



Elin Jones AC, Llywydd

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer

National Assembly for Wales

The Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP
Secretary of State for Wales
Wales Office
Gwydyr House
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NP

Your ref: 83Sub19
Our ref: PO602/EJ/TJ

12 February 2019

Dear Secretary of State

Senedd and Elections (Wales) Bill

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the Senedd and Elections (Wales) Bill.

I have noted with interest your comments, outlining that:

- you would support changing the term “Assembly” to “Parliament” in Section 1(1) of the Government of Wales Act 2006 (GOWA); and that
- you consider it could be argued that such a change would be incidental to the Assembly’s change of name.

I am very grateful for your positive engagement on this issue. It may be helpful if I clarify two points in your correspondence.

You refer to a proposal to change the name of the Assembly to “Senedd Cymru.” The Senedd and Elections (Wales) Bill, as introduced, would amend the name National Assembly for Wales to “Senedd” not “Senedd Cymru”.

Also, the Bill (as introduced) will not change the term ‘Assembly’ (where it first appears in Section 1(1) of GOWA) to ‘Parliament’. Rather the Bill will provide that

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

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the Assembly for Wales (as GOWA describes the institution) is to be known as the Senedd, and that the Senedd may also be known as the Welsh Parliament. The rationale for this drafting approach will be set out in the Explanatory Memorandum to the Bill.

I anticipate that the question of how Section 1(1) of GOWA should be amended will be considered during scrutiny of the general principles of this Bill. Your contribution will help inform that debate.

I have noted that you have copied your correspondence to the First Minister and party leaders. I share likewise my response with them and also the Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee as the Bill will be referred to that Committee.

Yours sincerely

Elin Jones AM
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