

Rebecca Evans AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/53/19

Elin Jones AM
Llywydd
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA

10 December 2019

Dear Elin,

Stage 4 – National Health Service (Indemnities) (Wales) Bill

I would like to request your permission, to move to stage 4 proceedings on the above Bill immediately on completion of Stage 3 proceedings on 14 January 2020, in accordance Standing Order 26.48. Since the introduction of the Bill, the Government has made clear its reasons for seeking to expedite scrutiny of the Bill, namely its intention, as soon as Royal Assent is in place, to bring forward Regulations which establish the Existing Liabilities Scheme on 1 April 2020. This will ensure the scheme is established at the same time as England's scheme, and that GPs in Wales are not disadvantaged. The motion to pass the Bill needs to be debated as soon as possible for Royal Assent to be obtained in time to ensure Assembly scrutiny of the Regulations meets the requirements of Standing Orders and establish the scheme as intended.

The default five working day separation between Stages 3 and 4 set out in Standing Orders was put in place to ensure Members had an opportunity to consider the Bill as amended at Stage 3 before deciding whether or not to agree it. However, this Bill is very short, limited in scope and attracted two amendments at Stage 2. These related to commencement and reviewing implementation of the Bill, and so no attempt has been made to modify the substantive policy proposition. I anticipate Stage 3 proceedings will be very similar in scale, so there will be very little difference between the Bill before and after that Stage for Members to consider.

Although Standing Order 26.48 suggests the motion to agree the Bill can be moved without notice, if you agree my request I will include the motion on the Business Statement no later than 7 January and table the motion ahead of the debate. This would provide Members with sufficient notice to consider the amendments tabled at Stage 3 and decide whether to pass the Bill, on the basis of whether or not these amendments are agreed.

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

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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.

I hope you are able to agree my request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The script is cursive and fluid.

Rebecca Evans AC/AM
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Minister for Finance and Trefnydd