

Y Llywydd

22 March 2024

Dear Llywydd

Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill: written evidence

As you will be aware, the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill ('the SC(ECL) Bill') has been referred to the Reform Bill Committee for Stage 1 scrutiny of its general principles. We are writing to seek written evidence from you in your capacity as Chair of the Senedd Commission and Chair of the Business Committee. In particular, we would welcome further information in relation to the questions set out below.

In asking these questions, we recognise that there are interdependencies between the design and cost of the SC(ECL) Bill and the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill as a package of reforms. However, our role is to scrutinise each Bill and associated Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment on their own merits, especially as the commencement provisions in the SC(ECL) Bill do not specify at which Senedd general election the Bill's provisions will come in to force.

1. We note that the Welsh Government's Regulatory Impact Assessment for the SC(ECL) Bill identifies no costs or savings to the Senedd Commission. What involvement has the Senedd Commission had in the development of the Regulatory Impact Assessment? Can you confirm that there are no anticipated quantifiable or unquantifiable costs or savings to the Senedd Commission associated with the SC(ECL) Bill?
2. What preparations is the Senedd Commission making to raise public awareness of the SC(ECL) Bill? What is the estimated cost of this activity?
3. In light of the likely increase in the number of Members of the Senedd with caring responsibilities for children and infants, has any consideration been given to making adaptations to the Senedd estate, such as the provision of an on-site crèche facility, or

increasing the provision of accessible parking, family rooms, and facilities for breastfeeding and expressing milk?

4. Has any consideration been given to the Senedd's future ways of working to address barriers that might otherwise inhibit women and under-represented groups from standing for election, such as the timetabling of Senedd business, flexible working practices and technological innovations?

It would be helpful if you could respond by 12 April 2024. This letter is being copied to the Finance Committee and the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, and the First Minister.

Yours sincerely



David Rees MS
Chair, Reform Bill Committee

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