

Jayne Bryant MS

Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

7 July 2025

Dear Jayne

The Senedd Cymru (Representation of the People) Order 2025

At our meeting this afternoon, the Committee considered your reply, dated 30 June 2025, to our letter of 18 June relating to The Senedd Cymru (Representation of the People) Order 2025 (the Conduct Order).

Given your intention to seek the Senedd's approval for the draft Conduct Order tomorrow, the Committee wished to write with urgency to again express its frustration and its concern with the responses you have provided, both to the Committee's original report on the draft Order and the letters we subsequently wrote to you.

First, on the errors the Committee has identified in the draft Conduct Order, we are disappointed you have not taken the opportunity to fully accept and recognise the Welsh Government's mishandling of the drafting of the Order which, without the work of the Senedd, would leave the Order in a condition that is not fit for purpose.

You state in your most recent letter that the Committee "can be assured that the Order underwent a rigorous checking process". We are not convinced that the current checking system is working. We urge the Welsh Government to review its processes as a priority and accordingly put in place a system to ensure that future subordinate legislation does not come in front of the Senedd and the Committee in the condition we have seen with the draft Conduct Order.

Secondly, in my letter of 18 June I put forward the Committee's request for clarification on the Welsh Government's intentions regarding Automatic Voter Registration. The Committee is disappointed that your response does not make it clear whether or not the Welsh Government will be bringing forward the necessary subordinate legislation that will enable the implementation of Automatic Voter

Registration in time for the Senedd Election in May 2026. Subject to the Electoral Commission deeming the pilot to be successful, what timescale will you be working to in order to introduce the relevant subordinate legislation?

The Committee asks that you reflect on these matters when preparing for your contribution to the Senedd on 8 July when you will ask Members of the Senedd to approve the draft Conduct Order. The Committee would also welcome a formal written response.

I am copying this letter to the Rt Hon Eluned Morgan MS, First Minister of Wales, Julie James MS, Counsel General and Minister for Delivery, and the Rt Hon Elin Jones MS, Llywydd.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hedges". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Mike Hedges
Chair