

Elin Jones MS  
Y Llywydd  
Chair, Business Committee

8 December 2022

Annwyl Elin,

### Legislative consent memoranda

You will be aware that the Local Government and Housing Committee is currently considering legislative consent memoranda (LCMs) in relation to two Bills: the Social Housing (Regulation) Bill and the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill. We have already considered three other LCMs, as well as a number of supplementary LCMs, during the Sixth Senedd. Whereas our predecessor committee considered a total of six LCMs during the entirety of the Fifth Senedd. As a result, the Committee agreed that I should write to you to raise our concerns at the increased use of UK Bills and the legislative consent convention to legislate in devolved areas, rather than via Senedd legislation. I have previously raised the Committee's concerns to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and the Welsh Government.

Primary legislation brought forward by Welsh Government allows for full scrutiny by the Senedd.

As Members of the Senedd, it is our responsibility to ensure that all primary legislation relating to devolved areas is thoroughly scrutinised and tested with stakeholders to ensure it meet the needs of the people of Wales. We strongly believe that the short amount of time allocated to the legislative consent process is insufficient to enable us to fully understand the impact of provisions on the lives of people in Wales. We are concerned that legislating in this way could disadvantage people in Wales as they have fewer opportunities to feed their views to those making the legislation and we do not have sufficient time to consult Welsh stakeholders on the provisions.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely

John

John Griffiths MS

Chair, Local Government and Housing Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



John Griffiths MS  
Chair of the Local Government and Housing Committee

11 January 2023

### **Legislative Consent Memoranda**

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 9 December 2022 drawing the Business Committee's attention to the volume of Legislative Consent Memoranda (LCMs) that your Committee has received so far during the Sixth Senedd.

Business Committee considered the letter on 13 December and noted your concerns on the impact that the recent volume of LCMs has upon the work of committees in general.

The issue of the increased use of UK Bills and the legislative consent convention to legislate in devolved areas has been raised with us by other committees, as well as on the floor of the Senedd. I and other Members of the Business Committee agreed with the concerns expressed in your letter about the impact that the increased use of the LCM process during the Sixth Senedd to date is having on Senedd committees. We also agree that Senedd legislation, brought forward by Welsh Government, is preferable in several respects, not least because it allows for full scrutiny by the Senedd. We also note the short amount of time available for scrutiny of specific LCMs in recent times, and the impact that this also has on the amount of scrutiny that is possible.

At the same meeting that we considered your letter, we agreed to write to the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd to raise concerns about the extremely

restrictive deadline available for the scrutiny of a specific LCM and will use that letter to stress to the Government the importance of ensuring that LCMs are brought forward in such a way that affords committees with sufficient time for scrutiny prior to the Senedd being asked to decide whether it wishes to provide consent.

I will enclose a copy of this letter to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee who have previously raised similar concerns.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elin Jones', is written in a cursive style.

**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.

