

Y Pwyllgor Biliau Diwygio

Reform Bill Committee

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Mick Antoniw MS
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Welsh Government

25 October 2023

Dear Mick

Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill: interdependency with the anticipated gender quotas Bill

Thank you for your letter of 20 October 2023 indicating that we can expect to receive a response from the Deputy Minister for Social Partnership, as the Member in charge of the forthcoming gender quotas Bill, to my letter of 26 September 2023.

We understand that the Deputy Minister may be better placed to respond in respect of some of the detail of the proposals to be brought forward in the anticipated Bill, and we look forward to receiving her response by 3 November 2023.

However, I note that in writing to you we were mindful of your various roles as Counsel General, including responsibility for the accessibility of Welsh law; as Minister for the Constitution, with overall responsibility for elections policy; and as Member in charge of the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill, with responsibility for ensuring that your Bill will work effectively within the overall legislative framework and that the accompanying explanatory memorandum and regulatory impact assessment provide the best estimates and information to inform Senedd and stakeholder scrutiny.

The introduction of two such closely-linked pieces of legislation within a short period of time is unusual. The challenge of scrutinising the first of these linked pieces of legislation without having sight, even in draft, of the second, is considerable.

We look forward, therefore, to receiving your response to questions 2(c) and (d) set out in my letter of 26 September 2023 (reproduced below for ease of reference):



2(c) An assessment of the implications the proposed policy [in the gender quotas Bill] may reasonably be expected to have for the operation and implementation of the electoral system proposed in the SC(ME) Bill, including, but not limited to, the submission of candidate lists to constituency returning officers (section 7(1)), the length of candidate lists (section 7(3)), and candidate eligibility for filling vacant seats (section 9).

2(d) Information about how such implications have been taken into account in the assessment of the financial and other impacts in the Explanatory Memorandum to the SC(ME) Bill. This should include details of which of the financial or other impact assessments would have been substantively different had provision regarding gender quotas been included in the SC(ME) Bill, and, if so, how.

It would be helpful to receive your response **by 3 November 2023**.

Yours sincerely



David Rees MS
Chair, Reform Bill Committee

cc Peredur Owen Griffiths MS, Chair, Finance Committee

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

Hannah Blythyn MS, Deputy Minister for Social Partnership

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