

The Rt Hon. Elin Jones MS
Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee

28 June 2024

Annwyl Llywydd,

Committee remits

Thank you for your letter regarding committee remits and for enclosing the letter from Llyr Gruffydd MS, Chair of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee. I understand and am sympathetic to Llyr's concerns regarding the number of Cabinet Secretaries responsible for areas covered by his Committee. However, the Economy Trade and Rural Affairs Committee (ETRA) already has an extremely large remit and a very busy forward work programme. I am concerned that transferring a number of large policy areas, such as energy, to ETRA would risk either the transferred policy areas, or areas the Committee currently covers, not being suitably scrutinised.

The Committee is happy for Freeports and the circular economy to be transferred to ETRA as, due to the strong links between those policies and our current work, we can suitably incorporate them into our work programme. However, we believe that it would make more sense for ports (from a transport perspective) and Cardiff Airport to remain with the main transport policy brief. Energy and digital connectivity are both heavily related to planning, and so separating those policy areas out may impact on the quality of scrutiny.

ETRA's current remit includes issues relating to apprenticeships and skills, and as part of the Committee's budget scrutiny, we therefore tend to work with the Children, Young People and Education Committee. They ask questions to the Cabinet Secretary for Education on our behalf. We find this approach reduces duplication and supports better scrutiny for both committees. To support the CCEI Committee, we would be happy to enter into a similar arrangement and ask questions around energy, digital connectivity, the airport and ports on their behalf in our general ministerial

security sessions with the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language. Realistically however, the Committee would be unlikely to find time in its work programme for inquiry work in these areas, which would remain a matter for CCEI Committee.

I have copied this letter to Llyr Gruffydd MS.

Cofion cynnes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and 'D'.

Paul Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English