

Mick Antoniw AS/MS
Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog y Cyfansoddiad
Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

John Griffiths MS
Chair
Local Government and Housing Committee

Senedd Cymru

SeneddHousing@senedd.wales

19 April 2022

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 25 March 2022 regarding the timing of the laying of the Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (SLCM) on the Elections Bill. I note your concerns and it is regretful that both the Local Government and Housing Committee and the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee did not have sufficient time to consider the SLCM before the Legislative Consent Motion debate on 29 March 2022. As I mentioned during the debate, this was an unfortunate consequence of the nature of engagement with the Westminster government, and the speed at which we have to deal with issues, amendments and changes.

An SLCM was not laid within two weeks of the amendments being tabled on 11 January as it would not have been possible to reflect the outcome of the Welsh Government's protracted negotiations and discussions with the UK Government in respect of a number of the Bill's provisions. As a result of much positive engagement with the UK Government, we successfully secured the carve out amendments to the Bill and my previous concerns, set out in the original Legislative Consent Memorandum, regarding undue influence, the Electoral Commission, notional expenditure and other political finance measures were addressed by the UK Government.

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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 want to again convey my apologies for the short timeframe between laying the SLCM and the Legislative Consent Motion debate. I know this caused the committees immense difficulty in not providing sufficient time to consider the SLCM ahead of the debate and I am sorry you were put in that position. I appreciate all the work that both committees have done in this area and welcome your constructive engagement on this Bill.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mick Antoniw". The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the signature is a short horizontal blue line.

Mick Antoniw AS/MS

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