

**Mick Antoniw AS/MS**  
**Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol**  
**Counsel General**



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-06-1424  
Ein cyf/Our ref CG/00049/24

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair  
Petitions Committee

08 May 2024

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 19 March regarding petition P-06-1424 with regards to the amendment of the Senedd Reform Bill to include provisions for constituency approval of MS pay increases.

The Welsh Government has not sought to amend the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill to include provisions for each member's Constituents have a binding vote to approve or veto an agreed pay rise based on performance. The Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill is a Bill of the Senedd, and I have looked to constructively engage with amendments put forward to the Bill throughout its legislative scrutiny. However, it is important in a representative democracy that a Member can express their opinion, including when it may be unpopular, without fear or favour. I would wish to avoid any circumstance in which different Members could feel that they had different levels of freedom to express their political opinion, by dint of their personal financial situations.

I also note that the provisions in the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill will increase the frequency of elections to the Senedd, thereby providing more opportunities for democratic renewal, and increasing the accountability of Members by allowing the electorate to more frequently express their opinion on Members' performance.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the petition.

Yours sincerely,

**Mick Antoniw AS/MS**  
**Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol**  
**Counsel General**

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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.

