

David Rees MS
Chair
Reform Bill Committee

26 January 2024

Recommendation 49: Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill Stage 1 Report

Dear David,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Reform Bill Committee's scrutiny of the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill and for your letter dated 19 January 2024.

As you are aware, the Independent Remuneration Board of the Senedd (the Board) is closely monitoring the passage of the Bill given the implications on the Board's work to prepare a Determination for the Seventh Senedd. The Committee's comprehensive report is therefore welcome and examines several areas of interest and relevance which the Board will consider as part of its work.

The Committee's report includes a recommendation to the Board (recommendation 49) that:

"...the Board should review the Political Parties Support Allowance and consider any other relevant provision that could be provided through its Determinations. During this process, it should consider in particular the extent to which the support available is equivalent to the level and types of support available elsewhere, including Short Money and Cranborne Money in the UK Parliament. The outcomes of this work should be implemented with effect from the start of the Seventh Senedd in 2026."

The Board welcomes this recommendation and has already commenced its review of the PPSA, which is one of its five thematic reviews which will shape the Determination for the Seventh Senedd; I can therefore confirm that the Board intends that a revised PPSA will be in place ahead of the Seventh Senedd in 2026.

To inform this review, the Board is undertaking comparative research into parliamentary party political support funding across the UK's legislatures and also with other international comparators; this research is identifying similarities and differences across the range of political party funding models in operation.

Dame Jane Roberts, the Board lead for this review, has already held constructive and informative discussions with senior Political Group Members and Staff to explore the purpose of party political support, key features and current constraints and to seek views on what changes may be needed for the Seventh Senedd. The Board will consider any Stage 2 and Stage 3 debates and relevant amendments to inform the next stage of its PPSA review and plans to engage with wider Members and staff to seek their views about party political support in the coming months to develop its evidence base further.

The Committee also makes a recommendation to the Minister (in Recommendation 48) to work with the Board to review the public resources and funding available to registered political parties in Wales for the purposes of policy development ahead of the Seventh Senedd. The Board notes this recommendation and looks forward to considering the Welsh Government's response, noting that there may be interdependencies with the Board's own review.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Elizabeth Haywood,
Chair, Independent Remuneration Board of the Senedd

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