

John Griffiths AM
Chair, Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

12 July 2017

Dear John

Programming forthcoming legislation

As you may be aware, Business Committee recently considered a paper setting out a range of legislation which is known to be intended for introduction within the next twelve months.

Business Managers considered that it would be appropriate to take ‘in principle’ decisions on which committees the Bills planned for introduction within the next twelve months would be referred to, to assist committees in their forward planning.

Based on the subject matter of individual Bills, the following forthcoming legislation would appear to be most closely aligned with the remit of the Equality, Local Government and Communities (ELGC) Committee:

- The Public Service Ombudsman for Wales (Committee Bill)¹;
- Regulatory Reform of Registered Social Landlords;
- Fees Charged to Tenants in the Private Rented Sector;
- Local Government.

¹ Although Standing Orders suggest a different approach for Committee Bills, Business Managers are inclined to agree the proposal of the Finance Committee that– given the subject matter of this Bill and the circumstances of its development– this Bill should be referred to a subject committee at Stage 1 and back to the same committee at Stage 2.



However, Business Managers are conscious that this would represent a substantial volume of legislation for ELGC to consider, in addition to the Committee's planned stage 2 scrutiny of Abolition of the Right to Buy and Associated Rights (Wales) Bill, budget scrutiny and policy inquiries.

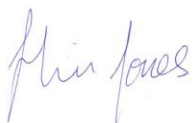
An additional issue is that the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales Bill and a Bill on the Regulatory Reform of Registered Social Landlords are both likely to be introduced around the same time period in the autumn term. Likewise both the Bill on Fees Charged to Tenants in the Private Rented Sector and a Bill on Local Government are likely to be introduced around the same time period in Spring/Summer.

As such, before finalising a view on whether all of these Bills are referred to ELGC, Business Managers would be grateful for your view both on:

- whether you consider that ELGC would have capacity to manage this volume of legislation; and
- whether the double incidence of two Bills for your committee's scrutiny being introduced in the same time period is likely to pose particular challenges.

I would be grateful if you could indicate your views on these issues before the end of term if at all possible, so that Business Managers can make 'in principle' decisions on which committees the Bills planned for introduction within the next twelve months would be referred to.

Yours sincerely



Elin Jones AM
Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee

