

The Association of Electoral Administrators



Response to the consultation on the draft Senedd Cymru (Disqualification) Order 2020

Organisation:

Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) – joint response from both the National AEA and Wales Branch.

Summary of Organisation:

Founded in 1987, the AEA is the professional and qualifications body of electoral administrators in the United Kingdom. It is non-governmental and non-partisan with just under 2,000 members, the majority of whom are employed by local authorities to provide electoral registration and election services. There are eleven regional branches of the Association covering the United Kingdom, including the Wales Branch.

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Question 1. Do you agree that the offices set out in the draft Disqualification Order should be included in the next Disqualification Order?

Yes.

If no, please explain

Question 2. Are there any other offices not included in the draft Disqualification Order, (that are not otherwise disqualified under the Government of Wales Act 2006 or other legislation), that you believe should be disqualified from membership of the Senedd? If yes, what should be included and why?

Yes.

If yes, what also needs to be included and why?

We believe consideration should be given to including Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) at Welsh local authorities as they have a fundamental and independent part to play in the democratic process.

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Question 3. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed in the above questions, please use this space to report them:

We would encourage the Welsh Government to ensure that once the Disqualification Order is published, it is widely communicated and if an amendment Order is also made, that too is properly communicated to key stakeholders.

Question 4. We would like to know your views on the effects that the draft Disqualification Order would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

We have no comments to make on this question.

Question 5. Please also explain how you believe the draft Disqualification Order could be formulated or be changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

We have no comments to make on this question.

Question 6. We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

None.

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:

We are happy for our response to be made public.

Angela Holden
Policy Manager on behalf of the AEA

Rhys George
Chair of Wales AEA branch

7 July 2020