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The Committee on Better Governance
For Wales White Paper
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Colleagues

I wish to say something about the proposals in the Better Governance for Wales White Paper:

1. I welcome the proposed formal separation between the Assembly and the Welsh Assembly Government.
2. I believe the proposals with regard to the electoral system whereby candidates are forced to choose between the regional list and a particular constituency are malicious and spiteful. The Secretary of State's claim that there were many submissions to the Richard Commission on this issue is bizarre as Richard makes no mention of it. This proposal represents an unnecessary interference with the electoral system and the right of candidates to stand where they wish.
3. I generally welcome the idea of framework legislation providing powers for the Assembly. However, there is a need for a referendum before there is any change in the status of the Assembly.

I thank you for the opportunity to respond to these proposals.

Yours sincerely

NICHOLAS BOURNE
Leader of the Welsh Conservatives in the National Assembly