



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1529
Ein cyf/Our ref FM -/00327/25

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions Committee

02 July 2025

Dear Carolyn,

I am writing in response to your letter of 2 May 2025 regarding Petition P-06-1529 - *Adjourn the implementation of the 36 extra members of the Senedd until 2030*.

The compelling case for Senedd reform has been made in a succession of expert reports. The role and responsibilities of the Senedd have changed considerably since it was first established in 1999, and its additional powers, including primary law-making powers and tax-varying powers, mean that there is a greater pressure on its existing capacity.

The Senedd is currently the smallest of all the devolved legislatures in the UK and has remained the same size since the establishment of the National Assembly in 1999, despite assuming significant additional powers. The Scottish Parliament has 129 Members, and the Northern Ireland Assembly has 90.

As a result, and following several independent reports recommending more Members, the Senedd in June 2022 voted by a two-thirds majority in favour of taking forward the recommendations of the Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform's report [Reforming our Senedd: A stronger voice for the people of Wales](#), published in May 2022. This report included a recommendation that the Senedd should have 96 Members to reflect the way its role and responsibilities have grown.

The **Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Act**, which will deliver the majority of changes recommended by the Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform, was passed by a supermajority of Members, and was given Royal Assent on 24 June 2024.

In developing the legislation, the Welsh Government considered a wealth of information on the public's views on Senedd Reform, as expressed in a series of consultations undertaken over the last twenty years. A summary of these consultations is detailed in the publicised [Explanatory Memorandum](#) to the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill.

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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.

As part of its scrutiny of this legislation the Senedd's Reform Bill Committee also held a [public consultation on the Bill](#), which closed on 3 November 2023.

Turning to the suggestion included in the detail of the petition, that '*the whole scrutiny system needs overhauling and a complete root and branch review needs to be carried out in every form of government*', the Future Senedd Committee was established on 16 October 2024, with a remit to consider and report on three aspects of the organisation of Senedd business. One of these aspects was the following

'a. the organisation of business in the Seventh Senedd, with the objective of identifying options that increase the effectiveness of its scrutiny activity, the efficiency of its day-to-day delivery of business, and the accessibility of parliamentary business to Members;

The Committee published its final report, '[Parliamentary business in the Seventh Senedd](#)' on 9 May 2025.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the petition.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Eluned Morgan