

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

John Griffiths MS
Chair of the Local Government and Housing Committee
Senedd Cymru
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23 January 2023

Dear John,

I am writing to thank you and the Committee members for your consideration of the first three Legislative Consent Memoranda laid before the Senedd in respect of the UK Government's Social Housing (Regulation) Bill.

I welcome the report of the Committee published on 13 December and am pleased the majority of Committee members agree with my recommendation that granting legislative consent is appropriate in the case of this UK Bill.

As noted in our principles on UK Bills, there are circumstances when it is both sensible and advantageous for devolved provision to be made in UK Bills, subject to the consent of the Senedd. However, I appreciate the Committee's frustration about the amount of time afforded by the legislative consent process where normal timeframes have been curtailed.

We are continuing to emphasise to UK Government the importance of engagement and early sight of drafting of provisions to avoid these sorts of issues with a view to ensuring both Welsh Government and the Senedd is afforded maximum time for scrutiny of provision. I apologise where this has not been possible in the case of the current Bill, and where this has caused inconvenience to the Committee. I always strive to lay memoranda within the normal timescale as set out in Standing Orders, as has been the case with Memorandum No 4 laid in respect of this Bill on 6 December 2022.

Yours sincerely

Julie James AS/MS
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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.