

## Agenda Supplement – Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

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Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Video conference via Zoom	P Gareth Williams
Meeting date: 15 December 2025	Committee Clerk
Meeting time: 13.30	0300 200 6565
	<a href="mailto:SeneddLJC@senedd.wales">SeneddLJC@senedd.wales</a>

### Remote – Supplementary Pack

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Please note the documents below are in addition to those published in the main Agenda and Reports pack for this Meeting

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#### 4 Instruments that raise issues to be reported to the Senedd under Standing Order 21.2 or 21.3 – previously considered (13.40 – 13.45)

##### 4.1 SL(6)681 – The Local Government (Standards Committees and Member Conduct) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2025

(Pages 1 – 4)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)–36–25 – Paper 23 – Report

LJC(6)–36–25 – Paper 24 – Welsh Government response

#### 5 Inter–Institutional Relations Agreement

(13.45 – 13.50)

##### 5.1 Correspondence from the Welsh Government: Meetings of inter–ministerial groups

(Page 5)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)–36–25 – Paper 25 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and



Local Government: Inter-Ministerial Group for Elections and Registration, 11 December 2025

## **6 Papers to note**

(13.50 – 13.55)

### **6.3 Correspondence to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs and the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery: The Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2026–27**

(Pages 6 – 8)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)–36–25 – Paper 26 – Letter to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs and the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery, 12 December 2025

## **9 Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Public Office**

### **Accountability Bill: Draft report**

(14.05 – 14.15)

(Pages 9 – 33)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)–36–25 – Paper 16 – Draft report

## **10 Planning (Wales) Bill and Planning (Consequential Provisions)**

### **(Wales) Bill: Detailed Committee Consideration**

(14.15 – 14.20)

(Pages 34 – 44)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)–36–25 – Paper 20 – Approach paper

## **12 Senedd Cymru (Member Accountability and Elections) Bill: Draft report**

(14.25 – 14.55)

(Pages 45 – 102)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)–36–25 – Paper 22 – Draft report

## **SL(6)681 – The Local Government (Standards Committees and Member Conduct) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2025**

### **Background and Purpose**

These Regulations amend-

- (a) the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 (“the 2001 Regulations”),
- (b) the Conduct of Members (Principles) (Wales) Order 2001 (“the 2001 Order”), and
- (c) the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) Order 2008 (“the 2008 Order”).

Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000 (“the Act”) makes provision concerning the conduct of local government members and employees.

Section 49(2) of the Act makes provision for the principles which govern the conduct of members and co-opted members of relevant authorities in Wales. These principles are set out in the Schedule to the 2001 Order.

Section 50(2) of the Act makes provision for a model code which sets out the conduct expected of members and co-opted members of relevant authorities in Wales. The model code of conduct is set out in the Schedule to the 2008 Order.

Section 53(1) of the Act requires every relevant authority in Wales to establish a standards committee. The 2001 Regulations make provision in respect of the size, composition and proceedings of standards committees and sub committees, along with the appointment, term of office and re-appointment of independent members to those committees.

These Regulations amend existing requirements of the model code of conduct for relevant authorities, to ensure its requirements align with the protected characteristics and socio-economic duty specified in the Equality Act 2010. Similar amendments are also made to the 2001 Order.

These Regulations also remove the lifetime prohibition on previous members and employees of a relevant authority sitting as independent members on the standards committee of the authority to which they were previously elected, or previously worked, or the standards committee of a corporate joint committee (“CJC”) of which the relevant authority is a constituent authority, or a National Park authority. The changes make provision for waiting periods in respect of specified former members and officials.



## Procedure

Negative.

The Regulations were made by the Welsh Ministers before they were laid before the Senedd. The Senedd can annul the Regulations within 40 days (excluding any days when the Senedd is: (i) dissolved, or (ii) in recess for more than four days) of the date they were laid before the Senedd.

## Technical Scrutiny

The following three points are identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.2 in respect of this instrument.

### **1. Standing Order 21.2(vi) – that its drafting appears to be defective or it fails to fulfil statutory requirements**

In the preamble, in the second paragraph, it refers to “sections 49(5) and 50(5) of **the Act**”. However, the Local Government Act 2000 has not been defined as “the Act” in the previous paragraph of the preamble. Therefore, it should either note “**that Act**” in the reference in the second paragraph or there should be a definition in brackets, “(**the Act**)”, after the first reference to the Local Government Act 2000 in the previous paragraph of the preamble.

### **2. Standing Order 21.2(vi) – that its drafting appears to be defective or it fails to fulfil statutory requirements**

In regulation 2(2), reference is made to the Local Government Act 1972 and to the Local Government Act 2000 in the new definition of “senior, cabinet or executive post” that is inserted in regulation 2 of the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001. However, both of those Acts have already been defined as “the 1972 Act” and “the 2000 Act” respectively in the existing text of regulation 2 of the 2001 Regulations. Therefore, the defined terms should have been used in the new definition when referring to those Acts.

### **3. Standing Order 21.2(vi) – that its drafting appears to be defective or it fails to fulfil statutory requirements**

In regulation 4(a), a new definition of “protected characteristics” is inserted “at the appropriate place” in paragraph 1(1) of the Schedule to the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) Order 2008. However, there are several problems with this approach in relation to the existing Welsh text of paragraph 1(1) of the Schedule to the 2008 Order. One of the existing definitions, “eich awdurdod” (“your authority”), was not listed in the correct place according to Welsh alphabetical order in the original text of paragraph 1(1) of the Schedule to the 2008 Order. In addition, it appears that the existing definition of “registered society” was only inserted into the English text of both paragraphs 1(1) and 10(2)(a)(ix)(bb) of the Schedule to the 2008 Order by paragraph 21 of the Schedule to UK SI 2014/1815. Therefore, this definition is missing from the Welsh text of paragraph 1(1) of the Schedule to the 2008 Order (and also from paragraph 10(2)(a)(ix)(bb)). As a result, the amendment made



to paragraph 1(1) of the Schedule to the 2008 Order does not fully succeed because of the missing definition and the fact that not all of the existing definitions were listed in alphabetical order in the Welsh text.

### **Merits Scrutiny**

No points are identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.3 in respect of this instrument.

### **Welsh Government response**

A Welsh Government response is required.

### **Committee Consideration**

The Committee considered the instrument at its meeting on 8 December 2025 and reports to the Senedd in line with the reporting points above.



## **Government Response: The Local Government (Standards Committees and Member Conduct) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2025**

**Technical scrutiny point 1:** The Welsh Government accepts that the link between the reference to the Local Government Act 2000 in the first paragraph of the preamble and the reference to that Act in the second paragraph of the preamble could have been made more explicit. However, based on the context of the preamble as a whole, the Welsh Government considers that the meaning of “the Act” is sufficiently clear.

**Technical scrutiny point 2:** The Welsh Government accepts that the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government Act 2000 have already been defined as “the 1972 Act” and “the 2000 Act” respectively in the existing text of regulation 2 of the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001. However, referring to these two Acts by their full names in the inserted definition of “senior, cabinet or executive post” does not create any confusion, and Welsh Government is content that the words achieve the intended effect.

**Technical scrutiny point 3:** The Welsh Government accepts that the list of definitions in paragraph 1(1) of the Schedule to the Welsh text of the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) Order 2008 is not in the correct order alphabetically (due to the incorrect position of “*eich awdurdod*”), and that a translation of the definition of “*registered society*” appears to be missing from the Welsh text in paragraph 1(1) of the Schedule to the 2008 Order as a result of an amendment made by a UK SI.

However, the definition of “*nodweddion gwarchoddedig*” is still capable of being inserted into the list and it is not considered that the approach taken will cause issues to the reader.

Given the issues in the existing list of definitions in the Welsh language in paragraph 1(1) of the Schedule to the 2008 Order, it will be reviewed as part of the ongoing work by Welsh Government in relation to the Local Government Ethical Standards Framework in Wales.

Jayne Bryant AS/MS  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Thai  
Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

Agenda item 5.1



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref DC/JB/01001/25

Mike Hedges MS,  
Chair  
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee  
Senedd Cymru

[SeneddLJC@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddLJC@senedd.wales)

11 December 2025

Dear Mike,

I am writing to inform you that a meeting of the Interministerial Group on Elections and Registration was held on 30 October 2025, chaired by the Scottish Government.

I have issued a Written Ministerial Statement summarising the discussions at the meeting, with a link to the agreed Communiqué. It has been published at: [Interministerial Group for Elections and Registration Communiqué: 30 October 2025 - GOV.UK](#) (external link in English only).

Yours sincerely,

**Jayne Bryant AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Thai  
Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

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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.

Huw Irranca-Davies MS  
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs  
Welsh Government

Julie James MS  
Counsel General and Minister for Delivery  
Welsh Government

12 December 2025

Dear both,

### The Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2026-27 - Justice

We note your [letter](#) of 17 November 2025, providing further information about the Welsh Government's draft budget plans for justice, to support the aims of advancing the devolution of justice and reforming the Welsh Tribunals.

Please find the Committee's observations on your response below.

#### Overall Justice budget

The Committee remains disappointed with the information received on justice-related spending, which, as with last year's budget, remains less comprehensive than in previous years. Whilst we acknowledge the issues posed by disaggregating the figures, we feel that there is insufficient information available to allow us to meaningfully scrutinise the allocation in this crucial field.

In our [report](#) on the Draft Budget for 2025-26, we recommended that the Welsh Government should "set out the work it has undertaken to date to explore the ways in which it can improve the level of information it provides about expenditure on justice-related activity, and the work it intends to take in the future in this area".

In your [response](#), you accepted the recommendation and provided some information.

It is regrettable that there does not appear to have been much in the way of progress such that your position appears to remain unchanged, with very little by way of granular information provided. We hope that this position will change in future in the interests of openness and transparency.

Our disappointment at the approach being adopted to identifying spending on justice-related activity was noted in the Committee's [Annual Report for 2024/25](#).

## Delivering Justice for Wales

We welcome the additional details provided on programmes being delivered in relation to this programme. We note that there is no planned joint justice spending with the Ministry of Justice for 2026-27.

## The Welsh Tribunals

We note the modest additional revenue funding allocated to the Welsh Tribunals service, along with the £350k of capital funding for a new case management system, as well as the revenue funding to support this transition. The President of the Welsh Tribunals **told** the Committee earlier this week that he was "delighted" with the funding for a case management system and noted it would provide the service with the means to:

*" (...) monitor our work, to deal with our work more efficiently, and also to obtain data that would enable us, going forward, to have a much better handle on our work and how best it can be dealt with."*

The Committee has raised concerns about the delay in presenting a Bill to reform the Welsh Tribunals service, a Bill which the President of the Tribunals describes as "vital to the progress of an efficient and effective justice system in Wales". In our evidence session he told us that the delay was unfortunate and it is unclear to us how allocations in the Draft Budget are helping the Welsh Tribunals prepare for any future reform.

## Accessibility of Welsh law

As with our overall point on the disaggregation of the Justice budget, we are disappointed that you have not provided further information on allocations to support the aim of improving the accessibility of Welsh law. In our report on the Draft Budget for 2025-26, we asked for an explanation about the lack of details on the planned spending in this area, which was provided. It's regrettable that we're again in the same position.

## Conclusion

In our Annual Report for 2024/25 we expressed disappointment that it appears that the Welsh Government has deprioritised work on justice matters in the last 12 months.

The approach we believe the Welsh Government is now taking in relation to identifying spending on justice-related matters is symptomatic of that de-prioritisation we have identified.

The Welsh Government should reflect on its approach to disaggregating spending on justice, as there is insufficient information available to the Committee to support meaningful scrutiny on this important policy area.

We would welcome a response to this letter by 28 January 2026.

I am copying this letter to Peredur Griffiths MS, Chair of the Finance Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hedges". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Mike Hedges

Chair

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# Agenda Item 10

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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