

SCECLB29- P Llafur Cymru

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Y Pwyllgor Biliau Diwygio | Reform Bill Committee

Bil Senedd Cymru (Rhestrau Ymgeiswyr Etholiadol) | Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill

Ymateb gan Llafur Cymru | Evidence from Welsh Labour (Saesneg yn unig)

Beth yw eich barn am egwyddorion cyffredinol y Bil a'r angen am ddeddfwriaeth i gyflawni'r amcan polisi a nodwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru (sef gwneud y Senedd yn ddeddfwrfa fwy effeithiol drwy sicrhau ei bod yn cynrychioli, yn gyffredinol, gyfansoddiad y boblogaeth o ran rhywedd)?

Welsh Labour welcomes the opportunity to provide evidence to this consultation. The Party's values are underpinned by a commitment to a more just society and a more open democracy and, accordingly, aiming to improve diversity at all levels of government is a crucial part of the work we do. Our 2021 Senedd manifesto included a commitment to build on the work of the Committee on Senedd Electoral Reform and to 'develop proposals to improve the representation of the people of Wales in their Parliament'. Welsh Government ministers are taking forward our policies as part of their work in government.

We support the general principles of the Bill: a Senedd that is truly representative of Wales is a more effective one. We are committed to a Senedd that is more representative of the people that it serves, and that includes supporting provisions that are designed to maximise the chances of achieving a Senedd comprised of at least 50% women. We also support the proposals to encourage political parties to publish diversity and inclusion strategies, thus improving transparency.

Welsh Labour is committed to more positive action to encourage and enable more people with protected characteristics to come forward as potential candidates within the confines of the law, and to play our part in ensuring that there is more diversity at all levels of government.

To this end, we have already put a number of strategies in place internally to help us in our aim to positively influence our selection processes in order to attract a more diverse set of elected representatives. For instance, we already use gender quotas for our regional lists, and have devised support schemes and training opportunities to encourage a more diverse pool of candidates in elections at all levels, such as our successful Future Candidates Programme. More broadly, the Labour Party has long pioneered progress on better representation for women in public life.

The work that Welsh Labour has undertaken has seen us lead the way on gender equality among our Senedd representatives, with women making up more than half of our Senedd members. We

note that the percentage of Welsh Labour MSs who are women greatly exceeds that of other political parties in Wales.

Beth yw eich barn am y system orfodi a'r sanctiynau posibl ar gyfer achosion o ddiffyg cydymffurfiaeth a gynigir yn y Bil?

We support the principle of a system of enforcement and potential sanctions for parties that fail to reach the minimum threshold. It is crucial that there are effective sanctioning mechanisms in place in order to encourage compliance.

Welsh Labour already undertakes action within our internal processes to encourage compliance with measures to improve diversity in our selection processes.

A oes unrhyw rwystrau posibl i weithredu darpariaethau'r Bil? Os felly, beth yw'r rhain ac a yw'r Bil a'r Memorandwm Esboniadol ac Aseiad Effaith Rheoleiddiol sy'n cyd-fynd ag ef yn rhoi ystyriaeth ddigonol iddynt?

A oes canlyniadau anfwriadol yn deillio o'r Bil?

Beth yw eich barn am aseiad Llywodraeth Cymru o effeithiau ariannol ac effeithiau eraill y Bil?

Wales is the most under-represented country in the UK, and the proposals form part of a once-in-a-generation opportunity to strengthen our democracy. There are, of course, costs associated with reforming the Senedd, but they represent the equivalent of a very small amount of Wales' total budget every year.

Beth yw eich barn am y cydbwysedd o ran y wybodaeth sydd ar wyneb y Bil a'r hyn sydd wedi'i adael ar gyfer is-ddeddfwriaeth? A yw'r pwerau i Weinidogion Cymru wneud is-ddeddfwriaeth yn briodol?

Beth yw eich barn am faterion sy'n ymwneud â chymhwysedd deddfwriaethol y Senedd, gan gynnwys a yw'r Bil yn gydnaws â'r Confensiwn Ewropeaidd ar Hawliau Dynol?

Beth yw eich barn am faterion sy'n ymwneud ag ansawdd y ddeddfwriaeth, neu oblygiadau cyfansoddiadol neu oblygiadau eraill y Bil?

A oes unrhyw faterion eraill yr hoffech eu codi ynglŷn â'r Bil a'r Memorandwm Esboniadol sy'n cyd-fynd ag ef neu unrhyw faterion cysylltiedig?

Urhywbeth eraill?