



Mick Antoniw AS
Chair Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru

SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

4 November 2020

Dear Mick

Thank you for your letter of 23 October concerning our decision to not table a motion with regard to the Cross-Border Healthcare (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020.

Last year I gave a commitment that the government would go beyond the requirements of Standing Orders and routinely table motions for debate in relation to Statutory Instrument Consent Memorandums (SICMs) laid under Standing Order 30A. In line with that commitment we have scheduled debates except where there has been good reason not to do so. One recent example of not scheduling a debate was the above Regulations, which were uncontroversial from a policy perspective. In that particular case, the changes were technical in nature, and there was no divergence in policy between the Welsh Government and the UK Government.

It has become clear there is very little appetite for detailed debate in the chamber for what are usually technical measures. Consequently, and not least because plenary time is at a premium, we propose no longer routinely to table such motions for debate.

We will continue to comply with Standing Orders and lay SICMs when required. We will also give consideration to tabling a government motion where appropriate (eg where the issues are substantive or novel and potentially contentious). We will work closely with the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee in making such decisions. It will of course remain open for any member of the Senedd to table a motion seeking the Senedd's agreement to the inclusion of a relevant provision in a relevant statutory instrument.

Best Wishes

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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.