

Eluned Morgan MS  
First Minister of Wales

13 November 2024

Dear Eluned,

### Invitation to give evidence

Thank you for your [letter](#) of 28 October 2024 responding to our [letter](#) of 3 October inviting you to give evidence.

You declined the invitation, stating that, later this term, you will be attending the Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister, where you would be happy to give evidence on any matter relevant to the exercise of the functions of the Welsh Government.

As you acknowledge we have the Deputy First Minister and the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery appearing in front of my Committee on 25 November. You stated that "Given their roles and responsibilities, I am confident that they will be well placed to answer questions regarding Welsh Government activities that fall within the remit of your committee".

Our questions to the Deputy First Minister and the Counsel General will be based on their specific responsibilities which come under the remit of this Committee. The Deputy First Minister and the Counsel General are not responsible for the areas for which you have specific and strategic responsibility, such as intergovernmental relations, Wales and Europe, and aspects of the Legislative Programme.

As such, we believe that your attendance at our Committee to provide your perspective of these matters will be of significant interest to the Senedd and to Welsh citizens.

Furthermore, you will be aware that the Committee is not represented on the Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister. Even if the Committee was represented, the topics covered concern

specific issues and would not enable scrutiny in sufficient depth on matters directly related to our remit to satisfy our concerns. In addition, not all members of my Committee could participate.

You will be aware that First Ministers have generally attended this Committee (and its predecessor) on a regular basis to give evidence, most recently in September 2023. We feel that not having this session would leave an unacceptable gap in scrutiny, given it would be over 12 months since that last session and developments since then include a UK general election.

In light of this, we hope that you will reconsider and be amenable to attending a scrutiny session in the new year.

The Committee Clerk can liaise with your officials to discuss appropriate timings.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hedges". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Mike Hedges  
Chair