



**Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament**



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair, Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform

SeneddReform@senedd.wales

10 May 2022

Dear Huw,

As you will be aware, Welsh Labour and Plaid Cymru recently voted to support Senedd reform at our respective party conferences and to enable further cross-party negotiations on the detail of Senedd reform proposals to progress.

The detailed work of your committee to date, the McAllister Report and the previous Senedd's Committee on Senedd Electoral Reform has facilitated a number of discussions between our two parties to explore areas of common ground.

As a result of those discussions, we set out below our joint view on the package of proposals that is most likely to succeed in achieving the 2/3rds Senedd majority that is required by law to deliver reform.

We are grateful for the hard work of your committee in exploring some of the core elements of Senedd reform. We are confident that the statement below will enable you to make recommendations on these fundamental issues.

We are mindful that there are a number of further matters that will need to be considered by the Government and by the Senedd once the work of preparing and scrutinising the proposed legislation gets underway. We have committed to undertake further detailed work on these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Drakeford MS
First Minister of Wales

Adam Price MS
Leader of Plaid Cymru

Senedd Reform joint position statement

Senedd reform will be implemented in time for the next scheduled election to the Senedd in 2026. As a result, some aspects will need to be delivered on an interim basis.

The Senedd should have 96 Members. It should be elected using closed proportional lists with integrated statutory gender quotas and mandatory zipping. Seats should be allocated to parties using the D'Hondt formula.

The 2026 Senedd election should use the final 32 UK Parliament constituencies proposed by the Boundary Commission for Wales once it has concluded its 2023 Parliamentary Review. These constituencies should be paired in order to create 16 Senedd constituencies. Each constituency should elect six Members.

In addition, a full boundary review should be instigated in this Senedd term and its recommendations should take effect from the subsequent Senedd election. Whilst ensuring that proportionality is maintained or enhanced, the parameters for this review should include, amongst other things, a broadly equal number of electors and the same number of Members per constituency.

The powers to review Senedd boundaries, including the power to pair constituencies for the 2026 election, should be conferred on the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales. The Senedd reform legislation should take steps to reconstitute and rename the Commission to reflect its new functions.