

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Y Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip
Trefnydd and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Joel James MS
MS for South Wales Central

Joel.James@senedd.wales

16 July 2024

Dear Joel,

Thank you for your question about the postal vote issues that affected some residents in your region during the last general election. I share your concern about the delays and errors that prevented some electors from exercising their democratic right to vote by post. I also agree that it is essential to maintain public confidence in the integrity and security of the postal voting system.

As you may know, the administration of the UK General Election, including postal voting, is a reserved matter and their delivery is the responsibility of independent Acting Returning Officers, supported by Local Authorities' election teams. The Welsh Government has no direct role or influence over the conduct of reserved elections, nor the performance of electoral services providers. However, we are keen to work with the electoral community and suppliers to ensure that future elections in Wales run as smoothly and efficiently as possible, and that any problems or issues are addressed promptly and effectively. We will consider carefully the Electoral Commission's report on the running of this election as we prepare for the running of the next set of major devolved elections.

In relation to the specific incident that occurred in the Cardiff South and Penarth constituency, I understand that, having apologised to affected voters, Cardiff Council has launched an investigation to identify the cause of the error and the extent of its impact. I welcome the council's swift and proactive response to this matter and I hope that the investigation will provide full clarity and accountability.

In my response to your question on Tuesday 9 July I made reference to potential issues with Royal Mail deliveries. I have since been informed that this specific incident was due to an issue at the production stage, and that Royal Mail were not involved in the delays or distribution of these postal votes. I will be taking the appropriate steps to correct the record.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I hope this answers your question and reassures you that the Welsh Government is committed to supporting and promoting free, fair and accessible elections in Wales. If you have any further queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'J'.

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Y Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip
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