



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/FM/MA/2299/23

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair of the Finance Committee

15 November 2023

Dear Peredur,

Finance Committee Stage 1 report on the Food (Wales) Bill: Recommendation 1

I am writing in response to Recommendation 1 of the Finance Committee's Stage 1 report on Peter Fox MS Food (Wales) Bill.

Recommendation 1: *The Committee recommends that in future, the Welsh Government commits to assisting individual Members and/or Committees proposing legislation by providing relevant financial information prior to a Bill's introduction to ensure that costs in Regulatory Impact Assessments are as comprehensive and detailed as possible.*

In the report the Committee makes reference to the correspondence exchanged during the Fifth Senedd on the Autism (Wales) Bill. I would like to re-iterate the position of the Welsh Government, which has not changed since my letter of December 2018 and is in line with Senedd guidance.

The Senedd's Guide to the Member Bill Process states, "47. *The development of the Explanatory Memorandum is ultimately the responsibility of the Member, with support from the Bill Team and their Support Staff.*"

This includes the development of the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA).

Where a Member in Charge does request data from the Welsh Government to support the development of an RIA, the Welsh Government will provide that data provided it is centrally held, readily available and there are no barriers to sharing the data such as data protection requirements.

Welsh Government officials will not be expected to undertake additional data gathering to supplement the information held or undertake bespoke analysis in response to a Member in Charge's request. It is the responsibility of the Member in Charge of the Bill to undertake or commission this work.

Every effort will be made by Welsh Ministers to engage with those Members successful in the Llywydd's legislative ballot.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARK DRAKEFORD