



Ein cyf/Our ref: LF/FM/0733/13

David Melding AM
Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative
Affairs Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel, Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

5th August 2013

Dear David

I am writing in response to your letter of 2 July 2013 concerning the scrutiny arrangements for orders that commence Acts of the Assembly.

It is important that there is flexibility in the process of deciding when Acts come into force, and as you acknowledge this is normally an administrative matter for the Government to decide alone.

In some circumstances commencing Acts can be technically complex, this is in particular where there is a need for transition from an existing system to another. It is for this reason that bills often enable commencement orders to make provision that is (for example) transitional or incidental. In such cases the provision that is transitional or incidental must relate to the act of commencement itself and should therefore be narrow in extent.

However in light of your concerns I have asked officials to review the content of commencement orders over the summer period and I will write to you again after the recess.

Yours sincerely

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

CARWYN JONES