

**Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee  
Inquiry into Making Laws in the Fourth Assembly  
ML5 – Mold Town Council**

21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2014

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL – CONSULTATION RESPONSE

**Committee Inquiry: Making Laws in the Fourth Assembly**

**Q.** What constitutes good practice in the drafting of a Bill? For example in relation to:

**Response:** Detailed consultation with key stakeholders, Stakeholders able to read and understand the draft bill (plain language), and that the document has clear links with earlier relevant bills

**Q.** What is your view of the content of the Explanatory Memoranda which accompany Bills and how useful are they in explaining the purposes of Bills

**Response:** Very helpful for lay persons to understand a summary of the Bill

**Q.** In a single chamber legislative system, what value to you place on the use of:  
(a) draft Bills for consideration before a Bill is formally introduced;  
(b) more time for Stage 1 scrutiny;  
(c) the optional Report stage at the end of Stage 3 proceedings (as for example in the Mobile Homes (Wales) Bill and the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill.

**Response:** a) Very important for consultation purposes to allow for additional views to be considered.

b) Allows for the detailed checks and balances which would normally be addressed by a second chamber

c) Unable to respond

**Q.** What is your view of the need for, and impact of, curtailed scrutiny of Bills?

**Response:** Reducing the opportunity for effective scrutiny is detrimental to the democratic process

**Q.** What is your view of the scope for “fast-tracking” Bills within the Assembly’s existing procedures?

**Response:** Would not support fast tracking bills other than in extreme circumstances, as it can be open to challenge without the necessary consultation and scrutiny.

**Q.** What is your view of the Welsh Government’s and the National Assembly’s capacity to legislate

[Type text]

**Response:** It would be improved with full implementation of the Silk Commissions report which recommended more developed powers.

**Q.** In particular, is the practice in relation to any of the following matters particularly admirable, or a cause for concern?

a. the use of plain language; Admirable

b. the avoidance of archaic or redundant expressions - Admirable

c. gender-neutrality; - Admirable

d. translation; - Admirable

e. length of sentences;

f. complexity of sections and subsections; cause for concern

g. the use of statements of purpose; - Admirable

h. the use of overview provisions;

i. the division of Bills into Parts and Chapters; - Admirable

j. the use of different kinds of heading; - Admirable

k. the use of Schedules; - cause for concern

l. numbering and lettering notation; - cause for concern

m. other aspects of Bill structure;

n. the use of examples in legislative text; - Admirable

o. the use of exceptions, provisos and savings; - Admirable

p. the use of tables, formulae, and diagrams; - Admirable

q. the incorporation of inert material or material not appearing to be intended to have legislative effect; - Admirable

r. the use of free-standing legislation, and legislation which operates by reference to other legislation; - Admirable

s. the use of textual amendment of other legislation; - Admirable

[Type text]

**Q.** Overall, where powers are granted to make subordinate legislation do they appear to be subjected to an appropriate level of scrutiny by the National Assembly?

**Response:** No, due to there being no second chamber.

**Q.** Does the experience of the Fourth Assembly suggest that the present capacity of the Welsh Government to bring forward legislation is:

- a. sufficient;
- b. insufficient; or ✓
- c. unnecessarily large

**Q.** Does the experience of the Fourth Assembly suggest that the present capacity of the National Assembly to process Government legislation is:

- a. sufficient;
- b. insufficient; or ✓
- c. unnecessarily large

**Q.** Does the experience of the Fourth Assembly suggest that the present capacity of the National Assembly to propose and process legislation other than Government legislation is:

- a. sufficient;
- b. insufficient; or ✓
- c. unnecessarily large?