

Concise Minutes – Reform Bill Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1, Senedd

Meeting date: Thursday, 21 March 2024

Meeting time: 09.30 – 10.44

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/13794>

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	David Rees MS (Chair) Heledd Fychan MS Sarah Murphy MS James Evans MS Jane Dodds MS
Witnesses:	Colin Everett, Chair, Wales Electoral Coordination Board Clare Sim, Member Support and Advice Manager, Association of Electoral Administrators Catherine Uphill, Manager, Electoral Commission Wales
Committee Staff:	Helen Finlayson (Clerk) Georgina Owen (Second Clerk) Catherine Roberts (Deputy Clerk) Rhayna Mann (Official) Josh Hayman (Researcher) Gareth Howells (Legal Adviser) Claire Thomas (Researcher)



1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions, and declarations of interest

Darren Millar MS sent his apologies. James Evans MS attended as his substitute.

The Chair welcomed Jane Dodds MS, who was attending in accordance with Standing Order 17.49.

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Papers to note

2.1 Letter from the Llywydd regarding the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill – 15 March 2024

The Committee noted the letter.

3 Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill: Evidence session with electoral administrators

The Committee received evidence from the Wales Electoral Coordination Board, the Association of Electoral Administrators and the Electoral Commission Wales.

The witnesses agreed to provide written evidence on:

- views on the preferred timetable for Senedd elections
- engagement undertaken with political parties that are not represented on the Senedd Political Parties Panel
- views on changes to election petitions guidance in light of the measures in the Bill
- views on the indication in the Regulatory Impact Assessment that making a false candidate gender statement will not be part of the corrupt practice offence applicable to the provision of false statements in nomination and other papers

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (ix) to resolve to exclude the public for the remainder of the meeting

The Committee agreed the motion.

5 Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill: Consideration of evidence

The Committee considered the evidence received.

6 Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill: approach to Stage 1 scrutiny

The Committee considered and agreed its approach to scrutiny.