

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

Your ref:  
Our ref: PO184/EJ/RR

14 June 2017

Dear Mike

### **Petition P-05-762 Move the Welsh Assembly Out of Cardiff**

Thank you for your letter dated 15 May 2017. The Llywydd has asked the Assembly Commission to consider the content of the letter and to provide the Petitions Committee with its views on this matter.

As a Commission, we recognise the importance of having national institutions based in locations across Wales and that economic prosperity and employment opportunities are spread across the nation.

This is a principle shared by all Assembly Commissioners. We accept that we must always seek new ways to reach out to the people of Wales and we will consider options to undertake more of the Assembly's business in other parts of Wales.

The National Assembly for Wales has an office in Colwyn Bay as well as Cardiff Bay. The petitioner may also be aware that the institution undertakes extensive outreach work in order to engage with communities across the nation and we employ officers in both the West and the North to this end. In addition, we have developed a new youth engagement strategy to complement our existing education provision that has widened the reach of this work and we have established a community engagement programme, Senedd@, which is in the process of being adopted by the UK parliament too.



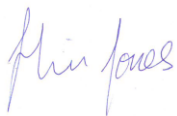
The Welsh Government, whose responsibilities include economic development, also has offices in Holyhead, Caernarfon, Llandudno Junction, Wrexham, Aberystwyth, Llandrindod Wales, Newtown, Carmarthen, Milford Haven, Swansea, Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil, Nantgarw, Newport, Treforest, Bedwas and Cardiff.

It is the view of the Commission that it is right that the primary location of the Welsh parliament should however be our capital city, Cardiff, and that the Senedd building is now growing in its recognition as the home of our Welsh democracy – both among the people of Wales and further afield. We would therefore not choose to move our parliament elsewhere.

In reference to some of the concerns raised by Mr Jones, the National Assembly is responsible of course for scrutinising decisions made by the Welsh Government in relation to its policies and their implementation, its responsibility to represent *all* citizens and communities in Wales, and indeed the way it spends its money. Members have the opportunity to scrutinise Ministers on a regular basis with regards to their decisions on investment and job creation, as well as in relation to their general conduct.

Furthermore, the petitioner’s claim that there “is growing evidence of corruption” is unsubstantiated within the text of the petition, although the Assembly Commission has procedures in place to consider any specific allegations should anyone wish to make a complaint.

Yours sincerely



Elin Jones AM, Llywydd and Chair of the Commission  
Suzy Davies AM, Assembly Commissioner  
Caroline Jones AM, Assembly Commissioner  
Adam Price AM, Assembly Commissioner  
Joyce Watson AM, Assembly Commissioner

