

**Julie James AC/AM**  
**Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol**  
**Minister for Housing and Local Government**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/03366/19

John Griffiths  
Chair  
Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

10 December 2019

Dear John,

I will shortly be laying a Statutory Instrument, *The Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2020* before the Assembly introducing new Regulations which will govern the annual electoral canvass from 2020 onwards. This Statutory Instrument will follow the affirmative procedure.

The new Regulations represent the culmination of a joint programme of work with the Scottish and UK Governments to modernise and reform the annual canvass. The Regulations will retain the robust elements of the current canvass but will allow more flexibility for Electoral Registration Officers to tailor the canvass to the households in their area.

As responsibility for electoral matters relating to local government elections in Wales and Assembly elections has now been devolved, in order to reform the canvass it has been necessary to introduce legislation in each of the three administrations. The UK Government has already done this through the introduction of *The Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) (Amendment) Regulations 2019* which were made on the 4th November 2019.

The Statutory Instrument is introduced to complement and work with the suite of electoral reforms the Committee is already considering as laid out in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill which include a number of provisions relating to improving voter registration; registration without application and the Database of Electoral Registration Information.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Provision made in the Statutory Instrument is also consistent with the extension of the franchise for local government elections set out in the Bill and in the Senedd and Elections (Wales) Bill which passed in the Senedd on the 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Julie James AC/AM**

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