

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Y Pwyllgor Biliau Diwygio | Reform Bill Committee

Bil Senedd Cymru (Rhestrau Ymgeiswyr Etholiadol) | Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill

Ymateb gan Rachel Hurdley | Evidence from Rachel Hurdley

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**What are your views on the general principles of the Bill and the need for legislation to deliver the Welsh Government's stated policy objective (to make the Senedd a more effective legislature by ensuring it is broadly representative of the gender make-up of the population)?**

I am concerned that the Bill uses the term 'gender' rather than 'sex'. The Senedd should be representative of the sex balance of the population.

**What are your views on the system of enforcement and potential sanctions for non-compliance proposed in the Bill?**

I don't think there should be sanctions. In my experience, women do not always come forward. The answer to this is education and support for female candidates.

**Are there any potential barriers to the implementation of the Bill's provisions? If so, what are they, and are they adequately taken into account in the Bill and the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment?**

Page 8, item 19 of the Memorandum refers to 'gender' as a Protected Characteristic. It is not. 'Sex' is a protected characteristic. This could provide a barrier to women, as in adult human females, rather than men identifying as women. The sex imbalance will not be addressed.

**Are any unintended consequences likely to arise from the Bill?**

Yes, that trans women (i.e. males) take women's places on the quota.

**What are your views on the Welsh Government's assessment of the financial and other impacts of the Bill?**

Ok.

**What are your views on the balance between the information contained on the face of the Bill and what is left to subordinate legislation? Are the powers for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation appropriate?**

I'm happy with that.

**Do you have any views on matters relating to the legislative competence of the Senedd including compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights?**

Yes I do - the error in persistently using 'gender' rather 'sec' when referring to the EA2010.

**Do you have any views on matters related to the quality of the legislation, or to the constitutional or other implications of the Bill?**

As per my previous answers, I'm deeply concerned about the vagueness around 'gender'.

**Are there any other issues that you would like to raise about the Bill and the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum or any related matters?**

Yes - please utilise the EA2010 correctly.

**Anything else?**

Please do not allow trans identifying males to claim to be women - this will create further sex-imbalance in the Senedd.