

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

Chair

Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

9 February 2023

Dear Huw

### The Welsh Government's capacity to legislate

Following publication of our [report on the Welsh Government's draft budget 2023-24](#), I write to draw your Committee's attention to the chapter on implementing and developing legislation (see pages 48-50).

During a draft budget scrutiny session on 19 January 2023, the Minister for Climate Change told us that the legislation across her portfolio is "on track for the year that it's scheduled for" but is "reliant on legislation that is currently in train and coming to the Senedd passing, so that the Bill teams can be moved from there onto the next piece of legislation" (see [Record of Proceedings](#), paragraph 131). One of the Minister's officials added:

*"I think the biggest issue is the skilled resource that is needed to do this as well. The Government's got a significant legislative programme, which they want us to get through, which is quite right, but it's getting the resources in the right place at the right time [...] And, also, the central services main expenditure group, which a lot of this is paid from, has had a reduction, like everywhere else within Government. We haven't been protected from that. So, again, it's getting the balance and the optimisation so that we can take some of this through, but, as the Minister said, everything is on track in her area at the moment." (Record of Proceedings, paragraph 139)*

We were concerned to hear that the biggest challenge in delivering the legislative programme is the "skilled resource that is needed", and we agreed to draw this concern to the attention of your Committee.



We note that in your report on the draft budget you “acknowledge the Counsel General’s assertion that the Welsh Government has sufficient resources to deliver its legislative programme” but that it is “unclear” to you “if the Welsh Government does have sufficient resources to deliver all the legislation which it may decide at any time to be necessary.”

We hope that you will find this evidence useful as you continue to monitor the Welsh Government’s capacity to legislate.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Griffiths MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

