

The Rt Hon. Elin Jones MS
Chair, Chairs' Forum

9 October 2025

Dear Elin

Consultation: Reviewing Committee Effectiveness in the Sixth Senedd

Thank you for your letter of 8 July 2025, seeking views on the effectiveness of committees in the Sixth Senedd.

The Committee discussed your letter at its meeting on 2 October 2025, and would like to submit the following comments in response to the questions set out in your consultation document.

Committee culture

1. Members believed that setting a clear strategy and vision was important for a committee at the start of a Senedd term. They believed that any such strategy should be reviewed periodically to ensure the agreed priorities remain relevant, particularly in light of membership changes during the course of the Senedd.
2. Members felt that committees' ability to programme their work according to their own, agreed priorities was very important. The Committee noted that the referral of relevant government legislation had an impact on this, with Committees having very little influence over the timing of such.
3. Members felt that the Committee had worked well and collegiately during the course of this Senedd, and attributed this to the wealth of experience of its members. Concern was expressed that the loss of so much experience and expertise may be an issue for the Seventh Senedd.
4. Related to this, Members felt there would likely be a number of new and inexperienced committee chairs at the start of the Seventh Senedd and, as such, there would be a need to

ensure appropriate training and support was available for them in understanding and exercising their role.

Organisation of committee business

5. Members with experience of separate policy and legislation committees felt that policy and legislation being led by a single committee was more effective, as it enabled Members to build up knowledge and expertise in the subject area.
6. In relation to the size of committees, Members were aware of the capacity challenges faced by smaller committees of only four members, and the impact this could have on their ability to carry out their work. They felt that larger committees were more resilient, and offered greater opportunities to build and utilise Members' knowledge and expertise.

Interactions with Committees

7. Members were generally supportive of hybrid working, when used appropriately. They believed it enabled them to hear from a wider audience whilst also allowing individual's circumstances to be accommodated.
8. Members also appreciated the facilities provided to enable people to engage with committees in the language of their choice.
9. Members felt that their most powerful work came as a result of engaging with people with lived experience. In particular, they highlighted the inquiry into gynaecological cancers, where we heard from women living with, or having experience of, gynaecological cancers, and the scrutiny of the Health and Social Care (Wales) Bill, where the Committee worked with Voices from Care Cymru to hear directly from care experienced young people.

I hope these comments are a useful contribution to your work.

Yours sincerely



Peter Fox MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.