

Right Honourable Elin Jones MS
Llywydd and Chair, Business Committee

16 March 2023

Dear Elin,

Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill: scrutiny timetable

Thank you for your letter of 1 March seeking the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee's views on the proposed timetable for scrutiny of the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill.

The Committee considered the proposed timetable at its meeting on 16 March.

The Committee is content with the Stage 1 reporting deadline of 14 July. In terms of the Stage 2 deadline, the Committee is content in principle, acknowledging that the committee timetable for autumn term has yet to be formally agreed by the Business Committee. If, once agreed, we foresee any difficulties in meeting the Stage 2 deadline, we will write back to you.

On a wider but related matter, in his July 2022 legislative statement, the First Minister committed to introducing a further two Bills during year two of the legislative programme: an infrastructure consenting Bill and a coal tips safety Bill, both of which fall within this Committee's remit. In order to meet the commitment, these Bills would need to be introduced before end of summer term. The ongoing uncertainty about the timing of the Bills makes planning our work programme for the remainder of summer term, and for autumn term, challenging.

It would be helpful if you could ask the Trefnydd to confirm whether the Welsh Government intends to introduce the infrastructure consenting Bill and the coal tips safety Bill before end of summer term.

Assuming both Bills are introduced and remitted to us with standard reporting deadlines of 12 weeks, the Committee would be scrutinising three Bills consecutively. It would be helpful if you could bear this in mind when proposing scrutiny timetables for the infrastructure consenting Bill and the coal tips

safety Bill. We will, of course, be happy to provide views on the proposed timetables for those Bills as and when they are available.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Llyr', is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

Llyr Gruffydd MS,
Chair, Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. / We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

