

Lee Waters AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Deputy Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/JJ/2983/23

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru
SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

6 March 2024

Dear Huw

I am writing to respond formally to your Committee's report on the first Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Automated Vehicles Bill. I am grateful for the consideration you have given to this matter.

My responses to your recommendations are as follows:

“Recommendation 1. The Minister should provide further details to this Committee by 14 March 2024 on the specific amendments being sought by the Welsh Government to clause 93 and what they would be able to do with the regulation-making power being sought. The Minister should also provide an update on the relevant discussions with the UK Government.”

Response: Accept. In relation to clause 93, we are seeking provision conferring a similar power on the Welsh Ministers to that of the Secretary of State under clause 93(1) to make provision by regulations requiring a traffic regulation authority to provide prescribed information about a relevant traffic regulation measure. Discussions with the UK Government are progressing well. This would enable the Welsh Ministers to, for example, require local authorities as highway authorities to produce Traffic Regulation Orders in a digital format which could be read by automated vehicles and/or electronic driving assistance software and devices, provided they are satisfied in accordance with clause 93(4) that the provision of information in accordance with the regulations is necessary to make available to autonomous vehicles or electronic equipment designed to undertake or facilitate the driving of other vehicles on roads.

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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.

Financial implications: None.

“Recommendation 2. We would welcome clarification from the Welsh Government about when it decided to use the Bill for the provisions that require consent and how this decision relates to or impacts on its own proposed legislation that it refers to in paragraph 23 of the legislative consent memorandum.”

Response: Accept. The provisions currently in the Bill which require Senedd consent were not requested by the Welsh Government; they were drafted at the behest of the UK Government. However, we consider that it is appropriate for these provisions to be made in the Bill for the reasons outlined in the Legislative Consent Memorandum. These provisions are not within the scope of our planned legislation and therefore have no impact upon it.

Financial implications: None.

I understand that the Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum laid on 13 February has been referred to your Committee and I look forward to receiving the outcomes of your consideration.

I will keep the Senedd updated about the Bill and I would be happy to provide further information in due course if that would help the Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee', is positioned above a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp or watermark.

Lee Waters AS/MS

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