

Delyth Jewel MS

Chair

Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

2 February 2024

Dear Delyth

**Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill: section 20**

As you will be aware, our Committee is currently undertaking Stage 1 scrutiny of the Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill.

On 31 January 2024 we held an evidence session specifically focused on the provisions in section 20 of the Bill, which would replace the requirement on local authorities to publish details relating to council tax in local newspapers with a new duty to publish council tax notices electronically. Our session was scheduled in response to the number of consultation responses we received specifically related to section 20. Witnesses on our panel included representatives from Newsquest, Reach plc and Wrexham.com. Their views on the provision within the Bill were mixed, and concerns raised included the potential "future direction of travel" for public notices more broadly and the potential detrimental impact on local democracy, informed communities, and the viability of local news outlets as a result of the revenue lost from no longer publishing such notices.

Given the relevance to your remit, we agreed to draw the discussion to your attention. Further detail is available in the Committee meeting [transcript](#).

Yours sincerely



John Griffiths MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.