
The Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Medical Training (Prioritisation) Bill

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

March 2026

In February 2026, the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee submitted its report on the Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Motion on the Medical Training (Prioritisation) Bill. The report includes 4 recommendations. This is the Welsh Government's response to those recommendations.

Introduction

Wales supports a transparent, UK-wide approach to allocating medical training places to ensure doctors trained in Wales and across the UK can progress smoothly into foundation and specialty posts.

The Medical Training (Prioritisation) Bill provides the statutory clarity and fairness needed during periods of over-subscription and stabilises the workforce pipeline for NHS Wales.

We have worked closely with the UK Government and devolved governments to maintain a coherent four-nation model. Divergence would create significant operational and workforce risks for Wales, including disruption to the foundation programme and increased pressure on Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW), the statutory education body for NHS Wales.

The Bill's introduction allows Wales to manage the transition safely while strengthening retention of home-grown doctors.

As the Bill intersects with devolved responsibilities, Senedd consent was required. The Senedd debated and approved a legislative consent motion on 10 February.

The framework supports Welsh-trained graduates to continue working and training in Wales, while still valuing the contribution of internationally trained doctors. I welcome the committee's swift scrutiny and remain

committed to ensuring that the Senedd's views are fully reflected as the Bill progresses.

I thank the members of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee for its report on the Legislative Consent Motion for the Medical Training (Prioritisation) Bill. The Welsh Government's responses to the report's recommendations are below.

Response to recommendations

Recommendation 1 – The Committee recommends that:

The Cabinet Secretary should explain to the Senedd why the Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Bill was not laid within two weeks of the Bill being introduced.

Response: Accept

We laid the LCM 15 days after the Bill was introduced. The Bill was developed and introduced by the UK Government at pace over the Christmas period. I am pleased we were able to work collaboratively with the UK Government and to respond accordingly to protect Wales' interests.

Recommendation 2 – The Committee recommends that:

The Cabinet Secretary should clarify whether there is sufficient time between the legislative consent debate in the Senedd on 10 February and the final amending stages of the Bill in the UK Parliament for the amendments to be pursued to the Bill that address any decision of the Senedd to withhold its consent.

Response: Accept

Given the urgent nature of the Bill and its expedited passage through UK Parliament, the legislative consent debate was scheduled accordingly. The committee will be aware that the Senedd gave its consent to the Bill on 10 February. The Bill is now awaiting Royal Assent.

Recommendation 3 – The Committee recommends that:

If the Cabinet Secretary considers that there is insufficient time for the Bill to be amended in the UK Parliament following a resolution of the Senedd to withhold its consent (see recommendation 2), the Cabinet Secretary should set out the Welsh Government's reflections on the extent to which

the Senedd can meaningfully consider and make a decision on whether to grant its consent to provisions in UK Bills that are subject to an expedited scrutiny timetable and contain provision that has regard to devolved matters.

Response: Reject

Please see my response to recommendation 2.

Recommendation 4 – The Committee recommends that:

The Welsh Government should justify how each concurrent or “concurrent-plus” power in the Bill, to which it recommends the Senedd consents, represents an “exceptional case” as set out in its principles on UK legislation in devolved areas.

Response: Accept

We consider the concurrent-plus powers in this Bill to be an exceptional case because the foundation programme and specialty training are delivered through a single UK-wide system. Consistent implementation across the four nations is essential to protect medical training pipelines, and in these limited areas a unified legislative approach is necessary.