



Ein cyf/Our ref LN/PO/146/2026

Mike Hedges AS/MS
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

18 March 2026

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 16 March, requesting clarity on a few points within the supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum No 5) for the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill. I appreciate that there was only a short period of time between the laying of the LCM on 10 March and the reporting deadline of 16 March, and have provided a response to each question below.

For ease of reference I have included the question set out in your letter.

- 1) *Please can you confirm whether the UK Government agrees that the legislative consent of the Senedd is required in relation to the provisions set out in Memorandum No. 5?*

I can confirm that UK Government agree that the legislative consent of the Senedd is required in relation to the provisions set out in Memorandum 5.

- 2) *Please can you confirm that the only change to clause 39 (as referred to in Memorandum No. 5) for which consent is sought, in addition to the matters set out in previous Memoranda, is in relation to the inclusion of the Senedd approval procedure for regulations implementing the pilot scheme referred to in clause 39?*

I can also confirm that the only changes to Clause 39, for which consent is sought under Memorandum 5, relates to the inclusion of the Senedd approval procedure for regulations implementing the pilot scheme for Mandatory meetings, referred to in clause 39.

- 3) *We are aware that the UK Government has disagreed to certain Lords amendments and tabled amendments in lieu to the Bill at ping-pong of amendments between the House of Commons and House of Lords during the Final Stages. Please can you explain any implications of these events generally, and in particular, the impact for*

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Wales of the amendments in lieu relating to online safety and for the legislative consent process in relation to this Bill?

During the House of Lords Report Stage of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, in January 2026, amendments were tabled by Conservative Peer Lord Nash and supported by cross-party peers, relating to social media and a ban for under 16 year olds. As these were added during House of Lords Report Stage they returned to the House of Commons for consideration, during the first round of amendments stage between the Commons and the Lords (ping pong), which took place on 9 March.

During the debate on the 9 March the UK Government voted to reject the proposed under-16 social media ban and instead tabled an "amendment in lieu" which will provide the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology with more flexible powers, which will be exercisable following the currently live consultation on the matter.

UK Government has indicated that if the need for any measures is evidenced by the consultation, the amendments would provide new powers to make regulations that would allow the government to restrict children's access to elements of social media and chatbots, including but not limited to:

- age-restricting children's access to social media services and chatbots;
- limiting access to harmful or addictive features on these services;
- age-restricting or limiting children's VPN use.

The UK Government and the Welsh Government are of the view that any future legislative measures delivered using the delegated powers provided by the "amendment in lieu" will relate to online safety and falls within the scope of the Internet Services reservation. They therefore expect legislative competence to sit with the UK Parliament as a reserved matter.

Kanishka Narayan MP, Minister for AI and Online Safety wrote to me on 20 January to inform me of the UKG plans on the social media consultation. This letter confirms the devolution position will be kept under review as policy develops and that UKG will work closely with Devolved Governments.

I would like to thank you and the Committee for your work on the Bill to date.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education

Copied to: Buffy Williams, Chair, Children, Young People and Education Committee