



Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru

30 June 2025

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 18 June relating to our response to your report on the Senedd Cymru (Representation of the People) Order 2025 (the Order).

Your letter addresses the procedures undertaken prior to the Order being laid before the Senedd. As was noted by the Committee, the Order is extraordinarily large, and this is the first time it has been produced bilingually. You can be assured that the Order underwent a rigorous checking process, though, due to the extensive and complex nature of the Order, there is always the potential for human error. The discrepancies identified between the English and Welsh were not substantive, and I am grateful to the Committee for overseeing careful and close consideration of the Order.

On your specific concern in relation to the intention to amend the minor errors identified prior to the Order being made, I am satisfied that using the correction process in this instance is not unreasonable or inappropriate.

Each and every amendment has been carefully considered. The amendments are very minor, and none of them substantively change the Order in any way or change its underpinning intention. Also, none of the amendments change the meaning or legal effect of any of the provisions that will be amended. As such, I am satisfied that the corrections, taken in their entirety, do not substantially change the Order.

You also referred to amendments that will be made to the Welsh text version of the Order to insert modified defined terms into rule 2(2) of the Election Petition Rules 1960. I can assure the Committee that the entire text of all the definitions will be noted in English, as they appear in the English text version of the Order. I apologise if this was not fully understood from our response.

On the separate issue you raise on automatic voter registration, pilots are currently underway in four local authorities in Wales and will conclude in September. As required by the Regulations passed by the Senedd, the Electoral Commission will provide an evaluation

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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.

report to Welsh Ministers on the pilot models by the end of the year. This will be followed by a thorough consideration of the report to inform the additional secondary legislation, training, and comprehensive system changes required for further roll out. I will update the Senedd in due course.

I trust this addresses the Committee's concerns and look forward to the Senedd's consideration of the Order on 8 July.

I am copying this letter to Rt Hon Eluned Morgan MS, First Minister of Wales, Julie James MS, Counsel General and Minister for Delivery and the Rt Hon Elin Jones MS, Llywydd.

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