

Y Pwyllgor Biliau Diwygio

Reform Bill Committee

Y Pwyllgor Cyllid

Finance Committee

Y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad

Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

Y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai

Local Government and Housing Committee

Senedd Cymru

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Welsh Parliament

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Dear colleague

Electoral reform legislation

We are writing to draw your attention to the First Minister's [announcement](#) on 27 June 2023 that the Welsh Government's legislative programme for 2023-24 is expected to include three Bills relating to electoral reform:

- A Bill to **reform electoral administration**. The First Minister said that this Bill would:

"...deliver the Welsh Government's commitment to reduce the democratic deficit in Wales, and to develop an electoral system fit for the twenty-first century. This Bill will also strengthen electoral administration by establishing an electoral management board, take steps to ensure every eligible voter in Wales is on the electoral register, and reform the processes for conducting community and electoral reviews".

- A Bill to **reform the Senedd**, building on the recommendations of the Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform regarding the size of the Senedd, electoral system and boundary arrangements. The First Minister said that this Bill would:

"...create a Senedd that is better able to represent and serve the people of Wales, with increased capacity to scrutinise, to make laws and to hold the executive to account".

- A Bill to **introduce candidate gender quotas** for Senedd elections.

The First Minister provided some further information on the proposed legislation in a [written statement](#) on 27 July 2023.

We understand that the Welsh Government intends to introduce these three Bills during the 2023 autumn term. We anticipate that one or more of these Bills may be of interest to you, and that you may have relevant information and evidence that would helpfully inform Senedd committees' scrutiny.

Committee scrutiny

The Senedd Business Committee is responsible for decisions about referring Bills to responsible committees for Stage 1 scrutiny (consideration of the general principles of the Bill), and for setting a timetable within which such scrutiny must take place. The Business Committee will report on its decisions in respect of each of the three electoral reform Bills in due course.

Committees undertaking scrutiny of Bills are responsible for determining how they approach their scrutiny work, including how they gather evidence to inform their conclusions and recommendations.

While the detail of our Committees' scrutiny approaches, including how and when we will be gathering evidence, cannot be determined before each Bill is introduced, we want to make sure that our scrutiny is informed by experiences, knowledge, and views that reflect the diversity of the people and communities affected by these issues. We want to encourage anyone with expertise or experience of the issues raised by the Bills to share their views, with the full knowledge that their views will be welcomed and valued.

We know that preparing evidence to inform committee scrutiny can be challenging, especially within the tight timescales that can be associated with legislative scrutiny, and when there may be limited information available in advance of a Bill's introduction. Nevertheless, we hope that this letter will assist in providing early notice that one or more of our Committees will be seeking evidence in respect of these three Bills in due course.

Useful information

Some further information about the anticipated Bills, including links to other information sources, have been collated by Senedd Research in a recent [article](#) on the Welsh Government's legislative programme.

More information about the legislative process, including Senedd committees' roles in scrutinising Bills, is available on the [Senedd's website](#).

Information about giving evidence to Senedd committees is available on the [Senedd's website](#).

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the Bills, the legislative process, or the approaches our Committees may take to their scrutiny work, you are welcome to contact our clerks as follows:

- Reform Bill Committee: seneddreform@senedd.wales
- Finance Committee: seneddfinance@senedd.wales
- Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee: seneddljc@senedd.wales
- Local Government and Housing Committee: seneddhousing@senedd.wales

Please feel free to share this letter with anyone else who may be interested.

Yours sincerely



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Chair, Reform Bill Committee



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Chair, Finance Committee



Huw Irranca-Davies
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution
Committee



John Griffiths
Chair, Local Government and Housing
Committee

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