

The Rt Hon. Elin Jones MS  
Chair, Business Committee

12 September 2025

**Memorandum No. 4 for the Mental Health Bill**

Dear Elin

I am writing to inform you that the Health and Social Care Committee will not be reporting on Memorandum No.4 for the Mental Health Bill.

As you know, this Memorandum was referred to us by the Business Committee on 1 July with a reporting deadline of 14 July. We had one meeting available to us during this time to consider the Memorandum which, with such little preparatory time, was insufficient for the task.

The reporting deadline was subsequently extended to the 12<sup>th</sup> September, however the late timing of the decision to extend, coming just before the start of the summer recess, meant that it was of no material benefit to the Committee. This was particularly the case as the new reporting deadline fell within the summer recess period, meaning that there was no further chance for the Committee to consider the Memorandum or to invite views from stakeholders.

Whilst we appreciate the scheduling complexities of the LCM process, the timing of Memorandum No.4 has meant that the Committee has not been given the opportunity to consider its provisions in anything other than a cursory way. This is not a desirable way for the legislative consent process to be carried out.

As a Committee, we have previously reported on two other memoranda for this Bill and, as with those, the provisions which are the subject of this latest memorandum will have an impact on areas of devolved competence. It is most regrettable, therefore, that our ability to scrutinise Memorandum No.4 has been so restricted.

We ask the Business Committee to be mindful of these points when setting reporting deadlines for future LCMs.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Fox', written in a cursive style.

Peter Fox MS  
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.