



David Rees MS  
Chair  
Reform Bill Committee

25<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear David,

### **Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Act**

As you will recall, in response to recommendation 18 of your Committee's Stage 1 report on the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Act, the then Counsel General stated that:

*“Welsh Government officials have convened a Senedd Electoral Reform Delivery Board with key partners and further engagement on this point will be pursued through that forum. A number of organisations have statutory responsibilities in this respect, including the Senedd Commission, the Electoral Commission and Local Authorities. The Electoral Management Board will also have a role to play if the Elections and Elected Bodies (Wales) Bill is passed by the Senedd. While it is important that individual statutory duties and powers are respected, there is a common desire to ensure national and local public information and awareness-raising campaigns about electoral reform are planned and co-ordinated effectively and efficiently, to avoid duplication and ensure the intended outcomes of such campaigns are maximised. I will provide an update to Members in due course.”*

The then Counsel General subsequently provided updates in response to written questions from Adam Price MS, about the development of public awareness campaigns on the electoral reforms and new electoral system brought about by the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Act 2024.

I consider it timely to provide a further update on this work.

As previously noted, a number of organisations have statutory responsibilities in respect of public information and awareness-raising campaigns leading up to the 2026 Senedd election.

To this end, the Senedd Commission is leading the Senedd 2026 Communications Group. The group consists of communication leads from a range of public bodies, with a role in communicating changes to the Senedd, electoral reforms, and the 2026 Senedd Elections.

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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.

Members of the group include the Senedd Commission, Democracy and Boundary Commission, Electoral Commission and Welsh Government.

The group held its first meeting in July 2024. Subsequent discussions have been positive in facilitating planning and co-ordination in the development of national and local public information and awareness-raising campaigns about the electoral reforms. This is intended to avoid duplication and amplify effectiveness.

The group will continue to meet and facilitate the co-ordination of such campaigns. The group's intention is to complete its work in July 2026, following an evaluation and gathering of lessons learnt following the 2026 election.

As referred to in the original response to the Committee's recommendation, the Senedd Electoral Reform Delivery Board also continues to meet, having been established to bring together key partners with experience and expertise of running, supporting and providing guidance on elections. The Board's role is to consider the impact of Senedd Reform and Electoral Reform on the administration of Senedd elections, and the associated timeframes, in order that provisions are aligned, made in good time and implemented effectively.

I have copied this correspondence to Adam Price MS.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jayne Bryant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Jayne Bryant AS/MS**

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