



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair
Finance Committee

31 May 2024

Dear Peredur

Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill

Thank you for the Finance Committee's letter, dated 16 May 2024, in relation to the financial implications of the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill.

I am pleased the Finance Committee is broadly content with the financial implications of the Bill as set out in the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) and I welcome the Committee's acknowledgement of the interrelationship between the costs associated with this Bill and the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill.

While the additional costs which have been identified in respect of staff deployed by the Electoral Commission to prepare for implementation of the reforms had not been identified when the RIA for the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill was developed, I will ensure that the RIA is revised at the appropriate time in accordance with established procedures. In revising the RIA during the Bill's passage, we will also reflect any additional costs associated with a deputy National Nominations Compliance Officer, should such a requirement be agreed, and any other additional costs which may arise from amendments to the Bill.

While the Committee recognises that it is not normal practice to anticipate costs associated with potential legal challenges in the future, I shall ensure that the Committee is kept informed of any cost implications should the Bill be referred to the Supreme Court for determination on the matter of competence. I also commit to publishing a full and robust RIA associated with the subordinate legislation.

With regard to our engagement with political parties, my officials have engaged with political parties currently represented in the Senedd during the development of the Bill and in the context of broader changes being implemented through the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill. I am grateful to the Electoral Commission for facilitating this engagement. We will give further consideration to how we may work with political parties (both those

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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.

currently represented and parties not represented in the Senedd) to further assess how the legislation may impact on them in terms of costs.

I would like to express my thanks to the Committee for scrutinising the Bill and its supporting documentation and I look forward to continuing to work with Members as the Bill progresses through the Senedd process.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Reform Bill Committee, the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and all Members of the Senedd for information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the first name.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Y Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip
Trefnydd and Chief Whip