

**Pwyllgor yr Economi,
Masnach a Materion Gwledig**

**Economy, Trade and
Rural Affairs Committee**

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The Rt Hon. Elin Jones MS
Y Llywydd and Chair of the Business
Committee

9 February 2023

Dear Llywydd,

Food (Wales) Bill – request to extend Stage 1 reporting deadline

The Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee had been intending to take evidence from the Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd regarding the Food (Wales) Bill on 16 February. However, due to circumstances outside of the control of the Minister or Committee we have had to reschedule this evidence session to 1 March.

Previously we were due to hold our second evidence session with Peter Fox MS in his capacity as Member in charge, on 1 March. However, Peter and I agree that, in order to provide the best possible scrutiny, it would be desirable for Peter and Members to have time to consider the Minister's evidence before we hear from him. We are therefore looking to move our session with Peter to 8 March.

As a result of the rescheduling of our session with Peter and the timing of the Easter recess, I am concerned the Committee will not have sufficient time to consider the evidence from the Minister and the Member in charge and reflect them in our General Principles Report. I am writing to request a short extension to the reporting deadline for stage 1 of the Food (Wales) Bill from Friday 28 April to Friday 12 May.

This change would require the rescheduling of the debate from the 10 May as proposed in Peter Fox's initial time line, and, subject to approval of the General Principles, delay the start of any Stage 2 proceedings. If Business Committee is content, under the new timeline the Stage 1 debate could be held on 24 May. This would mean, subject to



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progression, that Stage 2 would start on 25 May and Stage 2 consideration would need to be held on a date between 15 June and 14 July.

I have discussed this matter with Peter and he agrees that a short extension is preferable to facilitate better quality scrutiny of the Bill and is content with the proposed change.

I have copied this letter to Peter Fox MS in his capacity as Member in charge of the Bill, Huw Irranca-Davies MS in his capacity as Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, and Peredur Owen Griffiths MS in his capacity as Chair of the Finance Committee.

Kind regards,



Paul Davies MS
Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

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