

## Y Pwyllgor Biliau Diwygio

### Reform Bill Committee

#### Senedd Cymru

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN  
SeneddDiwygio@senedd.cymru  
senedd.cymru/SeneddDiwygio  
0300 200 6565

#### Welsh Parliament

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN  
SeneddReform@senedd.wales  
senedd.wales/SeneddReform  
0300 200 6565

John Griffiths MS  
Chair  
Local Government and Housing Committee

16 November 2023

Dear John

### Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill

As you know, the Reform Bill Committee is currently scrutinising the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill ("SC(ME) Bill"). During our work on this Bill, we have heard evidence from the Electoral Management Board for Scotland ("EMBS") and Boundaries Scotland on 9 November 2023, and from the Wales Electoral Coordination Board on 15 November 2023, that may be of interest and relevance to your Committee's scrutiny of the Elections and Elected Bodies (Wales) Bill ("EEB(W) Bill").

The SC(ME) Bill includes, among other matters, provision to:

- Reconfigure the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales ("LDBCW") as the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru ("DBCC"), and confer on it the function of reviewing and reporting on the Senedd's electoral boundaries.
- Increase the maximum number of commissioners that may be appointed to the DBCC to seven (and make associated provision in respect of persons who may not be appointed as members of the DBCC, its chief executive, or assistant commissioners, and in respect of quorum).

The Explanatory Memorandum to the SC(ME) Bill explains that the provisions in the SC(ME) Bill have been formulated to reflect not only the additional functions the current LDBCW will take on as a result of this Bill, but also those that will be conferred on it by the EEB(W) Bill. We understand that these will include:

- The establishment of an Electoral Management Board for the purpose of discharging electoral administration functions, including directions and advice to Returning Officers and Electoral Registration Officers.
- The functions currently undertaken by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

During the evidence session on 9 November 2023, the EMBS and Boundaries Scotland, the witnesses raised cautions about the proposal in the EEB(W) Bill that a Welsh statutory Electoral Management Board should be part of the functions of the DBCC. On 15 November 2023, the Wales Electoral Coordination Board said that provided appropriate arrangements were put in place, it could be appropriate for a Welsh EMB to be established within the DBCC.

Yours sincerely



David Rees MS  
Chair, Reform Bill Committee

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