

Petitions Committee

David Rees MS
Chair
Senedd Reform Bill Committee
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

3 October 2023

Dear David

Senedd Reform Petitions

I am writing to share details of a range of petitions relating to Senedd Reform. It is my hope that this information will be useful to your committee as you undertake your scrutiny of the bills that would translate plans for reform into reality.

The Committee has previously considered two petitions relating to Senedd reform.

Petition Title	Signatures and closing date
The Welsh Government should hold a referendum before expanding the size of the Senedd	1,633 signatures Completed by the Petitions Committee on 9 January 2023
Reject proposed 36 extra Members of the Senedd by 2026.	760 signatures Completed by the Petitions Committee on 5 December 2022

In both cases, the Committee noted that “the Welsh Government will also bring forward a Senedd Reform Bill in the new year which will be a further opportunity for these issues to be debated and scrutinised in the Senedd.” On that basis, we agreed to close the petitions.

There are three petitions currently collecting signatures which will come to the Committee in the coming weeks.

Petition Title	Current status
----------------	----------------



Oppose the Welsh Government "Senedd Reform Bill", published 18 September 2023, becoming law	This petition has collected over 10,000 signatures, and will be considered for a Senedd debate. Closing date is March 2024, but the petitioner may close earlier should he wish to bring consideration forward.
Adopt a single transferable vote system for Senedd seats	This petition has 163 signatures at time of writing, but could reach 250 by the time it closes in March 2024.
Introduce a way for constituents to vote out their MS before the end of their term	This petition has collected over 250 signatures, and will be considered by the Committee in the New Year.

Since 18 September, when the first bill was published, to the end of September, the Petitions website has seen an increased volume of petitions being submitted on a wide range of subjects. A number of these petitions related to the issue of Senedd Reform and the proposed increased in Members of the Senedd.

Petitions which call for an action similar to a petition that is already open, or has been closed by the Committee within 12 months, cannot be accepted.

Details of the 23 rejected 'duplicate' petitions that were submitted in September can be found in the table below:

Petition Title
Cancel plans to expand the number of members of the Senedd
Cancel the proposal to increase the Senedd to 96 AMs
Allow the people of Wales to decide if the Senedd should be increased in size
Stop the increase in Senedd members to 96
To stop the Senedd creating an extra 36 AM members taking the Senedd from 60 members to 96
No expansion of Senedd members without a referendum
Hold a referendum seeking approval from the people to increase Senedd members by 36*
[* This petition was withdrawn before it could be rejected]
cancel the reform bill that increases members
Referendum on increase of MS by 36
Abolish the proposals to increase the number of Senedd members
Repeal the legislation to appoint 36 new Senedd Members
Abolish the increase of Senedd by 36 members, save £17.5 million per year
Reject the proposal for 36 more Senedd members-we already have enough members
Oppose the enlargement of the Welsh Senedd from 60 to 96 members
Stop any increase in the number of MSs in the Welsh Parliament
Stop 36 new MS at a huge cost which could be better spent elsewhere
Stop the expansion of the Senedd
Stop the introduction of 36 new Senedd members at a cost of 17.8 million a year



[The Senedd must not increase the number of sitting members from the current number of 60 to 96](#)

[That the proposal to increase the number of MS's be decided by referendum](#)

[Cancel expansion of the Senedd](#)

[The people of wales do not want extra AMs](#)

[Create a recall and by-election mechanism for any Members of the Senedd](#)

There are also a handful of (rejected) petitions calling for the First Minister to resign, or for an immediate election, which referred to the Senedd Reform proposals as a reason.

If you have any queries, please contact the Committee clerking team by e-mail petitions@senedd.wales, or on 0300 200 6454.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Sargeant". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a long horizontal line that extends to the right.

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

