

Elin Jones AM, Llywydd

Jeremy Miles AM, Counsel General

17 July 2019

Dear Llywydd and Counsel General,

Senedd and Elections (Wales) Bill

I write further to the Stage 1 debate on the general principles of the Bill on 10 July 2019 and our previous [correspondence](#) on this Bill.

During the debate the Counsel General confirmed his intention to table amendments to the Bill in relation to the accountability of the Electoral Commission and that he will delay moving a financial resolution until he is able to provide this information.

In the Counsel General's letter of 25 June 2019, he also noted that discussions are continuing between the Welsh Government and the UK Treasury about the mechanism for funding the Electoral Commission. However, the two main options under consideration both assume that funding will transfer from the UK Consolidated Fund to the Welsh Consolidated Fund. Whilst I understand this is a complex area which may require Crown consent, it is vital the Finance Committee is afforded an opportunity to consider the amendments and their financial implications in relation to these issues prior to Stage 2 proceedings.

Given that Stage 2 proceedings are scheduled for 9 October, I would ask that amendments are tabled in sufficient time to enable consideration by the Finance Committee prior to the Assembly being asked to agree to the financial resolution. Alongside the tabled amendments we would expect accompanying financial information in relation to the accountability and funding arrangements of the Electoral Commission.

Depending on your intentions with regard to moving a Financial Resolution, we would like to invite you both to attend a meeting of the Finance Committee on **Thursday 19 September or Wednesday 25 September**, to ensure the new provisions receive the scrutiny they require. As such, I would be grateful if the amendments and financial information are tabled in advance of your attendance to facilitate the session.



I should be grateful if your officials could liaise with the Finance Committee's clerking team SeneddFinance@Assembly.Wales regarding your preferred date and arrangements for the meeting.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs 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

