National Assembly for Wales Academic Fellowship scheme
2020 Directed Call: Project outline

Comparing the ‘services’ offered by Parliamentary Research Services

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1 Description of the Project

A bench-marking type exercise to describe the different ‘services’ offered by parliamentary research services to Elected Members in other legislatures how they are delivered and their perceived benefits. Typical ‘services’ include answering confidential Member enquiries, support for Committees, support for Plenary sessions, proactive briefings and social media activity. **A particular interest is in legislatures outside of the UK and also where such ‘services’ are delivered in more than one language.** The purpose of this is to compare these ‘services’ with those provided by Senedd Research for Assembly Members during the Fifth Assembly. The project will also consider whether there are additional ‘services’ being provided by other parliamentary research services, or different ways of delivering these ‘services’ that could benefit our Members and whether or not we should consider making any changes in Wales for the Sixth Senedd after the next election in May 2021.

A useful starting point is this [Guidelines for Parliamentary Research Services IFLA publication](https://www.ifla.org/publications/guidelines-for-parliamentary-research-services) from 2015.

2 Skills/expertise required

Good knowledge and understanding of:

- the role of legislatures and in particular the role and functions of the Assembly in Wales.
- parliamentary research services that are delivered in the legislatures of other countries outside of the UK, particularly where the legislatures are ‘similar’ in terms of size and legislative responsibilities, so that comparisons with Wales are valid.
- parliamentary research services delivered by the UK legislatures.

An ability to communicate clearly and concisely to a lay audience in a written or oral format.
3 Expected Outputs

At least one written briefing for Assembly Commission staff on this topic. There is also likely to be a requirement to present the outcomes of this work orally to Assembly Commission staff.

There is scope for wider dissemination of project outcomes, e.g. academic article; blog piece; conference. This should be done in consultation with Senedd Research.

4 Expected timescale

The written briefing will inform planning for the Sixth Senedd to be elected in May 2021. The fellowship should therefore start as soon as possible and be completed by the end of September 2020.

5 Working arrangements

As a rough guide, an average of one day a week for up to three months. The fellow will need to attend a regular catch-up/progress meeting in Cardiff (likely to be monthly) but otherwise should be able to complete the project working remotely. Visits to some/all of the other UK legislatures may also be required.