



Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN
SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

30 August 2022

Dear Mr Irranca-Davies

Scrutiny of the first Welsh Consolidation Bill – the Historic Environment (Wales) Bill

Thank you for your letter dated 15th July 2022 inviting Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to give the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee our views on the Bill and the consolidation exercise.

Natural Resources Wales' role relating to the historic environment includes:

- The protection, conservation and management of historic assets on the NRW estate, encouraging public access and appreciation. This includes 145 Scheduled Monuments, 71 Listed Buildings, 46 Registered Parks & Gardens and overlaps with 48 Registered Historic Landscapes, in total there are 11,936 Historic Environment Records.
- Management of archaeological risk on our operational work, projects, and strategies.
- Regulatory advice relating to the historic environment.
- Preparing Area Statements that integrate the historic environment.
- Support the delivery of the purposes set out in Section 5 of the National Park & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended by Environment Act 1995).
- Complying with the European Landscape Convention, which the UK Government signed up to, which includes historic and cultural landscapes.

As such the Historic Environment (Wales) Bill is relevant to our role and responsibilities in relation to the historic environment.

As the provisions within the Historic Environment (Wales) Bill 2022 does not change the effect of existing legislation, we do not envision any effect on NRW's roles in relation to the historic environment.

NRW's response to the four points that the Committee will be considering:

i. we are satisfied that the scope of the consolidation is appropriate.

As far as NRW is able to ascertain the scope of the consolidation is appropriate.

ii. we are satisfied that the relevant enactments have been included within the consolidation.

As far as NRW is able to ascertain the relevant enactments have been included within the consolidation.

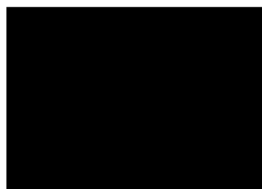
iii. the Bill correctly consolidates the enactments or changes their substantive legal effect only to the extent allowed by Standing Order 26C.2.

We do not have any comment on how the Historic Environment (Wales) Bill meets Standing Order 26C.2 requirements.

iv. the Bill consolidates the law clearly and consistently.

This consolidated, simplified, consistent and bilingual Bill will aid understanding of the law in relation to the historic environment, and will be more accessible to users less familiar with legislation within this subject area. This is very much welcomed.

Yours sincerely



Adrian James
Team Leader; Planning, Landscape and Energy

**Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg
Correspondence welcomed in Welsh and English**