

Lesley Griffiths MS

Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

11 January 2023

Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill

Dear Lesley,

Following the Business Committee meeting on 13 December, we agreed to write to you to express concern over the late laying of the Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill.

As you'll be aware, despite the Bill being laid in the House of Commons in May 2022, the LCM was only laid by the Welsh Government on 8 December. As the Government intends to schedule the Plenary debate on this LCM on 17 January 2023, this has resulted in the Business Committee being asked to agree a reporting deadline of 16 January. Given the Christmas Recess, the result is an extremely limited period of time of approximately two sitting weeks being available to the relevant committees for scrutiny of the relevant provisions in the Bill.

Whilst this may be an extreme example of a delay in the laying of an LCM in the Senedd, we note that it is not an isolated one and that there have been multiple recent examples of LCMs being laid later than the Senedd's Standing Orders require, on occasions significantly so.

We also note the lack of engagement from the UK Government on this specific LCM and appreciate the difficulty that this can cause to the Welsh Government. However, it is incumbent on us to raise the impact that the limited time often available for

committees to scrutinise Legislative Consent Memoranda has, including on their ability to gather evidence and views from stakeholders, where appropriate, and their wider work programmes. You will be aware that this issue has been raised on a number of occasions by Members in the Siambr and by a number of committees.

We would urge that you, in your role as Trefnydd, and the Welsh Government as a whole could give a commitment to ensuring that LCMs are laid in a timely fashion and that the time available to Senedd committees to scrutinise them is sufficient to enable them to undertake the work required in a sufficient level of detail.

I am enclosing a copy of this letter to the committees impacted by this LCM, namely the Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee and the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Kind regards,



The Rt Hon. Elin Jones MS

Y Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.