



**Elin Jones AC, Llywydd**

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

**Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer**

National Assembly for Wales

Janet Finch–Saunders AM  
Chair of the Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

Our ref: PO748/EJ/HG  
23 October 2019

Dear Janet

**Petition P-05-917 No bilingual name for the Senedd**

Thank you for your letter of 15 October 2019 regarding the above petition.

When I introduced the Bill in February, the Bill stated that the Assembly should be known as “Senedd”. The name “Senedd” is widely used and recognised in Wales and reflects the constitutional status of the institution as a national parliament. “Senedd” belongs to an international family of names such as Senate and Seanad used to describe national legislatures. Also, the use of “Senedd” in both Welsh and English would have reflected the Assembly’s strong commitment to promoting the status and use of the Welsh language.

As introduced, the Bill also stated that the Senedd may also be known as the Welsh Parliament, to assist those not familiar with the Welsh word and to explain the constitutional status of the institution.

During Stage 2 of the Bill’s legislative passage through the Assembly, various Members tabled amendments to the Bill to propose a different name for the Assembly.

The Committee of the Whole Assembly met on 9 October to consider all the proposed amendments to the Bill. In relation to the Assembly’s name, a majority of Members voted in favour of Carwyn Jones AM’s tabled amendment to propose the names “Senedd Cymru” or “Welsh Parliament”. During the debate, Carwyn

**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1NA

Llywydd@cynulliad.cymru

www.cynulliad.cymru

0300 200 7403

**National Assembly for Wales**

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA

Llywydd@assembly.wales

www.assembly.wales

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Jones AM stated that the rationale behind the proposed names was to provide “legal assurance and certainty” by ensuring the meaning of “Senedd Cymru” in law is clearly understood.

As I noted during stage 2 proceedings, it is for Assembly Members to decide what the new name should be. The Senedd and Elections (Wales) Bill will require a super-majority of votes in order to be passed and whilst I had envisaged that the name “Senedd” would carry most support amongst Members, I accept that, of the various options presented to Members, “Senedd Cymru” or “Welsh Parliament” gained the most votes at stage 2. At the same time, I am disappointed that Members decided against the name “Senedd” as some of the benefits associated with that name may be lost.

Although the names ‘Welsh Parliament’ and ‘Senedd Cymru’ were agreed during the Bill’s second stage, the Committee of the Whole Assembly did not change reference in the Bill to the use of the Welsh word “Senedd” in official English titles, such as: “Acts of the Senedd”, “Clerk of the Senedd”, and the “Senedd Commission”. These titles therefore do not include the words ‘Welsh Parliament’. Carwyn Jones’s aim was to “ensure that the name 'Senedd' is used in common usage”.

As the Bill has now reached its third stage, Assembly Members are again able to propose amendments to the Bill. Members will consider and vote on amendments proposed to the Bill at the Stage 3 debate in plenary, currently scheduled for 13 November 2019.

Yours sincerely,

Elin Jones AM

Llywydd

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