



Committee Chairs
National Assembly for Wales

16 March, 2018

Dear Chair,

Resourcing for Brexit scrutiny

Following our discussions at the Chairs' Forum, and similar discussions at Business Committee, about the Assembly's likely Brexit workload, I am writing as Chair of the Assembly Commission to ask you to assist with scenario and resource planning. The Assembly Commission provides a whole range of services which are engaged in Brexit-related work, but a significant proportion of the organisation's resources is dedicated to your Committees, and I want to ensure that we are planning appropriately to deliver the support you require.

I appreciate that a number of Committees have already been doing significant work on matters relating to Brexit. To help plan for the next phase of scrutiny, I would be grateful if you, working with your clerks and integrated team of officials, and in consultation with your Committee Members, could consider the paper tabled at the Chairs' Forum (which I have attached for ease of reference) and let me know your latest thinking, based on what we know so far, on the following key points:

1. The extent to which Brexit is likely to affect your Committee's work, i.e:
 - Brexit issues within your remit which will either be subject to Assembly procedures or have been identified as priorities for scrutiny by the Committee; and
 - whether Brexit work is likely to displace other inquiries and activities which you had planned, or whether there are other priorities which will have to be considered alongside Brexit issues given other imperatives (e.g. commitments to stakeholders or Government legislation).



Elin Jones AC, Llywydd

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer

National Assembly for Wales

2. Any issues around Member and Committee capacity which you can foresee, such as timetabling of meetings, and membership. Business Committee may consider a radical reshaping of committee and Plenary time if necessary.

Commission officials will take account of your views in providing advice to me about resourcing, in particular whether the current complement of staff supporting each committee:

- is likely to be sufficient;
- is unlikely to be insufficient; or
- in extremis could be redeployed to support Members in responding to Brexit related issues.

I appreciate that the situation is fast-moving and that there is a considerable degree of uncertainty. Nevertheless, I consider it absolutely essential that we maintain dialogue and plan sensibly together to ensure that the Assembly is well-placed to tackle the range of challenges facing us.

I would be grateful for your response by Friday 4 May.

I am copying this letter to Business Managers and Assembly Commissioners.

Yours sincerely,

Elin Jones AM
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