

CAPACITY

[PO; SPG] Strong evidence presented that the Assembly is too small to do its scrutiny job properly. But could the Assembly work smarter? Too much concentration on constituency work? Any truth in Secretary of State's reported remarks that AMs could work harder?

[PO; SPG] Give some practical examples of where low number of AMs has caused problems in terms of poor outcomes. For example, has legislation been poorly scrutinised to date because of capacity issues?

[All] Is there convincing evidence on optimal size for a legislature? Does comparative evidence all point one way - for an increase in size? What about, say, California House of Representatives with 80 members? Or Greater London Assembly with 25?

[PO; SPG] Would any increase in size be possible without cutting numbers of politicians elsewhere in Wales – MPs or councilors?

[All] What do witnesses think of Study of Parliament Group's idea of Assembly Associates – ie non-voting added members? Or of the Wales in a Changing Union ideas for greater involvement of civil society in Assembly procedures (eg expert advisors or an Economic and Social Committee)? Are there other ways in which scrutiny could be improved without additional AMs? What is the international experience/UK Parliament experience?

CLARITY

[PO; SPG] Explain why a conferred powers model is inherently more complex and more likely to lead to confusion about powers than a powers reserved model. Could Schedule 7 not simply be amended to give greater clarity? Is there any validity in the argument that the legal authorities in the Assembly and Welsh Government have been over-cautious in interpreting their competence?

[PO; SPG] Would the examples of lack of clarity on Secretary of State consents as set out in the Presiding Officer's evidence be removed if the powers conferred model were replaced by the powers reserved model?

[PO; SPG] Should executive powers and legislative competence always be aligned? (Counter example of Civil Contingencies legislation where WG has administrative responsibilities but no legislative competence)

ELECTIONS

[PO] To what extent should the Assembly be in control of the process for elections to itself? How do you guard against unfairness?

MATURING INSTITUTION

[PO] Are not a number of the procedures at present regulated by statute (eg provisions about committee membership) intended to protect minorities? How would minorities be protected if these procedures came within the Assembly's control?

[PO] Right to infer that you would like to retain everything in GoWA that regulates Assembly procedure, except those things you single out for change? (eg keep the requirement for a two-thirds majority for changing standing orders)

[HC; SPG] Are you aware of other Commonwealth sub-state legislatures where a representative of the national government has the right to intervene in proceedings?

[PO] Did you welcome the Commission's First Report's recommendations on budgetary procedures in the Assembly [essentially that these should be controlled by the Assembly itself]? Is there anything else you would like to see changed in this area?

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CO-OPERATION

[All] How could the legislative consent motion procedures be improved?

[All] How can we avoid situations where London and Cardiff disagree over whether an LCM is necessary (case of Agricultural Wages Board proposed abolition)? What is the proper way of determining such disputes?

[HC] Does the Mackay Commission report not imply that Westminster ought not to overturn refusals by the devolved Assemblies and Parliament to give legislative consent except very deliberately and with full awareness of the constitutional implications of doing so?

[All] Why has Westminster been reluctant to make LCM procedure part of its Standing Orders and to recognise LCMs' interparliamentary nature, despite recommendations for Calman and its own Committees?

[HC] Why have Calman's other recommendations on improving interparliamentary relations largely not been taken up? How hopeful can we be that any recommendations we make will be heeded at Westminster?

[All] Examples of international best practice of co-operation between national and sub-national legislatures

[All] What is the future role for the Welsh Affairs Committee and Welsh Grand Committee post-devolution?

[All] True Wales identified what it called a “belligerent stance” inside the NAW towards the UK Parliament. Is this fair? Should, for example, Welsh Government Ministers cooperate with parliamentary committees, or should they relate only to Assembly committees?

[HC] What benefits would come from the Devolution Committee proposed for the House of Commons by the Mackay Commission? And general reflections on Mackay, including prognosis – might be useful for Clerk of House of Commons to be asked to explain the difference between England only Bills and England-and-Wales Bills, and the implications for a Welsh jurisdiction.

[SPG] Would the Devolution Committee proposed by the Mackay Commission supersede the “oversight of the devolution settlement” role proposed by the SPG for the Welsh Affairs Committee?