command a supermajority within the Senedd.



2. Whether you have given any consideration as to whether any alternative proposals could attract a supermajority should the Senedd decide to amend any of the electoral arrangements in the Bill.
3. We would also be interested in exploring with you the evidence and rationale that led the First Minister and the then leader of Plaid Cymru to reach the conclusions set out in the Joint Position Statement.

Our scheduled Committee meeting dates are Thursday 30 November 2023 and Thursday 7 December 2023. We would be happy to be flexible on timings on those dates, or to explore options for alternative dates to accommodate your availability.

Yours sincerely



David Rees MS
Chair, Reform Bill Committee

cc Adam Price MS, former leader of Plaid Cymru

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

Agenda Item 3.2

Reform Bill Committee

Senedd Cymru

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Mick Antoniw MS
Counsel General
Welsh Government

22 November 2023

Dear Mick

Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill: implementation

Thank you again for agreeing to give oral evidence to the Reform Bill Committee on Wednesday 13 December. We look forward to discussing the Bill and the issues arising from our scrutiny of the Bill to date.

To enable us to make best use of the time during the evidence session, we would be grateful if you would provide the following information in advance:

1. An overview of the anticipated timeline for the implementation of the Welsh Government's electoral reforms in advance of the 2026 election.
2. It would be helpful if the timeline referred to above could include the timescales associated with the planned review, reform, consolidation, and scrutiny of the National Assembly for Wales (Representation of the People) Order 2007 (as amended).¹
3. We would also be grateful if you could provide an indication of the nature and scale of the changes you anticipate the Welsh Government proposing in your consultation on the

¹ Welsh Government, [Senedd Cymru \(Members and Elections\) Bill: Explanatory Memorandum incorporating the Regulatory Impact Assessment and Explanatory Notes](#), September 2023, paragraph 342



reform and consolidation of the 2007 Order, including, for example, the types of practical measures (beyond ballot paper design) that might be addressed in the Order.

To ensure that this information can inform the evidence session on 13 December 2023, it would be helpful to receive your response **by 30 November 2023**.

Yours sincerely



David Rees MS
Chair, Reform Bill Committee

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