

SCECLB21-P Abergavenny Town Council

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 Cyngor Tref Y Fenni | Evidence from Abergavenny Town Council,

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)?

We agree in principle with the general aim which is to make the Senedd a more effective legislature by ensuring it is broadly representative of the gender make up of the population. The Council unanimously consider that future actions should be based on achievements in recent times and not on new legislation.

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

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?

Are any unintended consequences likely to arise from the Bill?

Unintended consequences would be that a rigid closed list system could discourage younger people from engaging in the democratic process. The closed list system may also discourage participation in voting.

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

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

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

The closed list system is likely to limit participation across all demographics of society, in particular, the inability of the electorate to influence the make-up of the Senedd between elections, and the lack of democratic process to fill any vacancies that arise.

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

Anything else?

Abergavenny Town Council unanimously agreed on the comments submitted for this consultation process, across all parties.