

The Rt Hon Elin Jones MS
Llywydd
Chair, Business Committee

Dyddiad | Date: 6 November 2025

Annwyl Lywydd

Pwnc | Subject: Business Committee review of the Public Bill and Members Bill processes: publication of pre-introduction Bills

Thank you for your letter dated 21 October in which you seek the views of the Member Accountability Bill Committee on the Welsh Government's recent practice of publishing draft versions of a Bill during the period before formal introduction, when Bills are submitted to the Llywydd for checks in order to inform the statement the Llywydd must make in accordance with Standing Order 26.4.

The Committee considered your letter at its meeting on 4 November, and offers the following views.

The publication by the Welsh Government of a draft version of the Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill on 6 October - four weeks before its formal introduction to the Senedd - did prove useful to the Committee in that it enabled us to make some initial plans for evidence gathering. We would, however, note that the establishment of the Committee during that four week period inevitably placed limitations on the preparatory work we could undertake.

We are aware that some changes were made to the Bill after its publication by the Welsh Government on 6 October. On such occasions, transparency by government is essential to the scrutiny process. For that reason, when a Bill is formally laid before the Senedd, we suggest the Welsh Government should also publish a version of the Bill that clearly highlights what changes have been made since it was first published.

You have also sought views on whether future Welsh governments should be encouraged to continue the practice of publishing Bills prior to formal introduction. We are of the view that this practice can be beneficial to committees, particularly in respect of preparing for formal scrutiny

activity and enabling briefing from government on provisions in the proposed legislation. Such practice should not, however, be seen as a replacement for government seeking stakeholder views on the draft text of bills as part of a pre-legislative scrutiny stage.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "David F. Rees." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'D' and 'R'.

David Rees MS

Chair

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