



Chloe Smith MP
Minister of State for the Constitution and Devolution
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS

Rt Hon Stephen Crabb MP
Chair, Welsh Affairs Committee
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

1 February 2021

Dear Stephen,

The Police and Crime Commissioner Elections (Welsh Forms) Order 2021

I would like to inform you that I plan to lay the above statutory instrument before Parliament shortly, to provide for a set of Welsh forms for use at Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections held in Wales.

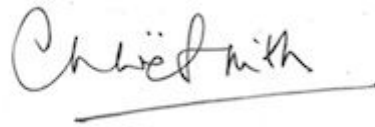
Currently, Welsh versions of only the ballot paper and the nomination form for candidates at PCC elections in Wales are provided for in legislation. Other forms are not covered. The practice at PCC elections has been for other forms to be produced locally in Welsh by Returning Officers using powers in the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections Order 2012, supported by guidance from the Electoral Commission. I have heard the concerns of electoral administrators in Wales and of Welsh language groups on the need to ensure there is effective Welsh language provision covering all materials at elections and this instrument seeks to address this point.

As a result of discussions with the Electoral Commission and Welsh electoral administrators, we are planning to introduce a set of prescribed forms and forms of words translated into Welsh, in respect of the range of other forms already in use (in English) at PCC elections, in addition to the Welsh versions of the ballot paper and nomination form for candidates that are already provided. This is to ensure consistency with other elections held in Wales, such as UK parliamentary elections, which have their own discrete set of Welsh forms set out in secondary legislation. The proposed statutory instrument is supported by the Electoral Commission and other electoral stakeholders.

The Welsh forms in the instrument cover various stages in the electoral process and include: poll cards issued to electors; the postal voting statement completed by postal voters; the declaration to be made by the companion of a voter with disabilities; guidance for voters; and forms completed by candidates and their agents.

I would value any comments on these planned changes from you as Chair of the Welsh Affairs Committee or comments from other members of the Committee on this area of work.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chloe Smith", with a horizontal line underneath.

Chloe Smith MP
Minister of State for the Constitution and Devolution