

**PBMB06 Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee**

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Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

**Y Pwyllgor Busnes | Business Committee**

**Adolygiad o'r broses ar gyfer Biliau Cyhoeddus a Biliau Aelod | Review of the Public Bill and Member Bill processes**

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Ymateb gan: Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg, Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol | Evidence from: Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

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The Rt Hon Elin Jones MS  
Y Llywydd  
Chair of the Business Committee

25 March 2025

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

Dear Llywydd,

Thank you for your letter of 21 January 2025, seeking the Committee's views on the Public Bill and Member Bill processes, which we considered at our meeting on 19 February 2025.

Although our Committee has not scrutinised a bill during this Senedd term, the Children, Young People, and Education Committee invited us to contribute to Stage One scrutiny of the Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Bill ("the Bill") in the Autumn Term of 2024. We undertook this through a rapporteur model. The following observations are based on our experiences with that model and on individual Members' experiences of the Member Bill process.

Our main comments focus on the arrangements for scrutiny when the scope of a bill overlaps the remit of more than one policy committee. As a Committee, we felt strongly that this Bill required thorough scrutiny from both education and Welsh language perspectives. We are grateful to the Children, Young People, and Education Committee for enabling our involvement in that process.

However, we had no opportunity to contribute to defining the scope of the scrutiny undertaken. We also found the rapporteur model to be less effective due to scheduling conflicts, as both committees involved meet during the same time slot. This made it difficult for the rapporteurs to fully engage with the Bill's examination while managing ongoing committee responsibilities. They were also unable to provide meaningful feedback to our Committee, limiting its overall contribution. We believe this led to Welsh language considerations not receiving the attention that was merited. The Bill, therefore, highlights the importance of examining all draft legislation holistically to ensure comprehensive and balanced scrutiny of all policy aspects.



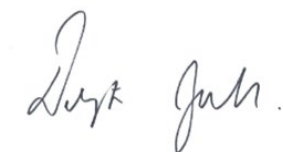
More broadly, we observed that committees face considerable disruption when attempting to balance the scrutiny of bills with their wider responsibilities. This challenge often results in extended periods during which policy scrutiny cannot be undertaken.

The Senedd Commission may wish to revisit the model of Bill Committees, introducing flexible membership determined on a bill-by-bill basis. This approach would involve Members with the necessary subject matter expertise and interest, enabling them to fully dedicate themselves to the work. We emphasise that, regardless of the model chosen by the Business Committee, the inclusion of Members with relevant expertise is essential.

Additionally, we also reflected on individuals' experiences of the Member Bill process. Some Members highlighted that the resources available to support this process are significantly limited compared to those provided for the development of Welsh Government legislation. As a result, the Senedd has passed insufficient private legislation. The Senedd Commission may wish to consider whether the resources available to support the Member Bill process are adequate, particularly in the context of a larger Senedd following the next election.

I hope our reflections are useful to the Business Committee in undertaking your review.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS  
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.