



David Rees MS
Chair, Member Accountability Bill Committee

2 February 2026

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 22 January 2026 regarding the financial resolution for the Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill.

As you will be aware, the debate on the Financial Resolution has been included on the Business Statement for 10 February. I will table the motion for the Senedd to agree the financial resolution tomorrow. This will allow for stage 2 proceedings to take place as planned on 12 and – if necessary - 13 February.

I did not move the Financial Resolution motion on 13 January as I wanted to consider the implications for the Regulatory Impact Assessment of the committee recommendations to remove much of the detail from Part 2 of the Bill, in relation to lay members to be appointed the Standards of Conduct Committee.

Having reviewed the financial implications I have reached the view that if the detail currently in Part 2 of the Bill was removed by way of an amendment, the costs associated with lay members would be unknown because the planning assumptions used to provide the current estimate, which already carried a low level of confidence, would become even more uncertain. If amended in that way the Bill would provide no parameters for the numbers of lay members, and as that detail would need to be developed for inclusion in Standing Orders – where a two-thirds majority for approval would be required – there can be no confidence about when the arrangements for the appointment of lay members would be in place and therefore, when costs associated with lay members would be incurred. Consequently, I will wish to give this matter further consideration ahead of Stage 2 proceedings.

I look forward to debate on the 10 February and to discussing these matters further with Members.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, the Chair of the Finance Committee, the Business Committee and all Members.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AS/MS

Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a'r Gweinidog Cyflawni
Counsel General and Minister for Delivery