

Dawn Bowden MS

Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and Chief Whip

25 March 2022

Dear Dawn,

Cultural Objects (Protection from Seizure) Bill

Thank you for your response, dated 17 March, to my Committee's report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Cultural Objects (Protection from Seizure) Bill, and for providing a copy of your letter of 16 March to the Llywydd in relation to the Bill. We considered both letters at our meeting of 21 March.

We are disappointed that it has not proved possible to reach an agreement on an amendment to the Bill to provide a carve-out from the application of paragraph 11(1)(a) of Schedule 7B to the *Government of Wales Act 2006*, which has led to the tabling of amendments to remove provisions for Wales from the Bill.

We are concerned that this apparent sequence of events represents a failure of intergovernmental relations between the UK and Welsh governments so soon after new intergovernmental processes have been put in place. This is a concern which we have also raised with the First Minister.

As the current state of intergovernmental relations and the legislative consent process are of particular interest to us, we would like to gain a detailed understanding of how these matters came to the fore during the development and passage of this Bill. You refer to a ministerial letter of 25 January in your letter; we would be grateful to receive a copy, and of any other relevant correspondence or minutes of relevant meetings you are able to share.

I am copying this letter to the Llywydd, the Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee; and the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Irranca-Davies

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Chair

