

**Julie James AS/MS**

**Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol, Tai a Chynllunio  
Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Local Government and Planning**



**Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government**

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8 April 2024

Dear Chair

### **Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Renters (Reform) Bill**

Thank you for your letter of 19 March following the Committee session of 11 March 2024.

My officials were in regular contact with UK Government officials prior to the introduction of the Renters (Reform) Bill to keep in touch with what was happening with the Bill. My officials had regular contact with UK Government counterparts, particularly where matters might stray into devolved areas.

On 26 April, Welsh Government officials were informed that the Bill was likely to be laid in early May and that the Bill was to apply to England only. The UKG also informed policy officials that they were working up proposals regarding blanket bans on "No DSS claimants" and "No children" practices ("the blanket ban"). These provisions would not be ready for introduction of the Bill, but were likely to be brought forward at House of Commons Committee Stage.

At this time, an informal approach to Welsh Government was made about the possibility of extending the blanket ban provisions to Wales. At that stage it was envisaged that Committee Stage would be in early June, so timing was very tight.

Following their own consideration of how this would work, my officials briefed me about the invitation on 17 May and I gave indication that this was a course of action that I would like officials to explore. My officials then held meetings with UK Government officials over the coming weeks to work through the policy requirements for Wales in more detail.

In the meantime, the consideration of the Bill as introduced was completed by officials, and on 24 May, I was advised that the Bill did not require legislative consent. I subsequently wrote to the UK Government's Minister for Housing to confirm that I considered that legislative consent was not required.

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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.

On 12 June, I gave formal agreement for officials to engage with UK Government on the potential to extend the blanket ban provisions to Wales.

Committee Stage of the Bill slipped several months to the final date of 18 November. My officials worked closely with UK Government officials in the development of policy instructions ahead of this time. Draft amendments were, in turn, shared with Welsh Government for consideration. The amendments were finalised and agreed by Welsh Government and UK Government officials on 18 October. My officials also engaged with UK Government on supporting documentation, such as Explanatory Notes and the Delegated Powers Memorandum during this time.

On 25 October, I wrote to the Llywydd and the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, copying in the Chair of the Local Government and Housing Committee, to make them aware that my officials were working with the UK Government to bring forward amendments to the Renters (Reform) Bill to introduce the blanket ban provisions to Wales.

On 14 November, the amendments in relation to Wales were published, and the Minister for Levelling Up wrote to the Minister for Climate Change to formally request legislative consent from the Senedd. I responded on 31 January to confirm that legislative consent was being sought, and that a Legislative Consent Memorandum had been laid on 30 January.

My officials have been in contact with UK Government throughout the process and engagement continues as the Bill progresses through Parliament.

Yours sincerely



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