

Elin Jones MS
Llywydd
Chair, Business Committee

4 February 12022

Dear Llywydd

Review of the committee timetable and committee remits

Thank you for your letter of 7 January 2022, which we considered at our meeting on 24 January 2022.

You will know that the Committee's remit is broad, essentially representing a merger between the Fifth Senedd's Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee, with the additional responsibility for scrutinising Consolidation Bills.

Since our establishment, we have spent the bulk of our time scrutinising subordinate legislation and legislative consent memoranda for UK Bills. On the former, it is worth noting that the Counsel General, in a letter to the Committee on 17 January 2021, noted that there were 384 statutory instruments made in 2021, compared to an average of 310 in the preceding 10 years. On the latter, we have been surprised at the volume of legislative consent memoranda being laid and, in a letter to you on 29 October 2021, we drew attention to some of our concerns on our ability to scrutinise these efficiently.

Even though we have a weekly meeting slot, we recognised at the outset that our remit would be demanding and adopted a way of working to accommodate the challenges we faced as a result. For example, we have been considering and then publishing regular monitoring reports to provide an assurance to stakeholders that we are routinely considering all aspects of our remit, and holding one-off evidence sessions (including with the Counsel General on a regular basis) to scrutinise specific issues of importance. These sessions are also being used to help inform possible future inquiries.



You will again be aware that the volume of legislative activity is not reducing and, in order to scrutinise all the legislation arising, we will continue to prioritise our consideration of other matters within the range of our remit.

Despite the challenges we face, and those more widely in the Senedd, we consider that our Committee is working well and that the various elements of our remit fit together logically.

We would however like to highlight that there may, on occasion, be the need to meet for longer, extending into Monday mornings or, subject to legislative pressures, on rare occasions meet more than once a week.

We would be happy to participate in future discussions should that be necessary.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Huw Irranca-Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Huw Irranca-Davies
Chair