

Rt Hon Elin Jones MS

Y Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee

20 May 2024

Annwyl Lywydd

Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

You will be aware that on Friday 17 May 2024 the elected Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Sarah Murphy MS, was appointed as a Welsh Minister. Following her appointment, Sarah has recused herself from the business of the Committee. Given these circumstances, we are writing to you as the three remaining substantive members of the Committee.

At our meeting scheduled to take place today, in addition to the important business which regularly features on our agendas, we were due to consider two significant matters: our draft report on the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill, and research undertaken for the Senedd and its Committees by Dr Thomas Horsley on the implications for Wales of the *United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020*.

Samuel Kurtz MS had given his apologies for the meeting in advance, and a substitute member from the Welsh Conservatives was due to attend the whole meeting. You may be aware that Adam Price MS has recused himself from participating in our consideration of the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill. As such, Luke Fletcher MS was due to attend the meeting for our consideration of our draft report on the Bill as he has participated in the evidence gathering. Sarah Murphy's appointment as a Welsh Minister also had an impact on the meeting arrangements, although the Labour Group had arranged for a substitute.

In these circumstances and given the issues to be considered at the meeting, the committee clerk consulted all committee members on Friday and we collectively agreed to cancel the meeting, with a view to considering this week whether to reschedule a meeting to discuss our draft report on the

Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill (given the current reporting deadline of 7 June 2024) and any other work, particularly if time-critical as well.

If possible, we would therefore like to be in a position to hold a meeting this Thursday or Friday to consider our draft report. Holding a meeting at the end of the week would enable a new Chair of the Committee, should they be formally elected in Plenary on Tuesday or Wednesday, to be in attendance. Currently, there would be no membership clashes with other meetings due to take place on Thursday, and we would look to hold the meeting in a fully virtual format. We acknowledge that there may be some practical issues with publishing meeting papers two working days before the meeting. However, given the circumstances, we consider the late availability of papers would be reasonable. We hope you will look favourably on our request for an additional meeting slot.

Should we be unable to reschedule a meeting this week, it will mean we will only have a single opportunity to consider our draft report on the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill at our meeting on Monday 3 June 2024, ahead of the reporting deadline on 7 June 2024. We fully appreciate the time-sensitive nature of the reporting deadline within the Welsh Government's overall planned schedule for the legislation. To enable us to give our report the careful consideration that is needed, we would be grateful if the reporting deadline could be extended to Tuesday 11 June 2024 to enable us to agree the report at our meeting on Monday 10 June. If the extension is agreed, we would also welcome the flexibility to meet on the morning of 10 June. We do not believe that an extension to 11 June would impact on the Welsh Government's intentions as regards the Stage 1 general principles debate.

We understand that Sarah will likely have tendered her resignation as Chair of the Committee in advance of Business Committee considering this letter. Nonetheless, the letter is copied to Sarah for her information.

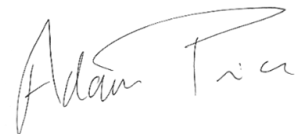
Yours sincerely,



Alun Davies MS



Samuel Kurtz MS



Adam Price MS