

Y Gwir Anrh/Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AC/AM
Prif Weinidog Cymru/First Minister for Wales



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Party Leaders
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

23rd November 2006

Amwythlen

I am writing in response to your letters regarding Cabinet appointments.

We are agreed that this is no longer a matter for the standing orders. I am happy to agree in principle that announcements on Cabinet and other Ministerial appointments would be made by the First Minister to the Assembly. However it is worth considering the process that would have to be followed. Interviews would have to be held with up to twelve prospective Ministers inclusive of junior Ministers prior to their appointment. Consequently the public will need to be informed followed by a statement to the Assembly once the appointments have been made. In the case of appointments made during an Assembly recess, or on days when the Assembly was not sitting, a statement to that effect could not be made until the next available meeting of the Assembly.

On that basis I would envisage that announcements on appointments to the Cabinet would be made in line with the current practice followed by myself and my predecessor.

I will place a copy of this letter and the previous correspondence in the Assembly Library.

Yn ddwyfyn
Rhodri

IEUAN WYN JONES AC/AM

Aelod Cynulliad Plaid Cymru Assembly Member
Ynys Môn

Eich cyf/Your ref:
Ein cyf/Our ref: RMW/ARW/RM/001



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

**Swyddfa Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid/ Office of the Leader of the Opposition
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Rhodri Morgan AC
Prif Weinidog Cymru
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1NA

*HRM OR/LC/MS/JH
M
25/10/06*

24 Hydref 2006

Annwyl Rhodri,

Thank you for your letter of the 17th of October regarding the announcement of Cabinet appointments after 2007.

Whilst I fully understand that the legal position will be different post May 2007, I remain of the opinion that the First Minister should report any appointments to or changes in Cabinet to the Assembly.

It would be my intention if appointed as First Minister to make an announcement to Plenary of Cabinet appointments / changes.

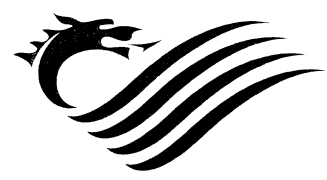
I am happy for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library.

Yn gywir,

**Ieuan Wyn Jones AC
Arweinydd Plaid Cymru Leader**

cc Nick Bourne AM
Mike German AM

1) R/HR
2) David Rail



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

Michael German OBE AC/AM
Arweinydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol
Leader, Welsh Liberal Democrats
Bae Caerdydd/Cardiff Bay
029 2089 8741

DR/HR

Doesn't understand my
letter

h
25/10/06

19 October, 2006

Rhodri Morgan AM
First Minister
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Rhodri,

Thank you for your letter of October 17 regarding announcement of cabinet changes to the Assembly.

As in so many areas, it is a great pity that the new Government of Wales Act does not follow its Scottish counterpart where such announcements require the approval, not just the informing, of Parliament.

However, we are where we are and I am confident that a suitable concordat can be agreed.

My strong preference is that announcements to plenary should be done by the First Minister, rather than the Presiding Officer. The First Minister makes these appointments and he/she should be seen to be accountable and responsible for them. This has been done by oral statement in our brief history, and I believe this should continue.

For my part, if appointed First Minister, I would expect to announce any and all such appointments to plenary by oral statement at the earliest opportunity.

Michael German OBE AM/AC
Leader, Welsh Liberal Democrats in the National Assembly

cfi
Ieuan Wyn Jones AM
Nick Bourne AM

18 9 OCT 2006
5212

1) P. J. H. H.
2) David Rich



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

Nicholas Bourne AM

Welsh Conservative Member for Mid & West Wales

Handwritten signature: JH/LC to AM

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1NA

Eich cyf /Your ref:
Ein cyf /Our ref: NB/SMM

Ffôn/Tel: 029 2089 8351
Ffacs/Fax: 029 2089 8350
Nicholas.Bourne@Wales.gov.uk

Wednesday 18 October 2006

Rhodri Morgan AM
First Minister
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA

Handwritten signature: Dear Rhodri,

Thank you for your letter of 17 October 2006 regarding Cabinet appointments.

I had certainly anticipated that the announcements would be made by the First Minister to Plenary. I think it is important that the announcement is made and I do not think a letter to the Presiding Officer covers the concerns that I would have. It may be that a compromise position would be that the Presiding Officer announces the appointments to the Assembly, but we would then need a provision to that effect in Standing Orders.

My understanding certainly, and I leave it to others to declare their position, is that I would think it has to be announced formally to the Assembly, either by the First Minister (my preferred option) or by the Presiding Officer.

I can certainly confirm that if I were appointed as First Minister I would expect to announce Cabinet appointments to Plenary.

Handwritten signature: Yours ever

NICHOLAS BOURNE AM
Leader of the Welsh Conservatives in the National Assembly

cfi Ieuan Wyn Jones AM
Michael German AM



Ieuan Wyn Jones AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Ammwyg Ieuan

17 October 2006

At our meeting last Tuesday evening we discussed the possibility of establishing a procedure by which the First Minister would ensure the Assembly was kept informed of Cabinet appointments and the responsibilities allocated to each portfolio.

Under the Government of Wales Act 2006 the appointment of ministers will be a matter for the First Minister, with the approval of Her Majesty. Consequently there will be no legal role for the Assembly in the appointment of ministers and it would therefore be inappropriate to retain provision in the standing orders of the Assembly requiring the First Minister to inform the Assembly of such appointments.

However I do recognise there is a need for the Assembly to be provided with this information to ensure it is able to carry out its role of scrutinising the Assembly Government. This information could be provided in a letter from the First Minister to the Presiding Officer informing him of his Cabinet appointments and outlining the responsibilities allocated to each portfolio. The First Minister would also write to the Presiding Officer informing him of any subsequent changes to those appointments.

The most appropriate way of establishing such a procedure would be for us, as party leaders, to undertake to follow these arrangements if appointed as First Minister. Whilst this would not be legally binding in the same way as an Act of Parliament, there is no reason why this could not become an established convention for the relationship between the Assembly and the Assembly Government in the future.

For my part I can give an assurance that, if appointed as First Minister next year, I will ensure the Assembly is kept informed of Cabinet appointments in the way I have outlined above. In the light of your comments at the meeting I am assuming you would be content to indicate that you would do likewise.

On receipt of your responses I will place them and my letter in the Assembly Library.

Yn ddifffuant
Rhodri

Y Gwir Anrh/Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AC/AM
Prif Weinidog Cymru/First Minister for Wales



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Nick Bourne AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

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Yours
Rhodri

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