

Possible changes to the Senedd

Information about what might change



This document was written by the **Welsh Parliament**. It is an easy read version of '**Summary of the report of the Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform – 'Reforming our Senedd: A stronger voice for the people of Wales'**'.

September 2022

How to use this document



This is an easy read document. But you may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what all the words in blue mean on **page 10**.



Where the document says **we**, this means **Welsh Parliament**. For more information contact:

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Introduction



In 2021 we set up a group called **The Special Purpose Committee**.



It was made up of **Members of the Senedd**.



Their job was to think about the changes needed in the Senedd.

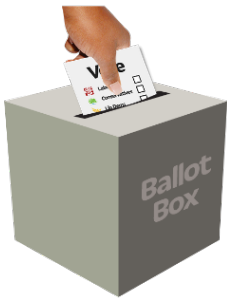


They wrote a report about it.

The main things they said need to change are:



- There needs to be more Members of the Senedd.



- The way we vote for Members needs to change.



- The **constituency** areas need to change.

Constituency means the area of Wales that a Member of the Senedd represents.

- To make the Senedd more **diverse**.



Diverse means more Members of the Senedd from different backgrounds, with different abilities and views.

What the Senedd looks like now



At the moment there are 60 Members of the Senedd.

And there are 2 voting systems. They are:



- a system called **First Past the Post**
- and
- a system called **Additional Member System.**

These 2 systems work together to be called **Mixed Member Proportional Voting.**

More about the changes

The new voting system



The Committee think the **Mixed Member Proportional Voting** system should stop.



Instead, we should use a **Closed List Proportional System**. This will mean that when people vote, they will just vote once. For the political party they want.



Proportional Voting means if a political party gets half of the votes, then that party will make up half of the parliament.

Size of the Senedd



The Committee said the number of Members of the Senedd should go up from 60 members to 96 members.



This is to make sure they can check the decisions the Welsh Government makes for Wales.



And make sure they can find out what the people of Wales want.

Changing the constituency areas



The Committee think that in the 2026 elections there should be **16 Senedd Constituencies**.



Each of these would have 6 Members of the Senedd.

Diversity



The Committee say there should be an equal number of male and female Members of the Senedd.



And that political parties must write plans about becoming more **diverse**.

What happens next



This report by the Committee was discussed in the Senedd and agreed.



Now the Welsh Government must check these plans and make a new law for these plans.

Hard words

Constituency

Constituency means the area of Wales that a Member of the Senedd represents.

Diverse

This means more Members of the Senedd from different backgrounds, with different abilities and views.

Mixed Member Proportional Voting

This system is a way of organising how a parliament is made up of elected members.