



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

**Rt Hon Greg Clarke MP**  
*Secretary of State for Levelling Up,  
Housing and Communities*

**Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing and Communities**

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Huw Irranca-Davies  
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution  
Committee  
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30 August 2021

Dear Huw,

Thank you for your letter of 20 July regarding the UK Government's engagement with the Welsh Government in relation to legislation which affects devolved areas. The new Inter governmental structures are a positive means of facilitating joint working between the UK and devolved governments. Whilst I have not attended the meetings myself, it has been good to see the follow up activity from the last Inter Ministerial Group discussion on collaboration and information-sharing on building safety. I am grateful for the work going on to prepare for the next meeting on lessons learned on our respective approaches to homelessness and for the Welsh Government agreeing to host.

I appreciate the importance of the devolved governments and legislatures having appropriate time to consider relevant legislation, and appreciate the work conducted by committees such as yours to scrutinise legislation.

My officials proactively provide guidance and support on engagement to UK Government bill teams throughout a bill's development and parliamentary passage. Engagement at official level should take place when developing policy which could affect devolved matters, and this engagement should continue throughout the bill's passage, including the sharing of information to allow devolved government counterparts to make informed policy decisions. This engagement is also important to identify where a UK government bill can include provisions within a devolved legislature's competence and enable timely pragmatic solutions to policy challenges to deliver for people of Wales freeing up devolved legislatures time whilst respecting their legislative competence via the legislative consent process.

It is important that officials continue to work closely, not least as a bill's passage through Parliament can be complicated and not all eventualities can be predicted. Bill amendments in particular often need rapid work to respond to specific circumstances. There are some circumstances in which legislation is developed at

pace, for instance emergency legislation to address specific situations. In these instances, I would still hope for all reasonable steps to be taken to engage with the devolved governments.

We will continue to work with devolved governments to strengthen ways of working and improve engagement on legislation through the relevant IGR structures.

Thank you again for your correspondence,

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Wales.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Clarke' with a stylized flourish below it.

**Rt Hon Greg Clarke MP**  
**Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities**