

Children and Young People Committee

Equality and Social Justice Committee

Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip

Deputy Minister for Social Services

22 May 2023

Dear Ministers,

UK Government's Illegal Migration Bill

As you are aware, the UK Government's Illegal Migration Bill ("the Bill") was introduced to the UK Parliament on 7 March 2023. The Bill seeks to change the law regarding the detention and removal of those who arrive in the UK in breach of immigration control, either to their home country or a safe third country.

The Welsh Government laid a Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) setting out that clauses 19 and 20 of the Bill require consent from the Welsh Parliament. The LCM has been referred to several Senedd Committees and this letter is being issued jointly by Children, Young People and Education and the Equality and Social Justice Committee. As part of considering its response to the LCM, we would like to invite you to give written evidence regarding your views on the issue of legislative consent.

In particular, we would be most interested to hear your views on the following:

- An update on discussions with the UK Government, including details of any assurances the Welsh Government is seeking on the impact of the Bill on unaccompanied asylum seeker children.
- The Welsh Government's concerns in respect of the impact the Bill would have on separated asylum seeking children in Wales.



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- The anticipated implications of Bill on the assessment of needs and provision of care and support under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.
- Whether the Bill is compatible with the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011, including what impact it would have on the 'Child First, Migration Second approach' which underpins the delivery of support to child asylum seekers in Wales.
- The anticipated cost burdens which would be imposed on Welsh local authorities.
- Concerns relating to the Bill and compatibility with Convention rights.

Finally, are you able to confirm whether the post of Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner is vacant at present and if so, the duration of the vacancy and when we can expect the post to be filled?

Time is very much of the essence in this matter and therefore the Committee asks that all written responses are received by no later than 1 June 2023.


Yours sincerely,

Jayne Bryant MS



Chair Children and Young People
Committee
Welsh Parliament

Jenny Rathbone MS



Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee
Welsh Parliament

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

