

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Y Pwyllgor Biliau Diwygio | Reform Bill Committee

Bil Senedd Cymru (Rhestrau Ymgeiswyr Etholiadol) | Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill

Ymateb gan Evelyn James | Evidence from Evelyn James

What are your views on the general principles of the Bill and the need for legislation to deliver the Welsh Government's stated policy objective (to make the Senedd a more effective legislature by ensuring it is broadly representative of the gender make-up of the population)?

I fully support the general principles of the Bill. Welsh Politics is largely underrepresented as against the diverse society we have in Wales. This bill will help address that gap and make room for more voices to be heard and representation for the wider society.

What are your views on the system of enforcement and potential sanctions for non-compliance proposed in the Bill?

I agree with the enforcement and compliance principle as stated. It will be helpful to ensure that parties that don't follow through with putting up a gender balanced list be rejected.

Are there any potential barriers to the implementation of the Bill's provisions? If so, what are they, and are they adequately taken into account in the Bill and the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment?

I agree with Bill's implementation. It will lower the barriers to women especially from underrepresented groups standing as candidates.

Are any unintended consequences likely to arise from the Bill?

This Bill should have more emphasis on the wider diversity in Wales. We need more Black, Asian and Ethnic minorities, LGBT+, Disabled and all other protected characteristics. Having this bill might tend to sweep the important issues these underrepresented group face under the carpet. We cannot allow this to happen. The

change should happen simultaneously in addressing the barriers and discrimination faced by these people

What are your views on the Welsh Government's assessment of the financial and other impacts of the Bill?

It is for the greater good of the economy to have this bill.

What are your views on the balance between the information contained on the face of the Bill and what is left to subordinate legislation? Are the powers for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation appropriate?

Yes, this impacts on Welsh democracy for its citizens. Welsh have the powers to make laws in the interest of its citizens.

Do you have any views on matters relating to the legislative competence of the Senedd including compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights?

This bill is within legislative competence.

Do you have any views on matters related to the quality of the legislation, or to the constitutional or other implications of the Bill?

Are there any other issues that you would like to raise about the Bill and the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum or any related matters?

Greater Diversity measures should be pursued alongside this bill for it to be more effective.

Anything else?

Do more to address issues of abuse, racism, harassment and bullying against women so they can feel safe and confident to stand and stay in elected office.