

Jane Hutt MS  
Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip

22 June 2023

## Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM): Victims and Prisoners Bill

Dear Jane,

The Equality and Social Justice Committee considered the above LCM on 19 June and agreed to seek further clarification to inform our report. We would be grateful if you could please provide:

### Part 1: Victims of criminal conduct

- An update on discussions with the UK Government in relation to clauses 1 to 4, 11, 22 and 23 and clarification as to how you anticipate these provisions may impact on devolved bodies or responsibilities.
- In respect of clause 15, your specific concerns regarding the proposal to issue statutory guidance about independent domestic violence and sexual violence advisors and details of the amendments you would deem necessary to address those concerns.
- Views on whether you would consider adopting a similar approach to clause 15 in Wales and develop definitions and guidance on the role of independent domestic violence and sexual violence advisors.

### Part 2: Victims of Major Incidents

- An update on discussions with the UK Government in relation to clauses 24-27 and 29-31, including further information regarding how a non-statutory IPA regime in Wales could be established and why this may be preferable to the scheme proposed in Part 2 of the Bill.
- Confirmation as to whether the UK Government agrees with your assessment that clause 28 of the Bill does not require Senedd consent. We note the UK Government suggests that consent is required for this clause in its explanatory notes accompanying the Bill.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Annex A, page 50.

Given that the reporting deadline is 14 July, I would be grateful for a response at your earliest convenience and no later than **4 July 2023**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow background. The signature reads "Jenny Rathbone" in a cursive, flowing script.

Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee

