

Parliamentary business in the Seventh Senedd

May 2025



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Parliamentary business in the Seventh Senedd

May 2025

One of the Seventh Senedd's first tasks will be to consider how to organise its parliamentary business.

This report provides an appraisal of the strengths and weaknesses of three possible approaches that the Seventh Senedd could consider, and that those preparing for the Seventh Senedd could utilise when planning.

Whilst this report focuses on formal structures for organising parliamentary business, the Future Senedd Committee also identified a need to pay attention to the parliamentary culture of the Seventh Senedd.



About the Committee

The Committee was established on 16 October 2024. Its remit can be found at:
www.senedd.wales/SeneddFuture

Current Committee membership:



**Committee Chair:
David Rees MS**
Welsh Labour



Alun Davies MS
Welsh Labour



Paul Davies MS
Welsh Conservatives



Heledd Fychan MS
Plaid Cymru



Julie James MS
Welsh Labour

The following Member attended as a substitute during this inquiry:



James Evans MS
Welsh Conservatives

The following Member was also a member of the Committee during this inquiry:



Darren Millar MS
Welsh Conservatives

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Chair's foreword

Whilst the formal organisation of parliamentary business is important, the way in which Members do parliamentary business within and around formal structures is the more important consideration when preparing for the Seventh Senedd, particularly given the scale of the anticipated change in membership.

The above sentence may seem a strange one to begin a report on the organisation of parliamentary business, but it gets to the heart of the discussions the Future Senedd Committee has been engaged in.

Our message is this: in preparing for the Seventh Senedd, attention needs to be paid to the formal structure of business, but more attention needs to be paid to the way in which Members deliver their parliamentary roles.

Why? Because we must ensure that:

- the positive norms of behaviour that have developed within our parliament are not lost in the transition to a new and larger Senedd; and
- the unique opportunity to set an environment within which peer-driven parliamentary excellence is fostered is not missed.

We want a Seventh Senedd that represents all the people of Wales.

In organising parliamentary business in the Seventh Senedd, every effort should be made to make finish times and the pattern of business as predictable as possible, as the uncertainty that currently exists around plenary finish times in particular creates a barrier for some Members, or prospective Members, due to its impact on their ability to fulfil caring, or other, responsibilities.

We believe this is achievable with a little creativity, and the benefits could be significant.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1. We recommend that the Seventh Senedd’s Business Committee considers the principles we have agreed, when it comes to determining the organisation of parliamentary business. Page 20

Recommendation 2. To provide the Seventh Senedd with the flexibility to organise business in the way it determines to be best, we recommend that the Business Committee considers whether Standing Order 12.6 (i) (relating to when plenary meetings should be held normally) should be deleted, before the end of the Sixth Senedd..... Page 20

Recommendation 3. We recommend that the Business Committee reviews the balance of time afforded to spokespeople and backbenchers, and the case for placing a time constraint on responses to questions and statements, with a view to ensuring backbenchers in the Seventh Senedd have a fair opportunity to contribute during plenary meetings.....Page 24

Recommendation 4. We recommend that the Seventh Senedd’s Business Committee considers how it might maximise the flexibility available to committees, when it comes to the scheduling of meetings..... Page 28

Recommendation 5. We recommend that the Chairs’ Forum, in consultation with the Business Committee and the Senedd Commission, considers how best to establish arrangements to understand the effect the increase in the size of the Senedd has on the time Members spend preparing for committee work, and whether this leads to better scrutiny outcomes. Page 30

Recommendation 6. We recommend that the Chairs’ Forum, in consultation with the Business Committee, revisits recommendation 1.1 of Professor Stirbu’s report to determine whether the Seventh Senedd’s Business Committee would benefit from work to:

- explore whether there is evidence to demonstrate a difference in outcomes delivered by a committee system that predominantly utilises dual-function policy and legislation committees (e.g. Scottish Parliament, the Senedd, and some European legislatures) compared to a system that utilises separate policy scrutiny committees and ad hoc public Bill committees (e.g. House of Commons, Commonwealth legislatures); and/or

- explore whether there is evidence to demonstrate a difference in outcomes from a committee system linked to the Government's organisation of Ministerial responsibilities (e.g. Scottish Parliament, House of Commons), compared to a committee system that is not (e.g. the Senedd). Page 32

Recommendation 7. We recommend that the Chairs' Forum, in consultation with the Business Committee and the Senedd Commission, considers commissioning work to capture and communicate the culture of Senedd committees in the Sixth Senedd, with a view to identifying the informal norms and practices that are valued by Members, and those that are not, to assist in the preservation of positive norms and practices between Seneddau, and inform induction processes.Page 34

Recommendation 8. We recommend that the Senedd Commission, when designing its induction programme for new Members, ensures due consideration is given to the sequencing of information that is provided, so that issues such as establishing an office and understanding plenary are prioritised.....Page 37

Recommendation 9. We recommend that the Senedd Commission makes arrangements, before the start of the Seventh Senedd, to provide Members with an alternative to meeting the upfront costs of significant expenses from their personal finances.Page 37

Recommendation 10. We recommend that the Seventh Senedd, when designing the business timetable, ensures that the start and finish times of business days are as predictable as possible, as this certainty is needed for Members to put in place caring arrangements, arrangements that will differ considerably depending on each Member's circumstances and the proximity of their primary address to the Senedd.....Page 37

Recommendation 11. When considering Recommendation 1, we recommend that the Business Committee considers whether Standing Order 11.10 (relating to the times within which business should be timetabled normally) should be amended before the end of the Sixth Senedd.....Page 37

Recommendation 12. The guidance on remote participation should be reviewed periodically to ensure there is an appropriate balance between in-person and remote participation across the Senedd..... Page 38

1. Introduction

The Future Senedd Committee was established on a task and finish basis, with just over six-months within which to complete its work

Background

1. The Future Senedd Committee (“the Committee”) was established on 16 October 2024, with a remit to consider and report by 9 May 2025 on:
 - a. the organisation of business in the Seventh Senedd, with the objective of identifying options that increase the effectiveness of its scrutiny activity, the efficiency of its day-to-day delivery of business, and the accessibility of parliamentary business to Members;
 - b. solutions to barriers (real and perceived) which may, or have the potential to, impede the Senedd’s ability to represent people of all backgrounds, life experiences, preferences and beliefs, including consideration of the draft and final diversity and inclusion guidance for political parties; and
 - c. the thresholds currently set in Standing Orders for the number of Members required for various purposes, including (but not restricted to) the formation of political groups, removal of office holders, and quorum.
2. We reported on the third aspect of our remit on 28 February 2025. This second report addresses the first two points of our remit.

Our approach

3. We were set a challenging remit by the Senedd, with only a limited time within which to report. Allowing for recess periods and practical constraints, we have had around 15 weeks within which to complete our work.
4. To maximise what we could achieve during the time available, we set ourselves the following objectives:
 - to support the Sixth Senedd in its planning for the Seventh Senedd, and provide a basis for advice to the Seventh Senedd on the organisation of

its business, through the provision of appraised high-level options for the organisation of the Senedd's parliamentary business; and

- to ensure the options developed in response to point (a) of the [Committee's] remit are developed in a way that, where possible, remove barriers to Members from all backgrounds participating fully in the Senedd's parliamentary business.

Inputs to our work

5. We invited all current and past Members of the Senedd to contribute to our work, and we also extended this invitation to members of the Welsh Youth Parliament.

6. Whilst limited individual responses were received, we, the members of the Committee, have represented the views of our political groups or the Welsh Government in the case of the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery in our deliberations. Consequently, our work is founded on the views of many more Members of the Senedd than those that responded individually to our call for written submissions.

7. On 12 December 2024, we held a roundtable discussion with three former Members of the Senedd to discuss the barriers that they experienced to becoming a Member of the Senedd, and delivering their role as a Member of the Senedd. This was, at times, a hard hitting session, with some deeply personal experiences shared with us.

8. To preserve the confidentiality that enabled such a candid sharing of experiences, we do not provide detailed commentary or direct reference to anything that was said at that meeting in this report.

9. We greatly appreciate the contribution of these former Members and their contributions have influenced this work (see section 4 below), in addition to our wider parliamentary roles as we prepare for the Seventh Senedd, and discussions we have had within our own political parties about addressing barriers to becoming a Member of the Senedd.

10. Alongside these inputs, we have benefited from the expertise of the Senedd Commission's most senior proceduralists and lawyers, and the integrated team that supports our work has undertaken research covering international comparators, and relevant existing literature. Annex 1 provides a selected bibliography of sources that have featured in our work.

11. On 19 March 2025, we held a workshop to assess three possible options for the organisation of the Seventh Senedd, based on our previous work and the organisation of business in other legislatures. The purpose of this exercise was not to arrive at a preferred option, but to use the options presented to draw out strengths and weaknesses of the different approaches contained within the options. All with a view to helping inform preparations for the Seventh Senedd and, ultimately, the decisions only the Seventh Senedd can take about the organisation of its business.

12. The output from this exercise forms the basis for the second section of this report.

2. Options for organising business

We have assessed the strengths and weaknesses of three possible options for organising parliamentary business in the Seventh Senedd

Introduction

13. Our aim in this section of our report is to present strengths and weaknesses of three possible options for organising the Seventh Senedd’s business.

14. These are high-level options, set at the level of timetabling types of parliamentary business activity i.e. plenary, committees, and groups.

15. The aim is not to identify a preferred option from the three, but rather to use these options as prompts to draw out strengths and weaknesses of different approaches.

16. The options are not intended to be definitive. Many more permutations are possible and it will be for the Seventh Senedd to decide on the best way to organise its business.

17. The three options we have assessed are:

- Option 1: Status quo;
- Option 2: An additional plenary session each week; and
- Option 3: Multi-week.

How the options are set-out

18. For each option, there is:

- a brief introduction to the option;
- a timetable graphic; and
- the “strengths and weaknesses” we identified.

How we assessed the options

19. Our starting point was to consider what Members of the Senedd might seek to achieve through the organisation of the Senedd’s parliamentary business, and the extent to which the options we assessed could deliver such objectives.

20. The plurality of views held within a parliament makes understanding this challenging. Members play different roles within a parliament, perhaps switching from championing a constituency issue during one item in plenary, to scrutinising government in the next.

21. Accepting this fluidity of role and purpose, it is possible to coalesce around Members’ shared ambition to achieve the best possible outcomes for the people of Wales.

22. The Senedd Commission describes the purpose of the Welsh Parliament as:

- representing the interests of Wales and its people;
- making laws for Wales;
- agreeing Welsh taxes; and
- holding the Welsh Government to account.

23. As we considered the strengths and weakness of each option, we returned to the question of purpose and asked ourselves whether an option (or aspects of an option):

- enabled or restricted effective scrutiny;
- affected decision-making processes (including passing legislation);
- enabled or restricted Members’ ability to represent their constituents; and/or
- created or removed barriers to participation.

Option 1: “Status Quo”

Introduction

24. This option replicates the current timetable for Senedd business.

25. It was the basis for the minimal change scenario developed for the Regulatory Impact Assessment that accompanied the Welsh Government’s Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill.¹

26. This model does not include concurrent meetings of plenary and committees, though this is possible currently with the permission of the Business Committee. It has happened very infrequently, though it is not uncommon for committees to be granted permission to e.g. travel for informal external engagements.

27. This is a repeating weekly timetable option.

Timetable graphic

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
COMMITTEES	COMMITTEES	COMMITTEES	COMMITTEES	NO SENEDD BUSINESS
	GROUPS			
	PLENARY	PLENARY		

Strengths and weaknesses

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Familiar pattern of business.▪ Business Committee is able to confirm the committee system covers all aspects of the devolution settlement.▪ Preservation of Fridays for constituency work.▪ Does not require changes to Standing Orders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Backbench members will have fewer opportunities to contribute to plenary sessions compared to other options in a larger Senedd.▪ Length of plenary sessions are unpredictable, and could finish later in the Seventh Senedd under this option (preserving a barrier to participation for those with caring or other responsibilities).

¹ Welsh Government, Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill Explanatory Memorandum, April 2024

Strengths	Weaknesses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can create constraints for committees meeting on a Wednesday morning. Will not provide enough plenary time given the increase in membership.

Option 2: An additional plenary session each week

Introduction

28. This option adds an additional plenary session to the status quo, with the option for committee meetings and plenary meetings to be held concurrently.

29. The concurrent plenary and committee meetings are only shown on a Thursday for the purposes of this model, but the strengths and weaknesses identified in relation to concurrent meetings could be applicable to other days too.

30. An additional plenary session per week was included in the greater change scenario developed for the Regulatory Impact Assessment that accompanied the Welsh Government's Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill.²

31. This is a repeating weekly timetable option.

Timetable graphic

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
COMMITTEES	COMMITTEES	COMMITTEES	PLENARY AND COMMITTEES	NO SENEDD BUSINESS
	GROUPS			
	PLENARY	PLENARY		

² Welsh Government, Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill Explanatory Memorandum, April 2024

Strengths and weaknesses

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides more time for plenary business which could be used to address the likely reduction in opportunities for backbench members to contribute, for more Government business to be disposed of in a week, and/or more opportunities for backbench business. ▪ Could be operated flexibly e.g. additional plenary session may not be needed each week, and/or concurrent plenary and committee sessions. ▪ It would provide a regular rhythm of business which would assist both Members and the government to plan and which would be easier for the public to understand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May reduce the use of Thursdays by committees for external engagement activity (due to the need to contribute to plenary business). ▪ Disruption to the work of committees if Members are required to vote or contribute in the Siambr concurrently (arguably there could be more Members wishing to be present if a local issue is being debated, due to six-member constituencies). ▪ The Government will have to ensure Ministerial availability is flexible (for committee session or plenary items) ▪ Reliance on pairing could be problematic, should committees wish to meet beyond Cardiff Bay – especially for smaller groups and/or Members not in a group. ▪ Three days of plenary a week, every week, could create further barriers to participation for Members with caring or other responsibilities e.g. unpredictable finish times, and an expectation to travel to Cardiff Bay (continuation of hybrid working arrangements could address this in part).

Option 3: Multi-week

Introduction

32. This is the more radical option proposed for consideration and is based on the approach taken in some European legislatures.

33. It was not assessed in the context of the Regulatory Impact Assessment that accompanied the Welsh Government's Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill.

34. The option provided is an example of one possible multi-week option, designed to have a focused plenary week, a mixed week, and two committee-focused weeks.

35. Group time has been protected in this model. It is possible, with multi-party politics as a consequence of a more proportional electoral system, that groups might wish to consider more time for organising themselves, and developing their policy positions with regards to plenary and committee work.

Week 1: Plenary week

36. This is a week focused on plenary work, with the Senedd able to meet on three consecutive days. Whilst not prescriptive in terms of meeting times, there could be two sessions a day on Wednesdays and Thursdays e.g. 10.00 -13.00 followed by 14.00 – 17.00 (alongside a Tuesday afternoon slot).

37. Committees that need to meet during this week could do so on a Monday or in the short Tuesday morning meeting slot (09.00 – 11.00), as is the case currently. A committee with responsibility for considering statutory instruments, might need to meet weekly for example.

38. The normal Political Group meeting slot is preserved on a Tuesday morning.

Week 2: Mixed week

39. This week is mostly dedicated to committee work, but maintains a Tuesday afternoon plenary slot for weekly First Minister's Questions and Ministerial questions, as a minimum.

40. Wednesday is also allocated as a reserve day for plenary business, should it be needed, with plenary to meet concurrently with committees on this day. This follows week 1 as it could provide some capacity to complete business that was

unavoidably delayed by a week, or to help provide predictable finish times during week 1.

Weeks 3 and 4: Committee weeks

- 41.** These weeks are dedicated to committee work, but maintain a Tuesday afternoon plenary slot. This plenary slot could be used for FMQs and Ministerial questions as a minimum, but other business could be taken as needed.
- 42.** A four-week cycle was assessed as this was required to ensure at least the same amount of plenary and committee time could be provided across a four-week period, compared to four-weeks of the status quo option.

Variations

- 43.** There are examples of dedicated financial scrutiny weeks being timetabled in Commonwealth parliaments, including some of the Australian state legislatures, and the New Zealand Parliament.
- 44.** One of the committee weeks under this model could be dedicated periodically to a particular cross-cutting scrutiny task e.g. budget scrutiny.
- 45.** There are also examples of reserve days or weeks being incorporated into timetables to provide additional capacity, if needed.

Timetable graphic

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	COMMITTEES	COMMITTEES	PLENARY	PLENARY	NO SENEDD BUSINESS
		GROUPS			
		PLENARY			

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	COMMITTEES	COMMITTEES	PLENARY (RESERVE) AND COMMITTEES	COMMITTEES	NO SENEDD BUSINESS
		GROUPS			
		PLENARY			

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	COMMITTEES	COMMITTEES	COMMITTEES	COMMITTEES	NO SENEDD BUSINESS
		GROUPS			
		PLENARY			

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4	COMMITTEES	COMMITTEES	COMMITTEES	COMMITTEES	NO SENEDD BUSINESS
		GROUPS			
		PLENARY			

Strengths and weaknesses

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a dedicated focus to different types of business in different weeks, which might enable greater depth of preparation for different activities. Focusing on types of business could create a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A four-week cycle is more complicated than a weekly pattern, which could make working arrangements for Members more difficult. Possibly more difficult for stakeholders and the public to follow.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>concentration of external attention on the Senedd during particular weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flexibility for committees to meet with a frequency and duration that meets their needs, and to undertake business away from the Senedd estate with greater ease. ▪ Can provide more plenary time over a four-week period compared to the status quo. ▪ May offer an opportunity to balance expectations in terms of in person and virtual participation. ▪ Could enable lengthier items of business to be completed within a shorter timeframe (i.e. by meeting more than once in a week or carrying business over to a second day etc. rather than waiting a week). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Only a limited number of committees could meet in week 1. ▪ Requires careful scheduling of business to ensure weeks where there is less plenary or committee business do not delay decision-making. ▪ A four-week cycle may be problematic due to interaction with recess periods (a shorter cycle might be better). ▪ Insufficient time in weeks 2-4 for topical business in plenary (a short, second plenary session per week could address this). ▪ Possible negative perception if the Senedd were to change the pattern of weekly plenary meetings. ▪ It is unlikely to provide as much plenary time over a four-week period compared to option 2. This may lessen time available for government and non-government business.

Further conclusions from our assessment of the options

46. As described at the start of this section, our intention was not to identify a preferred option from the three we assessed but to use these options as means of identifying the strengths and weaknesses of different aspects of each.

Conclusion 1. Based on our experience of operating the status quo model, we believe additional plenary time will be needed in a larger Senedd. This factor, and the other weaknesses of the status quo option effectively rules it out as a model for organising business in the Seventh Senedd.

47. We were attracted to the concept of a multi-week option, but the option presented would need adjustment to address the weaknesses identified. For

example, a shorter cycle (of two or three weeks) would be a better fit for the way in which sitting periods fall, and more than one plenary session might be needed every week (even if the second session was a short one). It was also felt that any new approach to parliamentary business should seek to realise some of the potential benefits identified in respect of Option 2, particularly the desirability for more plenary time overall in any given cycle compared to Option 1, to enable the effective passage of government business and provide the opportunity for more effective scrutiny.

Conclusion 2. Our consideration of the three options has led us to agree a set of principles that we believe the Seventh Senedd’s Business Committee should take into account when determining the organisation of parliamentary business.

Principles

- Finish times for plenary and committee meetings should be as predictable as possible.
- Plenary must meet every week.
- There must be sufficient time in Plenary for effective scrutiny, holding the government to account, to enable the efficient delivery of government business, and consideration of Member Bills.
- There must be a degree of flexibility in scheduling different types of plenary business on different days.
- Committees must be provided with sufficient time and have the flexibility to meet beyond the Senedd’s Cardiff Bay estate.

Recommendation 1. We recommend that the Seventh Senedd’s Business Committee considers the principles we have agreed, when it comes to determining the organisation of parliamentary business.

48. Standing Order 12.6 (i) states that “*Plenary meetings must usually be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and start at 1.30pm*”.³

Recommendation 2. To provide the Seventh Senedd with the flexibility to organise business in the way it determines to be best, we recommend that the Business Committee considers whether Standing Order 12.6 (i) (relating to when

³ Senedd Cymru, Standing Orders, January 2025

plenary meetings should be held normally) should be deleted, before the end of the Sixth Senedd.

3. Issues related to the organisation of business

Alongside our assessment of options for organising parliamentary business, a range of related issues emerged. In our deliberations, it was clear that the way in which parliamentary business is conducted is as important a factor to consider as formal structures for organising business, and the Seventh Senedd presents an opportunity to strengthen this.

Parliamentary culture

49. Frequently, during the course of our work, we have approached what appeared to be a structural or procedural issue about the organisation of business but, through deliberation, arrived at the view that the issue had more to do with how Members perform an aspect of business than any structural or procedural consideration.

50. In general terms, we observed the need to capture positive parliamentary behaviours that have developed in the Senedd, with a view to ensuring they are recognised and embedded in the support that is provided to Members in the Seventh Senedd. This is not just the support that is provided by the Senedd Commission or political parties, but also the peer to peer support that Members can provide to one another in a reciprocal way – interactions that will have the net effect of creating the next Senedd’s parliamentary culture.

51. The Seventh Senedd can be a learning parliament, where its Members develop and strengthen the way in which business is conducted through a reciprocal exchange of knowledge and experience. Members will want to represent their constituents, and their political positions, but they can also create an environment within which they place value on being a good legislator, scrutineer, policy specialist, debater and so forth. This value will come from Members setting expectations for each other, in a reciprocal way, and from understanding the personal achievement good parliamentary performance can accrue.

52. The increase in the number of Members of the Senedd provides a unique opportunity to build on the positive aspects that have developed since the Senedd was established to foster such an environment, an environment that will encourage reinvestment of additional Member capacity in strengthening the work of the Senedd and, ultimately, lead to better outcomes for the people of Wales.

Plenary

53. A range of specific issues relating to plenary business were discussed in the course of our work. They are described under the headings below.

Conclusion 3. In general, we believe that the opportunities for backbench Members of the Senedd to contribute to Senedd business in the Seventh Senedd should be maximised, whilst accepting that a larger Senedd will pose a challenge in terms of the opportunities available per Member compared to now.

The format of oral questions, and oral statements

54. We explored ways in which the format of these plenary items could be improved, but we did not reach conclusions on any particular changes to make.

55. Some members suggested placing a time limit on Ministerial responses to questions, to provide more time for supplementary questions, or even introducing an ability to ask further supplementary questions.

56. Some felt that there was an imbalance in terms of the five-minutes provided for spokespeople and the minute provided for backbenchers during statements, whilst other members supported a continuation of this time allocation.

57. The Welsh Government supports “[...] *a greater opportunity for speakers (other than the Minister and opposition spokespersons) to ask questions in response to an oral statement*”.⁴

58. The Welsh Government also supports a reduction in the number of oral questions selected for answer and Business Committee being allowed to determine the frequency by which Ministers must answer questions.

⁴ Annex A to the letter from the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery to the Chair of the Future Senedd Committee, 7 February 2025

59. We observed that Ministers could be more succinct at times, when answering oral questions in Plenary, which might enable more questions to be reached in a session.

60. It was suggested that Members asking questions about a statement might wish to consider the number of questions they ask within their allotted time, and whether it is possible for the Member delivering the statement to answer the volume of questions they have been asked within their respective time allocation.⁵

Conclusion 4. We discussed the expectation that Members who are contributing to an item of plenary business are to be present, and fully engaged in the debate, throughout the item. This is an expectation that should be carried into the Seventh Senedd.

Conclusion 5. Whilst procedural innovations, or changes to guidance, can be considered in terms of plenary business, and could even be trialled in the Sixth Senedd, there is more that individual Members could do to make these items more effective, in terms of how questions are asked, how answers are given, and the effective use of interventions (during debates).

Recommendation 3. We recommend that the Business Committee reviews the balance of time afforded to spokespeople and backbenchers, and the case for placing a time constraint on responses to questions and statements, with a view to ensuring backbenchers in the Seventh Senedd have a fair opportunity to contribute during plenary meetings.

Scheduling Government business

61. The Welsh Government called for “[...] *greater flexibility to propose using a higher proportion of Plenary time in a particular week to facilitate [Government] business*” on the basis that the Government does not have discretion over allocating time to significant aspects of what is categorised as “Government business” i.e. First Minister’s Questions and Ministerial Oral Questions.⁶

62. Changes to the admissibility rules for Written Questions were also suggested by the Welsh Government.

⁵ The “Member delivering the statement” is usually a Minister, but can be another category of Member. See the Senedd’s Standing Order 12.50.

⁶ Annex A to the letter from the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery to the Chair of the Future Senedd Committee, 7 February 2025

Conclusion 6. We note the Welsh Government's view on the discretion it has to schedule business, the evidence it submitted relating to the number of oral questions in 2024 which were not answered, and its view on possible changes to the admissibility rules for Written Questions.

Committees

Introduction

63. Most of the factors that determine a committee system are not known until after an election. This is because the political balance of a new Senedd, decisions about the party (or parties) that form a government, and outcomes of wider political negotiations around the allocation of other offices (often linked to negotiations around committee Chairs and places on committees) cannot be known until then.

64. At this point in time, we decided to assist the current Senedd with its planning, and the incoming Seventh Senedd Business Committee when it comes to consider decisions on the establishment of committees, by:

- providing appraised high-level options for the overall organisation of the Senedd's parliamentary business that include time allocations for committee business (covered in Section 2 of this report); and
- identifying gaps in knowledge about the effectiveness of committees that could be filled before the Seventh Senedd to help inform decision-making.

65. The Chairs' Forum will be reviewing the committee system, with a view to informing the Seventh Senedd's decision-making. The Chairs' Forum also has ownership of the recommendations made by Professor Diana Stirbu in her report on committee effectiveness.⁷

66. Consequently, we have only sought to highlight some issues relating to committee effectiveness that have arisen in our deliberations, leaving wider and deeper consideration to the Chairs' Forum.

⁷ Stirbu, Diana, *Power, influence, and impact of Senedd Committees: Developing a framework for measuring committees' effectiveness*, London Metropolitan University and Senedd Cymru, 2021

Time for committee work

67. To develop the options for the organisation of parliamentary business that we appraised, consideration needed to be given to the time allocated for committee business.

68. Whilst many aspects of a future committee system cannot be discerned, one certainty is that the collective scrutiny task for committees remains broadly the same as it is now i.e. the Senedd's legislative competence, and the Welsh Government's executive competence and responsibilities, are not expected to change significantly prior to the next Senedd.

69. Hypothetically, the Welsh Government might choose to introduce more legislation in the Seventh Senedd, which would increase the pressure on a committee system, but the breadth of the possible areas within which that legislation might fall remains the same.

70. The planning assumptions adopted by the Senedd Commission and the Business Committee to inform the development of the Welsh Government's Regulatory Impact Assessment to accompany the Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill included an assumption that there would be an increase in the number of committees: an increase of one committee under the lesser change scenario and an increase of three under the greater change scenario.⁸

71. On the face of it, these seem like modest increases given the 60% increase in the size of the Senedd.

72. The reason for only modest increases in the number of committees being assumed is that under the modelling used at that time (late 2021), any further increase in the number of committees would increase the likelihood of a significant number of members having to sit on more than one committee.⁹

73. The vote share in Wales at the UK General Election in 2024, and subsequent polling to discern voting intentions at the 2026 Senedd Election, have started to suggest the possibility of different election outcome scenarios. This appears to reinforce the assumption that only modest increases to the number of committees will be possible in the Seventh Senedd without placing significant demands on committee members drawn from political groups in government.

⁸ Welsh Government, Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill Explanatory Memorandum, April 2024

⁹ Senedd Cymru Finance Committee, RoP 11 October 2023, c.29

74. This is because political groups in government will likely need to fill a high number of committee places with comparatively few members eligible to fill those places (following appointments to government roles). The increase in the number of Welsh Ministers in the Seventh Senedd places further pressure on the capacity of political groups in government, when it comes to filling committee places.

75. If it is accepted that only a small increase in the overall number of committees is probable for these reasons, then it is likely that these committees could be accommodated within a committee timetable that is similar to the one currently in operation. The options we appraised, in section 2 of this report, all provided a similar time allocation for committees (albeit some of this time was shared with plenary under certain options).

Conclusion 7. These considerations have led us to conclude that, if the Seventh Senedd wishes to ensure the increase in the size of the Senedd provides the anticipated increase in individual Member capacity to engage with committee work, it appears probable that the Seventh Senedd will have limited flexibility to expand the number or size of committees, though this will depend on the election outcome (political balance, size of groups, number of groups/Members in government etc.).

Concurrent meetings of plenary and committees

76. The strengths and weaknesses of scheduling plenary and committee meetings concurrently are explored in our assessment of “Option 2” in section 2 of this report.

77. Whilst there are many variables that can affect the demand on political groups in terms of the number of members available to sit on committees, some election outcome scenarios suggest that servicing committees and plenary concurrently might be challenging for political groups in government – depending on the level of tolerance there is for numbers in the Chamber, and/or committee absenteeism.

78. The Welsh Government supports committees being able to meet concurrently with plenary, “[...] *with obvious exceptions related to key items of*

business (e.g. FMQs, legislation proceedings, voting time, and other high-profile items of business)".¹⁰

Conclusion 8. We support preserving the procedural flexibility that currently exists for committees to meet concurrently with plenary, and that holding concurrent plenary and committee meetings might be a necessary trade-off if more plenary business is to be accommodated in the Seventh Senedd. Careful consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of such an approach (as identified earlier in this report) will be needed before any decision is taken by the Seventh Senedd.

Recommendation 4. We recommend that the Seventh Senedd's Business Committee considers how it might maximise the flexibility available to committees, when it comes to the scheduling of meetings.

Understanding committee effectiveness

79. Understanding the impact parliamentary committees have is difficult.

80. Studies in the United Kingdom over the past 15-years or so, predominantly with a House of Commons focus, have sought to advance understanding of the influence parliamentary committees can have and the characteristics of effective scrutiny.¹¹

81. Ethnographic approaches to the study of parliaments have provided insights into how elected members can take different roles in their approach to their work and that different actors may hold different understandings of central concepts such as scrutiny.¹²

82. To progress understanding in a Senedd context, the Fifth Senedd commissioned Professor Diana Stirbu to consider the conditions for effective scrutiny and a means for evaluating committee effectiveness.¹³

¹⁰ Annex A to the letter from the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery to the Chair of the Future Senedd Committee, 7 February 2025

¹¹ Two examples are: Russell, Meg and Benton, Meghan, *Selective Influence: The policy impact of House of Commons Select Committees*, UCL, 2011 and White, Hannah, *Select Committee under Scrutiny*, Institute for Government, 2015

¹² For example, Geddes, Marc, *Dramas at Westminster: Select committees and the quest for accountability*, Manchester University Press, 2020

¹³ Stirbu, Diana, *Power, influence, and impact of Senedd Committees: Developing a framework for measuring committees' effectiveness*, London Metropolitan University and Senedd Cymru, 2021

83. Our deliberations led us to consider a number of issues relating to the organisation of committee business. These are described under the headings below.

Members should only sit on one committee

84. One of the drivers for a larger Senedd was the aspiration for Members to sit on only one committee. This aspiration was based on an assumption that if Members sat on only one committee they would be able to devote more time to preparing for committee work and specialising in the policy area covered by that committee. Ultimately, so the argument goes, this increase in capacity at the level of an individual member would lead to more effective committee scrutiny.

85. Whilst this appears to be a logical conclusion, further work will be needed to establish whether a committee with its members only sitting on one committee achieves better scrutiny outcomes.

86. For example:

- Would a Member choose to utilise any time gained from sitting on only one committee to better prepare for committee work? Or would they choose to reinvest that time in another aspect of their role?
- Is there an advantage to having some Members sit on more than one committee, from the perspective of taking a more cross-cutting view when scrutinising?

87. At the start of the Sixth Senedd, the first iteration of the committee timetable sought to minimise the number of Members that had to sit on more than one committee in any given sitting week. To accommodate a demand from some committees to meet more frequently, a revised committee timetable provided optional additional slots to committees to provide predictable flexibility - placing the decision of whether to commit to weekly meetings in the hands of committees and their members.

88. From the election outcome scenarios suggested by more recent polling, it appears probable that some Members will have to sit on more than one committee and it is certainly possible that most backbench members from political groups in government will have to sit on two committees.

89. If the aspiration for Members to sit on only one committee is to be achieved, other aspects of the committee system might need to “traded off” e.g. fewer and/or smaller committees established, or different voting arrangements.

90. These trade-offs affect the capacity of individual Members too. If a committee system is devised so that a Member sits on only one committee, there would likely be smaller and fewer committees (with broader remits). In these circumstances, it is arguable a Member would need to devote more of their capacity to cover the policy ground a broad remit demands and carry more work when sitting on a committee (as its work is spread between fewer members).

91. The Welsh Government provided the following view:

“We support the premise that, using the current committee structure and utilising ‘task and finish’ committees, each Member sits on no more than one policy subject committee. This allows Members to specialise and allows greater flexibility with regard to Plenary and committee business each week.”

Conclusion 9. Creating more Member capacity for committee scrutiny work is a central justification for the increase in the size of the Senedd. Monitoring arrangements should be established from the start of the Seventh Senedd to determine whether or not the increase in the size of the Senedd delivers the desired increase in Member-level committee scrutiny capacity; the ability for Members to specialise; and, ultimately, better outcomes from committee scrutiny when compared to the smaller Seneddau of the past.

92. For this to be understood, a baseline study focused on the Sixth Senedd might be needed.

Recommendation 5. We recommend that the Chairs’ Forum, in consultation with the Business Committee and the Senedd Commission, considers how best to establish arrangements to understand the effect the increase in the size of the Senedd has on the time Members spend preparing for committee work, and whether this leads to better scrutiny outcomes.

Combined or separate policy and legislation committees?

93. The Senedd operates a committee system that includes dual function policy and legislation scrutiny committees. This is the same model as the Scottish Parliament and is a common feature of European legislatures.

- 94.** The House of Commons operates a system that includes separate Departmental Select Committees and Public Bill Committees.
- 95.** There are well-rehearsed views on the pros and cons when it comes to considering whether one or the other approach is more effective.
- 96.** The Business Committees in the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Seneddau favoured the combined functions model i.e. in the period since the Senedd gained full law-making powers.
- 97.** In reality, there appears to be little evidence to suggest one approach offers any advantage over the other when it comes to scrutiny effectiveness.
- 98.** Professor Diana Stirbu found that her research:

*"[...] has not revealed substantive evidence that the dual role of committees hinders effectiveness, it also did not reveal any overwhelming evidence that this model enhances effectiveness either."*¹⁴

- 99.** Professor Stirbu went further and recommended that:

*"[...] in the 6th Senedd the Business Committee reviews [...] the merits and weaknesses inherent to the dual function committee system."*¹⁵

- 100.** The Welsh Government provided the following view:

*"We support the continuation of combined policy and legislation committees, while recognising that legislation committees can have their place as ad hoc 'task and finish' committees where remitting a Bill to a policy committee may not be feasible or appropriate. The establishment of the Reform Bill Committee is a good example of how this approach can work towards effective and efficient scrutiny."*¹⁶

¹⁴ Stirbu, Diana, *Power, influence, and impact of Senedd Committees: Developing a framework for measuring committees' effectiveness*, London Metropolitan University and Senedd Cymru, 2021 page 74

¹⁵ Stirbu, Diana, *Power, influence, and impact of Senedd Committees: Developing a framework for measuring committees' effectiveness*, London Metropolitan University and Senedd Cymru, 2021 page 74

¹⁶ Annex A to the letter from the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery to the Chair of the Future Senedd Committee, 7 February 2025

101. We also reflected on examples where the Senedd had responded flexibly to manage legislative scrutiny in the past. The example of the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee (“the EAAL Committee”) in the Fifth Senedd was discussed. Prior to the outcome of the referendum on exiting the European Union, the Business Committee had considered establishing this committee as a reserve committee, to help handle peaks in legislative demand.¹⁷

102. To manage scrutiny of a Bill alongside its significant Brexit-related workload, the EAAL Committee created a sub-committee to consider the Bill.¹⁸ This minimised disruption to the EAAL Committee’s core programme of work and also enabled policy experts to attend the sub-committee as substitutes, to enable policy expertise to be applied.

Conclusion 10. Rather than being a binary decision between operating combined function committees or separate policy and legislation committees, examples from the Senedd’s past show that more nuanced options are available to the Seventh Senedd when determining its committee system.

Recommendation 6. We recommend that the Chairs’ Forum, in consultation with the Business Committee, revisits recommendation 1.1 of Professor Stirbu’s report to determine whether the Seventh Senedd’s Business Committee would benefit from work to:

- explore whether there is evidence to demonstrate a difference in outcomes delivered by a committee system that predominantly utilises dual-function policy and legislation committees (e.g. Scottish Parliament, the Senedd, and some European legislatures) compared to a system that utilises separate policy scrutiny committees and ad hoc public Bill committees (e.g. House of Commons, Commonwealth legislatures); and/or
- explore whether there is evidence to demonstrate a difference in outcomes from a committee system linked to the Government’s organisation of Ministerial responsibilities (e.g. Scottish Parliament, House of Commons), compared to a committee system that is not (e.g. the Senedd).

¹⁷ Senedd Cymru, Business Committee, *Committees in the Fifth Assembly*, July 2016

¹⁸ The Sub-Committee on the Regulation of Registered Social Landlords (Wales) Bill

Committee culture

103. Whilst attention needs to be given to structure and procedure when establishing effective committees, a significant factor in the success of committees is likely to be the development of the “committee culture” – the pattern of norms and behaviours that are adopted by Members (and other committee actors) in the committee environment.

104. For example, the less partisan approach that is often taken on committees, the development of a collaborative ethos, a culture of evaluation, and a level of trust that enables the sharing of feedback in pursuit of better outcomes.

105. There is some evidence available to support the assertion that high performing legislatures are those where Members set high expectations of one another in terms of the delivery of their parliamentary roles, where Members want to meet and exceed the expectations of their peers when it comes to scrutiny and legislating.¹⁹

106. Of course, there are also norms and behaviours that have developed that might be seen as less desirable e.g. “just reading out questions” rather than fully engaging with scrutiny.

107. These are cultural factors, rather than being structural or procedural.

108. There is both a challenge and an opportunity in transitioning to the Seventh Senedd, where a majority of Members will likely be new to the institution (perhaps in excess of 60%).

109. The challenge is to understand the positive norms and behaviours that exist but that are not written down anywhere – the sort of things that might be accepted as “the way we do things in the Senedd” – and to ensure these have a chance of embedding in the Seventh Senedd. This is, perhaps, all the more important given the socialising role committees can play for new Members when it comes to their wider parliamentary roles too.²⁰

110. The opportunity is to understand some of the less effective ways of working and to seek to address these as the new culture of the Seventh Senedd develops.

¹⁹ Muir Jr, W.K., *Legislature: California's school for politics*, University of Chicago Press, 1982

²⁰ See Geddes, Marc, *Dramas at Westminster: Select committees and the quest for accountability*, Manchester University Press, 2020 for a description of the socialising effect of committees he observed in the House of Commons.

Recommendation 7. We recommend that the Chairs' Forum, in consultation with the Business Committee and the Senedd Commission, considers commissioning work to capture and communicate the culture of Senedd committees in the Sixth Senedd, with a view to identifying the informal norms and practices that are valued by Members, and those that are not, to assist in the preservation of positive norms and practices between Seneddau, and inform induction processes.

4. Solutions to barriers

Addressing barriers to becoming a Member of the Senedd, and delivering the role of a Member of the Senedd, is a shared responsibility. Society at large, political parties, Members of the Senedd, the Independent Remuneration Board, and the Senedd Commission all have parts to play.

Introduction

111. In approaching this aspect of our remit, we were aware of pre-existing work to identify solutions to barriers to becoming elected, and to delivering the role of an elected member of a parliament. We have not sought to replicate this work and, given the limited time available to us, could not have replicated it to a similar level of depth. A selected bibliography is provided at Annex 1.

112. The Independent Remuneration Board (“the IRB”) was working on its determination on Members’ Pay and Allowances for the Seventh Senedd at the same time as we were undertaking our work. We have sought to avoid any crossover with the work of the IRB and we, as individual Members of the Senedd, have responded to the IRB’s consultations.

113. As described in paragraph 4 above, we set an objective to ensure that consideration was given to the removal of barriers when it came to assessing options for the organisation of business.

114. Alongside the considerations that were incorporated into that assessment, the subject of section 2 of this report, we also identified a number of further areas that we wish to bring to the Senedd’s attention.

Societal barriers

115. Based on the views of members, and the former members that participated in the 12 December roundtable discussion, there are significant societal barriers to becoming a candidate for election to the Senedd.

116. We have not had the time to consider wider societal factors in our work. We note the House of Commons Speaker's Conference on the security of candidates, MPs, and elections that is considering such matters.

Conclusion 11. An appropriate person or body in the Seventh Senedd might wish to reflect on the conduct of the 2026 Senedd Election, and the findings of the House of Commons Speaker's Conference, and determine whether further work on the societal barriers to participation is needed in a Senedd context.

Political parties

117. The candidate selection process used by political parties can pose a barrier and it is for political parties to address any barriers presented by their internal selection processes.

118. The Welsh Government's voluntary guidance to political parties appears to have the potential to assist in reducing barriers, if implemented by political parties, though we have not scrutinised the detail of the draft guidance as our membership prevents us from scrutinising the Welsh Government.²¹

119. In the context of candidate recruitment, we also discussed the importance of ensuring prospective candidates understand the full range of responsibilities a Member of the Senedd has, and the time commitment required to do the job well.

Conclusion 12. An appropriate person or body in the Seventh Senedd might wish to consider whether the provision in the Elections and Elected Bodies (Wales) Act 2024 relating to accessibility and diversity in Welsh elections has been successful in reducing barriers to participation in elected office.

Supporting new Members

120. We discussed the need for an induction programme that supports new Members with the full range of functions expected of them, and for this to be sequenced so that priority information is provided first e.g. establishing an office ahead of e.g. being an effective committee member.

²¹ Welsh Government, *Diversity and inclusion guidance for registered political parties: Voluntary guidance for registered political parties*, March 2025

121. The period following the election might offer a window of opportunity to provide an intensive induction period for Members, particularly if there is any hiatus whilst coalition government negotiations take place.

122. It is important that the support that is provided is communicated to prospective candidates in advance, so they know they will be supported if elected.

123. Another barrier we identified was the expectation for Members to incur significant expenses up front and then claim them back. This assumes that Members can afford to do this.

Recommendation 8. We recommend that the Senedd Commission, when designing its induction programme for new Members, ensures due consideration is given to the sequencing of information that is provided, so that issues such as establishing an office and understanding plenary are prioritised.

Recommendation 9. We recommend that the Senedd Commission makes arrangements, before the start of the Seventh Senedd, to provide Members with an alternative to meeting the upfront costs of significant expenses from their personal finances.

Predictability of the business day

124. We observed that “family friendly” working hours as a concept (that whilst well-meaning) can be unhelpful as its understanding, and applicability to Members living different distances from Cardiff Bay, is variable.

125. Rather than attempting to define what might be family friendly, the Senedd should look to provide greater certainty around the start and finish times for business days. The multi week option for organising business (or a variation of this) might offer Members certainty around a week where later finish times are needed and weeks where there are earlier finish times, for example.

Recommendation 10. We recommend that the Seventh Senedd, when designing the business timetable, ensures that the start and finish times of business days are as predictable as possible, as this certainty is needed for Members to put in place caring arrangements, arrangements that will differ considerably depending on each Member’s circumstances and the proximity of their primary address to the Senedd.

Recommendation 11. When considering Recommendation 1, we recommend that the Business Committee considers whether Standing Order 11.10 (relating to

the times within which business should be timetabled normally) should be amended before the end of the Sixth Senedd.

Creche

126. We believe a creche service should be provided on the Cardiff Bay estate, to assist Members with young children and to demonstrate the Senedd's commitment to supporting Members with parental responsibilities.

127. On 6 March 2025, we wrote to the Senedd Commission to ask that it establishes a creche service.

128. Whilst our work is focused on Members, a creche could be utilised by all users of the estate as a workplace (e.g. Member of the Senedd Support Staff, Commission Staff) and possibly visitors to the estate too (e.g. committee invitees).

129. Other spaces to support the wellbeing of users of the estate should be considered. For example, enhanced faith space, and space to promote physical activity.

Remote participation in proceedings

130. The ability to participate remotely removes a barrier to Members who have to manage factors such as caring responsibilities, health conditions, and/or other issues that might affect their ability to be on-site in the Senedd.

Conclusion 13. The ability to participate remotely should be retained in the Seventh Senedd, particularly as candidates may be standing on the understanding that this mode of participation will be available to them.

Recommendation 12. The guidance on remote participation should be reviewed periodically to ensure there is an appropriate balance between in-person and remote participation across the Senedd.

Annex 1 Selected sources

The published sources listed in this annex have had some bearing on our work. However, we have not sought, or had, any direct engagement with the authors.

Organisation of business

- Geddes, Marc, *Dramas at Westminster: Select committees and the quest for accountability*, Manchester University Press, 2020
- Gerzo, Thalia and van der Walle, Nicolas, *The Politics of Legislative Expansion in Africa*, Comparative Political Studies, Vol.55, Issue 14, 2022
- Judge, David and Leston-Bandera, Christina (Ed.), *Reimagining Parliament*, Bristol University Press, 2024
- Muir Jr, W.K., *Legislature: California's school for politics*, University of Chicago Press, 1982
- Power, Greg, *Inside the Political Mind: the human side of politics and how it shapes development*, Hust, 2024
- Russell, Meg and Benton, Meghan, *Selective Influence: The policy impact of House of Commons Select Committees*, UCL, 2011
- Stirbu, Diana, *Power, influence, and impact of Senedd Committees: Developing a framework for measuring committees' effectiveness*, London Metropolitan University and Senedd Cymru, 2021
- White, Hannah, *Select Committee under Scrutiny*, Institute for Government, 2015

Solutions to barriers to representation

- Bangor University's 2014 report for the Independent Remuneration Board, *Evaluating the Barriers to Entering the Assembly*.
- Professor Sarah Childs 2016 report to the House of Commons *The Good Parliament*.
- The Inter Parliamentary Union's work on promoting inclusive and representative parliaments.

- The European Institute for Gender Equality's work on Gender Sensitive Parliaments.
- The Senedd's Expert Panel on Electoral Reform made recommendations to support and encourage diversity of representation in its 2017 report *A parliament that works for Wales*.
- The Senedd's Committee on Senedd Electoral Reform made recommendations around electing a more diverse Senedd in its 2020 report *Senedd reform: the next steps*.
- The Senedd's Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform made recommendations relating to diversity measures in its 2022 report *Reforming our Senedd: A stronger voice for the people of Wales*.
- The UK Parliament's report on its 2018 *Gender-Sensitive Parliament Audit*, and response.
- Cardiff University and London Metropolitan University's 2018 report for the Senedd's Independent Remuneration board, *Barriers and incentives to standing for election to the National Assembly for Wales*.
- The Houses of the Oireachtas' Forum on a Family Friendly and Inclusive Parliament's 2021 report to the Ceann Comhairle (Speaker of the Dáil).
- The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's 2022 report on *Effective and Inclusive Parliaments* (which included consideration of the Senedd)
- The Scottish Parliament's 2023 report *A Parliament for All: Report of the Parliament's Gender Sensitive Audit*.
- The Senedd's Reform Bill Committee's reports on the Senedd Reform Bills (in 2023 and 2024) considered matters relevant.
- The UK Government Equalities Office 2021 report on *Barriers to elected office for disabled people*.

International Comparisons

- Brandenburg Landtag (Germany)
- Bürgerschaft of Bremen (Germany)

- British Columbia Legislative Assembly (Canada)
- Castile Leon Parliament (Spain)
- Estonia Parliament
- Ireland Dail
- Latvia Parliament
- Moldova Parliament
- Montenegro Parliament
- New Brunswick Legislative Assembly (Canada)
- New South Wales Legislative Assembly (Australia)
- Scottish Parliament (UK)
- Slovenia National Assembly
- Wallonia Parliament (Belgium)
- Victoria Legislative Assembly (Australia)