

Mark Isherwood MS

Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration  
Committee

**Welsh Parliament**  
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**Scrutiny of Gaps Identified by the Wales COVID-19 Inquiry Special Purpose Committee and the UK Covid-19 Inquiry Module 2**

Dear Mark,

Following the resignation of Conservative Members from the Wales COVID-19 Inquiry Special Purpose Committee (the Covid Committee), the Business Committee has been exploring alternative approaches to how future scrutiny of Covid-19 and the work of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry can be taken forward by Senedd committees.

At its meeting on 3 June, the Business Committee considered inviting relevant committees to examine the reports published by the UK Covid-19 Inquiry at the conclusion of each module, and to scrutinise issues of particular relevance to Wales.

In March 2025, the Covid Committee published its first report containing its findings on Module 1 of the Inquiry. This identified nine areas for further scrutiny, including issues such as Wales's resilience and preparedness, governmental accountability, data sharing, and public messaging. Having considered the existing remits of Senedd committees, and noting your remit to scrutinise public administration and matters relating to the machinery of government, the Business Committee proposes that the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee (PAPAC) is best placed to lead continued scrutiny of Module 1.

The Module 2 report, which we anticipate may be published shortly, examines core political and administrative governance and decision-making for the UK, including a

specific section (2b) on Wales. This section included public hearings held in Wales and is likely to contain material of particular relevance to the Senedd. Given its focus on political and administrative decision-making, Module 2 also appears to fall within PAPAC's remit, and the Committee may again be well suited to leading scrutiny of these matters.

The Business Committee agreed that we would write to PAPAC to seek your consideration of the following:

- Whether the Committee has the capacity to lead scrutiny of the gaps identified by the Covid Committee in relation to Module 1 of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry and, where appropriate, to collaborate with other Senedd committees whose remits align with the relevant areas; and
- Whether you anticipate that you would have the capacity to lead scrutiny of the Module 2 report of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry, including subsection 2B as it relates to Wales. Recognising that your Committee will likely already have a work programme for the remainder of this Senedd we propose that you may wish to focus primarily on scrutiny of the Welsh Government's formal response to that report, rather than following the approach of seeking to identify gaps in the UK Inquiry as was prescribed in the remit for the Covid Committee.

The Business Committee recognises the significant workload already being undertaken by PAPAC and appreciates the demands this request may place on the Committee. However, we are mindful of the significant importance of, and considerable public interest in, matters relating to scrutiny of Covid-19 and the UK Covid Inquiry, and would be grateful if you could give your consideration to accommodating these matters within your work programme.

For your information, I will also be writing to the Deputy Presiding Officer, David Rees MS, in his role as Chair of the Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister to ask for that Committee to consider scrutinising the First Minister on the findings from Module 1, given her responsibility for civil contingencies. I also intend to discuss the Business Committee's proposed approach with the Chairs' Forum at its meeting on 9 June 2025.

I would be grateful to receive your views on this matter in order that these can be considered by the Business Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elin Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Elin Jones MS**

Y Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee

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

