

Agenda – Business Committee

Meeting Venue:

Conference Room 4B, Tŷ Hywel

Meeting date: 4 November 2025

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

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Committee Clerk

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1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

2 Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 1 – 6)

3 Organisation of Business

3.1 This week's business (Pages 7 – 8)

3.2 Three week timetable of Government Business (Pages 9 – 10)

3.3 Three week timetable of Senedd Business (Pages 11 – 12)

4 Legislation

4.1 Letter from the Chair of the Member Accountability Bill Committee regarding the timetable for the Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill (Pages 13 – 17)

4.2 Update on LCMs (Page 18)

5 Committees

5.1 Letter from the Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee to the First Minister regarding the scrutiny of gaps identified by the Wales COVID-19 Inquiry Special Purpose Committee and the UK Covid-19 Inquiry Module 2 (Pages 19 – 20)



Minutes – Business Committee

Meeting Venue:

Conference Room 4B – Tŷ Hywel

Meeting date: 21 October 2025

Meeting time: 08.59 – 09.18

Private, Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Committee Members:	Elin Jones MS, Llywydd (Chair) Paul Davies MS Heledd Fychan MS Jane Hutt MS
Committee Staff:	Graeme Francis, Clerk Steffan Lewis, Deputy Clerk
Others in attendance	Jane Dodds MS Manon Antoniazzi, Chief Executive and Clerk Julian Luke, Director of Senedd Business Bethan Davies, Head of Chamber and Committee Service Marc Wyn Jones, Head of Policy and Legislation Committee Service Helen Carey, Welsh Government



1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

The Llywydd welcomed Members to the meeting. Apologies were received from the Deputy Presiding Officer.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed for publication.

3 Organisation of Business

3.1 This week's business

Tuesday

Business Committee noted the following changes:

- Statement by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs: The Independent Water Commission – Next Steps (45 mins)
- ~~Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip: Supporting Welsh Communities (45 mins) – *withdrawn*~~
- Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care: Towards a more Transparent NHS (30 mins)

- Voting Time will take place as the last item of business
- Plenary is unlikely to run past 6.45pm.

Wednesday

The Llywydd informed Business Managers of the following change:

- Questions to the Senedd Commission (~~30~~ 15 mins)

- Voting Time will take place before the Short Debate.

- Plenary is unlikely to run past 6.45pm.

3.2 Three week timetable of Government Business

The Trefnydd informed Business Managers that there were no changes to the Three Week Timetable of Government Business.

Heledd Fychan asked whether the Government intends to make a statement following the announcement by the UK Government of its Clean Energy Jobs Plan. The Trefnydd agreed to consider the request.

Jane Dodds asked for further information as to why the Statement by the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing on the Gambling Levy – Treatment and Prevention Services, previously scheduled for 5 November, had been postponed until January. The Trefnydd agreed to provide further information following the meeting.

3.3 Three week timetable of Senedd Business

Business Managers agreed the following changes to the Three Week Timetable of Senedd Business:

Wednesday 5 November 2025 –

- Motion to amend Standing Orders – Changes resulting from the Legislation (Procedure, Publication and Repeals) (Wales) Act 2025 (5 mins)
- Motion to amend Standing Orders – Standing Order 17: voting in a Committee of the Whole Senedd and responsibility for meeting access (5 mins)

Wednesday 19 November 2025 –

- Motion to approve the Senedd Commission's Budget for 2026–27 (30 mins)
- Open debate (120 mins)
- Time allocated to Plaid Cymru (60 mins)

3.4 Members' Legislative Proposals: Selection of Motion for Debate

Business Committee considered the motions and agreed to schedule the following motion to be debated on 5 November:

Rhys ab Owen

NNDM8985

To propose that Senedd:

1. Notes a proposal for a Bill to ban the use of single use plastic on fresh produce for fruits and vegetables that have been proven to receive no or negligible benefit in elongating shelf life when packaged in plastic.
2. Notes that the purpose of this Bill would be to:
 - a) reduce the amount of unnecessary single use plastic across Welsh supply chains, protecting the environment and human health; and
 - b) reduce food waste and reduce the burden on household finances by allowing consumers to buy only what they need based on weight.
3. Notes that the Bill would apply only when purchasing fruit and vegetables in quantities below 1.5kg.

4 Legislation

4.1 Timetable for the Senedd Cymru (Member, Accountability and Elections) Bill

The Business Committee agree to consult with the Member Accountability Bill Committee on the proposed timetable for scrutiny of the Bill, and return to the matter at a future meeting.

Business Managers returned to a further discussion as to whether Stage 2 proceedings would be carried out by the Member Accountability Bill Committee or by a Committee of the Whole Senedd. The positions of individual Business Managers were unchanged from the previous discussion. On that basis, the Business Committee agreed to indicate in its letter to the Member Accountability Bill Committee, that the working

assumption is for that Committee to also undertake Stage 2 proceedings but that the Business Committee is open to receiving that Committee's views on this matter.

Jane Dodds asked about the ability of other interested Members who are not members of the Member Accountability Bill Committee to participate in proceedings of that Committee. The Llywydd noted that other Members are able to table amendments at Stage 2 and potentially to speak to those amendments during proceedings with the permission of the Chair.

4.2 Update on LCMs

Business Committee considered an update from the Trefnydd and agreed to pre-emptively refer SLCM (No. 5) on the Planning and Infrastructure Bill to the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee and the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee for scrutiny, with a reporting deadline of the morning of 4 November.

Business Managers noted that it may not be possible for the committees to report in light of the limited time available prior to the legislative consent debate, and requested that the SLCM be laid at the earliest opportunity.

5 Procedural Work

5.1 Letter from the Chairs' Forum regarding Seventh Senedd preparedness

Business Committee noted the letter.

5.2 Virtual participation in proceedings, and means of voting in committees

The Business Committee considered feedback received from the Chairs' Forum on proposed changes to the *Guidance on virtual and hybrid proceedings* relating to in person attendance during Bill amending stages and achieving greater alignment between guidance on voting in plenary and committee proceedings. The Business Committee:

- noted its satisfaction with the proposed changes to the Guidance, including those requested by the Chairs' Forum;
- agreed to schedule time in plenary on 5 November 2025 for consideration of proposed Standing Order changes it had previously agreed on 18 September 2025;
- noted that the updated guidance will be issued and published as soon as possible after the Standing Order change motion has been disposed of.

5.3 Annex – Draft revised guidance

Agenda Item 3.1

This Week's Business

Tuesday 4 November 2025

Government Business

- Questions to the First Minister (45 mins)
- Business Statement and Announcement (30 mins)
- Statement by the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery: Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill (60 mins)
- Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language: Development of Tourism and Regulation of Visitor Accommodation (Wales) Bill (60 mins)
- Statement by the Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership: Flexible Skills Programme (45 mins)
- Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Education: "Our Bravery Brought Justice" – North Wales Safeguarding Board Child Practice Review (45 mins)
- The Non-Domestic Rating (Description of Differential Multipliers) (Wales) Regulations 2025 (15 mins)
- Legislative Consent Motion: The Planning and Infrastructure Bill (15 mins)
- Proposal under Standing Order 12.24 to debate the following items together but with separate votes (60 mins):
 - The general principles of the Homelessness and Social Housing Allocation (Wales) Bill
 - The financial resolution in respect of the Homelessness and Social Housing Allocation (Wales) Bill
- Voting Time (5 mins)

Estimated end time: ~~19.05~~ 19.50

Wednesday 5 November 2025

Government Business

- Questions to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning (45 mins)

- Questions to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care (45 mins)

Senedd Business

- Topical Questions (20 mins)
- 90 Second Statements (5 mins)
- Motion to amend Standing Orders – Changes resulting from the Legislation (Procedure, Publication and Repeals) (Wales) Act 2025 (5 mins)
- Motion to amend Standing Orders – Standing Order 17: voting in a Committee of the Whole Senedd and responsibility for meeting access (5 mins)
- Motion to elect a Member to a committee (5 mins)
- Debate on a Member's Legislative Proposal: Rhys ab Owen (South Wales Central) (30 mins)
- Debate on the cross-Committee report on the UK–EU implementation review of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (60 mins)
- Plaid Cymru Debate – a national care service for Wales (60 mins)
- Voting Time (5 mins)
- Short Debate – no topic tabled (0 mins)

Estimated end time: ~~18.40~~ 18.15

Agenda Item 3.2

BUSINESS STATEMENT

Tuesday 11 November & Wednesday 12 November 2025

Tuesday 18 November & Wednesday 19 November 2025

Tuesday 25 November & Wednesday 26 November 2025

Tuesday 11 November 2025

- Questions to the First Minister (45 mins)
- Questions to the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery (45 mins)
- Business Statement and Announcement (30 mins)
- Statement by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs: COP30 and Wales Climate Week (45 mins)
- Statement by the Minister for Children and Social Care: Annual Report on the Abuse of Older People (45 mins)
- Debate: Remembrance (60 mins)
- Proposal under Standing Order 12.24 to debate the following items together but with separate votes (60 mins)
 - The general principles of the Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill
 - The financial resolution in respect of the Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill

Wednesday 12 November 2025

- Questions to the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government (45 mins)
- Questions to the Cabinet Secretary for Education (45 mins)

Tuesday 18 November 2025

- Questions to the First Minister (45 mins)
- Business Statement and Announcement (30 mins)
- Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government: Affordable Housing (45 mins)

- **Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning: Outcome of the Internal Business Support Review (45 mins)**
- The Health Impact Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2025 (15 mins)
- **The Land Transaction Tax (Modification of Special Tax Sites Relief) (Wales) (No.2) Regulations 2025 (5 mins)**
- **The Land Transaction Tax (Modification of Special Tax Sites Relief) (Wales) (No.3) Regulations 2025 (5 mins)**
- Debate: The Welsh Language Commissioner's Annual Report 2024–25 (60 mins)

Wednesday 19 November 2025

- Questions to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language (45 mins)
- Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs (45 mins)

Tuesday 25 November 2025

- Questions to the First Minister (45 mins)
- Business Statement and Announcement (30 mins)
- Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip: International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women (45 mins)
- Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Education: Attendance and Behaviour in Schools (45 mins)
- Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care: Improving Waiting Times (45 mins)

Wednesday 26 November 2025

- Questions to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales (45 mins)
- Questions to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip (45 mins)

Agenda Item 3.3

Draft 3 Week Timetable of Senedd Business

Business Managers are invited to consider the draft 3 Week Timetable of Senedd Business.

If Business Managers wish to make any changes, an updated version will be published before Plenary.

The Business Committee has been asked to schedule the items underlined below:

Wednesday 12 November 2025 –

- Topical Questions (20 mins)
- 90 Second Statements (5 mins)
- Debate on the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee report: The response to recent storms (60 mins)
- Debate on the Local Government and Housing Committee report: The role of local authorities in supporting hospital discharges (60 mins)
- Time allocated to the Welsh Conservatives (60 mins)
- Short Debate: Sioned Williams MS (South Wales West) (30 mins)

Wednesday 19 November 2025 –

- Topical Questions (20 mins)
- 90 Second Statements (5 mins)
- Motion to approve the Senedd Commission's Budget for 2026–27 (30 mins)
- Open debate (120 mins)
- Time allocated to Plaid Cymru (60 mins)

Wednesday 26 November 2025 –

- Questions to the Senedd Commission (30 mins)

- Topical Questions (20 mins)
- 90 Second Statements (5 mins)
- Member Debate under Standing Order 11.21(iv) – Adam Price (60 mins)
- Debate on the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee report: Apprenticeship pathways (60 mins)
- Time allocated to the Welsh Conservatives (60 mins)
- Short Debate: Peter Fox MS (Monmouth) (30 mins)

The Rt Hon Elin Jones MS
Llywydd
Chair, Business Committee

Dyddiad | Date: 31 October 2025

Annwyl Lywydd

Pwnc | Subject: Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill – Stage 1 scrutiny and Stage 2 proceedings

Thank you for your letter dated 21 October in which you seek the views of the Member Accountability Bill Committee on the Welsh Government's proposed timetable for the scrutiny of the Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill (the Bill).

We note that the Government is proposing we conclude our Stage 1 scrutiny and report to the Senedd by 19 December. By virtue of the fact that Government is introducing the Bill in November, we appreciate that pushing our reporting deadline into the New Year would be problematic for the remaining stages of the legislative process.

Nonetheless, it should be acknowledged that this timetable means our work in scrutinising this proposed legislation will be challenging. We ask that you consider extending this deadline by two working days, to 23 December. We will be utilising as many as possible of the seven weeks available to us to gather evidence on the Bill; this means we may not be able to agree our report until the week commencing 15 December. As such, having these extra days could provide some much-needed breathing space to the Senedd Commission teams who will assist us in laying a bilingual report before the Senedd. We do not believe such an extension would have a material impact on the proposed date for a Plenary debate on the general principles of the Bill and, subsequently, the latter scrutiny stages in the Senedd.

You have also sought our views on the Business Committee's current assumption that the Bill will be referred to the Committee for Stage 2 proceedings. We are aware that Stage 2 proceedings for Bills of a similar nature have, on occasion, been referred to a Committee of the Whole Senedd. We do not

consider it to be our place to make a firm recommendation to you on where Stage 2 proceedings should take place; that decision is a matter for the Business Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David F. Rees." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'D' and 'R'.

David Rees MS

Chair

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

To: Business Committee

From: Jane Hutt MS
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd & Chief Whip

Date: 21 October 2025

Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill – Timetable

Issue

1. To establish a timetable for the consideration by the Senedd of the Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill, in accordance with Standing Order 26.7.

Background

2. The Counsel General and Minister for Delivery delivered the Government's annual Legislative Statement on 29 April and confirmed that the Government will expand its legislative programme into the final year of the Senedd before the elections next May.
3. The Government scheduled the annual legislative statement earlier than usual to allow Senedd Committees and Members, as well as external stakeholders, as much advance notice as possible about the Bills we intend to bring forward in the final year of our legislative programme.
4. The Government shared a paper with Business Committee 20 May 2025 that outlined the proposed overarching timetable for Year Five of the Legislative Programme to allow the Business Committee to consider the proposed timetable for each of the Bills and which Committee is best placed to lead on scrutiny, and to allow the Committees to start considering their approach to scrutiny and how to balance this work with their other priorities.
5. This paper seeks agreement to the timetable for the Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill.

Responsible Committee

6. In accordance with Standing Order 16.3, the Senedd agreed to establish a Member Accountability Bill Committee to scrutinise the Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill on 15 October 2025.

Proposed timetable

7. The timetable (at doc 1) proposes a deadline for the Stage 1 Committee to report by 19 December 2025. The timetable also proposes a deadline for Stage 2 Committee proceedings of 13 February 2025. It is these two dates that the Business Committee is being asked to consider. The other dates provided in the timetable are for information only.

Recommendation

8. The Business Committee is asked to consider the proposed timetable for the consideration of the Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill by the Senedd, and to agree:
 - the deadline for the Stage 1 Committee to report by is 19 December 2025; and
 - the deadline for the completion of Stage 2 Committee proceedings is 13 February 2026.

**Illustrative Timetable – Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections)
Bill**

Milestone	Date
Introduction to the Senedd	3 November 2025
Deadline for Stage 1 Committee consideration	19 December 2025
Stage 1 ends – Plenary debate on general principles and motion on financial resolution (if necessary)	13 January 2026
Stage 2 begins	14 January 2026
Earliest possible date for Stage 2 consideration	4 February 2026
Stage 2 ends - deadline for Stage 2 Committee	13 February 2026
Stage 3 begins	16 February 2026
Stage 3 in Plenary	17 March 2026
Stage 4 in Plenary	24 March 2026
Royal Assent	May 2026

Agenda Item 4.2

To: Business Committee

From: Jane Hutt MS
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

Date: 4 November 2025

Standing Order 29 – Legislative Consent Memoranda

Issue

1. In accordance with Standing Order 29.4 to consider the appropriate timetabling for consideration of [Legislative Consent Memoranda](#).

Advice

New Legislative Consent Memoranda

Bill	Current Parliamentary Stage	Bill introduction/ amendment date	Latest Memoranda Laid	Reporting deadline recommendation
Public Authorities (Fraud, Error and Recovery) Bill	House of Lords – 3 rd Reading	15 October 2025	SLCM (No.5) 29 October 2025	N/A
Tobacco and Vapes Bill	House of Lords – Committee Stage	20 October 2025	SLCM (No.3) 31 October 2025	2 December 2025

Recommendations

2. Business Committee is invited to –
 - a. Note the updates above;
 - b. Note that SLCM (No.5) for the Public Authorities (Fraud, Error and Recovery) Bill was laid on 29 October. The Legislative Consent Motion Senedd Debate for this Bill took place on 21 October 2025, the Senedd consented to the Bill. Due to the UK Parliament’s timetable for the Bill, it is no longer possible for the Senedd to make a meaningful decision on consent in relation to the latest amendments. The Committee may wish to decide whether to refer SLCM (No.5) to subject committees for consideration.
 - c. Refer the memoranda for the following Bills with reporting deadlines as stated below—
 - i. **Tobacco and Vapes Bill – 2 December 2025**

The Rt Hon. Eluned Morgan
First Minister

28 October 2025

Dear First Minister,

**Scrutiny of Gaps Identified by the Wales COVID-19 Inquiry Special Purpose Committee
and the UK Covid-19 Inquiry Module 2**

When I wrote to Business Committee to accept their request to undertake the work required in relation to Covid 19, I reiterated several concerns we had as a Committee about taking on this work because of our limited time and capacity. We also clarified our expectation that you as the First Minister would attend a scrutiny session. As First Minister, you have responsibility for Civil Contingencies and Chair the Wales Resilience Forum, and it is our view that it is essential that we take evidence from you.

Your initial written response to our request was non-committal and in response to our follow up request, correspondence via officials asked that we provide further details on the "areas to be scrutinised to ensure that the appropriate Minister or officials can attend and provide evidence". We provided these details and have been told, via officials, that your office has offered a "private technical briefing to aid understanding of the civil contingencies' framework in Wales, including risk and planning". It was confirmed that such a briefing would be in lieu of you attending PAPAC.

We do not consider this to be reasonable, a private technical briefing does not provide for any public accountability or for any evidence to be gathered on the record. We have several stakeholders who are willing to attend Committee to give evidence, but the purpose of their evidence would be limited and undermined if as a Committee we cannot test it against the views and evidence of the Welsh Government.

Without your engagement with the work of this Committee our view is that the work cannot be progressed unless the situation changes. The Committee's position is untenable without the commitment of the Welsh Government, and you, to provide evidence. PAPAC accepted this work in good faith on the understanding there would be cross party support for us to be able to undertake

our work as effectively as possible, within the constraints we had imposed on us. Unfortunately, that has not proven to be the case.

Given the urgency of the need for the Committee to resolve our future approach to this important piece of work we urge you to reconsider attending Committee as requested.

I ask for a formal response to this request and not further correspondence via email between officials. Furthermore, due to the problems with this work, I am copying this letter to the Business Committee to make them aware of the issue.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Isherwood MS

Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee