



Ein cyf/Our ref: MB/FM/0724/14

Rt Hon David Jones MP
Secretary of State for Wales
The Wales Office
Gwydyr House
Whitehall
London
PrivateOffice@walesOffice.gsi.gov.uk

6th March 2014

Dear David

Disqualification from membership of the National Assembly for Wales

I am writing to let you know that I wrote recently to the Presiding Officer of the National Assembly for Wales asking her whether she would be minded to ask the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee to carry out an inquiry into the rules pertaining to disqualification from Assembly membership. I have enclosed a copy of my letter, together with the Presiding Officer's reply confirming that the Committee will take forward an inquiry on this matter.

It is of course for the Committee to decide its terms of reference for this inquiry. However, I am pleased that the Committee has agreed to undertake an inquiry on disqualification issues, as the time is now right to start considering the principles which should be reflected in the next Disqualification Order. I believe the Committee is best placed to consider and evaluate the evidence and provide a report to the Assembly, with a view to obtaining cross-party consensus on the principles underpinning disqualification from Assembly membership. The Disqualification Order requires the Assembly's approval, and their views should inform the drafting of the Order.

I am copying this letter to David Melding.

Yours sincerely

CARWYN JONES