

**Y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth,
Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad**

**Legislation, Justice and
Constitution Committee**

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Julie James MS
Counsel General and Minister for Delivery

24 November 2025

Dear Julie

Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill

At our meeting on 17 November 2025, we took evidence from you on the Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill.

The Committee would welcome further information and clarity as regards a number of matters as set out in the questions in the attached Annex. Given the short reporting deadline, we would be grateful to receive a response by Thursday December 4 2025.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Member Accountability Bill Committee, David Rees MS.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Hedges
Chair

ANNEX

1. The Welsh Ministers have a duty to make provision prohibiting the making or publishing of false or false and misleading statements of fact (see paragraphs 113 to 116 of the [transcript](#)). Please can you clarify the exact timescale within which the Welsh Ministers must make this provision and identify where in the Bill/explanatory materials this is stated? As part of your response, please can you confirm whether or not a further section 13 Order must be made by the next election in 2030.

2. The Bill does not contain a definition of what constitutes a “false statement of fact” or a “misleading statement of fact”. As these terms are crucial to the formulation of the proposed offence, is it desirable to have them on the face of the Bill without being defined?

3. In your statement in Plenary on 4 November you stated, in relation to Members: “there's no reason why, in certain circumstances, if they've committed the basic tenets of the offence, they wouldn't be able to be held to that”.

- (i) Can you outline what consideration has been given to this point?
- (ii) Would extending the scope of the offence to cover Members create an element of double-jeopardy where Members are sanctioned through the standards process and separately subject to the new offence?

4. In that same statement on 4 November you mentioned that there were some competence issues relating to extending the offence to Members that you would need to discuss in committee. Can you expand on what these issues are?

5. The Welsh Government’s Statement of Policy Intent states that: “Given the time available for the passage of this Bill in the current Senedd term, it has not been possible to undertake the necessary engagement in the development of an offence at this time.”

Can you confirm what engagement has already taken place up to this point and, looking forward to the next Senedd, what would you say is a realistic timescale within which such engagement could take place?