As I understand that powers relating to Assembly elections have now been devolved to the Assembly itself, I hope you are the correct person to contact with regard to AM electoral eligibility. If not please will you forward this email to the responsible authority.

In last year’s Assembly elections I was very concerned about politicians from outside Wales, with no proven commitment to or current experience of living in Wales being foisted onto us through our rather limited PR system. To avoid this happening in future I propose that to qualify as a candidate in future Assembly elections, a candidate must have lived here continuously for the 3 years preceding the date of the election (i.e. they must have been on the Electoral Register in Wales and have their main residential address here continuously for the 3 year period up to the date of the election).

This will show to the electorate that the candidates have some current first-hand experience of living in Wales, and that they have a personal stake in Wales and are not standing for election solely to pursue furtherance of their own or their political party’s ambitions.

Ideally I would like to have proposed that the residential qualifying period be 5 years, but suspect time is too short before the next election. However this could be considered as a future enhancement to the proposed rule.

I will appreciate it if this proposal can be put to the appropriate assembly electoral authority/committee for their consideration, and will be very interested to be informed of the result of their deliberations.