

**Y Pwyllgor Materion Cyfansoddiadol a Deddfwriaethol
Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee**

Leighton Andrews AM
Minister for Public Services
Welsh Government
5th Floor, Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



1 December 2014

Dear Leighton

The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales)(Amendment) Regulations 2015

Thank you for your letter of 17 November, which we considered at our meeting on 24 November 2014.

As we have made clear in the past, we are always prepared to work flexibly to assist the Welsh Government, balancing that approach with our obligation to scrutinise legislation effectively and in an open and transparent way.

In order to provide the best chance of reporting early in January, it would be helpful if your lawyers could share, on a confidential basis, the current draft of the regulations with our lawyers in the Commission as soon as possible. This approach is one we have been using regularly to good effect with Welsh Government lawyers generally over the last few years, as it has proven to facilitate and improve the efficiency of the scrutiny process.

In light of the final paragraph of your letter and our report of May 2013, *Inquiry into the Council Tax Reduction Schemes Regulations*, it would be helpful to know what progress you consider has been made in securing improvements to the engagement between the Welsh Government and Department of Work and Pensions, particularly with a view to ensuring that you can provide us with drafts of the regulations, with or without the appropriate figures, at the earliest opportunity.

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I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Melding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

David Melding AM
Chair