

Committee Chairs
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay



16 July 2015

Dear Chair

Draft Wales Bill

As I'm sure you are aware, we expect the UK Government to publish a draft Wales Bill in the autumn with a period of consultation to follow, before the Bill itself is introduced sometime in spring 2016.

I have discussed the matter with the Deputy Presiding Officer in his capacity as Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs (CLA) Committee. We have agreed that that Committee provides the most appropriate vehicle for the Assembly to consider the draft Bill. I am confident that the Committee has the membership, expertise and capacity to formulate a comprehensive and authoritative response for me and the Assembly to consider and, hopefully, endorse.

Although the Bill falls within the remit of the CLA Committee, its scrutiny will be strengthened considerably if other Committees are involved. In particular, it will be important that CLA Committee and the Assembly as a whole can draw on the policy expertise of other Committees when examining the impact of replacing our current conferred powers model with a new reserved powers model.

I would be grateful if you could consider with your Committee how to make space in what I am sure will be a very busy Autumn programme to undertake a serious examination of the Bill in relation to your Committee's remit. Your clerking team will be able to advise on how to time your response to add value to the work of CLA Committee and to ensure that the Assembly can influence the debate at Westminster.

**Dame Rosemary Butler AM, Presiding Officer
Chair, Business Committee**

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