

PBMB08 Independent Remuneration Board of the Senedd

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

Ymateb gan: Bwrdd Taliadau Annibynnol y Senedd | Evidence from:
Independent Remuneration Board of the Senedd

Rt Hon Elin Jones MS
Chair of the Business Committee
Senedd Cymru

28 March 2025

Business Committee review of the Public Bill and Member Bill processes

Dear Elin,

Thank you for your letter of 21 January regarding the Business Committee's review of the Public Bill and Member Bill processes.

The Board does not have views on the core procedural aspects of the Bill process within the remit of the Committee's review, but it notes that the Committee will consider issues that it may wish to raise with the Senedd Commission or the Board relating to the resource and support and available to members during the Member Bill process.

The Determination provides a range of support to Members to enable the performance of their duties as Members of the Senedd:

- Support for individual Members through *Chapter 7 – Support for Senedd Members* and this can also be supplemented through virement from the Office and Constituency Liaison Fund. Furthermore, Members may obtain external expertise to advise or assist relating to 'policy development, exploration of issues of significance to constituents and scrutiny of policy, legislation or finance' through the Office and Constituent Liaison Fund; and
- Collective support to Members through *Chapter 8 – Support for Political Parties* which assists Groups to support Members in the performance of their duties. Support for political parties is used to provide collective staffing support and may also be used for external expertise or research for 'policy development, exploration of issues of significance to constituents and scrutiny of policy, legislation or finance.' This support is currently also available to individual Members who are not a member of a group as set out in Standing Orders, but who are a member of a registered political party.

As you will be aware the Board has undertaken separate thematic reviews of Members' staffing support and Senedd group support to inform the Determination for the Seventh Senedd.

The Board's proposals for staffing support will be included in the Part Two consultation published on 2 April 2025 and will be available on the [Board's website](#).

The Business Committee will be aware that the Board has previously [consulted](#) on proposals to change the current 'support for political parties' and rename it 'Senedd Group Support' for the Seventh Senedd.

The Board has outlined a broader purpose for group support which includes 'support for scrutiny, research and policy development related to Members' duties' and proposes that Senedd Group Support would be provided only to groups as set out in Standing Orders. This proposal aligns with the intentions of Section 24 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 which states that the Board may make provision for assistance to 'political groups to which Members of the Senedd belong' and that it is for the Senedd to define a 'political group' for this purpose through Standing Orders. The Board therefore looks forward to your consideration of the Future Senedd Committee's work on Standing Orders, including the criteria for Senedd groups. A summary of the consultation feedback on Senedd Group Support and the Board's response is included in paragraphs 95-104 in the report on the Part One consultation published on the Board's [website](#).

In considering the support provided to Members through the Determination both on an individual Member or collective basis through group resources, the Board has also reflected on the collective resources and support currently provided to Members by the Senedd Commission which, as you know, includes staffing and research support for scrutiny committees..

I hope that this information is helpful and we look forward to considering any matters of relevance to the Board following the conclusion of the Committee's review.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Elizabeth Haywood,
Chair, Independent Remuneration Board of the Senedd

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