

Llywydd  
Chair, Business Committee

17 September 2021

Dear Llywydd

**Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Health and Care Bill: request to extend the reporting deadline**

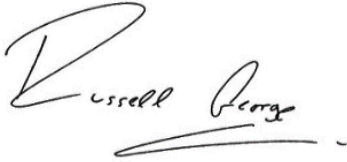
On 14 September 2021 the Business Committee referred the Legislative Consent Memorandum (“LCM”) for the UK Government’s Health and Care Bill to the Health and Social Care (“HSC”) and Legislation, Justice and Constitutional Affairs Committees with a reporting deadline of Thursday 4 November 2021. I am writing to seek an extension of that deadline to Thursday 11 November 2021.

The Health and Care Bill is a substantial piece of legislation, comprising over 130 clauses and 16 schedules. The LCM outlines nine separate provisions in the Bill for which the Welsh Government has identified the Senedd’s consent is required. The Welsh Government explains in the LCM that it supports the inclusion in the Bill of some of these provisions, but believes that others would have “deleterious effects on the devolution settlement” or “could negatively impact on NHS bodies in Wales”. For this reason, the Welsh Government indicates that it is not in a position to recommend consent to the Bill as introduced, but that discussions with the UK Government are continuing. It also notes that a supplementary LCM may be brought forward in due course.

The HSC Committee will discuss our approach to considering the LCM at our meeting on 23 September. I anticipate that we will wish to seek further evidence to inform our conclusions and recommendations. There would be insufficient time for evidence to be available for consideration at our next scheduled meeting on 7 October. Therefore, the combination of the protected week (w/c 18 October) and the half term recess (w/c 25 October) means that the first opportunity that we will have to consider the evidence at a scheduled meeting will be Thursday 4 November.

I would be grateful if the Business Committee would agree, therefore, to extend the reporting deadline by one week to Thursday 11 November. This will enable the HSC Committee to consider these important matters at our meeting on 4 November before finalising our report by email the following week.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell George". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Russell George MS  
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.