

The Rt. Hon Elin Jones MS

Y Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee

13 March 2026

Annwyl Lywydd

Future Review of Standing Order 29

Following our scrutiny of legislative consent memoranda related to the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, we have identified a number of issues for consideration in any future review of Standing Order 29 by the Business Committee in the Seventh Senedd.

In our first report, paragraph 24 noted that the first Memorandum was laid six days after the Report Stage proceedings were completed in the House of Commons but that there was no account or summary of those proceedings included in the Memorandum. Paragraph 61 of our report said:

"We welcome the Cabinet Secretary's willingness to reflect on whether the Memorandum should have contained information about the outcome of Report Stage proceedings. While we acknowledge that this is not a requirement of Standing Order 29, we would have found it helpful to our scrutiny. We intend to draw this matter to the attention of the Business Committee so that it may consider it in any review it undertakes of that Standing Order as we approach the Seventh Senedd and following on from our letter in June 2024 recommending a full procedural review."

It is our view therefore that legislative consent memoranda should summarise proceedings of amending stages to provide Senedd Members and Committees with a fuller context about how legislation that has regard to devolved matters is changing as it progresses through the House of Commons and House of Lords.

In addition, in order to navigate changes to UK Bills as they pass through the UK Parliament, we think it would be useful to include, in an annex, a table identifying the clause numbers that require consent



at each Bill stage, thereby allowing changes to clause numbers to be tracked from introduction in one House to Third Reading in another. This would have the added advantage of providing transparency about the clause numbers that require consent at the time a legislative consent motion comes to be debated.

Finally, in the first Memorandum laid by the Cabinet Secretary, paragraph 47 provided a table listing every regulation-making power in the Bill and the relevant procedure that applies. This proved to be incredibly helpful and we believe there would be merit in making it a requirement in Standing Order 29.

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