

Dawn Bowden AM,

Chair, Committee on Assembly Electoral Reform

24 January 2020

Dear Dawn

Thank you for your letter dated 16 December 2019 in relation to potential implications for Assembly committees of any change in the size of the Assembly. The Finance Committee considered your letter at its meeting on 15 January 2020.

The Committee agrees that one area of its work that may have been enhanced by an increase in capacity relates to the fiscal devolution that has taken place over the course of the Fifth Assembly.

The fiscal changes in Wales are of constitutional importance, and the consequential impact on the revenue of the Welsh Government has changed the way that the Finance Committee has worked. The Committee's ability to consider fiscal developments has to be balanced with the pressures of the budget cycles, the Committee's oversight of the governance of the Wales Audit Office and scrutiny of the financial implications of legislation.

The high work load of the Finance Committee along with the new fiscal developments clearly impact on the capacity and time available to Members to fully understand the new powers and in turn effectively scrutinise the Welsh Government. Furthermore, most Members sit on multiple committees, which



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again impacts on their ability to undertake background work in advance of committee sessions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Llyr', is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

Llyr Gruffydd AM

Chair of the Finance Committee

