

Julie James AS/MS
Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a'r Gweinidog Cyflawni
Counsel General and Minister for Delivery



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

All Members of the Senedd
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
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9 March 2026

Dear Member of the Senedd,

Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill - Government Amendments

I am enclosing detail of the Government amendments tabled to the Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill, together with an explanation of their purpose and effect.

Yours sincerely,

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

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Counsel General and Minister for Delivery

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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.

SENEDD CYMRU (MEMBER ACCOUNTABILITY AND ELECTIONS) BILL STAGE 3 GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS

The information below is designed to explain the purpose and effect of the amendments tabled in the name of the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery on **6 March 2026**

Adt.	Explanation
1	<p>This amendment inserts a definition of 'overturned on appeal' into the Bill to clarify that 'overturned on appeal' includes a 'variation' or 'replacement' of a sentence. This will ensure that a Member whose conviction, sentence or order is reduced or varied on appeal prior to a recall poll having taken place so that the Member no longer meets the requirements of trigger event A will engage the early termination provisions in section 8(4) of the Bill (subject to the requirements of section 8(1)). The clear definition of 'overturned on appeal' will also make it clear that the notification duty on the court in section 4(4) includes the duty to notify the Presiding Officer where a Members conviction, sentence or order has been 'varied' or 'reduced'.</p>
2	<p>This amendment ensures that the definition of appeal in section 4 applies also to section 8.</p>
3	<p>This amendment removes the current provision within section 11 that would allow Welsh Ministers to place functions on or in relation to any reserved authorities in regulations made under section 11 in respect of the administration of a recall poll. It replaces it with a specified list of reserved authorities enabling regulations made under this section to place functions on or in relation to the specified bodies (where those provisions would require the consent of UK Ministers, were such a provision included in an Act of Senedd Cymru).</p> <p>It is anticipated that the regulations to be made under section 11 will need to replicate to a large degree, the functions currently placed upon reserved authorities in respect of the administration of a Senedd general election under the Senedd Cymru (Representation of the People) Order 2025, but for a recall poll. This amendment therefore lists most of those reserved authorities which have been impacted by the Conduct Order, as the same bodies may need to be impacted for the purpose of Senedd recall polls.</p>
4	<p>This amendment includes the new definition of "overturned on appeal" (see amendment 1) in section 16 of the Bill (Interpretation of Part 1) to ensure the same definition applies throughout that part.</p>
5	<p>This amendment corrects a minor omission in the existing provision a new section 30B(6) as inserted by section 18.</p>
6	<p>Amendment 6 should be read in conjunction with amendments 7 and 8. These amendments would amend new section 30B(6) and (7) of the Government of</p>

Wales Act, as inserted by section 18 of the Bill, in relation to the disqualification criteria for lay members.

The overall effect of these amendments, together with what is already in the Bill is that the following will be disqualified from being a lay member:

- Current and former members and office holders (on a permanent basis) of;
 - The Senedd
 - The House of commons
 - The House of Lords
 - The Scottish Parliament
 - The Northern Ireland Assembly
 - The Counsel General where they were not a member of the Senedd
 - A police and crime commissioner in England and Wales
 - A county or county borough council in Wales
- Current members and office holders of;
 - A community council in and
 - Holders of the offices in Part 2 of Schedule 1A to GoWA (excluding judicial office holders.

The last two are only disqualified whilst holding the office.

7 This amendment should be read in conjunction with amendments 6 and 8

8 This amendment should be read in conjunction with amendments 6 and 7

9 The effect of this amendment is that the following people will be disqualified from being appointed as Standards Commissioner:

- Current and former office holders (on a permanent basis) of:
 - The House of Commons
 - The House of Lords
 - The Scottish parliament
 - The Northern Ireland Assembly
 - A police and Crime Commissioner in Wales and England
 - A council of a county or county borough in Wales
 - Current members and office holders and former members and office holders for a period of 2 years prior to appointment as Commissioner of:
 - A community council in Wales
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