

12 October 2022

Dear colleague

Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill

You will likely be aware that the [Retained EU Law \(Revocation and Reform\) Bill](#) (the Bill) was introduced into the UK Parliament on 22 September 2022.

If passed, the Bill would set in motion the UK Government's plan to revoke or reform around 2,400 pieces of retained EU law (REUL). The UK Government plans to review REUL with the devolved governments to decide what to keep, reform, update or remove. The Bill would enable Ministers, rather than parliaments, to significantly alter the UK's regulatory and legal landscape.

You may also be aware that Mick Antoniw MS, the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution, [has written](#) to the UK Government, where he states that the Welsh Government had little involvement with the Bill. The Counsel General has called on the UK Government to take steps to preserve and respect "Wales' constitutional integrity" and devolution settlement. The Counsel General [wrote](#) to the Committee in August and responded to questions we asked about the Bill. An initial analysis of the Bill from Wales' perspective has been published in an [article by Senedd Research](#).

Given the significance of this Bill, we are contacting you to offer you the opportunity to give us your views on its provisions and would welcome your thoughts on the following matters:

- the Bill's impact in Wales;
- to what extent the Bill might impact Wales' regulatory landscape;
- what role should the Senedd have in the revocation and reform of retained EU law in devolved areas;

- implications arising from the potential deadlines introduced by the Bill;
- the Welsh Government's decision not to carry out its own assessment of REUL, including not forming its own view on what is devolved and reserved;
- the Welsh Government's capacity to carry out such an assessment and to use its powers under the Bill;
- the Welsh Government's role in, and plans for, the UK Government's joint review, announced alongside the Bill;
- the scope of regulation-making powers granted to the Welsh Ministers by the Bill including the scrutiny procedures attached to those powers;;
- whether the Bill might introduce new limitations for the Welsh Government, which wants to improve pre-Brexit standards, where possible;
- steps that the Committee could take in future, including with regards to powers exercised under the Bill;
- implications for Wales' legal landscape, including the introduction of new categories of legislation, and issues relating to clarity and accessibility.

In order for your views to inform our scrutiny of the Bill and subsequent Welsh Government legislative consent memoranda, we would be grateful to receive any response you wish to provide by 7 November 2022.

We appreciate that this is a tight timetable. Our aim is to ensure that our formal consideration of the Bill may be completed in time so that it may influence the legislative process in the UK Parliament. Should this deadline cause significant problem, please contact the Committee Clerks - SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Huw Irranca-Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a thick black line.

Huw Irranca-Davies
Chair

Providing Written Evidence

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Disclosure of information

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