



Rt. Hon. Elin Jones MS
Llywydd of the Senedd

Sent via email.

16 October 2024

Dear Elin,

I am writing to you regarding the Absent Voting (Elections in Scotland and Wales) Bill that I have introduced to the House of Commons today as a Private Members Bill.

The Bill I have introduced to the House today will make provisions in the following two key areas:

- Give the Scottish and Welsh Governments concurrent powers to bring forward regulations to align with the Elections Act and enable applications for postal and proxy votes for devolved elections to be made online.
- Provide powers to include an identity check requirement (via National Insurance number) on absent voting applications. This is an upfront check at the point of postal or proxy vote application, to minimise the risk of fraud. This requirement has been in place for registration applications since 2014.

I believe this will make welcome progress in making it easier for an elector to register for either a postal or proxy vote. If my Private Members Bill is successful, these provisions would be available for Scottish and Welsh Ministers to use ahead of the devolved elections in 2026.

I am keen to work with all stakeholders on these proposals and would be more than happy to meet with you to discuss them in more detail. I would be grateful if you could share this letter with the relevant Parliamentary Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Tracy Gilbert



Y Gwir Anrhydeddus Elin Jones AS

Llywydd, Senedd Cymru

Right Honourable Elin Jones MS

Llywydd, Welsh Parliament

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Tracy Gilbert MP

Member of Parliament for Edinburgh North and Leith

House of Commons

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13 November 2024

Dear Tracy Gilbert MP,

Thank you very much for taking the time to make the Welsh Parliament (the Senedd) aware of your Private Members Bill.

The Senedd ordinarily engages with UK Parliament Bills, where they relate to devolved matters, via the Legislative Consent process. Under that process it is the responsibility of Welsh Government to lay Legislative Consent Motions (LCMs) on relevant Bills for the Senedd's consideration. This scrutiny normally takes the form of a period of consideration by one or more Senedd Committees, before a motion on whether or not to give consent is debated by the Senedd.

I am copying your letter and this reply to relevant Committees for awareness in anticipation of an LCM being laid in relation to the Absent Voting (Elections in Scotland and Wales) Bill

Yours sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Elin Jones MS/AS

Llywydd

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English