



Ein cyf/Our ref: CG/PO/25/2023

Elin Jones MS
Llywydd
Senedd Cymru
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26 January 2023

Dear Elin,

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy introduced the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill to the House of Commons on 10 January. The Bill will allow UK Ministers to make regulations for levels of service, including in the devolved areas of health and education, during strike action in certain sectors. The second reading of the Bill took place on 16 January and the remaining Commons stages are expected to take place on 30 January.

The Bill was subject to a Topical Question in the Senedd on 11 January and in my response, I highlighted some of the Welsh Government's concerns. The Bill lacks detail and will undermine our Social Partnership approach here in Wales. Moreover, prior to its publication, there has been a lack of effective engagement with the Welsh Government or with the trade unions and employers who will be affected by the Bill.

A number of devolved public services for which Welsh Ministers are responsible and accountable are in scope of the Bill. However, because of the lack of engagement, the absence of a published Impact Assessment and a draft version of the Bill not being shared with us ahead of its introduction, it has not been possible to fully consider the consequences for Wales at this stage. Officials are taking forward their analysis of this Bill at pace, and we will confirm whether we consider that a Legislative Consent Memorandum is required as soon as possible.

I am copying this letter to the First Minister, Mark Drakeford MS, the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd, Lesley Griffiths MS, the Deputy Minister for Social

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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.

Partnership, Hannah Blythyn MS, and the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Huw Irranca-Davies MS.

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

Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog y Cyfansoddiad
Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution