



Rt Hon Elin Jones MS
Llywydd

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Dear Elin

I am writing regarding the Welsh Conservative's motion to establish a Wales Covid-19 inquiry special purpose committee, which was tabled last week for debate on 30 November.

Repeated efforts were made last week to table a government amendment to reflect our own position, but successive texts were rejected by the Table Office. The advice of our own, very experienced, officials was that our proposed amendments were in order, and ought to have been accepted. While I understand that differences of interpretation are always possible, I am nevertheless disquieted by this outcome. This stems from a strong belief that the Senedd has been denied the opportunity to vote on a position which the government had wished to submit for democratic scrutiny.

Depending on the outcome of Wednesday's debate, we will seek to bring forward a motion and debate in government time to set out our position.

This is, in my view, a second-best option. It would have been preferable for the Senedd to have been able to take a view on this matter in a single debate – on Wednesday – in which all propositions could have been debated together.

I look forward to an opportunity to discuss how we can be confident that, in future, Government propositions can be placed in front of the Senedd for its determination.

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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.