

Agenda Supplement – Equality and Social Justice Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 5 (Hybrid)

Meeting date: 10 July 2023

Meeting time: 14.00

For further information contact:

Rhys Morgan

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddEquality@senedd.wales

Hybrid – Supplementary pack

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

3.9 Correspondence from the Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip and the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution to the Llywydd regarding the UK Bill of Rights

(Pages 1 – 4)

Attached Documents:

Correspondence from the Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip and the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution regarding the UK Bill of Rights – 5 July 2023

8 Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Victims and Prisoners Bill: consideration of draft report

(16:10–16:20)

(Pages 5 – 13)

Attached Documents:

Cover paper

Draft report



Jane Hutt AS/MS
Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a'r Prif Chwip
Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip

Mick Antoniw AS/MS
Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog y Cyfansoddiad
Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution

Elin Jones MS
Llywydd
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1SN
Llywydd@senedd.wales

5 July 2023

Dear Elin,

[UK Bill of Rights Bill](#) ("the Bill") and laying of a Legislative Consent Memorandum

Further to our previous correspondence of 8 March [Attached]. At the time, the Bill had not progressed beyond first reading in the House of Commons and further to being introduced on 22 June 2022. We indicated that if the Bill proceeded to a second reading, then we would lay a Legislative Consent Memorandum before the Senedd.

On 27 June, Alex Chalk KC in his capacity as Lord Chancellor gave an update on the Bill to the Justice Committee. In response to a question, he said that having carefully considered its legislative programme, the UK Government will not be proceeding with the Bill. Officials have received confirmation of the position from their counterparts. There is therefore no reason to lay a Legislative Consent Memorandum.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

As with previous correspondence, we are copying this letter to the First Minister, the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd, the Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee, the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and the Chair of the Cross-Party Group on Human Rights.

Yours sincerely



Jane Hutt AS/MS

Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a'r
Prif Chwip
Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip



Mick Antoniw AS/MS

Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog y
Cyfansoddiad
Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Justice



Mick Antoniw AS/MS
Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog y Cyfansoddiad
Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Elin Jones MS
Llywydd, Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff CF99 1SN
Llywydd@senedd.wales

1 March 2023

Dear Elin,

[Bill of Rights Bill](#) (“the Bill”) and laying of a Legislative Consent Memorandum

We sincerely apologise for the delay in correspondence in what have proved to be a set of unusual and exceptional circumstances. We had previously written to you in 2022 on several occasions, the last correspondence dated 22 September, when it first became apparent that the Bill had been paused, by the UK Government.

In December, we met with Lord Bellamy who is the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice. At the time, he suggested that the UK Government would be proceeding with the Bill in its current form as soon as Parliamentary time allows. However, you will know that the Bill has still not had any of its parliamentary stages. In February, a letter was issued seeking clarification about any progress on the Bill, and we still await a reply.

It may be the case that the Bill has been indefinitely paused for a variety of reasons. If the Bill does progress to second reading at what is likely to be short notice – we will lay a Legislative Consent Memorandum at the earliest opportunity. However, given the uncertainty and unusual circumstances surrounding this Bill it does not seem sensible to proceed with the LC Memorandum for the foreseeable future.

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Yours sincerely

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Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder
Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Justice

Mick Antoniw AS/MS

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Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution

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