
The Welsh Government's Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum No. 2) on the Victims and Courts Bill

Welsh Government response to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee's report

January 2026

In January 2026, the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee ("the Committee") submitted its report on the Welsh Government's Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum ("Memorandum No. 2") on the Victims and Courts Bill ("the Bill").

The report agreed with our assessment and made no recommendations.

This is the Welsh Government's response.

Introduction

The Bill was introduced in the UK Parliament, the House of Commons, on 7 May 2025.

The UK Government's stated policy objectives for the Bill are to:

- a) Provide new powers for judges to punish offenders who refuse to attend sentencing, including a range of prison sanctions on top of additional years on their sentence.
- b) Automatically restrict parental responsibility for offenders sentenced for a serious sexual abuse offence against their own child.
- c) Strengthens the powers of the Victims' Commissioner to increase scrutiny of the systems which support victims.
- d) Provide victims with certainty about the routes available to receive information about their offender's release.

The Welsh Government is committed to delivering these important objectives.

I laid a Legislative Consent Memorandum on 20 May 2025 and a Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum No. 2) on 5 November 2025, to this effect.

Response to the report

It is good to see that the Committee agrees with the Welsh Government's assessment, as set out in Memorandum No. 2, regarding the provision within the Bill which requires the consent of the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 29.

I thank the members of the Committee for their assessment of the Welsh Government's Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum for this Bill.
