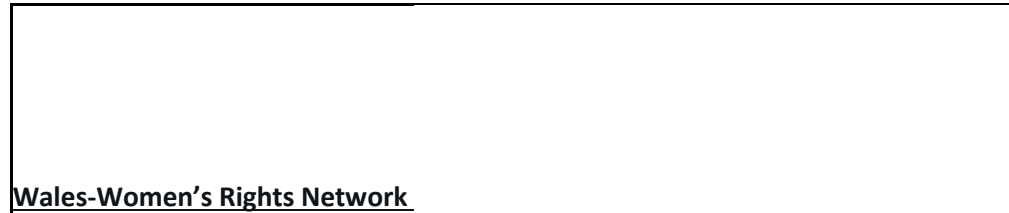


ATISN 20058 – Release of Information

From: [Journalist, Nation.Cymru]
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 10:17 AM
To: Welsh Government Official 1
Subject: Nation.Cymru story

Hi Welsh Government Official 1,

The Women's Rights Network appears to have had the draft bill on gender reform at the Senedd leaked to it. They've tweeted this:



Wales-Women’s Rights Network

[@WRNWales](#)

BREAKING NEWS – UK SELF ID BY THE BACK DOOR Welsh Govt will thumb their noses at UK Govt and introduce legislation in the new year to – Redefine ‘woman’ to include males Alter the definition of ‘woman’ at any time Squash any ability to challenge a self ID declaration

They've also sent me this quote: Quote on draft legislation from **[Redacted – Section 40 exemption]** Women’s Rights Network.

"Redefining the word ‘woman’ has implications for all women in the UK and is both extraordinary and deeply concerning.

Despite seeing all that happened with gender reform in Scotland - particularly in the case of ‘Isla Bryson’ - the Welsh government seems not to have learned any lessons. Attempting to bring gender self ID in on the back of another imminent piece of legislation that purports to benefit women is devious and disingenuous. It must be resisted."

I'm putting together a story and would appreciate a WG line as soon as possible.

Thanks very much and all the best,

[Journalist, Nation.Cymru]

From: Welsh Government Official 1
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 11:02 AM
To: Special Adviser 1; Special Adviser 2; Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Special Adviser 3
Cc: Welsh Government Official 2, Welsh Government Official 3
Subject: RE: Nation.Cymru story

Hi all

Following my phone conversation with Special Adviser 1, please see attached email (below) from [Journalist, Nation.Cymru] which we have been asked to provide a response to asap please. He's writing the story up at the moment. Grateful for some lines.

Many thanks

Welsh Government Official 1

From: [Journalist, The Daily Telegraph]
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 12:02 PM
To: Welsh Government Official 1
Subject: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd). **[Attachment Redacted - Section 31 exemption]**

Dear Welsh Government Official 1

Would you be able to explain why the Welsh government has decided to categorise transgender women as women for the purposes of its gender equality bill? What is the Government's thinking about this? Does it include those who self-identify as transgender as the bill says definition of woman includes those "proposing" to undergo a process to reassign their sex. See attachment for copy of the bill. Can you confirm this is a draft of the bill/
Best wishes

[Journalist, The Daily Telegraph]

From: Welsh Government Official 1
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 12:12 PM
To: Special Adviser 1; Special Adviser 2; Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Special Adviser 3
Cc: Welsh Government Official 3
Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Hi All

Another query (below) on this matter from The Sunday Telegraph for response. Again an asap response is needed.

Thanks

Welsh Government Official 1

From: Welsh Government Official 1
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 12:13 PM
To: [Journalist, The Daily Telegraph]
Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Hi [Journalist, The Daily Telegraph]

We'll get back to you.

Thanks

Welsh Government Official 1

From: Welsh Government Official 3
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 12:26 PM
To: Welsh Government Official 1; Special Adviser 1; Special Adviser 2; Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Special Adviser 3; Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice) ; Hannah Blythyn [Deputy Minister – Social Partnership]; Welsh Government Official 4
Cc: Welsh Government Official 2
Subject: Re: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Thanks Welsh Government Official 1.

I've drafted the below line which has been cleared by Special Adviser 2 and the Deputy Minister [Social Partnership] (cc'd). Special Adviser 2 is speaking with Special Adviser 4 so will cover off the CA [Co-operation Agreement] side.

Please include a link to the FM's WMS [Written Ministerial Statement] earlier this year.

Before issuing the line can you please explain to all media that we do not comment on leaks. It is crucial they know the tweets/leaked information is incorrect - the wording cited is not the most up to date version of the Bill so they must exercise a lot of caution.

While we do not comment on leaks, here is a statement on what we're working to achieve:

“We are working to introduce a bill to make our parliament more representative of the people it serves, which includes provisions to introduce candidate quotas for people seeking election to the Senedd.

“Our proposed model for quotas is designed to maximise the chances of achieving a Senedd comprised of at least 50% women.

“Work is ongoing on the Bill.”

LINK TO WS [Written Statement]

Notes

The Bill’s name is the Senedd Cymru (electoral candidates lists) Wales Bill.

From: Hannah Blythyn [Deputy Minister -Social Partnership]
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 12:32 pm
To: Welsh Government Official 3; Welsh Government Official 1; Special Adviser 1; Special Adviser 2); Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Special Adviser 3; Bisson, Piers (ETC -

Constitution and Justice); Welsh Government Official 4

Cc: Welsh Government Official 2

Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Thanks Welsh Government Official 3.

From: Welsh Government Official 1

Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 12:32 pm

To: Welsh Government Official 3; Special Adviser 1; Special Adviser 2; Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Special Adviser 3; Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice); Hannah Blythyn [Deputy Minister – Social Partnership]; Welsh Government Official 4

Cc: Welsh Government Official 2

Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Thanks Welsh Government Official 3. I will be issuing this at 1pm unless I hear back from anybody on this chain.

Thanks

Welsh Government Official 1

From: Welsh Government Official 4

Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 12:54 PM

To: Welsh Government Official 1; Welsh Government Official 3 Hunt; Special Adviser 1; Special Adviser 2; Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Special Adviser 3; Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice); Hannah Blythyn [Deputy Minister- Social Partnership]

Cc: Welsh Government Official 2

Subject: Re: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Hi. Can it also go to [Journalist, The Daily Mail] as well please.

Thanks.

From: Welsh Government Official 1

Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 12:55 pm

To: Welsh Government Official 4; Welsh Government Official 3; Special Adviser 1; Special Adviser 2; Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Special Adviser 3; Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice) ; Hannah Blythyn [Deputy Minister -Social Partnership]

Cc: Welsh Government Official 2

Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Thanks Welsh Government Official 4, will do. Have you got a number for [Journalist, The Daily Mail] too please?

From: Welsh Government Official 4
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 1:03:43 PM
To: Welsh Government Official 1; Welsh Government Official 3; Special Adviser 1; Special Adviser 2; Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Special Adviser 3; Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice); Hannah Blythyn [Deputy Minister -Social Partnership]
Cc: Welsh Government Official 2
Subject: Re: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Yup. **[Redacted - Section 40 exemption]**

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 1:07 PM
To: Welsh Government Official 4, Welsh Government Official 1; Welsh Government Official 3, Special Adviser 1; Special Adviser 2); Special Adviser 3); Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice) ; Hannah Blythyn [Deputy Minister -Social Partnership]
Cc: Welsh Government Official 2
Subject: Re: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Apologies, just picking this up. The line is fine from my perspective but if there is still an opportunity could we say in the first line "We are working to introduce a bill to make our parliament more effective and representative of the people it serves, which includes..."

One minor typo in the notes: the Bill's name is the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill, ie not Candidates.

W

From: Welsh Government Official 1
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 1:08:12 PM
To: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Thanks Will. Do you know when the FM's WS [Written Statement] was issued on this, I need to include as link and trying to trawl through the web to find it.

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 1:10 PM
To: Welsh Government Official 1
Subject: Re: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Which WMS [Written Ministerial Statement] He announced the split of the Bills on his OS [Oral Statement] on the leg prog [legislative programme] in June, and there was a follow up WMS [Written Ministerial Statement] just into the summer recess in July. Sorry, I'm just not clear what 'announcement' we are looking for?

From: Welsh Government Official 1
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 1:13:09 PM
To: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Thanks Will. Welsh Government Official 3 just mentions including the FM's WS [Written Ministerial Statement] in the notes section below, but I wasn't sure which one and thought you may be able to help. Sorry

"We are working to introduce a bill to make our parliament more representative of the people it serves, which includes provisions to introduce candidate quotas for people seeking election to the Senedd.

"Our proposed model for quotas is designed to maximise the chances of achieving a Senedd comprised of at least 50% women.

"Work is ongoing on the Bill."

LINK TO WS [Written Ministerial Statement]

Notes

The Bill's name is the Senedd Cymru (electoral candidates lists) Wales Bill.

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 1:14 PM
To: Welsh Government Official 1
Subject: Re: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Here's the WMS [Written Ministerial Statement] from 27 July which refers to the announcement in the FM's leg [legislative] programme oral statement: <https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-update-senedd-reform-1>

From: Welsh Government Official 1
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 1:16:14 PM
To: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Thanks Will, that's the one I came across, so glad I was on the right track. I will send that on as it also provides a link to the Legislative Statement.

Thank-you!
Welsh Government Official 1

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 1:18 PM
To: Welsh Government Official 1
Subject: Re: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Thanks Welsh Government Official 1. Can you do me a favour? The telegraph enquiry seems to refer to an attachment (presumably the leaked Bill). Can you forward that on pls so I can see what it is? I haven't been able to see an actual document online, just references to it.

From: Welsh Government Official 1
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 1:19 PM
To: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd). **[Attachment Redacted - Section 31 exemption]**

Here we go ... 😊

From: Welsh Government Official 1
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 1:27 PM
To: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

No, only what Nation sent (which you should have received as part of the earlier email attachment). Welsh Government Official 4 was contacted directly by the Daily Mail too, but I assume that was via phone. If I get anything else I will let you know.

Thanks

Welsh Government Official 1

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 1:25 PM
To: Welsh Government Official 1
Subject: Re: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Thanks Welsh Government Official 1. Are you aware of anything more than this circulating? eg the whole Bill?

[The following text was sent by Welsh Government Official 1 (cc'd to Welsh Government Official 3 & Welsh Government Official 2) to journalists from Nation.Cymru, The Telegraph and The Daily Mail on the afternoon of Sunday October 29 2023 under separate email chains]

Hi

As I mentioned when we spoke, we don't comment on leaks and the document that you are working from is not the latest version, hence the wording is incorrect. Please see below a statement of what we're working to achieve.

A Welsh Government spokesperson said:

"We are working to introduce a bill to make our parliament more representative of the people it serves, which includes provisions to introduce candidate quotas for people seeking election to the Senedd.

"Our proposed model for quotas is designed to maximise the chances of achieving a Senedd comprised of at least 50% women.

"Work is ongoing on the Bill."

[Written Statement: Update on Senedd Reform \(27 July 2023\) | GOV.WALES](#)

Notes:

The Bill's name is the Senedd Cymru (electoral candidate lists) Wales Bill.

Thanks

Welsh Government Official 1

From: [Journalist, The Telegraph]

Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 1:44 PM

To: Welsh Government Official 1

Cc: Welsh Government Official 3, Welsh Government Official 2

Subject: Re: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Thanks Welsh Government Official 1

Can I clarify, are you saying that it is incorrect to say that the definition of woman includes transgender women? If so, what phrasing has it changed to?

From: Welsh Government Official 1

Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 1:53 PM

To: [Journalist, The Telegraph]

Cc: Welsh Government Official 3, Welsh Government Official 2

Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Hi [Journalist, The Telegraph]

As I mentioned earlier, we don't comment on leaked documents.

Welsh Government Official 1

Llywodraeth Cymru/Welsh Government

From: Welsh Government Official 1

Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 2:45 PM

To: Welsh Government Official 3; Special Adviser 1; Special Adviser 2; Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Special Adviser 3; Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice); Hannah Blythyn [Deputy Minister -Social Partnership]; Welsh Government Official 4

Cc: Welsh Government Official 2

Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Hi All

Just to confirm, the journalist has told me the whistleblower is said to be someone close to the Welsh Government.

Coverage so far below:

[Row looms as Welsh Government plans to allow self-identifying transwomen to stand in Senedd elections as females \(nation.cymru\)](#)

Thanks

Welsh Government Official 1

Llywodraeth Cymru/Welsh Government

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)

Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 4:13 PM

To: Special Adviser 3; Special Adviser 2; Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice)

Subject: Official - Sensitive: GQ Bill

[Attachment removed – not captured by this FOI request]

Special Adviser 3,

You asked how widely the version of the Bill that appears to have been leaked into the public domain was shared. I said that I was first trying to pin point which version of the Bill it is based on the **[Attachment Redacted - Section 31 exemption]** that was provided to Press Office by the Telegraph.

[Redacted text - Section 31 exemption]

Will

Will Whiteley

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 4:14 PM
To: Welsh Government Official 5; Martin, Neil (ETC - Legislative Counsel - OLC); Dunning, Diane (ETC - Legal Services Department); Welsh Government Official 6
Cc: Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice)
Subject: FW: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd). **[Attachment Redacted - Section 31 exemption]**

Afternoon all,

I just wanted to make you aware, if you're not already, of the press enquiries that we've had and subsequent media report(s) as a consequence a previous draft of the gender quotas Bill appearing to have been leaked. Piers and I have spoken and are in contact with Spads and Press Office.

Happy to discuss on Monday (for those that aren't on leave).

Will

Will Whiteley

From: [Journalist, The Express]
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 4:22 PM
To: Welsh Government Official 1
Subject:

[The body of this email did not contain text]

[Journalist, The Express]

From: Welsh Government Official 1
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 4:36 PM
To: [Journalist, The Express]
Cc: Welsh Government Official 3; Welsh Government Official 4; Welsh Government Official 2
Subject: RE:

Thanks for your call, [Journalist, The Express].

As discussed, we don't comment on leaks. The leaked document you are working from is **not** the latest version of the Bill. Please see below a statement of what we're working to achieve.

A Welsh Government spokesperson said:

"We are working to introduce a bill to make our parliament more representative of the people it serves, which includes provisions to introduce candidate quotas for people seeking election to the Senedd.

"Our proposed model for quotas is designed to maximise the chances of achieving a Senedd comprised of at least 50% women.

“Work is ongoing on the Bill.”

[Written Statement: Update on Senedd Reform \(27 July 2023\) | GOV.WALES](#)

Notes:

The Bill’s name is the Senedd Cymru (electoral candidate lists) Wales Bill.

Thanks

Welsh Government Official 1

Llywodraeth Cymru/Welsh Government

From: Welsh Government Official 1

Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 5:00 PM

To: Welsh Government Official 3; Special Adviser 1; Special Adviser 2; Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Special Adviser 3; Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice); Hannah Blythyn [Deputy Minister -Social Partnership]; Welsh Government Official 4

Cc: Welsh Government Official 2; Welsh Government Official 17

Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Quick update. The line has been requested by and issued to:

- [Journalist]– Nation Cymru
- [Journalist] – Daily Telegraph
- [Journalist] – Daily Mail
- [Journalist] – Daily Express

Thanks

Welsh Government Official 1

From: Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice)

Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 6:16 PM

To: Goodall, Andrew (PSO - Permanent Secretary's Office); Slade, Andrew (ETC - Director General)

Cc: Jenkins, Kathryn (COOG - Chief Security Officer); Private Office - Permanent Secretary; Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)

Subject: Senedd Reform / Gender Quotas - Information reaching public domain (Official - Sensitive)

Andrew / Andrew, cc Kath, Welsh Government Official 51, Will

I wanted to alert you to the fact that sensitive content from an internal draft of the Gender Quotas Bill has come into the possession of journalists (see weblink below).

[Row looms as Welsh Government plans to allow self-identifying transwomen to stand in Senedd elections as females \(nation.cymru\)](#)

[Redacted –Section 31 exemption]

I hope this is of use as an immediate 'heads up' to the issue. It would be good to discuss further appropriate organisational follow up tomorrow.

Thanks,

Piers

From: Slade, Andrew (ETC - Director General)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 6:47 PM
To: Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice); Goodall, Andrew (PSO - Permanent Secretary's Office)
Cc: Jenkins, Kathryn (COOG - Chief Security Officer); Private Office - Permanent Secretary; Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Subject: Re: Senedd Reform / Gender Quotas - Information reaching public domain (Official - Sensitive)

Understood Piers. Thanks for the alert **[Redacted –Section 31 exemption]**

Hope you and colleagues can have a quieter evening...

A.

From: Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 7:31 PM
To: Private Office - Counsel General & Minister for the Constitution
Subject: FW: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Hi Welsh Government Official 7 – grateful if we could have a quick word on this tomorrow morning.

Thanks,

Piers

From: Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 7:38 PM
To: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Hi Will,

One last thought for the day... should we (e.g. you and I) offer to speak to the Deputy Minister [Social Partnership] tomorrow / this week about the events of the day? Let's perhaps check with Special Adviser 2 initially, but if I was the DM I might want (and hopefully might feel reassured by) a conversation to take stock of what has happened and discuss what happens next.

Best wishes,

Piers

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 8:14 PM
To: Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice)
Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Hi Piers, I had the same thought and was minded to reach out to the DM's PO [Private Office] tomorrow. I got the impression from Special Adviser 2 that she thought she would welcome that, and hopefully be reassured by it, but happy to seek an explicit steer from Special Adviser 2 if you'd rather? Subject to that, I could suggest you and I would be available to meet with her at her convenience.

W

Will Whiteley

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 9:45 PM
To: Welsh Government Official 8
Subject: FW: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Welsh Government Official 8, apologies for not having included you on the below email too. It's been a longer day than anticipated!

Speak tomorrow

Will

Will Whiteley

From: Martin, Neil (ETC - Legislative Counsel - OLC)
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 8:40 AM
To: Hughes, Dylan (ETC - Legislative Counsel - OLC)
Subject: Leak of the GQ Bill - negative press coverage
Importance: High

[Attachment Redacted - Section 31 exemption]

Morning Dylan,

As you may have heard, a draft of the GQ Bill (or more properly, the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill) has been leaked. Will's email about this is below. [This](#) is, I think, the main article (by [Journalist, Nation.Cymru]).

[Redacted – Section 40, Section 35 and Section 31 exemptions]

Neil

From: Martin, Neil (ETC - Legislative Counsel - OLC)
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 8:42 AM
To: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Thanks Will,

There's nothing in particular I need to discuss, but I'm very happy to speak at any point if needs be. Let me know if you need anything from me.

Neil

From: Welsh Government Official 11
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 9:40 AM
To: Welsh Government Official 2; Welsh Government Official 9; Welsh; Welsh Government Official 38
Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Hi Welsh Government Official 2

Thanks for flagging this.

Do you know whether Nation Cymru is the only publication to have run with the story so far?

Thanks

Welsh Government Official 11

From: [Journalist, BBC]
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 9:45 AM
To: Welsh Government Official 15
Cc: Welsh Government Official 3
Subject: Gender quotas bill

Hi both, hope you had a good weekend.

I'm looking into [Journalist, Nation.Cymru] piece on Nation regarding the gender quotas bill, a copy of which he says has been leaked to him.

He reported that the draft bill states:

Section 7E of the Draft Bill states: "For the purposes of this section ... 'woman' includes a transgender woman. 'Transgender woman' means a person (T) who is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process or part of a process for the purpose of reassigning T's sex to female by changing physiological or other attributes of sex.

"An order under Section 13 [of the Draft Bill] must make provision requiring a person (P) as part of the process by which P is nominated as a candidate to declare either that P is a woman or that P is not.

“A constituency returning officer may not challenge or make any enquiry in relation to a statement made by a candidate in accordance with an order under Section 13 that the candidate is a woman.”

Some questions from me:

- 1) Is it the Welsh government’s intention to legislate so that the definition of a woman, for the purposes of the legislation, includes a transgender woman?
- 2) Is the wording above from Nation.Cymru correct?
- 3) What is the Welsh government’s reaction to the criticism from David TC Davies and the Women’s Rights Network which have been aired in Nation.Cymru and in the Telegraph?

The articles are here:

<https://nation.cymru/news/row-looms-as-welsh-government-plans-to-allow-self-identifying-transwomen-to-stand-in-senedd-elections-as-females/>

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/10/29/wales-trans-gender-elections-senedd-bill-leak-quotas-women/>

Can I get something as soon as possible today please?

[Journalist, BBC]

From: Welsh Government Official 2

Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 9:46 AM

To: Welsh Government Official 11; Welsh Government Official 9; Welsh Government Official 38

Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Looks like a few of them covered it. Copies of them below.

Trans row hits Welsh (Daily Express, p16)

Wales to class trans women as women (Daily Telegraph, p1, p10)

‘Gender self-ID by the back door fears’ in Labour Wales (Daily Mail, p26)

From: Welsh Government Official 4

Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 9:51 AM

To: Welsh Government Official 1; Welsh Government Official 3; Special Adviser 1; Special Adviser 2; Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Special Adviser 3; Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice); Hannah Blythyn [Deputy Minister – Social Partnership]; Welsh Government Official 16; [Private Office – First Minister]

Cc: Welsh Government Official 2; Seal, Welsh Government Official 17

Subject: Gender quota bill - coverage

Morning – some of the coverage today.

Others are expected to pick up today (BBC etc).

Intend sticking to same line issued yesterday – and no to interviews (at this stage).

We will monitor coverage throughout today – both in MSM and social.

Monday

[Mark Drakeford plot to allow men to be defined as women for election | Politics | News | Express.co.uk](#)

Leaked documents show that election officials would also be forbidden from challenging a candidate if they did not believe they were a woman.

Labour's minority government under Mark Drakeford in Cardiff was accused of "betraying" women by trying to sneak through the reforms. The draft of the Bill included a clause to allow biological men to stand on female only quotas designed to ensure half of members of the Senedd, the Welsh Parliament, are women.

[Row looms as Welsh Government plans to allow self-identifying transgender women to stand in Senedd elections as females \(nation.cymru\)](#)

The Welsh Government is setting itself on a potential collision course with the UK Government after deciding to allow people to self-identify their gender when standing as candidates for the Senedd.

[Wales government to redefine women to include trans women \(thepinknews.com\)](#)

A draft of the Welsh government's Gender Quotas Bill, which was leaked on Sunday night (29 October) and seen by [The Telegraph](#), proposes plans for a gender-balanced Senedd by having set equal quotas for male and female political candidates.

Under this draft bill, the definition of a woman will be updated, so that the female quota of candidates may include [trans](#) women.

[Welsh government plans to redefine women to include transgender females \(telegraph.co.uk\)](#)

Leaked gender Bill proposals face a backlash from UK Government and rights groups. The Welsh government is to redefine women to include transgender females under planned new laws. The proposal was revealed on Sunday in a leaked draft of its Gender Quotas Bill which proposes that half the candidates in any list to be members of the Senedd must be women. For the purposes of the proposed legislation this includes transgender women, the report stated

The definition further stated that transgender meant "a person who is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning [their] sex to female by changing physiological or other attributes of sex" - It also stated that a constituency returning officer could not challenge or make any inquiry in relation to a statement made by a candidate.

David TC Davies, the Welsh Secretary, told The Telegraph he had "grave concerns" about the report and was meeting members of various groups to discuss the proposals.

"One of my greatest fears is that the plan will have a detrimental impact on women's rights across our country. Those rights have been hard fought for and I fear could now be undermined by the Labour-run Welsh Government's ill-thought policy," he said.

The plans echo those put forward by the Scottish Government to make it easier for people to legally change gender.

Labour-run Welsh government is 'deviously' trying to introduce gender self-identification 'by the back door', women's rights campaigners claim | Daily Mail Online

Women's rights campaigners have accused the Labour-run Welsh government of a 'devious' attempt to introduce gender self-identification 'by the back door'.

Concerns have been raised about the wording of a leaked draft of legislation on gender quotas designed to increase the number of women in the Welsh parliament. It states that the definition of 'a woman' includes a transgender woman.

Online and social media activity for the past weekend including this morning's relevant trending topics and a snapshot of the top issues being discussed on Twitter and Facebook.



From: Welsh Government Official 15
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 9:54 AM
To: [Journalist, BBC]; Welsh Government Official 2
Cc: Welsh Government Official 3
Subject: RE: Gender quotas bill

Morning [Journalist, BBC]

The gender quotas bill comes under Jane Hutt [Minister – Social Justice] rather than the Counsel General – so forwarding your email to Welsh Government Official 2.

[Note for clarification purposes - Jane Hutt MS is not the Member in Charge of the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill as this email would seem to suggest.]

Best wishes

Welsh Government Official 15

From: Welsh Government Official 2
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 9:55 AM
To: Welsh Government Official 4; Welsh Government Official 1; Welsh Government Official 3; Special Adviser 1; Special Adviser 2; Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Special Adviser

3; Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice); Welsh Government Official 9; Welsh Government Official 11; Hannah Blythyn [Deputy Minister -Social Partnership); Welsh Government Official 16; [Private Office] –First Minister; Welsh Government Official 38

Cc: Welsh Government Official 17

Subject: RE: Gender quota bill - coverage

Thanks Welsh Government Official 4, copying in Welsh Government Official 11 to be aware too.

We've already been approached by the BBC, so will stick to that line.

From: Welsh Government Official 4

Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 9:56 AM

To: Welsh Government Official 2; Welsh Government Official 4; Welsh Government Official 3; Special Adviser 1; Special Adviser 2; Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Special Adviser 3); Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice); Welsh Government Official 9; Welsh Government Official 11; Hannah Blythyn [Deputy Minister-Social Partnership]; Welsh Government Official 16; [Private Office- First Minister]; Welsh Government Official 38

Cc: Welsh Government Official 17

Subject: RE: Gender quota bill - coverage

Thanks. Yes pls – although lets have a quick chat on the MM [morning meeting] now before sending (BBC just phoned me as well).

TFN

From: [Journalist, BBC]

Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 9:57 AM

To: Welsh Government Official 15; Welsh Government Official 2

Cc: Welsh Government Official 3

Subject: RE: Gender quotas bill

I didn't know – thanks Welsh Government Official 15!

From: Welsh Government Official 2

Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 10:24 AM

To: Welsh Government Official 15; [Journalist- BBC]

Cc: Welsh Government Official 3; Welsh Government Official 4

Subject: RE: Gender quotas bill

Hi [Journalist – BBC],

We don't comment on leaks, but the leaked document reported by Nation is **not** the latest version of the Bill. Please see below a statement of what we're working to achieve.

We don't have anything more to add about the criticism.

A Welsh Government spokesperson said:

“We are working to introduce a bill to make our parliament more representative of the people it serves, which includes provisions to introduce candidate quotas for people seeking election to the Senedd.

“Our proposed model for quotas is designed to maximise the chances of achieving a Senedd comprised of at least 50% women.

“Work is ongoing on the Bill.”

[Written Statement: Update on Senedd Reform \(27 July 2023\) | GOV.WALES](#)

Notes:

The Bill’s name is the Senedd Cymru (electoral candidate lists) Wales Bill.

Thanks,

Welsh Government Official 2

From: [Journalist – BBC]
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 10:36 AM
To: Welsh Government Official 2; Welsh Government Official 15
Cc: Welsh Government Official 3; Welsh Government Official 4
Subject: RE: Gender quotas bill

Hi all

Thanks for this.

Just to be clear, who are not saying what has changed, and you are not being drawn on question 1?

Thanks, [Journalist – BBC].

From: Martin, Neil (ETC - Legislative Counsel - OLC)
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 10:45 AM
To: Welsh Government Official 39; Welsh Government Official 40
Subject: FW: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

FYI

[Forwarded email dated Sunday, October 29, 2023 4:14 PM]

From: Welsh Government Official 20
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 10:56 AM
To: Private Office - Deputy Minister for Social Partnership
Cc: Diary - Deputy Minister for Social Partnership; Private Office - Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip; Diary - Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip; John, Amelia (ESJWL - Communities & Tackling Poverty); Hall, Lorna (ESJWL - Communities & Tackling Poverty); Welsh Government Official

21; Cynllun Gweithredu LHDTG+ / LGBTQ+ Action Plan [Team]; ESJWL – Government Business / Busnes y Llywodraeth; Welsh Government Official 9; Welsh Government Official 38; Welsh Government Official 2; Welsh Government Official 22; Welsh Government Official 23; Welsh Government Official 24; Welsh Government Official 12; Welsh Government Official 5; Welsh Government Official 13; Special Adviser 1

Subject: Action: to note. Trans Women and Senedd Reform Draft Bill

Importance: High

Hi all, good morning.

Action: to note (MSJCW [Minister – Social Justice and Chief Whip]; DMSP [Deputy Minister- Social Partnership]; SpAd [Special Adviser]; Comms). An article was published on Nation Cymru yesterday, on 30 October, about the Senedd reform Draft Bill and LGBTQ+ individuals.

It says: “Welsh Government sources have told us that drafting the gender balance Bill has posed legal challenges. A **whistleblower said to be close to the Welsh Government has leaked the text of this second Draft Bill to the Women’s Rights Network**, a group that believes transgender women should not be allowed to self-identify as female when seeking election to the Senedd. The Women’s Rights Network has passed on the leaked Bill to Nation.Cymru.”

- See link to the article: [Row looms as Welsh Government plans to allow self-identifying transgender women to stand in Senedd elections as females \(nation.cymru\)](https://www.nation.cymru/row-looks-as-welsh-government-plans-to-allow-self-identifying-transgender-women-to-stand-in-senedd-elections-as-females)

Wales Women’s Rights Network also posted on their Twitter/X page yesterday, saying: “BREAKING NEWS – UK SELF ID BY THE BACK DOOR. Welsh Govt will thumb their noses at UK Govt and introduce legislation in the new year to – 🚩Redefine ‘woman’ to include males”.

- See link to Twitter/X: <https://x.com/WRNWales/status/1718534436772335895?s=20>

We are aware of the impact that the above coverage is having on trans communities in Wales and LGBTQ+ organisations. For our Comms and Senedd Reform teams: could you please keep the LGBTQ+ policy team in the loop if responses or lines are drafted to address this (e.g., potential FM [First Minister] Hot Topic; WQ [Written Question]; FMQ [First Ministers Questions] OQ [Oral Questions]).

Many thanks and best wishes,

Welsh Government Official 20

From: Welsh Government Official 20

Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 11:17 AM

To: Welsh Government Official 5

Cc: John, Amelia (ESJWL - Communities & Tackling Poverty); Hall, Lorna (ESJWL - Communities & Tackling Poverty); Welsh Government Official 21; Welsh Government Official 9; Welsh Government Official 38; Welsh Government Official 2; Welsh Government Official 22; Welsh Government Official 23; Welsh Government Official 24; Welsh Government Official 12; Welsh Government Official 5; Welsh Government Official 13

Subject: FW: Action: to note. Trans Women and Senedd Reform Draft Bill

Importance: High

Folks,

Building on my previous email, please note additional press coverage on this matter published over the past few hours.

Welsh Government Official 12, Welsh Government Official 13 and Welsh Government Official 5, we can reasonably expect more questions on this subject this week and next week. I would like to draft a couple of lines to agree with you on this, to prepare and be ready for potential scrutiny or requests.

To note the press coverage:

- [Welsh government plans to redefine women to include transgender females \(telegraph.co.uk\)](https://www.telegraph.co.uk)
- [Row looms as Welsh Government plans to allow self-identifying transgender women to stand in Senedd elections as females \(nation.cymru\)](https://www.nation.cymru)
- [Labour-run Welsh government is 'deviously' trying to introduce gender self-identification 'by the back door', women's rights campaigners claim | Daily Mail Online](https://www.dailymail.com)
- [Wales government to redefine women to include trans women \(thepinknews.com\)](https://www.thepinknews.com)
- <https://x.com/Telegraph/status/1718734792512999853?s=20>

May I also ask to please make sure you keep Welsh Government Official 21, myself and my team in the loop if we wish to draft responses or lines to address this (e.g., potential FM Hot Topic; WQ; FMQ OQ).

Many thanks and best wishes,

Welsh Government Official 20

From: Welsh Government Official 12
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 11:13 AM
To: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Cc: Welsh Government Official 11; Welsh Government Official 5
Subject: FW: Action: to note. Trans Women and Senedd Reform Draft Bill
Importance: High

Will for info, couldn't see you copied in. [Forwarded email dated Monday 30 October, 11:17am]

Might need to flag our note to the DM [Deputy Minister- Social Partnership] on the back of this and Piers engagement with Amelia.

BW

Welsh Government Official 12

From: John, Amelia (PSWL - Communities & Tackling Poverty)
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 11:15 AM
To: Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice)
Subject: FW: Action: to note. Trans Women and Senedd Reform Draft Bill

[Forwarded email dated Monday 30 October, 10:56am]

Hi Piers

Please see email below for information.

[Cofion cynnes](#) / Kind regards

Amelia

From: Welsh Government Official 2

Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 11:19 AM

To: Welsh Government Official 20; Private Office- Deputy Minister for Social Partnership

Cc: Diary - Deputy Minister for Social Partnership; Private Office - Minister for Social Justice and Chief; Diary - Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip; John, Amelia (PSWL – Communities & Tackling Poverty); Hall, Lorna (PSWL – Communities & Tackling Poverty); Welsh Government Official 21; Cynllun Gweithredu LHDTc+ / LGBTQ+ Action Plan Team; PSWL – Government Business / Busnes y Llywodraeth; Welsh Government Official 9; Welsh Government Official 38; Welsh Government Official 22; Welsh Government Official 23; Welsh Government Official 24; Welsh Government Official 12; Welsh Government Official 5; Welsh Government Official 13; Special Adviser 1; Welsh Government Official 11; Welsh Government Official 9; Corporate Press Team; Special Adviser 5; Special Adviser 2; Welsh Government Official 38; Welsh Government Official 16

Subject: RE: Action: to note. Trans Women and Senedd Reform Draft Bill

[Attachment content included in subsequent pages of this release of information]

Thanks Welsh Government Official 20. We responded to media queries yesterday and issued the below line; adding that we don't comment on leaks and the leaked document they are working from is **not** the latest version of the Bill. We have refrained from adding anything more to subsequent queries.

A Welsh Government spokesperson said:

“We are working to introduce a bill to make our parliament more representative of the people it serves, which includes provisions to introduce candidate quotas for people seeking election to the Senedd.

“Our proposed model for quotas is designed to maximise the chances of achieving a Senedd comprised of at least 50% women.

“Work is ongoing on the Bill.”

[Written Statement: Update on Senedd Reform \(27 July 2023\) | GOV.WALES](#)

Notes:

The Bill's name is the Senedd Cymru (electoral candidate lists) Wales Bill.

The line has been sent to the below media. Will keep your team in the loop with any further bids.

- [Journalist]– Nation Cymru

- [Journalist] – Daily Telegraph
- [Journalist] – Daily Mail
- [Journalist] – Daily Express

Thanks,

Welsh Government Official 2

From: Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice)
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 11:36 AM
To: John, Amelia (PSWL - Communities & Tackling Poverty)
Subject: FW: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

[Forwarded email dated October 29 2023 5:00 PM]

Hi Amelia,

Good to speak just now – as promised, the media line which issued is in the email thread below.

Best wishes,

Piers

From: Welsh Government Official 9
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 12:45 PM
To: Welsh Government Official 38
Cc: Welsh Government Official 11
Subject: ministerial papers - comms meet 8/11

[Attachment - relevant information is included in email dated Sunday October 29 2023 12:26 PM]

Hi all,

[Redacted– not captured by this request]

Welsh Government Official 11– I’ve cc’d to you in case there is anything else you think we need to add on GQ bill specifically. I’ve put it down as a hot issue given the volume of queries and stories running at the mo, so Welsh Government Official 2 can talk through the media handling of this. you are also welcome to join the meeting if you would like. Entirely up to you.

Thanks all, Welsh Government Official 9

Welsh Government Official 9

From: Welsh Government Official 11
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 12:48 PM
To: Welsh Government Official 5; Welsh Government Official 8; Welsh Government Official 12; Welsh Government Official 14; Welsh Government Official 13; Welsh Government Official 20; Welsh Government Official 25; Welsh Government Official 26; Welsh Government Official 6; Welsh

Government Official 27; Welsh Government Official 13; Welsh Government Official 28; Welsh Government Official 18; Welsh Government Official 19; Welsh Government Official 29; Welsh Government Official 30; Welsh Government Official 31

Cc: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)

Subject: Gender quota bill – coverage

[Forwarded information is included in email dated Monday October 30 2023 9:51 AM]

Good afternoon

Below are the links to articles so far about the Gender Quota Bill.

Beneath that you will find details of the newspaper reports, byline and page no.

BBC Wales have contacted press office, so an article is expected to appear online later today, will share when that’s available and other articles as they become available.

The Telegraph online article (below) is behind a paywall but the Pressreader link should work but the print version is available in full if you scroll to the end of the email.

Thanks

Welsh Government Official 11

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)

Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 2:51 PM

To: Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice)

Subject: FW: Gender quota bill - coverage

Sorry Piers, you should have been on this distribution list.

W

From: Special Adviser 2

Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 4:43 PM

To: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice)

Subject: FW: Action: to note. Trans Women and Senedd Reform Draft Bill

[Forwarded email is included elsewhere in this release of information]

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)

Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 5:11 PM

To: Special Adviser 2; Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice)

Subject: RE: Action: to note. Trans Women and Senedd Reform Draft Bill

Thanks Special Adviser 2. I was going to send something similar to Welsh Government Official 2 to Welsh Government Official 20 but will hold off now as I think Welsh Government Official 2s’ email

covers it.

I spoke to DMSP [Deputy Minister-Social Partnership] earlier **[Redacted – Section 35 exemption]** I said we'd mentioned the need to take stock of our comms planning and core lines in light of this, so can look to bring this all together in the next week or two. I suspect we will have questions in the Senedd next week.

Will

Will Whiteley

From: Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice)
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 5:45 PM
To: **[Redacted – Section 40 Personal Information]** (Senedd Commission)
Subject: Senedd Reform - press coverage

Hi **[Redacted – Section 40 Personal Information]** (Senedd Commission),

Hope you had a good weekend. Just to say I'm happy to speak if that would be useful given what unfolded in relation to Senedd Reform over the weekend?

Best wishes,

Piers

From: Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice)
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 7:15 PM
To: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Subject: RE: Gender quota bill - coverage

Thanks Will,

The Sun and The Times also now have articles, available via NewsBank (as signposted on our intranet – search for "Newspaper"):

[Access UK & Ireland | Search Results: gender quotas in All Text \(newsbank.com\)](#)

Would be good to keep an updated shared catalogue of articles if the media coverage on this continues in the days ahead.

Thanks,

Piers

From: Private Office -Counsel General & Minister for the Constitution
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 8:27 PM
To: Welsh Government Official 1; Welsh Government Official 15
Cc: Private Office- Counsel General & Minister for the Constitution; Welsh Government Official 3; Special Adviser 3; Special Adviser 1; Special Adviser 2; Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Welsh Government Official 4; Welsh Government Official 2; Welsh Government Official 17; Private Office -Deputy Minister for Social Partnership; Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and

Justice)

Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Colleagues

Just to let you know, [Journalist – BBC] contacted CG [Counsel General] today by text asking for an off the record chat. CG told him that if he has any questions regarding the GQ bill he should contact the DMSP’s press office.

Welsh Government Official 7

From: Welsh Government Official 2

Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 8:49 PM

To: Private Office -Counsel General & Minister for the Constitution; Welsh Government Official 1; Welsh Government Official 15

Cc: Private Office - Counsel General & Minister for the Constitution; Welsh Government Official 3; Special Adviser 3; Special Adviser 1; Special Adviser 2; Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Welsh Government Official 4; Welsh Government Official 17; Private Office- Deputy Minister for Social Partnership; Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice)

Subject: Re: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Thanks

Welsh Government Official 7. I did speak to [Journalist – BBC] about the GQ Bill earlier. Thanks for flagging.

Welsh Government Official 2

From: Welsh Government Official 32

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 7:40 AM

Subject: Morning Online and Social Media Summary - 31/10/2023

Good morning all,

Below is a summary of online and social media activity for the past 24 hours including this morning’s relevant trending topics and a snapshot of the top issues being discussed on Twitter and Facebook.

Many thanks,

Welsh Government Official 32

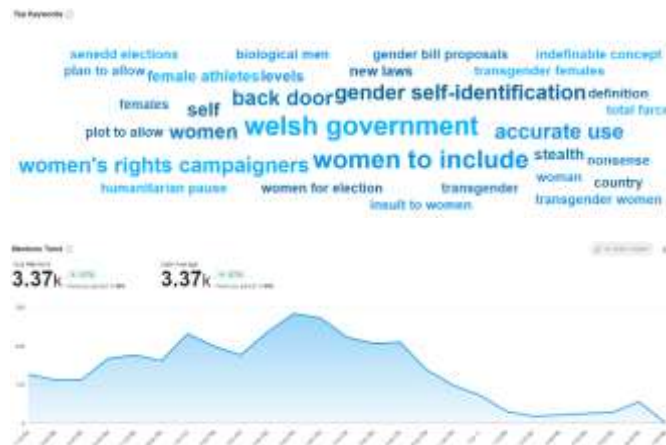
Morning Online and Social Media Summary – Tuesday 31st October

This summary is for restricted circulation only. The summary is a reflection of online and social media activity. It does not represent the views of the Welsh Government or the digital team.

Summary of top issues

Messages discussing gender self-identification in Wales gained the most engagement over the past 24 hours.

Keywords and Trends



Top messages

No comments or views contained here are to be attributed or circulated further.

Messages with most engagement	Total engagement
Particularly bad for female athletes of all levels if the wales government are allowed to do this by stealth! Speak out & say no to self ID	11 Replies 458 Retweets 1.76k Likes
The Welsh Government is to redefine women to include self-identifying transgender 'women' under planned new laws.	381 Replies 329 Retweets 532 Likes
Where has this word "redefined" come from? Legally woman already includes trans women and has done so explicitly since 2004	31 Replies 63 Retweets 877 Likes
#Drakeford plot to allow men to be defined as women for election #SaveWales #JoinUKIP	11 Replies 143 Retweets 259 Likes

Messages with most reach	Total reach
'Total farce!' Outrage at Mark Drakeford after 'insult to women' exposed in leaked memo	1.02m Reach
🗉 'Transgender women are women, Welsh government states' The Times 🗉	589k Reach

Welsh Government Official 32

From: Welsh Government Official 2
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 8:20 AM
To: Welsh Government Official 2
Subject: Morning News Summary – Tuesday 31st October

Welsh Government Press Office

Morning News Summary – Tuesday 31st October

This summary is for restricted circulation only. The summary is a reflection of how the news is being reported by both broadcast and written press. It does not represent the views of the Welsh Government or the press office.

Social Justice

- Welsh lawmakers don't have the powers to invert biological reality, says Julie Bindel about the Gender Quotas Bill mooted to include trans women (Telegraph, p16)
- 'Total farce!' Outrage at Mark Drakeford after 'insult to women' exposed in leaked memo (Express, web)
- Fury over Welsh government's plan to redefine women to include transgender females as 'grave concerns' raised (Sun, web)
- Transgender women are women, Welsh government states (Times, web)
- Welsh government looks to redefine definition of women to include trans females (Yahoo News/Attitude, web)
- The fixation of the Welsh Govt on trans issues is baffling, Suzanne Moore comment piece (Telegraph, p5)

This summary is for restricted circulation only. The summary is a reflection of how the news is being reported by both broadcast and written press. It does not represent the views of the Welsh Government or the press office.

Welsh Government Official 2

From: Welsh Government Official 18
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 10:00 AM
To: Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice); Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Welsh Government Official 14
Cc: Welsh Government Official 19
Subject: Draft Agenda and Papers - Pre-meet - Senedd Reform Programme Board

Good morning

Please find enclosed the draft Agenda and Papers ahead of the pre-meet at 10:30 am.

Thanks

Welsh Government Official 18

Relevant Excerpt From Attachments:

Gender Quotas Bill coverage

There was a leak of an early draft of the Gender Quotas Bill to a group called the Women's Rights Network. This has prompted a number of articles across national titles focusing on how transgender women would be included in the quotas. These are largely critical of the plans, quoting the Women's Rights Network who referred to the plan as misogynistic. The links are below with a precis of the content of each article.

30 October:

- [Mark Drakeford plot to allow men to be defined as women for election | Politics | News | Express.co.uk](#) Leaked documents show that election officials would also be forbidden from challenging a candidate if they did not believe they were a woman. Labour's minority government under Mark Drakeford in Cardiff was accused of "betraying" women by trying to sneak through the reforms.
- [Row looms as Welsh Government plans to allow self-identifying transgender women to stand in Senedd elections as females \(nation.cymru\)](#) The Welsh Government is setting itself on a potential collision course with the UK Government after deciding to allow people to self-identify their gender when standing as candidates for the Senedd.
- [Wales government to redefine women to include trans women \(thepinknews.com\)](#) A draft of the Welsh government's Gender Quotas Bill, which was leaked on Sunday night (29 October) and seen by *The Telegraph*, proposes plans for a gender-balanced Senedd by having set equal quotas for male and female political candidates. Under this draft bill, the definition of a woman will be updated, so that the female quota of candidates may include trans women.
- [Welsh government plans to redefine women to include transgender females \(telegraph.co.uk\) PressReader.com - Digital Newspaper & Magazine Subscriptions](#) Leaked gender Bill proposals face a backlash from UK Government and rights groups. The Welsh government is to redefine women to include transgender females under planned new laws. The proposal was revealed on Sunday in a leaked draft of its Gender Quotas Bill which proposes that half the candidates in any list to be members of the Senedd must be women.
- [Labour-run Welsh government is 'deviously' trying to introduce gender self-identification 'by the back door', women's rights campaigners claim | Daily Mail Online](#) Women's rights campaigners have accused the Labour-run Welsh government of a 'devious' attempt to introduce gender self-identification 'by the back door'. Concerns have been raised about the wording of a leaked draft of legislation on gender quotas designed to increase the number of women in the Welsh parliament. It states that the definition of 'a woman' includes a transgender woman.
- [DAILY MAIL COMMENT: Existing laws must be used to tackle haters | Daily Mail Online](#) Women's rights groups are suspicious that the Welsh government may be trying to introduce gender self-identification on the back of legislation designed to increase female representation in its Labour-run parliament. As part of gender quotas, it would recognise transgender women as women if they have undergone, are undergoing, or are merely 'proposing to undergo' gender reassignment from male to female. It is not clear that any proof would be required. As the fiasco in Scotland showed, gender identification is a massively controversial issue. If the Labour-run Welsh government wants to create its own definition of what constitutes a woman, it should be up front about it and table a separate Bill – not try to sneak it in through the back door.
- [Fury over Welsh government's plan to redefine women to include transgender females as 'grave concerns' raised | The Sun](#) Labour's First Minister of Wales Mark Drakeford sparked fury today as it emerged he wants to change the law so that transwomen can stand as females in Senedd elections.

From: Welsh Government Official 11

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 12:17 PM

To: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Welsh Government Official 5; Welsh

Government Official 8; Welsh Government Official 12; Welsh Government Official 13; Welsh Government Official 14; Welsh Government Official 29; Welsh Government Official 25; Welsh Government Official 6; Welsh Government Official 31; Welsh Government Official 33

Subject: GQ Bill - social media listening

[Attachment content included in subsequent pages of this release of information]

Hi all

Below is a social media listening report. As you can see the GQ Bill leak and articles has led to misinformation circulating on social media, as shown by the 'Top Messages' table and the female athletes' message which originated from former swimmer Sharon Davies. There has been significant reach for two messages (final table) the 'total farce' message was Daily Express (circa 1m) and the Times message (circa 600k).

Thanks

Welsh Government Official 11

From: Welsh Government Official 2

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 2:00 PM

To: Welsh Government Official 3; Welsh Government Official 4

Subject: Gender Quotas Bill

[Attachment removed – not captured by this FOI request]

Hi both,

In light of the Gender Quotas Bill in the news over the weekend, thought it was worth sharing the latest version of the press release around it. Officials are happy with it, but it hasn't gone up to SpAds or the Deputy Minister yet. I've been keeping Welsh Government Official 11, who is leading on comms around it, in the loop around it.

It's also now known as the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill.

Haven't had any further queries about it since yesterday, but did see the below stories in the news this morning.

- **Welsh lawmakers don't have the powers to invert biological reality, says Julie Bindel about the Gender Quotas Bill mooted to include trans women (Telegraph, p16)**
- **'Total farce!' Outrage at Mark Drakeford after 'insult to women' exposed in leaked memo (Express, web)**
- **Fury over Welsh government's plan to redefine women to include transgender females as 'grave concerns' raised (Sun, web)**
- **Transgender women are women, Welsh government states (Times, web)**
- **Welsh government looks to redefine definition of women to include trans females (Yahoo News/Attitude, web)**
- **The fixation of the Welsh Govt on trans issues is baffling, Suzanne Moore comment piece (Telegraph, p5)**

Thanks,

Welsh Government Official 2

From: Welsh Government Official 11
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 5:28 PM
To: Welsh Government Official 5; Welsh Government Official 8; Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Welsh Government Official 13
Subject: Further GQ Bill coverage today

Hi all

Just sharing some further coverage. BBC Wales have now published the article they were working on yesterday this includes comments from Stonewall and Pride Cymru as well as WRN. The Daily Telegraph has published comment pieces focusing on self-id and the idea the bill will 'push' or 'elbow out' women in politics.

- [Trans women could be counted as women in Senedd elections - BBC News](#)

Welsh Labour and Plaid Cymru want to make political parties draw up equal lists of men and women candidates. Draft legislation, leaked by a campaign group, suggests the lists of women could include candidates who are planning gender reassignment. A Welsh government spokesperson said the bill has since changed. But government spokespeople would not be drawn on what had been altered.

- **Daily Telegraph:** <https://pressreader.com/article/281775633854066>

Though this obsession with gender ideology and the attempt to push Self-ID through in Scotland helped bring about Nicola Sturgeon's downfall, such thinking still dominates some factions of all the parties... A leaked draft from the Welsh Government on its Gender Quota's Bill, which aims to make the Senedd (the Welsh Parliament) more equal, proposes that half the candidates are women and that must include transgender women. That can be a man who has gone through the process of "reassigning their sex" or simply one who at some stage may undergo transition. This is Self-ID through the back door. The purpose of quotas is to increase female representation, yet this would mean men who ID as women would improve their chances of selection. The goal is to benefit women, the reality is that they may be pushed out.

- **Daily Telegraph:** <https://pressreader.com/article/282595972607572>

Just this weekend, it was revealed that the Welsh government plans to admit trans women into the class of "women". The Gender Quotas Bill, which is being introduced to address the dominance of men in politics by ensuring that a proportion of candidates on any list up for election to the Senedd must be women, will quickly become unworkable, indeed meaningless, if the change is enacted. I can't believe this needs pointing out. What the Bill would then achieve is not equality for women, but women being elbowed out of a job in politics.

Thanks

Welsh Government Official 11

From: Welsh Government Official 12
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 5:19 PM
To: Welsh Government Official 20; Welsh Government Official 21; Welsh Government Official 27
Cc: John, Amelia (PSWL - Communities & Tackling Poverty); Hall, Lorna (PSWL - Communities & Tackling Poverty); Welsh Government Official 22; Welsh Government Official 23; Welsh Government Official 24; Welsh Government Official 5; Welsh Government Official 13; Whiteley, William (ETC -

Senedd Reform & Legislation); Welsh Government Official 11

Subject: RE: Action: to note. Trans Women and Senedd Reform Draft Bill

[Attachment removed – not captured by this FOI request]

Shwmae all

Welsh Government Official 20, we appreciate you flagging the media coverage that was seen over the weekend, we are fully aware of it and you will see from Comms' email that the duty Comms Officer responded including stating that 'we do not comment on leaks' but confirming 'that what has been seen is not the current version of the Bill'.

[Redacted - Section 31 exemption]

Will spoke with the DM [Deputy Minister-Social Partnership] yesterday to provide reassurance around the steps we're taking and how the media coverage might help us to further develop our lines and comms planning.

We'll be drafting some lines to deal with the immediate issues raised in the press coverage. We would welcome your support with these, including the lines you agreed to send to us in our team message yesterday.

In light of the events, it would be helpful if we could have the lines you previously agreed to send us at our meeting a few weeks ago sooner rather than later. Welsh Government Official 11, will be in touch tomorrow morning to discuss further, if you're available.

Please let us know if there is anything else you think you'll need from us, to support you with any planned engagement with external stakeholders and also any government business arising that is allocated to you on this matter, e.g. correspondence or Senedd questions.

I've sent you an email earlier today regarding an action as to which LGBTQ+ organisations the DM should engage with on GQs. In light of the weekends events we can discuss any additional handling you think will be required if engagements led by the DM are added to the diary. We previously agreed we would welcome your support with any briefing and running of these meetings.

Happy to have a catch up to discuss further if that would be helpful.

We will of course keep you all informed of any significant developments.

BW

Welsh Government Official 12

From: Welsh Government Official 2

Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 9:10 AM

To: Welsh Government Official 11; Welsh Government Official 9; Welsh Government Official 38

Subject: RE: Further GQ Bill coverage today

GB News now picked it up too:

[WATCH: Kellie-Jay Keen BLASTS Senedd plans to redefine women to include transgender females \(gbnews.com\)](https://www.gbnews.com)

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 9:38 AM
To: Welsh Government Official 5; Welsh Government Official 12; Welsh Government Official 13
Subject: FW: FMs Hot issues - DUE 10AM TOMORROW

Morning all. The usual request for FM [First Minister] Hot Issues has come around and we'll need to ensure we've included something on the leak of an early version of the GQ Bill and the subsequent media coverage.

Piers and I discussed earlier in the week and my immediate thought is:

- The line that was issued to the media on Sunday
- Brief few sentences on background and summary of media coverage
- What else the FM may wish to say – we don't want to deviate from the line that we don't comment on leaked docs, but it might be a sensible for the FM to rebut some of the misinformation that has circulated in the media, e.g. make the link back to the SPC recommendation on GQs that was endorsed by the Senedd, and remind Members of the purpose and narrow scope of the legislation (therefore it is not a 'back door' to anything).

Would you mind drafting something please?

Thanks

Will

Will Whiteley

From: Welsh Government Official 12
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 4:29 PM
To: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Welsh Government Official 5, Welsh Government Official 13
Subject: RE: FMs Hot issues - DUE 10AM TOMORROW

[Attachment content is included in email dated Friday November 3 2023 9:42 AM]

Shwmae Will

Sorry for the delay.

Attached. **[Redacted – Section 35 exemption]**

BW

Welsh Government Official 12

From: Whiteley, William (ETC – Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 4:51 PM
To: Welsh Government Official 1

Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Hi Welsh Government Official 1, I'm just providing a brief for the FM's hot issues on this and looking back at emails I just thought I'd check something. In the email below you said "the journalist has told me the whistleblower is said to be someone close to the Welsh Government". Which journalist were you referring to? Was it [Journalist] at the Daily Telegraph or [Journalist] at Nation.Cymru? I realise I assumed it was the latter at the time, but re-reading I thought I'd double check!

Thanks

W

Will Whiteley

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 5:26 PM
To: Welsh Government Official 12, Welsh Government Official 5, Welsh Government Official 13
Subject: RE: FMs Hot issues - DUE 10AM TOMORROW

[Attachment content is included in email dated Friday November 3 2023 9:42 AM]

Thanks Welsh Government Official 12, this is great. I've tweaked it a bit trying to ensure we're not drawn on the detail of the Bill while giving the FM the option to tackle some of the misinformation. I have shared with Piers given we have time (thanks to you sorting so quickly) and as he's attending the FMQ [First Ministers Question's] briefing session on Monday obo Andrew Slade.

You'll also be please to know that we don't have any FMQs that have been tabled for us next week, so it's just this for the Hot Issues briefing (assuming its likely to be raised by Andrew RT Davies during leaders' questions).

W

Will Whiteley

From: Welsh Government Official 1
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 8:22 PM
To: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Hi Will

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you. It was indeed [journalist] at Nation Cymru.

Thanks

Welsh Government Official 1

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 8:35 PM

To: Welsh Government Official 1

Subject: RE: Transgender women to be included in definition of women in gender quota bill (for the Senedd).

Thanks Welsh Government Official 1. Much appreciated.

W

Will Whiteley

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)

Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 8:58 PM

To: Hall, Lorna (ESJWL - Communities & Tackling Poverty); John, Amelia (ESJWL - Communities & Tackling Poverty)

Cc: Welsh Government Official 12, Welsh Government Official 5; Welsh Government Official 13; Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice); Welsh Government Official 20

Subject: Official - Sensitive: Hot Topics briefing for FMQs - deadline of 10am Friday 03 November 2023

[Attachment content is included in email dated Friday November 3 2023 9:42 AM]

Amelia, Lorna

Following on from Welsh Government Official 20's email I attach an iShare file to our briefing for FM's hot issues regarding the GQ Bill. You may already be aware that no FMQ has been tabled on the leak but it may well be raised during Leaders' questions. I'm directing this to you as I noted that tomorrow is Welsh Government Official 20 NWD [Non-working day] and understand that Welsh Government Official 21 is on leave.

I've taken account of Welsh Government Official 20's email and split lines that relate specifically to the GQ Bill and then more broadly to transgender inclusion. I intend to submit at 10am aside from a minor addition I need to discuss with Mike Kay and Lisa James in the morning, but if you have a chance to consider before then I would be grateful for any comments.

Best wishes,

Will

Will Whiteley

From: John, Amelia (ESJWL - Communities & Tackling Poverty)

Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 9:25 PM

To: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Hall, Lorna (ESJWL - Communities & Tackling Poverty)

Cc: Welsh Government Official 12; Welsh Government Official 5; Welsh Government Official 13; Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice); Welsh Government Official 20

Subject: RE: Official - Sensitive: Hot Topics briefing for FMQs - deadline of 10am Friday 03 November 2023

Noswaith dda Will

These seem fine to me thank you. Lorna may well also take a look tomorrow morning.

Cofion cynnes / Kind regards

Amelia

From: Welsh Government Official 12
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2023 8:55 AM
To: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Welsh Government Official 5; Welsh Government Official 13
Subject: RE: FMs Hot issues - DUE 10AM TOMORROW

Great thanks Will. I'm glad the lines did what you needed them to.

BW

Welsh Government Official 12

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2023 9:03 AM
To: Welsh Government Official 12; Welsh Government Official 5; Welsh Government Official 13
Subject: RE: FMs Hot issues - DUE 10AM TOMORROW

[Attachment content is included in email dated Friday November 3 2023 9:42 AM]

Thanks Welsh Government Official 12. You may have seen it's been tweaked a bit further following feedback from Piers and I've incorporated the lines from Welsh Government Official 20 that were focussed more generally on transgender inclusion as a separate section. I've shared with Amelia and Lorna and Amelia is content.

In terms of the leak, I think you're right and that is in part why we wanted to put the sentence at the top that it may need a further update early next week if/when there is formal confirmation of what steps are being taken by the organisation. As you say, not for us but we may hear on Monday and can reflect in a supp briefing.

Thanks again for pulling this together. I think it's now ready to be dropped into the main ETC briefing – shall I do that or would you like to?

Will

Will Whiteley

From: Welsh Government Official 12
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2023 9:22 AM
To: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Welsh Government Official 5; Welsh Government Official 13
Subject: RE: FMs Hot issues - DUE 10AM TOMORROW

Diolch Will

I had a quick look this morning and I think the separation works well.

BW

Welsh Government Official 12

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2023 9:42 AM
To: Welsh Government Official 41
Cc: Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice)
Subject: RE: FMs Hot issues - DUE 10AM TODAY

Hi Welsh Government Official 41, I've inserted a new section 13 in order to provide a new contribution in relation to **Senedd Reform – Gender Quotas – Transgender inclusion Media Coverage**. I've done this in the 6 Nov doc on iShare. I've set the entire text as 'red' to indicate it's all new text regarding a new issue.

I hope that's all correct but please shout if you need me to go back into the document to adjust anything.

Best wishes,

Will

Will Whiteley

Attachment:

Senedd Reform – Gender Quotas – Transgender inclusion Media Coverage

NB. This is a live issue and therefore a further update may be provided early next week.

Background

On Sunday 29 October media coverage emerged following a series of tweets by a Women's Rights Network Wales stating that they had seen the draft Gender Quotas Bill. Press office was initially contacted by [Journalist] at Nation.Cymru regarding the tweets, but was subsequently contacted by the Daily Telegraph who demonstrated they had seen at least part of an early draft of the Bill.

Throughout Sunday other news outlets approached the press office for comment including the Daily Mail and Daily Express. The following lines were provided:

- We don't comment on leaks. However, the leaked document you are working from is not the latest version the Bill.
- We are working to introduce a Bill to make our parliament more representative of the people it serves, which includes provisions to introduce candidate quotas for people seeking election to the Senedd. Our proposed model for quotas is designed to maximise the chances of achieving a Senedd comprised of at least 50% women.
- Work is ongoing on the Bill.

The Women's Rights Network Wales tweets including the following comments:

"BREAKING NEWS – UK SELF-ID BY THE BACK DOOR

Welsh Govt will thumb their noses at UK Govt and introduce legislation in the new year to:

- *Redefine 'women' to include males*
- *Alter the definition of 'woman' at any time*
- *Squash any ability to challenge a self ID declaration"*

"They are introducing a #GenderQuotasBill' in the new year that claims to increase the number of women in the Senedd.

This is a DECEPTION

It's a means to introduce self ID in law. In the corridors of power, this is openly acknowledged & it may increase MALE representation."

The coverage by the various outlets received high volumes of traffic on social media, including tweets by the Secretary of State for Wales and Andrew RT Davies:

The Secretary of State for Wales told the Daily Telegraph:

'he had "grave concerns" about the report and was meeting members of various groups to discuss the proposals. "One of my greatest fears is that the plan will have a detrimental impact on women's rights across our country. Those rights have been hard fought for and I fear could now be undermined by the Labour-run Welsh Government's ill-thought policy," he said. The plans echo those put forward by the Scottish Government to make it easier for people to legally change gender'.

Andrew RT Davies tweeted:

'A total farce. Labour's gender quotas are insulting to women, and to the public whose votes should be free from interference by politicians. But this is comical. If anyone can "identify" as whichever gender they choose the whole thing is unfit for purpose. Scrap it'.

Since Sunday, coverage has also been carried by Pink News, The Sun, The Times, a number of opinion pieces in the Daily Telegraph, and a segment on GB News. BBC Wales published an article on 31 October.

What follows is a flavour of some of the inaccurate wider comments that have been made since then:

Media:

- The suggestion that the Bill provides a 'back door' to gender self-ID in Wales, akin to what was proposed in the Scottish Government's Gender Recognition Reform Bill.
- The Welsh Government is setting itself on a clash with the UK Government over the proposals in the Bill similar to the Scottish Government.
- The Bill contains the power for Welsh Government to redefine woman.

Social media:

- The Bill will redefine woman to include transgender women across the board for other areas beyond elections.
- The Bill is a 'back door' to self-identification of gender.
- The Bill will lead to transwomen athletes being able to compete in women's sports.

Lines to take:

Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill

- We do not comment on leaked documents, I would however remind Members that we are bringing forward legislation in response to the recommendations of the Special Purpose Committee on Senedd reform, that was endorsed by a two thirds majority of the Senedd.
- The Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform recommended that *'the Senedd should be elected with integrated gender quotas, with mandatory zipping'*.
- The purpose of this legislation is to make our parliament more effective by being more representative of the people it serves. The Bill will be narrow in scope and simply relates to the placement of women candidates on political parties lists for Senedd elections. To suggest this is self-ID by the back door is a nonsense.
- **[Redacted – Section 35 exemption]**
- The Government is taking forward a range of measures, including in response to recommendations by the Special Purpose Committee, to support women and people from unrepresented groups to stand for local and Senedd elections.
- For example, the Government will be producing guidance for parties on publishing diversity and inclusion strategies ahead of the next Senedd Election. This delivers on the specific recommendation of the SPC.
- Furthermore, the Elections and Elected Bodies places a duty on Welsh Ministers to put in place arrangements for the provision of services to promote diversity of people seeking to stand for local and Senedd elections.

[Redacted – Section 35 exemption]

Last updated: 3 November **Updated by:** Senedd Reform Division

From: Welsh Government Official 5

Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 4:02 PM

To: Private Office -Deputy Minister for Social Partnership

Cc: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Welsh Government Official 11

Subject: Official-Sensitive - Lines for FMQs on Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill

[Attachment content is included in email dated Friday November 3 2023 9:42 AM]

Hi Welsh Government Official 41, the Deputy Minister asked this morning to see the briefing and lines we have provided to the First Minister ahead of possible questions in plenary this week.

Please find this information attached for the Deputy Minister's attention.

Many thanks

Welsh Government Official 5

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 9:11 AM
To: Brighthouse, Sophie (ETC - Constitution and Justice)
Cc: Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice)
Subject: RE: Hot Issues [TREFNYDD]- Business Statement: 7th November 2023

[Attachment content is included in email dated Friday November 3 2023 9:42 AM]

Hi Sophie, on reflection I think it would be best to just send the same note to the Trefnydd as we did for the FM (iShare link attached). Would you like to include this alongside the Hot Issues, or are you happy for me to send separately?

Will

Will Whiteley

From: Diary- Deputy Minister for Social Partnership
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:17 PM
To: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation); Welsh Government Official 5
Cc: Diary -Deputy Minister for Social Partnership; Special Adviser 3; Private Office - Deputy Minister for Social Partnership
Subject: Urgent: Factual brief request: Genda Quotas

Will / Welsh Government Official 5

Apologies for the short notice, the DMSP requires a factual brief about the recent gender quotas leak.

Please could you provide this by c.o.p. today.

Thanks

Welsh Government Official 50

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:49 PM
To: Diary - Deputy Minister for Social Partnership; Welsh Government Official 5
Cc: Special Adviser 3; Private Office -Deputy Minister for Social Partnership
Subject: RE: Urgent: Factual brief request: Genda Quotas

[Attachment content is included in email dated Friday November 3 2023 9:42 AM]

Hi Welsh Government Official 50,

Attached is the note we prepared for FMQs and other purposes following the leak. The background section covers what we know about the leak.

Best wishes,

Will

Will Whiteley

From: Whiteley, William (ETC - Senedd Reform & Legislation)
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2023 8:40 AM
To: Private Office- First Minister
Cc: Special Adviser 2; Bisson, Piers (ETC - Constitution and Justice); Private Office - Permanent Secretary Welsh Government
Subject: Official - Sensitive: FM/Llywydd bilateral - 22 Nov - note on Senedd reform

Welsh Government Official 37,

As requested, please find below a note for the First Minister regarding Senedd reform-related matters ahead of his bilateral with the Llywydd tomorrow:

[Excerpt relevant to this FOI request]

Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill

1. **[Redacted – Section 35 exemption]**
2. You may wish to acknowledge with the Llywydd the unfortunate leak of an early draft of the SC(ECL) Bill **[Redacted - Section 31 exemption]**

Piers and I would be available to attend the meeting in support of the FM, if that would be helpful.

Best wishes,

Will

Will Whiteley

Relevant excerpt from meeting note for FM and Llywydd monthly bilateral:

Attendees: First Minister, Llywydd

Officials: **[Redacted – Section 40 Personal Information]** (Senedd Commission), Special Adviser 2.

Date: 22 November 2023

Senedd Reform

The First Minister said that there had been a leak of the Gender Quotas Bill.

[Additional Note]

The Welsh Government has received two pieces of correspondence instigated by media coverage relating to the leak. While the correspondence makes reference to the media coverage, the main focus of these letters (and the Welsh Government’s response) was on related policy matters and not the leak itself.]