

Rt Hon Eluned Morgan MS

First Minister of Wales

26 January 2026

Annwyl Eluned,

Errors and inconsistencies in Welsh-language subordinate legislation

During our meeting on 19 January 2026, the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee considered draft reports on nine pieces of subordinate legislation in line with Standing Orders 21.2, 21.3 and 21.7. Those nine draft reports contained a total of 29 reporting points, of which 14 related to either errors in the Welsh text, or discrepancies between the meaning of the Welsh and the English texts.

The proportion of Welsh-language drafting errors identified by Senedd lawyers in these reports is broadly representative of the proportion of Welsh-language drafting errors identified in our reports throughout the Sixth Senedd.

The excessive number of errors in the drafting of Welsh-language subordinate legislation is a matter of significant concern for this Committee. You may be aware that the Committee wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government about this issue in June 2025 in relation to the Senedd Cymru (Representation of the People) Order 2025.

Notwithstanding the inconsistency of these errors with the Welsh Government's own Welsh language standards, identifying and seeking the correction of, or an explanation for, the errors has considerable resource implications for staff at the Senedd, the Welsh Government, and, in cases where correction slips are required, The National Archives. In some instances, they result in delays in the subordinate legislation being made.

The Committee's concerns are particularly acute in the context of the [letter from the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery](#) dated 21 January 2026, which indicates that the Welsh Government intends to bring forward a "significant number of items of subordinate legislation" before the Easter recess. If the Welsh Government does not take steps to address linguistic inconsistencies in the drafting of its subordinate legislation, as well having considerable impacts across institutions, we are concerned that it could make it challenging for the Welsh Government to meet its subordinate legislation delivery programme without sacrificing the quality of the legislation laid before the Senedd.

I would therefore be grateful if you could respond to the following:

1. Do you share our concerns about the number of reporting points that relate to either errors in Welsh-language subordinate legislation, or discrepancies between the meaning of the Welsh and the English legislative texts, and the significant proportion of those that lead to material differences between the Welsh- and English-language legislation?
2. What is your assessment of the reason for these errors? Specifically:
 - a. Do you have any concerns about the capacity of staff within the Welsh Government to draft subordinate legislation in Welsh or translate subordinate legislation into the Welsh language?
 - b. We have [recently raised concern](#) with the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government about the approval process for subordinate legislation following the identification of 87 reporting points across three Codes of Practice. Are you satisfied that the processes for checking Welsh-language subordinate legislation before laying is suitably robust to minimise the number of drafting errors that are identified by this Committee?
3. What additional steps are you taking to ensure that a high number of linguistic inconsistencies do not arise in the significant volume of subordinate legislation to be laid before the end of the Sixth Senedd?
4. Do you have any views on how the number and proportion of errors relating to either errors in the Welsh text or discrepancies between the meaning of the Welsh and the English texts can be reduced in the Seventh Senedd?

I would appreciate your response no later than 6 March 2026 so that we can take it into account as we consider and agree our legacy report.

I am copying this letter to Julie James MS, Counsel General and Minister for Delivery.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hedges". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Mike Hedges

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

