



Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru

1 March 2022

Dear Huw,

Thank you for your letter of 15 February regarding the committee's future work planning in relation to the UK Government's forthcoming legislative programme.

The current UK Parliamentary legislative programme has seen an unprecedented number of legislative consent memoranda. This has been the result of both the number of Bills containing provisions within the Senedd's competence as well as a large number of amendments to those Bills during their passage, sometimes as a result of amendments we have requested. I also indicated many of the challenges faced by the committee, particularly around the sharing of information and ensuring adequate time for consideration, are ones we share.

You ask me to share my expectation of the extent to which the current volume of memoranda will continue into the next legislative session. It is too early to be able to make a judgement on the likely volume of memoranda. Consideration of whether a Bill requires a LCM cannot begin until we have received the text of the Bill itself. Whilst there will be Bills in which we are requesting provision there will also be Bills in which we consider there to be provisions within the Senedd's competence which have not been subject to such requests. Even after the UK Government's legislative plans have been published in the Queen's Speech, it will only be once some of the Bills have been published that we will be able to indicate whether a LCM is required.

I share the committee's desire to be able to provide effective scrutiny of Bills affecting the devolution settlement. We also want to maximise the Senedd's ability to scrutinise Welsh provisions included in UK Government Bills at our request. For this reason we are working with the Business Committee on their review of the LCM process. This will include consideration of both the content and timing of legislative consent memoranda. Whilst the review is being undertaken we will, for our part, consider how we might provide as early an indication as possible of Bills containing Welsh provisions. I am sure you will appreciate we cannot place information into the public domain that has been shared with us in confidence.

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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.

However where we are able to provide advance notification, particularly where we make a request for Welsh provisions within a UK Bill, we will be happy to do so.

Finally you ask me to outline how I intend to keep the committee updated on my responsibilities more generally. I would be happy to continue engaging with the committee in the usual way. I will of course keep the committee, and indeed the Senedd, updated on key developments within my areas of responsibility. In particular I will ensure the committee is updated on inter-governmental meetings in line with the requirements of the inter-institutional agreement.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mick Antoniw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mick Antoniw AS/MS

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