

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a'r Prif Chwip
Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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

09 May 2023

Dear Huw,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) relating to the commencement powers for the Protection from Sex-Based Harassment in Public Bill.

I am grateful for your consideration of this Bill and the resultant LCM. Creating an offence for those that perpetrate sex-based harassment in our streets and public places will ensure women and girls are afforded the right level of protection but will also signal that such behaviour will not be tolerated.

In line with updated information on the scheduling of this Bill in the Lords, the Senedd's Business Committee extended the reporting deadline for considering the LCM to 8th June. Officials are currently working on the wording of the MoU to ensure the Welsh Government is able to agree to a timetable for the Secretary of State to make regulations to commence the relevant provisions in the Bill. This will be made available to you at the earliest opportunity and in advance of the revised deadline.

Women and girls' safety from abuse, both in public and private spaces, is a priority for the Welsh Government. Our Programme for Government committed to expanding the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) strategy to include harassment and abuse in the street and workplace as well as the home in order to make Wales the safest place in Europe to be a woman. The strategy was published in May 2022 and can be found here: [Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence: strategy 2022 to 2026 \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#).

Women and girls should be safe in all aspects of their lives, including public places, and this piece of legislation is only one part of our ambition to achieve this aim.

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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.