



**Elin Jones AC, Llywydd**

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

**Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer**

National Assembly for Wales

Mick Antoniw AM  
Chair  
Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

Your ref:  
Our ref: EJ/CW

9 May 2018

Dear Mick

At Business Committee yesterday, Business Managers returned to their consideration of a paper from the Leader of the House proposing that a review of Standing Orders be undertaken by your Committee. They decided to focus for the time being on the forthcoming changes to Standing Orders which will be required to implement the provisions about scrutiny of subordinate legislation in the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill. This will include resuming discussion of the difference of opinion between the Assembly and the Welsh Government about whether the sifting committee's recommendations should be binding. As you know, proposals for Standing Order changes can be put to the Assembly by simple majority (through weighted voting) decision of the Business Committee, but require support from two thirds of Members voting in Plenary to have effect.

As part of their deliberations, Business Managers reflected on the size of your Committee. They acknowledged the advantages of the non-partisan way in which you and your predecessor committee have been able to operate successfully with a small number of Members and an absence of party balance. However, they felt that if the Committee's role expanded to include both sifting and scrutiny of primary legislation (as you have indicated you wish it to), its membership might need to change.

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

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I am writing to draw this to your attention formally and to seek any views you and your Members may have on this matter. I would be grateful if you could respond by 25 May.

Business Committee will return to the issue of a wider review of Standing Orders in due course, after we have dealt with the immediate challenges associated with Brexit scrutiny.

Yours sincerely

Elin Jones AM  
Llywydd  
Chair, Business Committee