

Rt Hon Elin Jones MS

Chair

Business Committee

4 June 2025

Dear Llywydd,

Anonymous evidence

Twice this Senedd, the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee has been given evidence in confidence that potentially highlighted poor practices in Welsh public bodies. Whilst we did what we could to support the people who submitted the evidence and incorporate it into our work; when someone is unwilling to go on the record, it can be very hard for a committee to use their evidence.

In both of these cases, the people wished to remain anonymous as they either worked in the sector or wished to continue doing business in the sector and were worried about the reputational risk going on the record may bring and reprisals for speaking out. Given we are a small nation I can imagine this is an issue that prevents many potential key witnesses coming forward to provide Committees with useful evidence.

The Committee felt that, as part of preparation for the Seventh Senedd, either Business Committee, the Chairs Forum or another body may be able to consider the issue and how future Committees would be able to best receive and work with evidence supplied in confidence. Whilst, for obvious reasons, I do not wish to disclose too much detail of the anonymous evidence in this letter I am happy for the Clerk to discuss the issues with whomever takes this work forward and give more detail privately.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.



Yours sincerely,

Andrew RT Davies

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Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

