

Elin Jones AM  
Llywydd

8 May 2019

Annwyl Lywydd,

### **Senedd and Elections (Wales) Bill**

Thank you for giving evidence to us at our meeting on 7 May 2019. We agreed to write with further questions not reached during the evidence session and would welcome a response by 16 May 2019.

#### **Electoral Commission**

The Electoral Commission will retain responsibility for UK elections. How will this impact on the accountability of the Commission to the Assembly?

What engagement have you had with the Electoral Commission about the design of new registration forms?

In evidence local authorities talked of the local government Bill potentially providing some general enabling legislation to pursue digital administration. How would this impact on Assembly elections?

In its evidence the Association of Electoral Administrators suggests that “the Welsh Assembly should scope, commission, oversee, monitor and pay each EMS supplier directly for the software changes”. What is your view of their comments?

#### **Disqualification**

The Welsh Government has previously stated that its priority for the provisions relating to disqualification is to ensure that the law in this area is as clear as possible. Are you satisfied that the provisions as drafted achieve this aim?

It has been suggested that it would be simpler to say if you take the oath to become an Assembly Member, anything that would have disqualified you, you are deemed to have resigned from that position. Are you still of the view that this would be outside the Assembly’s legislative competence?

The Counsel General said in oral evidence last week that there is work to be done in relation to this part of the Bill. For example, he said that it doesn’t provide for



Assembly Commission staff to be disqualified. What is your view on his comments?

How will the changes to the Bill regarding disqualification be publicised?

At what point will disqualification from holding a particular public office now take effect and how does the Bill achieve that change?

### **Law Commission provisions**

You previously told the Committee that giving powers to Welsh Ministers to implement Law Commission recommendations was seen at the time of the introduction of the Bill as a reasonable way of introducing these provisions. Are you still of this view that this approach is the most appropriate way of reforming electoral law?

### **Supplementary questions**

Do you intend to seek approval to extend the timetable for Stage 2 to ensure proceedings do not take place until the amendments you propose to section 27 of the Bill have been published and fully costed, with the opportunity for scrutiny by us and stakeholders?

What role should educational establishments and local authorities play in the awareness campaign for those young people outside the school system?

If the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill were to provide voting rights for prisoners and qualifying foreign nationals, do you think it would be confusing to have a different approach in Wales for Assembly and local government elections? Is it your intention to bring forward amendments to cover these issues at Stage 2 of the Bill?

Yours sincerely,



**Mick Antoniw**

Chair

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

