

Date: 6 May 2020

Subject: **The Senedd: a Parliament for Wales**

From today, the National Assembly for Wales becomes Senedd Cymru or the Welsh Parliament. Elected Members will be known as 'Aelodau o'r Senedd' (AS) or 'Members of the Senedd' (MS).

Last year when we passed the Senedd and Elections (Wales) Act, today was set in law as the date for the change of our name. None of us would have predicted the current circumstances.

Responding to the Coronavirus crisis remains the priority of the Senedd and its Members.

Now, more than ever, our citizens expect a strong national parliament working for Wales: Members asking questions of the Government, scrutinising emergency powers and laws, and representing their communities to the best of their ability in the Senedd.

The role of our parliament is of far more significance than its name. But it is right that the name reflects the range of powers and responsibilities this parliament holds on behalf of the people of Wales. The Senedd today is a very different institution to the one established as the Assembly in 1999. Now with full law-making powers and the ability to vary taxes, the new name reflects the Senedd's constitutional status as a national parliament. Members agreed the associated changes to the **Standing Orders** for the Senedd in March. These take effect today.

We will continue to help people understand the powers of the Government and Senedd, how the Senedd works and how the laws we pass impact their lives.

The Senedd has adapted quickly to ensure that we continue to provide a platform for scrutiny and for people to be represented by their Members through virtual parliamentary sessions. Indeed, we were the first parliament in the UK and one of the first in the world to do so.

Now is not the time to implement the physical changes that will accompany the new name. In due course, when appropriate, we will replace the signs inside and outside our Senedd.

For now, in these most testing of times, it is serving the Senedd's purpose of holding the Welsh government to account, and making laws which best serve the people of Wales which remain our focus.

**Elin Jones MS**  
**Llywydd and Chair of the Senedd Commission**



**Senedd Cymru**  
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

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