

Llywydd

26 July 2019

Voting rights for prisoners

Dear Elin

Thank you for your response to our report on voting rights for prisoners. I am writing to seek some further clarity on next steps.

In your response, you state that it is the Commission's view that the decision as to whether the franchise in relation to prisoner voting should be changed "sits with the Welsh Ministers."

The Welsh Government have also responded, but have only done so in relation to the recommendations that we made towards them. A copy of this response is enclosed. They state, in response to recommendation 1, that the part concerning Assembly elections is "directed to the Llywydd and it would be for her, in the first instance, to respond to in the context of the Senedd and Elections (Wales) Bill."

We would now like to seek clarity on how the issues around prisoner voting and the Assembly franchise will be dealt with, and who will be responsible for this issue. We would appreciate a response by 18 September, to enable it to be considered as part of the Assembly debate on 25 September.

I am also writing to the Minister for Housing and Local Government about this issue.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely

John

John Griffiths

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Enclosure: Welsh Government response to Voting Rights for Prisoners report.

Cc: Mick Antoniw, Chair, Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee

