



Eich cyf/Your ref: CG/PO/40/2024
Ein cyf/Our ref: qA1762325

Huw Irranca- Davies MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

6 February 2024

Dear Huw,

Thank you for your report on the Elections and Elected Bodies (Wales) Bill. I will respond to the report in full in due course. In the meantime, you asked in the report under recommendations 13 and 14 for Welsh Government to provide a statement of policy intent in advance of Stage 2. This letter includes those statements below.

First, in relation to the functions which may be conferred on persons or categories of person specified in regulations made under section 27 of the Bill (recommendation 13), the intention of this policy is to ensure the delivery of a platform that provides accessible, trustworthy, independent and reliable information that supports voters to take part in our democratic system. We want all voters to be able to access information that supports them to understand (for example) what elections are taking place, options around how to cast their ballot, the type of voting system being used, where they can vote and who they can vote for.

We will work closely with stakeholders to determine content principles, accessibility criteria and language requirements, and determine how regulations will best set out how these functions should be delivered. Part of achieving this will be conferring functions on a host to deliver, operate and maintain the platform. Our work with stakeholders will help us refine and determine the most appropriate way for regulations to enable the delivery of the platform, setting out detail and ensuring transparency.

The balance between what is on the face of the Bill and what will be in regulations ensures flexibility to take account of the fast-moving legal and technological context, with the appropriate scrutiny in place.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Secondly, in relation to the functions which may be conferred on persons within regulations made under section 29 of the Bill (recommendation 14), depending on the nature of the financial scheme it is anticipated the functions that may be conferred under section 29(8) could be such to enable, amongst others, the following:

- establishing eligibility criteria for the specific scheme and enabling mechanisms to ensure that the criteria is met prior to allocation of funding.
- the production of guidance for those interested in accessing a scheme and how it will operate.
- arrangements for payments of funding which meet best practice in financial management and audit.
- promotion of the schemes and advice about what a scheme will support and what it will not.
- administrative arrangements for a scheme including reporting mechanisms in terms of how public monies are being utilised within each scheme. While it will be necessary for any organisation operating a financial assistance scheme to have full details of applicants and recipients of support, it will not be a requirement that this personal information is shared outside of the scheme.

In operating a scheme, we would expect organisations to operate to high standards of governance and act in an open and transparent way.

I trust that this information will satisfy your request for statements of policy intent prior to Stage 2 and I look forward to continuing to work with you as the Elections and Elected Bodies (Wales) Bill progresses through the scrutiny process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mick Antoniw". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mick Antoniw AS/MS

Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog y Cyfansoddiad
Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution