

CYPE(6)-04-22 - Papur i'w nodi 22

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Elin Jones AS

Y Llywydd

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03 Chwefror 2022

Adolygiad o amserlen a chylchoedd gwaith y pwyllgorau

Annwyl Elin,

Diolch am eich llythyr ar 7 Ionawr 2022 yn gofyn am ein barn ar yr adolygiad o amserlen a chylchoedd gwaith y pwyllgorau. Trafodwyd y llythyr hwn yn ein cyfarfod ar 20 Ionawr.

Nodwn nad ydych yn disgwyl i bwyllgorau ymgynghori â rhanddeiliaid. Fel rhan o'n hymgyngoriad ar flaenoriaethau'r Pwyllgor dros doriad yr haf, mynegodd y Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach eu barn ar yr amserlen, ac mae'r farn honno wedi'i hamgáu.

Amserlen – y sefyllfa bresennol

I ba raddau y mae dull presennol amserlen y pwyllgorau yn rhoi digon o amser i bwyllgorau wneud eu gwaith yn effeithiol?

Fel y Pwyllgor cyntaf a gafodd y dasg o gynnal gwaith craffu Cyfnod 1 yn y Chweched Senedd, credwn ein bod yn dod â phersbectif pwysig o ran pa mor effeithiol y gall yr amserlen bresennol fod wrth gynnwys gwaith, a hynny o fewn amserlenni sydd y tu allan i reolaeth y Pwyllgor.

Mae'n werth nodi bod cyflwyno Bil Addysg Drydyddol ac Ymchwil (Cymru) wedi digwydd ar yr un pryd â darnau creiddiol eraill o waith, ac nid oedd gennym lawer o ddisgresiwn o ran pryd y gellid ei wneud:

- Craffu blynyddol ar Estyn;
- Craffu blynyddol ar Gomisinydd Plant Cymru;
- Craffu blynyddol ar Cymwysterau Cymru;
- Craffu ar Femorandwm Cydsyniad Deddfwriaethol y Bil Sgiliau ac Addysg;



- Gwrandawriad cyn penodi ar gyfer yr ymgeisydd a ffefrir i fod yn Gomisiynydd Plant nesaf Cymru; a
- Chraffu ar gyllideb ddrafft Llywodraeth Cymru;

Roedd hyn yn golygu ein bod wedi gorfod gofyn am nifer o gyfarfodydd ychwanegol (pump ers mis Hydref). Mae'r Pwyllgor Busnes wedi cytuno i'n cais bob tro. Roedd dau o'r ceisiadau hyn am gyfarfodydd yn ystod un o'r wythnosau "gwarchoddedig".

Ym mis Rhagfyr, roedd faint o waith oedd gennym yn golygu ein bod wedi cael tri chyfarfod o fewn 10 diwrnod, â dau ohonynt yn rhai hir, gan ddechrau gyda rhag-gyfarfodydd cyn 9am a pheidio â gorffen tan yn hwyrach yn y prynhawn. Roedd gan bob un o'r cyfarfodydd hyn bapurau Pwyllgor helaeth i gyd-fynd â'r cyfarfod.

Mae'r amserlen bresennol felly wedi rhoi'r cyfle i ni wneud ein gwaith. Fodd bynnag, dim ond oherwydd bod y Pwyllgor Busnes wedi cytuno i'n ceisiadau am gyfarfodydd ychwanegol ac oherwydd ein bod wedi defnyddio uchafswm y slotiau a neilltuwyd i ni y bu hyn.

[I ba raddau y mae dull presennol amserlen y pwyllgorau yn darparu digon o hyblygrwydd i fodloni cyfnodau brig yn llwythi gwaith y pwyllgorau a/neu ofynion busnes y dyfodol sydd angen capasiti ychwanegol gan bwyllgorau?](#)

Fel y nodwyd uchod, cafwyd hyblygrwydd, ond roedd hynny'n dibynnu ar y Pwyllgor Busnes yn cytuno i geisiadau unigol. Gall yr amser sydd ei angen ar y broses gymeradwyo achosi oedi wrth gwblhau'r flaenraglen waith. O'n profiad hyd yma, mae'r trefniant wedi gweithio gan ei fod wedi bod er mwyn darparu ar gyfer busnes lle mae gennym rybudd ymlaen llaw (er enghraifft craffu ar Fil). Fodd bynnag, rydym yn ymwybodol y gallai achosi problemau posibl pe bai angen inni gyfarfod ar frys.

Yn ogystal, os yw'r cyfarfodydd y tu allan i slot a drefnwyd gan y Pwyllgor gall hynny achosi problemau o ran gallu aelodau i fod yn bresennol, a thrafferthion cyffredinol o ran rheoli dyddiadur. Mae hyn yn llai o broblem pan fyddwn yn gwybod ddigon ymlaen llaw, ond os bydd materion yn codi'n annisgwyl, gallai hynny achosi heriau. Mae'n bwysig inni gael sicrwydd ynghylch dyddiadau cyfarfodydd pwyllgor, er mwyn sicrhau y gallwn gynllunio a rheoli ein llwythi gwaith a'n dyddiaduron yn unol â hynny. (Mae hyn hefyd yn berthnasol i'r cwestiwn nesaf.)

[I ba raddau y mae dull presennol amserlen y pwyllgorau yn darparu cydbwysedd priodol rhwng yr amser y mae Aelodau'n ei dreulio ar waith pwyllgorau \(mewn cyfarfodydd pwyllgorau a thu allan iddynt\) a'u cyfrifoldebau ehangach?](#)

Mae rhai ohonom yn eistedd ar sawl pwyllgor, ac eraill yn eistedd ar y Pwyllgor hwn yn unig. Felly mae gennym ystod o brofiadau. Fel y mae'r cwestiwn yn ei nodi, mae'n bwysig ystyried, yn ogystal â'r amser a dreulir mewn cyfarfod Pwyllgor, fod hefyd angen treulio amser yn paratoi (a all fod yn helaeth yn dibynnu ar yr eitemau sy'n cael eu hystyried) ac amser yn dilyn i fyny ar faterion ar ôl cyfarfodydd.

Wrth drafod, buom yn myfyrio ar heriau cyfarfodydd rhithwir hir, a'r effaith y gall hynny ei chael. Rydym wedi cyfarfod yn rhithwir yn bennaf, er bod dau o'n cyfarfodydd wedi bod mewn fformat hybrid. Ar hyn o bryd, rydym wedi bod yn defnyddio uchafswm ein slot yn amlach na pheidio, gyda'r rhan fwyaf o gyfarfodydd yn dechrau gyda rhag-gyfarfodydd cyn 9, ac fel arfer yn rhedeg tan o leiaf

2:30pm, ac weithiau ar ôl 3pm. Fe wnaethom i gyd nodi'r heriau sy'n dod gyda chyfarfodydd rhithwir hir, fodd bynnag, roeddem yn cydnabod bod faint o eitemau busnes craidd sydd angen eu trafod yn golygu nad oedd unrhyw opsiwn arall weithiau.

Buom yn trafod bod yr heriau ynghlwm wrth gyfarfodydd Pwyllgor hir yn wahanol i'r heriau ynghlwm wrth gyfarfodydd Cyfarfod Llawn hir, lle caiff Aelodau beidio â bod yn bresennol a pheidio cyfrannu at bob eitem. Fodd bynnag, mae maint y pwyllgorau yn golygu bod angen i bob Aelod fod yn bresennol a chymryd rhan yn rhagweithiol ym mhob eitem busnes. Gall hyn fod yn heriol, ac oherwydd y cyfrifoldebau ehangach sydd ar Aelodau, mae wedi golygu y bu adegau tua diwedd cyfarfodydd pan mai cworwm yn unig sydd yno.

Amserlen - dewisiadau amgen i'r sefyllfa bresennol

Pa newidiadau y gellid eu gwneud i amserlen y pwyllgorau i wella effeithiolrwydd pwyllgorau, a chadw hyblygrwydd i ddarparu ar gyfer busnes ychwanegol y pwyllgorau, a chydbwysedd priodol rhwng yr amser y mae Aelodau'n ei dreulio ar waith pwyllgorau (mewn cyfarfodydd pwyllgorau a thu allan iddynt) a'u cyfrifoldebau ehangach?

Ar ôl pwyso a mesur, ar ôl trafod, byddai'n well gennym gadw cyfarfodydd pwyllgor bob pythefnos, ond gyda'r opsiwn i gyfarfod yn ystod yr wythnosau "i ffwrdd" yn yr un slot wedi'i amserlennu, heb fod angen ceisio cytundeb y Pwyllgor Busnes. Credwn y byddai hyn yn rhoi mwy o hyblygrwydd i ni o ran sut rydym yn trefnu busnes, er enghraifft gallu addasu ein busnes mewn cyfarfod, ar fyr rybudd, a fyddai'n ein galluogi i ymateb i eitemau busnes brys, neu i sicrhau gwell cydbwysedd ar draws ein cyfarfodydd pwyllgor ac osgoi'r heriau a all ddeillio o gyfarfodydd a all bara hyd at chwe awr neu fwy.

Pa newidiadau bynnag a wneir i'r amserlen, byddem am sicrhau nad yw'n arwain at unrhyw leihad yn yr amser sydd ar gael i'n Pwyllgor ymgymryd â'n gwaith.

Os ydym am wneud newidiadau i'r amserlen, pryd y dylid gweithredu'r newidiadau hyn?

Rydym yn nodi'r heriau o ran penderfynu ar yr adeg orau i weithredu unrhyw newidiadau, a sut y gall hynny ystyried blaenraglenni gwaith y pwyllgorau. Mae mater penodol sydd angen ei ystyried gennym ni, gan fod angen gwneud trefniadau ar gyfer trafodion Cyfnod 2 y Bil Addysg Drydyddol ac Ymchwil (Cymru). Mae angen cytuno ar y dyddiadau cyn y ddadl Cyfnod 1 ddechrau mis Mawrth. Byddwn yn ysgrifennu ar wahân at y Pwyllgor Busnes ar y mater hwn, ond nodwn fod y dyddiadau a ffefrir ar hyn o bryd o safbwynt y Pwyllgor a Llywodraeth Cymru yn cyd-fynd â'r model gweithio yr ydym yn ei ffafrio

Cylchoedd gwaith

Ydych chi'n credu bod angen addasu cylch gwaith eich pwyllgor? Er enghraifft, cydbwysu gwaith ar draws pwyllgorau, a/neu wella llinellau atebolrwydd.

Rydym yn fodlon ar y cylch gwaith. Un o'n blaenoriaethau strategol yw gweithio gyda phwyllgorau eraill y Senedd, a hyd yn hyn, rydym wedi manteisio ar gyfleoedd i wneud hyn, hyd yn oed os nad yw wedi golygu cynnal cyfarfodydd ar y cyd.

Rydym yn nodi bod Cadeirydd blaenorol y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg wedi eistedd ar y Pwyllgor Iechyd, Gofal Cymdeithasol a Chwaraeon yn y Senedd ddiwethaf. Rydym ar ddeall y teimlwyd bod hyn yn ffordd arbennig o effeithiol o reoli'r meysydd o ddiddordeb a rennir ar draws y

ddau bwyllgor. Gan ein bod yn rhannu'r un slot Pwyllgor gyda'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol, mae hyn yn golygu nad oes unrhyw Aelodau'n eistedd ar y ddau bwyllgor. Er ein bod yn deall bod rhoi'r ddau bwyllgor yn yr un slot wedi'i wneud gyda'r bwriad o helpu i hwyluso mwy o gydweithio ar draws pwyllgorau, yn yr achos hwn, nodwn ei fod mewn gwirionedd wedi gwneud hyn yn anos. Mae hefyd wedi achosi problemau logistaidd ar rai adegau pan fo'r ddau bwyllgor wedi bod yn galw ar yr un Gweinidogion ar yr un pryd (megis ar gyfer craffu ar y gyllideb).

Rwy'n gobeithio y bydd y wybodaeth hon yn ddefnyddiol ar gyfer yr adolygiad, ac edrychwn ymlaen at y canfyddiadau.

Yn gywir,



Jayne Bryant AS
Cadeirydd

Amg: Llythyr oddi wrth y Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach, 25 Awst 2021

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Arbenigwyr mewn Busnes
Experts in Business

25 August 2021

Children, Education and Young People Committee
Senedd
Pierhead St,
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CF99 1SN

Dear Ms. Bryant

RE: Priorities for the Committee

FSB Wales is the authoritative voice of businesses in Wales, with around 10,000 members. It campaigns for a better social, political, and economic environment in which to work and do business. With a strong grassroots structure, a Wales Policy Unit and dedicated Welsh staff to deal with Welsh institutions, media and politicians, FSB Wales makes its members' voices heard at the heart of the decision-making process.

FSB welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Committee's call for views on its priorities. Committees serve a vital role in providing scrutiny of the government, in providing a key role in influencing policy development, and as a constructive engagement point for evidence and understanding between the legislature and civil society, including our role in representing small businesses.

With continuing issues arising from Covid-19, the possibility of further disruptions, and the legacy of the damage the pandemic has wrought alongside the impetus to build an economic recovery, the role of committees will be of even more importance this term.

As such, insofar as possible, it is important that the Senedd's capacity and abilities are used to the full in this process, and that the structure allows committees – and their Chairs - to be agile and able to respond quickly to events this Winter, as well as in providing scrutiny and policy development for the challenges ahead. It is in the spirit of supporting this democratic process and committees as the engine room of Welsh democracy that we respond to this consultation.

The Committee covers areas of priority for FSB Wales and we look forward to working with you over the coming term.

Ways of Working

We note that the new Committees structure includes the following:

- The Sixth Senedd has for the moment opted for smaller membership in committees (4-6).
- This should allow members to build more specialism, but at the cost of more diverse voices in each committee (as was the case with larger committees).
- It is important to push for the advantages of building focused specialism is nurtured and maximised, but the diversity and small pool is mitigated (e.g., through cross-committee working).



Arbenigwyr mewn Busnes
Experts in Business

Potentially, this structure could allow for more agility which as there may well remain issues arising requiring quick reaction, policy response and scrutiny over the next period, could be extremely useful. This would require significant autonomy for committees to pursue their own path and ways of working.

However, the decision has also been taken to cut the number of committee meetings to be fortnightly rather than weekly.

- Smaller committees should allow MSs being able to populate across them better, but fewer meetings do not seem to add value in this respect.
- There are also dangers to scrutiny and policy development – the role of scrutiny (legislative and non-legislative) as we open up after Covid is important, with myriad issues across all policy areas important. Committees have an important role in this respect and halving the time for scrutiny in a stroke makes little sense. This is a particular issue for small business issues, as we are concerned that vital areas of economic recovery may not be properly addressed or scrutinised.
- There is a danger that the pressure will force committees to focus on necessary legislative scrutiny alone, while relegating wider scrutiny and policy inquiries to the margins (including on business issues and day to day issues around Covid, for example).
- Some committees have wide and disparate subject areas, and there is a danger that whole policy areas will be relegated to the side-lines.
- As well as being the engine room of democratic scrutiny of Government, committees are a vital interface for contact and policy evidence from civil society – there is a danger that the pool of evidence is further narrowed, and a focus is on the narrower ‘usual suspects’ providing evidence posing a danger of group-think and less diverse views being taken in oral evidence.
- As noted above, committees will need to be agile in continuing to respond to Covid and the various issues raised by the pandemic will continue to impact for the Senedd term. These limits on their work may mitigate against that and undermine responsive policy development and scrutiny. As such, it makes sense to allow autonomy for Committees to pursue their own ways of working, including additional meeting and inquiries. As such, the two-week meetings should be seen as a baseline rather than a ceiling for activity and scrutiny.

Cross-committee working will be vital to mitigate against small committees meaning a greater focus but a danger of silo working and loss of diverse offices bringing in a range of policy field lenses and understanding how they intersect. We therefore encourage cross committee inquiries as a minimum (and suggestions later in paper on subjects that span committees).

It is also possible to look at ways as a regular way of working and ensuring policy span through MSs from different committees could sit as non-voting ‘guests’ or bringing committee expertise and lens to particular meetings (e.g., climate change members sitting in on discussions on housing capital spending policy).

This way of working will also be important in terms of scrutiny of the substance and operation of Welsh Government – through the Climate Change Ministry as a central organising department looking to ensure cross departmental and holistic working, it is important that Senedd is able to mirror this and provide adequate scrutiny across policy areas accordingly.



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Experts in Business

Business concerns sit across many departments, and within intersecting policy subjects so cross-committee working is important for FSB and our members.

Recommendations

- *That committees are allowed freedom (as decided unanimously by all their members) to look at the fortnightly meetings as a baseline and so can organise more meetings as suits them or for specific inquiries.*
- *We would urge a view to cross committee working on intersecting subject areas and inquiries – and that these can be on top of the fortnightly meetings.*
- *To mitigate against small committees being a small pool we would urge that committees can co-opt other MSs (including possibly spokespeople retain a right to attend and question) as non-voting members for individual sessions, and to be encouraged and incentivised to do so. These could also be as members of other committees to encourage cross sectoral views.*
- *It is vital, with continuing uncertainty on Covid over the Winter months (as well as ongoing issues and its legacy) that Committees are able to react with agility to raise issues, conduct inquiries and scrutinise reactively and quickly as needed. Committees and their Chairs should be able to do this with as much autonomy as possible over their schedules and ways of working (with necessary checks of unanimity in committee as appropriate).*

FSB's key policy areas of work for the Committee

A key area of work here is scrutiny and policy development around the *Guarantee of Offer for Education, Employment or Training to under 25s* in the Programme for Government. Currently we are not aware of greater detail. It is important for our members to understand if this is to be a meaningful offer how it relates to training and apprenticeships and how any scheme would be easily accessed and used by SMEs across the whole of Wales, in order to ensure that opportunities are available to young people and to businesses with proper support.

The role of entrepreneurship in education, how it aligns with the wider curriculum and its aims of making 'informed and critical citizens' is an ongoing interest, as well as how we understand the changing needs of the next generation of young entrepreneurs and business support mechanisms required to help provide opportunities for them. The role of work-related experiences and the practical experiential side of education, as well as the fostering of key skills is also a key concern for SMEs, and in future entrepreneurship.

FSB have upcoming work on Generation Z entrepreneurship, which we will share with the committee when available.

Subject areas for Joint working with other committees

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Arbenigwyr mewn Busnes
Experts in Business

Our suggestions above advocate a dynamic and agile role in co-working and cross committee working, utilising all the backbench capacity and capabilities as much as possible, and reducing possible silos in policy scrutiny and development. The following list gives some indications of possible areas of work, although this is not exhaustive list, and priorities will be necessarily shaped by wider issues of Welsh Government priorities and external factors such as Covid-19 and Brexit. Working iteratively with other committees will also shape framing of subject areas, and we believe this would generally be positive for inquiries and scrutiny.

Subject area	Possible partner committee(s)
<i>Implications and opportunities of Guarantee of Offer for Education, Employment or Training to under 25s</i>	Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee
Entrepreneurship and Young People – including Business Support, Entrepreneurship in Education and next generation of entrepreneurs	Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

FSB Wales would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with your officials, should you deem it useful.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Cottam
Head of Wales
FSB