

Rt. Hon. Elin Jones MS
Y Llywydd, and Chair of Chairs' Forum

1 October 2025

Annwyl Lywydd,

Committee Effectiveness in the Sixth Senedd

The Committee discussed your letter regarding Reviewing Committee Effectiveness in the Sixth Senedd at our meeting on 24 September. Thank you for the opportunity to feed into this work and the Consultation on committee effectiveness. The Committee would like to offer the following feedback:

Remit

We believe that this committee's remit strikes a good balance and ensures the rural economy (both the economic element of farming and also more widely the economy of rural communities) is not sidelined when examining economic issues. We have worked closely with colleagues on other committees, in particular the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee, when appropriate to the subject matter under consideration. This has also worked well and enhanced the Committee's impact.

Committee size and quorum

We believe six-member committees work well. Reflecting on the previous eight-member arrangements the Members felt this did not add to the quality of scrutiny. Six-member committees also reduce the number of Members sitting on multiple committees, which enables them to focus their attention on specific policy areas. We also felt that the current requirements around quorum work well and these should be maintained.



Protected meeting time

We feel that having a dedicated day for committee business is beneficial and should be preserved and extended if possible. Currently our committee meets on a Wednesday and Thursday; Members suggested they could better focus on business at Thursday meetings as on Wednesdays their attention was often split between Committee business and preparing for Plenary.

Work referred to the Committee, including legislation

We believe committees need to be as free as possible to set their own work programme. We discussed the various merits of having either separate dedicated policy and legislation committees or the current dual purpose committees, but did not come to a settled preference. However, we agreed that consideration needs to be given to ensuring committees are not overwhelmed by work, and in particular Bills, referred to them by Business Committee. One suggestion discussed was to give committees additional meeting slots when legislation is referred to them to allow them to continue their policy work in their regular meetings alongside the bill work in their new additional slots.

Thank you again for the chance to feed into this work.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew RT Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English