

Elin Jones MS

Llywydd, Chair of the Senedd Commission and Chair of the Business Committee

22 May 2020

Annwyl Lywydd

### **The operation of virtual committee meetings**

I am writing regarding the operation of virtual committee meetings that have been taking place as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic.

First, on behalf of the Committee, I would like to express our sincere thanks to all the staff from the ICT and Broadcasting service for the expertise and support they have provided to enable our virtual committee meetings to operate smoothly. The technological framework and support network they have created has allowed us to continue holding the government to account during these incredibly challenging and unprecedented times.

Secondly, and related to the first point, we believe that there may be merit in permitting these arrangements to continue in the future in certain circumstances. Given the nature of our Committee's remit and role, there are occasions where our meetings are predominantly focused on the scrutiny of subordinate legislation. On these occasions, we sometimes find that we only need to meet on a Monday afternoon for a short amount of time, and without witnesses. In those circumstances and given our small size, we consider that a virtual meeting, with Members in remote attendance, could enable Members to work more efficiently. We recognise that this is an issue that would require much more detailed thought and consideration. However, we are highlighting it now so that it can feature in any review of the Senedd's overall approach to the pandemic but also as part of planning for the Sixth Senedd.



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I am copying this letter to Manon Antoniazzi, Chief Executive and Clerk of the Senedd.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mick Antoniw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mick Antoniw MS  
Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.  
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

