

Dawn Bowden AM

Chair

Committee on Assembly Electoral Reform

29 January 2020

Dear Dawn

Committee on Assembly Electoral Reform

Thank you for your letter of 16 December 2019 seeking views on the potential implications for Assembly committees of any change in the size of the Assembly. The Committee considered this at its recent meeting and the following comments reflect the views of the majority of us:

- One of the biggest challenges facing Members is that the current size of the Assembly requires many Members to sit on more than one weekly committee. Members felt this affected their ability to prepare for each meeting as thoroughly as they would like. Members also noted the considerable increase in workload over the last ten years, and particularly following the increase in legislative powers.
- Given the breadth of the health, social services and sport portfolio, there have inevitably been occasions where we have had to turn down requests from Members or stakeholders to undertake inquiries. However, Members felt that capacity and time pressures had constrained its ability particularly to undertake follow-up work on previous inquiries, including legislative work.
- Finally, Members discussed the proliferation of Cross Party Groups in this Assembly. There was a view that this was, in part, an effort to compensate for committees not being able to cover every area of their portfolio in depth due to a lack of capacity.



I hope this helps your considerations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "David Lloyd" in a cursive, flowing script.

Dr Dai Lloyd AM

Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

