



Huw Irranca-Davies MS  
Chair  
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

19<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Huw,

Thank you for your letter of 23 March regarding the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill ("the REUL Bill") and Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum No. 4).

Whilst I was disappointed that your Committee was unable to report on Memorandum No. 4, I recognise the challenges faced by all Committees in considering memoranda with such curtailed reporting periods. I greatly appreciate, therefore, your Committee's commitment to responding to tight deadlines wherever possible, such as the recent legislative consent memoranda on the Social Housing (Regulation) Bill.

The difficulties presented through UK Government's desire to push the REUL Bill through Parliament, combined with a lack of prior engagement on amendments, meant that scrutiny of Memorandum No. 4 was always likely to prove problematic. My continued attempts to reschedule debates and reporting deadlines were a reflection of Welsh Government's commitment to enabling the Senedd to have as much scrutiny opportunity as possible. Whilst I recognise on this occasion the debate and reporting recommendation movement ultimately did not assist the Committee, I hope these actions can be taken in the good faith they are intended.

I am aware of the difficulties presented to the legislative consent process during the latter stages of Parliamentary Bills and remain committed to ensuring information is shared with the Senedd to reduce these difficulties. As you will be aware, where we are not engaged by UK Government, consideration of whether a provision is 'relevant' for the purposes of Standing Order 29 can take time; we update the Senedd as soon as our analysis is finalised. However, all amendments tabled in relation to UK Bills are publicly available at <https://bills.parliament.uk>.

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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.

We will continue to monitor amendments to the REUL Bill and endeavour to lay any necessary legislative consent memoranda in line with Standing Orders. At the time of writing, there is no published date for the House of Lords Report Stage, but we currently expect it to be held around the middle of May.

I am copying this letter to the Counsel General and the Llywydd.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Lesley Griffiths'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'L' and a long, flowing 'S' at the end.

**Lesley Griffiths AS/MS**

**Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd  
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd**