

Darren Hughes
Director, Welsh NHS Confederation

6 November 2025

Dear Darren,

Public Office (Accountability) Bill Legislative Consent Memorandum

The Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee considered the Public Office (Accountability) Bill ("the Bill") Legislative Consent Memorandum ("the Memorandum") during our meeting on 3 November 2025.

The Bill creates new legal duties and criminal offences that will apply to NHS bodies and their staff.

To help us with our scrutiny of the Memorandum, we would appreciate your response to the following questions:

1. To what extent, if at all, have NHS bodies in Wales been involved in the development of the Bill, and/or have been consulted about any relevant provisions?
2. Do you have any views on the scope of the new legal duties and criminal offences set out in the Bill insofar as they will apply to Welsh NHS bodies and their staff? Do you believe there could be any unintended consequences caused by the way in which the Bill is drafted?
3. The Memorandum states that some of the Bill's provisions appear to duplicate or expand existing mechanisms on candour such as the Duty of Candour established under the *Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020*. Do you have any views about the implications of this duplication on NHS bodies?
4. Do you have any other comments to make on the Bill or on the Memorandum to support our scrutiny?



The Senedd's Business Committee has set a reporting deadline for the Memorandum of 19 December 2025. I would therefore be grateful if you could respond to this letter no later than 21 November if possible, so that we can consider your response before we issue our report. If you have any concerns with this timetable please let us know.

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.

