

Business Committee
via email

8 November 2022

Dear Business Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share the Commission's view on the number of Commissioners as a consequence of Senedd reform.

The Commission notes the following recommendation (Recommendation 6) made by the Special Purposes Committee on Senedd Reform:

"We recommend that consideration is given to the question of whether the Senedd should have flexibility through its Standing Orders to elect more than four Members of the Senedd Commission should it so wish. This consideration should then inform the development of legislation to provide for a Senedd of 96 Members."

We considered this recommendation during our meeting of 7 November. We noted that Senedd reform is not anticipated to change the statutory functions of the Senedd Commission (Section 27(5) of GOWA). As such, we are not persuaded that there is need for additional capacity in order for the Commission to carry out its functions effectively at present.

As the work of the Senedd continues to evolve in future years, there may be emerging themes which require the Commission's attention and the issue of capacity may need to be revisited. If a greater need were to emerge, we would not envisage that as being beyond one additional member, to make a Commission of six, inclusive of the Llywydd. Noting that the number of Commissioners is fixed in statute (Section 27(2) GOWA), there may be merit in granting the Senedd the flexibility through its Standing Orders to determine the appropriate number of Commissioners. The Business Committee may wish to consider this as part of its consideration of other officeholders whose numbers are presently fixed by statute.



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Section 27(4) of the Government of Wales Act 2006 as it stands already allows some flexibility in stating that the Commission must comprise of one member of each political group (in addition to the Llywydd) as far as is "reasonably practicable." This flexibility enabled the Senedd to elect two Commissioners from the same political group (i.e. the largest group) at the start of the Sixth Senedd in order to meet the criteria of requiring four Commissioners (as well as the Llywydd) due to there being only three political groups. As such, we do not foresee a need to alter this provision.

Kind regards,



Rt. Hon. Elin Jones MS

Llywydd and Chair of the Senedd Commission

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

