



Elin Jones AC, Llywydd

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer

National Assembly for Wales

Jayne Bryant AM
Chair
Standards of Conduct Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Your ref:
Our ref: EJ/HG

18 August 2017

Dear Jayne

Assembly reform: standards of conduct

As you will be aware, the Wales Act 2017 provides the Assembly with powers to determine its own internal, operational and electoral arrangements. The Commission is leading work to explore how these powers might be used to ensure that this institution is a stronger, more accessible, inclusive and forward-looking legislature that delivers effectively for the people of Wales.

Earlier this year I announced that the Commission intends to introduce legislation in 2018 to change the Assembly's name. I have also established an Expert Panel to consider matters relating to the size and electoral arrangements of the Assembly. Once the Panel has reported, the Commission will consider the full scope of the reform programme and the legislative proposals we intend to bring forward.

As part of this scoping work, the Commission is also considering whether any reform is required to the sections of the Government of Wales Act 2006 relating to the Assembly's internal arrangements which the Wales Act 2017 will bring within the Assembly's legislative competence.

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

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One such section is section 36, which makes provision relating to integrity and the standards of conduct of Members. As these issues fall within the remit of your Committee, I would welcome your thoughts, and those of your Committee, on:

- whether the current provisions provide an appropriate and proportionate framework for the Assembly's standards regime;
- whether any reforms are required, and, if so, whether the Assembly reform legislation could be an appropriate legislative vehicle.

To ensure that your Committee's views can inform the development of the legislation, it would be helpful to receive your views on any issues which might require legislative change as part of the reform programme by the end of 2017.

Yours sincerely

Elin Jones AM
Llywydd

cc Sir Roderick Evans, National Assembly for Wales Commissioner for Standards