

Rt. Hon. Elin Jones MS

Llywydd, and Chair of the Business Committee

14 November 2025

Annwyl Lywydd,

**Business Committee review of the Public Bill and Member Bill processes:
publication of pre-introduction Bills**

Thank you for your letter of 10 October relating to the Welsh Government's recent practice of publishing pre-introduction versions of Bills introduced during Year 5 of the Sixth Senedd.

The Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee has recently started its Stage 1 scrutiny of the general principles of the Development of Tourism and Regulation of Visitor Accommodation (Wales) Bill, a pre-introduction version of which was published around four weeks prior to the Bill's formal introduction to the Senedd.

As you will be aware, the Committee is working with an unusually short timetable for scrutiny, with seven sitting weeks for evidence gathering and drafting its report. On this occasion, the publication of the draft Bill was therefore particularly useful to the Committee in the following ways:

- The preparatory work that was able to take place in advance of the Committee's formal work: the Committee was able to make initial approaches to key stakeholders in the knowledge that they had access to a draft version of the Bill and would therefore be more informed than they might otherwise have been.
- A technical briefing that was held with Welsh Government officials ahead of the Bill's formal introduction: this could be carried out with Members already having access to the draft content of the Bill, and therefore did not take up time that could be used for scrutiny following the Bill's formal introduction.



A further help to the Committee's work, while not directly linked to your request, was the Welsh Government's willingness to work with the Committee to identify stakeholders with whom the draft Explanatory Memorandum could be shared. This flexibility was welcome and again enhanced the value of making initial approaches to stakeholders ahead of formal scrutiny.

A potential disadvantage to the approach of publishing pre-introduction versions of Bills is the changes made during the pre-introduction period, which could impact some of the decisions and preparatory work being carried out. However, it is possible to mitigate this risk by being clear that the pre-introduction version of a Bill is not the final iteration and should always be checked against the final version as introduced.

Overall the approach of publishing pre-introduction versions of Bills is welcome and the flexibility shown during the approach to the Development of Tourism and Regulation of Visitor Accommodation (Wales) Bill is practice that should be encouraged and continued whenever possible.

However, I would stress that the publication of pre-introduction versions of Bills should in no way be a substitute for a full and proper timetable for Stage 1 scrutiny and should only serve to complement that work.

Thank you again for the opportunity to feed into this important piece of work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew RT Davies". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Andrew RT Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English