

National Assembly for Wales

[Business Committee](#)

January 2020

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Amending the title and remit of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee

Purpose

1. In accordance with Standing Order 11.7(iv), the Business Committee is responsible for making recommendations on the general practice and procedures of the Assembly, including proposals for the titles and remits of committees.
2. The report sets out the rationale for the proposal under Standing Order 16.3 to alter the title and remit of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs (CLA) Committee.

Background

3. At its meeting of 21 January 2020, Business Committee noted that the recent Commission on Justice in Wales had recommended that the Assembly should take a more proactive role in the scrutiny of the operation of the justice system and monitor and review progress on justice reform.

4. The Committee also noted that the Llywydd and the Chair of the CLA Committee had met on 11 December and agreed that capacity does not currently exist for a separate justice committee as envisaged by the report, but that the CLA Committee may be a suitable vehicle to undertake work in this area given its broad constitutional remit. They also agreed that there would be a need to provide clarity regarding the Committee's functions and responsibilities relating to justice, and that these matters should be considered by the Business Committee.

Decision

5. The Business Committee agreed to propose to the Assembly that the name of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee be changed to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee. – It also agreed to add a reference to justice in its remit, so that its altered remit will be:

To carry out the functions of the responsible committee set out in Standing Order 21 and to consider any other matter relating to legislation, justice and the constitution within or relating to the competence of the Assembly or the Welsh Ministers, including the quality of legislation.

6. Business Managers noted that functions in relation to justice that are within the competence of the Assembly and within the remits of other committees – such as services to support offenders, ex-offenders and to promote rehabilitation that relate to housing, education and training, economic development and local government – would remain the responsibilities of those committees.