

Agenda Supplement – Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Videoconference via Zoom	P Gareth Williams
Meeting date: 6 February 2023	Committee Clerk
Meeting time: 13.30	0300 200 6565
	SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

Remote – Supplementary pack

Please note the documents below are in addition to those published in the main Agenda and Reports pack for this Meeting

4 Papers to note

13.40 – 13.45

4.6 Written Statement by the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution: Welsh Government position on the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill

(Pages 1 – 2)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)–05–23 – Paper 17 – Written Statement by the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution, 3 February 2023

4.7 Written Statement by the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd: Government amendments to the Agriculture (Wales) Bill

(Pages 3 – 4)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)–05–23 – Paper 18 – Written Statement by the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd, 3 February 2023

7 Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill: Draft report

13.55 – 14.25

(Pages 5 – 65)



Attached Documents:

LJC(6)-05-23 – Paper 11 – Draft report

**8 Legislative Consent Memoranda on the Levelling-up and
Regeneration Bill: Draft report**

14.25 – 14.40

(Pages 66 – 81)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)-05-23 – Paper 13 – Draft report

**WRITTEN STATEMENT
BY
THE WELSH GOVERNMENT**

TITLE Welsh Government position on the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill

DATE 03 February 2023

BY Mick Antoniw, Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution

The UK Government introduced the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill on 10 January, the Bill passed its second reading on 16 January and completed its passage through the House of Commons on 30 January. It has done so without a published impact assessment to enable proper scrutiny. The First Minister wrote to the UK Government on 16 January setting out the Welsh Government's position and [we are publishing that letter today](#).

The Welsh Government is opposed to this damaging and unnecessary Bill. Damaging, because the Bill is rushed, lacks detail, and interferes with devolved public services. Unnecessary, because the Bill is an attack on workers' rights and trade unions and will do nothing to resolve industrial disputes. There is a risk that this legislation will make strike action more likely rather than less as the space for good faith negotiations are undermined.

A number of devolved public services for which Welsh Ministers are responsible and accountable are in scope of the Bill. If passed, the Bill will provide a UK Minister with sweeping powers to make regulations which set minimum service levels during strikes in areas that are considered to be fully devolved – such as health and education. UK Ministers should not be able to exercise such powers over services over which they have no electoral mandate. Welsh Ministers are responsible for the strategic oversight of these services and are accountable to the Senedd for the decisions they take in exercising their powers. UK Ministers have no role in these decisions and are entirely divorced from the strategic and operational functions this Bill directly interferes with. This reckless encroachment into devolved areas of responsibility is dismissive of these concerns.

There was no consultation prior to the publication of the Bill either with the Welsh Government or with trade unions and employers. The first discussions with the Welsh Government took place on the same day that UK Ministers issued a press release announcing their intentions. This lack of engagement in advance of the introduction of the Bill is unacceptable and was wholly avoidable.

We are exploring all of our options to protect Wales and our devolved public services from the harmful and serious consequences of this pernicious Bill. We will be making further public statements on our position in the coming weeks, and we will continue to keep Senedd Members informed.

**WRITTEN STATEMENT
BY
THE WELSH GOVERNMENT**

TITLE Government amendments to the Agriculture (Wales) Bill
DATE 03 February 2022
BY Lesley Griffiths MS, Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

Welsh farmers hold an important position in our society, not only recognised for their role in producing a supply of safe, high-quality food, but also their opportunity to help tackle some of the most pressing challenges our country faces.

We must all respond to the climate and nature emergencies. The need for action at scale and to deliver outcomes at pace, is essential if we are to ensure a sustainable and resilient agriculture sector for future generations. We are all aware of Welsh Government's commitment to a 'just transition' to a new low carbon future, farmers and the communities in which they operate, play a vital role in delivering that just transition and the move to net zero.

The Agriculture (Wales) Bill establishes Sustainable Land Management as the framework, demonstrating the Government's commitment to support farmers to lower their carbon footprint and deliver for nature whilst, at the same time, continue to produce food sustainably through resilient agricultural businesses.

In my Legislative Statement on 27 September 2022, I highlighted the productive discussions with Plaid Cymru, as part of the Co-operation agreement, on amendments to the Agriculture (Wales) Bill which we would publish jointly during Stage 1 of the legislative process.

I am pleased, therefore, to outline the Government amendments which have been agreed with Plaid Cymru's Designated Member, Cefin Campbell MS and intend to bring forward at Stage 2, should Members agree the General Principles of the Bill.

Resilient agricultural businesses are vitally important to Wales, contributing to our thriving rural communities and sustaining Welsh agricultural land for future generations. Businesses that are resilient and adaptive, are more likely to thrive and survive shocks to the sector, such as those caused by pandemics, conflict, supply chain issues and climate change.

- To reflect our joint commitment, we propose to introduce additional text for the first SLM Objective:

For the purposes of the first objective, factors relevant to whether food and other goods are produced in a sustainable manner include, among other things, the resilience of agricultural businesses within the communities in which they operate.

Three additional purposes to the power to provide support (Section 8 of the Bill) have also been drafted, to be inserted within sub section (2) following the first purpose of encouraging the production of food in an environmentally sustainable manner:

- (b) helping rural communities to thrive and strengthening links between agricultural businesses and their communities;
- (c) improving the resilience of agricultural businesses;
- (d) sustaining the Welsh language and promoting and facilitating its use;

The amendments support the resilience of agricultural business through enabling an effective, efficient, sustainable and, therefore, profitable production base and supply chain, which links back to the farmer. Supporting farmers with their own well-being, engagement with their communities, sustaining and promoting the Welsh language and businesses diversification are all aspects which are key to keeping farmers on their land and moving towards a net zero future.

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Agenda Item 8

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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