

## **Agenda – Member Accountability Bill Committee**

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Meeting Venue:

**Committee Room 4**

Meeting date: 21 October 2025

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

**Sarah Sargent**

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

[SeneddMAB@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddMAB@senedd.wales)

### **Hybrid**

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

09.30

**2 Committee remit**

09.30–09.35

(Pages 1 – 2)

Attached Documents:

Paper 1 – Committee remit

**3 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) and (ix) to resolve to exclude the public for the remainder of the meeting**

09.35

**4 The Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill – background briefing**

09.35–09.50

(Pages 3 – 37)

Attached Documents:

Paper 2 – Senedd Research brief



**5 The Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill – briefing from Welsh Government officials**

09.50–10.20

(Pages 38 – 39)

Attached Documents:

Paper 3 – Written Ministerial Statement – Draft of the Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill

**6 Ways of working and approach to Stage 1 scrutiny**

10.20–10.50

(Pages 40 – 56)

Attached Documents:

Paper 4 – Approach to scrutiny

Paper 5 – Ways of working

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# Committee remit

October 2025

## Purpose

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

## Background and membership

**2.** On 7 October 2025 the Business Committee agreed to propose to the Senedd that a committee, comprising four Members and chaired by the Deputy Presiding Officer, be established to scrutinise the Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill.

**3.** On 15 October, the Senedd voted in favour of establishing a Member Accountability Bill Committee. The Senedd elected David Rees MS (Welsh Labour) as Chair, and appointed the following Committee members:

- Paul Davies MS (Welsh Conservatives)
- Lesley Griffiths MS (Welsh Labour)
- Buffy Williams MS (Welsh Labour)
- Sioned Williams MS (Plaid Cymru)

## Committee remit

**4.** The Committee's remit is to scrutinise the Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill.

5. The Committee will be dissolved following agreement by the Senedd of a motion for Stage 2 proceedings on the Bill to be conducted by a Committee of the Whole Senedd, or on the completion of Stage 2 proceedings (whichever is the sooner).
6. [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**

7. Procedures and rules relating to the introduction and scrutiny of Senedd Bills are set out in [Standing Order 26](#).
8. As regards the Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill, the Committee will consider its general principles, focusing on the main purposes of the Bill. To inform its work, the Committee may invite representations from interested stakeholders, and may take written and oral evidence. Further information about the Committee's approach to scrutiny will be published on the Committee's [website](#) in due course.
9. Once the Committee has reported on the Bill, the Senedd will be asked to debate and vote on the 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](#).

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## WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Draft of the Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>6 October 2025</b>
<b>BY</b>	<b>Julie James MS, Counsel General and Minister for Delivery</b>

I am pleased to announce that today I am publishing a draft of the Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill.

The Bill aims to give people in Wales the power to remove Members of the Senedd who seriously break conduct rules. It sets out a recall mechanism for the Senedd with two clear triggers that would lead to a Member becoming subject to a recall poll: where a Member is convicted and sentenced to imprisonment (including suspended sentences); and where the Senedd agrees a recommendation from the Standards of Conduct Committee that a Member should be subject to a recall poll as a result of serious misconduct.

Additionally, the draft Bill includes a statutory requirement for every Senedd to establish a Standards of Conduct Committee, which could – for the first time – include independent lay members. Furthermore, the Commissioner for Standards would gain additional powers to investigate concerns about Members' conduct.

It also amends Welsh Ministers' powers to set rules about how Senedd elections are run. In order to address deliberate deception, this will include a duty on Welsh Ministers to prohibit false statements in future conduct orders governing Senedd elections.

The draft Bill can be found by clicking the following link: <https://www.gov.wales/draft-senedd-cymru-member-accountability-and-elections-bill>.

The aim of publishing a draft of the Bill today is to give Senedd Members and interested stakeholders an opportunity to see the proposed scope and direction of the Bill before its formal introduction in the autumn. It is not published for further consultation at this stage. It is still subject to the Llywydd's determination and there may be changes before introduction. This is not therefore a final version.

I look forward to working with Senedd Members on the provisions of the Bill during scrutiny after the Bill is introduced.



# Agenda Item 6

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

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