

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

2 March 2026

Dear Carolyn,

Consideration of changes to Standing Order 23 – Public Petitions

At its meetings of 3 and 10 February, the Business Committee considered your letter and proposals relating to amendments to Standing Order 23.

The Business Committee has accepted both the second proposal (relating to Standing Orders 23.4-23.10, Explaining Admissibility and Action on a petition) and third proposal (relating to Standing Orders 23.11-23.12, Closing Petitions) made in the letter.

In respect of the first proposal relating to Standing Order 23.1, status of the committee, we observe that the practice of establishing a standalone Petitions Committee, which has been followed since the introduction of a formal petitioning process in 2007, is considered to have worked well. We will encourage our successor committee to continue with this practice when it proposes the establishment of a committee structure in the Seventh Senedd.

However, in light of the scale of changes that may be required to working practices in the Seventh Senedd, we have concluded that we do not wish to constrain the flexibility of the next Business Committee when it comes to make decisions on the committee structure that it wishes to propose in the next Senedd. We have therefore decided not to take forward this proposal.

The Business Committee intends to propose the amendments to Standing Orders that we have agreed to take forward to the Senedd at a Plenary meeting in March.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Petitions Committee for your work and consideration of these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Elin Jones

The Rt Hon Elin Jones MS

Chair of the Business Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

