

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: JJ/PO/333/2023

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

10 October 2023

Dear Huw,

Thank you for the report from the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee on the Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum on the UK Energy Bill.

I fully appreciate the challenges this Bill has created for effective scrutiny from the Senedd. We discussed those challenges during the debate on the LCM on 12 September 2023, so I will not repeat the points I raised. However, I do want to reassure the Committee that the Welsh Government is fully committed to doing all that we can to ensure that our legislature gets the opportunity to properly scrutinise UK legislation which engages the Sewel convention and requires Senedd consent. I hope that the challenges we faced on the UK Energy Bill will be unique and I will set out to you in further correspondence the steps we want to take learning the lessons from this Bill.

One of the report recommendations requested the full details of the internal processes followed by individual Welsh Government departments and collectively by the Welsh Cabinet when liaising with the UK Government on UK Bills which engage Standing Order 29.

The Counsel General's 8 September letter to the Committee explored the process within Welsh Government surrounding decisions relating to UK Bills. The position remains that every Bill is different. We expect timely and open engagement from the UK government on all potentially relevant UK legislation, in line with commitments made as part of the IGR Review.

Yours sincerely,

Julie James AS/MS
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Minister for Climate Change

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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.