1. The Panel Secretariat has asked me to amplify the suggestion in my note of 3 February that the Panel should consider making recommendations for changes in the existing processes of the Assembly, particularly in relation to Committees.

2. It is very much for the existing Clerking and other support staff of the Assembly Commission to make specific recommendations on how processes might be adapted to ensure that a greater number of members translates into each member having more time to spend on detailed Committee and other work within the Assembly; and I very much hope that the Panel will take evidence from the Commission staff to that effect.

3. From my outsider‘s perspective, I would only say the following.

4. The effectiveness of a Committee‘s work in scrutinising policy or legislation, or in conducting an inquiry, depends much more on the effectiveness of the work that is done between sessions than it does on the formal conduct of the sessions themselves. And the more direct involvement Clerks and other Commision staff receive from AMs and their offices, the more penetrating and rigorous the result.

5. With this in mind, expanding and formalising detailed timetables for the circulation of draft reports and for the receipt of comments by AMs for specific purposes, and for formal interviews of AMs‘ support staff by Commission staff to receive steers on the development of the agenda for sessions and of emerging draft reports, would ensure that some of the capacity liberated by increasing the number of AMs was deployed to enhancing contributions to the emerging direction of inquiries and to emerging draft reports.

6. To give another high-level example, in many ways post-legislative scrutiny is a more important way of holding the Welsh Government to account in relation to legislation than is Committee scrutiny at the Bill stage, at which point predictions and concerns must largely be guesswork on both sides. Although the Assembly does have an emerging tradition of post-legislative scrutiny, there is considerable room for greater rigour and regularity, and pressure on Committees is one of the reasons why this is developing relatively slowly. I would hope that a recommendation to increase the number of members available to serve on Committees, might be accompanied by a recommendation to make post- legislative scrutiny at variegated intervals from the enactment of legislation, by reference to benchmarking tests based on Ministers‘ and officials‘ answers to questions in Committee at the Bill stage, the norm.

7. Expanding pre-legislative scrutiny of Bills would also be valuable; but this, of course, is in the hands of the Welsh Government, as it cannot be conducted unless the Welsh Government chooses to publish a draft Bill.