

**Y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes
Enterprise and Business Committee**

**Y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Health and Social Care Committee**

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Jane Hutt AM AC
Minister for Finance and Leader of the House

17 October 2012

Dear Jane,

Smoke-Free Premises (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations

Thank you for your letter of 10 October inviting the Health and Social Care Committee and the Enterprise and Business Committee to consider evidence on the Smoke-Free Premises (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations.

Your letter invites us to "...meet in joint session...in order to take evidence from all interested parties on this matter and to produce a single report on the conclusions of the joint committee." Both committees are happy, in principle, to undertake this work, subject to the issues outlined below:

(i) Joint / concurrent committees

You will be aware that Standing Orders do not make provision for the establishment of a joint committee, or for committees to meet jointly. Rather, in accordance with Standing Order 17.53, committees of the Assembly are able to meet *concurrently*. In effect, this allows more than one committee to hear the same evidence whilst continuing to be separately constituted.

As chairs, we are happy to propose to our committees that we undertake this work concurrently. We do not believe, however, that it is practical or proportionate to expect all 20 Members to participate. To address this concern, we propose inviting both committees to establish a sub-committee of 5 members. Both sub-committees would then work together to seek evidence and publish their findings in one report.

You will be aware that Standing Order 17.19 requires that any sub-committee reports to the committee which established it. In practice, this means that both sub-committees working on these regulations will be

obliged to seek their respective parent committees' approval of their final report. We wanted to alert you to this procedural requirement as both parent committees may have differing views on the sub-committees' conclusions.

(ii) Timetable

As you will be aware, both committees have heavy workloads over the next half term and beyond. The Health and Social Care Committee is also expecting the referral of two pieces of legislation for its consideration before Christmas. As such, should we undertake this scrutiny, its timescale will be dependent on - and subject to - progress on the delivery of our other work commitments.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Drakeford.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mark Drakeford and Nick Ramsay

Cadeiryddion - Chairs,

Health and Social Care Committee & Enterprise and Business Committee