

Y Pwyllgor Biliau Diwygio

Reform Bill Committee

Senedd Cymru

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Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS
First Minister, Welsh Government

Rhun ap Iorwerth MS
Leader, Plaid Cymru

22 November 2023

Dear Mark and Rhun

Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill

We are now approaching the end of the process of gathering evidence to inform our scrutiny of the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill.

We note that, as introduced, the Bill broadly gives effect to the recommendations of the Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform, which were endorsed by the Senedd in June 2022.

As we begin to reach conclusions based on the evidence we have received, and to consider potential recommendations, we are mindful that this Bill is likely to require a supermajority of at least 40 Members if it is to pass its final stage.

The Joint Position Statement published in May 2022 by the Cooperation Agreement partners and provided to the Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform also recognised that a two-thirds majority would be required for the proposals to succeed.

To inform our work, the Committee would like to invite you both, as Cooperation Agreement partners, to give evidence on the following issues:

1. Whether you remain confident that the proposals in the Bill, including the proposed closed list electoral system, will command a supermajority within the Senedd.

2. Whether you have given any consideration as to whether any alternative proposals could attract a supermajority should the Senedd decide to amend any of the electoral arrangements in the Bill.

3. We would also be interested in exploring with you the evidence and rationale that led the First Minister and the then leader of Plaid Cymru to reach the conclusions set out in the Joint Position Statement.

Our scheduled Committee meeting dates are Thursday 30 November 2023 and Thursday 7 December 2023. We would be happy to be flexible on timings on those dates, or to explore options for alternative dates to accommodate your availability.

Yours sincerely



David Rees MS
Chair, Reform Bill Committee

cc Adam Price MS, former leader of Plaid Cymru

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