

Jeremy Miles AM

Counsel General

10 July 2019

Dear Counsel General,

Senedd and Elections (Wales) Bill

As you will be aware, the Llywydd wrote to the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs (CLA) Committee on [13 June 2019](#), providing further information on the proposals in respect of the Electoral Commission. I responded to the Llywydd on [27 June 2019](#), and a copy was sent to yourself and the CLA Committee. In my reply, I asked the Llywydd, in discussion with yourself to consider not seeking the Assembly's approval of a Financial Resolution until further information was available in relation to the funding and oversight arrangements of the Electoral Commission.

I understand from your letter to the CLA Committee of [25 June 2019](#), that you intend to seek to amend the Bill to make clearer the financial and accountability arrangements between the Assembly and the Electoral Commission. I appreciate this is a complex area of law and you are still exploring various options in discussion with the UK Treasury, Assembly Commission and the Electoral Commission.

Standing Orders state that the Assembly needs to agree to the expenditure being charged on or payable out of the Welsh Consolidated Fund. As the provisions around the financial and accountability arrangements for the Electoral Commission are still unknown, I do not believe it is appropriate to ask the Assembly to authorise the expenditure associated with this legislation, until there is clarity as to exactly what the Assembly is authorising, and how this expenditure will be funded.



As only a member of the Government can 'move' a Financial Resolution motion, I am writing to ask you to delay seeking the Assembly's approval of such a motion until further information is provided by yourself and the Llywydd in relation to the Electoral Commission arrangements. This will ensure the Finance Committee is afforded an opportunity to consider your proposals and their financial implications prior to Stage 2 proceedings.

I am copying this letter to the Llywydd and the Chair of the CLA Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Llyr', is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

Llyr Gruffydd AM
Chair of the Finance Committee

