



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-C/FM-/0014/15

David Melding AM
Chair
Constitutional & Legislative Affairs Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff

11th November 2015

Dear David

Draft Wales Bill Inquiry: written evidence

Further to my letter of 30th October please find attached my written evidence on the draft Wales Bill to assist the Committee with its work.

In the Welsh Government's view, this Bill will be one of great constitutional significance, both for Wales and for the Union; it will redefine the role and place of the Welsh devolved institutions in the governance of the United Kingdom. As the Secretary of State himself said in his speech on 17 November 2014 launching what became the St David's Day process, "We have a unique opportunity to reshape the future of our Union". The content of the Bill should therefore be approached from the standpoint of constitutional principle, with a view both to strengthening Welsh devolution and securing the place of Wales within a reformed Union. We have set out our views on some of the broader questions on the future of the Union in Written Evidence to the House of Lords Constitution Committee in respect of its Inquiry into "The Union and Devolution", and our Evidence to your Committee in respect of the Wales Bill needs to be seen in that context.

I am copying this to other Committee Chairs.

I look forward to meeting you and your colleagues on 16th November.

Yours sincerely

CARWYN JONES