

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc  
ac Addysg

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Children, Young People  
and Education Committee

Elin Jones MS

Llywydd

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## **Business Committee review of the Public Bill and Member Bill processes**

Dear Elin,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the review of the legislation process. As a Committee we have undertaken scrutiny of two Bills introduced by the Welsh Government: the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Act 2022, and the Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Bill. We also scrutinised Sam Rowlands MS's Residential Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill.

Due to the significant turnover of Committee Members over the last 12 months, I am the only Committee Member who has been involved in scrutiny of all three Bills. Two other current Committee Members were also involved in the scrutiny of the Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Bill.

In discussing the review, our comments were primarily focused on the Member Bill process. We noted that none of the Member Bills introduced in this Senedd, including the one we scrutinised, passed Stage 1 and reflected on why. It was suggested that, especially with the amount of work needed in the development of Member Bills, the lack of success may put Members off from putting ideas into the ballot. We felt that it is not always clear why Bills are not successful.

We noted that further consideration will need to be given as to how many Member Bills can be supported, the timelines for the ballots, and subsequent deadlines for all elements of the process. Decisions will need to be made at the start of the next Senedd term, which will need to be clearly communicated to Members. This would enable Members to make informed decisions as to whether to put their names in the ballot. This would also be more important in a Senedd with a shorter term and more Members, where there will be less time for Member Bills, and potentially more Members putting their ideas into the ballot. It was suggested that the ballots should possibly be front-loaded

towards the start of the Senedd term to ensure there is sufficient time for both development of a Member Bill and the scrutiny of such a Bill.

We also reflected on the different types of Member Bills, and whether this affects the likelihood of them being successful. For example, having Bills focused on specific issues, such as the [Nurse Staffing Levels \(Wales\) Act 2016](#), which had a tight focus are potentially more likely to be successful. We noted that this was the last backbench Member's Bill which was passed, and that this passed in the fourth Senedd in 2016.

It was highlighted that there have been few Committee Bills, which might be appropriate for those issues which are less political. It was felt that there might be a need for better identification of those issues which might be suited to a Committee Bill.

We hope this is helpful for your considerations.

Yours sincerely,



Buffy Williams MS  
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.