

Huw Irranca–Davies AM  
Chair  
Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

26 January 2017

Dear Huw

## **CODES OF WELSH LAW**

I am writing to update you informed of developments related to the consolidation of law in Wales, following the previous Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee's October 2015 report on Making Law in Wales.

As you will be aware, in its report the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee recommended that the Business Committee introduce a Standing Order on consolidation Bills.

In response, the Fourth Assembly's Business Committee noted that the Welsh Government had commissioned the Law Commission to carry out an advisory project on The Form and Accessibility of the Law Applicable to Wales. The Business Committee therefore agreed to the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee's recommendation in principle, with the intention of awaiting the project's findings before an Assembly procedure for considering Consolidation Bills was drawn up.

Subsequently, in June 2016, the Law Commission published its report on Form and Accessibility of the Law in Wales. On 13 December 2016, the Counsel General set out the Welsh Government's intention, to "instigate a project of consolidation, codification and better publication of the law as a pilot, to be evaluated towards the next year". The Counsel General also wrote to me setting



out that the Welsh Government agreed “with the Law Commission that for consolidation and codification to work effectively, suitable procedures within the Assembly need to be in place.” I have attached a copy of the Counsel General’s letter at Annex 1.

At its meeting of 9 November, Business Committee agreed that officials should resume work on developing a set of consolidation procedures. The development of such procedures will benefit from consideration of consolidation procedures in other Parliamentary bodies, as well as collaborative working between Assembly and Government officials.

The Counsel General has also indicated a desire to work collaboratively not only on procedural matters, but also on the process of codifying the law in Wales more generally. Given the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee’s previous work in this area, I would be grateful if you would indicate whether your Committee is currently thinking of undertaking further consideration of this matter?

Yours sincerely



**Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer  
Chair, Business Committee**

