

Jayne Bryant MS

Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

10 November 2025

Dear Jayne,

## Electoral Commission Codes of Practice

Thank you for your letter dated 31 October advising us that the following Codes of Practice would be withdrawn:

- Non-Party Campaigner Campaign Expenditure (Senedd Elections) Code of Practice 2025
- Individual Candidate Election Expenses (Senedd Elections) Code of Practice 2025
- Political Parties Campaign Expenditure (Senedd Elections) Code of Practice 2025

We discussed the Codes during our meeting on 3 November, in light of the Codes being formally withdrawn that morning.

We note that your letter highlights that the Codes were drafted and translated by the Electoral Commission. However, the Codes were then sent to the Welsh Ministers for approval, and were subsequently approved subject to relatively minor modifications. The original drafting and translation may have been carried out by the Electoral Commission, but responsibility for the quality and accuracy of the Codes as laid rests wholly with the Welsh Government.

Across the three Codes we identified a total of 87 reporting points, which represents an unacceptably high number of errors, inconsistencies and omissions in the drafting and translation of the Codes that were subsequently not identified by the Welsh Government before approval and being laid before the Senedd.

We would welcome your views on why the Codes came to be laid before the Senedd, and whether you are considering changes to the drafting and approval process and/or to the resource allocated to ensure the quality and readiness of Codes of Practice that are laid before the Senedd.

We would also welcome more background information about the role of the Electoral Commission in drafting and translating documents of this nature and how you collaborate together, including any observations you have about any challenges they may face in undertaking this work.

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

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.