

Ken Skates AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA/KSNWT/5412/24

21 June 2024

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru
SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

Dear Mike

I am writing to respond formally to your Committee's report¹² on the Legislative Consent Memorandum No. 3 re: the Automated Vehicles Bill. I am grateful for the consideration given to this matter, including by your predecessor Huw Irranca-Davies MS.

It is pleasing to note the Committee's conclusion concurs with the Welsh Government view that "the amendments to the Bill as set out in Memorandum No. 3 fall within a purpose within the legislative competence of the Senedd, as described in Standing Order 29, and therefore require the consent of the Senedd."

Please see below my response to your Committee's recommendation and comments:

Recommendation 1.

We would welcome clarification from the Cabinet Secretary on any further discussions the Welsh Government has had with the UK Government about the typographical errors introduced into clause 97 of the Bill during Commons' Committee Stage, and whether the Welsh Government is aware of how and when the errors will be rectified.

Welsh Government Response: Accept.

¹ <https://senedd.wales/media/pquntsus/cr-ld16455-e.pdf>

² <https://senedd.cymru/media/sypoxlz3/cr-ld16455-w.pdf>

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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.

I can confirm that my officials have maintained regular contact with their UKG counterparts regarding the Automated Vehicles Bill and its amendments and the typographical errors in clause 97 of the Bill have been repeatedly flagged to them. You will be aware that my officials first requested that these errors be corrected as part of Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum No. 2.

Latterly, UK Government officials have provided assurances that these spelling corrections will be made when the Act is published. They have further advised that since the Bill is currently awaiting Royal Assent such changes will be addressed by those in Parliament and not the Department for Transport, the UK Government sponsor department. Such minor typos do not constitute amendments so do not currently appear on the UK Parliament's webpages on the Automated Vehicles Bill³.

Financial implications – None.

I note that in your Committee's second report you highlighted that it would have assisted your scrutiny if the former Deputy Minister had:

- made it clear when the UK Government had tabled the amendments which were the subject of Memorandum No. 2; and
- specified the formal amendment numbers attached to the amendments to clauses 88(5) and clause 97.

You again raised these in relation to Memorandum No. 3. In response to the latter I accept that such additional information would have been helpful however I'm mindful of mitigating factors at play, not least the very strict timetable relating to Memorandum No.3. that required it to be laid over the Easter recess.

May I take this opportunity once again to thank you and your Committee for its diligent work regarding the numerous LCMs relating to the Automated Vehicles Bill. Also, for scrutinising and reporting on Memorandum No. 3. to such a tight deadline.



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³ <https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/55379/documents/4804>