



Ein cyf/Our ref qA1411587

Mick Antoniw MS
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitutional Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

27 November 2020

Dear Mick,

I am writing to you concerning the Representation of the People (Election Expenses Exclusion) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2020. This Order was to be made following the affirmative procedure and was approved in plenary on Tuesday 17 November 2020.

The Order was not made as anticipated on the 18 November ahead of the scheduled coming into force date of 19 November. Instead the Order was made at 15:19 on the 19th, meaning the Order has a minimal retrospective effect given that it came into force at the beginning of 19 November.

The purpose of the order is to exclude translation and disability costs from the statutory ceilings for election spending to ensure a more level playing field for all election candidates. This will level the playing field for candidates with disabilities and enable them to stand for election.

Given that polls previously postponed due to coronavirus are rescheduled to take place from 1 February it was important that the Order was made, even with a minimal retrospective effect, to ensure that candidates understand what expenses will count towards their expenses limits. Making the Order now, as approved by the Senedd, means that Guidance from the Electoral Commission can be issued in a timely manner; preparing and laying a new Order for consideration by Plenary would have delayed such guidance being issued until late December, which could result in candidates with disabilities choosing not to

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

stand if they were unable to determine what expenses may be incurred.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Julie" and the last name "James" clearly distinguishable.

Julie James AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government