



29 June 2010

Dear [       ]

### **Review of Standing Orders - Committees**

You will be aware that a review of standing orders is currently underway, in preparation for the fourth Assembly. The principles agreed for the review include that Standing Orders should:

- provide for sufficient and proper scrutiny of the Welsh Government and other matters relating to Wales;
- allow committees to initiate and influence business;
- provide the public with the opportunity to engage with the work of the Assembly; and
- be as flexible and comprehensible as possible.

I am writing to ask for your assistance, as a Committee Chair, in informing this review.

Current Assembly committees are defined in a range of ways:

- some are set out in discrete Standing Orders which define their remits and requirements;
- some have a discrete Standing Order and deliver functions/responsibilities described elsewhere in Standing Orders;
- some are not listed in Standing Orders but have been established to deliver particular functions which are set out to varying extents in Standing Orders; and
- some committees have been established by agreement of the Assembly to deliver a role which is not set out as a requirement of Standing Orders.

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The functions relating to the committee you Chair are attached as an Annex to this letter.

Business Committee has agreed that, looking forward, Standing Orders should give future Assemblies flexibility in both the design of committee structures and in the ways committees are able to undertake their responsibilities. They should also have regard to balance in fulfilling the Assembly's statutory and constitutional functions.

From your experience as a Committee Chair, the Business Committee would appreciate your views on the following questions:

1. Do you feel that the activities of your committee have been limited in any way by Standing Orders?
2. Have the functions/responsibilities assigned to the committee been sufficiently flexible to allow Members to do the things they felt needed to be done?
3. Are there additional functions that you would want to be able to undertake as a committee? For example scrutiny of particular role holders in Wales, such as commissioners, ombudsmen, watchdogs or UK-wide bodies with responsibilities affecting Wales.
4. Do you think greater emphasis should be given to particular functions/responsibilities? For example post legislative scrutiny, scrutiny of UK or EU Bills/legislation.

If you have views on these issues, I would be grateful if you will respond by 16 July, the same date as the broader consultation on the Review of Standing Orders will end.

Yours sincerely



**Sulafa Halstead**

Pennaeth Pwyllgorau'r Cynulliad  
Head of Assembly Committees

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