

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Elin Jones MS
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05 October 2022

Dear Elin,

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and industrial Strategy, the Rt Hon. Jacob Rees-Mogg MP, introduced the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill (the Bill) in the House of Commons on 22 September.

In a letter to me on the same day, the Secretary of State confirms that the UK Government is seeking the consent of the Senedd to the Bill and asks whether the Welsh Ministers would agree in principle to support a Legislative Consent Motion. However, the Bill as presented contains policy content that was not shared with the Devolved Governments before its introduction and, because of the significant ramifications for the Welsh Government, it has not yet been possible to consider properly the devolution consequences of what is being proposed.

The Bill presents a highly challenging sunseting deadline of 31 December 2023, which will require the governments in the UK to review a substantial number of legal instruments in the coming 15 months, make policy decisions as appropriate and then legislate to ensure retained EU law (REUL) is not sunset. The Bill as drafted could also see the UK Government legislating in devolved areas without our consent, which would be a very significant constitutional issue.

As soon as we have a clear picture of the devolution consequences of the proposed legislation then I anticipate that a Legislative Consent Memorandum will be laid before the Senedd. However, this will be outside the normal two-week Standing Order 29 time period.

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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 am copying this letter to the First Minister, the Minister for Economy, the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd, the Minister for Climate Change, the Minister for Health and Social Services, and the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

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

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