

Committee remit

13 September 2023

Purpose

1. This paper outlines the background to the establishment of the Reform Bill Committee, and provides information about its remit and its role.

Background and membership

2. On 11 July 2023, the Business Committee agreed to propose to the Senedd that a committee, comprising four Members and chaired by a member of the Welsh Labour group, be established to scrutinise Bills referred to it by the Business Committee.

3. On 12 July 2023, the Senedd voted in favour of establishing a Reform Bill Committee. The Senedd elected David Rees MS (Welsh Labour) as Chair, and appointed the following Committee members:

- Heledd Fychan MS (Plaid Cymru)
- Darren Millar MS (Welsh Conservatives)
- Sarah Murphy MS (Welsh Labour)

4. The Chair subsequently agreed in accordance with Standing Order 17.49 that Jane Dodds MS (Welsh Liberal Democrats) may participate (but not vote) in Committee meetings and other activity.

Committee remit

5. The Committee's remit is to scrutinise Bills referred to it by the Business Committee.

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- 6.** The Committee will be dissolved either:
- when all Bills referred to the Committee have received Royal Assent and the Business Committee has decided that no further Bills will be referred to the Committee; or
 - when the Senedd so resolves;
- whichever is the sooner.
- 7.** [Standing Order 17](#) sets out procedures and rules covering a range of matters relating to the operation of Senedd committees.

Role of the Committee at Stage 1

- 8.** Procedures and rules relating to the introduction and scrutiny of Senedd Bills are set out in [Standing Order 26](#). For each Bill referred to the Committee for Stage 1 scrutiny, the Committee will consider its general principles, focusing on the main purposes of the Bill, rather than looking at the fine detail (which is a matter for later stages). To inform its work, the Committee may invite representations from interested parties, and may take written and oral evidence. Further information about the Committee's approach to scrutiny of each Bill referred to it will be published on the Committee's [website](#) in due course.
- 9.** Once the Committee has reported on each Bill referred to it, the Senedd will be asked to debate and vote on that Bill's general principles. If the motion is agreed, the Bill progresses to Stage 2, which involves detailed consideration and disposal of amendments.
- 10.** Further information about the legislative process is available on the [Senedd website](#).