

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS  
Chair of the Finance Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

20 March 2024

Dear Peredur,

### **Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill**

I am writing in response to the third, seventh, and eleventh recommendations made by the Finance Committee in its report *Financial implications of the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill*.

The responses to each recommendation are attached as an annex.

Kind regards,



Elin Jones MS  
Llywydd and Chair of the Senedd Commission

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



**Senedd Cymru**  
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

✉ Sulafa.Thomas@senedd.cymru  
☎ 0300 200 6227

**Welsh Parliament**  
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

✉ Sulafa.Thomas@senedd.wales  
☎ 0300 200 6227

## Senedd Commission response to Recommendations 3, 7, and 11

**Recommendation 3:** The Committee recommends that the Senedd Commission continues to present costs relating to Senedd reform as ring-fenced within its annual budget documentation to ensure clarity and transparency.

### **Senedd Commission response:**

I can confirm that the Senedd Commission intends to continue presenting costs relating to Senedd reform as ring-fenced within its annual budget documentation to ensure clarity and transparency.

**Recommendation 7:** The Committee recommends that the Minister, in consultation with the Senedd Commission, undertakes a review of the current configuration of Members' offices in Tŷ Hywel, to include:

- an assessment and cost-benefit analysis on the use of open-plan working; and
- an assessment of the energy use

### **Senedd Commission response:**

The Senedd Commission will be reviewing the current configuration and styles of Members' offices in consultation with Members and their staff to develop requirements and the preferred option to create the additional Members' offices required for the 7th Senedd, if the Senedd (Member and Elections) Bill is agreed.

The current office configuration includes individual Member offices for Members and their support staff as well as one area of office provision which includes shared open plan space for support staff and smaller individual Senedd Member offices.

The Commission will be assessing a wide range of factors including energy use, space efficiency and user workspace needs to develop the preferred option. The Commission has agreed a number of planning assumptions for this project which include that the designs are to be consistent with the existing office designs within Ty Hywel to maintain consistency and to ensure best value for the public purse. The Senedd Commission is also working closely with Welsh Government Estates and Facilities teams to ensure that our respective areas of work are effectively planned and coordinated for this project.



**Recommendation 11:** The Committee recommends that the Minister, in consultation with the Senedd Commission, provides further clarity on the schedule of work that will be undertaken on the Senedd and Tŷ Hywel estates, should the Bill not be agreed.

**Senedd Commission response:**

The Senedd Commission has agreed that no physical adaptation works to the Senedd and Ty Hywel estates in response to Senedd Reform will be carried out in advance of the Bill receiving Royal Assent.

