

David Rees MS
Chair, Committee for the Scrutiny of the
First Minister

13 June 2025

Dear David

**Scrutiny of the First Minister in Relation to Gaps Identified by the Wales COVID-19
Inquiry Special Purpose Committee**

Following the resignation of Conservative Members from the Wales COVID-19 Inquiry Special Purpose Committee (the Covid Committee), the Business Committee has been exploring alternative approaches to how future scrutiny of Covid-19 and the work of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry can be taken forward by Senedd committees.

In March 2025, the Covid Committee published its first **report** containing its findings on Module 1 of the Inquiry. This identified nine areas for further scrutiny, including issues such as Wales's resilience and preparedness, governmental accountability, data sharing, and public messaging. Having considered the existing remits of Senedd committees, and noting your Committee's role in scrutinising the First Minister, the Business Committee has considered where responsibility for addressing these matters may best lie.

The Business Committee has written to the Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee (PAPAC) to invite it to take forward detailed scrutiny of the Module 1 gaps and the forthcoming Module 2 report.

We also agreed to also write to you as Chair of the Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister to invite you to consider taking forward scrutiny of the First Minister on the gaps identified by the Covid Committee in its findings on Module 1 of the Inquiry, which fall within the responsibilities of the First Minister – such as in relation to civil contingencies.

The Business Committee is mindful of the importance of ensuring that the public receives clear and robust scrutiny of decisions taken during the pandemic, particularly those made at the highest level of government. Should your Committee be minded to address the Module 1 response with the First Minister, you may wish to liaise with the PAPAC (if they agree to lead further scrutiny) to ensure that scrutiny of these issues can be appropriately coordinated between your committees.

Yours sincerely,



The Rt Hon Elin Jones MS

Chair of the Business Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.