

Jane Hutt MS
Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip

3 May 2023

Dear Jane

Legislative Consent Memorandum: Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Bill

You will be aware that my Committee has been asked to consider the Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Bill; we began our consideration at our meeting this week.

We noted that at paragraphs 24 and 25 of the Memorandum you state:

"The Home Office has offered a Memorandum of Understanding for the use of the commencement powers in Clause 4 (only insofar as it relates to the commencement of clauses 1 and 3), whereby the UK Government and the Devolved Governments agree to a timetable for the Secretary of State to make regulations to commence the relevant provisions in the Bill. In this context, while this is a devolved area, the Welsh Government is content for the Bill to make provision for Wales and for the Secretary of State to retain the commencement powers.

A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding with the UK Government on the use of the commencement powers within clause 4 of the Bill will be made available to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee."

We have not yet received a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) referred to in these paragraphs of the Memorandum.

Given our reporting deadline on the Memorandum is 18 May, I would be grateful to receive a copy of the MoU by the morning of Wednesday 10 May.

I am copying this letter to the Equality and Social Justice Committee, to which the Memorandum has also been referred.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Irranca-Davies

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Chair