

Mick Antoniw MS
Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution

13 October 2022

Dear Mick

The Historic Environment (Wales) Bill

Thank you for the additional information that you provided the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee (LJC Committee) in relation to the financial implications of the Historic Environment (Wales) Bill (the Bill).

As you will be aware, it is standard practice for the Finance Committee (the Committee) to consider the financial implications of all bills introduced into the Senedd. However, given that the Bill is a consolidation bill which is subject to distinct procedures, the Committee has taken a different approach to scrutinising this piece of legislation. That is because, in accordance with Standing Order 26C.9(vii), the explanatory memorandum accompanying the bill has confirmed that provisions within it give rise to no additional significant expenditure payable from the Welsh Consolidated Fund.

Following our initial consideration of the Bill shortly after its introduction on 7 July, we wrote to LJC Committee asking if they could consider the financial implications of the Bill as part of its scrutiny work. This was because the question of whether the Bill gives rise to significant costs is intrinsically linked to the LJC Committee's consideration of whether the proposal could continue as a consolidation bill or not.

We are grateful to them for sharing with us both their letter and your response. They build on the helpful analysis of additional expenditure already outlined in part 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum and, taken together, we are satisfied with the details provided and believe that the estimates are thorough and robust.

We appreciate you adopting this transparent approach and expect that costs are presented in a similar way in future to allow the Finance Committee to consider the financial implications of future consolidation bills, if it wishes to do so.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peredur Owen Griffiths', with a stylized, sweeping underline.

Peredur Owen Griffiths
Chair of the Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.