



Elin Jones AC, Llywydd

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer

National Assembly for Wales

10 June 2019

Dear Member,

I write to update you on the Assembly Commission's programme of electoral reform.

As you are aware, the first phase of the programme is under way, with the Senedd and Elections (Wales) Bill including provisions for lowering the voting age to 16 and changing the Assembly's name to Senedd.

I welcome the level of interest shown by the committees in this legislation and I look forward to reading their reports.

You will recall that the purpose of the proposed second phase of the reform programme was to make the Assembly a more effective, accessible and diverse legislature by increasing the number of AMs and make consequential reforms to the electoral system, arising from the recommendations of the Expert Panel chaired by Professor Laura McAllister.

The Commission has been working closely with stakeholders in making the case for progressing with Phase 2.

As the challenges facing the Assembly's capacity intensify, we are confident that the case in favour of increasing the number of AMs has been made.

Nevertheless, the issue of reforming the electoral system continues to spark a wide range of views, with one party having already confirmed that it would require a manifesto commitment before any such change was implemented.

On this basis, the Commission has decided it is not possible to legislate on Phase 2 of electoral reform in this Assembly.

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

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1NA

Llywydd@cynulliad.cymru

www.cynulliad.cymru

0300 200 7403

National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA

Llywydd@assembly.wales

www.assembly.wales

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However, our work to explore issues relating to the size of the Assembly and how Members should be elected will continue assisting the public debate and political parties as they consider their views on these matters.

If you would like to discuss the reform programme with the Commission, please contact the Strategic Transformation Team on constitutional.change@assembly.wales.

Yours sincerely,

Elin Jones AM

Llywydd